

Currituck County Planning Department 2009 Annual Report



Corolla Bike Path

Letter From Planning Department

With several new projects completed and many more underway, 2009 was a year of firsts for the Planning Department. A highlight was the adoption of the Maple-Barco Small Area Plan, the county's first such plan. Planning staff also applied for and received a \$500,000 grant to begin construction on the county's first multi-use path in the Corolla area. Finally, the county enlisted the help of Clarion Associates for the first comprehensive rewrite of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) since 1989. These and other notable projects are highlighted in the following pages.

In 2009 the Planning Board processed XX cases. While this number is lower than in years past, it has provided Planning staff the opportunity to work on other planning projects and long-range planning efforts. Despite an overall sluggish economy, there appears to be signs of a recovery.

In the past year the Department has seen several staffing changes. Brad Schuler was hired as a Planner I for the Mainland office, and Jennie Newbern was hired as a Code Enforcement Officer for the Corolla Satellite Office. Donna Voliva and Tammy Glave were both promoted to new Planner II positions.

The Currituck County Planning Department is, and will continue to be, responsive to community needs in the coming year. We strive to look for solutions rather than obstacles when assisting the public. The Planning Department will work diligently toward accomplishing the goals set forth by the Board of Commissioners making Currituck a better place to live, work, and visit. We hope that the information found in this report will be useful and informative to our citizens as we continue to plan for Currituck's future.

2009 Planning Board

Forrest Midgette, Chairman
Jim Clark
Joe Kovacs
William Etheridge
Bren Robbins

Manly West, Vice Chairman
Fannie Newbern
Lynne Wilson
Robert (Bobby) Bell

2009 Board of Adjustment

Paul Beaumont, Chairman
Larry Etheridge
Ralph Jones
Earl Wemer

Bryan Bass, Vice Chairman
Donald Ferebee
Tom Roddy

2009 Board of Commissioners

Own Etheridge, Chair
S. Paul O'Neil, Vice-Chairman

Barry Nelms,
John D. Rorer
Oswald Vance Aydtlett Jr.

Gene A. Gregory,
Janet L. Taylor



Statistics

Sketch Plans

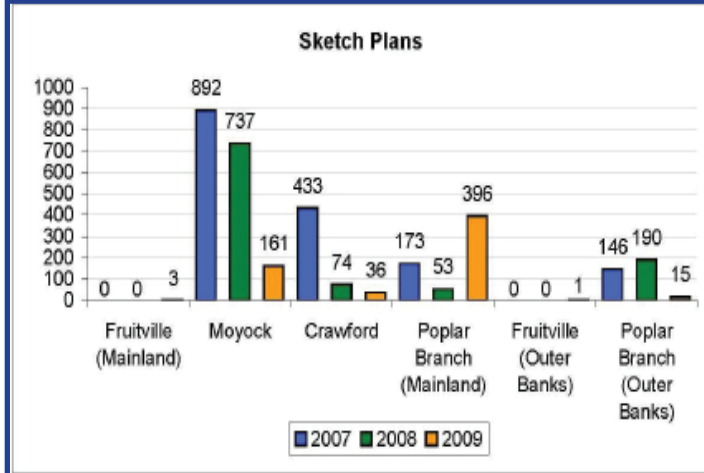


Chart represents the number of lots approved for sketch plan. A sketch plan is a conceptual layout of a subdivision. Approval does not permit any construction activity to occur, this ensures future development is consistent with the availability of county resources.

Preliminary Plats

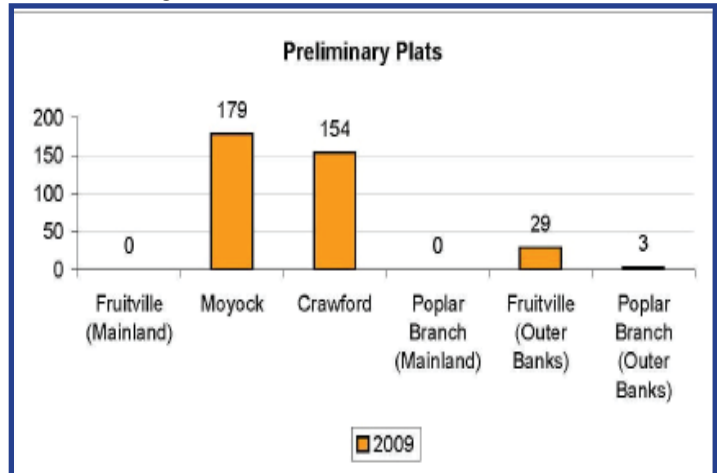


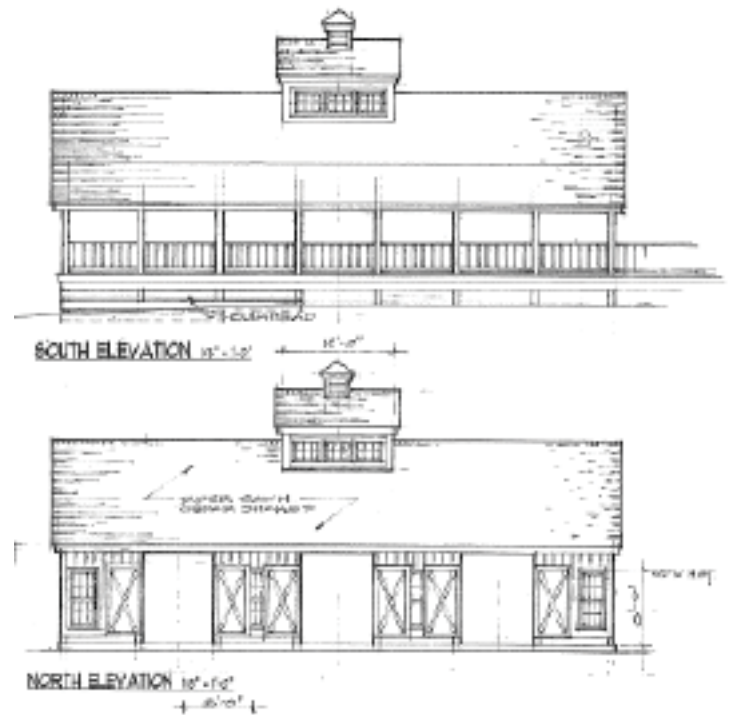
Chart represents the number of lots approved for final plat. A final plat represents the layout of a subdivision and is filed with the Register of Deeds. Approval allows for building permits to be issued.

Commercial Projects



Whalehead club Boathouse

On August 13, 2009, the Currituck County Board of Adjustment approved a conditional use permit for the construction of a historic boat shed in Corolla Village. The project represents a partnership between the Whalehead Trust and Outer Banks Conservationist. The boat shed is consistent with late nineteenth century architecture and is modeled after the maritime museum in Manteo. Currently two boats of local interest are on display at the boat shed: the Monkey Island Hunt Club shad boat donated by Mr. Levie Bunch and a float rig donated by the Pine Island Hunt Club. In time, other historic maritime exhibits will be included on the site.



Commercial Projects

Assited Living Center

In December 2009, the county approved plans to construct the Currituck House, a 90-bed assisted living center. The 33,228 square foot facility is located on 6 acres along Moyock Landing Drive in Shingle Landing subdivision. The facility will include a special care unit for illnesses such as dementia and Alzheimer's. Construction of the facility will begin in early 2010.



Moyock Library

The Moyock Library opened on October 28, 2009 and is located at 126 Campus Drive off Tulls Creek Road. The facility includes approximately 7,800 square feet, including gallery space for the Currituck County Arts Council. The Currituck Library System includes two other branches in Barco and Corolla; however, the facility in Moyock is strategically located to service the fastest growing geographic area of the county. The land surrounding the Moyock Library is included in the proposed Currituck Reserve development, which includes a pedestrian friendly mix of residential and commercial uses.

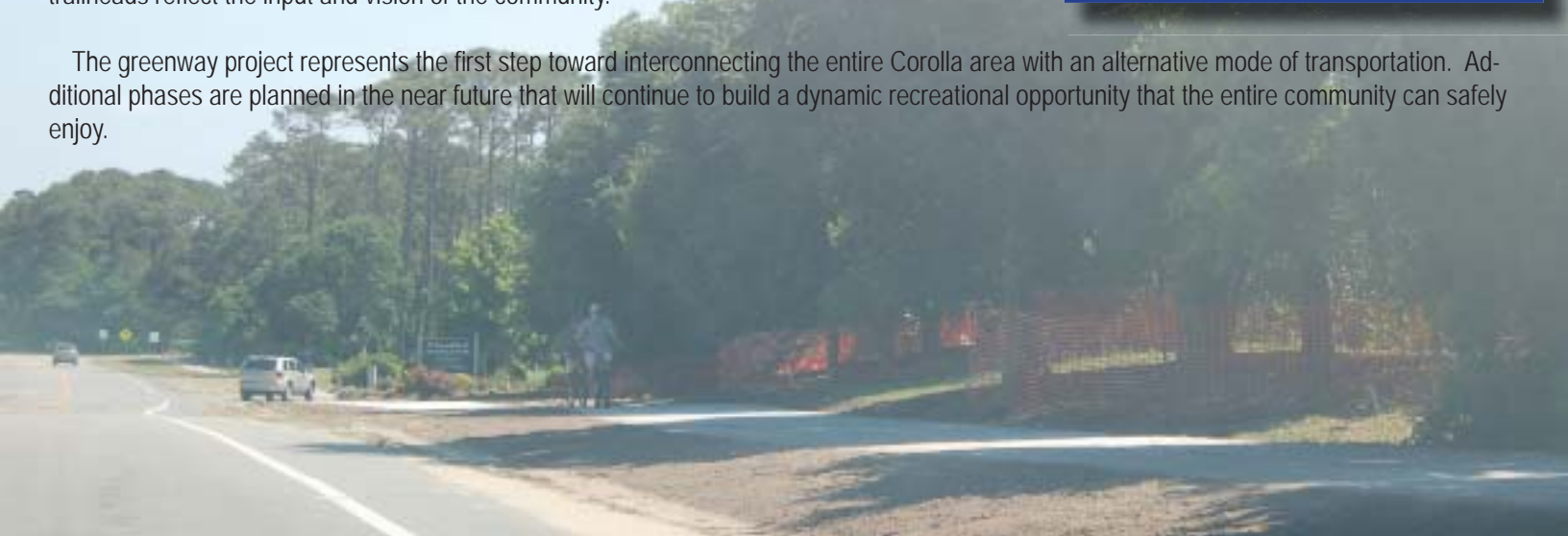


Bike Path Update

In August 2009, Currituck County received a \$500,000, 50/50 matching grant from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to design and construct the Corolla Greenway Multi Use Path. The proposed Corolla Greenway project encompasses a 1.06 mile greenway (10' wide, multi use path), pocket park, two elevated wildlife observation platforms, and trailheads at Heritage Park and the Currituck Banks Estuarine Reserve.

Design work for the path began in the fall of 2009 and included stakeholder meetings with the Villages at Ocean Hill Home Owners Association, the Whalehead Preservation Trust Board, and other property owners adjacent to the path. Many design elements of the path, pocket park, and trailheads reflect the input and vision of the community.

The greenway project represents the first step toward interconnecting the entire Corolla area with an alternative mode of transportation. Additional phases are planned in the near future that will continue to build a dynamic recreational opportunity that the entire community can safely enjoy.



Major Projects

Small Area Barco Plan

The Board of Commissioners adopted the Maple-Barco Small Area Plan on July 20, 2009. The purpose of the plan is to balance growth and economic expansion with the integrity and character of the existing community. This includes accounting for the growth of the airport facility, protecting county resources such as drinking water, preserving the agrarian heritage of the area, and maintaining a high quality of life for current and future residents.

Development of the plan included guidance from an appointed steering committee and input from the owners of property within the planning area. A public outreach effort was held in April that was attended by more than 75 people. This input, along with direction from the Board of Commissioners, established the vision and policy goals included in the adopted plan.

Over the next several years, county staff will work to implement the goals of the adopted plan. The plan is also used by the Board of Commissioners and staff to make recommendations about development proposals and other county land use policy decisions.

Copies of the plan are available at the county planning department or online at www.co.currituck.nc.us/planning.cfm.



UDO ReWrite

The Planning Department contracted with Clarion Associates in September 2009 to begin a rewrite of the county's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The UDO is the county's adopted zoning, subdivision, and environmental regulations and determines how intensely land is developed. Goals of the rewrite include: implementing the CAMA Land Use Plan; creating land development regulations that recognize the geographic diversity of Currituck County; creating a user friendly document; removing obsolete and outdated standards of the current UDO; including innovative approaches to foster sustainable development practices and economic diversity; and balancing growth patterns with the provision of county services. Any person owning land in Currituck County will be directly affected by changes made to the UDO, so citizen participation in the process is critical.

