

Food Insecurity Post Hurricane Florence One Year Anniversary and Hurricane Dorian

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PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

To better understand food environments post-disasters, to provide information for policy's and interventions to better help people in disasters and post-disaster.

INTRODUCTION

I traveled with a team of five to New Bern, North Carolina one-year post-Hurricane Florence and one day after Hurricane Dorian. New Bern is a small town on the coast of North Carolina, located in Craven County; about two hours south of Raleigh. The town is located between two rivers, the Neuse River and the Trent River.



KEY FINDINGS

- Farmers are moving away from NC agriculture due to disasters
- Farmers cannot afford to stay in agriculture in NC
- People are moving to cities because they don't have homes/work in the County
- Rural food insecurity is a problem

TAKEAWAYS

What I learned:

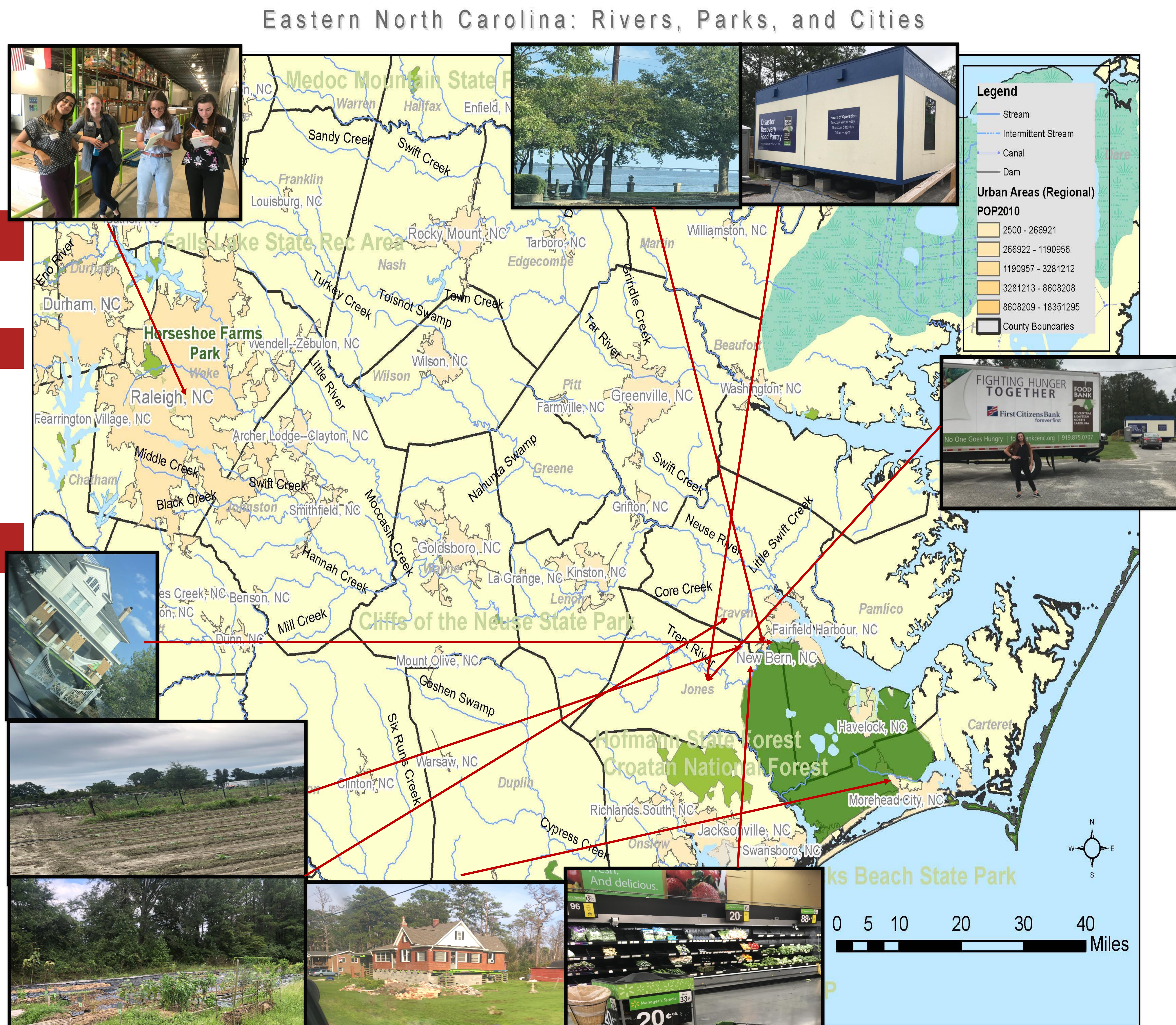
- There is a real cost of climate change on agriculture
The increase in frequency of disasters has flooded North Carolina farms, leading to produce loss.
Climate change has begun to change the crop seasons, increasing produce prices.
- Disasters are leading to population changes
- An expansion in urban agriculture will become necessary

How it's impacted my professional/academic path:

- This experience provoked a desire to research and create programs geared towards creating equitable access to healthy food for our growing urban environments due to climate change
- I saw the disproportionate impact of disasters on vulnerable populations further motivating my inclination towards program planning for vulnerable populations

CHALLENGES

- Long hours
- Some organizations are more receptive than others



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Plans for getting to my career goals include graduate school, MPH
- Prepare for a Career in program planning, interventions, and evaluation
- Career goal to eliminate food insecurity in my community and create more urban agriculture

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