

ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS ARE COUNTY DECISIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS RARELY ARRIVE LABELED AS “ENVIRONMENTAL” ISSUES

Land and growth

Siting, development patterns, nuisance concerns and future demand.

Infrastructure and water

Roads, drainage, drinking water, wastewater and public facilities.

Public health and waste

Collection, disposal, recycling, illegal dumping and disaster debris.

Budgets and contracts

Rates, fees, grants, capital plans, vendors and long-term obligations.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Local Officials Bound by Regulatory Framework

But also set the policy, funding, service level and appetite for risk.

The question is not **whether** the county is involved—it is **how**.

LAW

A service the county must assure

ASSET

Infrastructure the county owns

PROCESS

A permit, plan or public decision

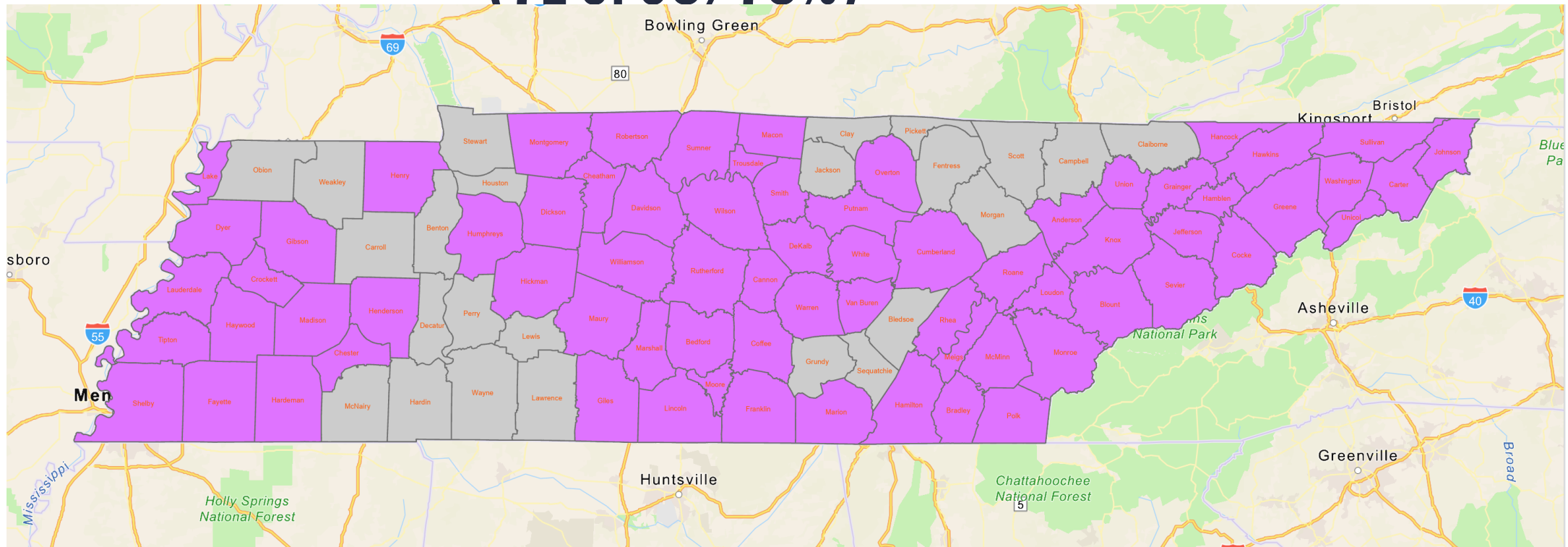
CHOICE

A budget, contract or regional vote

LAND AND GROWTH: TOOLS THE STATE PROVIDES YOU ON THE DEVELOPMENT SIDE

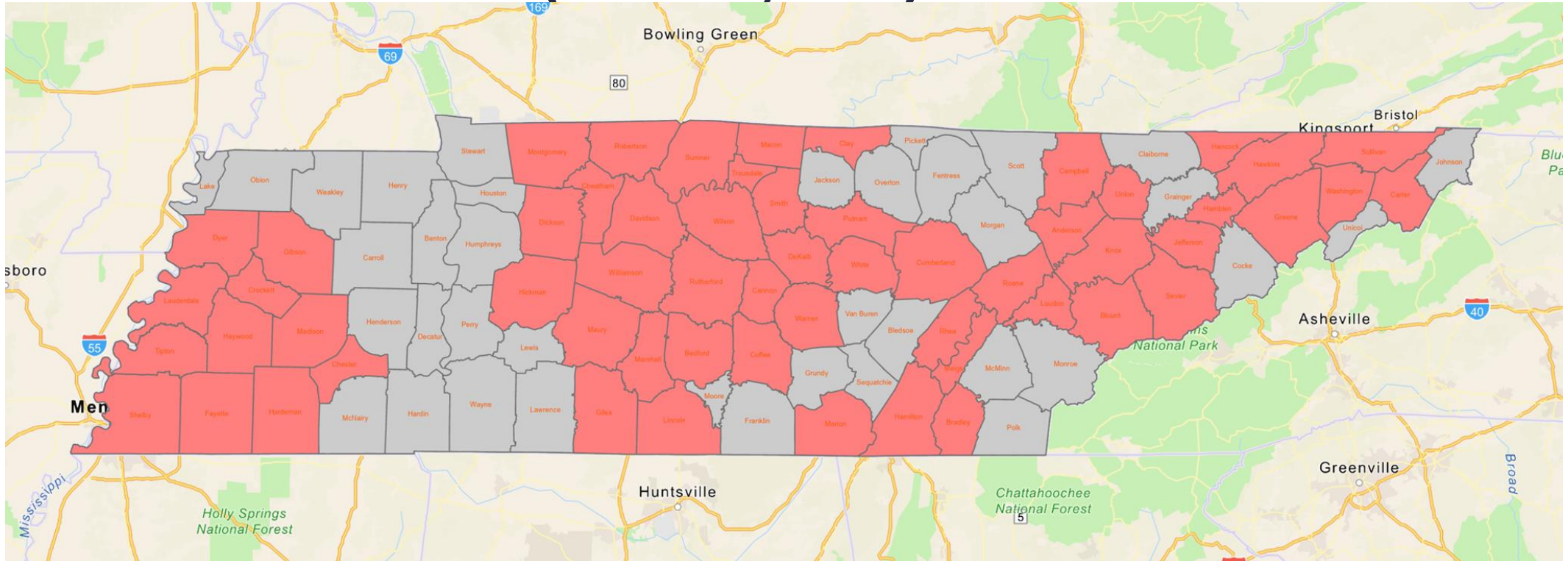


(71 of 95/75%)



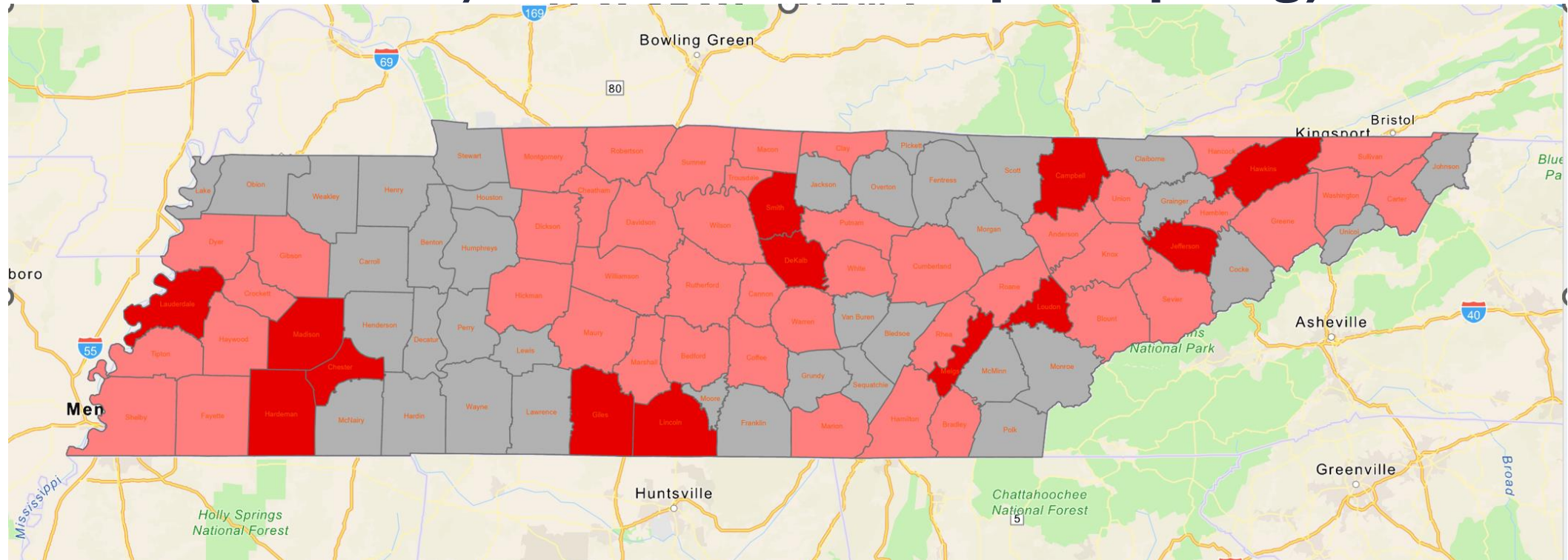
BUILDING

(58 of 95/61%)



COUNTIES USING THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL TO ADMINISTER RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODES

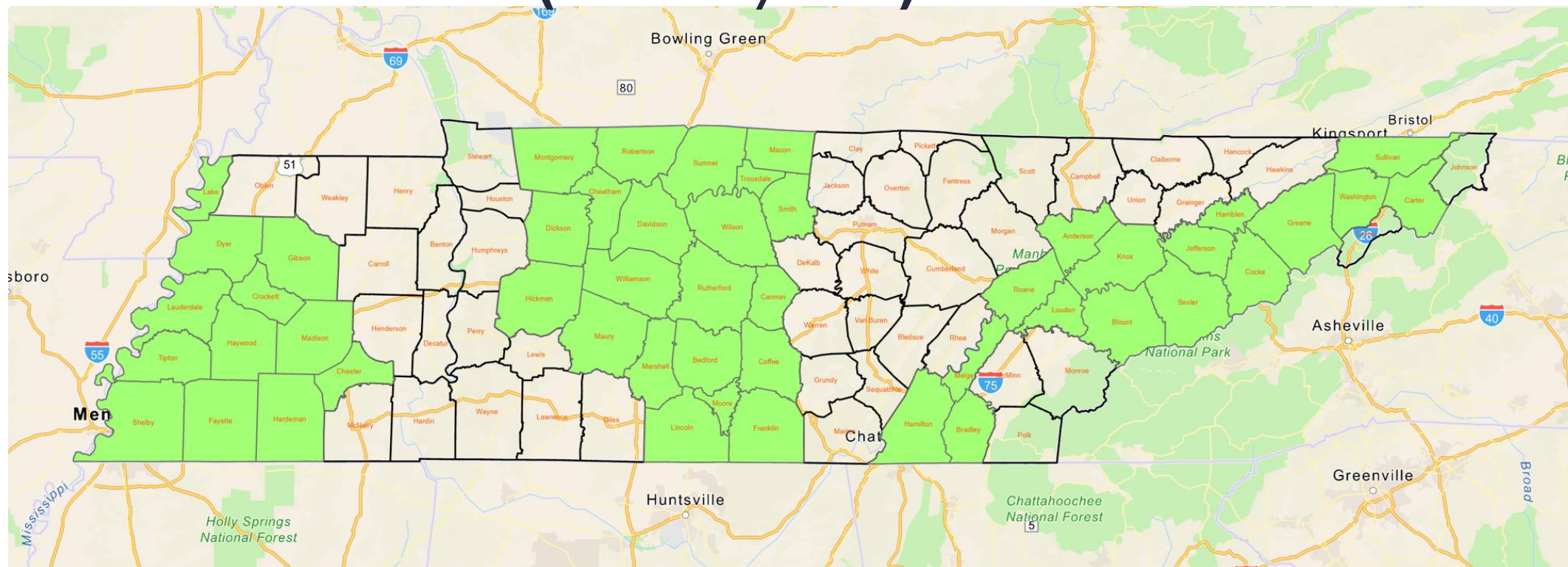
(13 of 58/14% of 95 or 22% of participating)



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

COUNTIES WITH ADOPTED ZONING REGULATIONS

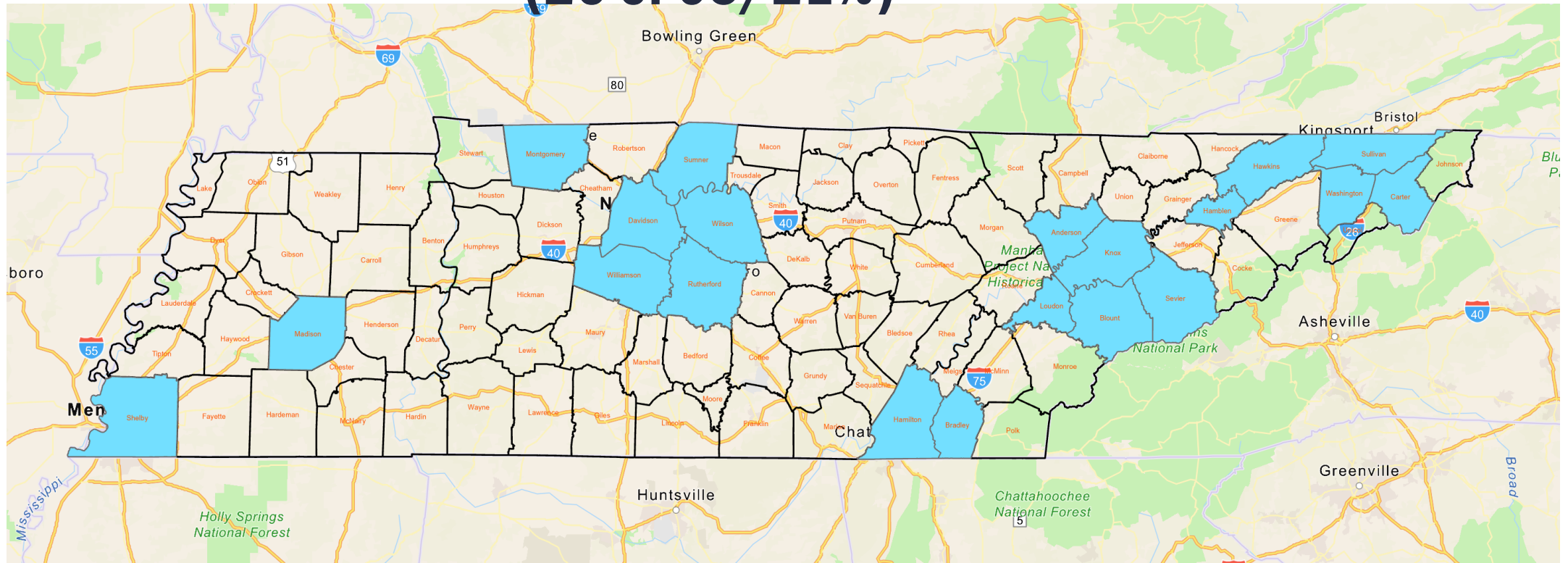
(49 of 95/52%)



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

COUNTIES WITH ADOPTED STORM WATER REGULATIONS

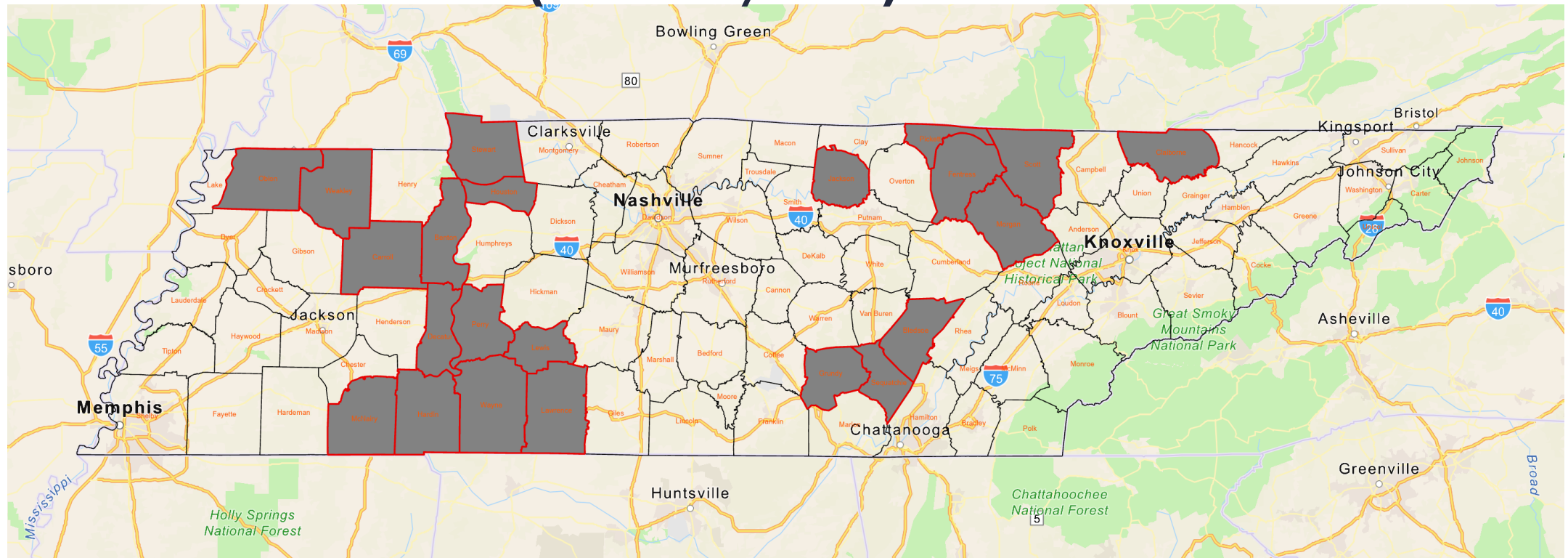
(20 of 95/21%)



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

COUNTIES WITH NO EVIDENT LAND USE REGULATORY POLICY FOOTPRINT

(22 of 95/23%)



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

HOW CTAS CAN HELP...

Technical Assistance Areas

Assistance with developing regulations at the level your county chooses.

Mapping of land use and zoning

Provision of model language on specific land use, drainage, flood plain or other issue.

Assist in determining what is practical and advisable to enforce or undertake.

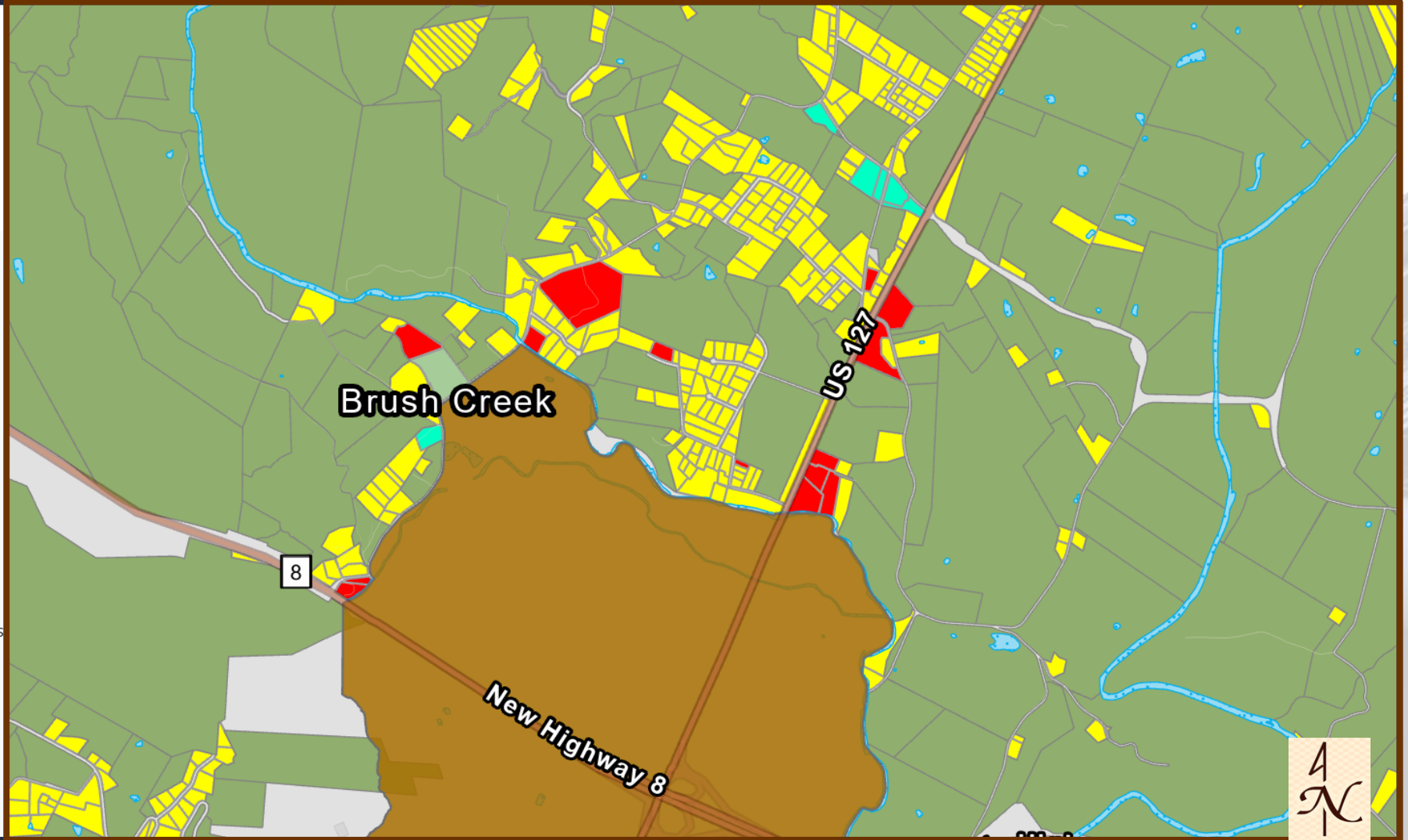
Training for required continuing education



LAND USE DRAFT BASED OFF ASSESSMENT DATA

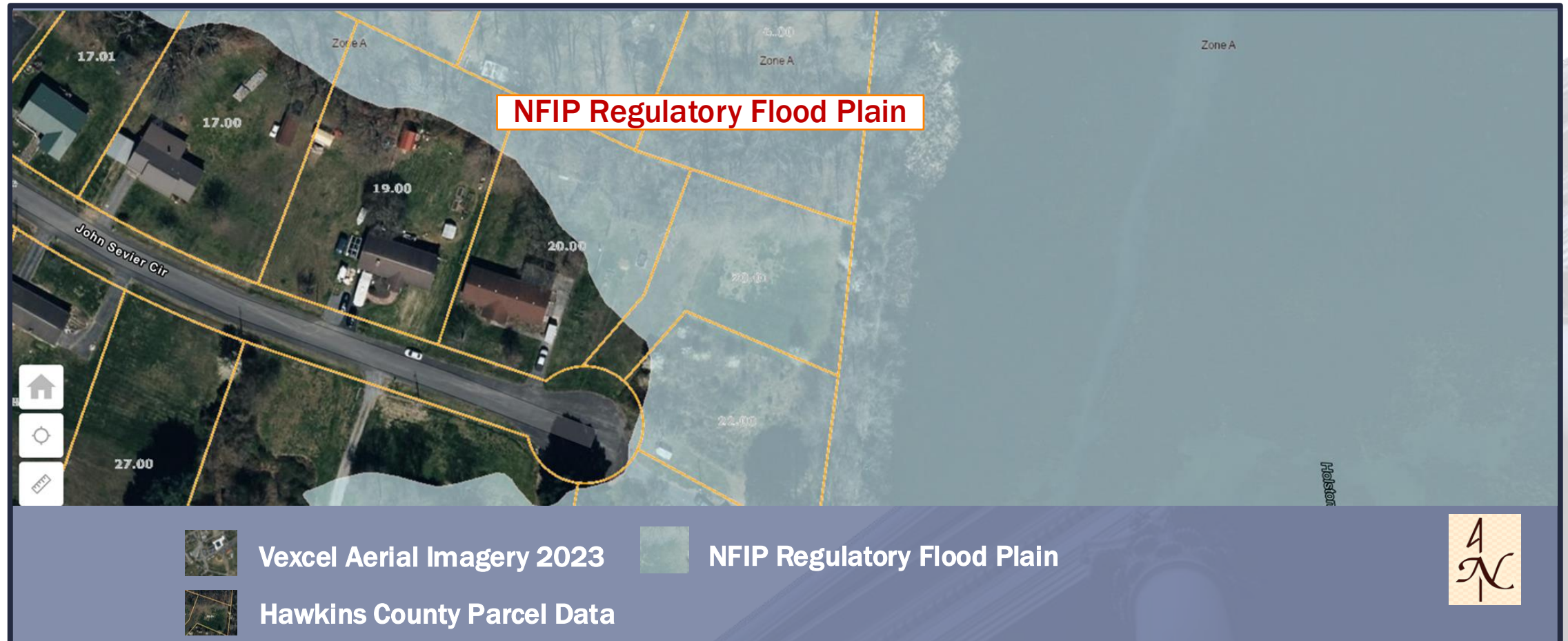
Draft Land Use Plan Legend

- ▣ ☒ Incorporated CITY Parcels
▨
- ▣ ☒ AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL LIVING
■
- ▣ ☒ LOWDENSITYRESIDENTIAL 5 acres or less
■
- ▣ ☒ Commercial
■
- ▣ ☒ Industrial
■
- ▣ ☒ Local, State, and Federal Government Holdings
■
- ▣ ☒ State Assesed Propert (Railroad, etc)
■
- ▣ ☒ Religious, Charitable, Civic Outreach
■



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATION AND STORM WATER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



Source: University of Tennessee – County Technical Assistance Service

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION: INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Counties must implement and follow federal, state, and local environmental regulations with eye towards efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Environmental regulations implemented through:

- **Solid Waste Departments**
- **Highway Departments**
- **Public Works Departments**
- **Stormwater Departments**
- **Planning Departments**
- **Regional and State Transportation Organizations**

CLEAN WATER ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR US STATES

- Federal law requires States to have a **plan** to maintain water quality
- **Protect** against the degradation of high-quality waters and water bodies that already meet the fishable/swimmable standards
- **Clean up** polluted or impaired waterways

The Commissioner shall have the power, duty, and responsibility to...post or cause to be posted such signs as required to give notice to the public of the potential or actual dangers of specific uses of such waters.

Tennessee Water Quality Control Act

HOW COUNTIES IMPLEMENT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

- Through **MS4's and Stormwater Ordinances**
- Through Public Works Best Practices: **Erosion Control, Pollution Prevention**
- Through **Development Permitting**: Construction and Post Construction Practices
- Through **Zoning**: limitations in areas with high-quality water bodies, impaired waterways, or wellhead protection areas. Restrictions on steep slopes, Septic, Industrial siting
- Through **Subdivision regulations**: Developers are required to have Stormwater management and Erosion and Sediment Controls

PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: SOLID WASTE RESPONSIBILITIES

STATE

Sets the framework

TDEC plans, regulates, permits and reviews.

REGION

Plans the system

The regional board looks ten years ahead and reports annually.

COUNTY

Assures service

The county provides, contracts for or authorizes collection and disposal.

SOLID WASTE DUTIES

County Responsibilities:

- Proper management of solid waste collection, transfer, transport, processing, and disposal
 - (Includes recycling, diversion, waste tire management and problem waste collection)

Solid Waste Region Responsibilities:

- Must have Solid Waste Plan
- Must meet 25% Waste Reduction Goal
- Must provide for Community Education



IN 2026 THE CHALLENGE IS HOW TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM, BOTH LOCALLY AND STATEWIDE

CAPACITY

Where will the next decade of waste go?

HAUL DISTANCE

Time, fuel, equipment and missed service.

CONTRACTS

Price, escalation clauses and bargaining power.

WORKFORCE

Drivers, attendants, operators and supervisors.

SITING

Need, consent, conflict and public trust.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Aging centers, transfer, compost and fleets.

DIVERSION

Markets, organics, contamination and reporting.

DISASTER

Debris surges can overwhelm an ordinary system.

FORTHCOMING: SOLID WASTE 10-YEAR PLANS

**NOV
2026**

State Plan

TDEC's statewide direction is scheduled for publication.

**JUNE
2027**

New rules

Regional-plan review criteria are scheduled to be published.

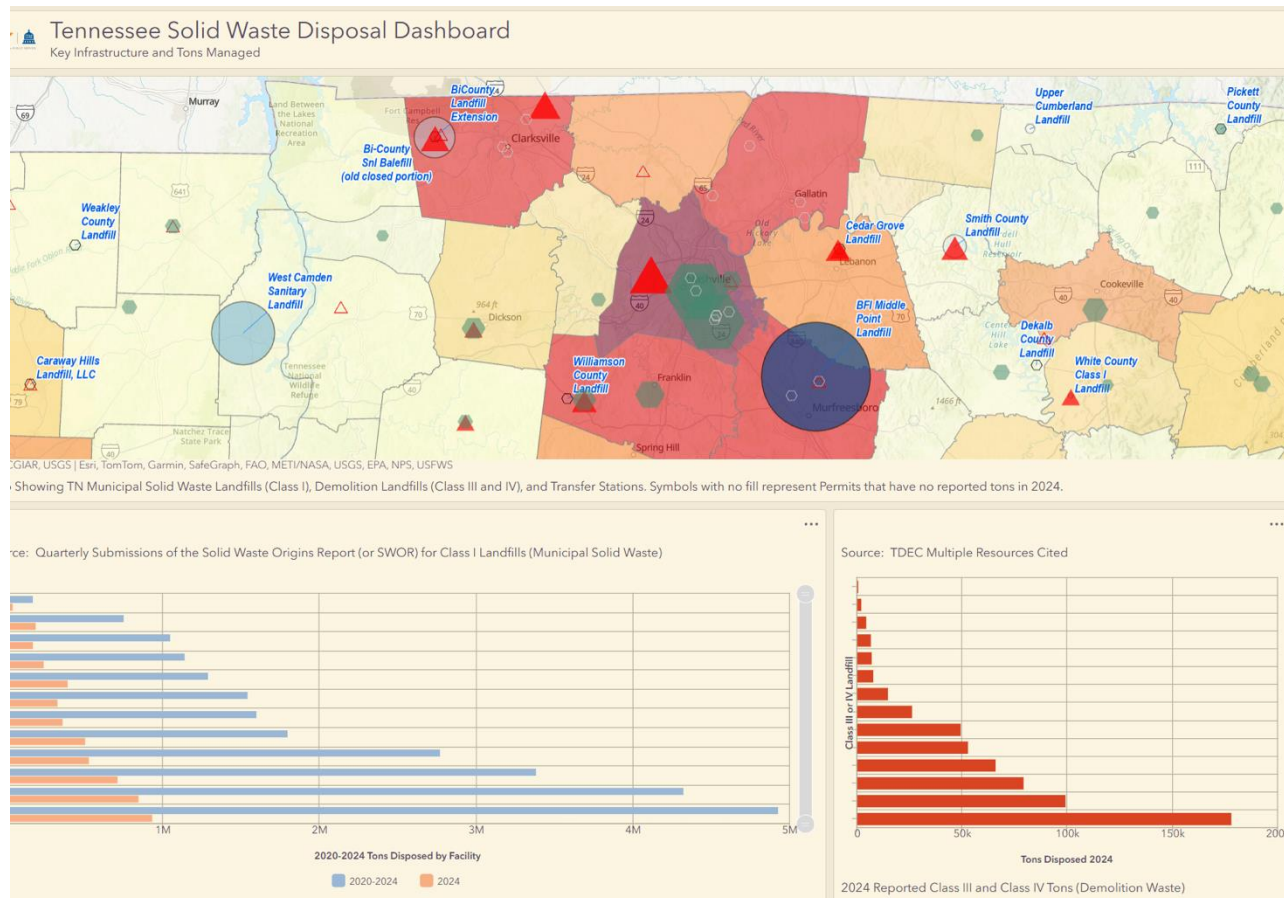
**JULY 1,
2028**

Regional Plans

Regions submit plans aligned with statute, rules and the State Plan.

HOW CTAS CAN HELP...

CTAS SOLID WASTE DASHBOARD



Solid Waste Technical Assistance Areas

Facility Siting, Permitting and Regulatory Compliance

Long-Range Planning

Problem Waste and Waste Reduction

Drone Mapping/GIS

Training

Cost Effectiveness/Benchmarking

RFPs/RFQs

CTAS DRONE PROGRAM: HOW CAN We HELP?

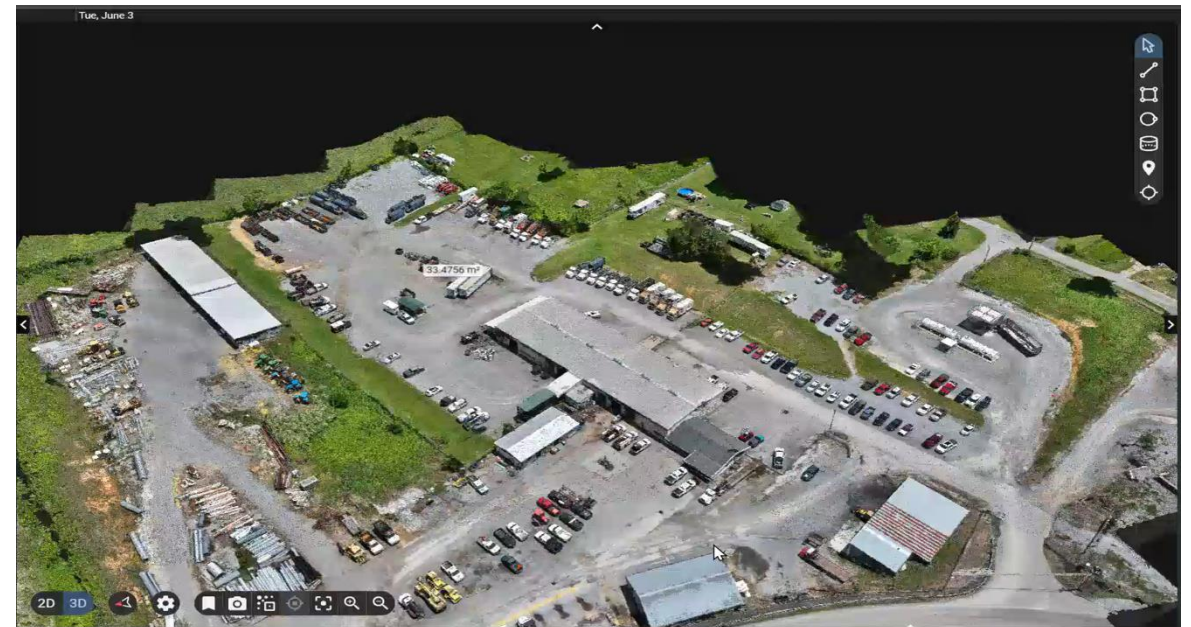
Build the baseline before you need it

Baseline

Map county facilities-schools, courthouses, jails, parks, and yards, roads, culverts, drainage, stockpiles and other critical assets.

Repeat

Re-fly the same sites to document condition, quantities, progress and change.



ASSET INVENTORIES: FOR PREPAREDNESS, INSURANCE, AND PLANNING

BEFORE

- **Record priority assets**

Roads, bridges, culverts, slopes, facilities and staging sites.

PLAN

- **Set the flight plan**

Priorities, access, safety, contacts and the information needed.

AFTER

- **Re-fly the same ground**

Compare damage, access, debris and recovery against the baseline.

THREE WAYS CTAS CAN HELP YOU

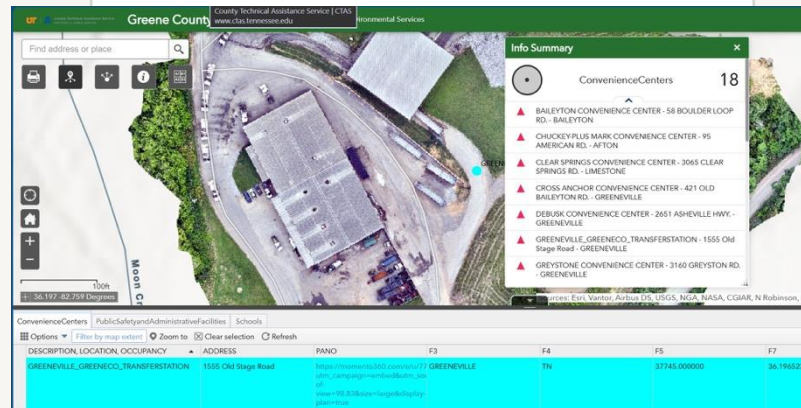
1 Request a simple flight

Photos, video, rapid documentation, public communication



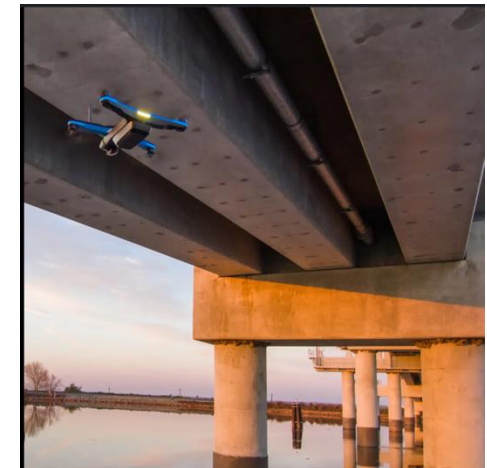
2 Request a mapping project

Orthomosaic, terrain, contours, volume, GIS-ready products



3 Build an internal program

Recurring demand, trained staff, equipment, software, data management



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTANTS



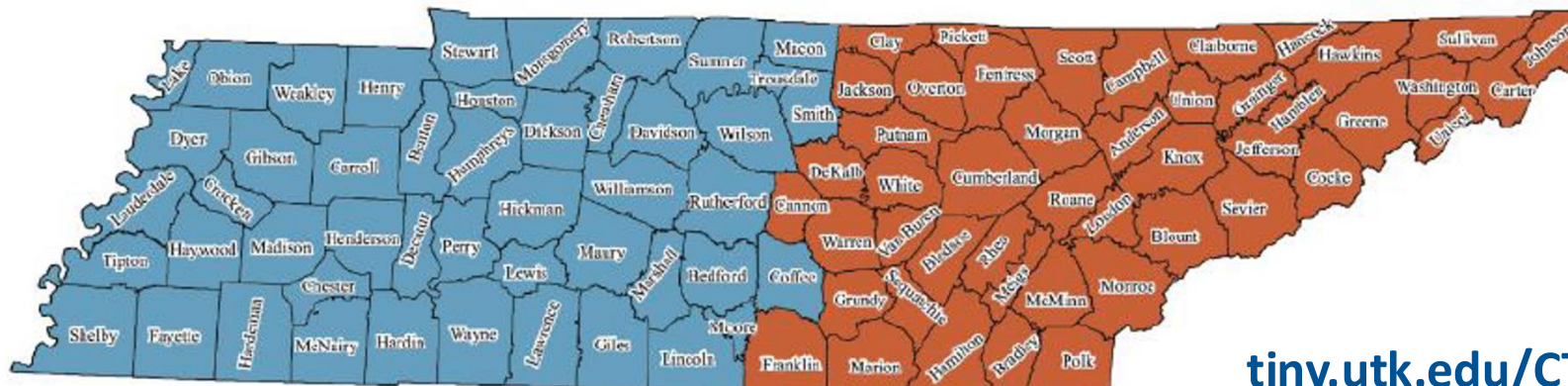
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