

Martin County, NC:



Comprehensive Plan with a Health & Wellness Component

Adopted: October 9, 2013



Martin County Comprehensive Plan

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Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 1 – Preface

A. Plan Purpose

North Carolina legislation encourages all jurisdictions to have an adopted comprehensive plan. However, there are broader and more important reasons to engage in the planning process. Planning should begin with understanding Martin County, its resources, and its people and learning how to care for them. Choices must be made about the natural, manmade, and financial resources in the County, and this plan is a tool to use in this decision-making process.



We plan our days, weddings, and vacations to ensure things don't go awry. Planning our built environment for growth and development provides guidance to community leaders and decision makers for a path forward. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

Overall, the plan accomplishes the following objectives:

- Develops clear vision & mission statements for Martin County;
- Addresses concerns of plan stakeholders & Martin County residents;
- Provides demographic analysis and forecasts;
- Addresses land use and transportation; and
- Provides health & wellness initiatives.

The following provides a concise definition of a county-sponsored Comprehensive Plan:

A comprehensive plan is a statement by the community of what it is today, and what it would like to be in the future. A comprehensive plan is an official public document, adopted by the chief legislative body.

The Martin County Comprehensive Plan differs from a traditional plan in that it includes health information gained from the 2010 Martin County Community Health Assessment. A traditional plan addresses demographics, housing, economy, existing physical environmental conditions, transportation, and future land use - without any reference to health and wellness. Sections and components of the traditional planning model are included and coordinated with identified health issues/needs.

Health concerns involve a wide range of community issues which are addressed by the plan. Those health topics include: recreation, public safety, clean water, active transportation (multi-modal), clean air, emergency preparedness, adequate housing, active living, physical activity, overall environmental health, infrastructure, and care for the aging.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 1 – Preface

B. Planning Process

The inclusion of the health and wellness component of the comprehensive plan is the result of a Community Transformation Grant received by the County. The grant is part of an allocation to the NC Division of Public Health from the US Department of Health and Human Services to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending. The objectives of the grant are to implement evidence-based strategies in the following strategic directions:

- Tobacco Free Living
- Active Living*
- Healthy Eating
- Clinical Preventive Services

*Items shown in bold have been integrated into the planning process.

The NC Department of Transportation also contributed funds to the comprehensive plan. The land use component of the comprehensive plan shall assist the County in long-range transportation planning efforts. The outcome of the plan is a comprehensive set of goals, strategies, and initiatives that will guide decision makers in Martin County throughout the next 20 years.

The plan was supervised by an ad-hoc steering committee of participating municipalities and key stakeholders including the following:

Name	Representing
Charlotte Griffin	Mayor, Bear Grass
Nancy Winslow	Hamilton
Jackie Bennett Gillam	Jamesville
Patrice Rosario	Oak City
Nancy Chavis	Parmele
Dean McCall	Williamston
Keisha Manson	Appointee of Martin County BOC
Steven Cannon	Appointee of Martin County BOC
Kathleen Devore-Jones	MTW District Health Department
David Bone	Martin County Manager
Dempsey Bond	Martin County Commissioner

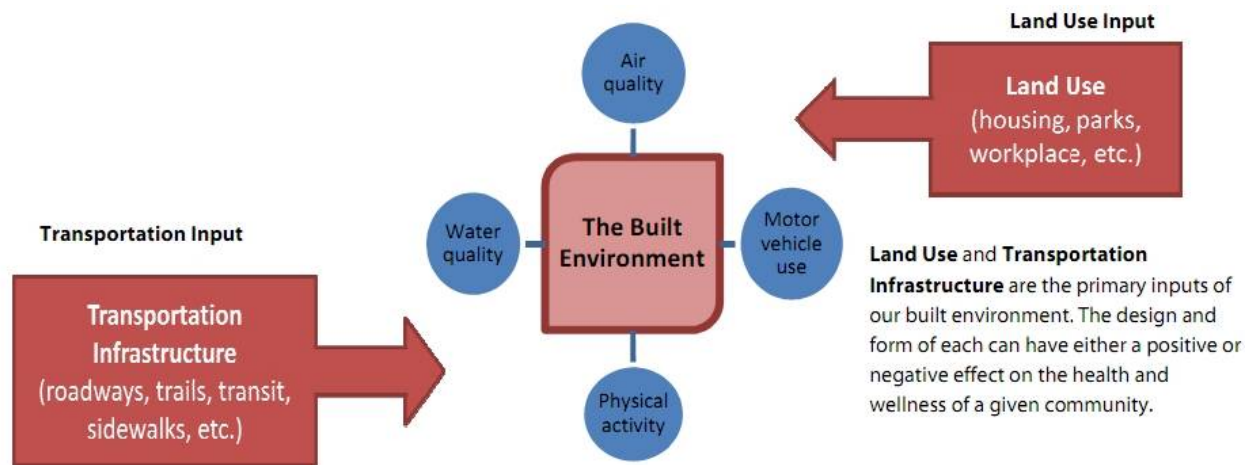
It should be noted that the Town of Williamston is not heavily represented in this plan. The Town recently adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2010. The Williamston Comprehensive Plan is available through the Town's Planning Department.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

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C. Health, Wellness, and the Built Environment

Public health and wellness are affected in many ways by the design of the built environment, which is defined as, “the environment as humans have shaped it - including roadways, buildings, parks, and neighborhoods.” In Martin County, as in other places across the country, the design of our roadways, residential developments, and settlement patterns all contribute to the relative health and wellness of citizens. For the purposes of this plan, wellness is defined in the physical dimension as the need for regular physical activity and physical development that encourages learning about diet and nutrition. The diagram below summarizes the impact of land use and transportation systems on our built environment. Land use and transportation planning lay the foundation for changes to our built environment, and in turn, the effects to our air and water quality, level of motor vehicle use, and ease of access to open space amenities (physical activity opportunities).



In the United States, the automobile is often the dominant force driving urban design. The vast demand for private vehicular transportation regularly dictates the scale of our streets, the relationship between buildings, and the speed at which we experience our environment.

Land use decisions can also have an effect on the health and wellness of individuals. Studies have shown that urban areas with a range of land uses increase the walkability of an area and subsequently lessen vehicular miles of travel. Traditional zoning districts often restrict multiple uses, making new development single use in nature and thus contributing to a lack of walkability and interconnectivity.



Human Scale - A built environment more tailored to the needs of pedestrians and cyclists versus the automobile. *Image Source: Town of Williamston*

The creation of the health and wellness related elements in the comprehensive plan use multiple academic and research based reports to establish an information base related to health and the built environment. Local health related data has been gleaned from public health officials, and the 2010 Martin County Community Health Assessment.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 2 – Introduction

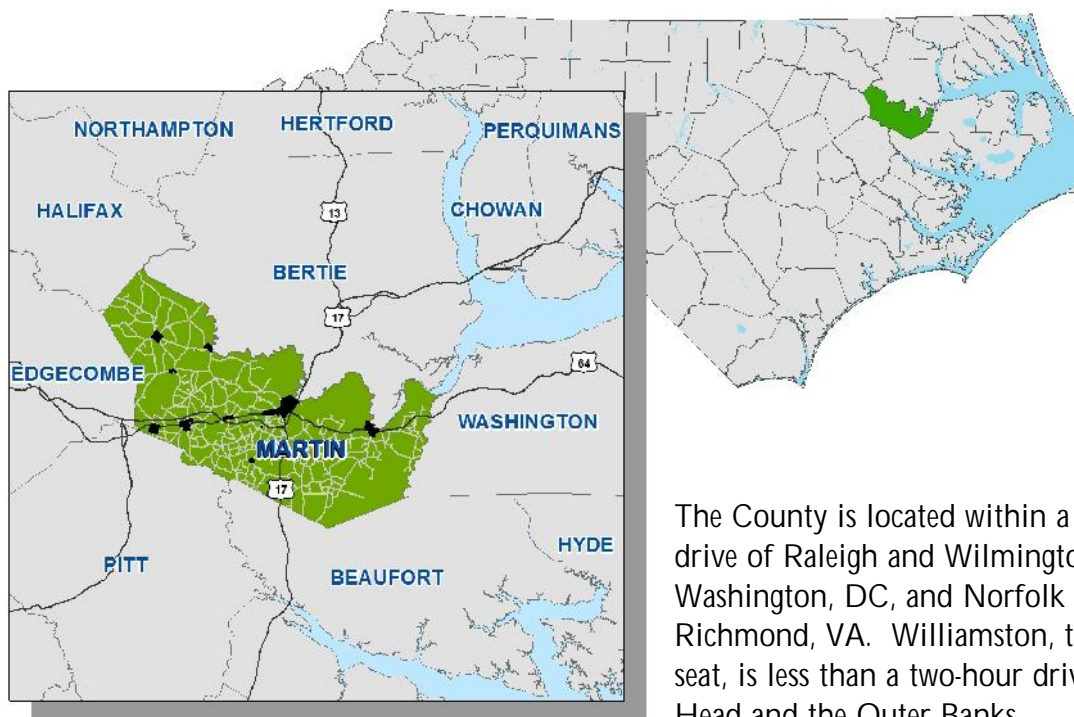
A. Regional Location

Martin County is located in northeastern North Carolina's Coastal Plain region. Both the CSX and Norfolk-Southern Railways traverse the County. Roadway transportation for the area is provided by US Routes 13 and 17 (running in a North-South direction), and 64 (East-West), and NC State Highways 11, 32, 34, 42, 94, 99, 125, 171, and 903. Martin County Airport serves as the general aviation airport in the County. Air carrier service is provided through the Pitt-Greenville Airport.



Martin County is located on the banks of the Roanoke River and is considered part of the North Carolina Inner Banks Region. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

Martin County Regional Location



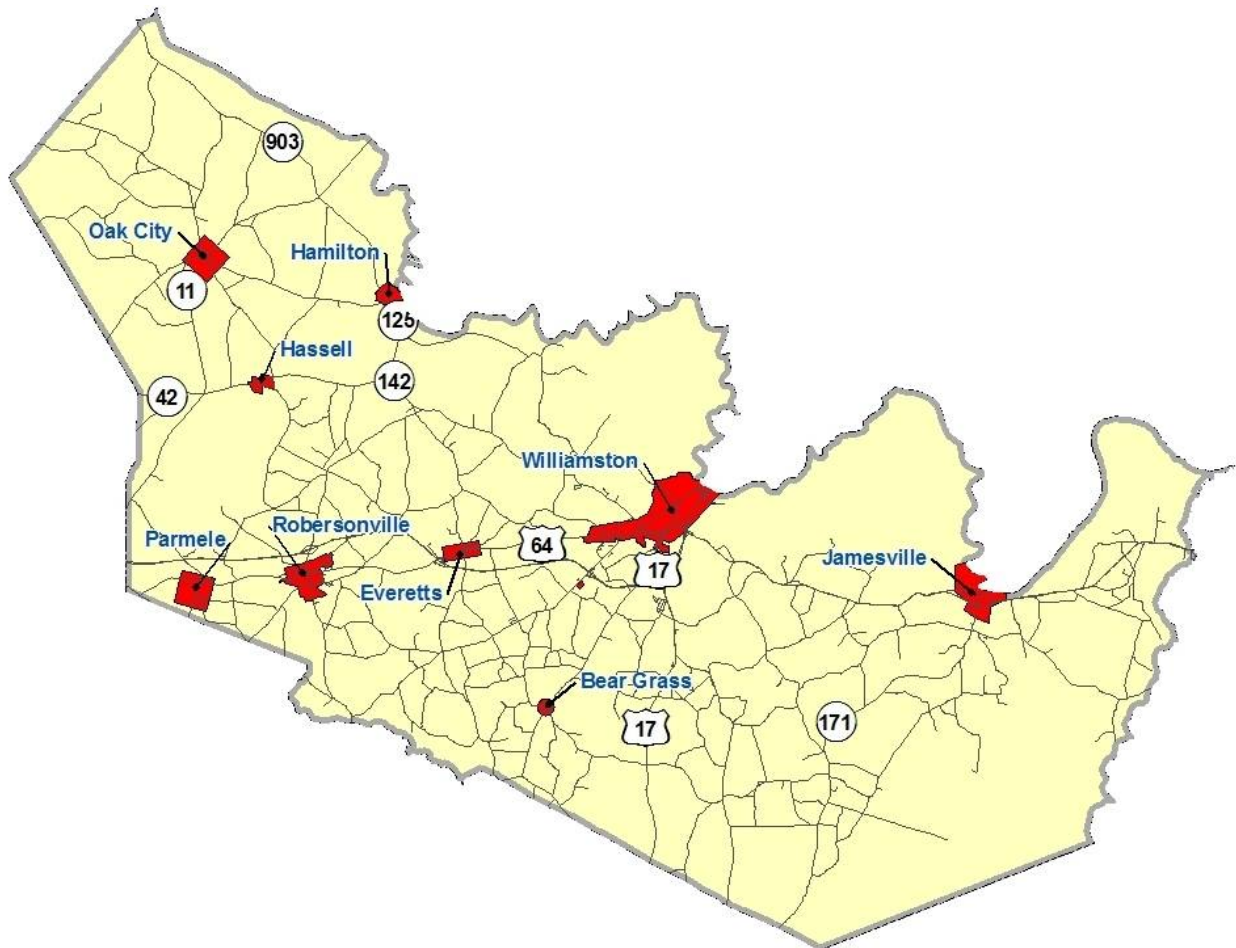
The County is located within a few hours drive of Raleigh and Wilmington, NC, Washington, DC, and Norfolk and Richmond, VA. Williamston, the County seat, is less than a two-hour drive from Nags Head and the Outer Banks.

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Section 2 – Introduction

Municipalities in Martin County include:

- Bear Grass
- Everetts
- Hamilton
- Hassell
- Jamesville
- Oak City
- Parmele
- Robersonville
- Williamston



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Section 2 – Introduction

B. Martin County History

The following history of Martin County is excerpted from the North Carolina History Project:

“Annexed from Halifax and Tyrrell Counties during the anxious year of 1774, Martin County was established at the request of weary residents who had traveled long distances to faraway government seats. William Slade, a representative who served in the House of Commons, sponsored several proposals to form a new county in the colony’s coastal region during the early 1770s. However, none of Slade’s bills were passed during his tenure. Eventually, Martin County was established a few months before the North Carolina Provincial Congress assembled to resist the British government. Although the original charter did not allow for the building of a courthouse, a law was later passed which levied a tax on Martin County residents for the construction of needed municipal buildings.

The county received its name in honor of the last royal governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin. Even though Josiah Martin angered many North Carolinians, the residents of Martin County kept the name; however, it was from then on used to honor Alexander Martin, a prominent Federalist of the Old North State. Incorporated in 1779, Williamston, the county seat, soon became known as “Tar Landing” because of its important location along the Roanoke River. Throughout the nineteenth century and even into the twentieth century, Williamston served as a transportation center for naval stores such as tar, pitch, turpentine and even forest and meat products. The railroads along with the soon-to-follow highways opened Williamston to even greater trade during the 1900s. Other communities include Oak City, Hamilton, Bear Grass, Everetts, Gold Point, Jamesville, Hassell, Parmele, Darden, and Robersonville.

The first natives in the region were the Tuscarora, who referred to the region as “Squhawky.” The Tuscarora lived off the lush forest of present-day Martin County, and they used the Roanoke River as an important trade route with other tribes in the coastal plain region. By the time the first English settlers inhabited the area in the early 1770s, the Tuscarora had migrated to other sites in North Carolina and Virginia.

Martin County’s early history has a connection to the Williams family. The seat of government in the county received its name in honor of Colonel William Williams, a Revolutionary War hero, who owned several plantations and estates in the northwestern section of the county. Williams’s father, also named William Williams, had settled in the region during early 1700s. He and his family squatted on a track of land on the southern edge of the Roanoke River. William Williams II, colonel of Martin County’s militia during the Revolutionary War, served as the county’s first senator in the General Assembly in 1777.

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Section 2 – Introduction

The Roanoke River, flowing from Virginia into Warren, Halifax, Northampton, Bertie, and Martin counties, served as a primary trade route during the colony's early years. One of the Southeast's largest rivers, Roanoke, originally called "Moratuck", flooded in 1940, and the surging water swells caused significant damage in Martin County and in surrounding counties. The Roanoke River Basin Association, a group formed in 1945 in an attempt to limit future flood devastation, petitioned the government for construction of Kerr Dam and the Gaston and Smith Mountain Dams. Today, the Roanoke River, along with the various wetlands and swamps in Martin County, provides an ideal location for hunting and fishing for outdoor recreation.

During the Civil War, a Confederate fort, constructed at Rainbow Banks in Martin County, protected the vital transportation route of the Roanoke River. In addition to the river, several railroads crossed over the Roanoke, and the Union Navy targeted these bridges because they supplied General Robert E. Lee's Northern Virginia Army. Confederate North Carolina commissioned the raising of a new fort on a ridge overlooking the Roanoke River valley. Named in honor of General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch who died during the Battle of Antietam, Fort Branch was completed during summer of 1863, and in December of 1864 the Union Army attacked the fort yet failed. As the Confederate Army began to languish in 1865, the soldiers stationed at Fort Branch destroyed the garrison. A private company later renovated Fort Branch, and it presently serves as a historic attraction in Martin County.

Martin County, specifically in Williamston, experienced a breakthrough of desegregation during the Civil Rights Movement. In the mid summer of 1963, civil rights protesters gathered at Green Memorial Church under the auspices of Sarah Small, a Martin County local, and Golden Frinks, an Edenton native who was a good friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. For 32 days over 400 protesters, mostly adolescents and teenagers, sang, prayed, and rallied to the Martin County Courthouse. Despite counter-protests by the Ku Klux Klan on the outskirts of Williamston, the protests never became violent, and the town council, recognizing the need for desegregation, made steady progress to open public facilities to both whites and African Americans. However, it would take the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to put an end to desegregation throughout the entire nation.

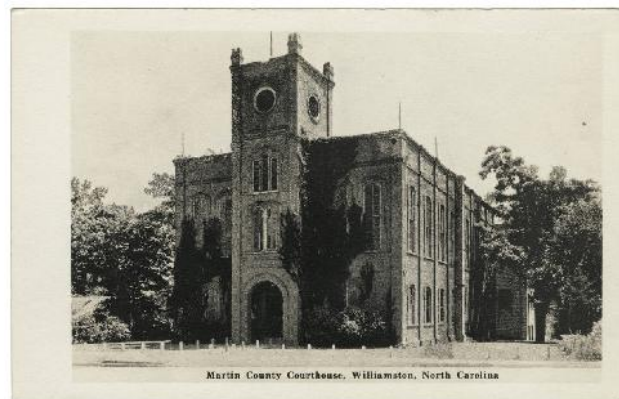
A distinguished North Carolina politician made his home in Williamston, Martin County. Asa Biggs (1811-1878), who served in both Houses of Congress and as a federal judge, learned under his father at the Williamston Academy during the 1820s. While he worked as a manager in Williamston, Biggs read law and in 1831, he was permitted to the North Carolina state bar. The ambitious Biggs entered state politics in the mid-1830s, serving as a Martin County representative during

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Section 2 – Introduction

the state's Constitutional Convention. In 1845, the North Carolina legislature appointed Biggs to the House of Representatives where he served until 1847, and he later served in the Senate until 1858. Biggs, never feeling comfortable with the Washington political scene, eagerly anticipated an appointment to a federal district court judgeship. Favoring slavery and secession, Judge Biggs pressed the courts for his support of individual rights, and he would champion the Confederate cause until the fall of the South in 1865."

Jonathan Martin, "Martin County (1774)," NorthCarolinahistory.org: An Online Encyclopedia, North Carolina History Project, <http://northcarolinahistory.org/lunsfordlane.html> (accessed August 23, 2013).



Martin County Courthouse *Image Source: North Carolina Postcards Collection, UNC-CH*



Main Street, Williamston, NC *Image Source: North Carolina Postcards Collection, UNC-CH*

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Section 3 – Community Profile

A. Introduction

This section provides a synopsis of the current population, housing, and economic conditions in Martin County. Public Health and Wellness statistics have been summarized based on the 2010 Martin County Community Health Assessment. Demographic data is sourced from both the 2000 & 2010 Census, NC Office of State Budget & Management (NC OSBM), and the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security.

B. Health & Wellness Issues

According to the 2010 Martin County Health Assessment, the "Top 5 Serious Disease & Disability Problems" were listed as the following:

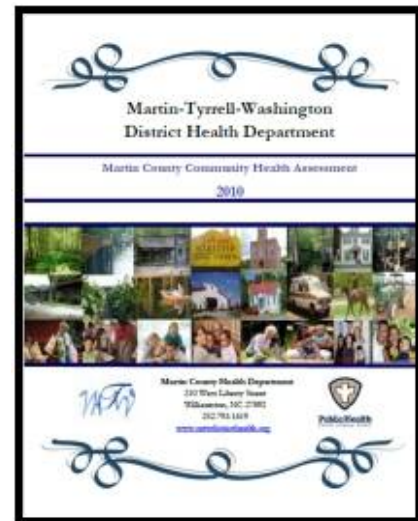
1. Adult Obesity
2. High Blood Pressure
3. Diabetes
4. Childhood Obesity
5. Heart Disease

These five problems were from a survey completed by over 500 Martin County residents. All five problems relate primarily to chronic disease and can occur partially as a result of the design of the built environment. The design of the built environment plays a role in both chronic disease and obesity. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), chronic diseases - such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes - are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems in the United States.

Obesity is a leading cause of chronic disease in the United States and increases the risk for a variety of chronic diseases including heart disease, strokes, glucose intolerance, and some forms of cancer. It is not a direct cause of most diseases but unfavorably alters the risk factor profile. For example, obesity may lead to increases in blood pressure and blood cholesterol, which in turn, can lead to cardiovascular disease and strokes.

"Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis – are the leading cause of death and disability in the United States."
Source: Centers for Disease Control

Chronic disease differs from infectious disease (or communicable disease) in the way it occurs in individuals. Infectious diseases usually occur because of contact with an affected host, while chronic diseases may occur solely because of a sedentary lifestyle. Common infectious diseases of current and past years include Tuberculosis, Ebola, Malaria, Measles, and HIV/AIDs.



Martin County completed a Community Health Assessment in 2010.

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Section 3 – Community Profile

Infectious diseases were once the primary cause of death in the United States a century ago, but proper hygiene, environmental design, and immunization have led to the downfall of such disease in the United States. In Martin County, the primary cause of death is heart disease. Nine “Health Priorities” were drafted as a result of the Martin County Community Health Assessment. The Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department and the Martin County Community Health Assessment Team will draft action plans to address each priority. They are as follows:

1. Obesity
2. Chronic Diseases (Heart, Diabetes, Asthma)
3. Communicable Diseases
4. Teen Pregnancy
5. Crime/Gang Prevention
6. Dental Health
7. Mental Health
8. Health Disparities
9. Access to Health Care

Obesity Mechanisms

Obesity results from a positive caloric balance, meaning that the intake of calories is greater than caloric expenditure. Nutrition plays a direct role in determining caloric balance because it is the sole variable when accounting for caloric intake. Caloric output, however, is dependent on three specific variables. These include physical activity, resting metabolism, and the thermogenic effect of food. Thermogenesis occurs when your body raises its core temperature. When your body increases its heat or energy output, your metabolism increases and your fat cells are used as the main source of energy. Of the three variables, physical activity is the most often altered in order to increase caloric expenditure.

In general, obesity tends to be a multi-faceted problem with no one solution to combat its occurrence. However, there are certain segments of the population that are more likely to be obese as it is more prevalent in the low socioeconomic status (SES) segments of society. Investigations have shown similar results in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

“Two of the four most common causes of chronic disease include lack of physical activity and poor nutrition. Both causes can be altered by lifestyle changes.”
Source: Centers for Disease Control

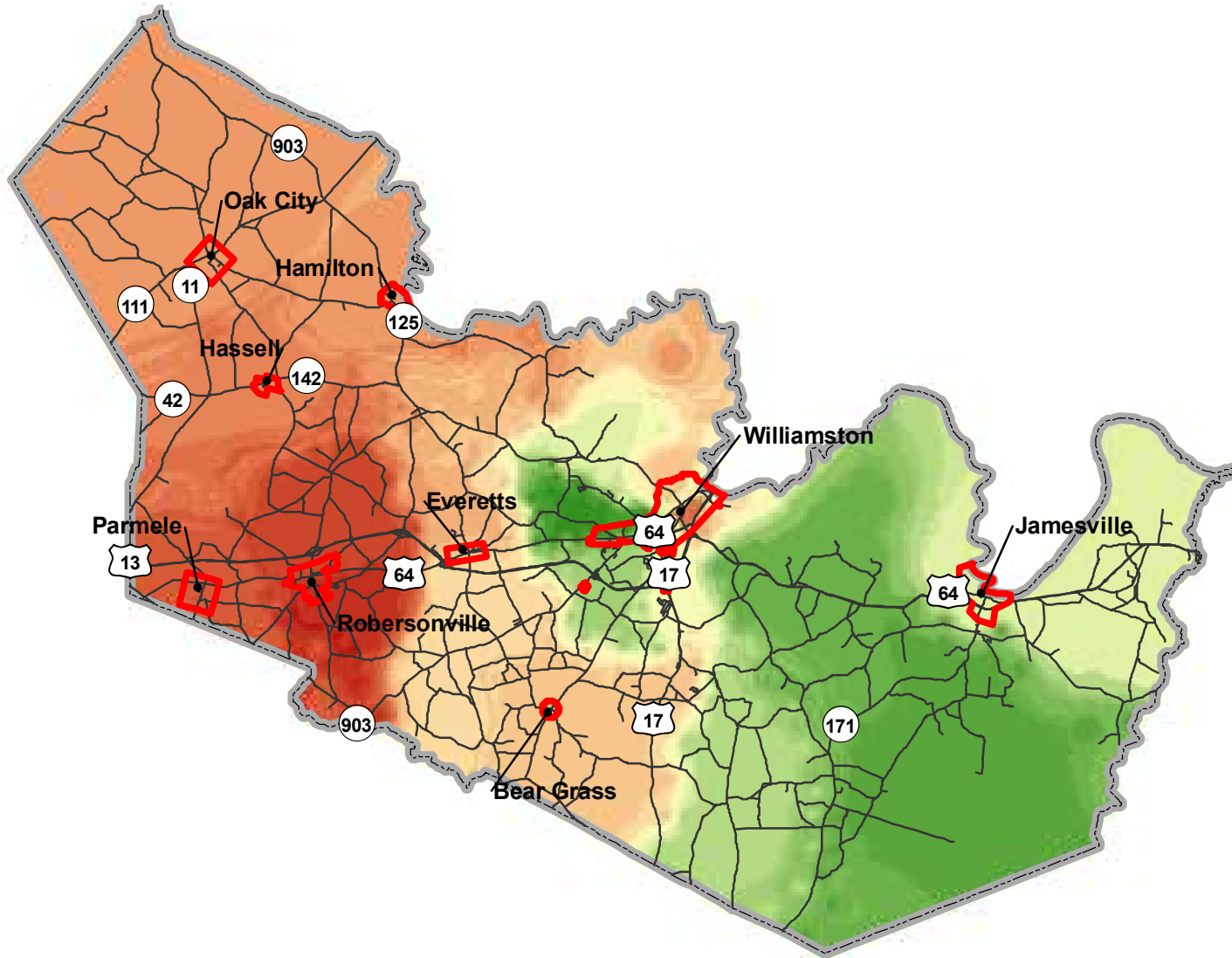
In addition, a childhood spent in poor social and economic conditions has been shown to lead to a less healthy adulthood. In both adolescent boys and girls, low SES and parental education levels were related to an unfavorable risk factor profile indicating a need for early intervention in low SES communities.

To identify areas of Martin County that are considered low in socioeconomic status, GIS analysis was used. Census estimates for educational attainment, employment, and income levels were combined to locate these areas. Concentrations of low SES are shown on Map 1.

Map 1
Martin County
Comprehensive Plan



Socioeconomic Status (SES)



Legend

Primary Roads

Municipalities

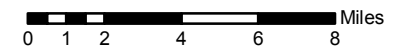
Socioeconomic Status

High SES

Low SES

Source: 2010 Census

Note: Median Household Income, Employment, and Education have been combined to create the Socioeconomic Status layer.



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Section 3 – Community Profile

C. Population

Population Growth

According to the NC Office of State Budget & Management (NC OSBM) the population in Martin County is expected to decline by roughly 15% by the year 2030. This finding is consistent with other rural counties in northeastern North Carolina. However, the population in Pitt County, which borders Martin County to the south, is expected to grow by close to 25% by the year 2030 (see Table 1). Pitt County has a larger urban population that is projected to increase in the next 20 years - a trend consistent across the country. Pitt County also benefits from the presence of a major national university, East Carolina University.

Table 1. Population 1980 to 2030

Year	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
1980	25,866	–	40,355	–	20,967	–	83,893	–	5,795,278	–
1990	25,078	-3.0%	42,283	4.8%	20,388	-2.8%	107,923	28.6%	6,626,118	14.3%
2000	25,593	2.1%	44,958	6.3%	19,773	-3.0%	133,798	24.0%	8,049,319	21.5%
2010	24,505	-4.3%	47,759	6.2%	21,282	7.6%	168,148	25.7%	9,535,483	18.5%
2020	22,339	-8.8%	54,372	13.8%	20,588	-3.3%	187,719	11.6%	10,614,862	11.3%
2030	20,410	-8.6%	60,828	11.9%	20,588	0.0%	206,893	10.2%	11,629,556	9.6%

Source: US Census Bureau and NC OSBM.

Martin County ranks 76th out of 100 NC counties in terms of population. The most densely populated areas of Martin County are found in the nine incorporated municipalities. Of those nine municipalities, Williamston has both the highest population and the greatest number of persons per acre (see Map 2). Only three of the nine municipalities experienced population growth from 1980 to 2010 - those being Bear Grass, Everetts, and Jamesville. The municipalities of Hamilton, Oak City, and Robersonville all experienced a dramatic decline in population base, decreasing by more than 30% since 1980 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Municipal Population, 1980 to 2010

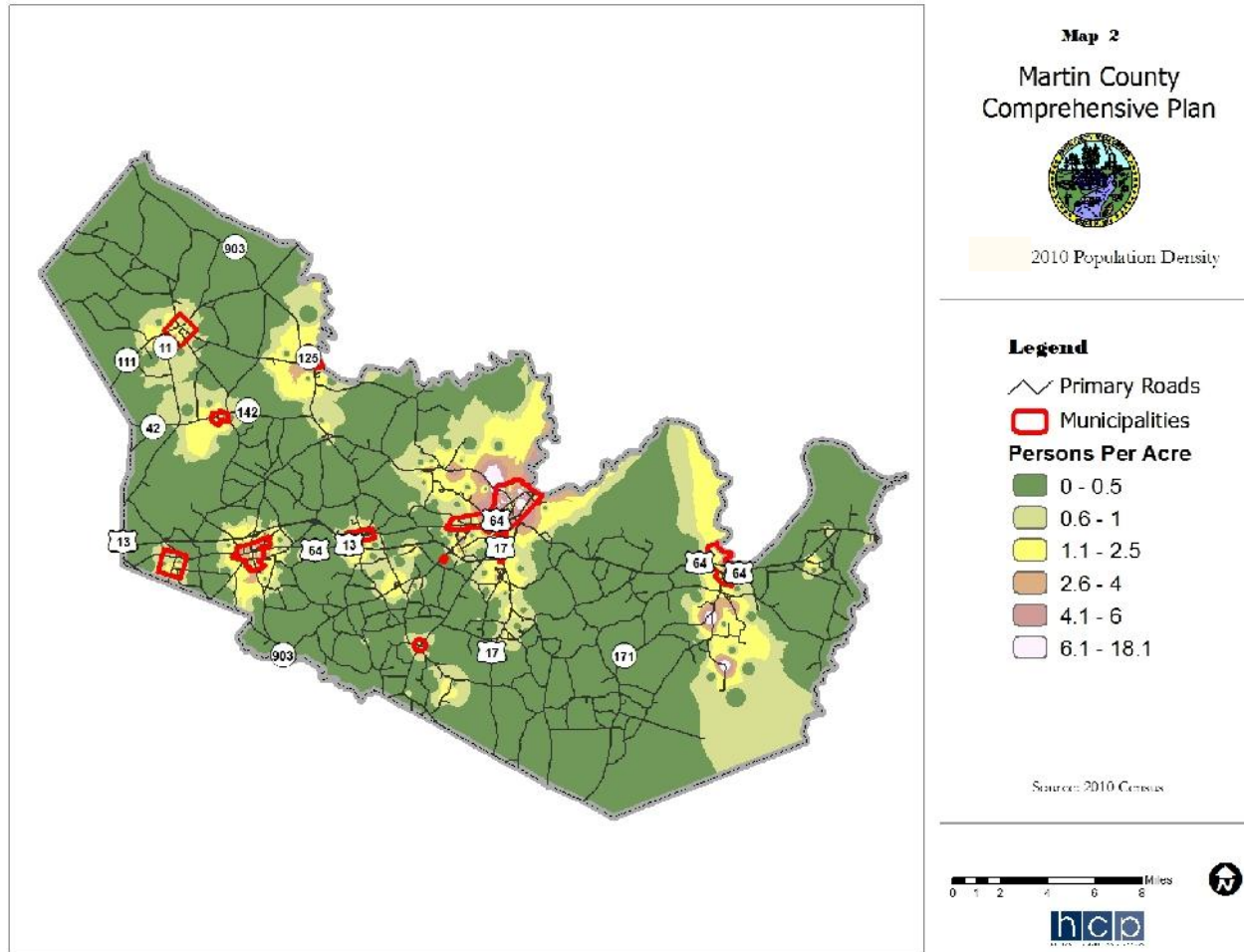
Municipality	Total Population				Percent Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	'80-'90	'90-'00	'00-'10	'80-'10
Bear Grass	53	61	66	73	15.1%	8.2%	10.6%	37.7%
Everetts	147	131	156	164	-10.9%	19.1%	5.1%	11.6%
Hamilton	708	614	494	408	-13.3%	-19.5%	-17.4%	-42.4%
Hassell	109	120	100	84	10.1%	-16.7%	-16.0%	-22.9%
Jamesville	488	514	500	491	5.3%	-2.7%	-1.8%	0.6%
Oak City	513	467	387	317	-9.0%	-17.1%	-18.1%	-38.2%

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Municipality	Total Population				Percent Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	'80-'90	'90-'00	'00-'10	'80-'10
Parmele	340	305	312	278	-10.3%	2.3%	-10.9%	-18.2%
Robersonville	2,131	1,946	1,704	1,488	-8.7%	-12.4%	-12.7%	-30.2%
Williamston	6,111	5,733	5,899	5,511	-6.2%	2.9%	-6.6%	-9.8%

Source: US Census Bureau.



Population by Age

As the population of the nation ages, so too does that of rural Eastern NC. Additionally, rural areas face many challenges in providing resources for the elderly. Over ninety percent of seniors (65+) have at least one chronic disease, and more than 75% have at least two. To exacerbate the issue, in the next thirty years, the portion of the population over the age of 65 is expected to more than double. By 2030, more than nine percent of the United States population is estimated to be over the age of 85.

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In Martin County, more than half the population (55%) is over the age of 40. This differs dramatically from the state overall at just 46% of the population, and neighboring Pitt County, where only 39% of the population is over the age of 40.

Table 3. Population by Age, 2010

Age Group	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 40	11,021	45.0%	21,774	45.6%	9,948	46.7%	103,332	61.5%	5,126,689	53.8%
40 to 64	9,187	37.5%	17,203	36.0%	7,678	36.1%	48,197	28.7%	3,174,715	33.3%
Over 65	4,297	17.5%	8,782	18.4%	3,656	17.2%	16,619	9.9%	1,234,079	12.9%
Total	24,505	100.0%	47,759	100.0%	21,282	100.0%	168,148	100.0%	9,535,483	100.0%
2010 Median Age	44.0		43.8		42.7		31.0		37.3	
2000 Median Age	38.7		40.2		38.5		30.4		35.3	

Source: US Census Bureau.

Since 2000, the median age has increased statewide from 35.3 to 37.3; however, the population age in the more rural Martin and Bertie counties has increased significantly from just over 38 years of age to 44 and 42.7 respectively (see Table 3 above). Using the same percent increase, it is expected that the median age in Martin County will be 55 by 2030.

This increase in median age in Martin County can be attributed to both the “aging in place” trend - whereby older adults are less likely to move from their residences - and also a net migration of the younger segment of the population. The “brain drain” and inability to retain younger professionals was recently identified as part of a Community Assistance Initiative undertaken by the Golden Leaf Foundation.

Gender & Racial Composition

The gender composition in Martin County has stayed roughly the same from 2000 to 2010. According to the 2010 Census, 47% of the Martin County population was male and 53% female. In 2000, 46% of the population was male and 54% female.

The 2010 Census shows that the racial composition in Martin County was 54% white, 43% black, and 3% other. This racial mixture is different from that of neighboring Pitt County and the state as a whole (see Table 4). Both Martin and Bertie counties have a higher percentage of minority population than Pitt County or the state overall. In 2000, the racial composition of Martin County was nearly identical to that of 2010 with 53% of the population white, 45% black, and 2% other.

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Table 4. Population by Race, 2010

Race	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	13,019	53.1%	32,551	68.2%	7,488	35.2%	99,075	58.9%	6,528,950	68.5%
Black	10,651	43.5%	12,223	25.6%	13,296	62.5%	57,257	34.1%	2,048,628	21.5%
Other Race	835	3.4%	2,985	6.3%	498	2.3%	11,816	7.0%	957,905	10.0%
Total	24,505	100.0%	47,759	100.0%	21,282	100.0%	168,148	100.0%	9,535,483	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau.

The US Census Bureau distinguishes Hispanic or Latino as terms to define region of origin, not a person's race, and uses the terms to describe any person, regardless of race, creed, or color, whose origins are of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of some other Hispanic origin. Of Martin County's total population (24,505), 769 people are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

D. Housing

Dwelling Unit Growth

In Martin County, from 2000 to 2010, the number of dwelling units increased from 10,929 units to 11,608 units, a 6% increase. Bertie County experienced a similar increase in housing units during that same period (see Table 5). Martin County lagged significantly behind both the state and neighboring Pitt County in housing unit growth over the last decade.

Table 5. Housing Characteristics, 2000 and 2010

2000 Census	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Owner-occupied	7,198	65.9%	13,745	62.1%	5,797	64.1%	30,541	52.3%	2,172,355	61.6%
Renter-occupied	2,822	25.8%	4,574	20.7%	1,946	21.5%	21,998	37.7%	959,658	27.2%
Vacant	910	8.3%	3,820	17.3%	1,307	14.4%	5,869	10.0%	391,931	11.1%
Total	10,930	100.0%	22,139	100.0%	9,050	100.0%	58,408	100.0%	3,523,944	100.0%

2010 Census	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Owner-occupied	6,968	60.0%	36,904	49.2%	6,277	64.4%	35,404	48.5%	2,468,489	58.4%
Renter-occupied	2,986	25.7%	30,673	40.9%	1,883	19.3%	28,601	39.2%	1,157,690	27.4%
Vacant	1,654	14.2%	7,413	9.9%	1,593	16.3%	8,949	12.3%	603,373	14.3%
Total	11,608	100.0%	74,990	100.0%	9,753	100.0%	72,954	100.0%	4,229,552	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau.

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From 2000 to 2010, the number of vacant housing units nearly doubled in Martin County - increasing from 8% of total units to just over 14%. Bertie and Pitt counties also experienced an increase in vacant housing units, though at a much smaller rate. This trend is reflective of the housing downturn in the latter part of the decade.

Dwelling Unit Age

Close to 60% of Martin County's housing units are more than 30 years old. Bertie County has a similar percentage of older housing units, but across the state and in Pitt County, the percentage is much lower (see Table 6). This statistic is consistent with the lower number of housing units built in the last decade.

Table 6. Dwelling Unit Age, 2010

Year Built	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2005 or later	152	1.3%	915	3.8%	173	1.8%	6,221	8.5%	242,715	5.7%
2000-2004	624	5.4%	2,271	9.3%	743	7.6%	11,698	16.0%	513,028	12.1%
1990-1999	2,054	17.7%	4,916	20.2%	1,867	19.1%	18,411	25.2%	896,428	21.2%
1980-1989	1,933	16.7%	4,206	17.2%	1,397	14.3%	11,017	15.1%	725,467	17.2%
Prior to 1980 (over 30 yrs)	6,845	59.0%	12,089	49.6%	5,573	57.1%	25,607	35.1%	1,851,914	43.8%
Total	11,608	100.0%	24,397	100.0%	9,753	100.0%	72,954	100.0%	4,229,552	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau.

Housing Cost & Condition

In 2010, the median home value in Martin County was \$79,900. Statewide, the median housing value is \$149,100 - nearly twice that of housing units in Martin County. Rural Bertie County has a similar median housing value. It is difficult to obtain a precise picture of housing affordability in any jurisdiction. However, most measures of housing affordability consider 30% of gross income an allowable/affordable expenditure for housing. For homeowners, the cost includes mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and utilities. For renters, housing cost includes rent and utilities.

Approximately 35% of homeowners in Martin County have a mortgage to which 30% or more of their income is allocated to housing costs. According to the 2000 Census, only a quarter of homeowners in the county allocated that level of income to their mortgage - representing a 40% increase in homeowners burdened by a large mortgage payment over last decade.

The number of renters paying a significant portion of household income for living purposes also grew from 2000 to 2010. In 2000, just over 36% of renters used more than thirty percent of their income to pay rent. By 2010, the percentage of renters burdened by their living costs increased

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to 59%, almost doubling the amount of individuals facing difficulties paying rent. Across the state, this trend held true as burdened mortgage owners and renters increased from 20.7% and 33.4%, respectively, to over 32% of mortgage owners and close to half (48.9%) of all renters in 2010.

Additionally, the percentage of housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities in Martin County (1.2%) is more than double the statewide average (0.5%).

Table 7. Housing Cost and Condition, 2010

	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Median Housing Value	\$79,400		\$107,000		\$77,400		\$125,900		\$149,100	
Mortgage Greater than 30% of Income	1,303	34.5%	3,049	35.9%	1,199	38.3%	8,229	33.2%	535,120	32.2%
Rent Greater than 30% of Income	1,382	59.0%	2,182	47.1%	1,045	70.7%	15,225	57.4%	509,691	48.9%
Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	122	1.2%	101	0.5%	118	1.4%	389	0.6%	16,548	0.5%
Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities	81	0.8%	33	0.2%	147	1.8%	455	0.7%	22,500	0.6%

Source: US Census Bureau.

E. Economy

Employment by Industry

According to the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, the Manufacturing industry has the largest number of employees in Martin County (it is important to note that all employees are not listed in this table). Close to 20% of the workforce is employed in the Manufacturing industry, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, which employs just over 16% of the workforce. Manufacturing also has the highest average weekly wage, at \$1,109. The weekly wage in the Manufacturing industry is almost double the average weekly wage of the Martin County labor force (see Table 8). It should be noted, however, that Domtar Paper Company inflates this average.

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Table 8. Martin County Employment and Wage by Industry

Industry	Establishments	Average Employment	Percent of Workforce	Average Weekly Wage
Manufacturing	15	1,346	18.6%	\$1,109.00
Health Care and Social Assistance	61	1,173	16.2%	\$527.00
Retail Trade	77	1,012	14.0%	\$419.00
Educational Services	15	879	12.1%	\$589.00
Accommodation and Food Services	56	840	11.6%	\$196.00
Public Administration	30	665	9.2%	\$569.00
Construction	42	237	3.3%	\$609.00
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	36	216	3.0%	\$555.00
Professional and Technical Services	33	173	2.4%	\$510.00
Finance and Insurance	37	159	2.2%	\$877.00
Wholesale Trade	29	157	2.2%	\$655.00
Administrative and Waste Services	20	117	1.6%	\$414.00
Transportation and Warehousing	28	94	1.3%	\$718.00
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	31	77	1.1%	\$344.00
Information	8	60	0.8%	\$744.00
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11	33	0.5%	\$427.00
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3	9	0.1%	\$403.00
Total	532	7,247	100.0%	\$568.53

Source: NC Employment Security Commission.

The Martin County Board of Education is the single largest employer in the county. Other significant employers are the Domtar Paper Company, Ann's House of Nuts, Inc., Wal-Mart, and the Williamston Yarn Mill (see Table 9). Unemployment in Martin County has steadily declined since January, 2012, when it was 12.3%. The unemployment rate recorded for October, 2012, was significantly less at 10.7%.



Rodgers Elementary School Image Source: Martin County School District.

Table 9. Martin County Top Employers, 500 to 999 Employed

Company	Industry
Martin County Board of Education	Education & Health Services
Domtar Paper Company	Manufacturing
Ann's House of Nuts, Inc.	Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Williamston Yarn Mill	Manufacturing

Source: Martin County Economic Development Corporation.

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Economic Development

The mission of the recently completed Martin County Economic Development Strategic Plan (September, 2011) is to “outline a path to enhance Martin County’s position as a regional hub for business and tourism.” Priorities identified as part of the plan include the following:

- Product Development
- Retail & Small Business Development
- Marketing
- Downtown Revitalization
- Tourism
- Gateway Improvements

Target industries actively sought by the Martin County Economic Development Corporation include Biotechnology, Natural Products Manufacturing, and Applied Manufacturing. The workforce area for industrial solicitation is approximately a 30 mile radius that extends beyond the county border. In addition, a biofuels assessment was drafted to analyze sites at the Martin County Industrial Park in Everetts.



Roanoke River Paddle Trail

Natural resources and heritage sites are a major draw for the tourism industry in Martin County. The County’s location on the Roanoke River and Inner Banks make it an ideal destination for water-based recreation users.

The equine industry is another key component of economic development efforts in the county. Martin County is a leader in the equine industry that has an annual \$1.9 billion dollar economic impact on the state. The Senator Bob

Martin Eastern Agricultural Center is one of the best equestrian centers on the East Coast. Martin County is also home to the only community college equestrian training program in the state (at Martin Community College). The Senator Bob Martin Center has been host to some of the most prestigious equestrian events in the nation. When events are held at the Center it has a stimulating effect on the local economy and tourism industry.

Further economic recommendations will be included as part of the policies and implementing actions section and future community needs sections of this document.



Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center

Image Source: Martin County Economic Development Strategic Plan

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Income

In 2010, the median household income in Martin County was \$34,766. The county still lags behind the state and its more urban neighbor, Pitt County. Martin County's median income is significantly higher than its rural neighbor, Bertie County (see Table 10).

Table 10. Median Household Income, 2000 and 2010

	Martin County	Beaufort County	Bertie County	Pitt County	North Carolina
2000 Median Household Income	\$28,793	\$31,066	\$25,177	\$32,868	\$39,184
2010 Median Household Income	\$34,766	\$40,653	\$29,110	\$38,592	\$45,570
2010 Persons Below Poverty Level (%)	23.4%	17.2%	23.3%	23.9%	15.5%

Source: US Census Bureau.

The poverty rate in Martin County is consistent with other counties in eastern North Carolina. It should also be noted that Martin is a Tier 1 County - a designation given to the forty (40) most economically distressed counties in the state.

Vehicle Availability & Travel Time to Work

Close to ten percent of people in the occupied housing units in the county have no vehicle available for private use. In North Carolina as a whole, 7% of residents are faced with this issue. In Martin County, the travel time to work is similar to its neighboring counties.

Table 11. Vehicle Availability and Travel Time to Work

	Martin County		Beaufort County		Bertie County		Pitt County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Occupied Housing Units	9,954	100.0%	20,059	100.0%	8,160	100.0%	64,005	100.0%	3,626,179	100.0%
No Vehicles Available	942	9.5%	1,867	9.3%	828	10.1%	5,136	8.0%	234,435	6.5%
1 or More Vehicles	9,012	90.5%	18,192	90.7%	7,332	89.9%	58,689	91.7%	3,391,744	93.5%
Mean Travel Time to Work	23.5		26.8		25.7		19.6		23.4	

Source: US Census Bureau.

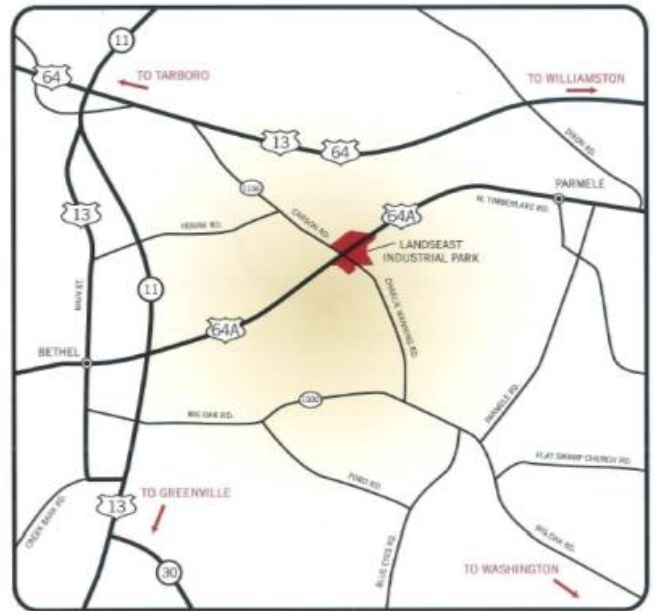
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Industrial Parks

Lands East Industrial Park

The Lands East Industrial Park is located in Pitt and Martin Counties, between Bethel and Parmele on US 64 Alternate. The site has been approved by the NC Department of Commerce as a NC Certified Site. This designation means that Lands East is a premium business location that has undergone a rigorous pre-qualification process to ensure it is ready for development, has secured commitments of support, and has performed an analysis of site development costs, environmental issues, and utility services. The industrial park is approximately 788 acres in size with access to freight and rail. Lands East is the first multi-county and multi-regional site in the state, and the largest certified site in Pitt and Martin Counties.



Lands East Industrial Park Image Source: Martin County Economic Development Corporation



Martin Regional Industrial Park Image Source: Martin County Economic Development Corporation

Martin Regional Industrial Park

The Martin Regional Industrial Park encompasses approximately 140 acres strategically located in close proximity to US Highway 64 in Everetts, NC, and is also roughly thirty minutes east of I-95. The facility can support a range of lot sizes and configurations. The Syfan Corporation and the NC Child Support Enforcement Customer Service Center are two companies currently operating at the facility.

F. Community Profile Summary

- The Number **1 & 2 Health Priorities** in the County are **Obesity** and **Chronic Diseases**.
- The **population** in Martin County is expected to **decline** 15% by 2030.
- The **median age** in the County **increased** from 38.7 to 44 from 2000 to 2010. The median age for the state overall is 37.3.
- **Housing unit growth** from 2000 to 2010 **lagged** significantly behind the state and neighboring Pitt County.
- Both owner and renter occupied **housing units** have **increased in cost** compared to income in the county.
- **Manufacturing** is the **highest wage** industry in the county.
- The county is actively pursuing **economic development** efforts and has recently drafted an Economic Development Strategic Plan and an **Equine** Development Strategy. Additionally, the Golden Leaf Foundation provided a **public outreach Community Assistance Initiative** focused on Economic Development Strategies.

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Section 4 – Environment/Existing Conditions

A. Health Services

1. Medical Facilities

According to the 2010 Martin County Community Health Assessment, the county has several health resources, including Martin General Hospital, Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department, Metropolitan Community Health Services, and Vidant Medical Center/Brody School of Medicine/Dental at East Carolina University. Additional resources such as nursing homes, hospice care, and assisted living programs are also located throughout the county.

Martin General Hospital

Martin General Hospital is located in Williamston, North Carolina. The hospital currently has 49 licensed beds and 47 active physicians, 15 courtesy physicians, and 286 employees. The hospital provides an array of services, including those listed below.

- Cardiac (Telemetry, Echo, Stress Testing)
- Cardiopulmonary/Respiratory Care Clinic
- Emergency Department, 24-hour
- Industrial Medicine Program
- Intensive Care Unit
- Imaging (Bone Densitometry, CT Scanner, Digital Mammography, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Sonography, Stereotactic Biopsy, Teleradiology, Ultrasound)
- Labor & Delivery, Nursery
- Laboratory
- Rehabilitation (OT, PT, Speech)
- Sleep Center
- Sports Medicine Program
- Surgery (Inpatient/Outpatient)
- Women's Center
- Certified Stroke Center



The Martin General Hospital in Williamston provides service to the county and surrounding areas. Martin General operates Martin Family Medicine, Roanoke Women's Healthcare, Roanoke Orthopedics, and Roanoke Surgical.
Image Source: Martin General Hospital.

Dialysis Care of Martin County, Inc.

Dialysis Care of Martin County, Inc., is a large dialysis clinic with 23 stations based in Williamston, NC. The non-profit facility is operated by Davita, which runs other dialysis facilities. The facility offers in-center hemodialysis, home hemodialysis training, and in-center peritoneal services.

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Martin-Tyrrell-Washington (MTW) District Health Department

The MTW District Health Department serves Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties. The mission of Public Health in Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties is to strive to promote healthier lifestyles, reduce risks, disabilities, and years-of-life lost by providing personal and environmental health services. The department provides the following services to the three-county region (the clinic operates on a sliding fee scale, with patient payment requirements dependent upon income):

- Health Education
- Public Health Preparedness and Response
- Dental Health
- Maternal Health
- General Communicable Disease Control
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
- Primary Care
- Women's Health (including family planning and breast and cervical cancer screening)
- Diabetes Self Management and Education Program
- Interpreter Assistance
- Community Health Programs
- Roanoke Home Care



Metropolitan Community Health Services

Metropolitan Community Health Services is a new Federally Qualified Health Center (FHQC). The facility is located in Williamston, NC, and plans to provide primary medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services. The clinic operates on a sliding fee scale, with patient payment requirements dependent upon income. It is planned for one medical doctor, two dentists, and a pharmacist to staff the facility.



Metropolitan Community Health Services in Williamston, North Carolina. *Image Source: A.R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc.*

Vidant Medical Center/ECU Brody School of Medicine

Vidant Medical Center, one of four academic medical centers in North Carolina, is the flagship hospital for Vidant Health and serves as the teaching hospital for the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and serves as the Level I Trauma Center for the region. The hospital is located approximately 40 minutes away in Greenville, NC, and provides acute, intermediate, rehabilitation, and outpatient health services.

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Section 4 – Environment/Existing Conditions



Vidant Medical Center serves as the teaching hospital for the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and is a teaching site for medical students and residents, nurses and other health professionals. *Image Source: Vidant Medical Center.*

The clinical staff includes more than 500 physicians and 1,200 nurses. Clinical education is an important part of the hospital's mission.

In its partnership with Vidant Health and regional physicians, the ECU Brody School of Medicine is the educational centerpiece of one of North Carolina's largest and most productive academic medical centers. The Brody School of Medicine is a source of excellent medical care for citizens of

Greenville and eastern North Carolina. Care is provided in a variety of settings: through School of Medicine outpatient programs, through inpatient services at Vidant Medical Center, and through outreach service to communities in the school's 29-county catchment area.

2. Mental Health

Local Management Entities (LMEs) are where people can go to find information on receiving mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse services. East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) oversees mental health services in a 19-county LME area, which includes the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington. ECBH operates a 24/7/365 Access to Care line (1-877-685-2415) staffed by licensed clinicians to assist individuals in need of services. ECBH has contracts with more than 350 providers of service throughout the catchment area.

North Carolina has a plan to change the way Medicaid pays for mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services. The change is known as the 1915(b)/(c) Medicaid Waiver and is expected to serve a total population of 500,000 by July 1, 2013. The goal of the change is to make sure that people needing help are able to easily get high quality services. ECBH made the change on April 1, 2012.

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Section 4 – Environment/Existing Conditions

3. Adult and Senior Care Services

Martin County provides a wide range of services tailored to the needs of both adult and senior citizens throughout the county. These services involve both State- and county-funded initiatives, including the following:

- Adult Protective Services
- Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults
- Medicaid Transportation
- Guardianship
- Payee Case Management
- Placement Services
- Adult Home Monitoring
- Adult Care Home Case Management
- Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings
- Crisis Assistance and Intake Services
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) - addresses issues of heating a home
- Outreach Home Visits and Presentations

In addition to these services, there are a number of private and non-profit assisted living and group home facilities located within municipalities throughout the county.

4. Dental Health

North Carolina ranks 47th in the nation in dentists per capita at 4.3 dentists per 10,000 population. In fact, only eight North Carolina counties have dentist-to-patient ratios which exceed the national average of 6.0 dentists per 10,000 population (Wake, Durham, Orange, Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth, Mecklenberg, and New Hanover Counties). Seventy-nine North Carolina counties are recognized as federally designated dental shortage areas.

Martin County ranks below the state average of dentists per capita at 2.5 dentists per 10,000 residents and is recognized as a federally designated dental shortage area. The MTW District Health Department has a dental program targeted at providing care to Medicaid and Health Choice patients and to a limited number of uninsured as a means of meeting dental care needs in Martin County.

Additionally, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine is working to improve access to dentistry throughout eastern North Carolina. This effort will involve the construction of several dental clinics to serve eastern North Carolina.

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Section 4 – Environment/Existing Conditions

5. Access to Care

Martin County falls significantly behind the state in all health professionals categories (see Table 12). Bertie and Beaufort Counties also rank below the statewide average for health professionals.

Table 12. Martin County Health Professionals per 10,000 Population (2011)

County	Population*	Physicians** (1,2)	Primary Care Physicians** (1, 2, 3)	Dentists** (1)	Registered Nurses** (1)	Physician Assistants** (1)
Beaufort	47,854	13.2	5.6	3.6	87.1	2.1
Bertie	20,890	3.8	2.9	0.5	48.8	3.8
Martin	24,083	7.9	5.4	2.5	59.0	1.2
Pitt	170,264	45.4	13.8	4.1	204.8	7.0
North Carolina	9,669,244	22.1	7.8	4.3	98.6	4.0

- (1) Includes those who are licensed and active within the profession, as well as those with unknown activity status;
(2) Physicians include doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy who are non-federal, non resident-in-training.
(3) Primary care physicians include those physicians who report a primary specialty of family practice, general practice, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, or pediatrics.

Source: *LINC Database, Office of State Planning; **2010 Martin County Community Health Assessment.

B. Community Facilities

1. Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is provided to the county by the Martin County Sheriff's Department. The department is located at the Martin County Governmental Center, 305 East Main Street, Williamston. The department has three divisions: Detective, Patrol, and Civil. The Sheriff's Department experiences roughly 1,700 calls per month. In 2011, the department had a total of 20,199 calls. There are a total of 38 cars available for use by the department and a total of 35 full-time deputies and 6 part-time deputies.

The Towns of Williamston and Robersonville both have municipal police departments which provide service to their residents.

Martin County has experienced a dramatic decline in the number of violent offenses reported over the last few years. From 2008 to 2010, the violent crime rate decreased by almost fifty percent (see Table 13). The decrease in crime rate is more than double the rate of decrease experienced statewide during the same time period. Local law enforcement attribute the steep decline to the arrest of several key individuals largely responsible for much of the violent crime in Martin County.



The violent crime rate in Martin County decreased by almost fifty percent (48%) from 2008 to 2010.
Image Source: Martin County Sheriff's Department.

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Table 13. Criminal Offenses per 100,000 Population

Year	Martin County		North Carolina	
	Index Rate	Violent Rate	Index Rate	Violent Rate
2008	4,890.00	644.2	4,580.80	477.0
2009	4,042.70	620.0	4,191.20	417.1
2010	4,116.50	436.0	3,955.70	374.4
Percent Change 08-10'	-15.8%	-48.0%	-13.6%	-21.5%

Source: NC Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

2. Fire/Emergency Medical Services

Fire response and emergency medical services are provided to Martin County residents through a series of mostly volunteer fire departments. These departments include: the Jamesville Fire Department, Bear Grass Fire Department, Griffins Township Volunteer Fire Department, Williamston Fire Department, Oak City Fire Department, Robersonville Fire Department, and Hamilton District Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to fire protection, emergency medical response service is provided by both private and public entities throughout the county. Williamston Fire Rescue EMS provides emergency response services for the county. This department responds to approximately 1,800 calls annually and maintains two ambulances and one rescue vehicle. Volunteer EMS services are provided throughout the county by four providers including: Robersonville Rescue, Hamilton EMS, Oak City EMS, and Jamesville Community EMS & Rescue. In addition, EMS operations associated with Martin County regional air transport is provided by Vidant Medical Transport operating out of the Brody School of Medicine.



Williamston Fire Rescue EMS operates with 18 full-time career personnel along with approximately 60 volunteers. *Image Source: Town of Williamston*

3. Emergency Management

The Martin County Emergency Management Department oversees emergency response efforts following natural and manmade hazardous events. Additionally, the Emergency Management department oversees implementation and maintenance of the Martin County Emergency Operations Plan. This plan outlines all procedures for necessary emergency response efforts. Martin County Emergency Management also undertakes pre-disaster mitigation planning efforts. The Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2012 to assist with ongoing mitigation activities and floodplain management. This plan must be updated every five years.

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4. Parks, Recreation, Conservation, and Open Space

Martin County does not maintain a dedicated Parks and Recreation Department. However, there are several recreation areas within the county that are either operated by a municipal jurisdiction or the State of North Carolina (see Table 14 and Map 3). The Towns of Williamston, Hamilton, Jamesville, and Oak City all maintain park facilities that allow public access. Additionally, the Roanoke River is an exceptional natural resource and offers opportunity for passive open space. There are two large tracts of land within Martin County adjacent to the Roanoke River which are managed by The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Resources Commission. Due to their environmental sensitivity, only conditional access is granted to the public.

Martin County's Moratoc Park community building was re-opened for rentals/private events in December 2012, after renovations. The renovation project for the park as a whole was funded through county funds and grants from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust fund, NC Division of Water Resources, and Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Renovations were completed in Spring 2013. With the park renovation project, there were six (6) primary activities:

- Acquisition of land at the front of the park.
- Installation of playground equipment.
- Construction and placement of amenities (picnic shelter, restrooms, water fountain).
- Construction of a walking trail and benches.
- Renovation of the Moratoc building.
- Renovation of the fishing platform and construction of a canoe/kayak launch platform, ADA accessible fishing rails, and deck gazebo.

Table 14. Parks, Conservation, and Open Space

Label	Area Name	Management Agency	Public Access	Acres
1	Devil's Gut Preserve	The Nature Conservancy	Conditional	1,073.10
2	Gaylord Perry Park	Williamston	Yes	17.80
3	Hamilton Recreation Park	Hamilton	Yes	4.90
4	Junior League Park	Jamesville	Yes	7.40
5	Melvin D. Harrell	Us Fish and Wildlife Service	No	25.50
6	Park Development - Oak City	Oak City	Yes	2.20
7	Roanoke River - TNC/GP Partnership	The Nature Conservancy	Conditional	9,279.40
8	Roanoke River Bottomlands	Wildlife Resources Commission	Yes	1,509.60
9	Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land	Wildlife Resources Commission	Conditional	552.50
10	Robersonville Playfield	Robersonville	Yes	5.70
11	Williamston Youth Park	Williamston	Yes	6.20
12	WRC Hamilton Access Area	Wildlife Resources Commission	Yes	3.50
13	WRC Roanoke River Wetlands	Wildlife Resources Commission	Conditional	8,931.70

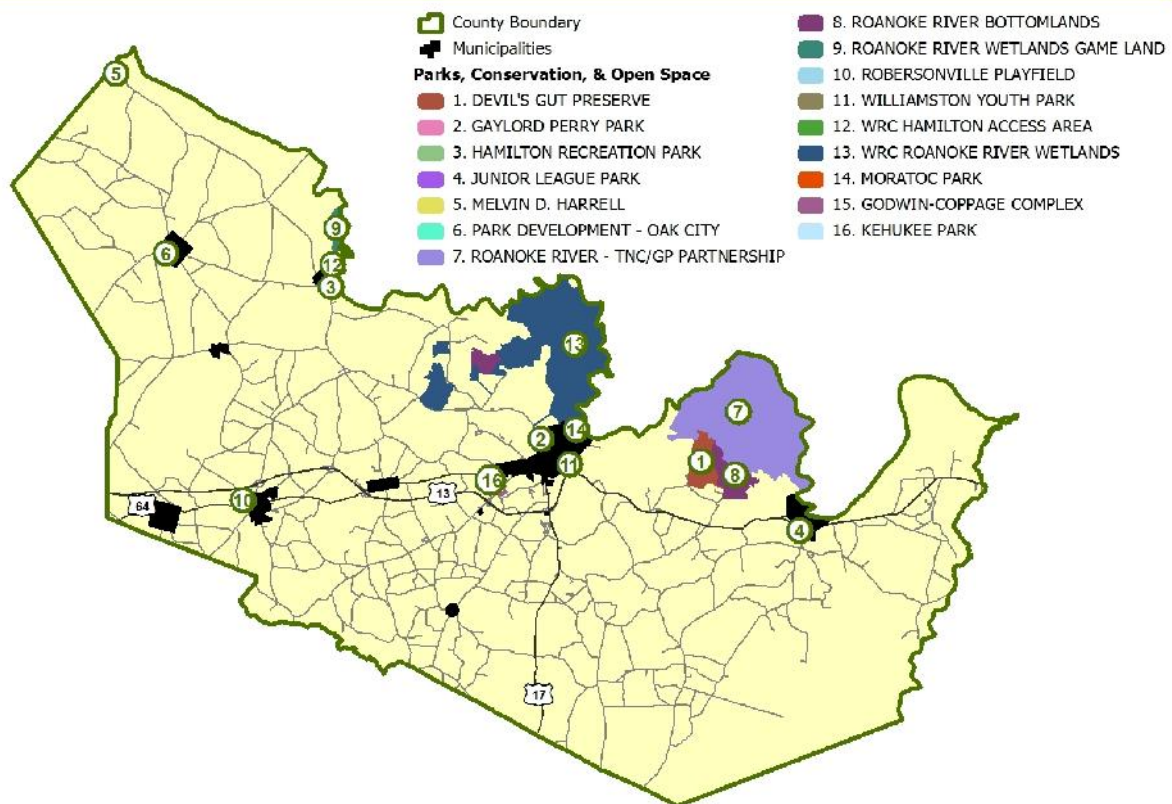
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Label	Area Name	Management Agency	Public Access	Acres
14	Moratoc Park	Martin County	Yes	14.34
15	Godwin-Coppage Park	Williamston	Yes	36.70
16	Kehukee Park	Martin County	Yes	84.90
Total				21,555.44

Source: Martin County GIS; Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.; and NCDENR.

Parks, Conservation, & Open Space



Map 3. Parks, Conservation, and Open Space

The Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge, located in Bertie County, offers Martin County residents an excellent opportunity for nature based recreation. The Wildlife Refuge spans more than 20,000 acres, with five different tracts of land along 70 miles of the Roanoke River. The Roanoke River tracts are scattered from Hamilton, NC, to the mouth of the river on the western Albemarle Sound. The refuge has approximately 5,000 visitors a year. The Charles Kuralt Trail traverses portions of the refuge and provides boardwalks, foot trails, scenic overlooks, and information kiosks.

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The Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, centrally located in Martin County, is also utilized as a local, regional, and national resource for active recreation through equine activities.

Lastly, the Roanoke River is an exceptional resource for aquatic-based recreation. In fact, the river has an active paddling club that plans and leads trips several times a year. Camping, paddling, fishing, and environmental education are all a part of the Roanoke Paddle Club and the Roanoke River Partners. Additional information can be found at www.roanokeriver.com/PaddleClub.

5. Arts and Cultural Resources

Martin County has an active Arts Council and many cultural opportunities available to residents. The Martin County Arts Council was formed in 1975 by a group of local citizens with a love and appreciation for the arts.

Mission of the Martin County Arts Council

To enrich the quality of life for the citizens of Martin County through education, cultivation, and preservation of the arts.

The Arts Council has continued to operate as a volunteer organization that is guided by a Board of Directors. Many of the board members assume the roles of staff. Over the years, the Martin County Arts Council has provided numerous programs and services for the local community. The Arts Council has worked with the state and Martin Community College to sponsor visiting artists to the county. An artist in residence program was established, which led to the creation of the Martin Community Players, a community theater group.



The Martin County Arts Center is located in the Flatiron Building which was renovated in 2007-2008. *Image Source: Martin County Arts Council.*

The Martin County Arts Council continues to increase its program and services. The Martin County Arts Center is housed in the newly renovated Flatiron Building, where the Arts Council has plans to offer instructional workshops, small theater productions, art classes, studio display space, craft classes, small musical concerts, festivals, and a variety of other services to benefit the lives of Martin County citizens.

Cultural opportunities in Martin County vary from local theater productions by the Martin Community Players to western-themed dinner theater at Deadwood (a western theme park located in Bear Grass, NC) to equestrian events and rodeo shows at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center.

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6. Historic Properties

The county is rich in historic sites such as Fort Branch, the Asa Biggs House, and the Old Martin County Courthouse. The Fort Branch Confederate Earthen Fort Civil War Site in Hamilton, NC, offers a combination of drama, history, and entertainment to onlookers. An authentic re-enactment of approximately 800 men takes place every November and is open to the public. Civil war battle re-enactors demonstrate life in the camps, night firing of cannons, period music, and other activities.



The Fort Branch Confederate Earthen Fort Civil War Site is the winter headquarters for the First North Carolina Volunteers, a Civil War re-enactment group. *Image Source: Fort Branch Civil War Site.*

There are currently twenty-six (26) properties in Martin County which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The following provides a listing of these properties and the date they were published to the National Register.

- Bear Grass Primitive Baptist Church (4/28/2005)
- Bear Grass School (6/1/2005)
- Biggs, Asa House and Site (10/10/1979)
- Burras House (3/30/1978)
- Conoho Creek Historic District (3/12/1998)
- Darden Hotel (12/30/1975)
- Everetts Christian Church (4/28/2005)
- First Christian Church (4/28/2005)
- Fort Branch Site (6/18/1973)
- Griffin, W.W. Farm (10/20/2001)
- Hamilton Historic District (6/3/1980)
- Hickory Hill (12/20/1984)
- Jamesville Primitive Baptist Church and Cemetery (12/20/1984)
- Jones, Jesse Fuller House (4/29/1982)
- Little, W.J. House (9/19/1985)
- Martin County Courthouse (5/10/1979)
- Oak City Christian Church (4/28/2005)
- Roberson-Everett-Roebuck House (8/30/2010)
- Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church (4/20/2005)
- Sherrod Farm (12/20/1984)
- Skewarkey Primitive Baptist Church (4/28/2005)
- Smithwick's Creek Primitive Baptist Church (4/20/2005)
- Spring Green Primitive Baptist Church (4/20/2005)
- Sunny Side Inn (11/29/1995)
- Williamston Commercial Historic District (3/9/1995)
- Williamston Historic District (10/12/2001)

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There are a number of additional structures that are not included on the National Register. Some of these structures include:

- Haislip House
- EJ Hayes School
- St. Martin's Episcopal Church

7. Education

Elementary and Secondary Education

A seven-member elected Board of Education governs the Martin County School system. The school system has an enrollment population of approximately 3,500 students in K-12 classrooms. There are two high schools, three middle schools, six elementary schools, and one alternative program. The school system employs 605 individuals, approximately 300 of which are professional teaching staff.



The following provides the Board of Education's mission and vision statements for the school system:

Vision Statement: The Martin County Board of Education will provide students the educational skill sets as determined by the North Carolina State Board of Education to be college and/or career ready by graduation so that they may be successful in their chosen post-secondary endeavors.

Mission Statement: The Martin County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students will be provided with a quality academic, technological and challenging education in a safe, orderly and productive environment in order that they may become a contributing member in the 21st century global society.

Martin County's only charter school opened in 2012. The school is located in the former Bear Grass School Complex building. Renovations to the building allowed the charter school to open its doors for the 2012-2013 academic school year. Bear Grass Charter School serves grades 6-12 and provides for 314 students from four counties.

The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience is an early college high school that is designed to serve as a statewide model school for STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Ultimately, the school will enroll about 450 students in grades 7-12 from five counties offering the opportunity for all students to earn up to two years of college credit along with their high school diploma. The school is being developed and supported under a partnership among five local school districts, the NC State University College

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of Agriculture, the NC State Board of Education, and the NC New Schools Project with additional key support from the NC Department of Agriculture, the NC Biotechnology Center, and the JOBS Commission. The local school districts are Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties. The school is located in Plymouth, North Carolina.

Higher Education



Martin Community College in Williamston, NC.

Image Source: Martin Community College.

Martin Community College (MCC) in Williamston offers county residents a variety of degree programs ranging from curriculum-based programs for degree completion to continuing education. In addition, the community college offers training to start-up businesses through its Small Business Center (SBC) that is part of the North Carolina Small Business Center Network (SBCN). Training is offered as seminars and workshops, mostly at no charge. A Small Business Resource Center is available in the Williamston campus library. In addition to books, periodicals, and other materials, the resource center includes access to a personal computer for business planning and research.

In 2007, Martin Community College was ranked among the top 30 community colleges in the nation by the Washington Monthly magazine. The magazine ranked MCC 19th in excellence in teaching methods linked to increased student achievement. Martin Community College offers a variety of different curriculum programs, including:

- Accounting
- Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Technology
- Automotive Systems Technology
- Biotechnology
- Business Administration
- Carpentry
- Commercial Refrigeration Technology
- Computer Information Technology
- Cosmetology
- Dental Assisting
- Early Childhood Education
- Electrical/Electronics Technology
- Equine Technology
- General Occupational Technology
- Industrial Systems Technology
- Lateral Entry
- Medical Assisting

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- Medical Office Administration
- Office Administration
- Physical Therapist Assistant

East Carolina University has historical strengths in education, nursing, business, music, theater, and medicine, and offers over 100 Bachelor's degree programs, 85 Master's degree programs, 21 Doctoral programs, Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Dental Medicine, and 62 certificates. The school also serves the region and the world through the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and the East Carolina Heart Institute (home of the world's first robotic mitral valve repair and creators of the Greenville Gastric Bypass bariatric procedure), the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, the Small Business Institute, Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, Center for Sustainable Tourism, Center for Natural Hazards, Center for GIScience, and the Center for Applied Computational Studies.

North Carolina Wesleyan, Barton College, Beaufort Community College, and Pitt Community College are also a short drive from Martin County. In addition, Research Triangle Park is located approximately 100 miles to the west.

8. Libraries

Library facilities within Martin County are associated with the Beaufort Hyde Martin (BHM) Regional Library System. The BHM Regional Library is a network of eight facilities serving the three-county area. Within Martin County, there are two library facilities including the Robersonville Public Library and the Martin Memorial Public Library.

The Robersonville Public Library operates as a department of the town, and maintains one full-time and three part-time librarians. The Robersonville library has over 16,000 items in circulation, including: adult and children's books, DVDs, magazines, and books on CD. The library maintains four public computers with internet access. Free wireless internet access is also available to the public.



On October 2, 1995, the dream of a modern facility was realized when the new Martin Memorial Public Library was dedicated. *Image Source: BHM Regional Library System.*

Martin Memorial Public Library was dedicated on October 2, 1995. This facility serves as the most modern in the BHM system. The library is located at 200 North Smithwick Street in Williamston, and offers a wide range of services and programs including: free internet access (including WIFI), photocopying, reference, interlibrary loan, tax form distribution, and meeting room availability for use by nonprofit organizations.

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9. Utilities

Water System

In 2007, the Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) was created to deal with water deficit on a regional level. Some aquifers in this region are being overused such that they will fail to meet the area's water supply needs in the future. The State of North Carolina has implemented regulations to decrease withdrawals from these aquifers to a sustainable rate of use. The Environmental Management Commission designated 15 counties as the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA). The CCPCUA rules, which create a ground water use permitting process, became effective August 1, 2002. The CCPCUA rules require water users to cut back on use of these overused aquifers and increase use of other water sources (including alternative aquifers, surface water and other sources) over a sixteen year period. All ground water users using more than 100,000 gallons per day are required to have a water use permit in order to continue withdrawing.

The MCRWASA abides by the CCPCUA rules. After study of several alternatives, including multiple groundwater alternatives, a Roanoke River water treatment plant was selected as the supply alternative. The MCRWASA water treatment plant project involves the construction of a 2.0 million gallon per day (MGD) plant and an intake station on the Roanoke River. The plant is scheduled to be completed by July 2015 (with a funding deadline of September 2015). Current funding for the project includes:

Funding Source	Amount
USDA Loan ¹	\$18,170,000
USDA Grant ²	\$2,804,000
USDA Supplemental Funds ³	\$709,948
MCWSD 1 & 2 (Tap Fee) ⁴	\$3,289,194
DWSRF Loan/Grant ⁵	\$2,013,000
Rural Center Grant	\$40,000
Total	\$27,026,142

¹ USDA Interest Rate = 3.25% over 38 years at loan offer. This rate could be lowered to current rate of 2.75%.

² Historically, USDA's maximum grant for a project was \$2M. Authority sought grants up to 45% and 75% of the total project. Current USDA grant is 12.45%.

³ Anticipated to be 100% grant.

⁴ USDA grant funds transferred to the Authority as "Tap Fee."

⁵ DWSRF Loan of \$402,600 and "Grant" of \$1,610,400.

Refer to Appendix A for a WTP Project Update presentation presented to the Martin County Board of Commissioners on August 14, 2013.

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The Martin County water system is divided into two districts: Water District I and Water District II. Water District I was initiated in 2001 and serves the towns of Oak City and Hassell through two wells. Water District II was developed in 2006 and serves the Bear Grass, Griffins, and Williams Townships through an additional two well sites. The towns of Hamilton, Jamesville, Robersonville, and Williamston provide central water service to residents independent of the county. The Town of Robersonville provides water to the Towns of Everetts and Parmele.

According to the 2011 Martin County Water Supply Plan, the county's two water districts maintain a total of 287 miles of water distribution lines, with 1,886 total connections serving approximately 4,760 people. These connections primarily serve residential customers (95%), while 2% serve commercial enterprises and 3% serve institutional customers.

In 2005, a comprehensive study was conducted to determine the long range water needs of the county. The results of this report will be addressed in the Future Demands section of the plan.

Sewer Service

Currently, Martin County does not provide wastewater treatment services to any unincorporated portions of the county. Central sewer service is available within the towns of Hamilton, Jamesville, Robersonville, and Williamston. These systems are operated independent of the county. In addition, Robersonville treats sewer from the Towns of Everetts and Parmele.

Developments throughout unincorporated portions of the county are required to either establish local septic systems or package treatment plants to provide sewer service. According to the Martin County Cooperative Extension Office, the soils prevalent throughout the county are well suited for the installation of on-site wastewater treatment facilities. Permits for these facilities are available through the MTW District Health Department on a site-by-site basis.

Solid Waste

Martin County provides curbside solid waste removal services county-wide, including all incorporated municipalities, through a contract with Waste Industries. These services are billed to county residents through a property owner's annual tax bill. Solid waste is collected on varying days, depending on where a property is located within the county. Waste Industries will pick up most household waste items, including recyclables. Municipal solid waste (garbage) is transferred to a regional landfill in Bertie County.



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The county also operates a construction and demolition landfill. The facility is located 0.5 miles north of the McCaskey Road and West Main Street intersection in Williamston. The following provides a list of acceptable/not acceptable items:

Accepted	Not Accepted
Demolition	MSW (Garbage)
Appliances	Paint
Washers	Chemicals
Dryers	Batteries
Refrigerators	Paper/Cardboard
Freezers	Clothes
Hot Water Heaters	LP Tanks
Metal	Freon Tanks
Tires/Rims	Motor Oil/Filters
Empty Paint Cans	
Tree Limbs/Yard Waste	
Oil Drums (both ends cut out)	
Furniture	
Televisions/Electronics	
Mattresses/Box Springs	
Plastic Toys	

Several municipalities throughout the county provide yard debris removal on a periodic basis.

Electricity/Phone/Internet/Natural Gas

Martin County has four energy providers that offer service to residents. Those include Hamilton Municipal Service, Robersonville Municipal Service, Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, and Dominion Power. Piedmont Natural Gas provides service to parts of Martin County.

Phone and internet service is provided by Century Link. Sudden Link, DISH Network, Excede Internet, US Cellular, and Verizon Wireless also provide internet service.

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10. Administration

The Martin County Administration office is located at 305 East Main Street in Williamston. The county operates under a Commissioner-Manager form of government. Martin County maintains sixteen departments overseeing various aspects of county services and functions. These departments include:

- Department of Aging
- Animal Control
- Board of Elections
- Building Inspections
- Communications
- Cooperative Extension
- Emergency Management
- Finance
- Sheriff
- Social Services
- Soil & Water Conservation
- Tax Assessor
- Tax Collector
- Transit
- Veterans Services
- Water

C. Environmental Factors

1. Climate

Martin County has short winters and long, hot, and humid summers, with peak temperatures occurring in July and August. Afternoon thunderstorms are the main form of precipitation during the summer, with most summer precipitation occurring in July and August. Precipitation is generally adequate for all crops, and the county benefits by a lengthy growing season.

Average annual maximum temperature is 72 degrees Fahrenheit and the average minimum temperature is 49.9 degrees Fahrenheit. Average maximum temperatures range from 51.4 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 89.3 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Average minimum temperatures range from 30.9 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 69 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

Rainfall is usually fairly well distributed throughout the year, with an average annual precipitation of 50.24 inches. Snowfall is rare, with less than one inch to 1.3 inches falling in December, January, February, and March, for an annual average of 3.1 inches.

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2. Geology and Topography

An abundance of water courses surround the area, with the Albemarle Sound to the northwest of the county and the Roanoke River running north. The area is also rich in wildlife refuges, with the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge to the north of Martin County, the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge located in Washington and Tyrrell Counties, and part of the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge lying in Tyrrell County.

The area's countryside is enhanced by streams and brooks, natural lakes and ponds, and swampy woodlands. There is little elevation change throughout the county, the most drastic of which runs adjacent to streams that bisect the area. Wetlands and flood plain are prevalent, signaling the low-lying and flat nature of Martin County.

3. Water Resources

Martin County is split between the Roanoke and Tar-Pamlico River Basins (see Map 4). The following provides an overview of water resource quality within the portions of the Roanoke and Tar Pamlico River Basins impacting Martin County.

Roanoke River Basin

The Roanoke River Basin extends from its source in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the Albemarle Sound in North Carolina, encompassing mountainous, piedmont, and coastal topography as it flows generally east-southeastward. Its five subbasins constitute approximately 3,500 square miles of drainage area and approximately 2,400 miles of streams and rivers in North Carolina, and contains diversity with classified trout streams in the western portion and swamp classified waters in the eastern portion. Seventeen counties and 42 municipalities are within the NC portion of the basin.

Within the Roanoke River Basin, three subbasins fall within Martin County. These include: the Conoconnara Swamp-Roanoke River, Sweetwater Creek, and the Headwaters of the Cashie River. Only a small portion of the Conoconnara Swamp-Roanoke River and Sweetwater Creek subbasins are located within Martin County. These areas have little to no impact on the county.

Roughly 65% of Martin County falls within the Headwaters of the Cashie River subbasin. This watershed contains a mix land use of agriculture, residential, wetlands, and forested areas. There are two minor NPDES permitted facilities along with three permitted swine animal operations located within the watershed. There are no waters on the 2010 Impaired Waters List within this watershed.

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Tar-Pamlico River Basin

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin is the fourth largest river basin in North Carolina and is one of only four river basins whose boundaries are located entirely within the state. The Tar River originates in north central North Carolina in Person, Granville and Vance counties and flows southeasterly until it reaches tidal waters near Washington and becomes the Pamlico River and empties into the Pamlico Sound. The entire basin is classified as Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW). Only one subbasin within the Tar-Pamlico River Basin falls within Martin County. Approximately 35% of the county is situated within the Lower Tar River subbasin.

The Lower Tar River Subbasin contains the main stem Tar River from Tarboro downstream to Washington, covering approximately 960 square miles. The western section of the Lower Tar River Subbasin lies within the Southeastern Plains ecoregion while the eastern portion is contained in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain ecoregion.

The middle section of the subbasin includes approximately 40 river miles of the Tar River, from the confluence of Swift Creek in Edgecombe County to the confluence of Conetoe Creek in Pitt County. Land use throughout the subbasin is primarily forest and agriculture. Many streams in this area were channelized 35 or more years ago.

The lower section of the subbasin includes approximately 35 river miles of the Tar River, from the confluence of Conetoe Creek in Pitt County to just upstream of Washington, NC, and is the most downstream freshwater reach of the Tar River. The main stem of the Tar River here is deep, slow flowing and tidally influenced. Chicod Creek is the major tributary with the greatest potential for nonpoint source pollution. While runoff from crop and forage lands were historic problems in this watershed, an influx of intensive poultry and hog operations during the early 1990s has become the largest nonpoint concern.

Watershed Protection Ordinance

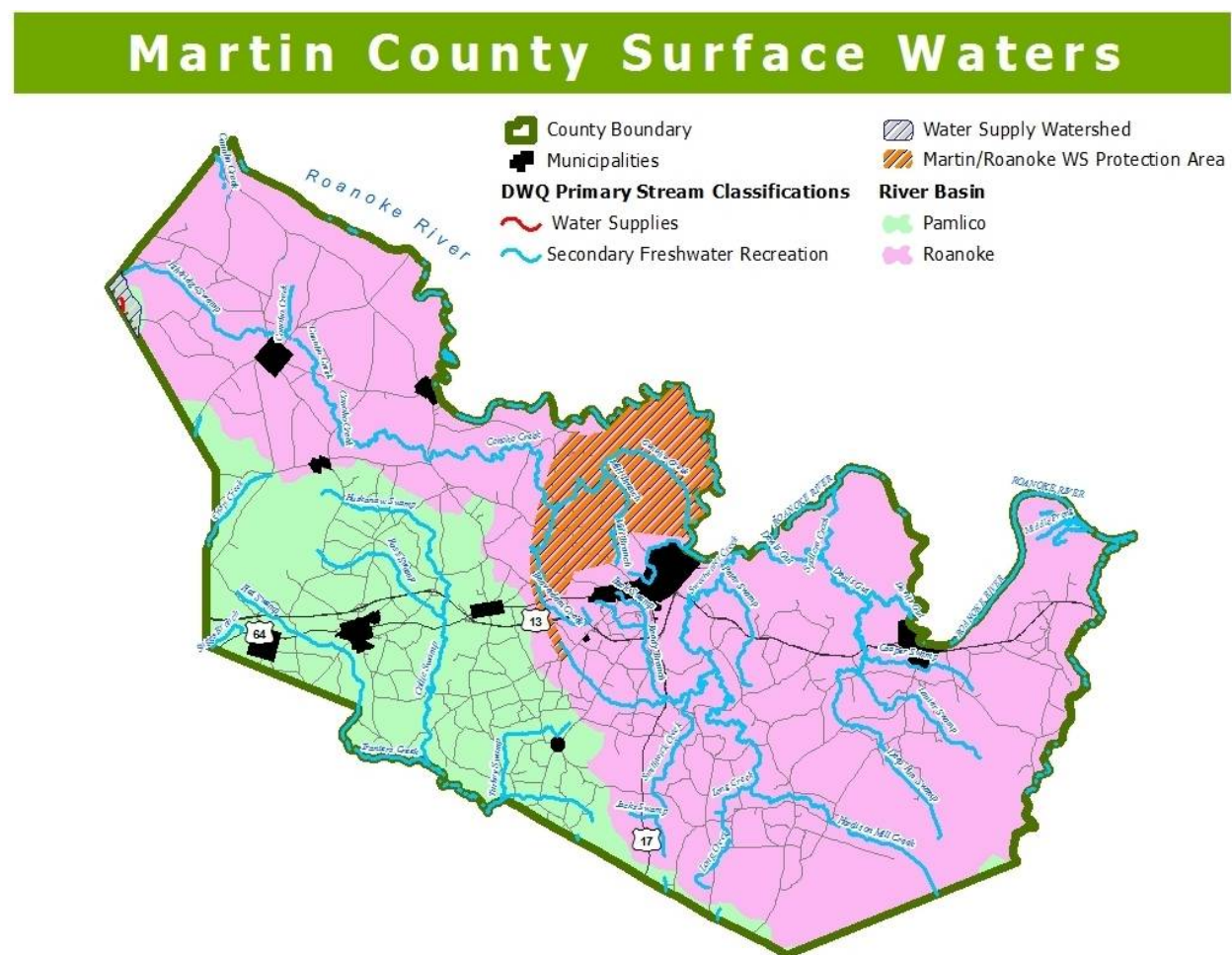
Watershed protection regulations protect designated drinking water supply reservoirs and surface waters from activities that could degrade water quality. The WS-IV designation does not prohibit development in these areas; rather, it regulates a new development.

As part of the River Reclassification process for the Roanoke River enabling the construction of the Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) water treatment plant, jurisdictions within the reclassified section of the river are required to establish a watershed protection ordinance for that particular section of the Roanoke River. In addition to Martin County, the Town of Williamston and Bertie County also adopted similar ordinances. Williamston established its watershed protection ordinance in July 2013.

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Martin County already had a Watershed Protection Ordinance (enacted in 1993) to protect a watershed region west of Oak City. This small section of Martin County was protected as part of a watershed protection area for a City of Tarboro area on the Tar River. Since Martin County already has an adopted water supply watershed protection provision for Water Supply IV (WS-IV) waters in a small area in the western part of the County, Martin County simply had to update its ordinance and map. WS-IV waters are generally in moderately to highly developed watersheds or Protected Areas. For simplicity sake, County staff recommended replacement of the ordinance and watershed protection area map in their entirety. Over the summer of 2013, Martin County updated this Ordinance to include the new Protected Area and Critical Area (see Map 4).



Map 4. Martin County Surface Waters

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4. Flood Hazard Areas

Flooding is a localized hazard that is generally the result of excessive precipitation. It is the most common environmental hazard, due to the widespread geographical distribution of rivers and coastal areas, and the attraction of residents to these areas. However, in coastal regions, storm surge and wind-driven waves are significant components of flooding. Floods can be generally considered in two categories: flash floods, the product of heavy localized precipitation in a short time period over a given location; and general floods, caused by precipitation over a longer time period and over a given river basin. While flash floods occur within hours of a rain event, general flooding is a longer-term event, and may last for several days. The primary types of general flooding are riverine flooding, coastal flooding, and urban flooding.

Floodplains are divisible into areas expected to be inundated by spillovers from stream flow levels associated with specific flood-return frequencies. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) uses flood zone designations to indicate the magnitude of flood hazards in specific areas. The following are flood hazard zones located within Martin County and a definition of what each zone means.

- Zone AE. The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided.
- Floodway. The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without causing any cumulative increase in the water surface elevation. The floodway is intended to carry the dangerous and fast-moving water.

The following summarizes floodplain acreage for Martin County:

Table 15. Martin County Flood Hazard Acreage

Hazard Area	Acres	% of County
AE	63,493.3	21.5%
Floodway*	12,485.0	4.2%*

NOTE: The "Floodway" hazard area is located in the AE flood zone.
Source: NC Flood Mapping Program.

There is approximately 63,493 acres of flood hazard in the county, all of which is classified as "AE" (see Figure 1). This equates to just over twenty percent (21.5%) of the total land in Martin County. Of the 63,493 acres of flood hazard, just under twenty percent (12,485 acres) is located in the "Floodway." These "Floodway" acres are located in uninhabited portions of the county, east of Williamston and adjacent to the Roanoke River. Development throughout defined flood hazard areas in the county is regulated by the Martin County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This Ordinance is enforced by the County Inspections Department.

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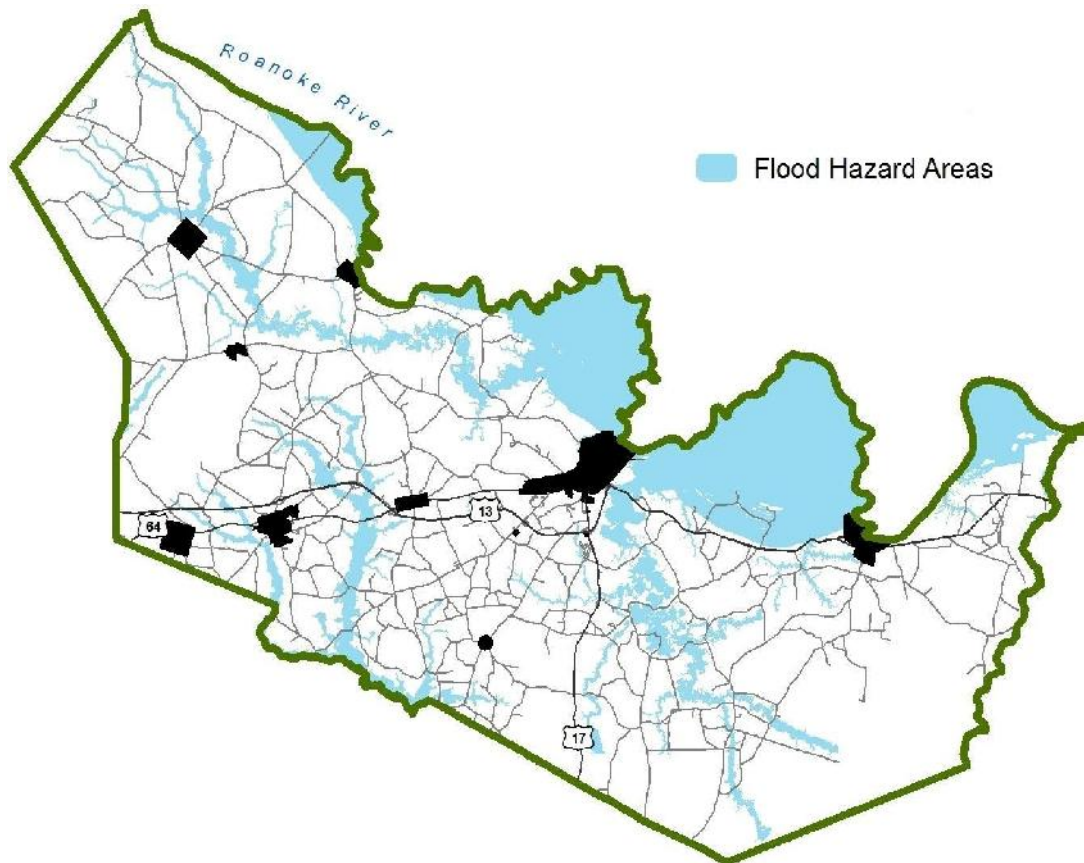


Figure 1. Flood Hazard Areas

5. Soils

There are a wide variety of soils present throughout Martin County. The Martin County Soil Survey was completed in 1985 and provides a comprehensive summary of soil conditions throughout the county. A copy of the soil survey is available through the Martin County Cooperative Extension Office.

In terms of land use in relation to development and economic development, there are several factors that should be acknowledged including environmentally sensitive areas and soils, these are considered prime farmlands. The following sections provide an overview of these issues and their impact on the county overall.

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Prime Farmlands

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and that is available for these uses. It has the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

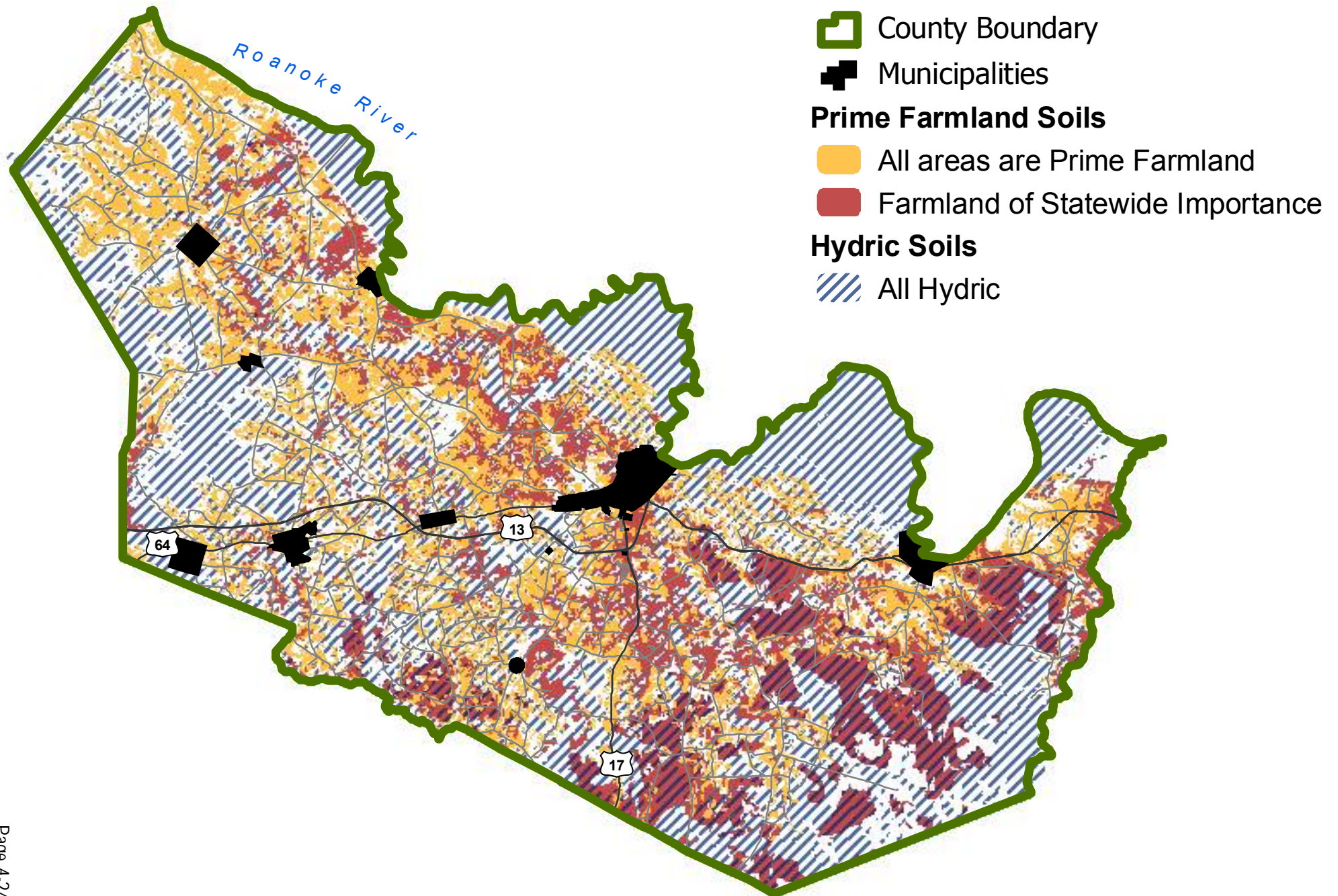
In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, an acceptable level of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt or sodium, and few or no rocks. Its soils are permeable to water and air. Prime farmland is not excessively eroded or saturated with water for long periods of time, and it either does not flood frequently during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Other considerations include: land use, frequency of flooding, irrigation, water table, and wind erodibility.

There are approximately 67,055 acres of prime farmland in Martin County. These soils are fairly evenly distributed throughout the county, as indicated on Map 5.

Hydric Soils

Hydric soils are defined by the National Resource Conservation Service as soils that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. These soils are either saturated or inundated long enough during the growing season to support the growth and reproduction of hydrophytic vegetation. There are approximately 145,760 acres of hydric soils located throughout Martin County. These areas are delineated on Map 5.

Map 5: Prime Farmland & Hydric Soils



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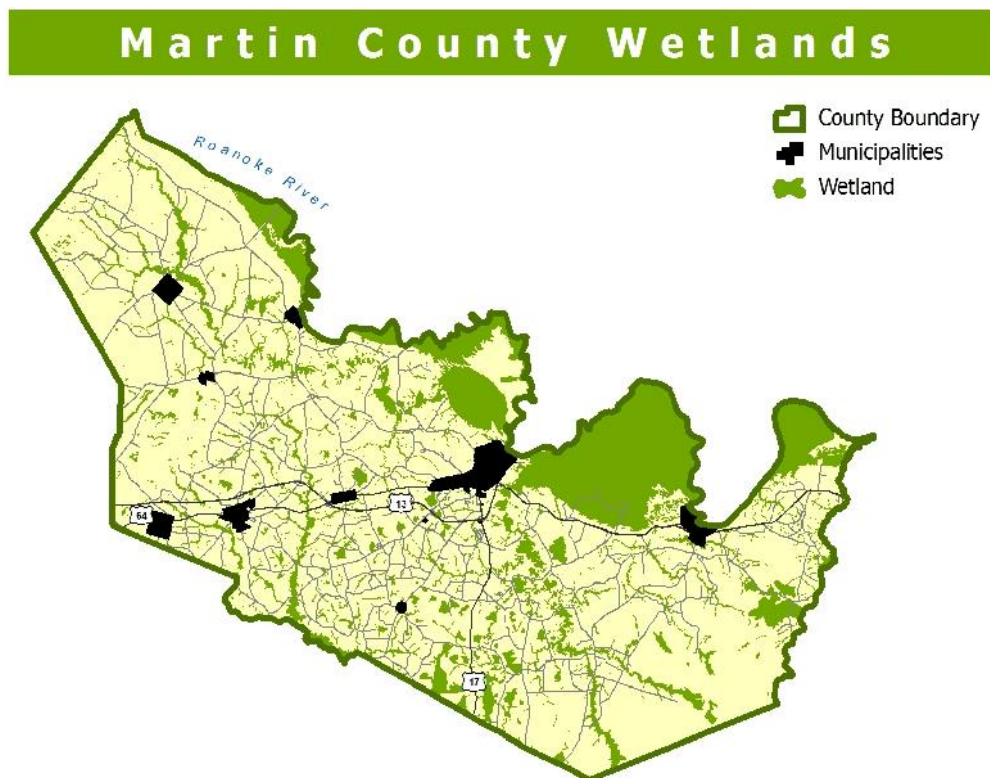
Wetlands

Wetlands provide a multitude of ecological, economic and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and a variety of plants. Wetlands are nurseries for many saltwater and freshwater fish and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. Wetlands are also important landscape features because they hold and slowly release flood water and snow melt, recharge groundwater, recycle nutrients, and provide recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of people.

The federal regulations implementing Section 404 of the Clean Water Act define wetlands as:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (40 CFR 232.2(r)).

The National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI) has been producing wetland maps and geospatial wetland data for the United States since the mid-1970s. According to the NWI there are approximately 62,866 acres of wetlands located throughout Martin County. These wetland areas are delineated on Map 6.



Map 6. Martin County Wetlands

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6. Natural Heritage Areas

The NC Natural Heritage Program has identified more than 2,500 Significant Natural Heritage Areas across the State. A Significant Natural Heritage Area is a site (terrestrial and aquatic) of special biodiversity significance. An area's significance may be due to the presence of rare species, exemplary or unique natural communities, important animal assemblages, or other important ecological features.

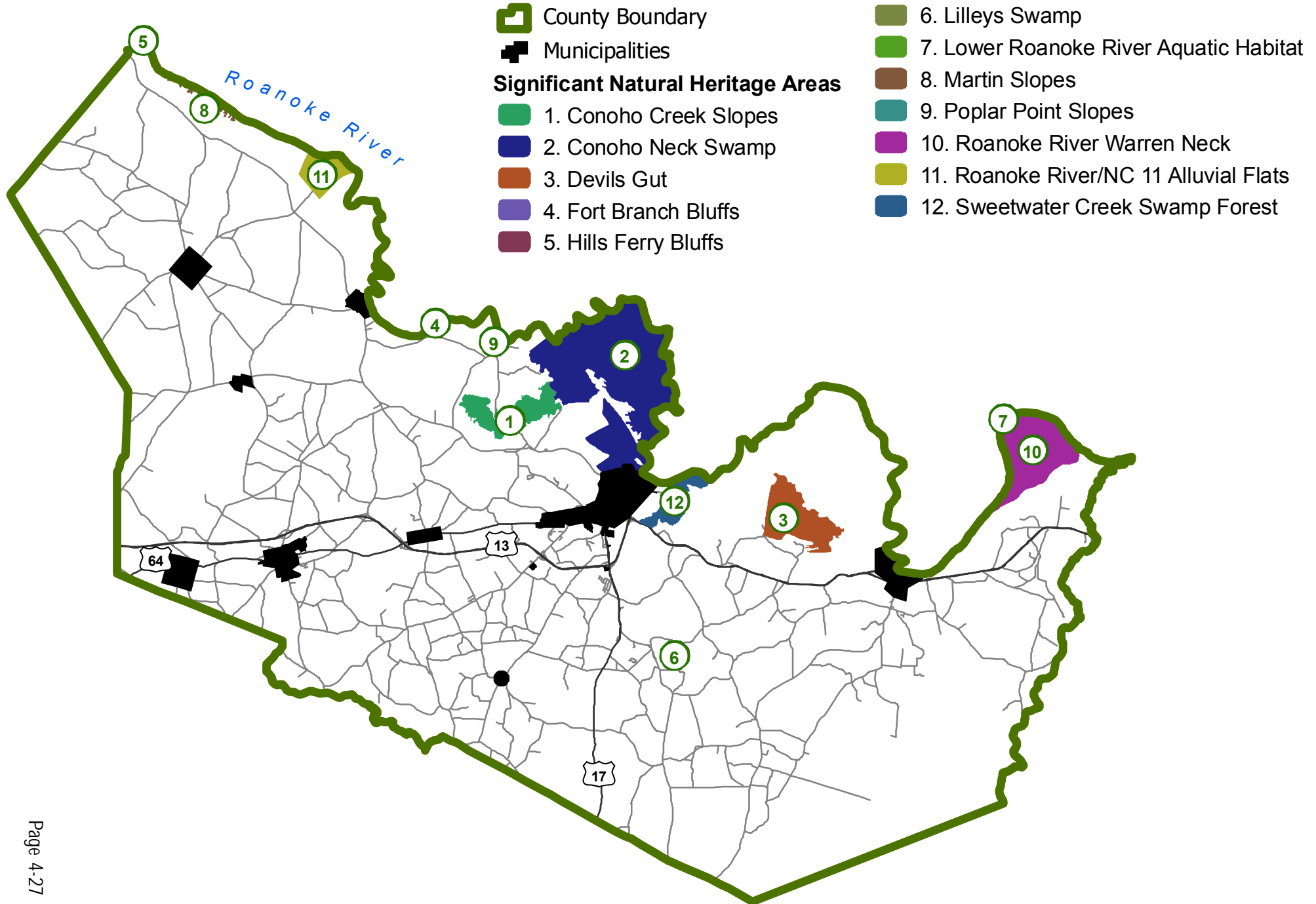
More than half of these areas are entirely or partially in conservation ownership. However, many remain privately owned and are unprotected from threats such as development.

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program works with many partners, including state and federal conservation agencies, national conservation groups, and the Land Trust Company, to implement protection for these ecologically significant areas. Through these partnerships, and utilizing funding from federal sources and the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the most important areas are brought into protection.

There are twelve Natural Heritage Areas located within Martin County. These areas include the following (see Map 7):

- Conoho Creek Slopes
- Conoho Neck Swamp
- Devils Gut
- Fort Branch Bluffs
- Hills Ferry Bluffs
- Lilleys Swamp
- Lower Roanoke River Aquatic Habitat
- Martin Slopes
- Poplar Point Slopes
- Roanoke River Warren Neck
- Roanoke River/NC 11 Alluvial Fans
- Sweetwater Creek Swamp Forest

Map 7: Significant Natural Heritage Areas



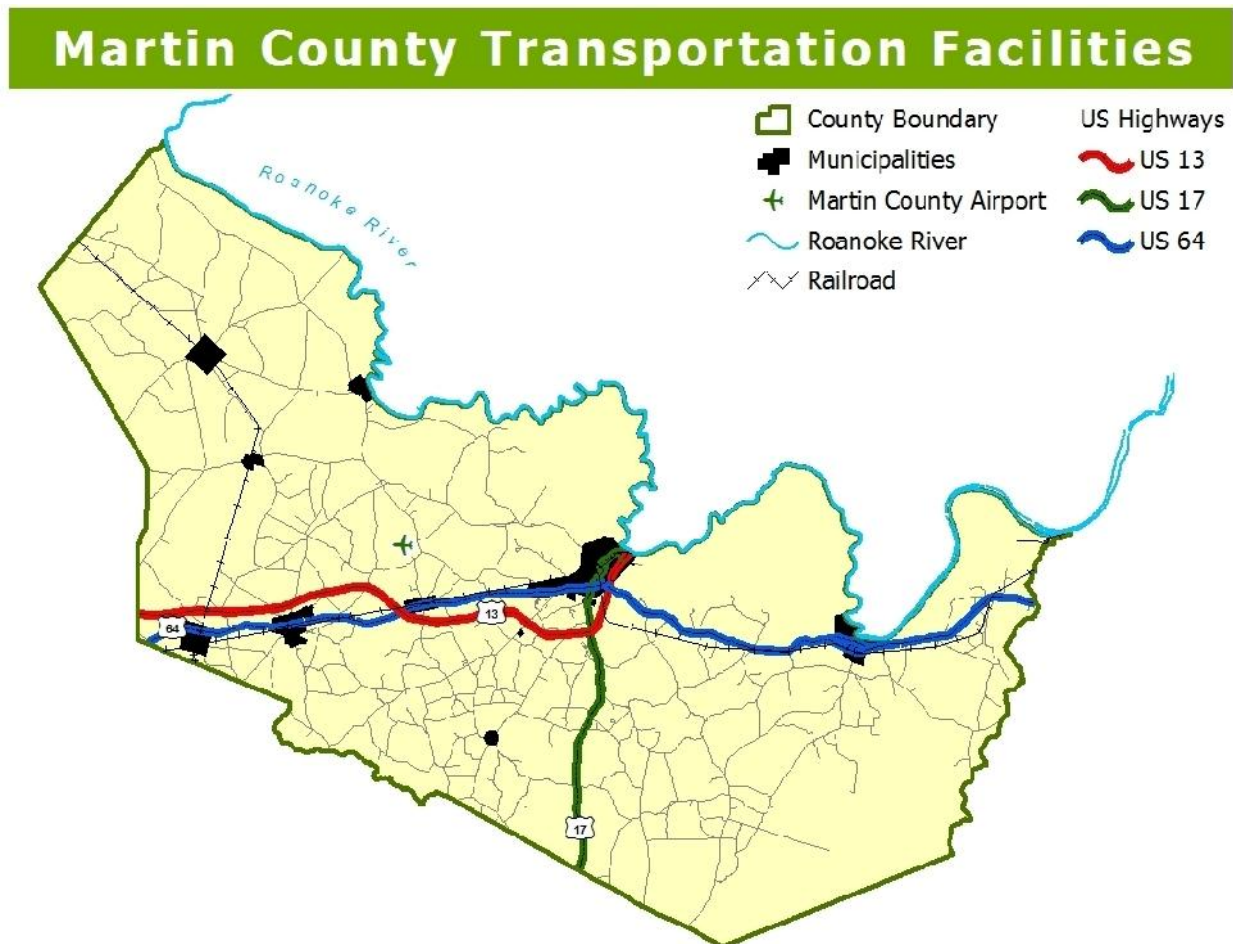
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D. Transportation Systems

1. Roads

Martin County is within 20 to 30 minutes of Interstate 95, the state's major North/South corridor. Other interstates serving the region include I-85 and I-40. US Highways 17 and 13 intersect US Highway 64 at the county seat of Williamston, allowing easy access to all points north, south, east, and west (see Map 8). US 64 has been four-laned through Martin County and a major improvement project is underway for US 17. With the completion of the US 64 project, access to Interstate 95 in Rocky Mount is a mere 30 minutes from Williamston. North Carolina Highways 11, 32, 34, 42, 94, 99, 125, 171, and 903 also serve the county.



Map 8. Martin County Transportation Facilities

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2. Public Transportation

Martin County Transit (MCT) is a public transportation system that operates as a branch of county government, with funding assistance from the state and federal government. The system operates a fleet of vehicles, including specially modified vans to accommodate the elderly and/or disabled.

MCT provides general public transportation to citizens of Martin County. This program is state and federally supported and allows anyone who is a resident of Martin County to purchase transportation services. MCT also provides medical transportation for clients of Martin County's governmental agencies. For efficiency purposes, multiple clients are generally picked-up on the same trip/route. Martin County Transit currently provides services to the following:

- Martin County Department of Social Services
- Martin County Department of Aging
- Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department
- Work First
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
- Physicians East - Center for Infectious Disease
- Marion Shepherd Cancer Center
- Leo Jenkins Cancer Center
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- General Public

3. Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Multi-Use Facilities

In 2003, Williamston completed conversion of an unused railroad bed into a bicycle and pedestrian facility called the Skewarkee Trail. The facility creates a safer bicycling and pedestrian environment, linking activity centers such as the Roanoke River, neighborhoods, and the town's Central Business District. The trail is approximately nine-tenths of a mile long.

4. Regional/National Transportation

Rail

Martin County is served daily by Seaboard System Railroad, an operating unit of CSX Transportation. Seaboard operates trains daily along a line that bisects the county and services Parmele, Robersonville, Everetts, Williamston, and Jamesville. Seaboard also operates public tracks around Williamston for loading and unloading of rail cars. Norfolk Southern Railroad services a major industrial complex at the eastern border of the county. Van-on-Flat-Car (VOFC, TOFC, or "piggyback") services are available on the Seaboard system in Rocky Mount, NC. The CSX Transportation rails also play a crucial role in connecting the County with both the

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industrial park in Everetts as well as the Lands East Industrial Park located between Parmele and Bethel (located in Pitt County).

Bus

Martin County offers bus transportation and parcel service through Greyhound Bus Line. The bus stop is located at 120 West Boulevard in Williamston. The bus makes two stops at this location 7 days a week at approximately 10:00 am and 7:30 pm. Prices vary depending on destination.

Air

Martin County travelers utilize the services offered at nearby Pitt-Greenville Airport (20 miles away). US Air Express serves the region from Pitt-Greenville Airport daily, providing connecting flights to the major airline hubs at Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, Baltimore, and Washington-Dulles airports. Connecting flight schedules make one-day business trips possible to almost all metro areas east of the Mississippi River.

Raleigh-Durham International, Charlotte International, and Norfolk International airports each have international flights to Europe and the Far East available daily. Raleigh-Durham is the East Coast hub for American Airlines, while Charlotte is the hub for US Air.

The Martin County Airport has a paved 5,000 foot lighted runway available for private and chartered planes. Fuel is also available. The recent upgrade of the runway allows for almost all corporate jets to be able to utilize the county airport. Construction of a parallel taxiway was completed in March of 2013. Other projects, including the addition of a ramp extension and self service Avgas and jet fuel, are planned for Fall 2013. Services provided by the airport include tie-downs (available nightly, weekly, or monthly), hangars, and fuel sales. Juliet-Charlie Aviation also provides services to the airport. These include flight training, aerial application, contract pilot services, ferry services, aircraft recovery, aerial photography, airplane detail, and call ahead service.

Air cargo service is offered by several air freight carriers including Federal Express, Airborne Express, Emery, and UPS, as well as US Air.

Trucking

There are over fifty (50) national and regional carriers serving the Martin County area, including all of the nation's largest carriers. Several local independent trucking firms are available to provide service as well. Containerized freight service is available, as is special commodity transport. More than thirty (30) carriers provide less than truckload (LTL) service on a daily basis. It should also be noted that Martin County has direct connectivity to the Norfolk port in southwestern Virginia.

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5. River Access and Traffic

In addition to hundreds of recreational boaters, the Roanoke River's safe, deep portage (11' at Williamston) allows river traffic to move to other ports in the state and country. In 2002, Williamston secured funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Enhancement Funding program to construct River Landing, a 600-foot elevated boardwalk with floating canoe dock along the Roanoke River. The total project cost was \$650,000.00. River Landing provides a link to the Roanoke River Paddle Trail and helps complete the bicycle and pedestrian link between the downtown business and residential areas to the river. River Landing includes an elevated bicycle and pedestrian corridor which will connect the Skewarkee Trail with the County's Moratoc Park. The town constructed a camping platform to be utilized by users of the canoe trail, bicyclist, and pedestrians. This platform is directly across the Roanoke River from the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge and provides access and viewing of the pristine natural environment within the refuge. This facility and acres provide a connection to other portions and camping platforms associated with the Roanoke River Paddle Trail which is maintained by the Roanoke River Partners.

6. Traffic Volume Maps

Traffic volume maps are a product created by the Traffic Survey Group in cooperation with the State Road Mapping Unit - Mapping Section. The County and urban maps supplied by the mapping section serve as a foundation for Traffic Survey employees to identify locations known as "count stations." Traffic surveys label each of these stations with the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts. Appendix B provides two maps from 2011, which are the most recent AADT maps of Martin County and are provided on the NCDOT website.

E. Transportation and Land Use Relationship

Understanding the relationship between transportation systems and land use planning is vital to fostering successful urban environments. Planning for where we live, work, and play should coincide with the design of transportation networks. Land use patterns are largely a result of the dominant transportation systems in a given community. In addition, planning that considers not just the automobile, but also the pedestrian, cyclist, and transit rider, will result in better urban form and more attractive places to live.

Looking back in US history, it becomes clear how the forms of cities and towns have changed along with the dominant kind of transportation, which in turn is connected to the availability of different energy sources and economic conditions. The following figure summarizes the relationship between urban form and prevailing means of transportation.

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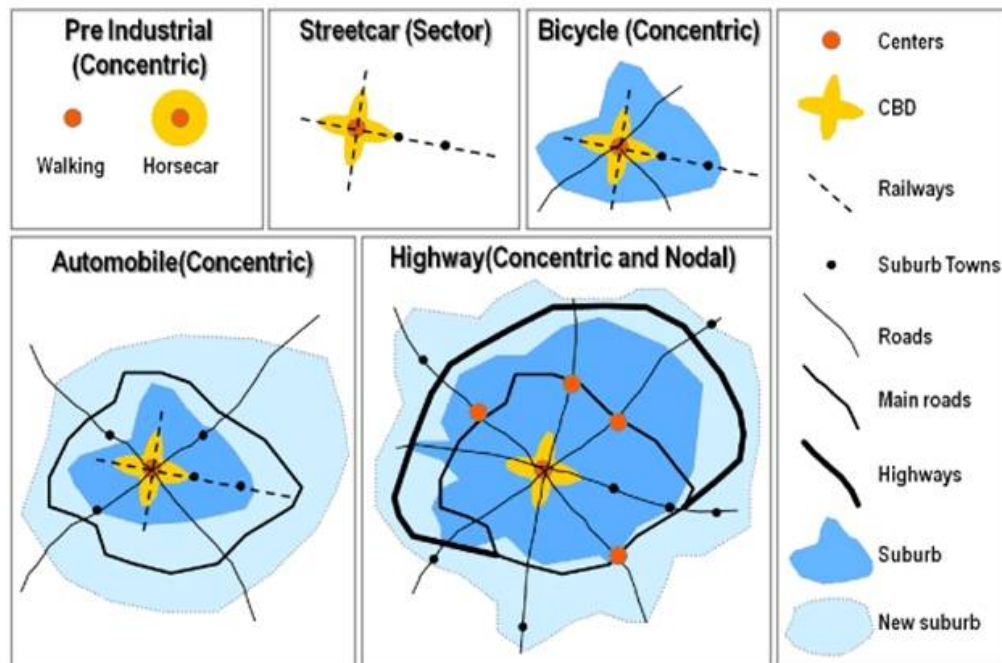


Figure 2. Relationship Between Urban Form and Transportation *Source: Geography of Transportation (Taaffe, E., 1996).*

As a general rule, over time communities expanded as more powerful transportation technologies became available. Starting from upper left, the town of the Agrarian era would have limited typical town size to the distance a horse could carry a cart. As streetcars became available, houses sprang up further from the city along sectors served by the streetcars. In contrast, a bicycle-based pattern is limited in range but spread over a more even area relating to a central business district (CBD), shown in yellow.

The lower left diagram shows a typical pattern for mid-to-late 20th century settlement, based on car commuting to a city or town center. The final diagram shows a pattern found in many communities with access to highways. Greenville, NC, in particular, exhibits this type of development patterns. The presence of high-speed, efficient roadway like US 264 allows easy access to suburban residential neighborhoods.

Land use change is intricately linked to transportation systems. In turn, transportation systems are linked to available fuel, whether human power on foot or bicycle, horse power, or fossil fuels.

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F. Existing Land Use

1. Methodology

All land has an inherent utilization that can be classified to better understand the existing conditions and makeup of a given jurisdiction. Because Martin County is predominately undeveloped and rural, much of the existing lands are classified as unimproved, rural residential, or agricultural lands. Unimproved lands refer to properties with no significant structures. These lands may be working agricultural lands or simply fully vegetated, dormant acreage.

Existing land use should not be confused with zoning, as no unincorporated land in the county is currently zoned. Existing land use classifies the current land condition, which differs from zoning that is used to specify what is allowed to be constructed on a particular piece of property. Williamston, Jamesville, Bear Grass, and Robersonville enforce zoning regulations within their corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdictions.

Seven land use categories were used to create the existing land use surface. They are as follows:

- Commercial - retail, service, and shopping establishments
- Office and Institutional - government and public service, church, offices, and schools
- Industrial - waste water treatment and sanitary sewer facilities
- Medium Density Residential - all residential properties less than 5 acres
- Low Density Residential - all residential properties 5 to 20 acres
- Rural Residential/Agriculture - all residential properties 20+ acres, land may be utilized for agricultural purposes
- Unimproved - uninhabited properties with no significant structures, land may be utilized for agricultural purposes

The Martin County tax parcel file, in coordination with aerial photos, was used to determine the existing land use classification for properties in the county. Field surveys and Google's street view were used to confirm the accuracy of the aerial photos and tax data. Further, property value was used to ensure whether parcels were unimproved. The Town of Williamston provided its own existing land use file.

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2. Existing Land Use Patterns

Unincorporated Martin County (see Map 9)

The vast majority of lands in the unincorporated areas of the county are undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes (67%). Rural Residential - Agriculture is the second largest land use category in unincorporated Martin County, occupying just over a quarter of the acreage. This pattern is consistent with other rural counties in eastern North Carolina.

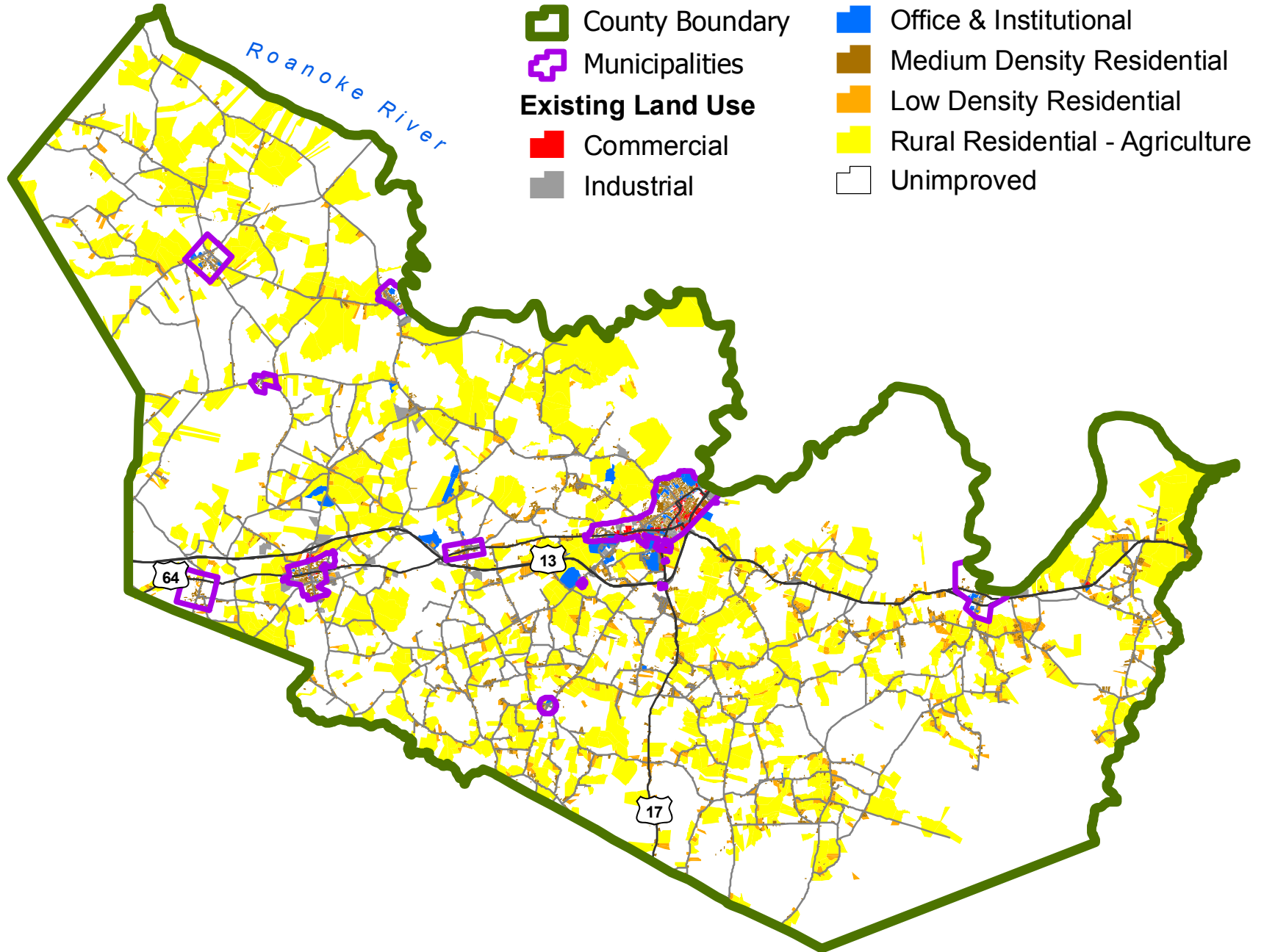
Table 16. Unincorporated Martin County Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	48.92	0.02%
Office & Institutional	1,172.95	0.42%
Industrial	796.32	0.28%
Medium Density Residential	7,135.30	2.55%
Low Density Residential	6,666.26	2.38%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	76,721.59	27.39%
Unimproved	187,544.94	66.96%
Total	280,086.28	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Map 9: Martin County Existing Land Use



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Town of Bear Grass (see Map 10)










The Town of Bear Grass is located several miles south of Williamston, at the cross roads of Rogers Street and Bear Grass Road. An unusual physical feature of the town is that, when incorporated, the boundary was a circle with a radius of 500 yards from a white oak "near a well at the stores of Rogers Brothers and Cowing [sic] Brothers." These limits remain today, making Bear Grass one of the few towns in the state laid out in this manner. Approximately 1/3 of the land in Bear Grass is considered unimproved, with no significant structures present. The second largest land use category is Medium Density Residential, occupying just under 30% of land in the town. The large percentage of Office & Institutional acreage is due to the presence of Bear Grass Charter School.

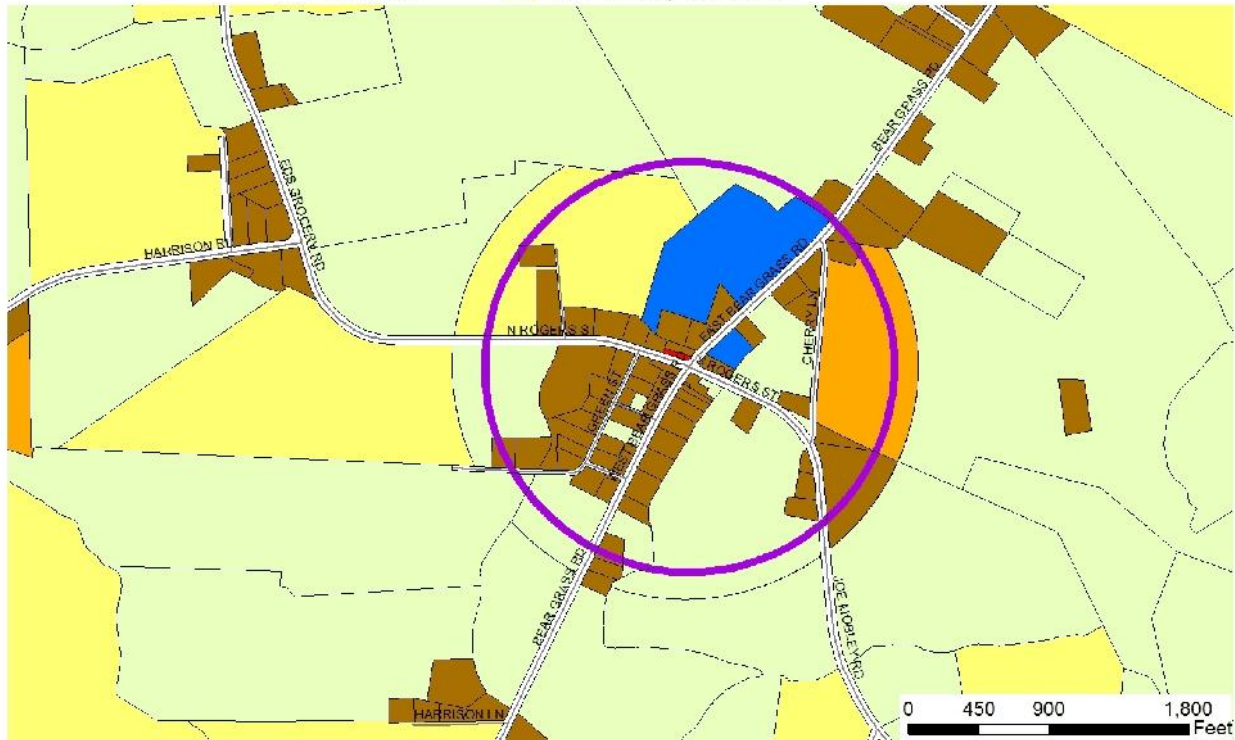
Table 17. Town of Bear Grass Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	0.14	0.12%
Office & Institutional	14.36	12.44%
Industrial	0.00	0.00%
Medium Density Residential	33.95	29.41%
Low Density Residential	11.06	9.58%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	16.77	14.53%
Unimproved	39.15	33.92%
Total	115.43	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.
Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Bear Grass Existing Land Use

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  County Boundary | Existing Land Use |  Office & Institutional |  Rural Residential - Agriculture |
|  Municipalities |  Commercial |  Medium Density Residential |  Unimproved |
| |  Industrial |  Low Density Residential | |



Map 10. Town of Bear Grass Existing Land Use

Town of Everetts (see Map 11)

The Town of Everetts is located between Williamston and Robersonville, along US Highway 64 Business. The town was incorporated in February 1891, and was a thriving trading center situated along the railroad between Robersonville and Williamston. It began more than 20 years earlier as a small rural cross roads named for its principal landowner, Simon Peter Everett. In 1869, he deeded some of his land to the Williamston and Tarboro Railroad Company for the construction of the railroad. The majority of land is considered unimproved, with close to 60% of the total acreage. The second largest land use category is Medium Density Residential. Historic residential units line the blocks just outside the town center.

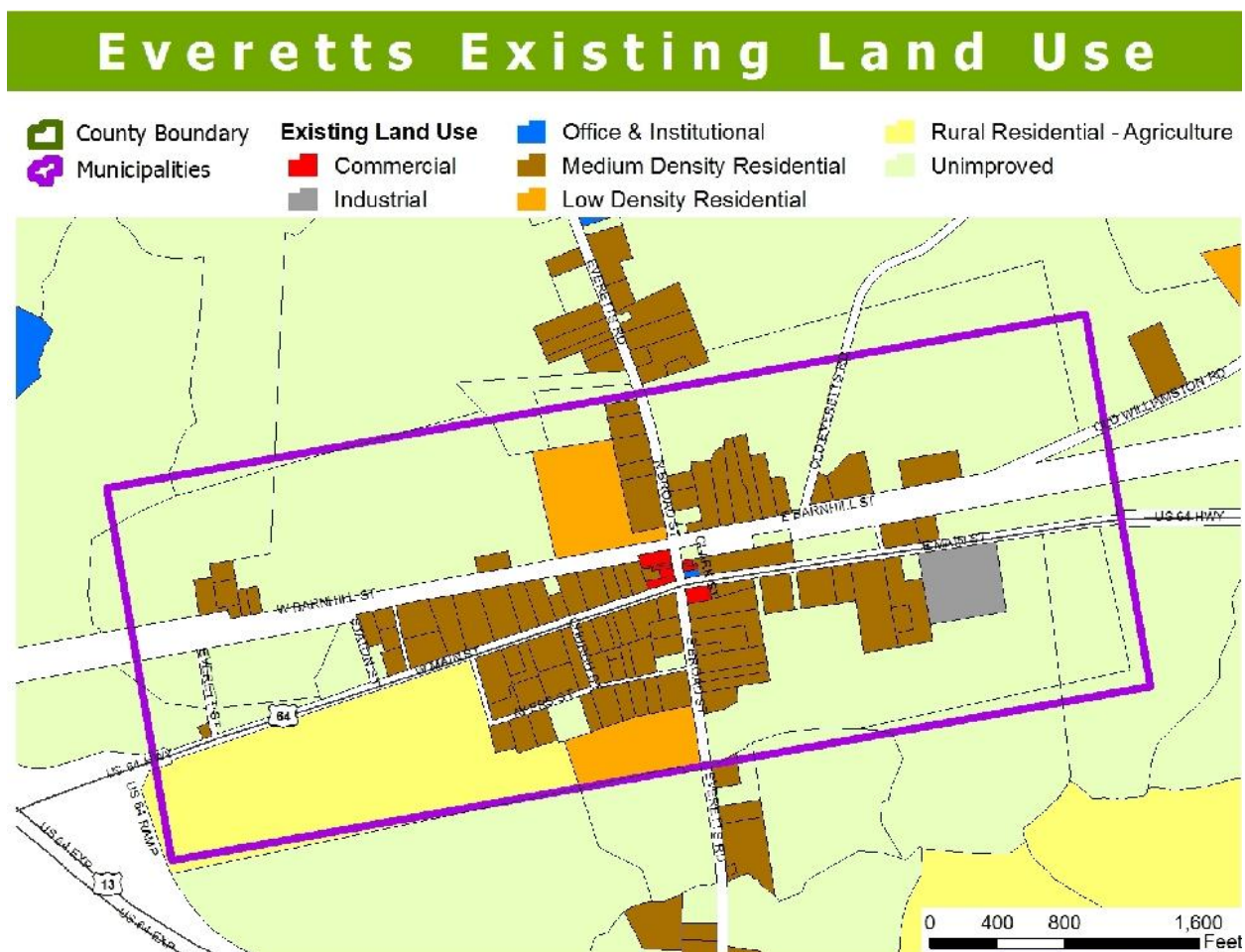
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Table 18. Town of Everetts Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	1.11	0.41%
Office & Institutional	0.09	0.03%
Industrial	4.50	1.67%
Medium Density Residential	57.59	21.42%
Low Density Residential	13.26	4.93%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	35.81	13.32%
Unimproved	156.49	58.21%
Total	268.85	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.
 Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 11. Town of Everetts Existing Land Use

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Town of Hamilton (see Map 12)

Hamilton is located adjacent the banks of the Roanoke River, along NC 903 (Front Street). Incorporated in 1804, the town long prospered as a bustling commercial port. Shallow-draft steamboats, the cotton gin and a burgeoning textile trade here and abroad brought river traffic to its peak during the years preceding the Civil War. Many of Hamilton's fine old homes were built from 1830-1850 and are found today in the town's National Register Historic District. The district includes some of the finest antebellum homes assembled in the county. There is approximately 135 acres of unimproved lands in the town, or just over 45% of the total acreage. Medium Density Residential land usage occupies the next largest percentage of land in Hamilton. This is due to the traditional block size (approximately 400 ft. x 400 ft.) in the town, which allows for smaller lots and creates a more walkable environment.

Table 19. Town of Hamilton Existing Land Use

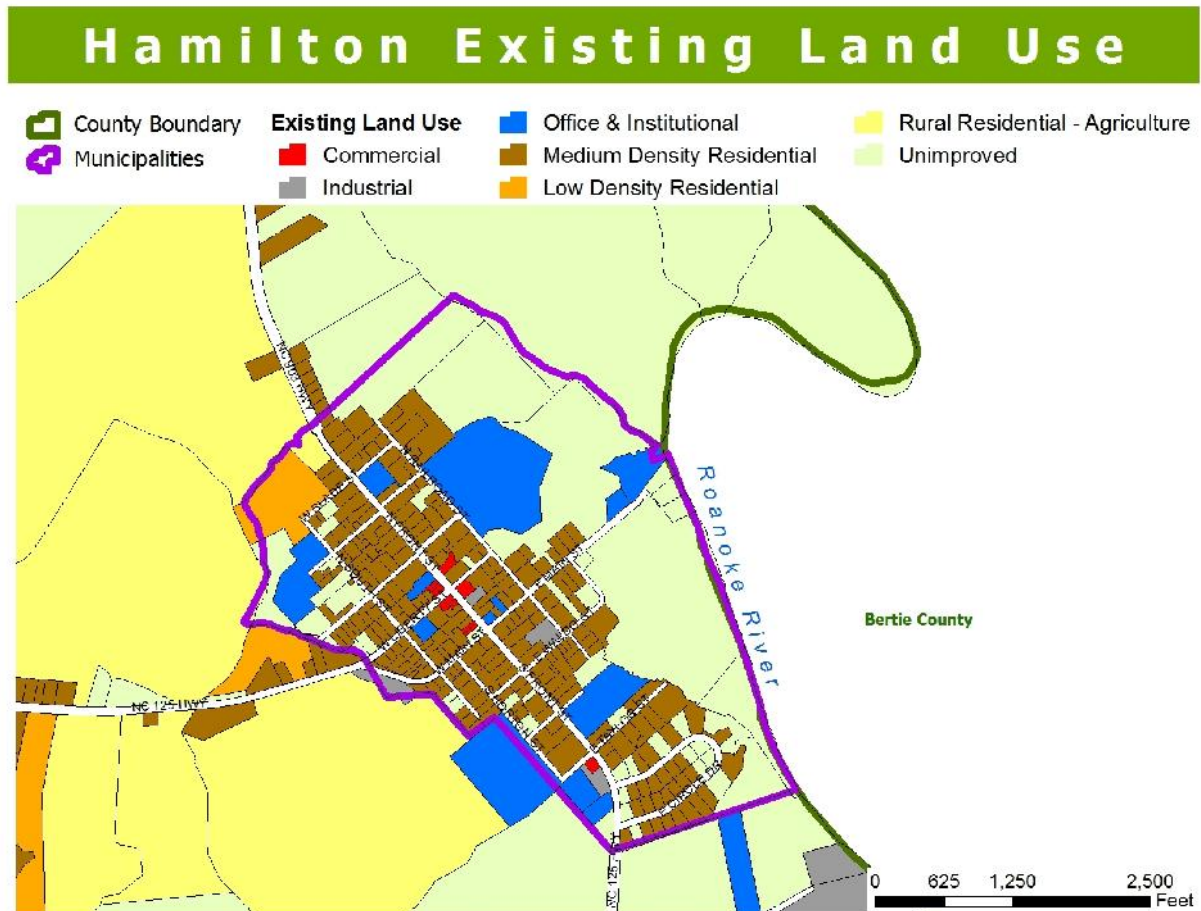
Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	1.97	0.68%
Office & Institutional	40.93	14.13%
Industrial	3.35	1.16%
Medium Density Residential	98.63	34.04%
Low Density Residential	8.57	2.96%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	2.71	0.94%
Unimproved	133.59	46.11%
Total	289.75	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

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Map 12. Town of Hamilton Existing Land Use

Town of Hassell (see Map 13)

The Town of Hassell is located approximately 15 miles west of Williamston, along NC 142. Where the railroad crossed the Williamston-to-Tarboro road (now NC 142) proved a logical place for the development of a trading and marketing center. Named to honor Elder Sylvester Hassell, a noted Primitive Baptist preacher, historian, author, and educator, this community did not begin its main growth until after the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad extended its line through western Martin County in 1890. There are no commercial uses in the town. Unimproved lands and Rural Residential - Agriculture account for close to 70% of the town's total acreage.

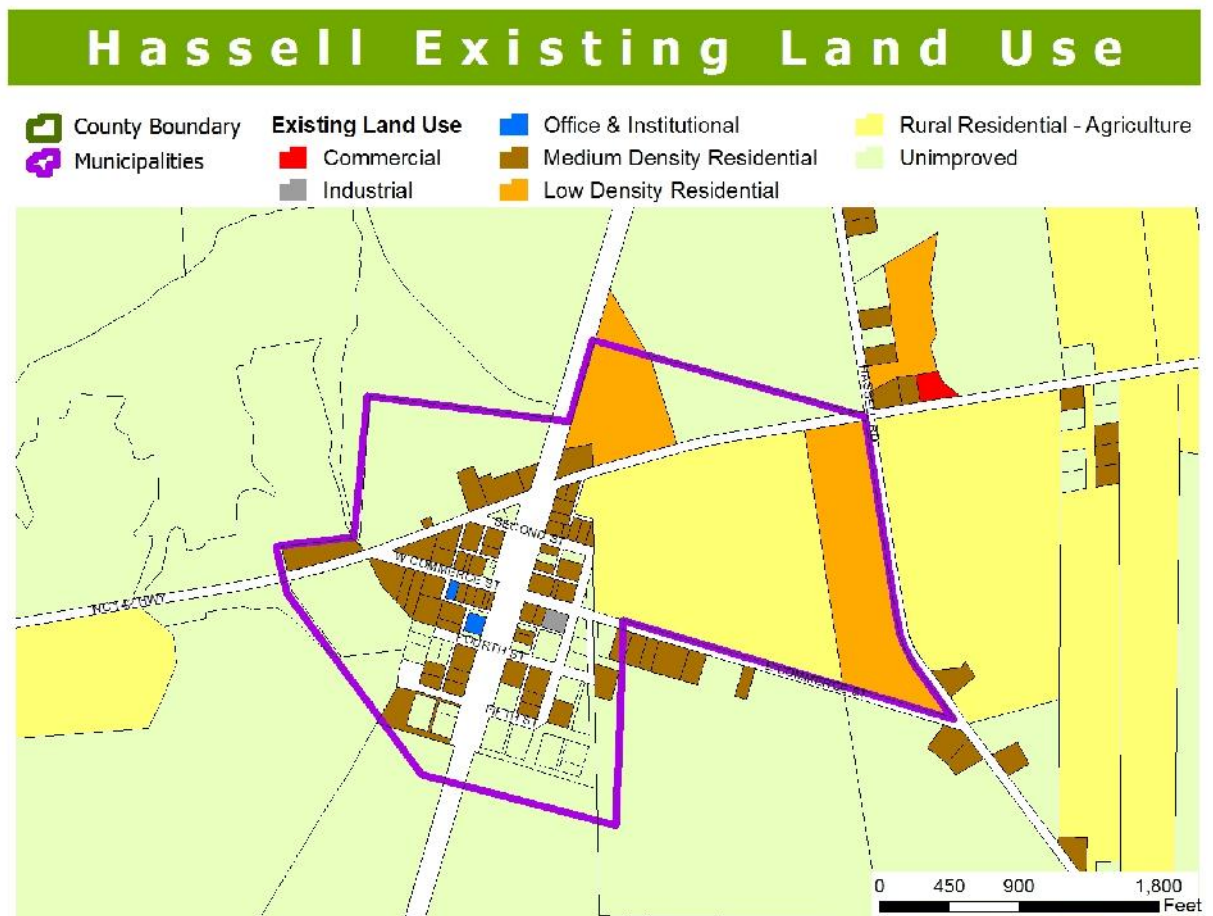
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Table 20. Town of Hassell Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	0.00	0.00%
Office & Institutional	0.49	0.33%
Industrial	0.43	0.29%
Medium Density Residential	20.95	14.12%
Low Density Residential	25.99	17.52%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	43.57	29.37%
Unimproved	56.94	38.38%
Total	148.37	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.
 Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 13. Town of Hassell Existing Land Use

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Town of Jamesville (see Map 14)

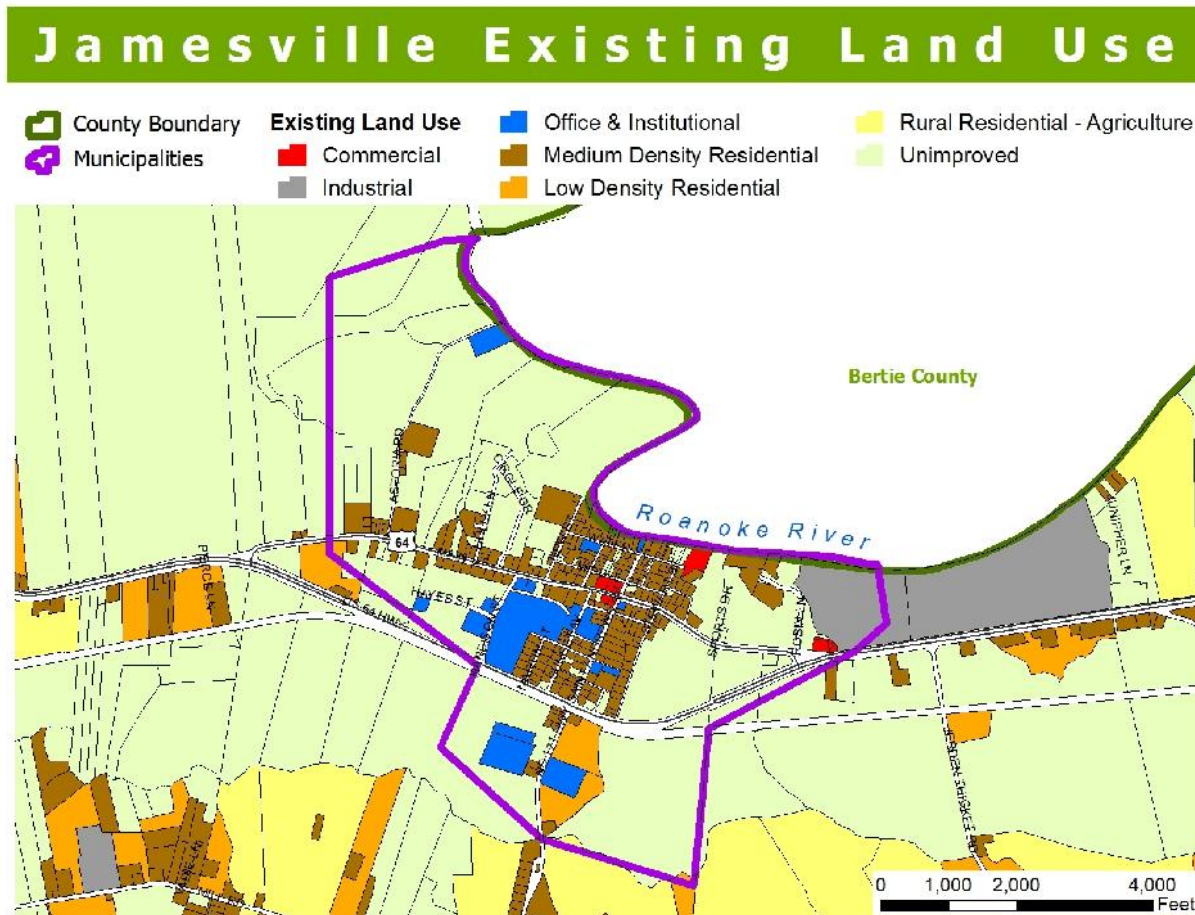
Jamesville is located adjacent the banks of the Roanoke River, approximately ten miles east of Williamston. The second oldest town in Martin County, Jamesville was incorporated in 1785 as James Town, with its name changing in 1797 to Jamestown and finally, on February 10, 1855, to Jamesville. Residents depended on the shipment of agricultural and forest products, supplying local farmers with merchandise, and taking advantage of the early springtime fishing season that was centered here. The large percentage of unimproved lands is due to the northwest area of the town bordering the Roanoke River. Medium Density Residential land uses account for the second largest percentage of acreage in Jamesville. Similar to Hamilton, the small block sizes create more dense residential neighborhoods. Jamesville Elementary and Middle Schools add to the percentage of land in the Office and Institutional category.

Table 21. Town of Jamesville Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	6.54	0.82%
Office & Institutional	51.14	6.38%
Industrial	29.41	3.67%
Medium Density Residential	126.15	15.74%
Low Density Residential	20.22	2.52%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	2.04	0.25%
Unimproved	565.96	70.62%
Total	801.46	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 14. Town of Jamesville Existing Land Use

Town of Oak City (see Map 15)

Oak City is located in the northwest portion of Martin County and was originally incorporated in 1888. With farmers and traders attracted by the new Wilmington and Weldon Railroad service, Oak City enjoyed dramatic and steady growth during the early 20th century. By 1910, the population had more than doubled to 251 residents, and the town’s educational and religious offerings expanded to meet the growing needs of the area. While commercial activity included a number of general stores and boarding houses, the industrial activity consisted of saw and planing mills, as well as a grist mill. The town maintains a rural existing land use pattern, with over 70% of acreage categorized as unimproved or Rural Residential - Agriculture. The third largest land use category is Medium Density Residential, which accounts for close to 20% of the town’s total acreage.

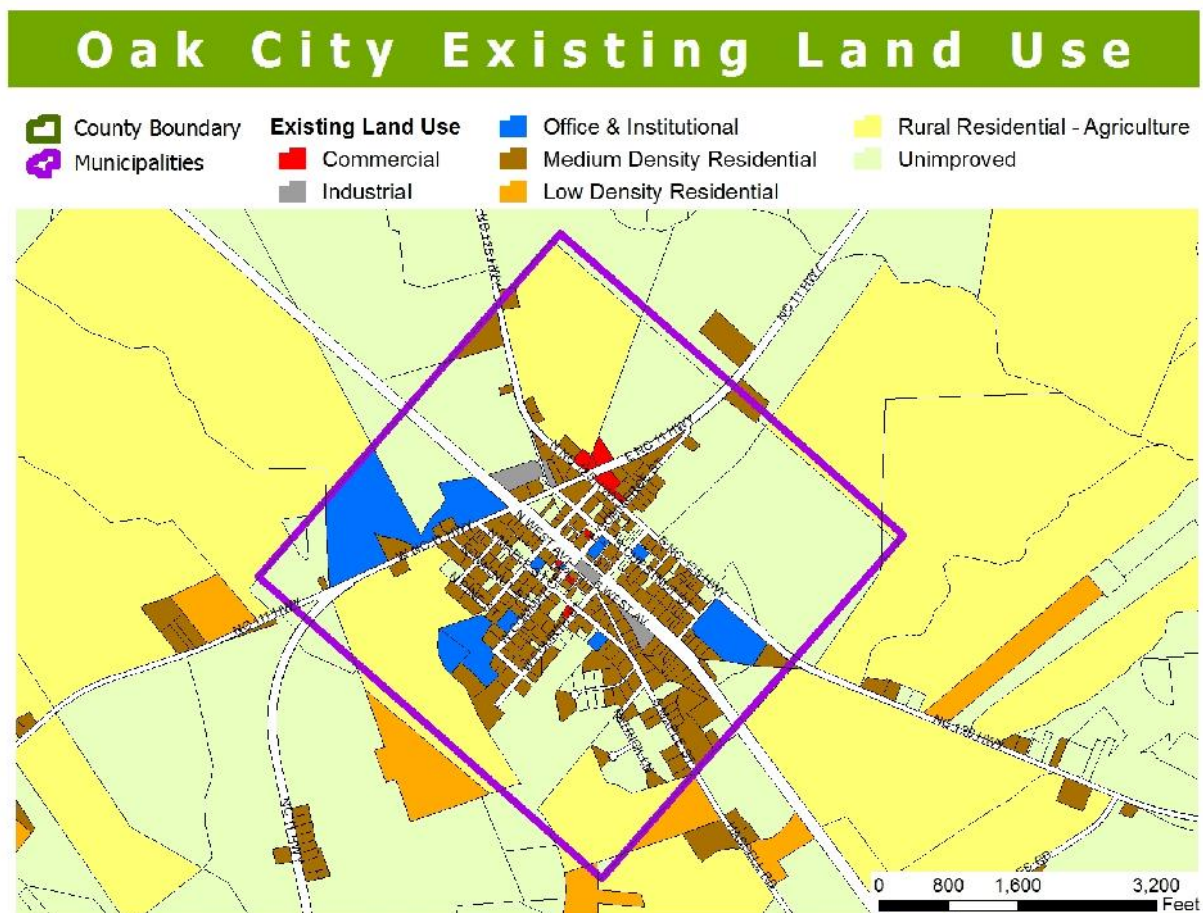
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Table 22. Town of Oak City Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	4.00	0.70%
Office & Institutional	50.32	8.82%
Industrial	5.86	1.03%
Medium Density Residential	109.53	19.20%
Low Density Residential	0.19	0.03%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	136.16	23.87%
Unimproved	264.45	46.35%
Total	570.51	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.
Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 15. Town of Oak City Existing Land Use

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Town of Parmele (see Map 16)

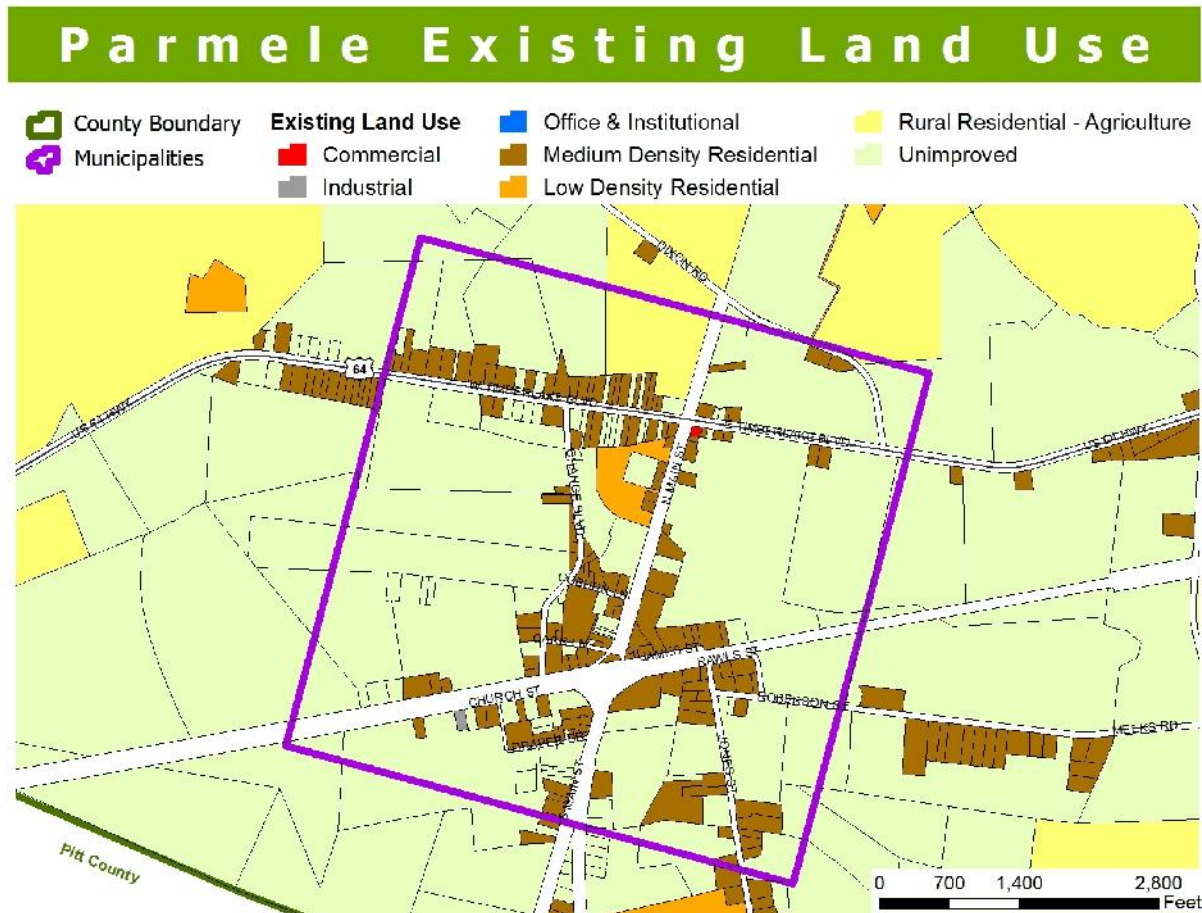
The Town of Parmele is located on the southwest edge of Martin County, bordering Pitt County. The two most important developmental forces in Martin County, the arrival of railroad transportation and the proliferation of profitable lumber mills, combined to become major catalysts for the birth of Parmele. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad began construction around 1890 to extend its north-south line down through Martin County on a location near the Parmele-Eccleston lumber mill. This chosen tract of land centering on the Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad developed so rapidly after the line was completed that on February 14, 1893, the General Assembly incorporated it into the Town of Parmele. The town is a similar size to Oak City but has fewer residents, housing, and services. Close to 80% of the town's acreage is classified as unimproved.

Table 23. Town of Parmele Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	0.23	0.04%
Office & Institutional	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	0.51	0.09%
Medium Density Residential	92.76	16.17%
Low Density Residential	7.68	1.34%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	19.10	3.33%
Unimproved	453.41	79.03%
Total	573.69	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 16. Town of Parmele Existing Land Use

Town of Robersonville (see Map 17)

The Town of Robersonville is located just east of Parmele along US Highway 64 Business. Incorporated February 1870, Robersonville, located directly on the railroad's route between Tarboro and Williamston, is the first town in the county dependent on the railroad, rather than the Roanoke River, as its chief commercial and communication link with the world beyond Martin County. As the site of the county's first tobacco market in August 1900, Robersonville embarked on an expansive era of prosperity, civic progress, and development with a population that surged up to 1,200 during the early 1900s. Close to 75% of the land in the town is developed. Medium Density Residential land use occupies the most significant portion of the acreage in the town. Industrial uses make up a good portion of the acreage in Robersonville. Just over 12% of land in the town is dedicated to manufacturing or light industry. Ann's House of Nuts maintains a large production facility in town.

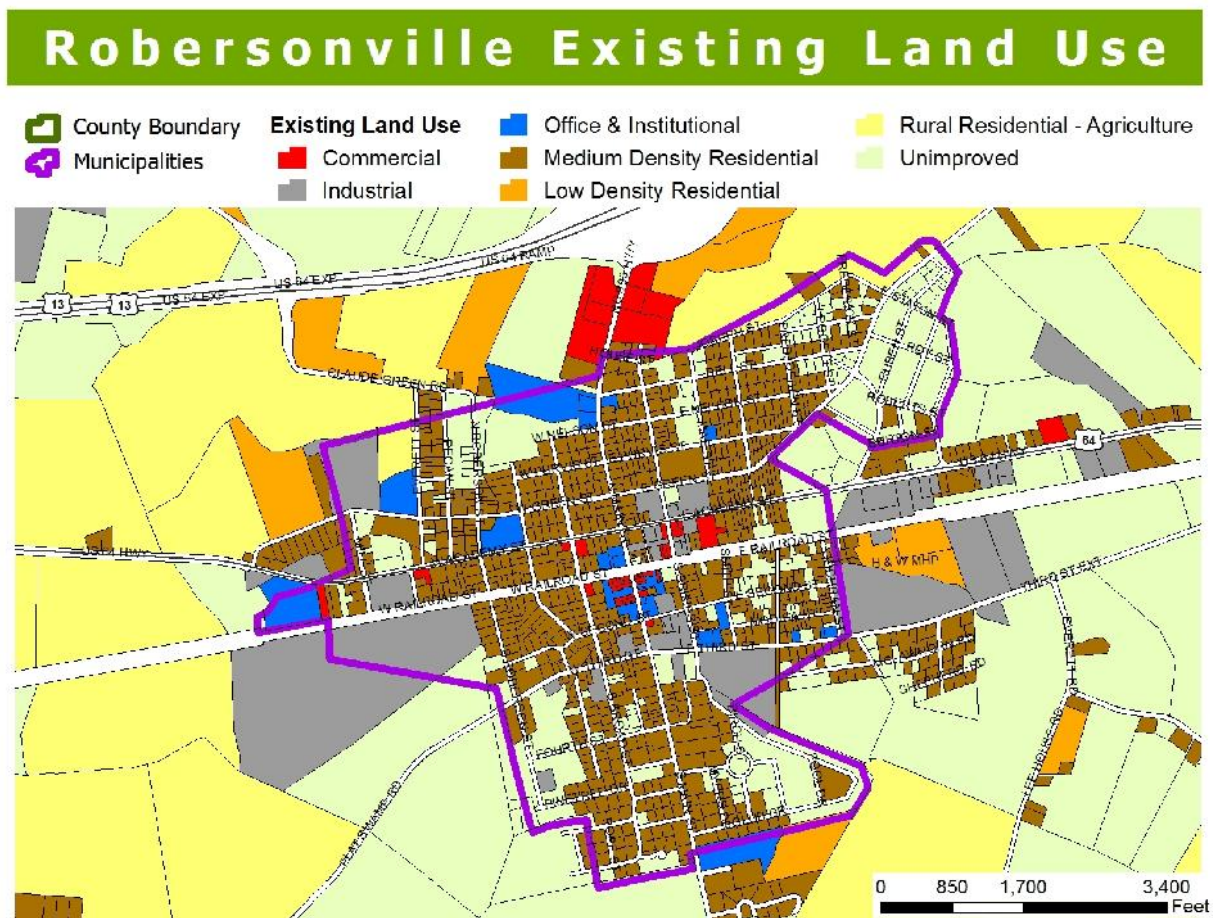
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Table 24. Town of Robersonville Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	8.82	1.49%
Office & Institutional	35.02	5.91%
Industrial	74.00	12.48%
Medium Density Residential	297.84	50.24%
Low Density Residential	1.26	0.21%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	16.64	2.81%
Unimproved	159.20	26.86%
Total	592.78	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.
 Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 17. Town of Robersonville Existing Land Use

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Town of Williamston (see Map 18)

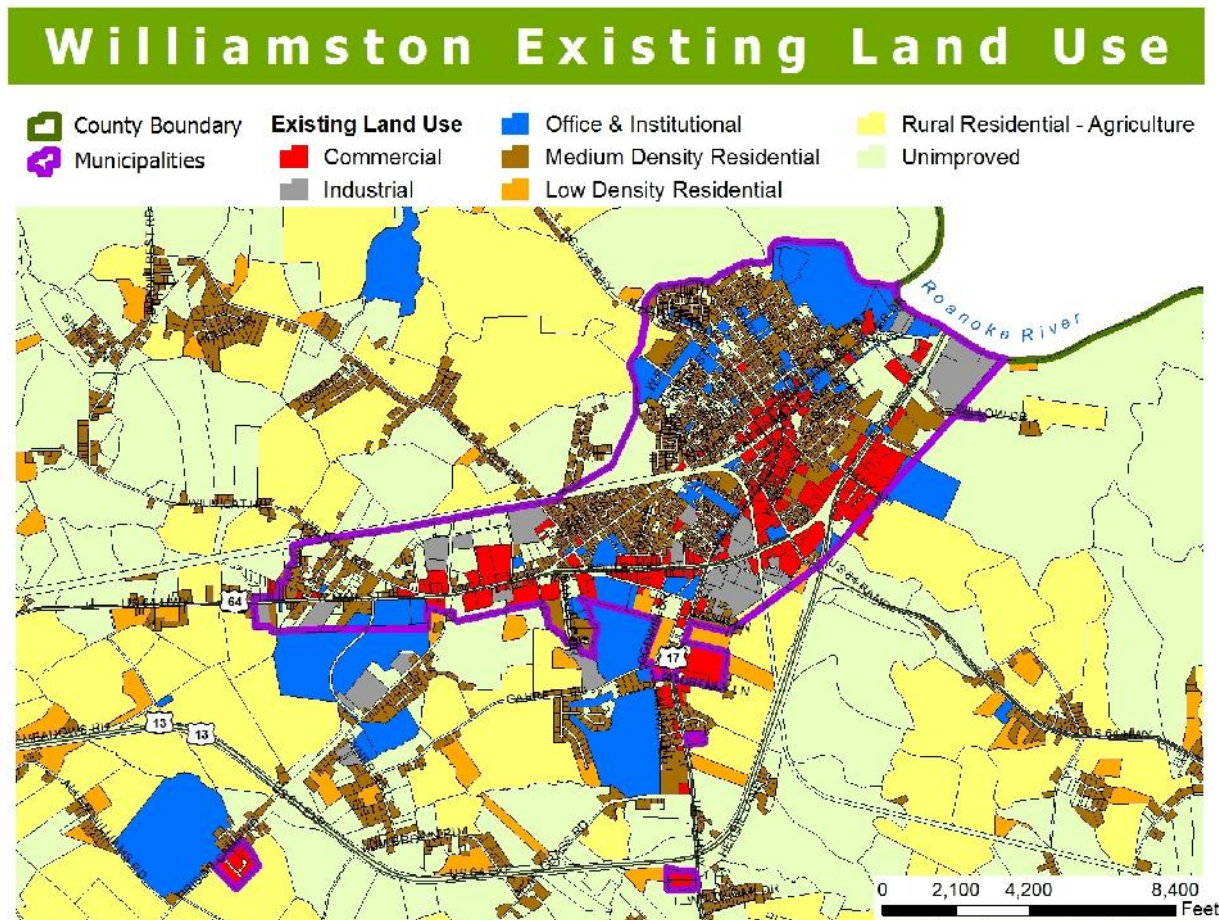
The Town of Williamston is located in the center of Martin County adjacent the Roanoke River. The exact date of the first settlement at what was to become Williamston cannot be determined, but it is known there was a village in the general locality as early as 1730. The first settlers are said to have moved from Bertie County to the south side of the Moratoc (now Roanoke) River and located near the ruins of what had been a Tuscaroran Indian village. The locality was known to the Indians as "Squhawky," but it was called "Tar Landing" by the English settlers, as it gradually became the principal shipping point for the tar, pitch, turpentine, and other forest products and meat produced in the area. The settlement prospered and was designated the seat of government when Martin County was chartered in March 1774. A little over five years later, during the Revolutionary War, it became the first incorporated town in the county and was named "Williamston." Williamston is largely developed, with just 12% of the total acreage classified as unimproved. Further detail on existing land use for the town can be found in Williamston's 2009-10 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Table 25. Town of Williamston Existing Land Use

Existing Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	454.11	22.07%
Office & Institutional	468.00	22.75%
Industrial	211.28	10.27%
Medium Density Residential	633.99	30.81%
Low Density Residential	36.79	1.79%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	0.00	0.00%
Unimproved	253.40	12.32%
Total	2,057.57	100.00%

NOTE: Right-of-way is not included.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 18. Town of Williamston Existing Land Use

G. Land Suitability Analysis (LSA)

1. Analysis Description

The Land Suitability Analysis (LSA) is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based tool for evaluating the relative suitability of land for development in Martin County. The end product is a generalized map showing areas of the county that are categorized as having either least, low, moderate, or high suitability for development. The analysis does not provide site-specific results, nor does it make recommendations about how individual landowners may or may not use their land.

Suitability, for the purpose of this analysis, can be primarily defined in terms of physical limitations and/or regulatory restrictions. Physical limitations, such as poorly drained soils, make land less suitable and more costly to develop. Features subject to regulatory restrictions, such as water supply watersheds, also pose challenges to development.

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2. Objectives and Limitations

The results of the LSA will be used to support planning efforts throughout the unincorporated areas of Martin County and participating municipalities. Objectives of the LSA and appropriate uses of the final analysis include the following:

- Identify areas that are more or less suitable for development on a coarse scale;
- Inventory existing spatial information available for Martin County;
- Identify data gaps that may be filled during later planning stages;
- Develop a tool that will assist the county in the implementation of new policies;
- Provide a base for GIS analysis to be used in other long range planning projects.

Limitations of the LSA include the following:

- The LSA results are not a zoning map, but will be used to support planning processes in Martin County;
- Results and analyses do not support site-specific planning;
- The LSA does not make recommendations about how an individual landowner may or may not use their land;
- The LSA does not result in recommendations about where particular land uses (i.e., commercial vs. residential) should be concentrated;
- Results do not factor in projected population, carrying capacity, or commercial/housing demand.

3. Data Preparation

Spatial data sets were gathered from Martin County, local, state, and federal agencies, and private organizations. Data from the following sources were used in the analysis:

- Martin County GIS
- Martin County Tax Records
- North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA)
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP)
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund (NCCWMTF)
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR)
 - Division of Water Quality (DWQ)
 - Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC)
 - Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
 - National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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The spatial data sets were prepared for each suitability class using the following techniques:

- Each data set was clipped to only include data within Martin County's geographic boundary. For example, some of the data sets included information for the entire State of North Carolina. The Martin County boundary was used to remove any data outside the county.
- Some data sets were queried to select subsets of the data. Some data sets included information not relevant to the criteria developed for each suitability class. For example, distribution of data within watershed areas was queried and divided among the proper suitability classes.
- Some non-spatial data sets were joined to spatial data as a way to add information to spatial data. For example, tabular data for hydric soils and important farmland soil classifications were joined to soil polygons using unique soil map unit codes.

4. Technical Approach

The LSA map considers regulatory, legal, and environmental constraints to development, which are defined as follows:

- Regulatory Constraints - These constraints are created by a regulatory body to mitigate impact in designated areas. Often, these constraints are temporary and are not legally binding in nature. The following layers are classified as regulatory constraints in the analysis of land more or less suitable for development in Martin County.
 - Water Supply IV Waters (WS - IV)
- Legal Constraints - Any legally binding or permanent agreement to preserve or conserve land areas in perpetuity. The following layers are classified as legal constraints in the analysis of land more or less suitable for development in Martin County.
 - Lands Managed for Conservation and Open Space
 - Wildlife Resources Commission Public Game Lands
- Environmental Constraints - Any natural or physical resources that limit an area's potential for development. The two main types of environmental constraints in Martin County arise as a result of (1) the presence of valued natural resources (i.e., high quality waters) that are likely to be adversely affected by development and as such should be preserved or protected where possible; and (2) a hazard issue (i.e., flooding). These areas are delineated due to the potential for adverse effects on human life or property. The

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following layers are classified as environmental constraints in the analysis of land more or less suitable for development in Martin County.

- National Wetlands Inventory
- Significant Natural Heritage Areas
- Surface Waters
- 100 Year Flood Plain
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Hydric Soils

5. Suitability Classes

Suitability areas are ranked in hierarchical order from 1 to 4, with Area 1 (Least Suitability) posing the greatest constraints to development. Areas of least suitable land take precedence over the remaining three suitability classes as they pose the most significant challenges to development. For example, wetland areas (included in the least suitable category) may also include prime farmland soils or floodplain, but will be shown as least suitable because they hold a greater significance than the latter.

The following layers were used in the formation of the draft Land Suitability Analysis Map (see Map 19).

Least Suitable

Areas of Least Suitable land are more restrictive to development than other land in the county as they are either protected or environmentally sensitive areas.

- Surface Waters (see Map 4)
 - All above ground water bodies in Martin County.
- Significant Natural Heritage Areas (see Map 7)
 - The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, Natural Heritage Program (NHP) in cooperation with the NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, developed the Significant Natural Heritage Areas (SNHAs) digital data to determine the areas containing ecologically significant natural communities or rare species. A Significant Natural Heritage Area is an area of land or water identified by the NHP as being important for conservation of the State's biodiversity. SNHAs contain one or more Natural Heritage elements - high-quality or rare natural communities, rare

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species, and special animal habitats. The inventory consists of information compiled from a broad range of sources including herbarium and museum collections, published and unpublished literature, and field surveys by volunteers, contracted workers, and staff.

Source: The NC Natural Heritage Program.

- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (see Map 6)
 - NWI digital data files are records of wetlands locations and classifications as defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. When completed, the series will provide coverage for all of the contiguous United States, Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. protectorates in the Pacific and Caribbean. The digital data as well as the hardcopy maps that were used as the source for the digital data are produced and distributed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory project. Base map dates range from Oct. 1981 to present.

Source: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory.

- Lands Managed for Conservation and Open Space (see Map 3)
 - This GIS data layer consists of lands managed for conservation and open space based on multiple source layers. This is a composite inventory that integrates digital depictions of lands from multiple sources and resolves boundary discrepancies among sources. This data layer is intended to inform the user about the location of existing conservation lands that are in "permanent conservation" and are actively managed by a public entity.

Low Suitability

Areas of Low Suitability contain development limitations and are more restrictive to development than areas of moderate or high suitability.

- 100 Year Floodplain (see Figure 1)
 - Areas subject to a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding in any given year. Digital flood data was compiled by the North Carolina Flood Mapping program.

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- Prime Farmland Soils (see Map 5)
 - Prime farmland soils, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), are soils that are best suited to food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Such soils have properties that favor the economic production of sustained high yields of crops. Spatial and tabular soil data was compiled by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Hydric Soils (see Map 5)
 - Hydric soils, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are soils that are wet frequently enough to periodically produce anaerobic conditions, thereby influencing the species composition or growth, or both, of plants on those soils. Spatial and tabular soil data was compiled by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Moderate Suitability

Areas of Moderate Suitability are more restrictive to development than areas of High Suitability.

- Water Supply IV Waters (WS - IV) (see Map 4)
 - The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, in cooperation with the NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, developed the digital Water Supply Watersheds data to enhance planning, siting, and impact analysis in areas directly affecting water supply intakes. This file outlines the extent of protected and critical areas and stream classifications for areas around water supply watersheds in which development directly affects a water supply intake. Water Supply IV waters are used as sources of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes where a WS - I, II, or III classification is not feasible. WS - IV waters are generally in moderately to highly developed watersheds or protected areas.

Source: NC DENR, NC Division of Water Quality.

- Land mass not covered by an existing layer
 - Due to the hierarchical nature of the Land Suitability Analysis, areas of land not occupied by another layer are by default classified as moderately suitable for development.

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High Suitability

Areas of High Suitability take precedence over land classified as low or moderately suitable due to the availability of water and sewer infrastructure.

- Public Sewer Systems
 - The NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis developed the GIS data set, as mapped by contractors to the NC Rural Center during 2004, 2005, and 2006 to facilitate planning, siting, and impact analysis in the 100 individual counties of North Carolina. This file enables the user to make various county-level determinations when used in conjunction with other data layers.

Table 26. Martin County Land Suitability Analysis

Suitability Class	Acres	% of Total
Least Suitable	69,935.55	23.47%
Low Suitability	188,279.71	63.19%
Moderate Suitability	37,453.77	12.57%
High Suitability	2,265.74	0.76%
Total	297,934.77	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 5 – Community Projections and Future Demand

A. Introduction

The following sections of the Martin County Comprehensive Plan focus on future needs and demands as they relate to County services, economic development, and health and wellness. A core component of this discussion is a comprehensive health and wellness analysis. Community focus areas are identified where there are concentrations of citizens with varying needs relating to public health. This narrative and the resulting maps and data will help guide the development of targeted and effective implementation strategies. These strategies will serve as guidance to County and Municipal leaders as decisions are made with regard to staff and funding considerations for future programs and initiatives relating to improved public health, increased recreational opportunity, and access to active transportation.

This portion of the plan also defines population and housing projections. Due to the volatile nature of current market conditions, these projections should serve as basic guidance which take into account growth and development trends over the last twenty to thirty years. The forecasts are a "moving target" which must be carefully and continually monitored.

B. Population

The following provides a summary of forecasted population growth for each municipality, as well as Martin County and neighboring jurisdictions. The Martin County forecast, in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions, was initially presented in Section 3, Community Profile (page 3-5). As evidenced by this data, the overall Martin County population is expected to decline by approximately 15% by the year 2030.

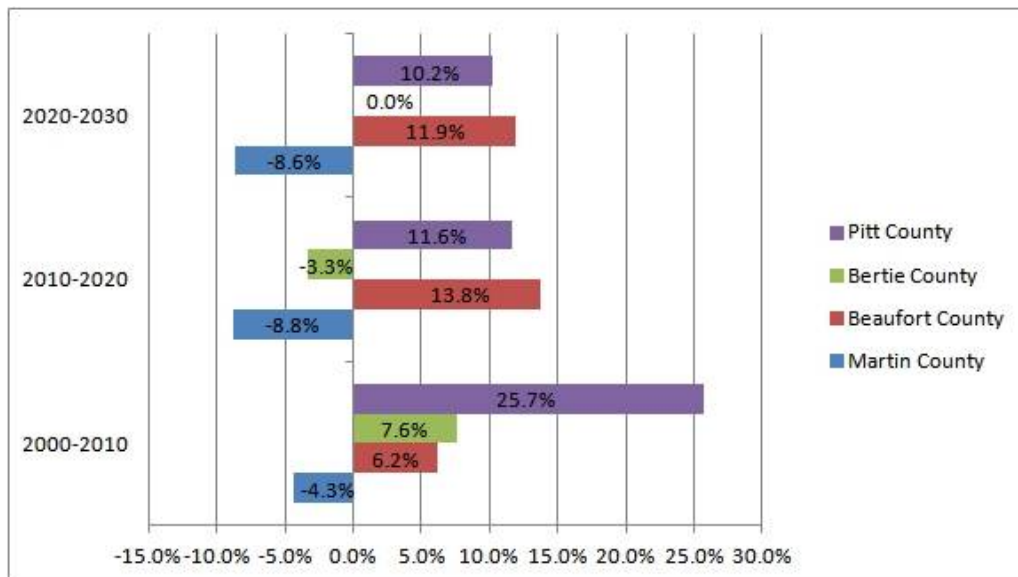


Figure 3. Population Projections Source: US Census Bureau and NC OSBM.

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It is anticipated that this population decline will not only affect rural portions of the County, but municipal jurisdictions as well. Table 27 below indicates that of the nine incorporated jurisdictions located in Martin County, only four are expected to experience population growth through 2030. These forecasts were based on the average individual growth rates over the past three decades. The most significant population declines are expected to occur within the Town of Hamilton at -30.4% and the Town of Oak City at -27.1%.

Table 27. Martin County Municipalities Population Growth, 2010 to 2030

Municipality	2010	2020	2030	% Change 2010-2030
Bear Grass	73	81	90	23.3%
Everetts	164	171	178	8.5%
Hamilton	408	340	284	-30.4%
Hassell	84	78	72	-14.3%
Jamesville	491	496	501	2.0%
Oak City	317	271	231	-27.1%
Parmele	278	281	284	2.2%
Robersonville	1,488	1,320	1,171	-21.3%
Williamston	5,511	5,329	5,153	-6.5%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

C. Housing

According to the 2010 US Census, there are approximately 11,608 housing units in Martin County, of which 14% are vacant. This figure is in line with the neighboring counties of Bertie and Pitt, as well as the state overall. This high vacancy rate coupled with an estimated 15% decline in total population indicates that there is no immediate need for housing development within rural Martin County. Although several of the County's municipalities are anticipated to experience population growth, the overall growth in terms of individuals is estimated at 47 persons.

Despite the fact that there is no immediate need for future expansion of the County's housing stock, due to population increase, it should be noted that all segments of the population do not have access to sound and affordable housing. One of the primary issues facing the county is a lack of multi-family housing units, which is generally more affordable both in terms of rent as well as annual utility cost.

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Census data indicates that approximately 59% of all housing units within the County were built before 1978, which serves as an indicator of both an aging housing stock as well as the presence of issues such as asbestos and lead based paint. Although there is no immediate need for an increase in housing units, there are concerns about the age and affordability of the County's housing stock. According to information presented in Section 3 of the plan, approximately 35% of owner-occupied homeowners and 59% of renters are burdened by housing cost. This assumes that those households are contributing more than thirty percent of their household income to housing. The percentage of income dedicated to housing has increased substantially between the years 2000 and 2010.



Many dilapidated residential structures need to be removed through County code enforcement efforts. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

The County will continue to seek out opportunities for the promotion and provision of affordable housing, where possible. The implementation section of the plan will define strategies dealing with increased opportunities for housing affordability. These strategies will also address the issue of dealing with the County's substandard housing stock through the utilization of grant programs and code enforcement efforts, which will require additional investment by the county into annual code enforcement.

D. Economy

Martin County is working diligently to establish an effective and coordinated approach to economic development through efforts anchored by the Martin County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). As the County moves forward with its economic development campaign, citizens will have to acknowledge that population decline will continue to be symptomatic of rural regions. This issue will effect Martin County and many of its municipalities as evidenced in the population forecast previously provided in this plan.

Effective economic development within Martin County will be an "uphill battle" with small gains in growth occurring incrementally. The County has already taken proactive actions associated with economic development including: construction of the shell building in 1991 and purchase by Syfan in 2013, the McMurray purchase by the MARCO company, the Caraustar (Microcell) purchase by MCEDC, and establishment of the NC Telecenter in Williamston. In order to maintain the momentum that has already been established, the County will need to invest more in economic development efforts than on social services and services to address the needs of the County's aging population. Additionally, the County may consider increasing staffing levels dedicated to economic development efforts. This would provide personnel focused

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on assisting municipal jurisdictions, as well as identifying alternative methods of promoting economic growth.

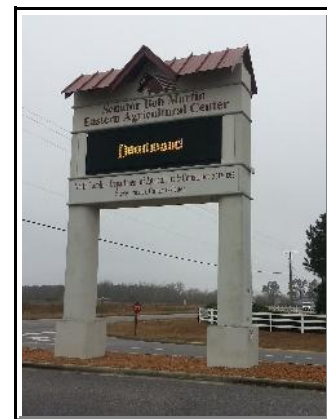
In addition to those efforts listed above, Martin County must tie in economically and civically with the economic centers of Greenville, the Outer Banks and to a lesser degree the Tidewater Virginia area. This effort will involve both people working there, people commuting there, as well as business people doing business there. Utilization of the Outer Banks as an economic asset will be more challenging, due to its location, but this challenge must be overcome. The east-west traveling public passes through the heart of Martin County to reach the Outer Banks, and this traffic is increasingly substantial.

Martin County should consider expansion of its rural transportation systems to provide for frequent and coordinated travel from Martin County to Pitt County and possibly the Outer Banks. The County's regional location should be marketed as an asset. Current transit routes are limited past County lines, which results in a lack of incentive for "receiving Counties" to set up a regional system in coordination with the County. The importance of this issue is evidenced by the fact that there are a small number of residents presently working at the Virginia shipyards and must drive daily. Some of these individuals have access to van service; however, this service does not provide for all commuters to the Tidewater area.

In addition to those efforts noted above, Martin County must continue to operate its shell building program. At a minimum, one new structure should be built approximately every three to five years. The last shell building established under this program was built in 1991; however, MCEDC has one planned and is awaiting the release of funds from The Golden Leaf Foundation.

When considering future economic development efforts throughout Martin County, the following factors and issues should also be taken into account:

- New industrial operations in North Carolina, as well as the United States at-large, will employ less people per site. The new normal will support approximately 100 to 300 jobs rather than historical averages in the range of 1,500. MCEDC estimates that the future size of prospective County industries will be in the 50 to 300 jobs range.
- Martin County should continue to promote the County's rich lumber resources. These efforts should focus on establishing value added wood products within Martin County.



The Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center is an integral part of the County's economic development efforts. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

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Section 5 – Community Projections and Future Demand

- Martin County should work on establishing industrial operations focused on food processing.
- The Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center is the largest physical and financial investment in the County in terms of a facility, not counting industries. The largest facility of its type in the State serves as a draw all along the eastern seaboard. Martin County needs to determine a way to leverage this asset through more frequent use of the stables, conference center, and meeting facilities.

E. Community Facilities

1. Administrative Facilities

As of the drafting of this plan, there are no planned improvements relating to the County's existing administrative facilities. The only substantial planned facility improvement involves expansion of the County's central water system, which will be covered further under the discussion of future water demands.

2. Fire/EMS/Public Safety

As discussed in Section 4 of the plan, the County is served by a series of seven fire departments throughout the County. In addition to these fire departments, emergency medical services are provided by Williamston Fire Rescue EMS, as well as several volunteer EMS operations. At this time, there are no planned expansions or capital improvements relating to the provision of Fire/EMS services in Martin County. However, Martin County is constructing a new VHS communications tower to be completed in December 2013. Additionally, the County has budgeted money for a study to establish joint E-911 services with Bertie County. It should also be noted that all municipalities throughout the County have adequate fire and EMS coverage.

3. Healthcare Facilities

Access to adequate healthcare is an issue that continues to impact Martin County. Section 4.A of the plan outlines all of the current facilities available to County residents. Although several facilities are available to County residents, healthcare facilities within Martin County are for-profit institutions which require that patients have adequate insurance or income to pay for procedures. This issue is increasingly becoming a problem as the percentage of citizens within the County with health insurance continues to decline.

The most recent addition to the availability of healthcare services in Martin County is the construction of Metropolitan Community Health Services located in Williamston. This facility is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) which should serve low income individuals

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throughout Martin County. At this time, it is planned the facility will be staffed by one medical doctor, two dentists, and a pharmacist.

Over the last few years, the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington (MTW) District Health Department has attempted to improve upon access to care for all County residents. These efforts have included an attempt to open and operate a free clinic in Robersonville and submittal of an application to establish the MTW District Health Department as a Federally Qualified Health Care Center. The effort to establish a free clinic in Robersonville was unsuccessful due to the inability of the community to establish on-site staff to serve at the clinic. Establishing MTW as a FQHC would have provided funding enabling them to expand the frequency and quality of services provided to citizens; however, the application for the FQHC was denied due to a lack of program funding in 2010. The County will continue to seek out opportunities for improving access to healthcare.

As noted in Section 4 of the plan, County residents rely primarily on Martin General Hospital in Williamston or Vidant Medical Center located in Greenville, NC. At this time, there are no planned expansions at Martin General Hospital.

4. School Facilities

The Martin County School System is in the third year of a five-year capital improvements plan. This capital campaign involved a total investment of \$17.3 million dollars focused on improving the school facilities throughout Martin County. As noted in Section 4 of the plan, the County is served by two high schools, three middle schools, six elementary schools, and one alternative program. The following improvements to these facilities are programmed to be completed in conjunction with this five-year campaign:

School Facility	Capital Project
Rodgers Elementary	New multi-purpose room
Jamesville Middle	New group restrooms
Riverside Middle	New school facility (Williamston)
Riverside High	Installation of gymnasium air conditioning

In addition to the structural improvements outlined above, the five-year campaign is also focused on improving student performance and proficiency. This effort will involve staff training, as well as the purchase of technology and infrastructure hardware aimed at increasing the availability of resources for students.



The construction of Riverside Middle School is the most substantial project undertaken by the Martin County School System current capital campaign. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

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In terms of higher education, Martin Community College (MCC) is always working to expand curriculum available to students. The most recent addition to MCC's program offerings is the establishment of a Dental Assisting Program. In addition to MCC, East Carolina University is available to Martin County residents as discussed in Section 4 of the plan.

5. Transportation

Roads

Transportation Improvement Program. There are numerous improvement projects in Martin County that are on the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These projects include new facilities, pavement strengthening, roadway widening, bridge improvements, and new roadway projects. These projects all contribute to the strengthening of Martin County's transportation infrastructure, thereby improving the safety, mobility, and economic potential of the transportation system. Projects from Martin County included on the TIP include:

- R-2511 : US 17 Widen to Multi-Lanes from Washington Bypass north of NC 171 to south of Williamston
- R-3826 : Two lanes, most on new location, on NC 125 from SR 1182 (East College Road) to NC 125 Northwest of Williamston
- R-4705: Upgrade Facility on Prison Camp Road from NC 903 to SR 1182
- B-4576: Replace Ready Branch Bridge Number 6
- B-5503: Replace Collie Swamp Bridge Number 53
- B-4185: Replace Hardison Mill Creek Bridge Number 16
- B-4917: Replace Cooper Swamp Bridge Number 46 along Jerden Thicket Road
- B-4577: Replace Flat Swamp Bridge Number 71 along Flat Swamp Road
- B-4918: Replace Cooper Swamp Bridge Number 47 along Jerden Thicket Road

Proposed Interstate 44. The US 64 East freeway is Raleigh's first and only direct free-flow highway link to the northern and mid-Atlantic states. An interstate designation for the US 64 freeway east of Raleigh, suggested as I-44, would be a logical addition to the overall interstate system, as it would provide a direct northbound interstate connection between the North Carolina state capital and the most prominent east coast interstate, I-95 at Rocky Mount. US 17 would become a significant future corridor for the proposed I-44 as the two connect just outside of Williamston. Map 20 provides the proposed I-44 route through Martin County.

This project is one of the main goals for North Carolina's northeast economic development region. At the May 21, 2013, Highway 17 Association meeting, Secretary of Transportation Tony Tata stated that he, Governor Pat McCrory, and Secretary of Commerce Sharon Allred Decker were in support of this designation. Also, many organizations (listed below) have passed resolutions in support of future interstate designation from Raleigh to I-95 at Rocky Mount and

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continuing east to the Hampton Roads region of Virginia via Elizabeth City, consistent with the existing Federal High Priority Corridor 13 from Raleigh to Norfolk. The corridor would follow the US 64 East freeway from I-40/I-440 at Raleigh, east past I-95 at Rocky Mount towards Tarboro and Williamston, NC, and then travel the US 17 corridor via Elizabeth City, NC, and then connecting to the cities of Chesapeake and Norfolk, Virginia, in the Hampton Roads region.

More than 50% of the existing corridor from Raleigh to Hampton Roads via Rocky Mount and Elizabeth City is already built to freeway standards. While all of US 64 between Raleigh and Williamston is freeway, many segments of US 17 from Williamston to I-64 in Hampton Roads are not and would need expansion, upgrade, or new location.

A future interstate corridor designation from Raleigh to Hampton Roads via Rocky Mount and Elizabeth City would require approval by the State of North Carolina, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Corridors approved as a future interstate generally require improvements to be completed within a 25-year window. The upgrades needed for an interstate designation for existing freeway sections generally revolve around changes to shoulder and bridge widths, bridge clearances, and pavement thicknesses.

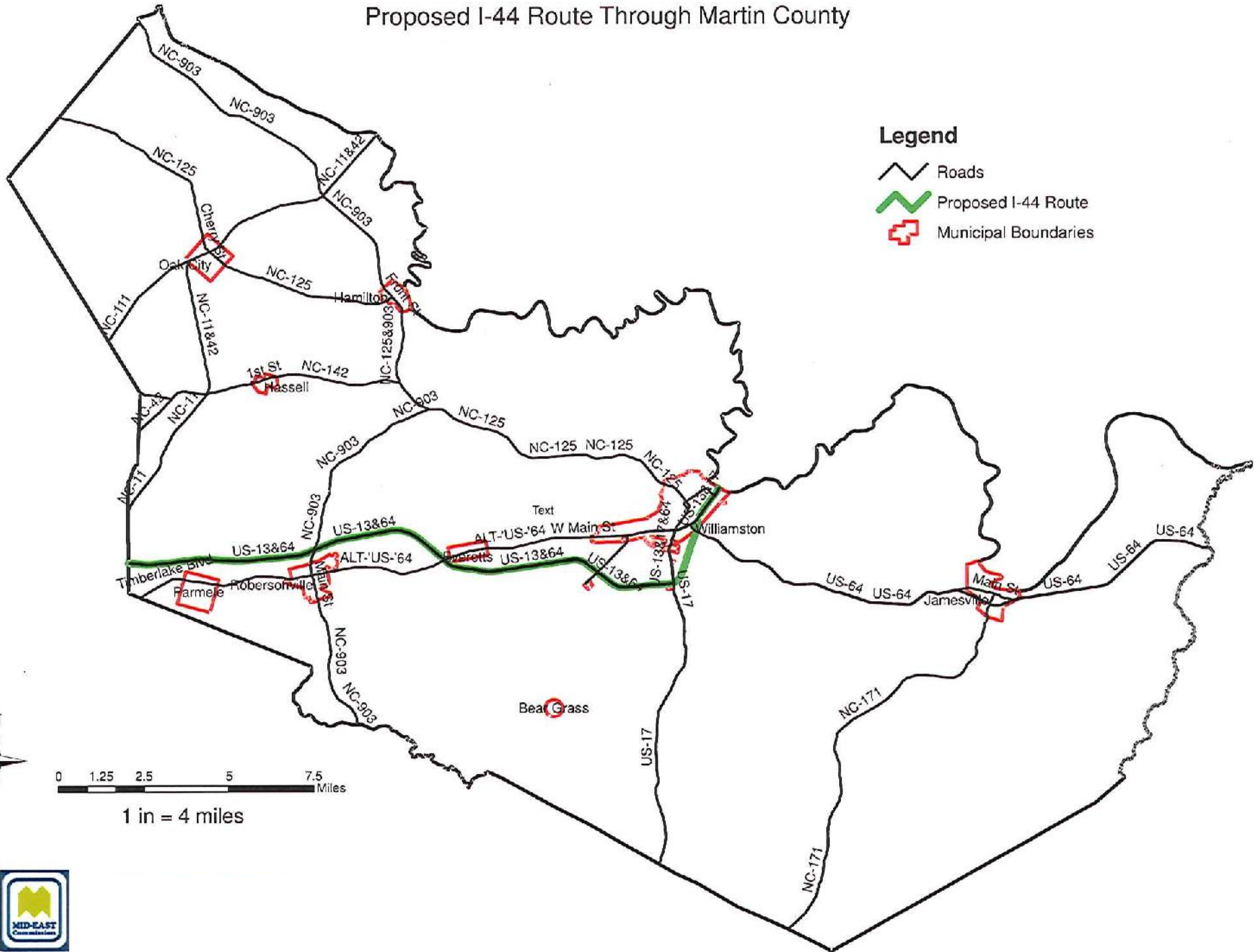
This conceptual corridor from Raleigh to the Hampton Roads area of Virginia will continue to be monitored and promoted through local representatives and the Northeast Economic Development Commission. The following is a list of organizations that have passed resolutions in support of future interstate designation along US 64 east of Raleigh:

- MPO/RPO/Local Government
 - Capital Area MPO
 - Kerr-Tar RPO
 - Upper Coastal Plain RPO
 - Rocky Mount Area MPO
 - Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) and Chamber of Commerce
 - Regional Transportation Alliance
 - Cary Chamber of Commerce
 - Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
 - Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
 - Garner Chamber of Commerce
 - Knightdale Chamber of Commerce
 - Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development
 - Northeast North Carolina Commission
 - Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP)
 - Carolinas Gateway Partnership (Rocky Mount area)
- Travel and Tourism
 - Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau

Map 20
Proposed I-44 Route Through Martin County

Legend

- Roads
- Proposed I-44 Route
- Municipal Boundaries



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Strategic Accessibility to Martin County. Maintaining and expanding transportation infrastructure should remain a priority in Martin County. As previously discussed, the County is located strategically in terms of accessibility to major North Carolina transportation thoroughfares. With US Highways 64 and 17, as well as NC Highway 11, running through the County, citizens and businesses alike can quickly access major metropolitan locations such as Raleigh, NC, and Norfolk, VA, as well as population tourist destinations like the North Carolina Outer Banks. In addition, Martin County is located less than an hour from I-95 via Highway 64, which is the major north-south connector along the East Coast of the United States. Continuing this accessibility to major highway corridors will benefit the County and its municipalities into the future.

Scenic Byways. The NC Department of Transportation has designated 51 scenic byways to give visitors and residents a chance to experience North Carolina's history, geography, and culture, while also raising awareness for the protection and preservation of these treasures. Byways are carefully selected to portray the diverse beauty and culture of the Tar Heel State and provide travelers with safe and interesting alternate travel routes. These byways are intended as an alternative to the faster-paced traffic and commercial areas found along our state's major highways and interstates.

Following the byways, motorists will see some of North Carolina's most breathtaking scenery, from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the west to the fertile plains of the Piedmont to the crystal blue shore of our coast. The routes are clearly marked with NC Scenic Byway signs. A few routes may be briefly interrupted by commercial or municipal areas. In such cases, the scenic byway may temporarily end, but directions are given to help drivers resume the route. Approximate travel time and mileage are also included for each byway to help motorists plan their travels accordingly. These times are intended as a general guide. These routes give users the opportunity to visit some of the great sites our state has to offer.

NC Scenic Byways vary in length from three to 173 miles, and in character from curvy mountain roads to ferry rides across coastal sounds. Motorists will see little or no development along the routes, enhancing the natural character and quality of the byways.

The Tar Heel Trace byway winds through North Carolina's Coastal Plain from Wilson to Williamston and takes its name from the pine tar industry that once thrived in this portion of the state. The section of the trail that goes through Martin County begins at the Edgecombe County line at NC 42. The route goes 3.5 miles through Hassell to the intersection of NC 142 and NC 125. After turning right onto NC 125, the trail continues for nine miles to the Williamston city limits where the route ends.

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Air/Rail/Transit

Regional Transit. Martin County Transit serves as the public transportation provider for citizens within the County; however, citizens need often reach beyond the County line. With NCDOT's Public Transportation Division beginning to look toward a regionalized approach to public transportation, Martin County is already actively participating in transit provider workshops with its respective RPO to assist in coordinating transit strategies and routes to best serve the citizens of Martin County. Martin County Transit is one of ten transit providers in a 17-County Northeast North Carolina region that have been working together to coordinate and strategize how to best serve its users. Cooperation among the transit providers in this region will lead to the development of a regionalized Locally Coordinated Plan (LCP) update. The LCP document will help guide Martin County Transit in applying for both federal and state funding to meet the established needs of its riders.

Bus. There are no planned bus improvements anticipated during the planning period. For information regarding existing bus transportation throughout Martin County, refer to page 4-28.

Airport. Currently, Martin County has 17 projects for the Martin County Airport listed in the FY2014–2018 TIP. Among the projects are land acquisition, construction of a corporate hanger, and an access road and parking for the hanger. Development of the airport will further contribute to accessibility of Martin County and improve the economic viability of the County.

Rail. There are no planned rail improvements anticipated during the planning period. For information regarding existing rail throughout Martin County, refer to page 4-28.

Transportation Improvements for Participating Municipalities

The following pages show transportation recommendations from the Mid-East Commission for each town based on their site visits and analysis. Many bicycle lanes and sidewalks have been proposed, as well as some sidewalk repair. Each map shows the recommendations and is accompanied by a narrative and pictures for each town. Grant funding through the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, as well as other DOT funding sources, could provide future funding opportunities for these projects. Please note that Williamston is not included in this inventory, but additional information for Williamston can be found in their Pedestrian/Thoroughfare Plan.

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Bear Grass Recommendations.

Proposed Bicycle Lanes: It is proposed that bicycle lanes be added to several of the existing wide streets in town. First, a lane is recommended from Bear Grass Road all the way through town. Also, a bicycle lane is proposed on North Rogers Street from the town limit line to Bear Grass Road. Finally, a bike lane is also proposed for Cherry Lane.

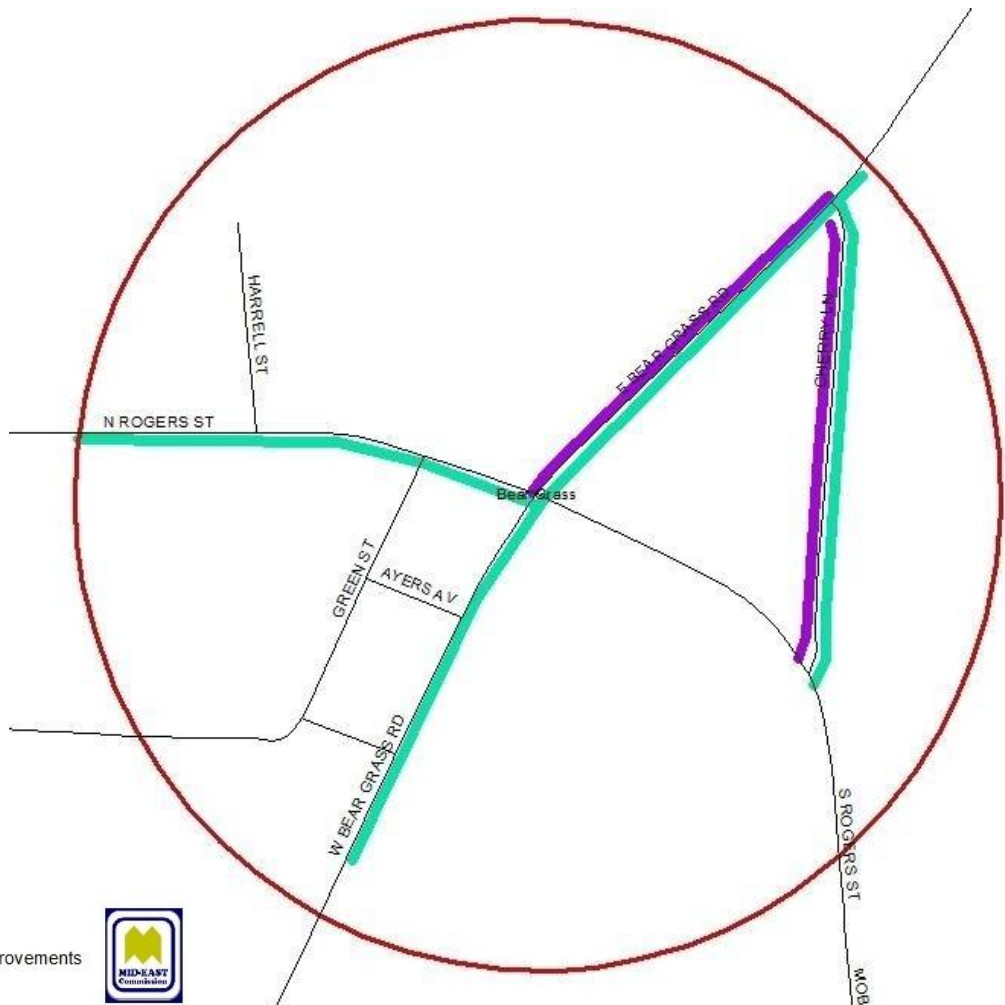
Proposed Sidewalks: It is suggested that sidewalks be built in front of the school on East Bear Grass Road to provide students and others with a safe place to walk. Sidewalks are also suggested on all of Cherry Lane



View looking down East Bear Grass Road showing existing wide lanes.



View down East Bear Grass Road in front of the school.



Legend

- MEC Proposed Bike Lane
- MEC Proposed Sidewalks
- MEC Proposed Sidewalk Improvements
- Town Limits



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Everetts Recommendations.

Proposed Bicycle Lanes: A bicycle lane is proposed along South Broad Street where wide streets already exist. This lane would give bicyclists a safe route to and from town.

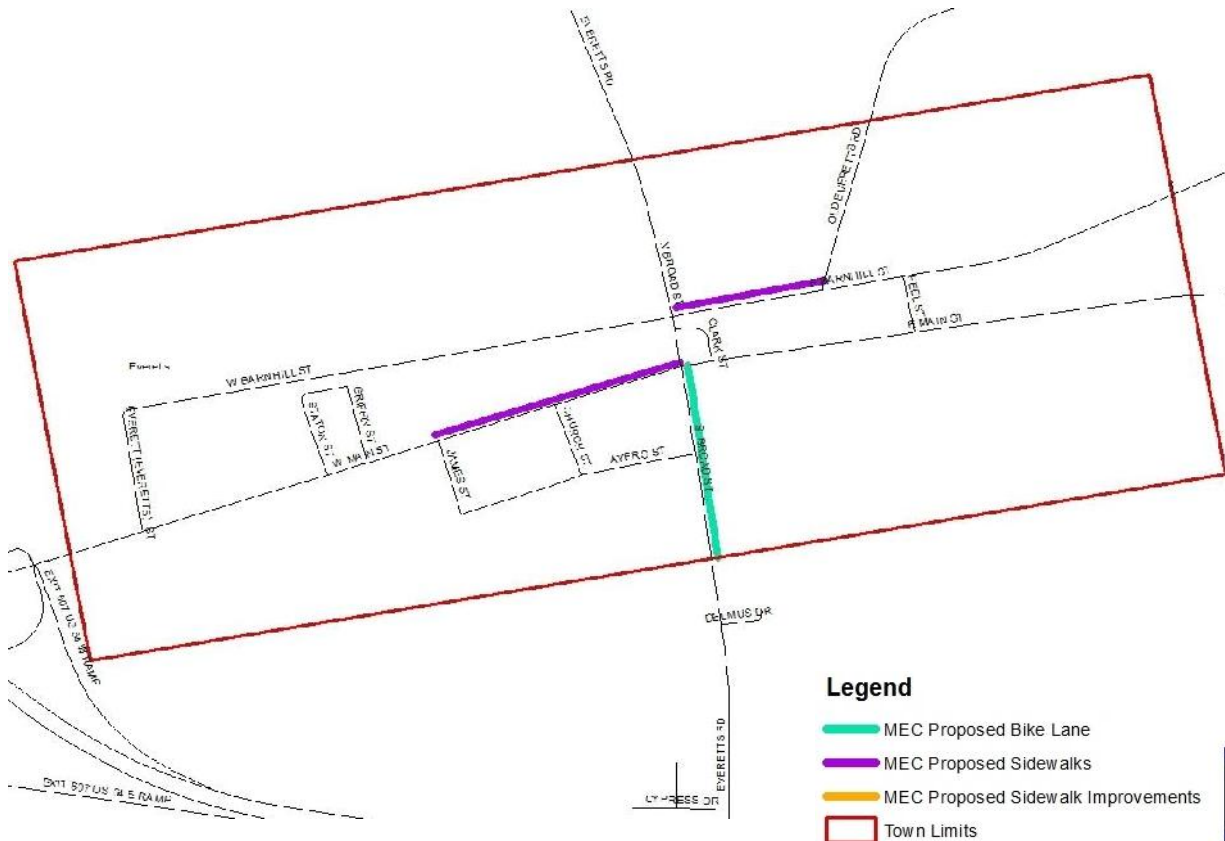
Proposed Sidewalks: It is proposed that a sidewalk be built on West Main Street from James Street to South Broad Street. Another sidewalk is recommended from North Broad Street to Old Everetts Road. These would allow residents a safe place to walk in order to access the center of town where the Post Office and other stores are located. They would also connect existing sidewalks on Broad Street between Main Street and East Barnhill Street.



View down West Main Street towards South Broad Street.



View down East Barnhill Street towards Old Everetts Road.



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Hassell Recommendations.

Proposed Sidewalks: It is recommended that sidewalks be built on East Avenue North from NC 142 to Commerce Street. A sidewalk is also proposed on West Commerce Street from North Mulberry Street to Church Street. These sidewalks would connect much of the town to the Post Office as well as the churches in town.



View down East Avenue North into town with church on left.



View down Commerce Street facing the Post Office.



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Jamesville Recommendations.

Proposed Bicycle Lane: A bicycle lane is proposed beginning in the south part of town at the Andrews Street Park, traveling to Main Street and turning left. The two-block area of Main Street (shown on Images 1 and 2 below) would exist as shared parking and bicycle lanes. A new bicycle lane would then travel along Main Street as it heads west out of town (see Image 3).

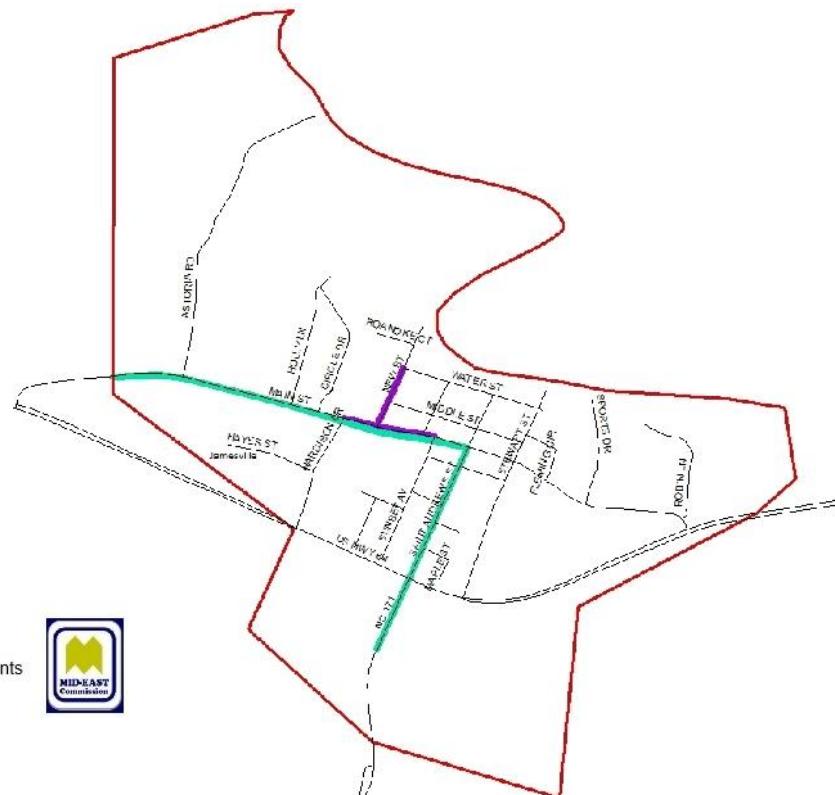


View looking east down Main Street from Sunset Ave.



View down East Avenue North into town with church on left.

Proposed Sidewalks: It is proposed that sidewalks be built on Main Street from Sunset Avenue to Hardison Drive. This would connect pedestrians to the Post Office from the downtown area. It is also proposed that sidewalks be built on New Street from Main Street to Roanoke Court. This new sidewalk would connect to existing sidewalks located at Roanoke Court, and provide safety for pedestrians in this area of town.



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Oak City Recommendations.

Proposed Bicycle Lanes: A bicycle lane is proposed along NC 11 from North Walnut Street to NC 125. This lane would allow bicyclist safe access to shopping/services along this corridor.

Proposed Sidewalks: It is proposed that sidewalks be built on NC 125 from the corner of NC 11 to East Fourth Street. To connect this section of town to the Post Office and other points of interest, it is also proposed that sidewalks be built down Commerce Street to the corner of North Maple Street. Sidewalks would continue down North Maple Street to West Fourth Street to allow a safe route to a highly utilized convenient mart located at this corner.



View looking down East Commerce Street.



View looking down West Commerce Street



View down North Maple Street to West Fourth Street.



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Parmele Recommendations.

Proposed Sidewalks: It is proposed that a sidewalk be built from North Main Street to James Street so that the existing sidewalk will be fully connected to the Post Office and other services. It is also recommended that several areas of the sidewalk along Main Street be repaired, including a large gap in the sidewalk and several other areas damaged by tree roots.



Section of missing sidewalk along North Main Street.



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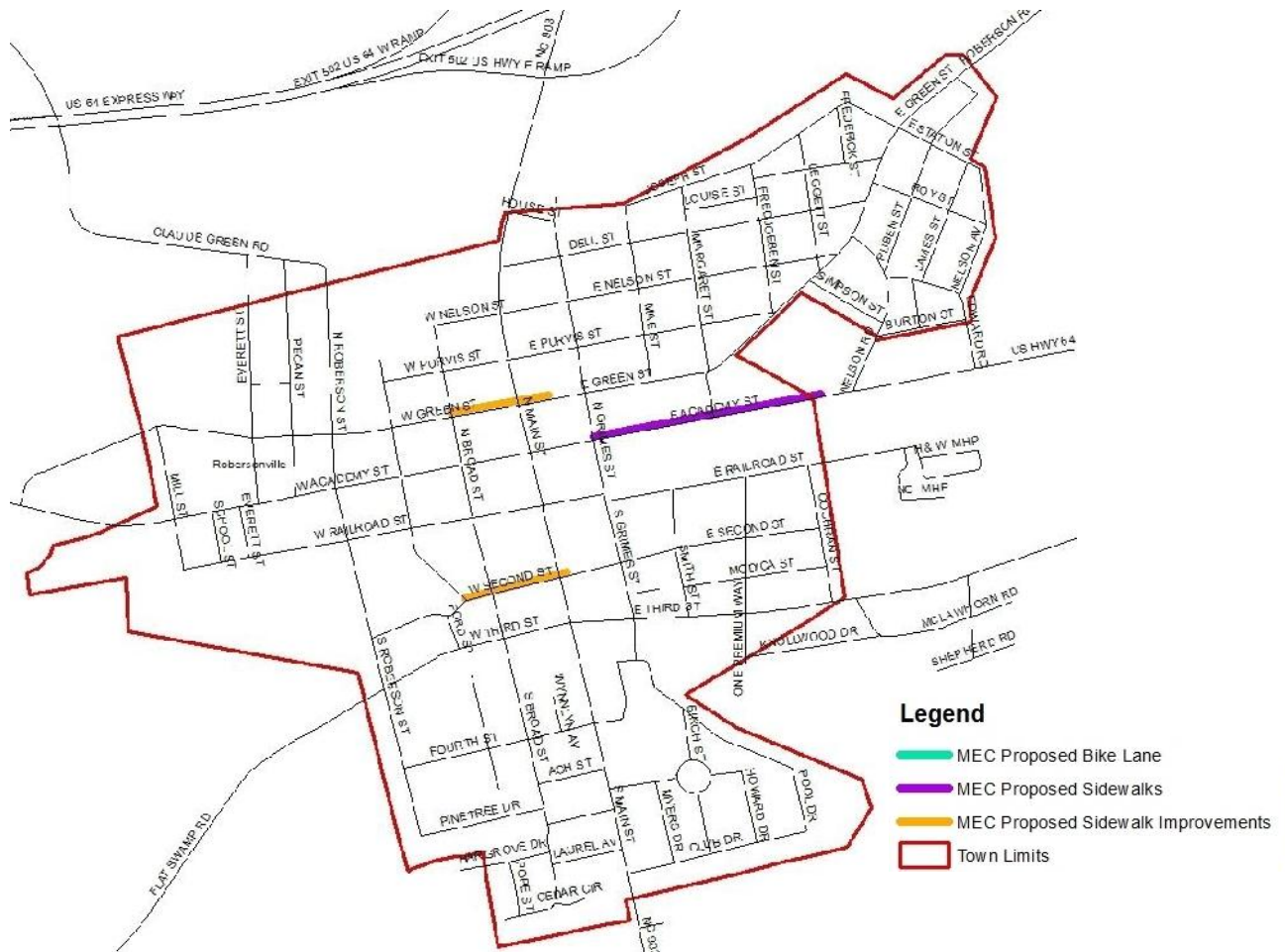
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Robersonville Recommendations.

Proposed Sidewalks: It is proposed that a sidewalk be built on East Academy Street at North Grimes Street to the town limit line. This appears to be a well-used path for pedestrians and this sidewalk would offer a safe place to travel. It is also recommended that sidewalks be repaired in several parts of town. Improvements are needed on sections of West Second Street and West Green Street due to damage caused by tree roots.



Damaged Sidewalk



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6. Water Service



The Roanoke River will serve as the source for the County's new 2.0 MGD water treatment plant. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

An extensive discussion regarding the current state of the Martin County Water System is provided in Section 4.B.7 of this plan. As noted under Section 4, the County is undergoing a mandatory expansion of the County's water system under direction of the Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWSA). As of August 1, 2002, the NC Environmental Management Commission designated portions of fifteen counties as part of the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA). The CCPCUA rules require water users to cut back on use of these overused aquifers and increase use of other water sources (including alternative aquifers, surface water, and other sources) over a 16-year period.

In order to comply with this mandate, MCRWSA opted to construct a 2.0 million gallon per day water treatment plant with an intake station pulling from the Roanoke River. This plant will be constructed in a manner that will allow for expansion to 6.0 million gallons per day. This new water treatment plant in conjunction with the County's existing system should provide adequate water supply to support the anticipated demand throughout the planning period, while maintaining compliance with the CCPCUA rules.

According to the 2011 Martin County Water Supply Plan, the County's water resource demand as a percentage of supply will be approximately 20% as of 2030. As noted, this should more than support the residential and non-residential growth estimated during the planning period.

7. Sewer System

As noted in Section 4 of the plan, Martin County does not provide wastewater treatment services to any unincorporated portions of the County. Central sewage service is available within the towns of Hamilton, Jamesville, Robersonville, and Williamston. These systems are operated independent of the County. In addition, Robersonville treats sewer from the towns of Everetts and Parmele.

The County does not have any plans for the provision of central sewage service to unincorporated portions of the County. The County will continue to work with developers and property owners to identify suitable wastewater treatment solutions on a site-by-site basis.

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8. Open Space and Recreation

Martin County maintains two park facilities, including Moratoc Park and Kehukee Park. The County does not maintain a parks and recreation department, but rather relies on the municipal jurisdictions for the provision of recreational services and programs. Because of this scenario, a majority of the County's recreational facilities are located in and around urbanized portions of the County. Although the County will continue to rely on its municipalities for the provision of recreational services, the County will consider the establishment of joint use agreements to increase access to recreational facilities.



Kehukee Park serves as the only County operated recreation complex in Martin County. *Image Source: HCP, Inc.*

Historically, schools have maintained a variety of recreational facilities, such as gymnasiums, playgrounds, fields, courts, and tracks. However, most of these schools close their property to the public after school hours because of concerns about costs, vandalism, security, maintenance, and liability in the event of injury. At the same time, during these times of fiscal constraint, building duplicate facilities as those already available in community schools is simply not the best use of time or resources.

Fortunately, a promising new tool, known as a joint use agreement, has emerged and addresses many of these concerns. A joint use agreement (JUA) is a formal agreement between two separate government entities, often a school district and a city or county, setting forth the terms and conditions for the shared use of public property. The Community Transformation Grant Program is working to promote the establishment of expanded joint use agreements in an effort to increase recreational opportunity. This issue will be discussed further under the implementation strategies section of the plan.

Aside from active recreational opportunities, discussed above, the County continues to promote the availability of passive recreation in the form of open space, game lands, and paddle trails. Outdoor recreation is a key asset in terms of the County's growth with regard to economic development and the tourism industry.

9. Phone/Cable/High Speed Internet Access

As discussed earlier in the plan, phone, cable, and internet service are provided to County residents by both Suddenlink and Century Link. It is important to note; however, that there is a deficiency in terms of high speed internet access availability County-wide. This issue is a problem that will require investment in the County's telecommunications infrastructure. At this time, no long term solution for this issue has been identified; however, Martin County, Martin County Schools, Martin County EDC, and Martin Community College are working collaboratively to evaluate and pursue opportunities to expand broadband infrastructure access in the County.

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F. County Health Assessment

The following section provide the results of a thorough analysis focused on identifying portions of the County that are more or less susceptible to a range of public health concerns. The analysis takes into account several factors including access to healthy foods, socioeconomic status, concentrations of elderly populations, and access to recreational facilities. This analysis culminates in the establishment of health and wellness priority areas. These priority areas will help guide the development of implementation strategies focused on improving public health County-wide, especially in high priority areas as defined on Map 25.

1. Nutritionally Disparate

Food is essential for life. Yet unlike other enduring necessities - water, air, and shelter - food has not been considered a priority for planning by state and local officials and decision makers. Increasing access to and encouraging consumption of fresh, healthy foods are important ways to address disease incidence and health care expenditures, particularly in under-served communities in Martin County.

North Carolinians face a number of health challenges related to our food system. Food insecurity is present across the state, which exists when an individual or family lacks adequate or consistent access to the foods necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

Children’s health and wellbeing are connected to diet, nutrition, and food security. Access to an ample quantity and variety of fruits and vegetables at school, at home, and in the community is critical. Access is especially important for school-age children, given that poor dietary habits can linger or worsen into the high school years and adulthood.

In Martin County, there are only six (6) establishments that offer full service grocery items. For the purposes of this assessment, a “full service grocery” is defined as an establishment that is open 7 days a week, offers a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables at a competitive price, and accepts EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) and WIC (Benefits for Women, Infants, and Children).

Table 28. Grocers That Offer Fruits & Vegetables Year Round

Name	Address	Town
Piggly Wiggly	712 Washington Street	Williamston
Andrews Superette	505 W. Academy Street	Robersonville
Food Lion	607 East Boulevard	Williamston
Food Lion	22713 NC Highway 903	Robersonville
Larry’s Open Air Market	110 S. Maple Street	Oak City
Walmart Supercenter	1529 Washington Street	Williamston

Source: Martin County EDC.

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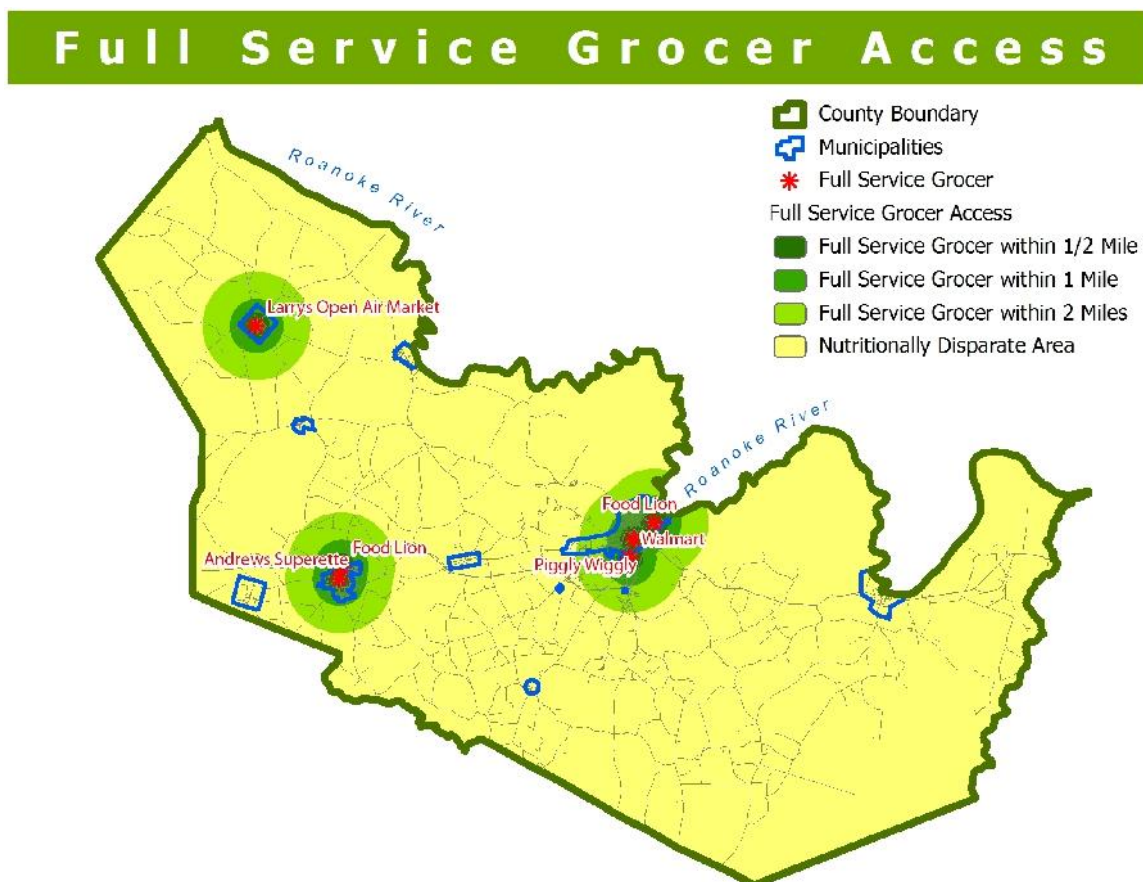
Three produce stands are also available to residents of Martin County. However, at this time, none of these operations are open year-round because of the seasonal produce they offer, nor do they accept EBT or WIC payments. As a result, individuals of low socioeconomic status may be limited by the cost or hourly availability of produce vendors and markets. For this reason, they are not included in the Nutritionally Disparate analysis. Table 29 provides a list of produce stands available to Martin County residents.

Table 29. Produce Stands in Martin County

Name	Address	Town	Hours of Operation
Carolina Country Fresh Market	707 N Main Street #B	Robersonville	April - October, Mon-Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 1 pm-6 pm
J & J Farms	1085 Pierce Lane	Jamesville	April - October, Mon-Sun 8 am-6 pm
Martin County Farmer's Market	4001 W. Main Street	Williamston	June - August, Saturdays 7 am-12 pm

Source: CTP Region 9.

Only Williamston, Robersonville, and Oak City residents are located within a mile of a full service grocer (see Map 21). Residents residing outside of these towns are limited in their access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



Map 21. Full Service Grocer Access

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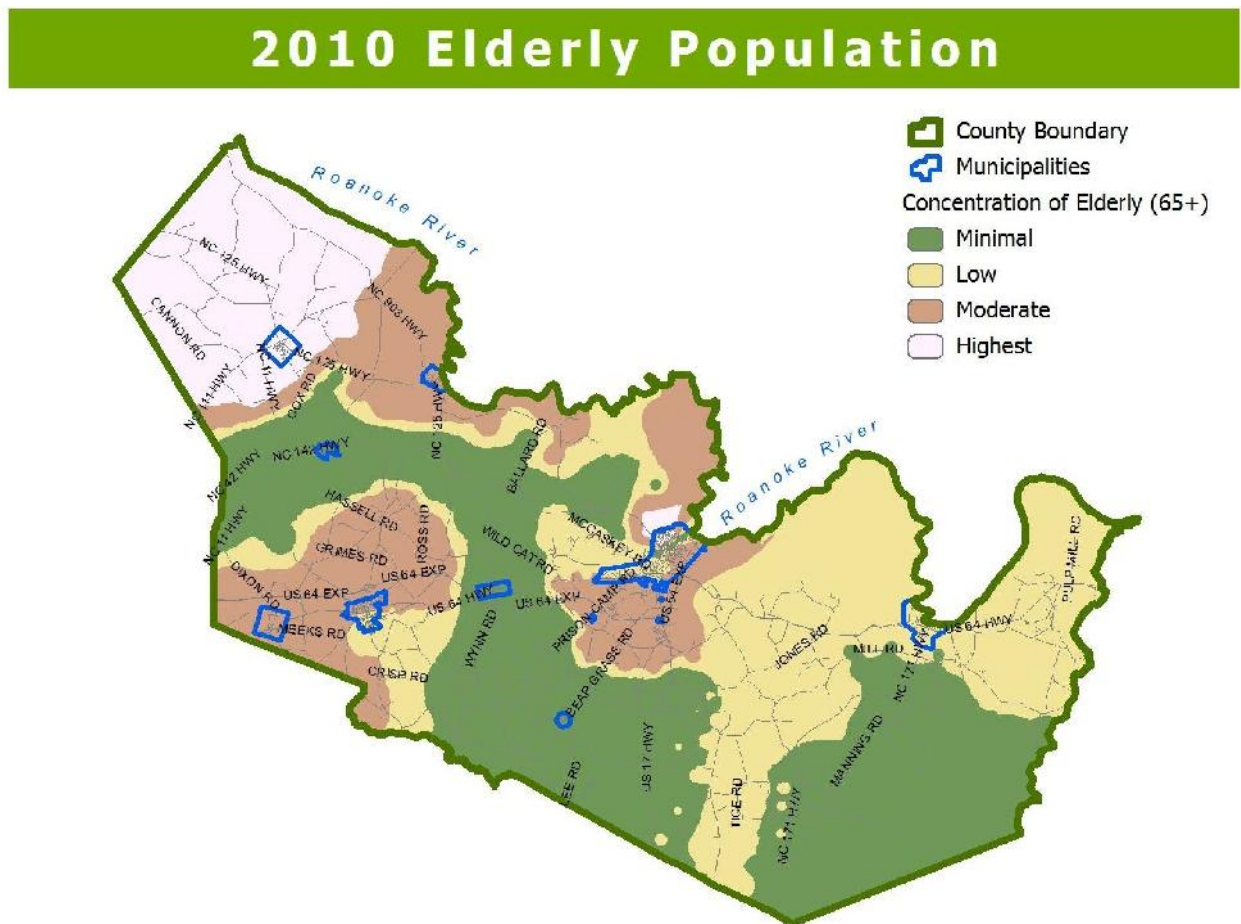
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2. Elderly

Over 90% of seniors (65+) have at least one chronic disease and more than 75% have at least two. To exacerbate the issue, in the next thirty years, the portion of the population over the age of 65 is expected to more than double. Although estimates vary in terms of the extent to which this segment of the population will increase, all are certain that increases will be nothing short of significant - whether the number will double, or increase by half is yet to be seen. In addition, by 2030, more than nine percent of the population is estimated to be over the age of 85.

Increasingly, these folks will be stranded in the suburban landscape as most have no access to public transit. It will be important for Martin County to prioritize paratransit access for concentrations of the elderly population.

In Martin County, elderly populations are scattered throughout the jurisdiction with a significant concentration (relative to the population) located in the northwest portion of the county (see Map 22). This finding is consistent with findings nationwide that show elderly populations are found in rural and urban areas alike.



Map 22. Locations of Elderly Population, 2010

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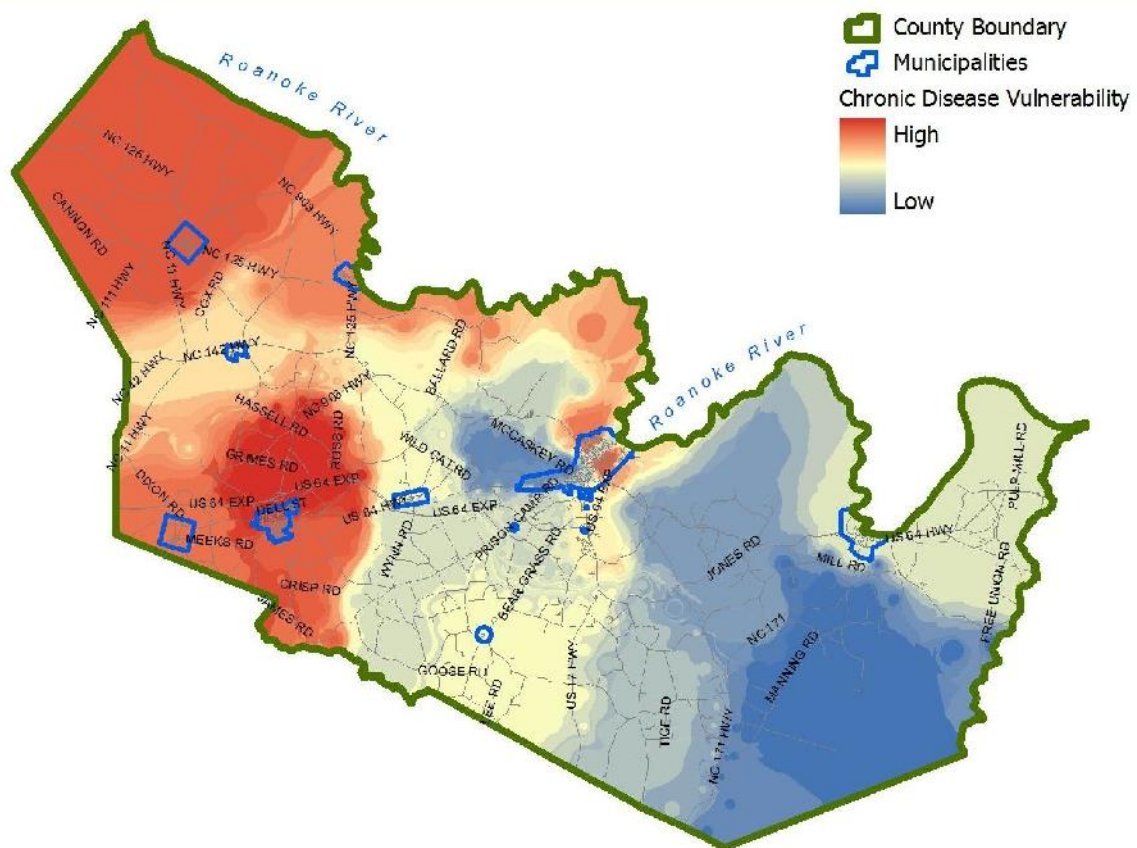
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3. Concentrations of Population Vulnerable to Chronic Disease

In order to prioritize investment, it is important to locate spatially those areas most in need of health and wellness enhancement. To do so, GIS analysis was used to combine socioeconomic status and concentrations of the elderly population.

In general, the composite map showing Population Vulnerable to Chronic Disease (Map 23) is very similar to the Socioeconomic Status map. The most vulnerable populations are located just north of Robersonville, in the northwest area of the county, and within Williamston.

Population Vulnerable to Chronic Disease



Map 23. Population Vulnerable to Chronic Disease

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4. Access to Physical Activity and Recreation Facilities

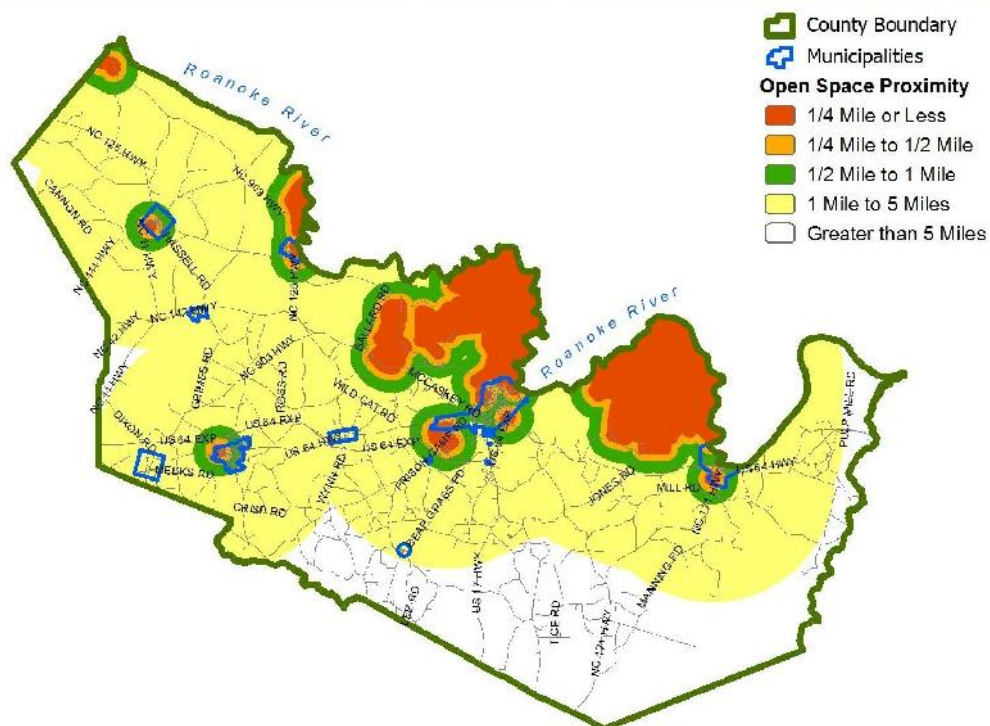
Research shows that the one of the number one ways to offset weight gain is through increased physical activity. Coincidentally, individuals looking to increase physical activity encounter barriers when access to recreational facilities is limited.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the following is a list of items that can be accomplished through increased or regular physical activity:

1. Weight control;
2. Reduced risk of cardiovascular disease;
3. Reduced risk of type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome;
4. Reduced risk of some cancers;
5. Stronger bones and muscles;
6. Improved mental health and mood;
7. Improved ability to do daily activities and prevent fall (if you're an older adult);
8. Increased chances of living longer.

Martin County residents located outside of the Williamston area have few opportunities for active recreation (see Map 24). However, open space recreation in the form of hiking and hunting is available to many residents in the rural areas of the County.

Martin County Open Space Proximity



Map 24. Proximity to Open Space

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5. Priority Areas for Health & Wellness Improvement

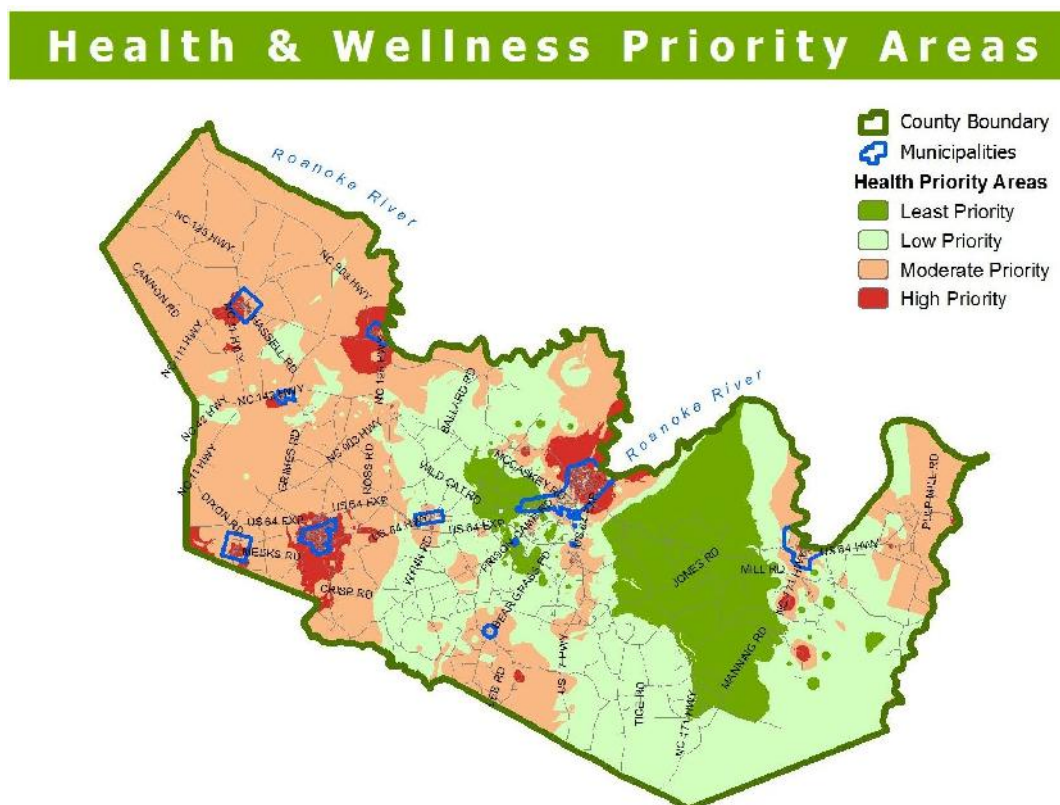
In Martin County, public health officials should strive to focus their efforts in areas that are most vulnerable to wellness issues. Spatial analysis was used to identify those areas most in need of health and wellness related facilities. High priority wellness investment and enhancement areas are shown in red on Map 25.

GIS software was used to combine the following health and wellness contributing factors:

1. Population Vulnerable to Chronic Disease
2. Nutritionally Disparate Areas
3. Parks and Recreation Facility Access
4. Socioeconomic Status
5. Population Density*

*Population density was used to prioritize the final outcome in an effort to locate areas that will benefit the greatest number of Martin County residents. Population vulnerable to chronic disease was weighted higher than all other factors in the analysis. The above contributing factors were identified by local health officials as barriers to a healthy and active lifestyle for Martin County residents.

The primary health and wellness focus areas (shown red on Map 25) are in and around Robersonville, Hamilton, and Williamston.



Map 25. Health and Wellness Priority Areas

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Section 6 – Future Land Use

A. Future Land Use Sectors

The following section details the future land use designations and corresponding map. The future land use map serves as a guide to community leaders and residents for development in Martin County. The future land use designations are intended to serve merely as a suggested pattern for land use and development allocation in Martin County and participating municipalities. Further, future land use maps for the county and participating municipalities are based largely on existing land use patterns.

Future land use maps are provided for unincorporated areas of Martin County and the towns of Bear Grass, Everetts, Hamilton, Hassell, Jamesville, Oak City, Parmele, and Robersonville. A future land use map is not provided for Williamston because of the recent adoption of the town's comprehensive plan.

Also included on the future land use map are the Health and Wellness Priority Areas, Primary Transportation Corridors, and a Corridor Overlay. The Corridor Overlay is provided to guide any future regulatory improvements the county may deem necessary in key highway corridors. The overlay is a 300 foot buffer of the Primary Transportation Corridors.

The nine future land use sectors are described below. The number of suggested dwelling units per acre (a measure of relative development density) are provided for each future land use designation that allows for residential development.

1. Regional Service Node

The following provides a description of the Regional Service (RS) Node land use sector and its support services:

- RS nodes should be located at key regional transportation access points.
- RS nodes can, where feasible, overlap with Industrial areas.
- RS nodes are intended to service a regional market area. As such, they generate high volumes of traffic and should be located on major regional roadways. Central infrastructure services to RS nodes are desired.
- RS nodes should include a variety of retail sales and services, public and private administrations, offices and all other uses done primarily for sale or profit on the local, community, and regional level.
- RS nodes should be compatible with adjacent development and the surrounding community and should minimize congestion and sprawl.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: 5 - 10 residential units per acre.

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2. Local Service Node

The following provides a description of the Local Service (LS) Node land use sector and its support services:

- LS nodes are intended to be intensive, efficient, defined concentrations of mixed services that meet the needs of the surrounding community and local service areas.
- LS nodes are appropriate for a mixture of commercial uses scaled to the service area in question; allow for residential uses of varying densities depending upon available services; and are appropriate for community facilities such as schools, parks, community centers, and other similar community facilities.
- The mixture and intensity of land uses contained within LS nodes are intended to be dictated by the service demand of the surrounding community.
- LS nodes should be located in unified development concentrations at intersections of selected thoroughfares and in central locations that are convenient to nearby residential development so as to minimize problems associated with "strip" commercial development.
- LS nodes should be priority targets of investments for sewer and water, public transportation, greenways, other general road improvements, and other appropriate infrastructure improvements.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: 1 - 5 residential units per acre.

3. Industrial

The following provides a description of the Industrial land use sector and its support services:

- Industrial areas should be located in a strategic fashion on a very limited basis, where sites have ready access to regional transportation and adequate infrastructure services.
- Most industrial uses should be segregated from other uses, where feasible.
- Industrial park development is the County's desired pattern of industrial development.
- Industries which use noxious materials or produce hazardous materials are not desired.
- The location, extent, and intensity of future industrial areas should be coordinated with the Martin County Economic Development Corporation.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: Not applicable.

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4. Town Center

The following provides a description of the Town Center land use sector and its support services:

- The Town Center land use sector provides for a mix of uses associated with the traditional core of municipalities within Martin County.
- Both residential and non-residential uses are supported in the Town Center land use sector. Vertical mixed use development with commercial or office on the first floor and residential above shall be permitted. The ability for residents to live, work, and play within the Town Center land use sector should be a primary goal.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: 1 - 5 residential units per acre.

5. Neighborhood Mixed Use

The following provides a description of the Neighborhood Mixed Use land use sector and its support services:

- The Neighborhood Mixed Use land use sector provides for a mix of uses associated with an urban development pattern.
- Neighborhood Mixed Use land use sectors are all located within municipal planning jurisdictions throughout the County.
- These areas support medium to high density residential uses, as well as non-residential development of commercial and service based facilities. A majority of properties within this sector have access to water and/or sewer service.
- The Neighborhood Mixed Use land use sector areas should be monitored for growth and detailed planning efforts should be initiated as the need arises by the applicable municipality.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: 1 - 3 residential units per acre.

6. Rural Transition

The following is a description of the patterns of development envisioned within the Rural Transition land use sector:

- The Rural Transition land use sector is currently predominantly rural in character, with existing pockets of limited higher density residential and commercial development.

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Section 6 – Future Land Use

- Clustering of development with conservation design will be encouraged with the intent of transitioning from higher density development to the Agricultural Mixed Use areas of the county.
- Economic development activities may take place within the Rural Transition land use sector in limited form. Most industrial and regional commercial land uses should be discouraged, except in limited circumstances.
- Population and residential densities should be generally lower than the more urban population densities found within the Town Center and Neighborhood Mixed Use land use sectors and should be generally in keeping with infrastructure limitations and transportation capacities.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: 1 - 2 residential units per acre.

7. Agricultural Mixed Use

The following is a description of the patterns of development envisioned within the Agricultural Mixed Use land use sector:

- The Agricultural Mixed Use land use sector is an area which has historically been predominantly rural/agricultural in nature and this characteristic should be preserved, where feasible, through farmland protection measures.
- Economic development activities may take place within the Agricultural Mixed Use land use sector in limited form. Most industrial and regional commercial land uses should be discouraged.
- Expansion of central infrastructure services should be provided on an incremental and as needed basis.
- Land use planning should acknowledge the presence of sensitive natural areas such as floodplains, wetlands, and other natural and cultural assets, and should strive to protect these areas from development which would damage such resources or diminish their integrity.
- The Agricultural Mixed Use sector should support a range of uses; however, development patterns should maintain the County's rural character. This effort will result in development of non-residential uses on a limited basis aimed at providing goods and services necessary to support the local and regional population base.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: Less than 1 residential unit per acre.

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8. Rural Protection Area

The following is a description of the Rural Protection Area land use sector:

- All lands contained within the Rural Protection Area land use sector have Prime Farmland soils. These areas consist of contiguous land acreages in excess of 50 acres that may be identified for potential Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Farms.
- Economic development activities through the use of agricultural tourism or similar should be pursued within the Rural Protection Area land use sector.
- Farmland protection measures should be aggressively pursued within the Rural Protection land use sector.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: Less than 1 residential unit for every 5 acres.

9. Conservation

This category includes land areas that are intended to remain largely in their natural state, with only limited development. Such areas should be targeted for protection through regulations and incentives. These lands provide significant ecosystem services in the form of stormwater inundation, aquifer recharge, air purification, and habitat for wildlife. Conservation areas are lands that generally exhibit any of the following characteristics:

- Sensitive natural areas such as floodplains, major wetlands, forest reserves, and wildlife conservation areas, key watersheds, and natural heritage areas.
- Areas of historic and archeological significance.
- Local, state, or federally-mandated natural areas and areas managed for agricultural or forestry land uses.
- Optimal Dwelling Units per Acre: Not applicable.

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Section 6 – Future Land Use

B. Future Land Use Maps

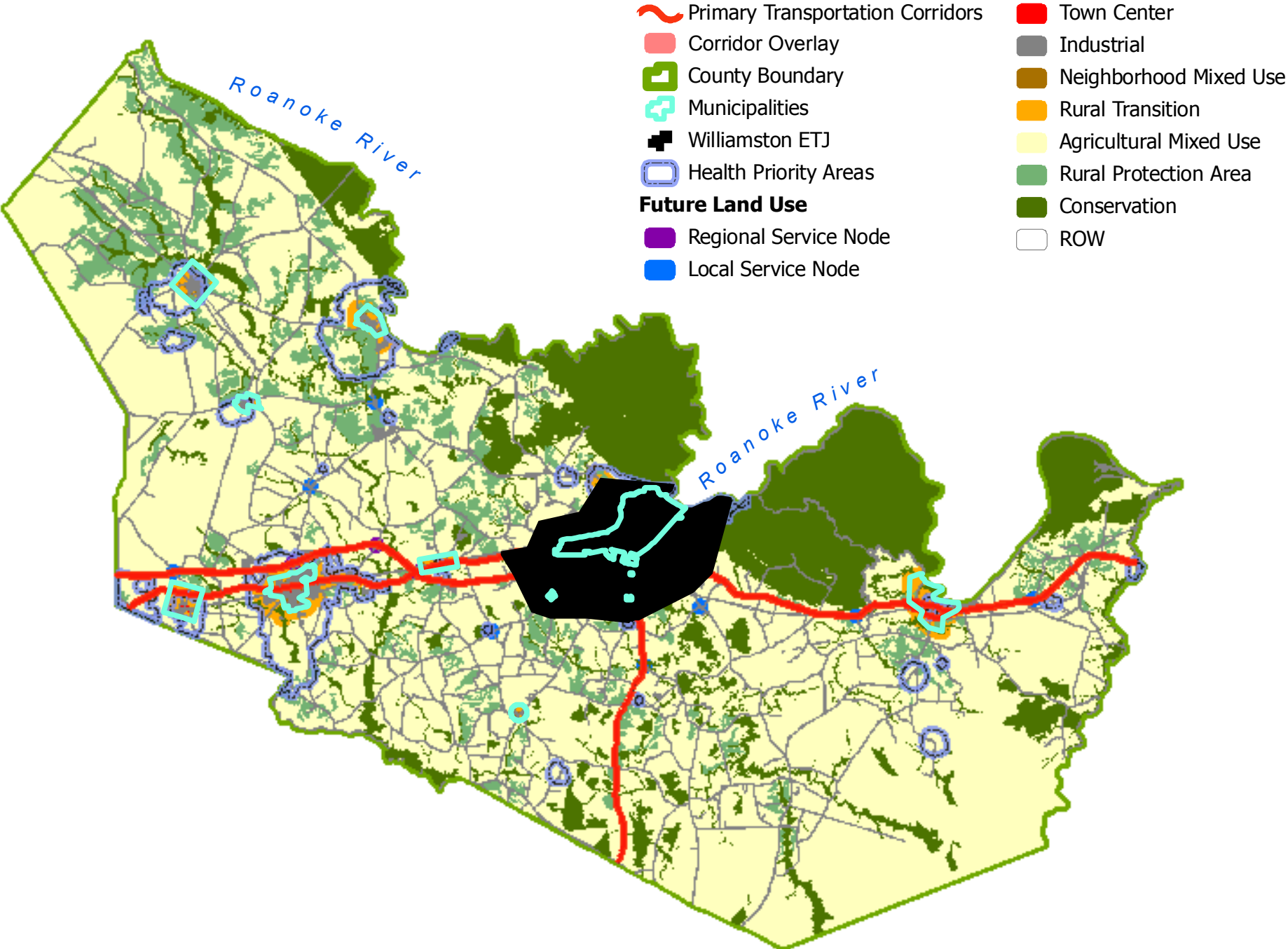
1. Unincorporated Martin County (see Map 26)

Table 30. Unincorporated Martin County Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	174.58	0.06%
Local Service Node	831.70	0.31%
Industrial	856.50	0.31%
Town Center	0.00	0.00%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	58.58	0.02%
Rural Transition Area	2,291.23	0.84%
Agricultural Mixed Use	180,850.33	66.34%
Rural Protection Area	27,726.47	10.17%
Conservation	59,824.64	21.94%
Total	272,614.03	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.

Map 26: Martin County Future Land Use



Martin County Comprehensive Plan

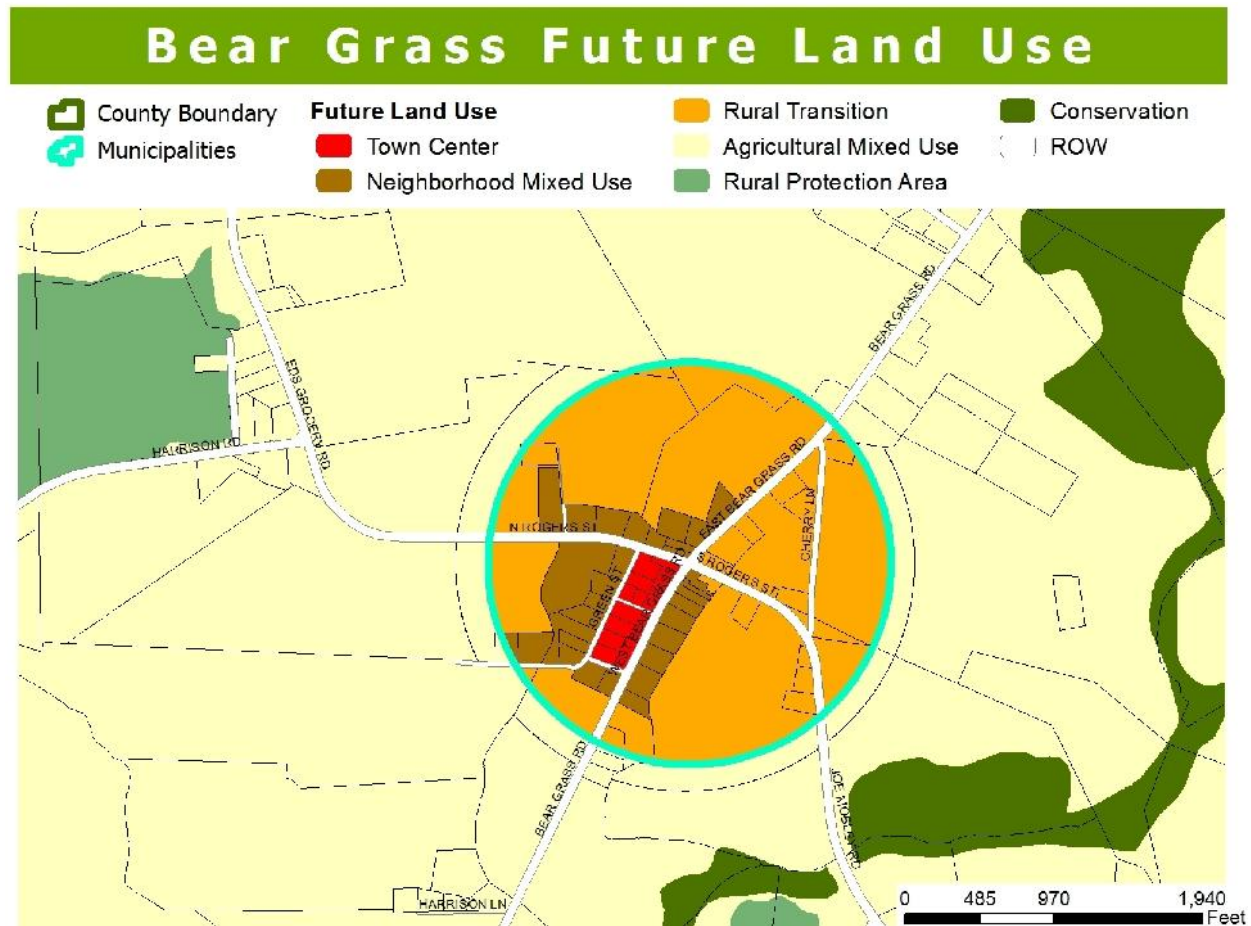
Section 6 – Future Land Use

2. Town of Bear Grass (see Map 27)

Table 31. Town of Bear Grass Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	0.00	0.00%
Town Center	4.30	3.73%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	20.32	17.61%
Rural Transition Area	90.80	78.67%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	0.00	0.00%
Conservation	0.00	0.00%
Total	115.42	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 27. Town of Bear Grass Future Land Use

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

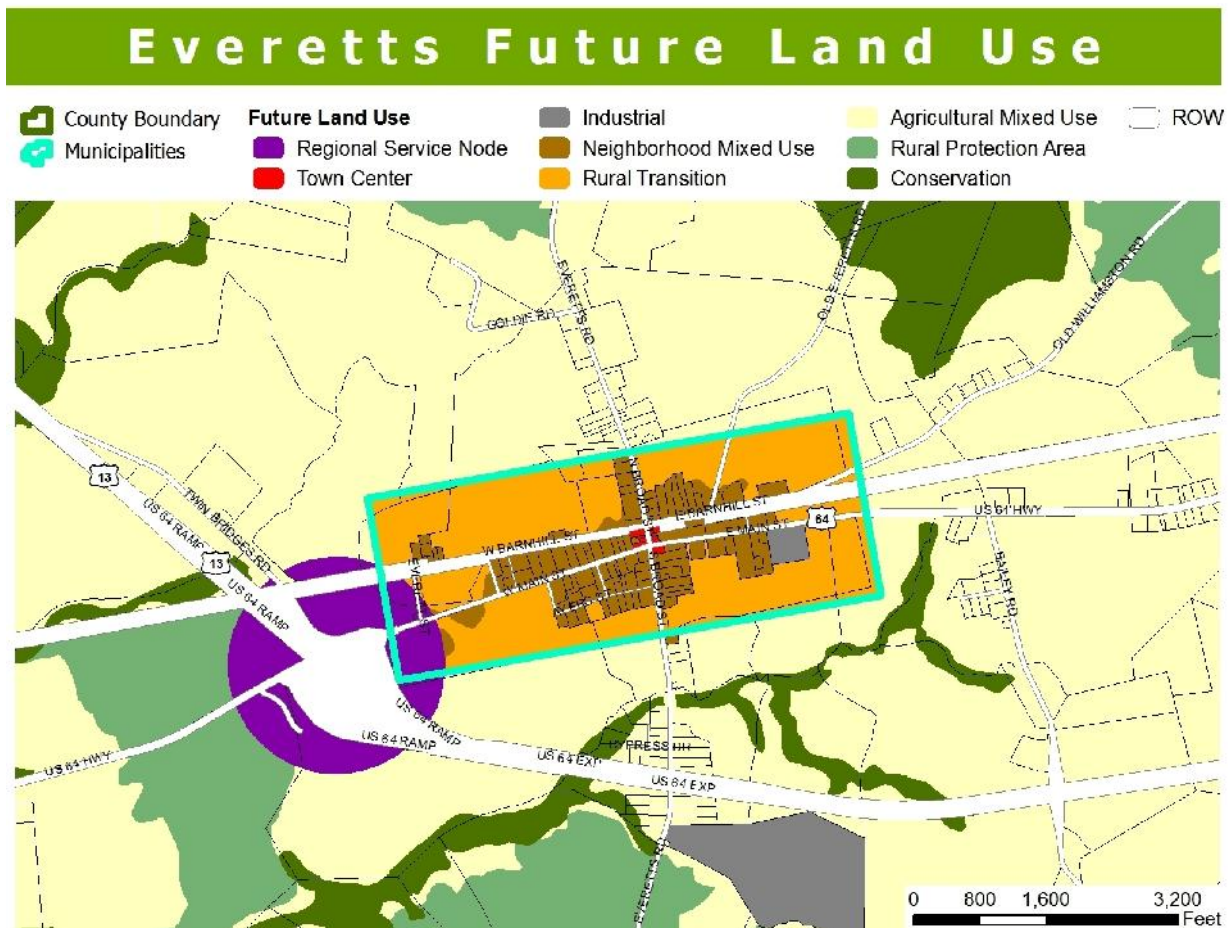
Section 6 – Future Land Use

3. Town of Everetts (see Map 28)

Table 32. Town of Everetts Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	13.02	4.84%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	4.50	1.67%
Town Center	1.42	0.53%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	68.02	25.30%
Rural Transition Area	181.91	67.66%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	0.00	0.00%
Conservation	0.00	0.00%
Total	268.87	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 28. Town of Everetts Future Land Use

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

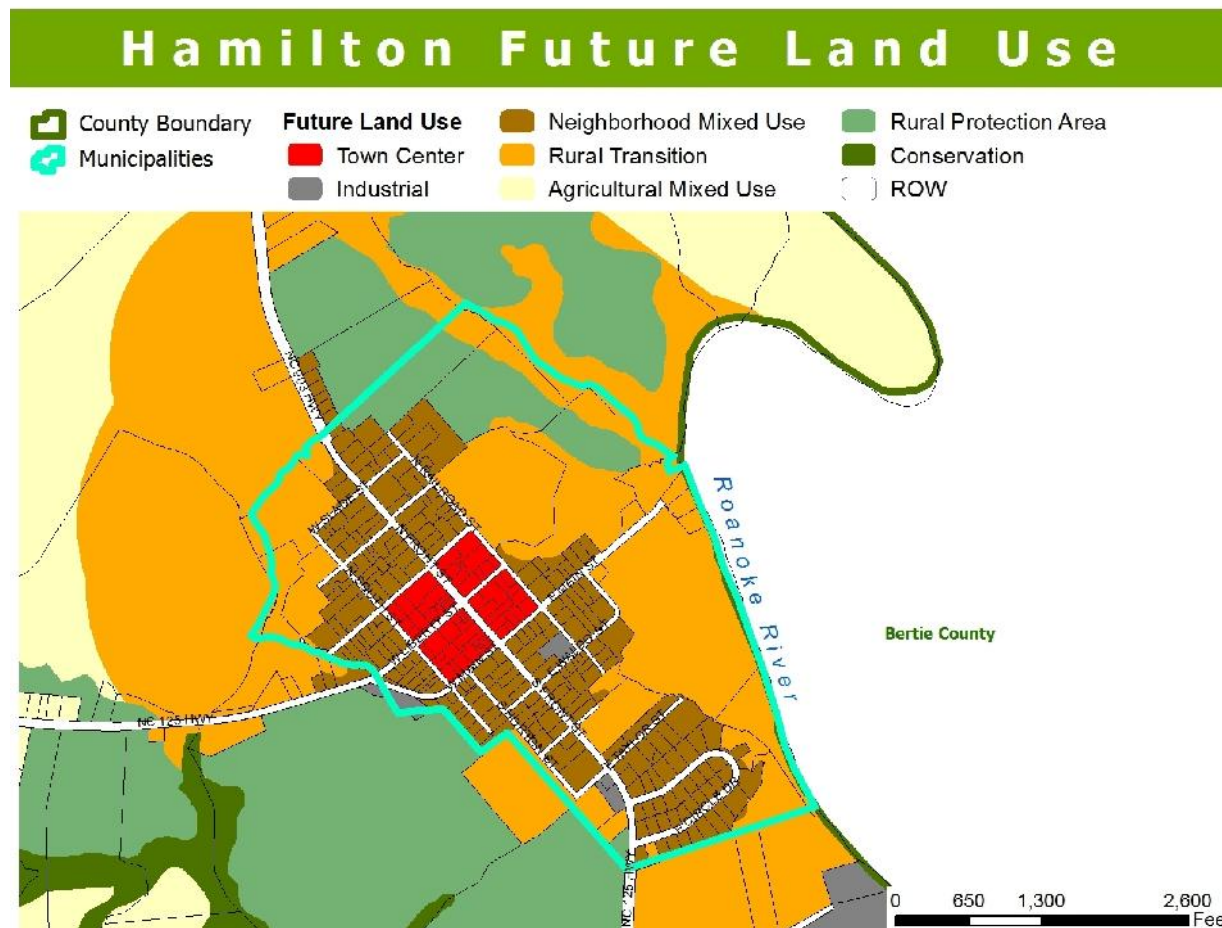
Section 6 – Future Land Use

4. Town of Hamilton (see Map 29)

Table 33. Town of Hamilton Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	3.22	1.12%
Town Center	18.84	6.56%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	102.48	35.70%
Rural Transition Area	132.80	46.27%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	29.70	10.35%
Conservation	0.00	0.00%
Total	287.04	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Martin County Comprehensive Plan

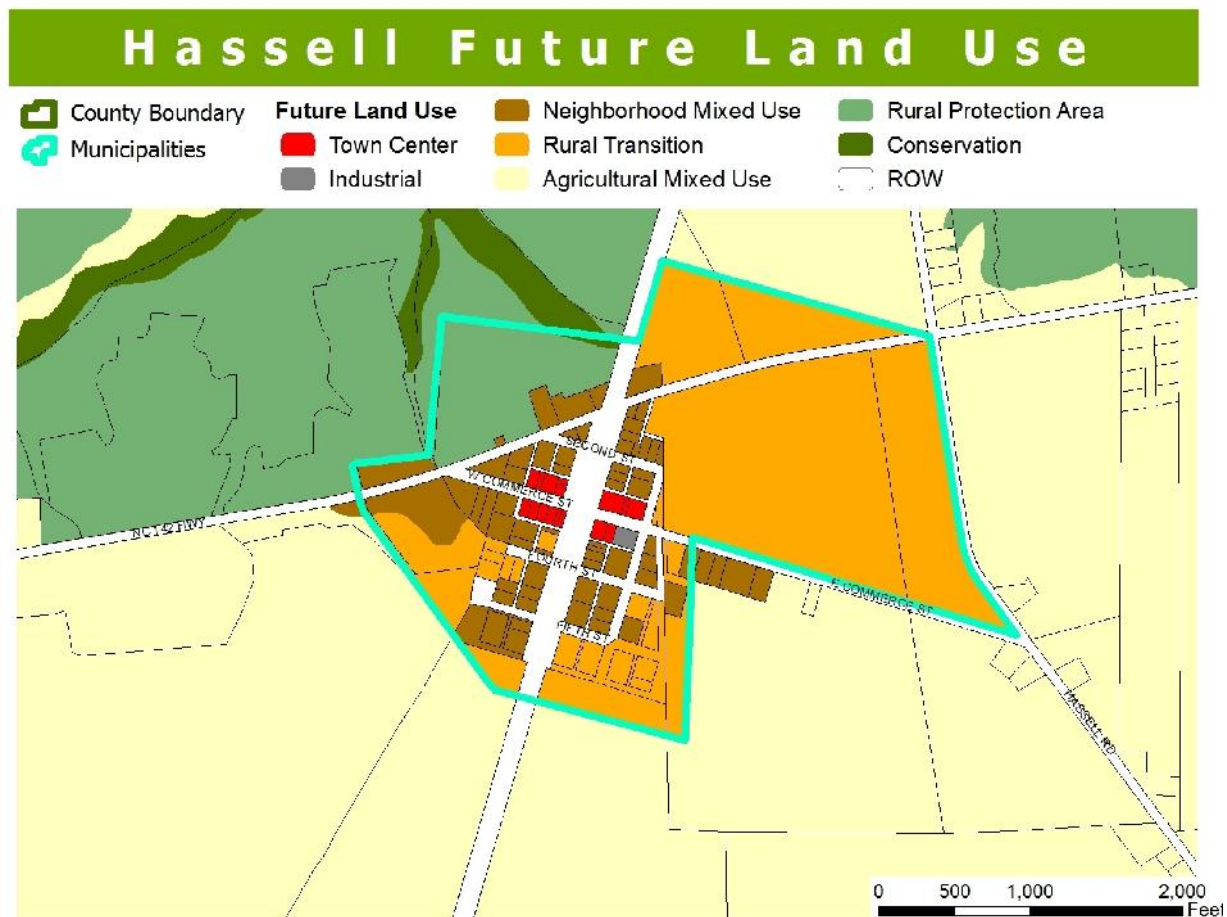
Section 6 – Future Land Use

5. Town of Hassell (see Map 30)

Table 34. Town of Hassell Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	0.43	0.29%
Town Center	2.80	1.89%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	26.51	17.87%
Rural Transition Area	101.25	68.24%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	16.89	11.38%
Conservation	0.50	0.34%
Total	148.38	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 30. Town of Hassell Future Land Use

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

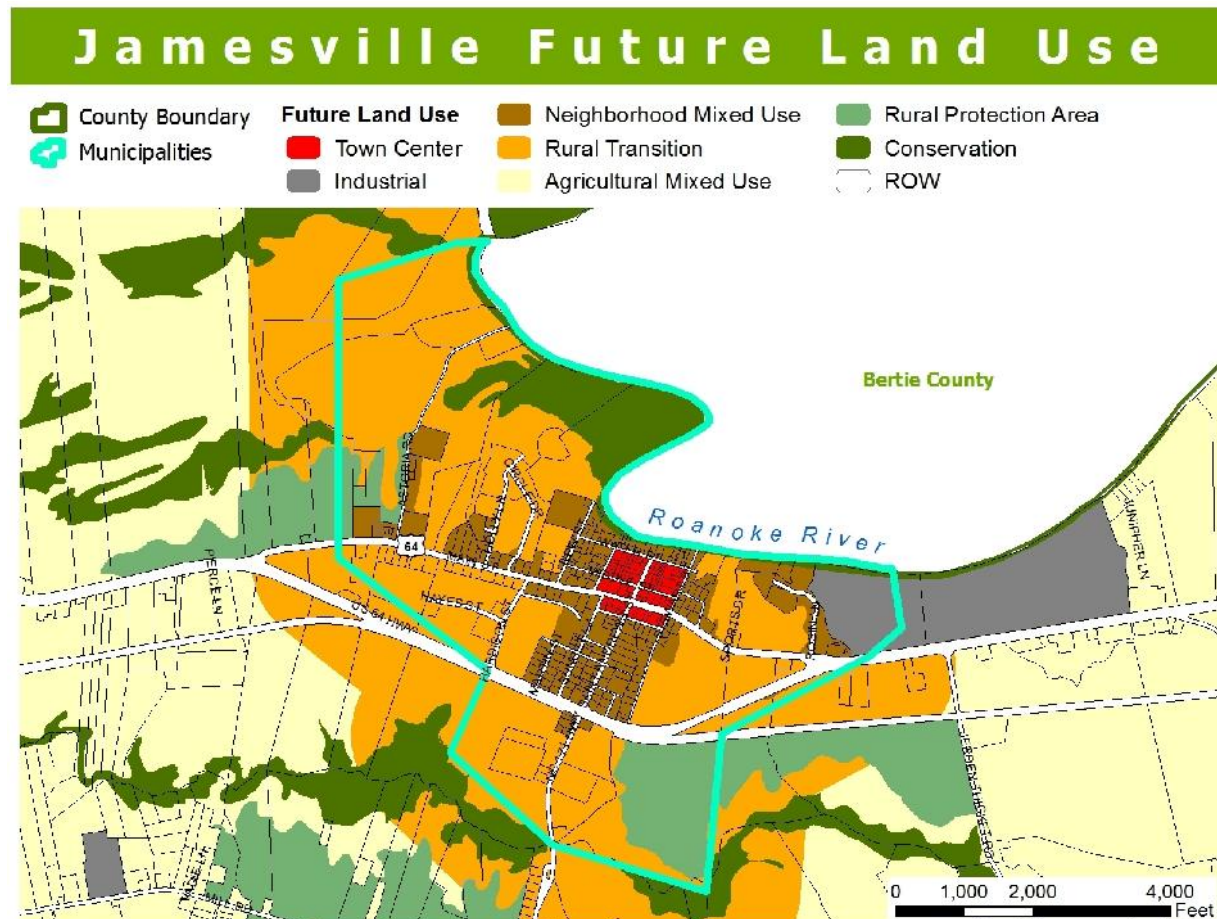
Section 6 – Future Land Use

6. Town of Jamesville (see Map 31)

Table 35. Town of Jamesville Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	28.54	3.61%
Town Center	18.27	2.31%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	137.88	17.46%
Rural Transition Area	466.92	59.14%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	70.88	8.98%
Conservation	67.03	8.49%
Total	789.52	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Martin County Comprehensive Plan

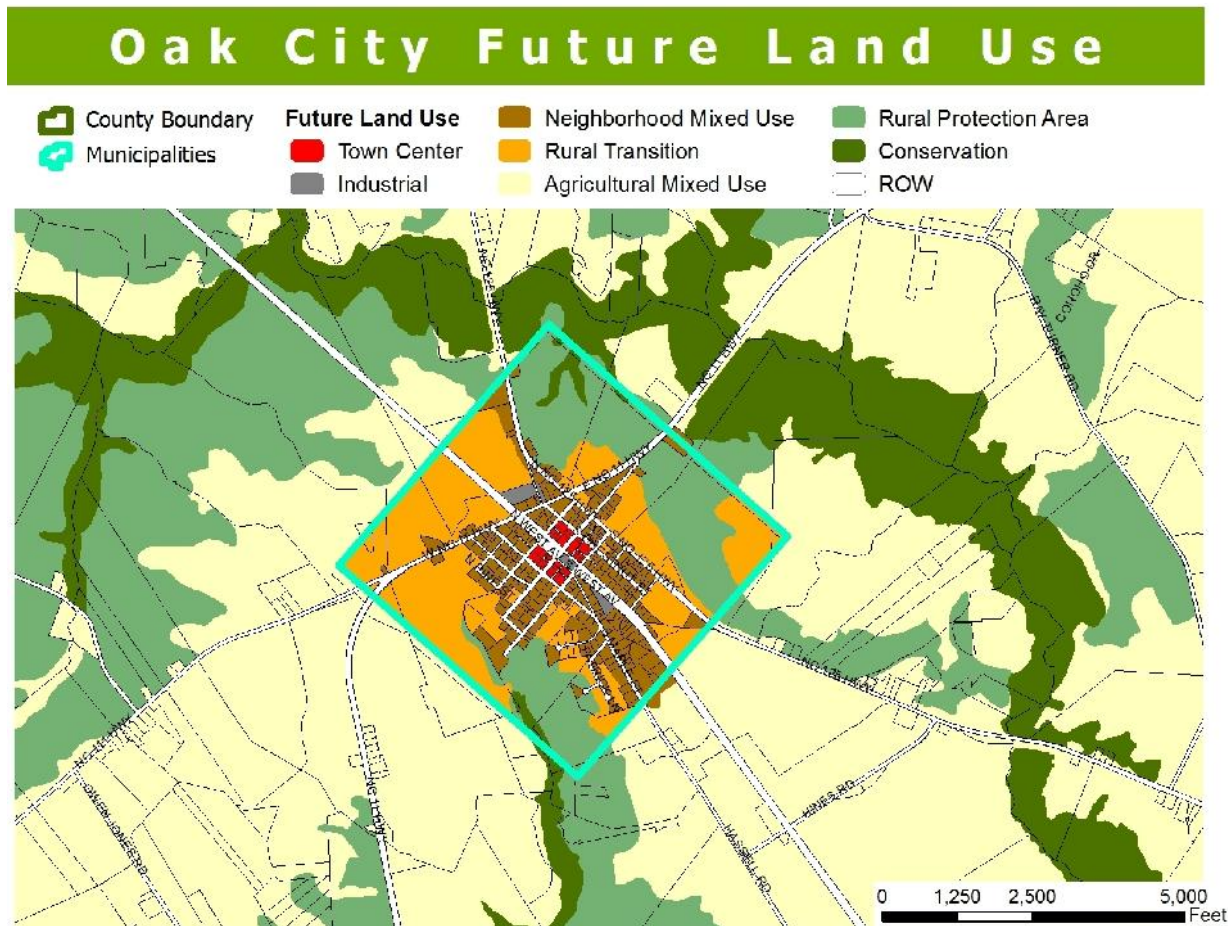
Section 6 – Future Land Use

7. Town of Oak City (see Map 32)

Table 36. Town of Oak City Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	5.86	1.03%
Town Center	7.84	1.37%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	122.12	21.41%
Rural Transition Area	243.50	42.68%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	177.11	31.04%
Conservation	14.09	2.47%
Total	570.52	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 32. Town of Oak City Future Land Use

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

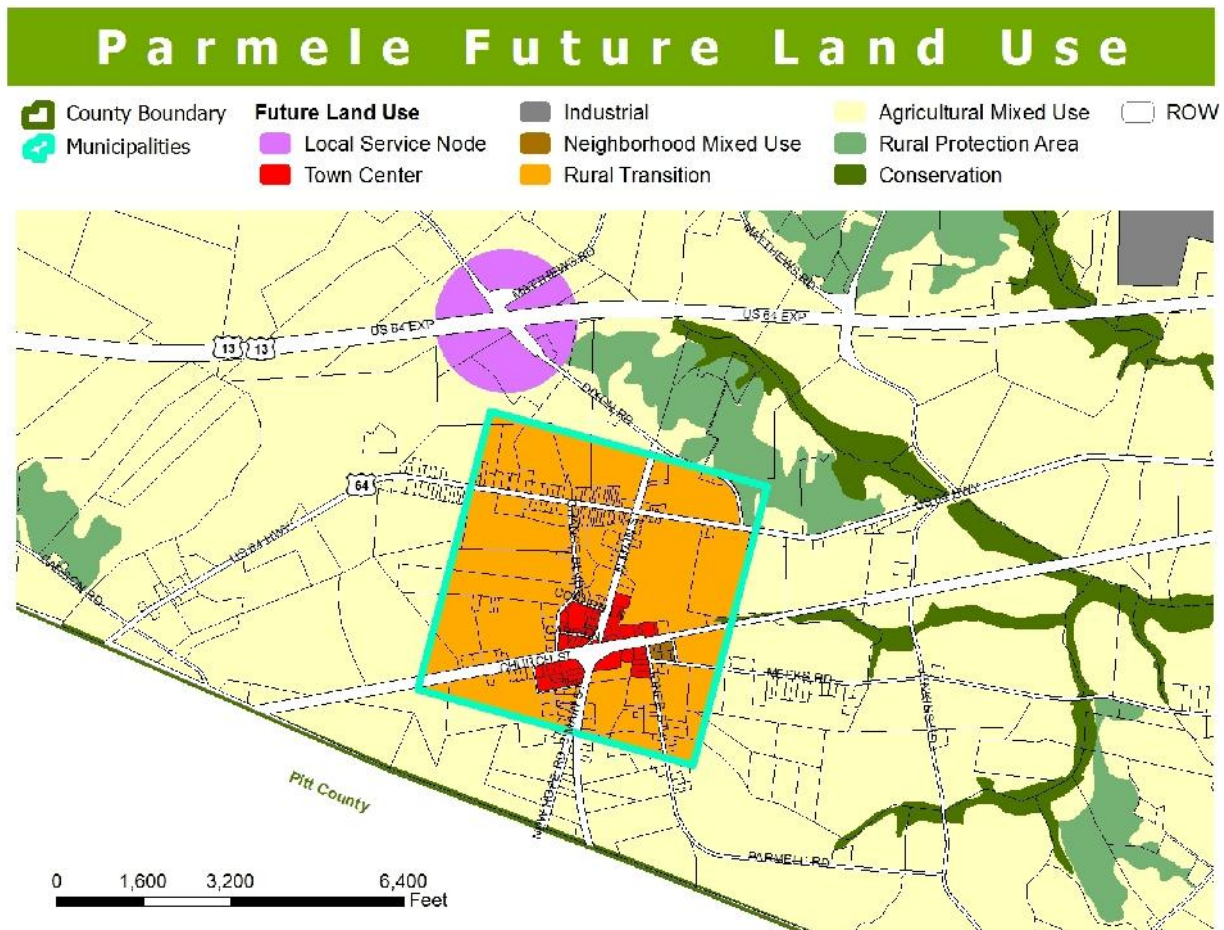
Section 6 – Future Land Use

8. Town of Parmele (see Map 33)

Table 37. Town of Parmele Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	0.00	0.00%
Town Center	38.19	6.69%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	3.15	0.55%
Rural Transition Area	521.72	91.41%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	7.18	1.26%
Conservation	0.53	0.09%
Total	570.77	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Martin County Comprehensive Plan

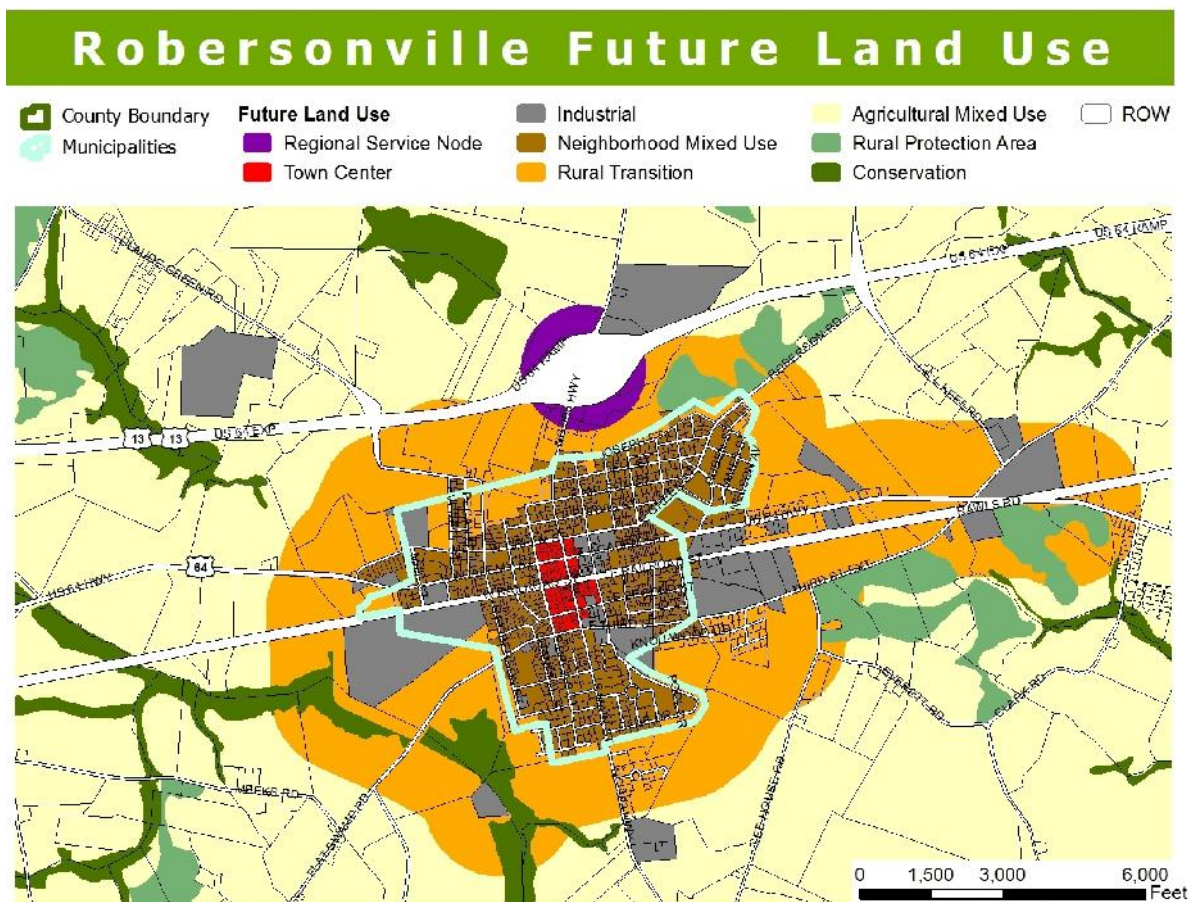
Section 6 – Future Land Use

9. Town of Robersonville (see Map 34)

Table 38. Town of Robersonville Future Land Use

Future Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Regional Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Local Service Node	0.00	0.00%
Industrial	75.27	12.70%
Town Center	30.19	5.09%
Neighborhood Mixed Use	397.45	67.05%
Rural Transition Area	88.06	14.86%
Agricultural Mixed Use	0.00	0.00%
Rural Protection Area	1.82	0.31%
Conservation	0.00	0.00%
Total	592.79	100.00%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc.



Map 34. Town of Robersonville Future Land Use

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

A. Introduction

A key objective of any comprehensive plan is the creation of a robust and achievable set of goals and implementing strategies. Implementation of these strategies is the responsibility of Martin County community leaders, staff, and citizens. Decisions made as a result of the following goals and implementing strategies should serve to enhance the quality of life for residents, support long-term economic growth, and promote viable land use and development patterns.

B. Goals

Martin County's comprehensive plan goals are based upon seven key elements of the plan. They are as follows:

1. Land Use and Form
2. Natural Environment
3. Economic Growth
4. Health and Wellness
5. Housing
6. Infrastructure and Services
7. Transportation

Goals were authored based on issues identified by residents and stakeholders during the planning process. Each goal has a corresponding set of implementing strategies crafted to guide the county in achieving the objective stated by the goal. The county and participating municipalities are responsible for implementation in their respective jurisdictions. The adoption of this plan is not the end, but rather the beginning of a continuous pragmatic process. Achieving the goals contained within this plan will be an ongoing process. Some of the implementing strategies may take only months to accomplish, others may take many years, while some may never come to fruition.

Goal 1: Land Use and Form

Protect the County's natural assets, including prime farmland areas and the county's historic town centers.

Goal 2: Natural Environment

Continue to promote the County's natural environment as an important economic development factor.

Goal 3: Economic Growth

Promote Martin County as a regional hub for commercial activity and industry in northeastern North Carolina.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

Goal 4: Health and Wellness

Enhance healthcare services for Martin County residents, while also identifying capital improvement projects and incentives that will promote active living, healthy eating, and safe physical environments.

Goal 5: Housing

Rehabilitate, preserve, and enhance Martin County's residential areas while also providing low-income housing opportunities.

Goal 6: Infrastructure and Services

Continue to provide effective and reliable infrastructure and services to County citizens and property owners focused on addressing the County's needs while managing and preserving economic and environmental assets.

Goal 7: Transportation

Maintain an efficient and cost-effective transportation system to serve the needs of residents, businesses, and industries alike.

C. Implementing Strategies

NOTE: Implementing strategies are numbered consecutively throughout the plan for ease of reference. The Board of Commissioners will be responsible for directing the County's implementation effort.

1. Land Use and Form

I.1 Protect farmland through the following measures:

- Continue to work with Martin County Economic Development Corporation to leverage prime farmland assets as an economic development tool.
- Support North Carolina legislative changes that enable the transfer of development rights for protection of prime farmland areas.
- Collaborate with the Martin County Economic Development Corporation and Cooperative Extension to explore opportunities for increasing the profitability of farms in the area.
- Collaborate with the Martin County Cooperative Extension to establish protocols and commerce networks between local farmers and food establishments.
- Continue to support the Martin County Farmers' Market Association.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

- Work with the Cooperative Extension office to evaluate grant opportunities for a part-time farmers' market manager.
- I.2 Employ and promote the following land use considerations when siting business and industrial development projects:
- Highway oriented commercial uses should be clustered, preferably in nodal areas as defined on the future land use map, and contain land uses which are mutually compatible and reinforcing in use and design; they should be designed in such a way as to minimize signage, access points, and uncontrolled strip development.
 - Strip development along the County's major streets and highways shall be discouraged.
 - Light industries (lower impact/generally smaller than heavy industry) should have easy access to major transportation facilities and infrastructure but be compatible with nearby residential, agricultural, and conservation areas.
 - Industrial development shall be located on land that is physically suitable and has unique locational advantages for industry. Advanced planning for the identification of such land should be encouraged.
 - Industrial development shall not be located in areas that would diminish the desirability of existing and planned non-industrial areas, nor shall incompatible non-industrial uses be allowed to encroach upon existing or planned industrial sites.
 - All industrial sites should have access to appropriate thoroughfares and should be visually buffered according to their location.
 - Industrial uses should be located in or near existing built up areas to take advantage of available services. Careful design and/or buffering shall be required to ensure compatibility with surrounding areas.
 - New industrial development should be encouraged to locate in existing and/or planned industrial parks.
 - The desirability of industries which are noxious by reason of the emission of smoke, dust, glare, noise, odor, and vibrations, and those which deal primarily in hazardous products such as explosives, should be assessed by Martin County on a case-by-case basis, weighing the anticipated positive economic impact against any identified adverse environmental impact.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

- I.3 Continue to support and invest in the Lands East Industrial Park. This effort will require close collaboration with Pitt County and the surrounding region.
- I.4 Consider developing basic land development regulations aimed at guiding development which may occur within areas designated as Corridor Overlay on the Future Land Use Map. The Corridor Overlay areas are adjacent to the Primary Transportation Corridors.
- I.5 Consider developing a County-wide Subdivision Ordinance to help manage growth and development.
2. Natural Environment
 - I.6 Discourage new development and redevelopment activities which would significantly degrade the quality of natural and scenic resources in Martin County or prematurely diminish the predominantly rural character of the area. Utilize the future land use map as a development management tool to protect valuable resources. The map is coordinated with the land suitability analysis map.
 - I.7 Work with the Martin County Economic Development Corporation as well as County municipalities to promote reuse of abandoned commercial and industrial sites, and to explore funding opportunities for brownfield site cleanup and redevelopment.
 - I.8 Support the protection of natural heritage and other natural resource areas as important to the County's quality of life.
3. Economic Growth
 - I.9 Give preference to "clean" industries/businesses including eco- and agri-tourism, as well as Biotech.
 - I.10 Implement the following activities to support tourism and provide a solid foundation for overall economic development:
 - Request that the United States Soil Conservation Service take the lead role in providing technical assistance to accomplish "snagging" and general stream/river cleanup.
 - Request that cleanup programs be coordinated among local, state, and federal agencies as appropriate.
 - Work with Regional and State agencies to promote and leverage the county's riverine resources for economic development purposes.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

- I.11 Support a more diversified economic base including development of increased health care services and options for county residents.
- I.12 Implement the following activities to support economic development:
- Formulate and expand local incentives to attract industry.
 - Support the continued inventory of unused business facilities.
 - Support County water systems and other infrastructure.
 - Support and enhance incubator programs for startup businesses.
 - Identify and recruit industries that are compatible with and complement Martin County's geography, culture, and climate.
 - Create awareness of incentives for the employment of the elderly and young adult demographic.
 - Encourage clean industry to locate in Martin County to promote a healthy environment.
 - Support businesses involved with computer software business, medical technology, and telecommunications.
 - Promote awareness of service industry catering to tourists' opportunities.
 - Support sustainable aquaculture and energy generation and transmission as economic development initiatives, as feasible.
 - Expand opportunities (both public and private) for employment and procurement by using local vendors when feasible.
- I.13 Continue to support, within the county, the activities of the North Carolina Division of Travel and Tourism and the Martin County Tourism Development Authority; specifically, the monitoring of tourism-related industry, efforts to promote tourism-related commercial activity.
- I.14 Support North Carolina Department of Transportation projects to improve access and distribution into and out of Martin County.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

- I.15 Continue to support the county's Shell Building Program.
- I.16 Investigate strategies such as providing self-guided tour materials to increase tourist activity at local historic sites and open space recreational resources.
- I.17 Encourage all aquaculture activities which meet applicable local, state, and federal policies and permit requirements.
4. Health and Wellness
- I.18 Implement the following activities to support health care:
- Provide prevention/intervention services throughout the County.
 - Expand the Martin County website with links to federal, state, and local organizations that focus on wellness and/or provide health care resources.
 - Support health and wellness initiatives carried out by the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department.
 - Support wellness initiatives via bike rallies, marathons, fishing tournaments, etc., that provide the county a link with regional and private resources.
 - Work with state and federal legislators to obtain grant money for initiatives to reduce health care costs.
 - Provide crisis management services - individual and area-wide.
 - Work with local religious groups to provide emergency support systems for large scale or traumatic events.
 - Continue County-wide test drills of the County's emergency preparedness system.
- I.19 Continue to support the Martin County Farmers' Market. Additionally, the Martin County Cooperative Extension office will look for opportunities to expand upon the Farmers' Market operations. This task will include establishing farmers' markets aimed at serving areas of the County identified as food deserts.
- I.20 Support efforts to improve access to local produce and value-added agricultural products. This effort will serve as an economic development tool for improving access to healthy eating options for under-served populations, as identified in this plan.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

- I.21 Work in collaboration with municipal jurisdictions to increase access to active recreation facilities and programs to residents. These efforts will specifically target youth aged and elderly populations. The County in conjunction with the Martin County School System will undertake the implementation of this strategy through the establishment of joint use agreements.
- I.22 Take steps to ensure, to the maximum practicable, that all county buildings and facilities are handicap accessible and will work to provide recreation options specifically targeting persons within the community with disabilities.
- I.23 Work in conjunction with the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department and the Martin County Cooperative Extension office to establish a promotional campaign focused on increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables at corner/country store locations.
- I.24 Work with the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department to ensure that all food waste stemming from grocery and retail outlets is disseminated to non-profit entities that provide outreach for the county's needy populations. In order to achieve this strategy, the County will work with the Albemarle Food Bank and the Boys and Girls Club.
- I.25 Work with the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington District Health Department to ensure that the results of the health and wellness analysis outlined in this plan are incorporated into the county's next Community Health Assessment update.
- I.26 Take steps to create an Active Living & Healthy Eating working group that will continue to champion the Health and Wellness-related implementing strategies included in this plan.
5. Housing
- I.27 In order to provide a wide variety of housing choices and affordability, Martin County will:
- Look for opportunities to provide housing choices that will support the aging and retirement community.
 - Explore different approaches to creating an ample workforce/financially achievable housing stock within the County.
 - Work to establish additional multi-family housing opportunities throughout the County in an effort to provide more affordable workforce housing.

Martin County Comprehensive Plan

Section 7 – Goals and Implementing Strategies

I.28 Continue to look for opportunities to secure funding through federal and state grant programs for the rehabilitation of substandard housing and removal of dilapidated and abandoned manufactured homes throughout the County.

6. Infrastructure and Services

I.29 Review of high impact residential development proposals will be coordinated with the Martin County School System to determine and mitigate impact(s) on the school system. Additionally, locational decisions for community facilities will be made in consideration of the facility impact on adjacent land uses and infrastructure capacity for support including the water system and transportation system.

I.30 Continue to provide sufficient emergency management facilities to address all natural and manmade hazards identified in the County's Emergency Operations Plan and the MTW Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

I.31 Continue to utilize a detailed Capital Improvements Plan periodically to address solid waste disposal, law enforcement, emergency management, recreation, and educational services needs.

I.32 Work towards the development of a long term solution to address the provision of County-wide broad band internet service.

7. Transportation

I.33 Endorse and support the NCDOT TIP projects included and outlined in this plan.

I.34 Support and continue to seek additional funding to expand and develop a regional transit system that includes transportation to significant regional employment centers.

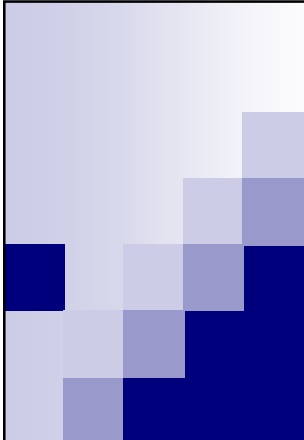
I.35 Support and continue to seek funds for sidewalk and bikeway improvements identified and endorsed in this plan.

I.36 Continue to seek guidance and feasibility of development and nomination of a corridor within Martin County to be included in the National Scenic Byways Program through the Federal Highway Administration.

I.37 The I-64 corridors continue to be an asset for economic development throughout Martin County. Provide direct access to strategic economic drivers throughout the state and other parts of the country for trade and commerce.

I.38 Support and continue to explore funding and funding opportunities available for a paratransit service provided throughout the county for persons with disabilities.




Appendix A



Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA)

WTP Project Update for the Martin County Board of Commissioners

August 14, 2013



Outline

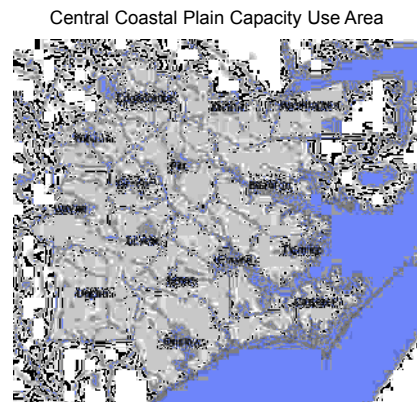
- Historical Perspective
- CCPCUAR
- Water Demands and Supplies
- Project Alternatives
- MCRWASA Schedule
- Project Bidding / Funding
- Project Schedule
- Water Rates
- Summary

Outline

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Historical Perspective

Early 1970s	State observes groundwater issues in central coastal plain, including water level declines and large cone of depression.
1998	State Division of Water Resources (DWR) cites water supply dangers in region. <u>Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Investigation Report</u> describes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increasing potential for salt water encroachment ■ Evidence of aquifer dewatering ■ Reports of extreme loss of well yield
2001	State approves the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area Rules (CCPCUAR).
2002	CCPCUAR becomes effective.



Historical Perspective

2005	<p>Martin County Water Resources Master Plan documents pending water supply deficit. Potential alternatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ground Water Aquifers ■ Roanoke River ■ CCPCUA Boundary Change
2007	<p>Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (Martin County, Williamston, Robersonville) incorporated. Authority is created to deal with water deficit on a regional level.</p>
2009	<p>Authority studies water supply alternatives. Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Assessment (EA) started.</p>



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of The Secretary of State

**CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
MARTIN COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Town of Robersonville, North Carolina, the Town of Williamston, North Carolina, and the County of Martin, North Carolina are political subdivisions as that term is defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. Section 162A-207, and the governing body of each is authorized pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes of North Carolina to create an authority as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. Section 162A-213; and

WHEREAS, the governing body for each of the above named political subdivisions has passed a Resolution which includes Article of Incorporation pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes for the purpose of creating a Water and Sewer Authority known as **Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority** and has caused a copy of such Resolution and notice of hearing to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State finds that the attached Resolutions, including the Articles of Incorporation, conform with the applicable provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes, and that the notices of hearing were properly published;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that **Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority** is duly incorporated as a body corporate and politic of the State of North Carolina organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 1, Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes, with all the rights, privileges, powers and authority accorded such an authority by the provisions of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as of the date set forth hereunder.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at the City of Raleigh, this 31st day of December, 2007

Cherie J. Marshall
Secretary of State

Historical Perspective

2009	<p>PER develops alternatives for 2 MGD supply. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Castle Hayne WTP ■ Reverse Osmosis WTP (in Salty Zones of Cretaceous Aquifers) ■ Roanoke River WTP ■ Unconfined (?) Black Creek WTP + Castle Hayne WTP
2009	<p>PER alternatives presented to Authority and member entities. Roanoke River WTP selected.</p>
2009	<p>USDA approves PER.</p>
2010	<p>USDA approves funding for the project. USDA funding includes up to \$18.2M loan and \$2.8M grant (12.4%). Other proposed funding sources: EDA, Rural Center.</p>



Historical Perspective

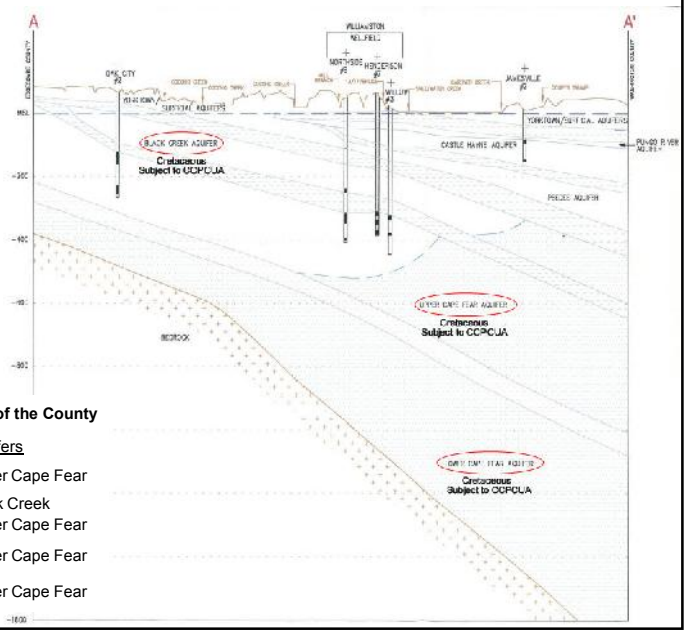
2010	Authority applies for \$8.5M in funding from North Carolina Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF). State offers \$3M, including \$1.5M in disadvantaged community program (DCP). Project must be permit-ready.
2011	Project design and water pilot testing program started.
2012	Design submitted for permits. MCRWASA applied for DWSRF funding in the amount of \$2.013M to offset EDA funds not acquired.
2013	Pre-Qualifications for WTP Contractors Due Mid-February. Project advertisement scheduled for March. Receipt of bids June/July Begin Construction in September.



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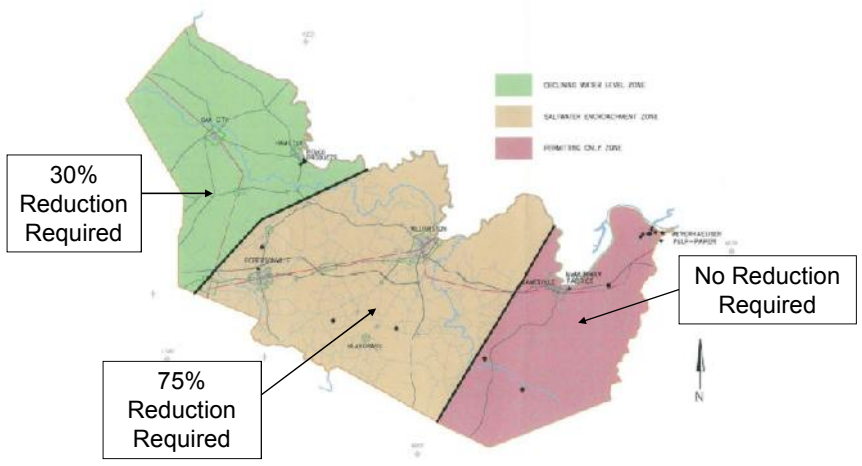
Aquifers in Martin County



Wells in other sections of the County

Well	Aquifers
Robersonville	Upper Cape Fear
Martin Co. WSD 2	Black Creek Upper Cape Fear
Hamilton #2	Upper Cape Fear
Hassell	Upper Cape Fear

CCPCUA Cretaceous Aquifer Zones in Martin County



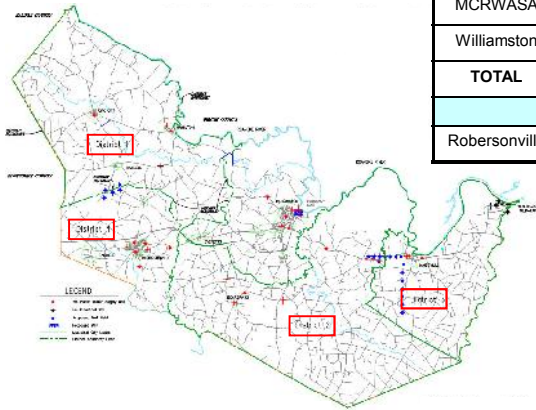
CCPCUAR

- Effective August 1, 2002
- Intent:
 - protect long term productivity of Cretaceous Aquifers
 - allow the use of ground water at a rate not exceeding the recharge rate
- Withdrawal reductions in 3 phases over 16 years.

Zone	Phase 1 Reduction August 1, 2008	Phase 2 Reduction August 1, 2013	Phase 3 Reduction August 1, 2018
Dewatering Zone	25% from base rate	50% from base rate	75% from base rate
Salt Water Encroachment Zone	25% from base rate	50% from base rate	75% from base rate
Declining Water Level Zone	10% from base rate	20% from base rate	30% from base rate
Permitting Only Zone	N/A	N/A	N/A

Water and Sewer Districts and Approved Base Rates

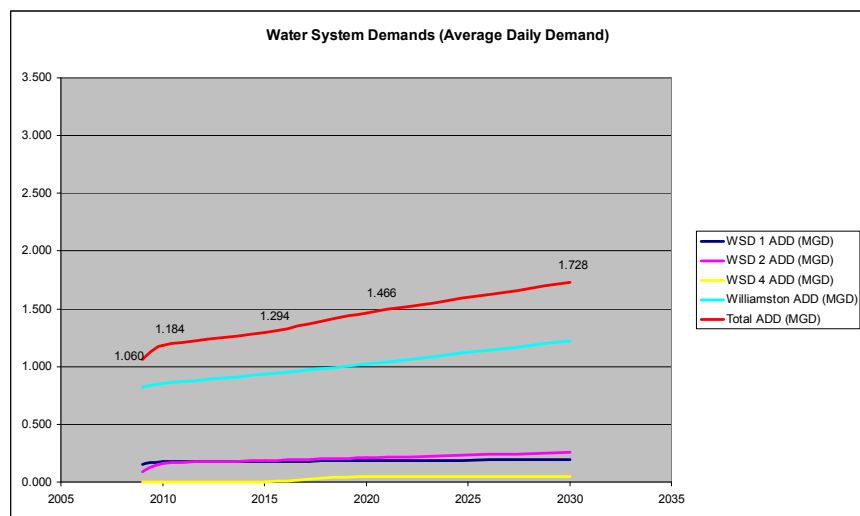
District	Approved Base Rate (MGD)	Required Reduction	Future Permitted Withdrawal Rate (MGD) @ 2018 Reduction
MCRWASA Entities			
WSD 1	0.224	30%	0.157
WSD 2	0.504	75%	0.126
WSD 3 & 4	N/A	N/A	N/A
MCRWASA	0.490	30%	0.343
Williamston	1.08	75%	0.270
TOTAL	2.30	As Above	0.896
Others			
Robersonville	1.29	75%	0.321



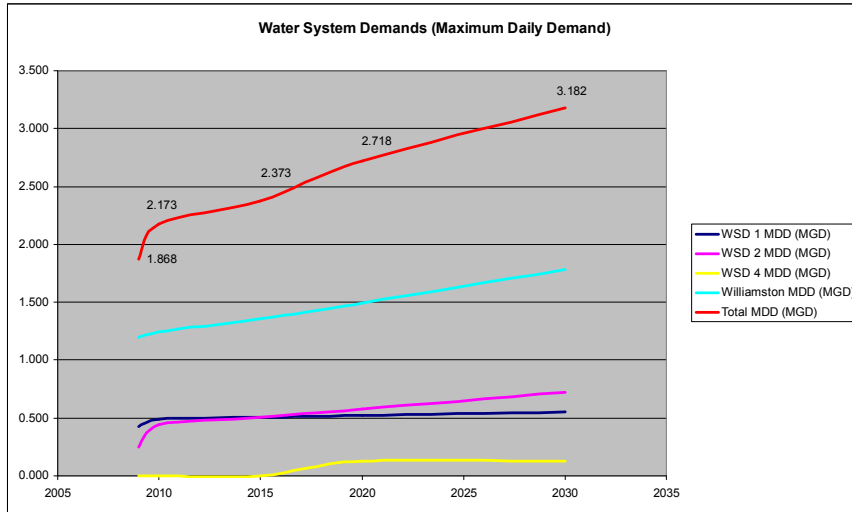
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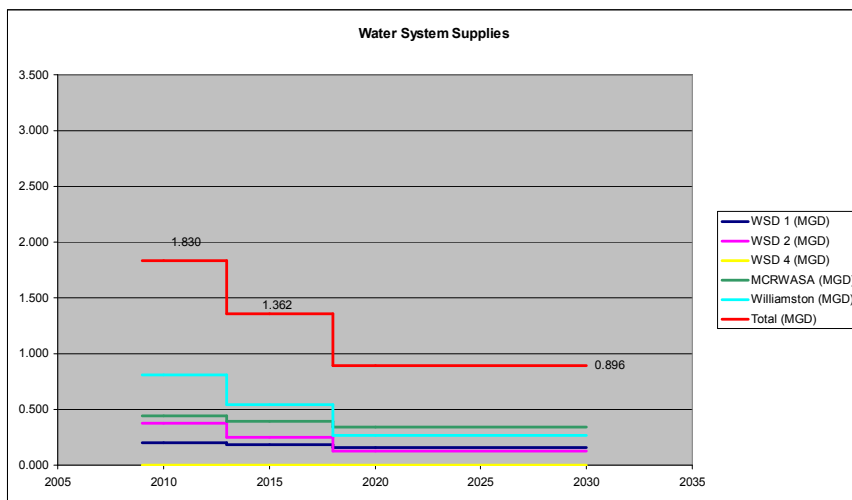
Water Demands and Supplies



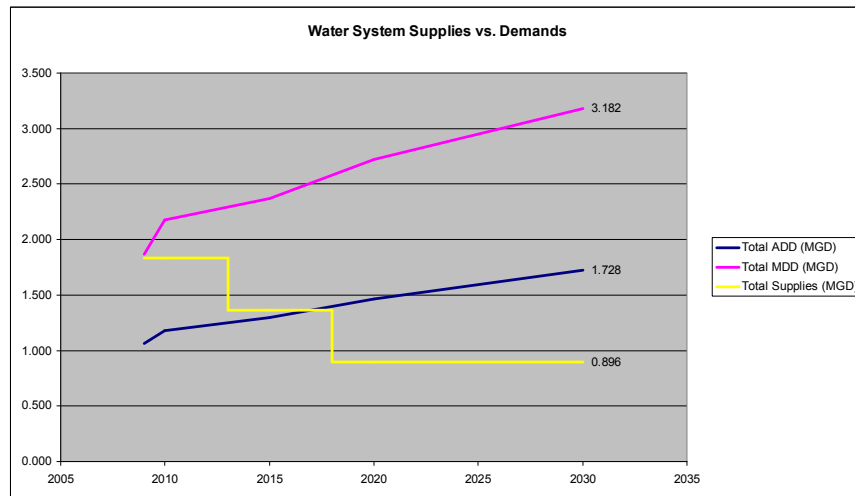
Water Demands and Supplies



Water Demands and Supplies



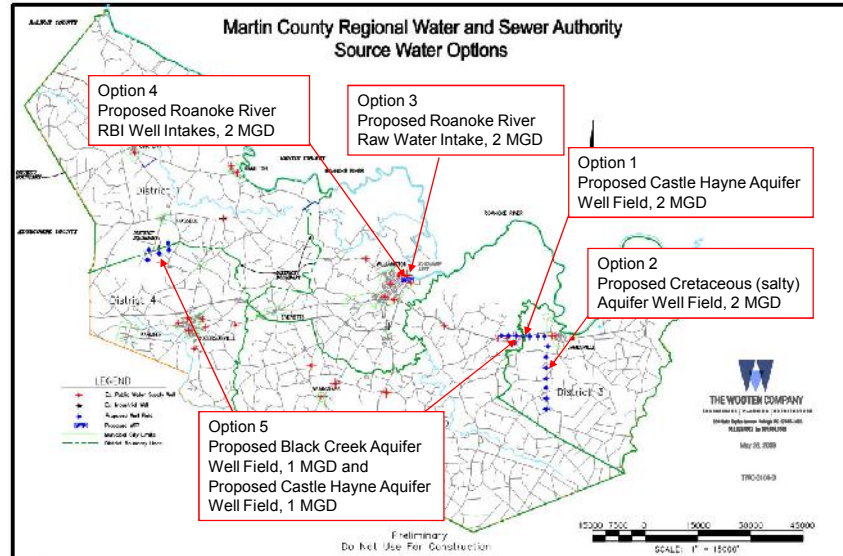
Water Demands and Supplies



Outline

- Historical Perspective
- CCPCUAR
- Water Demands and Supplies
- Project Alternatives
- MCRWASA Schedule
- Project Bidding / Funding
- Project Schedule
- Water Rates
- Summary

Project Alternatives



Outline

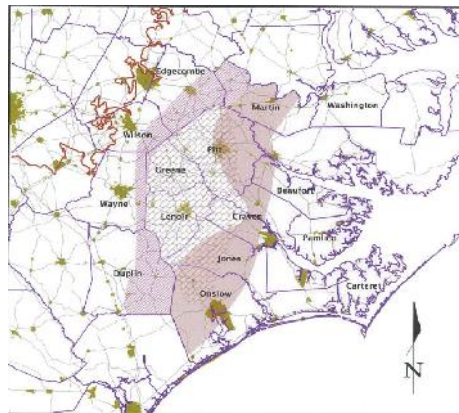
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MCRWASA Schedule

Project Task	CCPCUAR												
	Phase 1 Reductions (25% / 10%)						Phase 2 Reductions (50% / 20%)						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Pilot Testing													
Project Design / Permitting													
Easement / Property Acquisition													
Submit All Items to USDA													
Pre-Qualification of Contractors													
Bidding													
Contract Award													
Construction													

Capacity Use Rule Update

- Some areas recovered
- Some relaxation of rules
- Martin County – No significant change
- Authority requested DWR to evaluate County more thoroughly



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Project Bidding

- Bids received June 6, 2013 for Contract 1 – Water Treatment Plant and Contract 2 – Water Transmission System.
- Bid protest received for Contract 1 and all bids were rejected on the basis of project bid overrun.
- Contract 1 re-bid on July 17, 2013
- Contracts awarded¹ by the Authority on July 25, 2013 as follows:
 - Contract 1 – TA Loving Company = \$19,725,000.00
 - Contract 2 – TA Loving Company = \$ 2,699,693.25
- Notes:
 - 1 – Subject to the availability of funds and USDA-RD, Public Water Supply DWSRF, and LGC concurrence.

Project Cost

■ Proposed expenditures:

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction Cost	=	\$22,424,698
<input type="checkbox"/> Contingency	=	\$ 1,121,235
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Services	=	\$ 2,183,714
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition	=	\$ 323,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Bond Counsel Legal Fees	=	\$ 60,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Fees	=	\$ 40,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	=	\$ 73,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Capitalized Interest	=	<u>\$ 800,000</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL	=	\$27,026,142

Project Funding

■ Proposed funding:

<input type="checkbox"/> USDA Loan ¹	=	\$18,170,000
<input type="checkbox"/> USDA Grant ²	=	\$ 2,804,000
<input type="checkbox"/> USDA Supplemental Funds ³	=	\$ 709,948
<input type="checkbox"/> MCWSD 1 & 2 (Tap Fee) ⁴	=	\$ 3,289,194
<input type="checkbox"/> DWSRF Loan/Grant ⁵	=	\$ 2,013,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Center Grant	=	<u>\$ 40,000</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL	=	\$27,026,142

■ Notes:

- 1 – USDA Interest Rate = 3.25% over 38 years at loan offer. This could be lowered to current rate of 2.75%.
- 2 – Historically, USDA's maximum grant for a project was \$2M. Authority sought grants up to 45% and 75% of the total project. Current USDA grant is 12.45%.
- 3 – Anticipated to be 100% grant.
- 4 – USDA grant funds transferred to the Authority as "Tap Fee".
- 5 – DWSRF Loan of \$402,600 and "Grant" of \$1,610,400.

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Project Schedule

- Interim project financing is provided through the sale of Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) by LGC.
- BAN sale schedule is as follows:
 - Application to LGC August 8, 2013
 - LGC Document Session August 12, 2013
 - Send RFP to Banks August 15, 2013
 - Bank RFP due Back August 29, 2013
 - LGC Agenda September 10, 2013
 - Bond Order and Series Res. Approval September 11, 2013
 - Close on BAN September 26, 2013
 - BAN Maturity August 27, 2015
- Construction Schedule
 - Start Construction September 30, 2013
 - Complete Construction July 22, 2015

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Water Rates

Description	Funding Scenario	
	Potential Scenarios	
	DWSRF Total \$2.013M, 80% Grant (\$1,610,400)	DWSRF Total \$2.013M, 80% Grant (\$1,610,400)
USDA Interest Rate ->	3.25%	2.75%
USDA Loan	\$ 18,170,000	\$ 18,170,000
USDA Grant	\$ 2,804,000	\$ 2,804,000
MCWSD 1 & 2 Tap Fee	\$ 3,289,194	\$ 3,289,194
USDA Supplemental Funding (Grant)	\$ 709,948	\$ 709,948
DWSRF Loan	\$ 402,600	\$ 402,600
DWSRF Grant	\$ 1,610,400	\$ 1,610,400
Rural Center Grant	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
TOTAL	\$27,026,142	\$27,026,142
Estimated Project Cost (\$/Thousand Gallons)	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.38
Water Bills Summary		
WSD1		
Average Residential Water Usage (2009) (gpd)	105,000	105,000
Residential Customers (2009)	842	842
Average Daily Use / Customer (2009) (gpd)	125	125
Average Monthly Use / Customer (2009)	3793	3793
Average Monthly Use / Customer (2009) SAY	3800	3800
Current Average Monthly Bill (2012) (\$/mo)	\$ 44.00	\$ 44.00
Estimated Project Cost (\$/Thousand Gallons)	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.38
Increase in Bill (\$/mo)	\$ 13.41	\$ 12.86
TOTAL PROJECTED BILL (2015) (\$/mo)	\$ 57.41	\$ 56.86
WSD2		
Average Residential Water Usage (2009) (gpd)	65,000	65,000
Residential Customers (2009)	537	537
Average Daily Use / Customer (2009) (gpd)	121	121
Average Monthly Use / Customer (2009)	3682	3682
Say	3700	3700
Current Average Monthly Bill (2012) (\$/mo)	\$ 43.50	\$ 43.50
Estimated Project Cost (\$/Thousand Gallons)	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.38
Increase in Bill (\$/mo)	\$ 13.05	\$ 12.52
TOTAL PROJECTED BILL (2015) (\$/mo)	\$ 56.55	\$ 56.02

Water Rates

- Current monthly water bills:

- WSD 1 (3800 gal / mo) = \$44.00
- WSD 2 (3700 gal / mo) = \$43.50

- Projected bill after project (depending on USDA Interest Rate):

- WSD 1 (3800 gal / mo) = \$56.86 to \$57.41
- WSD 2 (3700 gal / mo) = \$56.02 to \$56.55

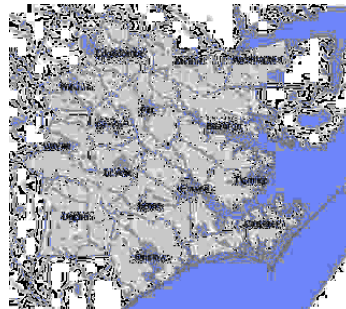
Water Rates

- Water bill comparisons:

- According to the UNC-School of Government, the following are water rates for county systems in nearby counties in the CCPCUA (based on **4,000 gal / month***) as of **December 2012**:

■ Edgecombe County =	\$42.80
■ Beaufort County I =	\$42.68
■ Beaufort County II =	\$35.58
■ Beaufort County III =	\$37.12
■ Beaufort County IV =	\$44.26
■ Beaufort County V =	\$46.54
■ Beaufort County VI =	\$37.12
■ Beaufort County VII =	\$42.68
■ Washington County =	\$41.00

- * - Note this is based on slightly more use than Martin County's averages.



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Summary

- Due to CCPCUAR, region faces water supply deficit.
- MCRWASA was formed to address this need on a regional basis.
- After study of several alternatives, including multiple groundwater alternatives, a Roanoke River WTP was selected as the supply alternative.
- Project is to be constructed by July 22, 2015.
- Project funding includes \$2.8M in USDA grant, \$40,000 in Rural Center grant, \$3.289M in USDA grant (Tap Fee), \$2.013M DWSRF loan (\$1.6M principal forgiveness), and \$0.709M in Supplemental USDA Funds (grant).
- Monthly county water bills are projected to increase from about \$44 to an average of about \$56-\$57 per month.

Questions

- Charlie Davis, P.E.
- Dan Boone, P.E., P.L.S.

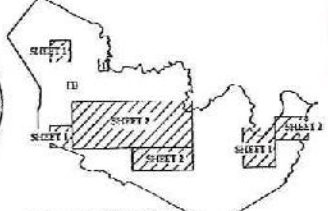
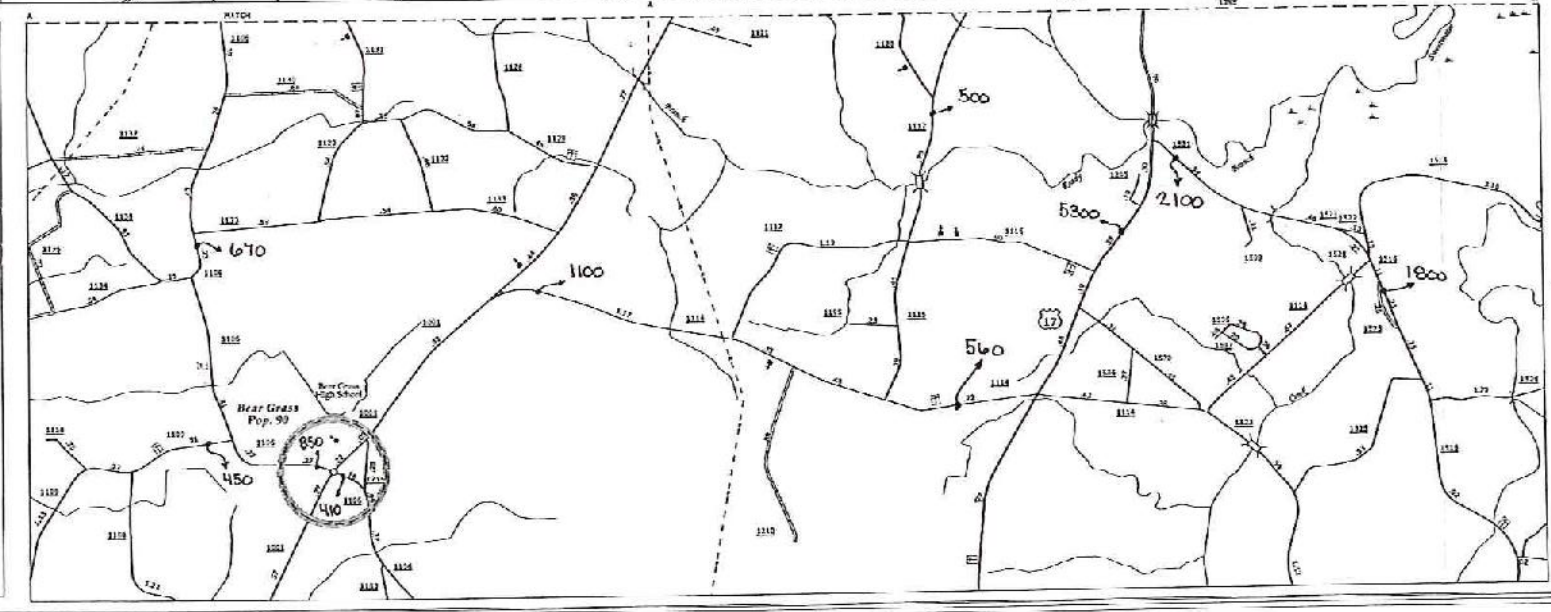
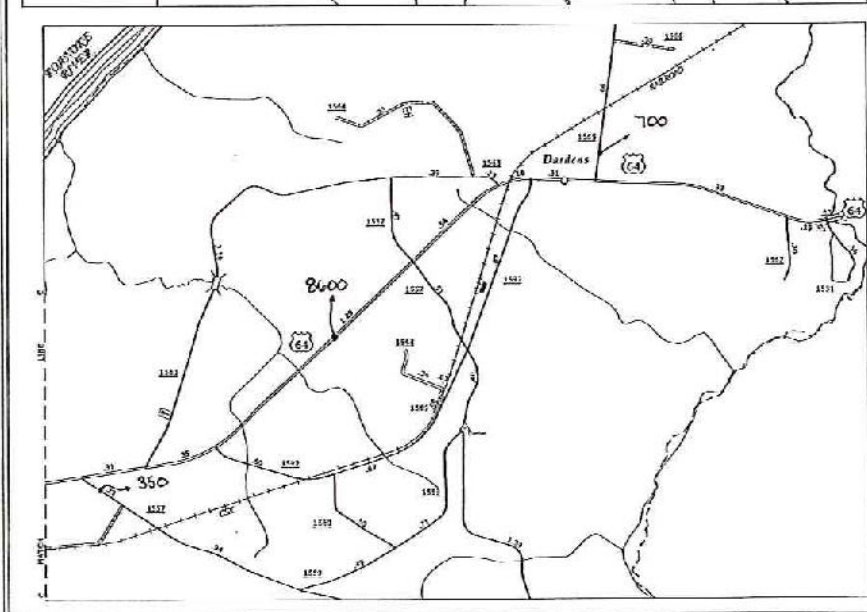
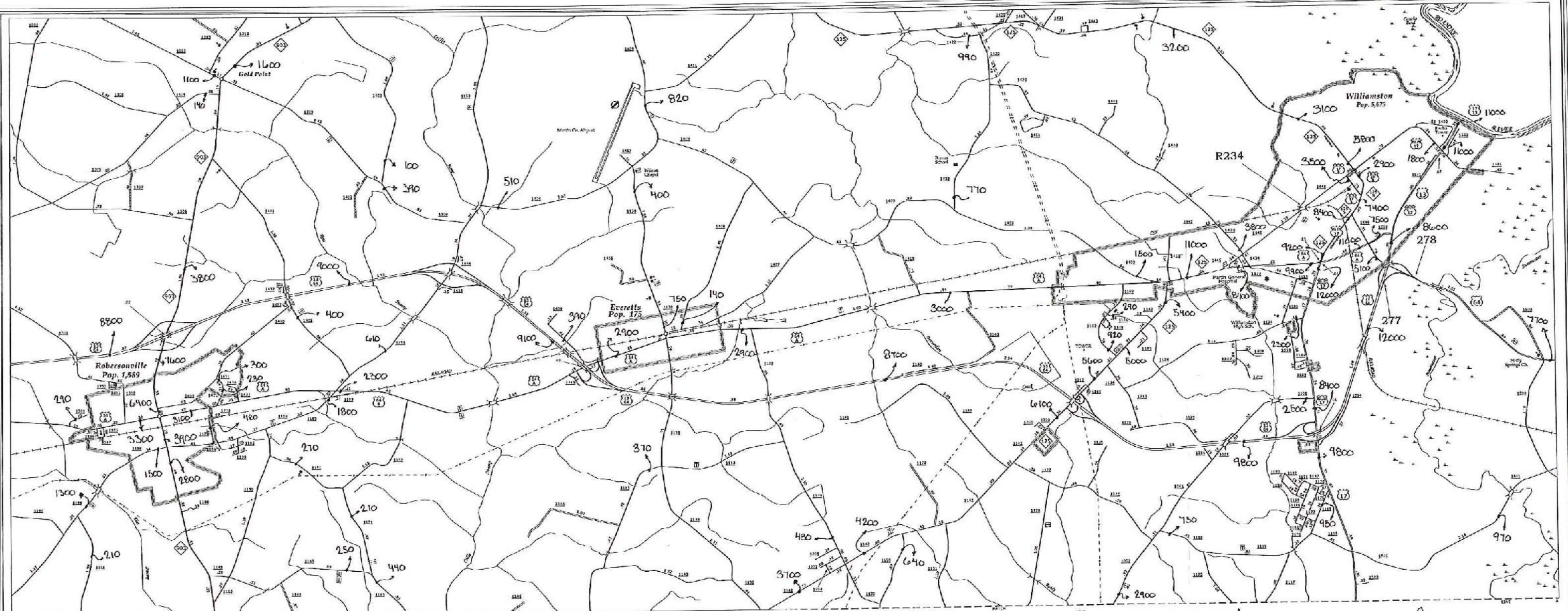


APPENDIX B

MARTIN COUNTY

2011 AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC

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ENLARGED MUNICIPAL AND SUBURBAN AREAS
MARTIN COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED BY THE
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE ROAD MAINTENANCE UNIT - MAPPING SECTION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

SCALE 1" = 1 MILE