

2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted: June 6, 2022



ROBESON COUNTY

North Carolina

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION1

 AUTHORITY TO PLAN 1

 PLAN PURPOSE..... 1

 PLANNING PROCESS AND FORMAT 2

 HISTORY 3

 REGIONAL LOCATION..... 4

CHAPTER 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE7

 INTRODUCTION..... 7

 POPULATION 7

 Population Growth..... 7

 Population by Age 8

 Population by Gender & Race..... 9

 HOUSING 9

 Dwelling Unit Growth 9

 Dwelling Unit Age..... 10

 Housing Cost & Condition 10

 ECONOMY 11

 Employment by Industry..... 11

 Income 13

 Vehicle Availability and Travel Time to Work 13

 Economic Development..... 14

 Business Education and Training 14

 Industrial Parks..... 15

CHAPTER 3. ENVIRONMENT/EXISTING CONDITIONS17

 INTRODUCTION..... 17

 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES 17

 Climate 17

 Topography 17

 Water Resources..... 17

 Flood Hazard Areas 20

 Soils 20

 Wetlands 24

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORIC PROPERTIES..... 24

TRANSPORTATION 27

 Major Roadways 27

 Transit 27

 Rail and Air 29

 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities 29

COMMUNITY FACILITIES 29

 Fire/Emergency Medical Services 29

 Emergency Management..... 29

 Law Enforcement 30

 Health Care 30

 Recreation 33

 Education 34

 Libraries..... 35

 Natural Gas 35

 Electricity..... 35

 Telecommunications..... 35

 Solid Waste 35

 Water System..... 36

 Sewer System..... 37

 Administration 37

 Current Land Use Regulations and Planning Program 37

EXISTING LAND USE 37

 Methodology..... 37

 Existing Land Use Patterns - Unincorporated Robeson County (see Map 13)..... 38

CHAPTER 4. PROJECTIONS/FUTURE DEMAND 41

 INTRODUCTION..... 41

 POPULATION 41

 HOUSING 41

 ECONOMY 42

 COMMUNITY FACILITIES 42

 Fire/Emergency Medical Services 42

 Healthcare Facilities 42

 School Facilities..... 43

Recreational Facilities 44

Transportation System..... 44

Water and Sewer 45

Solid Waste 45

CHAPTER 5. FUTURE LAND USE.....47

INTRODUCTION..... 47

FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS 49

 Local Commercial Service (LCS) 49

 Regional Commercial Service (RCS) 49

 Certified Industrial Sites (CI) 49

 Community Service (CS)..... 49

 Low Density Residential (LDR) 50

 Residential/Agriculture (RA) 50

 Conservation (C)..... 50

CHAPTER 6. GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES51

INTRODUCTION..... 51

LAND USE AND FORM 51

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 53

ECONOMIC GROWTH..... 54

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES 55

TRANSPORTATION 57

HOUSING..... 58

IMPLEMENTATION..... 58

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1 Regional Location..... 5

Map 2 Surface Water Classifications 19

Map 3 Flood Hazard Areas..... 22

Map 4 Soils..... 23

Map 5 Wetlands..... 25

Map 6 Historic Properties 26

Map 7 Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts 28

Map 8 Existing Land Use 39

Map 9 Robeson County CTP Highway Recommendations..... 46

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Map 10 Future Land Use..... 48

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Regional Population Growth, 1990-2030 7
Table 2. Municipal Population, 1990-2020 8
Table 3. Population by Race, 2020..... 9
Table 4. Housing Characteristics, 2010 and 2020 10
Table 5. Dwelling Unit Age, 2020 10
Table 6. Housing Cost and Condition, 2020 11
Table 7. Employment and Wage by Industry, 2020..... 11
Table 8. Robeson County Top 25 Employers, 2020 12
Table 9. Median Household Income, 2010 and 2020 13
Table 10. Vehicle Availability and Travel Time to Work, 2020 14
Table 11. Robeson County Industrial Park Sites 15
Table 12. Soils 20
Table 13. Robeson County Crime Rate Per 100,000 28
Table 14. Unincorporated Robeson County Existing Land Use..... 38
Table 15. Population Projections, 2020-2045..... 41
Table 16. Future Land Use Acreages..... 47

LIST OF CHARTS

Chart 1. Population by Age, 2020 8
Chart 2. Housing Occupancy, 2020 9
Chart 3. Percent of Insured/Uninsured Patients 32
Chart 4. Racial Composition of Patients..... 32

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A. Citizen Participation Plan
Appendix B. Citizen Survey Results



1

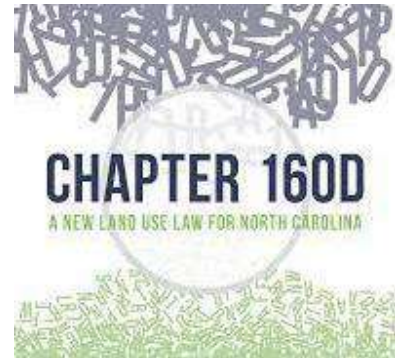
CHAPTER 1

Introduction

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

AUTHORITY TO PLAN

Chapter 160D, Article 5 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires adoption and reasonable maintenance of a comprehensive plan as a condition of adopting and applying zoning regulations. The plan is intended to set forth goals, policies, and programs to guide the present and future physical, social, and economic development of the jurisdiction. When adopting or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment, the governing board shall approve a brief statement describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive plan.



This statement of reasonableness may consider, among other factors, (a) the size, physical conditions, and other attributes of the area proposed to be rezoned, (b) the benefits and detriments to the landowners, the neighbors, and the surrounding community, (c) the relationship between the current actual and permissible development on the tract and adjoining areas and the development that would be permissible under the proposed amendment, (d) why the action taken is in the public interest, and (e) any changed conditions warranting the amendment.

PLAN PURPOSE

While the preparation of a comprehensive plan is required by North Carolina Legislation, there are broader and more important reasons to engage in the planning process. The planning process should begin with a clear understanding of Robeson County and its people. Choices must be made to protect the natural, manmade, and financial resources in the county. Utilization of the plan should not be limited to land use and development decisions. It can serve as a helpful resource to prioritize allocation of public funds.

The plan should be:

- Comprehensive in setting goals and objectives for all aspects of the county.
- Part of a continuous planning process that is timely and responsive to the needs and desires of the county.
- The legal basis for land use regulations and a guide for a capital improvements plan for county budgeting.

The planning process is divided into four steps:

1. **Basic Goals:** For local planning, determining basic goals may mean asking questions such as the following: Do we want to grow? Do we want to be a center for high-tech industry? What balance do we want between growth and preservation of the natural environment?

2. **Study and Analysis:** Among other things, plans address land use, population trends, the economic base of the community, and physiographic features.
3. **Plan or Policy Preparation:** Policies can be prepared for general application to the county or can be specific in nature. The policies are intended to guide how the county will develop and at what pace.
4. **Implementation and Effectuation:** To implement the plan, tools such as county ordinances, capital improvements programs, and general guidelines for private development and public investment will be specified.

Overall, this plan will accomplish the following objectives:

- Review historical data.
- Address concerns of plan stakeholders and Robeson County residents.
- Develop a clear statement of Robeson County’s future.
- Provide demographic/economic analysis and forecasts.
- Address land use, environment, public facilities, and transportation.
- Provide a generalized future land use map.
- Define goals, policies, and implementing actions.

PLANNING PROCESS AND FORMAT

This plan is the first comprehensive plan to be adopted by Robeson County. Preparation of this document was undertaken to produce a creative and dynamic plan to guide future long-term growth and development throughout the next twenty years. The intent of this plan is to establish a solid foundation for the existing planning program and to serve as the primary policy guide for short- and long-range planning and decision-making for the County.

Preparation of the County’s Comprehensive Plan was guided by a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) adopted by the Board of Commissioners on February 7, 2022 (see Appendix A). The CPP provided a framework for development of the plan, including opportunities for public involvement throughout the planning process. Public outreach facilitated through the CPP was used to document community concerns, present key findings, and develop the long-term vision for the County.

The Robeson County Planning Board supervised preparation of the plan and recommended it to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners for adoption. A public hearing on the plan was held on June 6, 2022, prior to adoption.

Robeson County Planning Board

Brian Keith McNair
Lois L. Carter
Gary Strickland, Jr.
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Fred Bergh, Secretary
Lenwood Collins
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Cameron Britt, County Liaison

This plan is divided into six independent chapters that focus on various aspects of the County. The following provides a brief outline of what will be addressed within each chapter of the plan:

Chapter 1. Introduction: This chapter provides a general overview of the plan, planning process, and enabling legislation which regulates the establishment and use of comprehensive plans in local government decision-making.

Chapter 2. Community Profile: This chapter provides a general overview of the existing demographic conditions of Robeson County, including population, housing age and condition, and economic indicators. This chapter serves as a basic overview of the County's current situation and as a baseline for discussion of future growth, development, and public policy.

Chapter 3. Environment/Existing Conditions: This chapter provides existing conditions throughout Robeson County's planning jurisdiction, including environmental factors, community facilities and services, transportation, and existing land use. Documentation provided in this chapter will provide the necessary data and analysis needed to develop the County's Future Land Use Map.

Chapter 4. Projections/Future Demand: This chapter of the plan focuses on future growth and demand which may have an impact on land use, transportation, and community facilities.

Chapter 5. Future Land Use: The Future Land Use Map element will define the framework for future growth and development within Robeson County.

Chapter 6. Goals and Implementing Strategies: The discussion of goals and implementing strategies will serve as a guide for the integration of the Comprehensive Plan into the County's day-to-day decision-making process. Additionally, the goals and implementing strategies defined within this chapter will establish an organized and thorough listing of strategies intended to provide for sound principles relating to future growth, economic development, modifications of service delivery, and infrastructure expansion. This section of the plan also provides narrative and tools for plan implementation.

HISTORY

The first inhabitants in what is now Robeson County were Lumbee Indians who had migrated from farther east and had settled along the banks of the Lumber River. Early settlers arrived about 1730 and included Scottish, English, Welsh, and French immigrants. In 1787, Robeson County was formed from what was then part of Bladen County and was named in honor of Colonel Thomas Robeson. Colonel Robeson served as one of the leaders in the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Elizabethtown.

The City of Lumberton was created by an Act of the NC General Assembly in 1787 and was named the County seat of Robeson County. It was established on the banks of the Lumber River, along the waterfront of which the first businesses were established. Lumberton was incorporated in 1859.



Robeson County Courthouse Image Source: North Carolina Postcards Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The Lumber River was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River and is part of the North Carolina Natural and Scenic River System. The river has been classified as natural, scenic, and recreational and is considered one of the most highly prized recreation sites in North Carolina. Recreation includes canoeing and boating, fishing, hunting, picnicking, camping, nature study, swimming, biking, jogging, crafts and fossil and artifact hunting.

Robeson County is home to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Established in 1887 as the Croatan Normal School, it became part of the UNC system in 1972. In 1996, it officially became the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP).



Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base Image Source: North Carolina Postcards Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill

The Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base was also located in the Robeson County town of Maxton. The base played an important part in World War II with the training of 20,000 glider pilots and crewmen for campaigns in Burma, Africa, Sicily, and Normandy.

The County is mainly agricultural. Early settlers grew wheat, corn, rice, potatoes, and cane. In the late 1800s, after the invention of the cotton gin, the major crop was cotton, but by the 1930s, it was tobacco. Because of the abundance of good soil, the availability of water, and the local market and transportation facilities, the Robeson County area is ideal for farming.

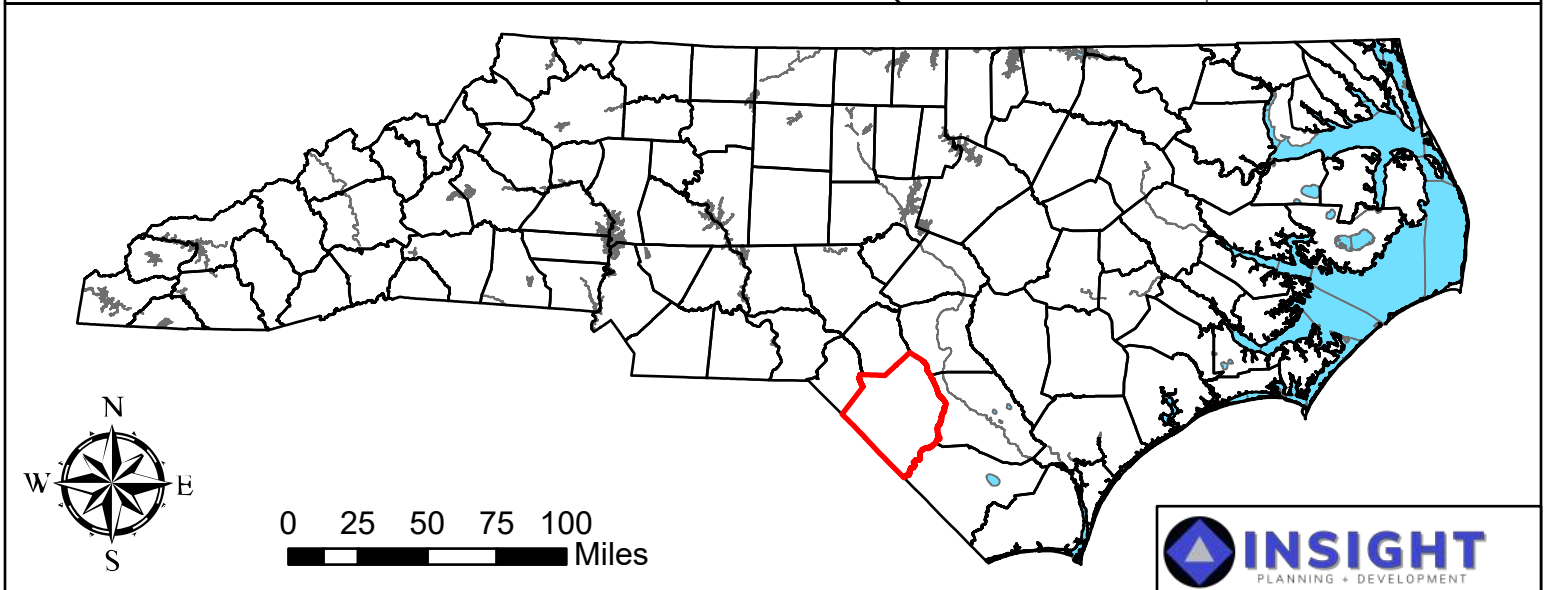
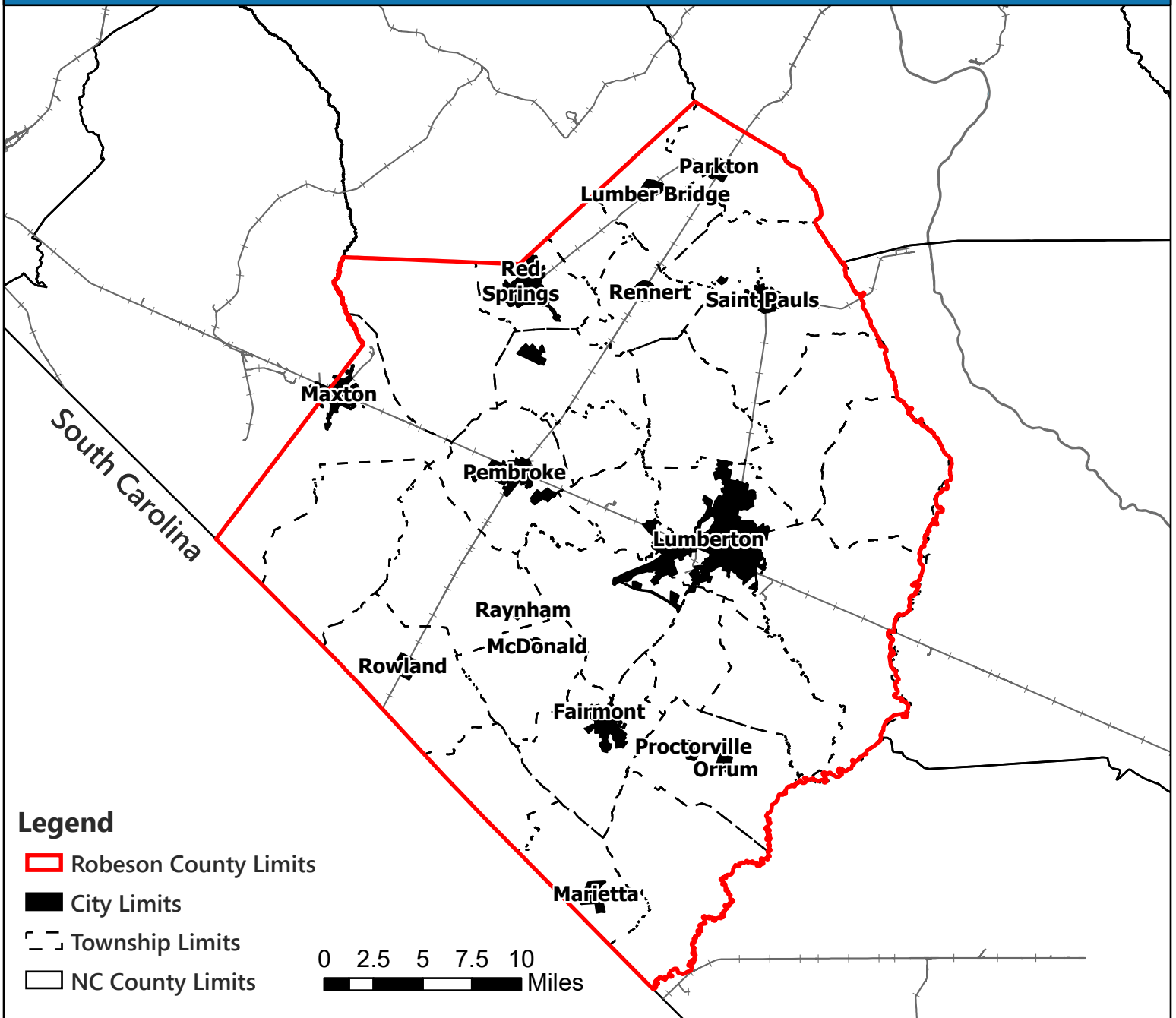
REGIONAL LOCATION

Robeson County is located in southeastern North Carolina and is bordered by the State of South Carolina and the North Carolina counties of Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland (see Map 1). Bisected by Interstate 95, Robeson County is at the mid-point between Boston and Miami. Other major highways serving the county include US Routes 74, 301, and 501, and NC Highways 211, 41, 710, and 71. The CSX Railroad traverses the County, intersecting at the Town of Pembroke. General aviation airports in the area include Lumberton Municipal Airport in Lumberton. Air carrier service is provided through Fayetteville Regional Airport (33 miles), Wilmington International Airport (73 miles), and Myrtle Beach International Airport (95 miles). The County is located approximately 1.5 hours from the NC beaches and 3 hours from the NC mountains.

Robeson County is the largest county in the state of North Carolina, with a total area of 951 square miles. Of that figure, 949 square miles is land and 1.8 square miles is water. There are numerous swamps throughout the County which generally flow in a northwest to southeast direction and eventually drain into the Lumber River.



Map 1. Regional Location



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2

CHAPTER 2

Community Profile

CHAPTER 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

The Community Profile section outlines various demographic information, including population, housing, and economic indicators. For the purposes of this plan, and for the sake of consistency, demographic data are sourced primarily from the United States Census Bureau and the American Community Survey. Census data may also be supplemented with figures from the NC Office of State Budget and Management (NCOSBM).

POPULATION



Population Growth

According to the NC Office of State Budget and Management (NCOSBM), the population in Robeson County is expected to decrease by approximately 25% from 2010 to 2030. All the counties surrounding Robeson County are expected to decrease in population during the same timeframe, except Hoke County and Cumberland County which are projected to increase by 23.6% and 4.9%, respectively. North Carolina’s population is expected to increase by 20.9% (see Table 1).

Table 1. Regional Population Growth, 1990-2030

Jurisdiction	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030 Estimate	% Change '90 to '10	% Change '10 to '30	Overall % Change '90 to '30
Bladen County	28,663	32,278	35,190	29,606	24,450	22.8%	-30.5%	-14.7%
Columbus County	49,587	54,749	58,098	50,623	41,283	17.2%	-28.9%	-16.7%
Cumberland County	274,713	302,960	319,431	334,728	334,926	16.3%	4.9%	21.9%
Dillon County (SC)	29,114	30,722	32,062	28,292	28,310	10.1%	-11.7%	-2.8%
Hoke County	22,856	33,650	46,952	52,082	58,032	105.4%	23.6%	153.9%
Robeson County	105,170	123,241	134,168	116,530	100,362	27.6%	-25.2%	-4.6%
Scotland County	33,763	35,998	36,157	34,174	30,297	7.1%	-16.2%	-10.3%
North Carolina	6,632,448	8,049,313	9,535,483	10,439,388	11,527,150	43.8%	20.9%	73.8%

Source: US Census Bureau; NC Office of Budget and Management, State Demographer; SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health and Demographics Section.

Robeson County ranks 25th out of 100 North Carolina counties in terms of population. The most densely populated areas of Robeson County are found in and around the fifteen incorporated municipalities. Of those fifteen municipalities, Lumberton has the highest population (19,025) followed by Red Springs (3,087). Only six of the fifteen municipalities experienced population growth from 1990 to 2020 - those being Lumberton, McDonald, Parkton, Pembroke, Rennert, and St. Pauls. The municipalities of Marietta, Orrum, and Raynham all experienced a dramatic decline in population, decreasing by more than 40% since 1990 (see Table 2).

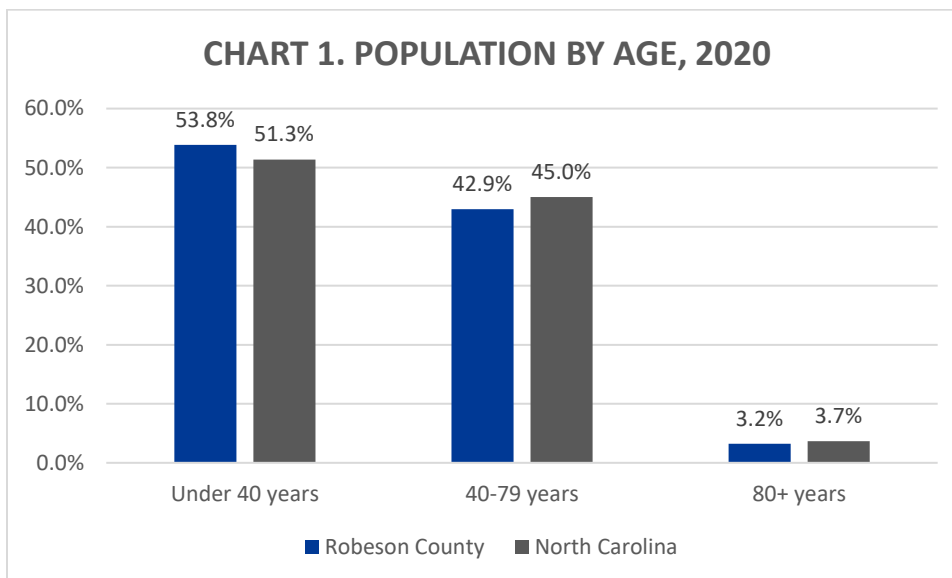
Table 2. Municipal Population, 1990 to 2020

Jurisdiction	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change '90 to '00	% Change '00 to '10	% Change '10 to '20	% Change '90 to '20
Fairmont	2,519	2,604	2,663	2,191	3.4%	2.3%	-17.7%	-13.0%
Lumber Bridge	109	118	94	82	8.3%	-20.3%	-12.8%	-24.8%
Lumberton	18,733	20,795	21,542	19,025	11.0%	3.6%	-11.7%	1.6%
Marietta	206	164	175	111	-20.4%	6.7%	-36.6%	-46.1%
Maxton	2,576	2,551	2,426	2,110	-1.0%	-4.9%	-13.0%	-18.1%
McDonald	88	119	113	94	35.2%	-5.0%	-16.8%	6.8%
Orrum	103	79	91	59	-23.3%	15.2%	-35.2%	-42.7%
Parkton	367	429	436	504	16.9%	1.6%	15.6%	37.3%
Pembroke	2,241	2,681	2,973	2,823	19.6%	10.9%	-5.0%	26.0%
Proctorville	168	133	117	121	-20.8%	-12.0%	3.4%	-28.0%
Raynham	106	72	72	60	-32.1%	0.0%	-16.7%	-43.4%
Red Springs	3,799	3,493	3,428	3,087	-8.1%	-1.9%	-9.9%	-18.7%
Rennert	217	283	383	275	30.4%	35.3%	-28.2%	26.7%
Rowland	1,141	1,146	1,037	885	0.4%	-9.5%	-14.6%	-22.4%
St. Pauls	1,992	2,247	2,035	2,045	12.8%	-9.4%	0.5%	2.7%

Source: US Census Bureau.

Population by Age

Robeson County appears to have a young population profile, with its median age in 2010 at 34.4 years and in 2020, 36.7 years. Just over half of Robeson County’s population (53.8%) is under the age of 40 years. This figure is comparable to the state’s population under the age of 40 (51.3%). Table 3 provides a detailed breakdown of age composition for the County.



Population by Gender & Race

The gender composition in Robeson County has stayed relatively the same from 2010 to 2020. According to the 2010 Census, 48.6% of the Robeson County population was male and 51.4% female. In the 2020 Census, 48.2% of the population was male and 51.8% female.

The 2020 Census shows that the racial composition in Robeson County was 25.8% White, 22.7% African American, 38.5% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 13.0% Other. This racial mixture is different from that of the state as a whole (see Table 4). Robeson County is one of the 10% of United States counties that are majority-minority; its combined population of American Indian, African American, and other minority residents comprise over 70% of the total population. In 2010, the racial composition of Robeson County was very similar to that of 2020 with 29.0% of the population White, 24.3% African American, 38.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, and 8.3% Other.

Table 3. Population by Race, 2020

Race	Robeson County		North Carolina	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
White	30,041	25.8%	6,488,459	62.2%
Black or African American	26,424	22.7%	2,140,217	20.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	44,871	38.5%	130,032	1.2%
Asian	908	0.8%	343,051	3.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	79	0.1%	8,518	0.1%
Some Other Race	8,192	7.0%	617,390	5.9%
Two or More Races	6,015	5.2%	711,721	6.8%
Total	116,530	100.0%	10,439,388	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. According to the US Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, approximately 9% of the County’s population is Hispanic or Latino.

HOUSING



Dwelling Unit Growth

In Robeson County, from 2010 to 2020, the number of dwelling units increased from 52,731 units to 53,384 units, a 1.2% increase. In addition, the number of owner-occupied housing units increased from 28,007 to 30,438, an 8.7% increase (see Table 4). However, the number of vacant housing units declined in Robeson County - decreasing from 18% of total units to 14.1%.

CHART 2. HOUSING OCCUPANCY, 2020

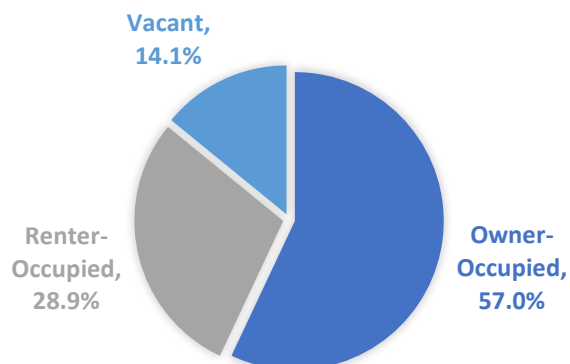


Table 4. Housing Characteristics, 2010 and 2020

	2010 Census				2020 Census			
	Robeson County		North Carolina		Robeson County		North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Owner-Occupied	28,007	53.1%	2,468,489	58.4%	30,438	57.0%	2,649,849	56.5%
Renter-Occupied	15,230	28.9%	1,157,690	27.4%	15,443	28.9%	1,381,743	29.5%
Vacant	9,494	18.0%	603,373	14.3%	7,503	14.1%	655,530	14.0%
Total	52,731	100.0%	4,229,552	100.0%	53,384	100.0%	4,687,122	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau.

Dwelling Unit Age

In 2020, almost 45% of Robeson County's housing units were more than 40 years old (see Table 6). This percentage is slightly higher than the state's percentage of older housing units (37.5%). For comparison, in 2010, 29.2% of housing units were more than 40 years old. The age of the housing inventory has increased significantly.

Table 5. Dwelling Unit Age, 2020

Year Structure Built	Robeson County		North Carolina	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
2014 or later	1,212	2.3%	226,750	4.8%
2010-2013	1,689	3.2%	187,501	4.0%
2000-2009	5,152	9.7%	879,788	18.8%
1990-1999	12,409	23.2%	922,749	19.7%
1980-1989	9,275	17.4%	713,784	15.2%
Prior to 1980 (over 40 years)	23,647	44.3%	1,756,550	37.5%
Total	53,384	100.0%	4,687,122	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau.

Housing Cost & Condition

In 2020, the median home value in Robeson County was \$75,600. Statewide, the median housing value is \$182,100 - more than twice that of housing units in Robeson County. 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.

In 2020, almost 30% of homeowners in Robeson County have a mortgage exceeding 30% or more of their income. According to the 2010 Census, almost 40% of homeowners in the county allocated that level of income to their mortgage - representing a 25% decrease 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 declined from 2010 to 2020. In 2010, almost 60% of renters used more than 30% of their income to pay rent. By 2020, the percentage of renters burdened by their living costs decreased to 47.8%. Across the state, this trend held true as burdened mortgage owners and renters decreased from 32.2% and 48.9%, respectively, to under 25% of mortgage owners and 46.8% of all renters in 2020.

The percentage of housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities and/or complete kitchen facilities in Robeson County is comparable to the statewide average.

Table 6. Housing Cost and Condition, 2020

	Robeson County		North Carolina	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Median Housing Value	\$75,600	--	\$182,100	--
Mortgage Greater than 30% of Income	3,279	28.9%	400,030	24.3%
Rent Greater than 30% of Income	5,897	47.8%	590,267	46.8%
Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	234	0.5%	12,023	0.3%
Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities	211	0.5%	24,943	0.6%

Source: US Census Bureau.

ECONOMY



Employment by Industry

According to the Labor and Economic Analysis Division of the NC Department of Commerce, the Manufacturing sector has the largest number of employees in Robeson County (note that all employees are not listed in this table). Almost 20% of the workforce is employed in the Manufacturing industry, followed by the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, which employs approximately 18% of the workforce. The Utilities industry has the highest average weekly wage, at \$1,581. The weekly wage in the Utilities industry is double the average weekly wage of the Robeson County labor force (see Table 7).

Table 7. Employment and Wage by Industry, 2020

Industry	Establishments	Average Employment	Percent of Workforce	Average Weekly Wage
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	60	350	0.9%	\$642.00
Utilities	12	167	0.4%	\$1,581.00
Construction	170	1,163	3.1%	\$864.00
Manufacturing	61	7,379	19.4%	\$860.00
Wholesale trade	73	1,177	3.1%	\$1,105.00
Retail trade	413	4,853	12.8%	\$527.00
Transportation and warehousing	84	851	2.2%	\$868.00
Information	13	125	0.3%	\$782.00
Finance and insurance	86	944	2.5%	\$873.00
Real estate and rental and leasing	56	147	0.4%	\$632.00
Professional, scientific, and technical services	122	614	1.6%	\$816.00
Management of companies and enterprises	10	133	0.4%	\$1,214.00

CHAPTER 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Industry	Establishments	Average Employment	Percent of Workforce	Average Weekly Wage
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	86	2,007	5.3%	\$534.00
Educational services	49	4,444	11.7%	\$840.00
Health care and social assistance	340	7,009	18.5%	\$777.00
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	16	91	0.2%	\$347.00
Accommodation and food services	178	3,303	8.7%	\$275.00
Other services (except public administration)	182	474	1.2%	\$574.00
Public administration	35	2,713	7.2%	\$870.00

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis.

Mountaire Farms of NC is the single largest employer in the county. Other significant employers are the Public Schools of Robeson County, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Robeson County Finance Department and UNC-Pembroke (see Table 8). Unemployment in Robeson County has declined since January 2021, when it was 9.0%. The unemployment rate recorded for January 2022, was slightly less at 6.4%.



Mountaire Farms – Lumber Bridge Image Source: <https://mountaire.com/>

Table 8. Robeson County Top 25 Employers, 2020

Rank	Company Name	Industry	Class	Employment Range
1	Mountaire Farms of NC, Inc.	Manufacturing	Private Sector	1,000+
2	Public Schools of Robeson County	Educational Services	Public Sector	1,000+
3	Southeastern Regional Medical Center	Health Care and Social Assistance	Private Sector	1,000+
4	Robeson County Finance Department	Public Administration	Public Sector	1,000+
5	UNC at Pembroke	Educational Services	Public Sector	1,000+
6	Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.	Retail Trade	Private Sector	1,000+
7	Campbell Soup Company, LLC	Manufacturing	Private Sector	500-999
8	Two Hawk Employment Services, LLC	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	Private Sector	500-999
9	BB&T	Finance and Insurance	Private Sector	500-999
10	Primary Health Choice, Inc.	Health Care and Social Assistance	Private Sector	250-499
11	Food Lion	Retail Trade	Private Sector	250-499
12	McDonalds	Accommodation and Food Services	Private Sector	260-499
13	Prestage Foods	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499
14	Department of Public Safety	Public Administration	Public Sector	250-499
15	City of Lumberton	Public Administration	Public Sector	250-499
16	Robeson Community College	Educational Services	Public Sector	250-499
17	Cynthia Quarles	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499

Rank	Company Name	Industry	Class	Employment Range
18	RHA Health Services, LLC	Health Care and Social Assistance	Private Sector	250-499
19	Kayser-Roth Corporation	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499
20	Spartan Nash Associates, LLC	Wholesale Trade	Private Sector	250-499
21	The Staffing Alliance, LLC	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	Private Sector	250-499
22	Rubbermaid Cleaning Products	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499
23	Pepsi Bottling Ventures, LLC	Wholesale Trade	Private Sector	250-499
24	Graphic Packaging International, LLC	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499
25	Elkay Southern Corp.	Manufacturing	Private Sector	250-499

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis.

Income

In 2020, the median household income in Robeson County was \$35,362. The county still lags behind the state and the neighboring counties of Bladen, Columbus, Dillon (SC), Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland (see Table 9).

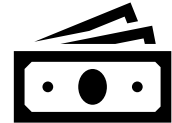


Table 9. Median Household Income, 2010 and 2020

Jurisdiction	Median Household Income		Person Below Poverty Level (%)	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Bladen County	\$27,463	\$37,188	24.5%	24.3%
Columbus County	\$35,454	\$38,487	24.3%	22.1%
Cumberland County	\$43,600	\$48,177	16.3%	18.7%
Dillon County (SC)	\$26,342	\$36,429	28.9%	30.2%
Hoke County	\$42,613	\$51,140	23.5%	18.6%
Robeson County	\$29,041	\$35,362	30.5%	27.1%
Scotland County	\$28,695	\$35,936	31.0%	27.3%
North Carolina	\$45,570	\$56,642	15.5%	14.0%

Source: US Census Bureau; 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

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

Vehicle Availability and Travel Time to Work



Close to nine percent of people in the occupied housing units in the county have no vehicle available for private use. In North Carolina as a whole, 5.6% of residents are faced with this issue. In Robeson County, the travel time to work is similar to the state overall.

Table 10. Vehicle Availability and Travel Time to Work, 2020

	Robeson County		North Carolina	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Occupied housing units	45,881	--	4,031,592	--
No vehicles available	4,068	8.9%	223,909	5.6%
1 vehicle available	14,756	32.2%	1,266,438	31.4%
2 or more vehicles available	27,057	58.9%	2,541,245	63.0%
Mean travel time to work	24.7	--	24.9	--

Source: US Census Bureau; 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

Economic Development

Robeson County’s economic development efforts are led by the Robeson County Economic Development Commission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the County’s economic well-being. Through the Robeson County Business Retention & Expansion Program, the Commission works to facilitate the growth of new and existing industries and to recognize their achievements and contributions to the community.

The County has a diverse group of private sector industries. However, the largest employers are food processing industries which reflects the significance of agricultural production in Robeson County and southeastern North Carolina.

Business Education and Training

Part of the North Carolina Community College System, **Robeson Community College (RCC)** offers training programs for free or at minimal cost to qualifying companies. The Industrial Services Center at RCC provides a full range of customized training programs including employee assessments, program development, skills training, customized video training, temporary training facilities, supplies, and/or equipment. Services provided at the Center are funded by these state-sponsored programs:

- Customized Industry Training (CIT)
- Focused Industry Training (FIT)
- New and Expanding Industry Training (NEIT)
- Industry Occupational Extension



The **Advanced Manufacturing/Industrial Education and Training Laboratories** at RCC opened in the fall of 2011 and provides area manufacturers with the development tools needed to compete in the complex area of advanced production. The facility houses five separate training labs:

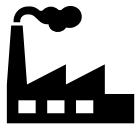
- Pneumatics/Hydraulics/Fluid Power Laboratory
- CNC/Machine Tool Laboratory
- PLC/CNC Laboratory
- Mechanical Systems Laboratory
- Mechantronics Laboratory

The **Lumber River Workforce Development Board** addresses the employment and training needs of adults, dislocated workers, and youth. Through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program, eligible participants have access to a wide range of employment and training services from basic job attainment and job keeping skills, to assistance with improving basic education skills, and occupational skills training. The Lumber River Workforce Development Board is housed at the Lumber River Council of Governments Office at COMtech Park in Robeson County.

The **Carolina Commerce and Technology Center, Inc., (COMtech)** was developed to drive the success of technology-focused businesses and industries, and to support long-term workforce and economic development in Robeson County. The facility’s state-of-the-art education and training center combined with ready-to-build Certified sites will help create a dynamic environment for accelerated growth in the County.

Chartered in 1789, the **University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNC-P)** was the first public university in the US and today comprises a 16-campus system spanning the state. UNC-P provides professional development, research capabilities, and specialized expertise to Robeson County companies. The UNC-P Small Business Development Technology Center provides services specifically designed to aid growing companies in expanding their markets and increasing competitiveness. Founded in 2005, the Thomas Entrepreneurship Hub is part of the UNC-P School of Business and provides opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout southeastern North Carolina.

Industrial Parks



There are currently nine industrial parks located in Robeson County (see Table 11). Of these sites, one is certified by the State of North Carolina (COMtech Industrial Park). The North Carolina Certified Sites Program contains a statewide inventory of industrial sites that have undergone a rigorous prequalification process to ensure they meet a consistent set of standards. A Certified Site reduces the risks associated with development by providing detailed information about a site, including price and availability, utilities, access, environmental concerns, and potential development costs. Sites are periodically recertified in order to ensure accurate, reliable data.

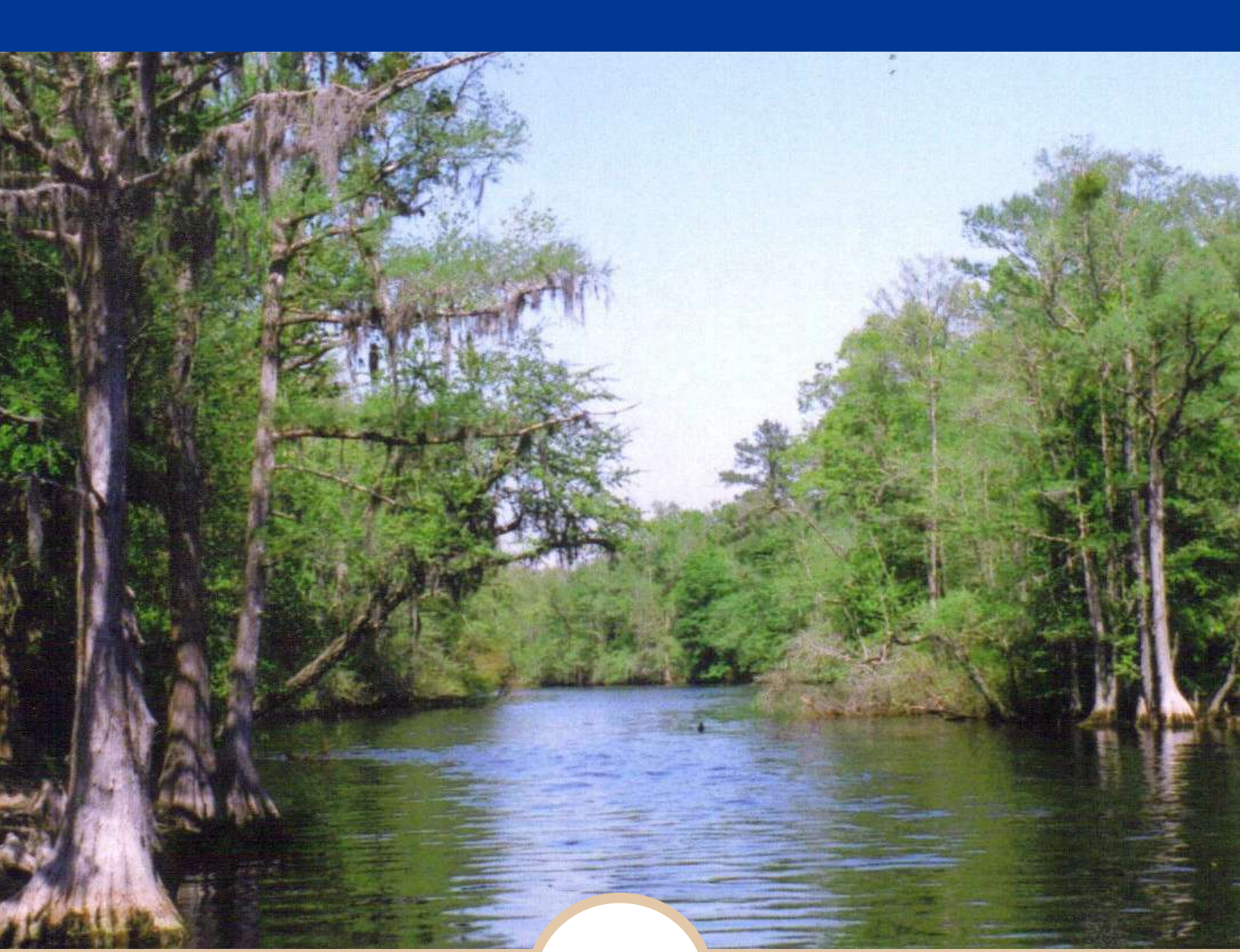
Site/Park Name	Size	Location
COMtech Industrial Park	600 acres	Pembroke
I-74 Industrial Park LLC	45 acres	Lumberton
Air Park West	130.77 acres	Lumberton
Converse/Nordic Rail Site	90 acres	Lumberton
4700 West 5 th Street Site	24.83 acres	Lumberton
I-95 Fox Site	207.60 acres	Fairmont
Nye Site	200 acres	Lumberton
Red Springs Industrial Park	200 acres	Red Springs
I-95 Eagle Site	190 acres	Lumberton

Source: NC Department of Commerce.



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3

CHAPTER 3

Environment/Existing Conditions

CHAPTER 3. ENVIRONMENT/EXISTING CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes physical features that can support or limit development capacity. It further highlights the community assets. The information contained in this chapter provides many tools used to identify land uses that are appropriate for future development or conservation. The maps inserted into this chapter were prepared from data compiled from federal, state, and local government sources. The information and data are solely intended to support the Robeson County planning process and should not be substituted for onsite surveys and detailed engineering studies.

Robeson County encompasses approximately 607,232 total acres, which makes it the largest county in the state of North Carolina. Of this acreage, 606,080 acres (99.8%) are dedicated to land area and 1,152 acres (.0019%) encumbered with water. As previously noted, Robeson County is bordered by several North Carolina counties, including Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Scotland, and Hoke. It also serves as a border to a few South Carolina counties, including Horry, Marlboro, and Dillon.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Climate

The climate in Robeson County is best described as mild. Summer can present hot and muggy conditions, while winters are known to be cold, but short. Over the course of a year, the temperatures vary from 35 degrees to 90 degrees Fahrenheit (F). It rarely dips below 22 degrees F or above 96 degrees F. The annual average temperature is 61.7 degrees F, higher than the North Carolina average of 58.7 degrees F.

Topography

Topography refers to the slope and elevation of land. Robeson County is located in the southeastern portion of the state in the Coastal Plain region of North Carolina. The Coastal Plain is sub-divided into two major sub-areas. The Outer Coastal Plain, or Tidewater, which lies closest to the ocean, is extremely flat and averages less than 20 feet above sea level. The Inner Coastal Plain is higher in elevation and better drained. Robeson County lies within the Inner Coastal Plain, with an elevation of 171 feet above sea level.

Water Resources

Ground Water

Since the early 1900s, ground-water-level declines have been documented throughout the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. Ground-water use has outpaced the rate of recharge, particularly to the Cretaceous aquifers, a major source of groundwater for public supplies in the Coastal Plain. Ground-water supplies are being developed in and around Robeson County, in addition to several other counties in the region. As revealed in USGS/LRCOG ground-water studies, aquifers in the Coastal Plain region have declined steadily in some areas as the amount of water pumped from these aquifers has increased with economic and agricultural growth.

A sustainable water supply can be significantly impacted by land use. Robeson County should consider the unanticipated impacts droughts, population growth, and development have on groundwater supplies.

Surface Water

Robeson County is located within the Lumber River Basin. The Lumber River Basin encompasses an area of roughly 3,343 square miles and is four distinct river systems that include the Lumber River, the Waccamaw River, the headwaters of the Little Pee Dee River, and a system of small coastal rivers that empty into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Basin consists of three main ecoregions: the sandhills, loam plains, and Carolina flatwoods. The sandhills region is typically characterized by upland pine forest and wiregrass. Soils in the sand hills are well drained and provide a reliable source of groundwater recharge to the streams that run through the area. The loam plains and Carolina flatwood regions provide a stark difference, flow is often slow and ephemeral. The Lumber River flows into the Little Pee Dee River approximately 10 miles across the state line.

The Lumber River Basin contains multiple sub-watersheds. Two of particular interest to Robeson County are outlined below.

Town of Wagram-Lumber River (030402030301) This sub-watershed is part of the Ecosystem Enhancement Program's Targeted Local Watershed (03040203020010) based on lack of stream buffers and the presence of endangered species. About 28 square miles of the watershed are classified as a Water Supply IV watershed because the former raw water intake for Robeson County is located in this sub-watershed on the Lumber River AU #14-(4). This water supply intake is currently not in use because several groundwater wells were installed to replace it, but all classifications will remain in place to protect it for future use.

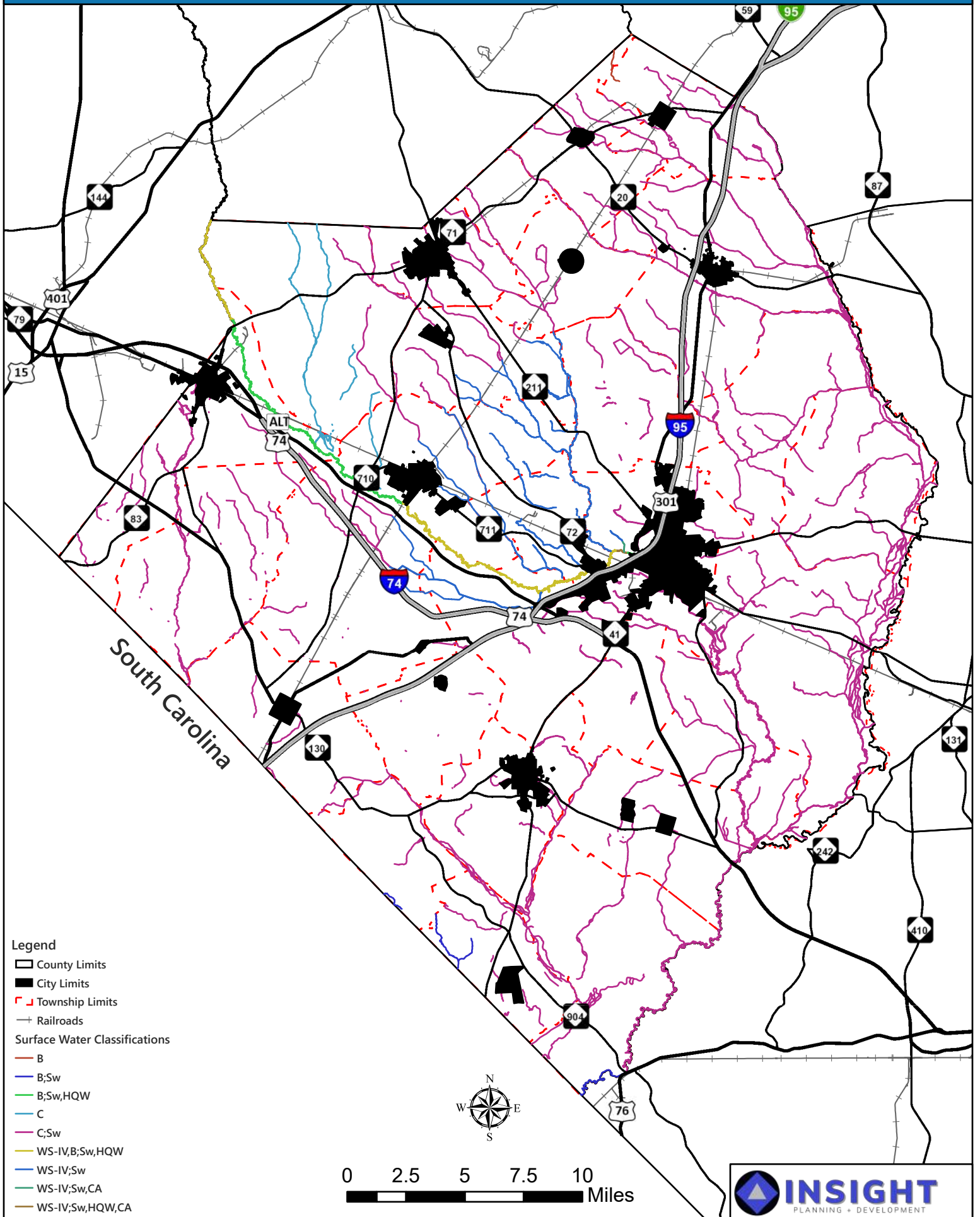
Town of Maxton-Lumber River (030402030303) This sub-watershed contains northeastern Maxton and is part of the Ecosystem Enhancement Program's Targeted Local Watershed (03040203020010). Although, the Robeson County water intake is currently not in use, much of this sub-watershed is classified as a Water Supply IV watershed.

All surface waters in North Carolina are classified by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ). All waters are required to meet the minimum standards for Class C (fishable/swimmable) waters. Other primary classifications provide additional levels of protection for primary water contact recreation (Class B) and drinking water (Water Supply Class I through V). Map 2 delineates Robeson County's surface water classifications.

Scenic Rivers

Robeson County is home to the Lumber River, a black river that traverses largely undeveloped areas. The scenic river runs from State Route 1412/1203 to the Scotland/Robeson County lines at the end of the Maxton Airport Swamp and from the Black Swamp to the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Riverwalks have been established along Lumberton and Fair Bluff.

Map 2. Surface Water Classifications



Flood Hazard Areas

Most of the special flood hazard areas (SFHA) in the planning area are located within the 100-year floodplain, although land outside the floodplain can be flood prone to water rise. Property in the 100-year floodplain has a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year and stands a 26 percent chance of flooding during the lifetime of a 30-year mortgage. Therefore, the 100-year floodplain is the standard used by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to determine the need for flood insurance. The County participates in the NFIP, which allows homeowners, renters, and businesses to buy flood insurance at affordable rates.

SFHAs are broken into “AE” zones and “VE” zones. “AE” zones, formerly known as the 100-year floodplain, are area subject to risk of flooding by standing or relatively static flood waters, while “VE” zones are areas subject to wave action. “Shaded X” is a supplemental flood hazard area in which there is a 0.2% annual chance of flooding, also known as the “500-year floodplain.” Land bordering the Atlantic Ocean is most susceptible to wave inundation, whereas land bordering estuarine areas are most susceptible to flooding/rising waters.

The geographic location of each flood hazard area is displayed on Map 3. Digital FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available for review at <http://fris.nc.gov>.

Soils

Robeson County houses a variety of soil types. A brief description and slope analysis is provided in Table 12.

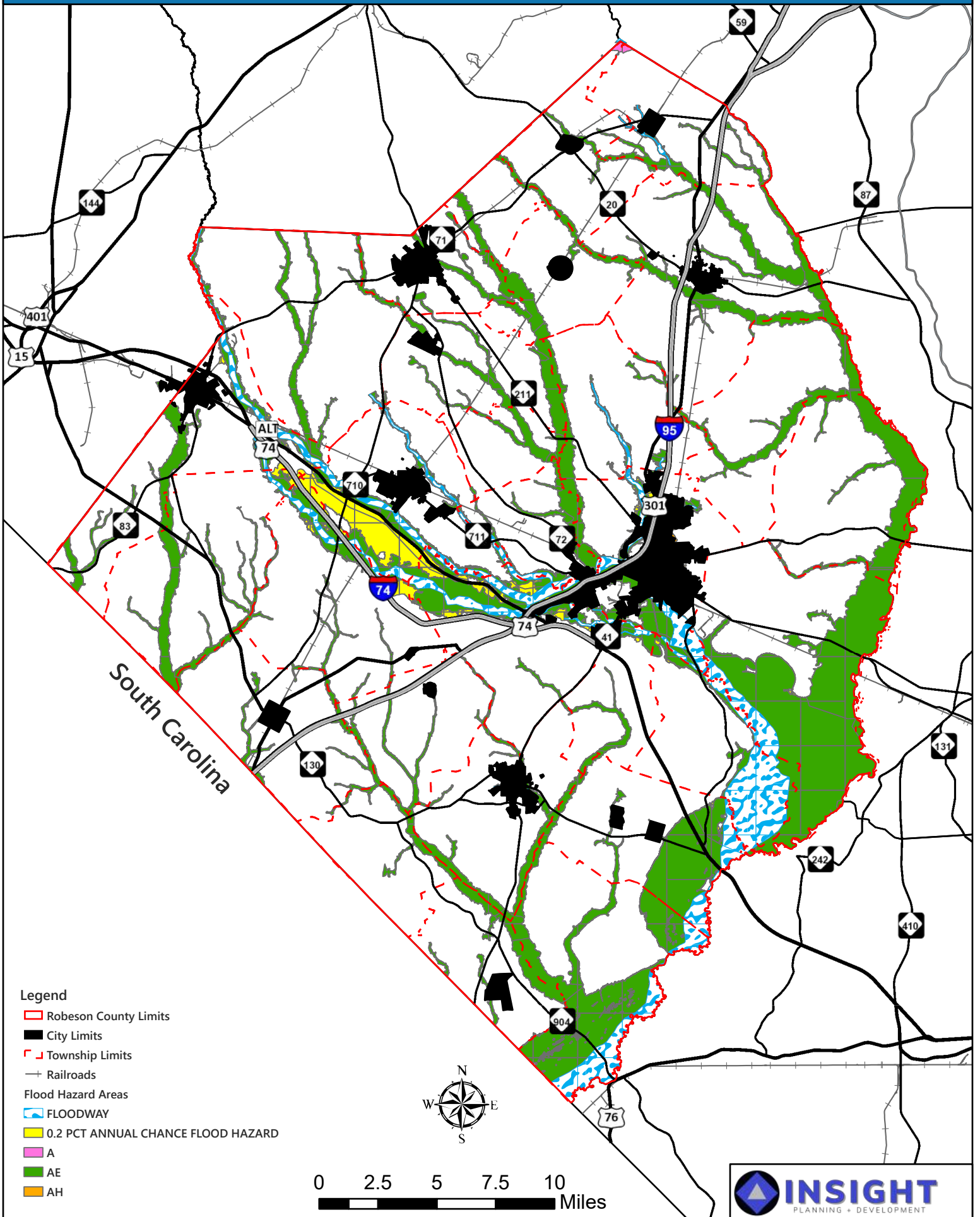
Table 12. Soils		
Soil Name	Abbreviation	Slope Analysis
Aycock Very Fine Sandy Loam	AyA	0 to 2%
Aycock Very Fine Sandy Loam	AvB	2 to 6%
Bibb Soils	BB	Nearly level, poorly drained soils are on flood plains of natural drainageways.
Byars Loam	By	Nearly level, very poorly drained soil in depressions and bays on uplands.
Coxville Loam	Co	Nearly level, poorly drained soils are on broad flats or in bays of uplands.
Dunbar Sandy Loam	Dn	Nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soils on uplands.
Duplin Sandy Loam	DpA	0-2%
Duplin Sandy Loam	DpB	2-6%
Exum Very Fine Sandy Loam	ExA	0-1%
Faceville Fine Sandy Loam	FaA	0-2%
Faceville Fine Sandy Loam	FaB	2-6%
Goldsboro Loamy Sand	GoA	0-2%
Johns Sandy Loam	Jo	Nearly level, moderately well drained or somewhat poorly drained soil is on stream terraces, generally along the lumbar River and Big Swamp.
Johnston Soils	JT	Nearly level, very poorly drained soils on floodplains.
Johns Sandy Loam	Jo	Nearly level, moderately well drained or somewhat poorly drained soils on stream terraces.
Kalmia Loamy Sand	KaA	0-2%

Soil Name	Abbreviation	Slope Analysis
Lakeland Sand	LaB	0-6%
Leon Sand	Le	Nearly level, poorly drained soil is on interbay divides on uplands on stream terraces, and around the outer rim of bays.
Lumbee Sandy Loam	Lu	Nearly level, poorly drained soils on stream terraces.
Lynchburg Sandy Loam	Ly	Nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soils on uplands.
Marlboro Sandy Loam	MaA	0-2%
Marlboro Sandy Loam	MaB	2-6%
McColl Loam	Mc	Nearly level, poorly drained soil in oval bays on broad uplands.
Meggett Fine Sandy Loam	Me	Nearly level, poorly drained soil is on stream terraces and drainageways.
Nahunta Very Fine Sand	Na	Nearly level, poorly drained soils on uplands.
Pactolus Loamy Sand	Pa	Nearly level, poorly drained soil, is on the lowest part of irregularly shaped or oval bays.
Pocalla Loamy Sand	PoB	0-3%
Ponzer muck, siliceous subsoil variant	Pr	Very poorly drained, organic soil is in large bays.
Portsmouth Loam	Pt	Nearly level, very poorly drained soils on stream terraces.
Rutlege Loamy Sand	Ru	Nearly level, very poorly drained soils on stream terraces and uplands.
Toisnot Loam	Ta	Nearly level, poorly drained soils on the outer fringes of stream terraces.
Torhunta Loam	To	Nearly level, very poorly drained soils in bays on uplands and stream terraces.
Trebloc Loam	Tr	Nerally level, poorly drained soils on uplands.
Udorthents, Loamy	Ud	Soils in small areas that have been altered by man to the extent that the original relief and soil profile cannot be recognized.
Norfolk Loamy Sand	NoA	0-2%
Norfolk Loamy Sand	NoB	2-6%
Norfolk and Faceville Soils	NsC	6-10%
Pantego Fine Sandy Loam	Pg	Nearly level, very poorly drained soils on lowest part of irregularly shaped or oval bays.
Plummer and Osler Soils	Pm	Nearly level, poorly drained soils in depressions and along drainageways on uplands and stream terraces.
Rains Sandy Loam	Ra	Nearly level, poorly drained soils on broad, low plains and is on the lowest part of the landscape.
Wagram Loamy Sand	WaB	0-6%
Wakulla Sand	WkB	0-6%

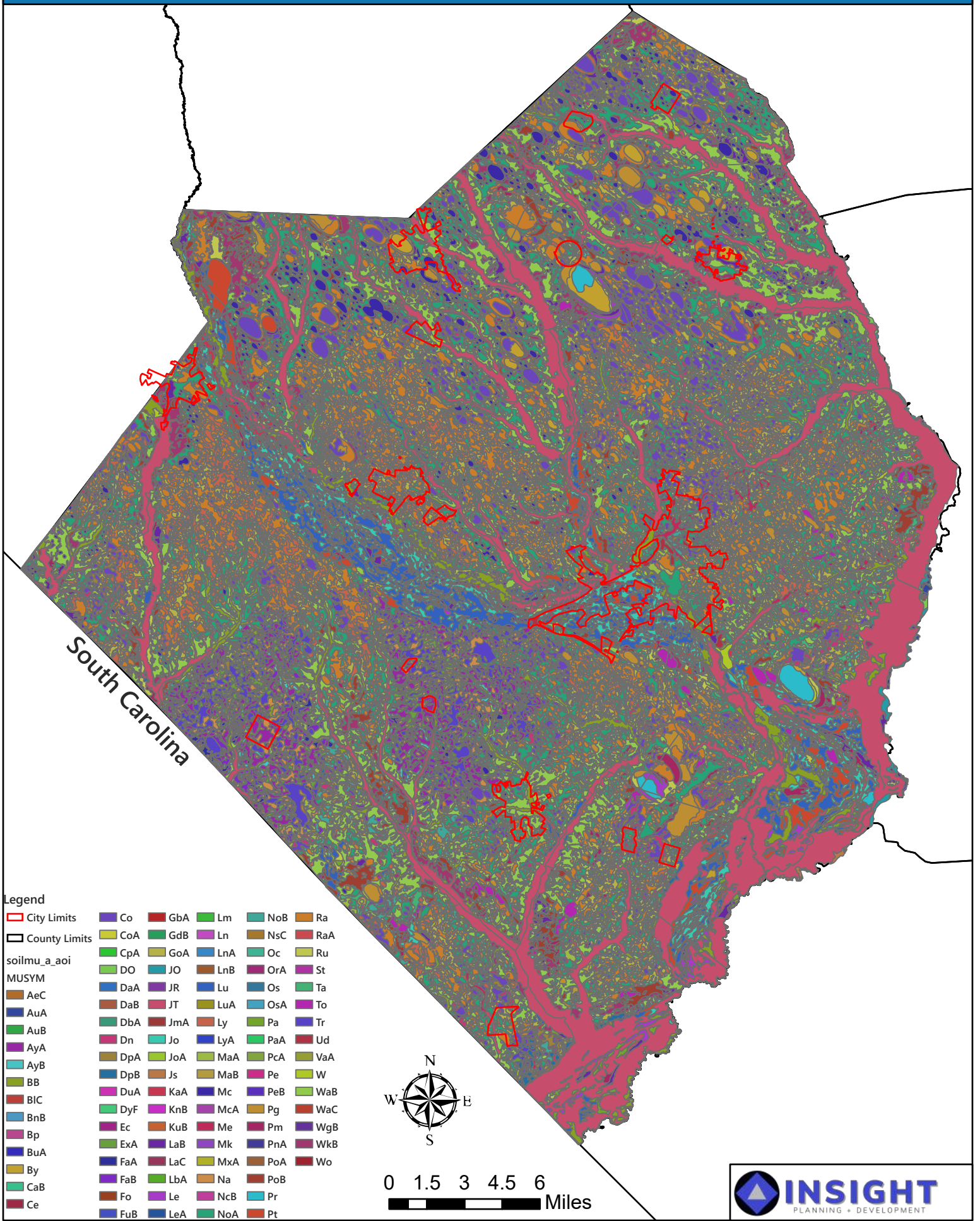
Source: Soil Survey of Robeson County.

More than half of the soils located in the county’s planning jurisdiction are not suitability for intense development. However, the pockets of developable soils are located along the major corridors and existing commercial node areas. Refer to Map 4 for specific soil location details.

Map 3. Flood Hazard Areas



Map 4. Soils



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 165,015.5 acres of wetlands located throughout Robeson County. These wetland areas are delineated on Map 5.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

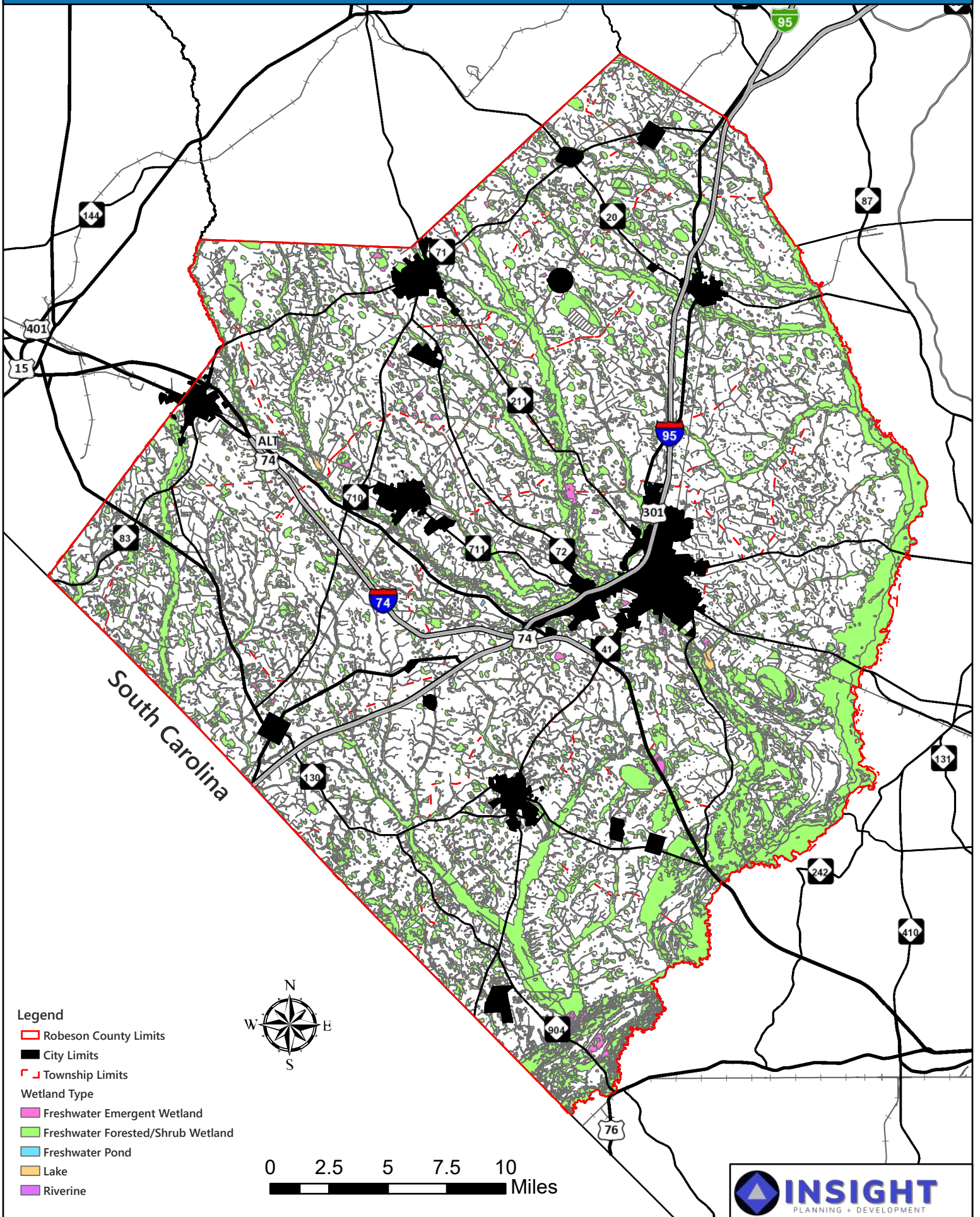
Historic preservation promotes sustainability through the reuse of existing buildings, sites, and infrastructure. Through adaptive reuse (adapting historic buildings for new uses), the county can reduce fiscal and environmental toll of growth since extending water and sewer to new development is generally more costly than serving existing development with existing infrastructure. Additionally, redevelopment of existing buildings disturbs less of the natural landscape than new construction.

Historic preservation is an important economic development tool for communities. Historic properties give Robeson County a unique “sense of place” that can attract heritage tourism, defined by the National Trusts as “traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.”

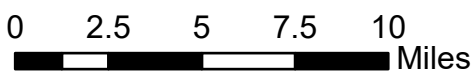
Historic resources are defined as districts or sites that are valuable to the development, heritage, or culture of the city, state, or nation. Properties on the National Register are eligible for state and federal tax credits if preserved to federal guidelines. As of 2020, Robeson County was home to 24 sites identified on the National Register. The location of these properties is provided on Map 6. Additional information can be found at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp>.



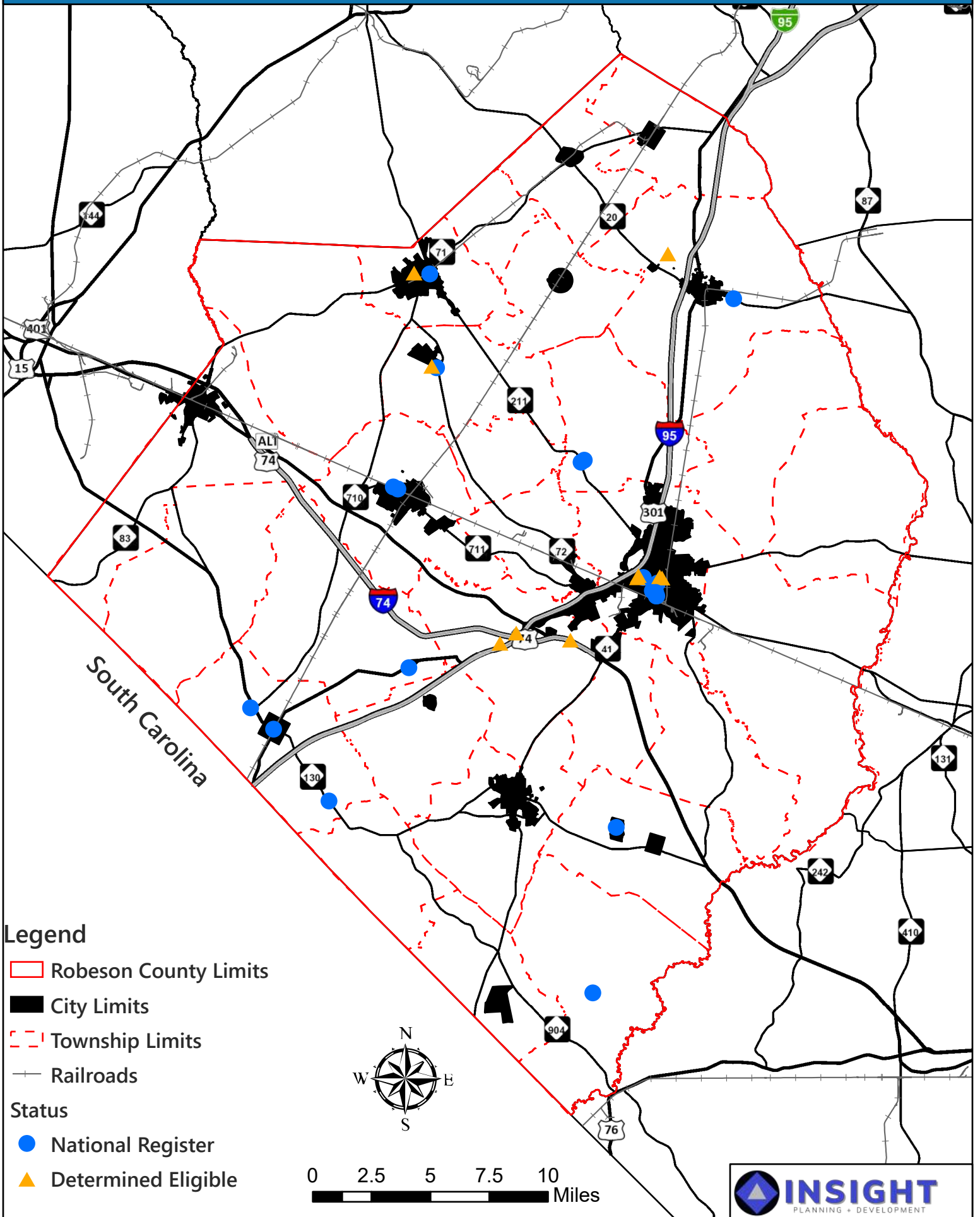
Map 5. Wetlands



- Legend**
- Robeson County Limits
 - City Limits
 - Township Limits
 - Wetland Type**
 - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Lake
 - Riverine



Map 6. Historic Properties



TRANSPORTATION

Modern transportation goals focus on providing multimodal transportation options and pay consideration to capital improvements for all modes of transportation. Below is an existing inventory of major roadways, public transit, rail and air, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities available to Robeson County citizens.

The major roadways located in Robeson County are outlined below for reference of the existing vehicular network. Please note these roadways are periodically evaluated and specific capital improvement recommendations are outlined in the full Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Major Roadways

According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), 1,784.73 miles of state roadway are maintained in Robeson County. Map 7 provides the annual average daily traffic counts (AADT) and roadway capacity for reported locations on federal and state highways.

Interstate 95 is a major north-south route and US 74/76 is a major east-west route running through Robeson County. These routes are supported by NC 211, NC 20, NC 71, NC 72, NC 41, and US 301. Multiple State Roads, including 1716 (Leeper Road), 1710 (Glenn Road), 1752 (Rennert Road), 1505 (Old Lowry Road), and 1734 (Old Stage Road) are also vital to the County's economy by allowing industry, offices, agriculture, and other jobs and services to reach their respective markets.

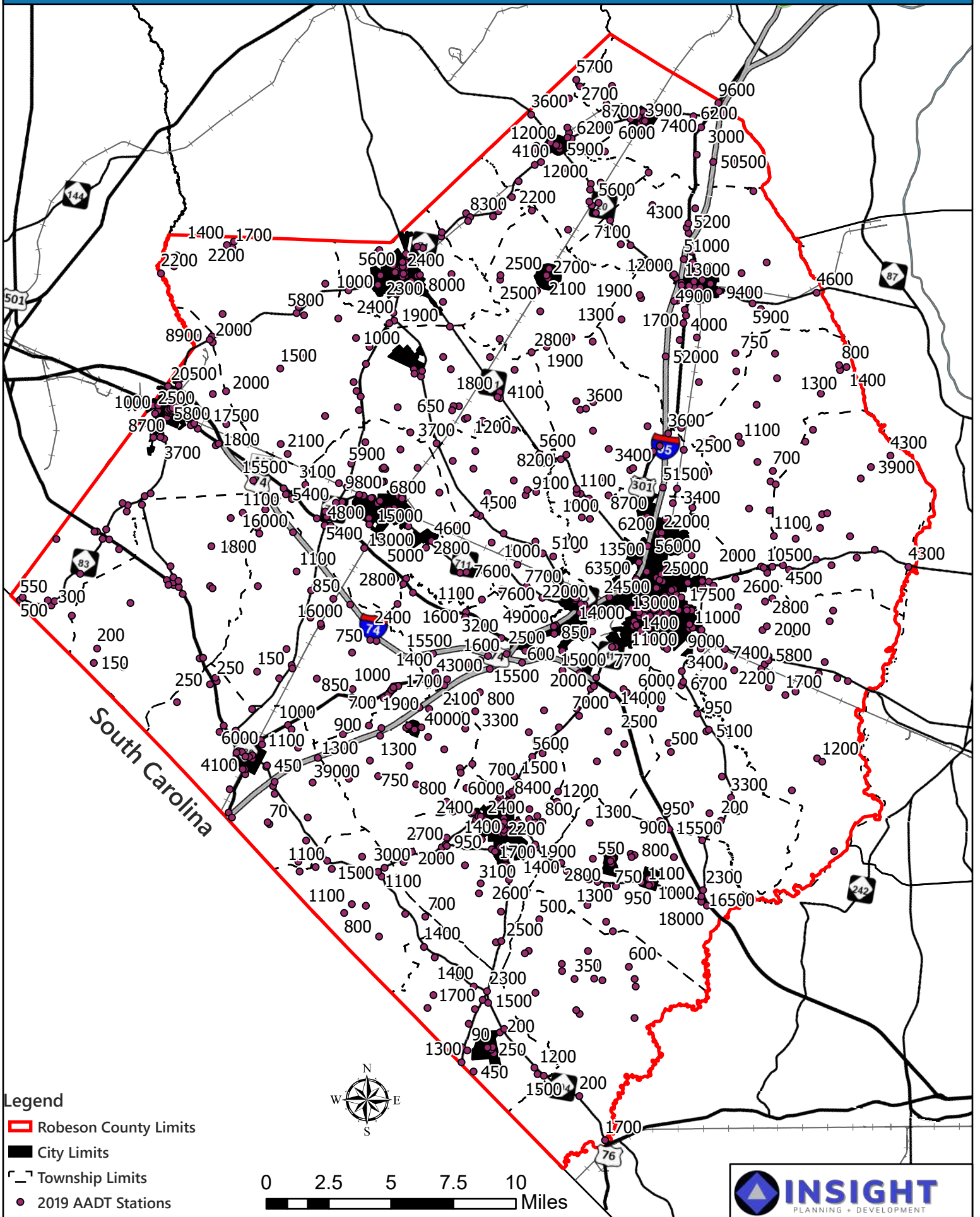
Transit

South East Area Transit System (SEATS) is a public transportation system operating throughout Robeson County. SEATS provides public transportation needs for County residents. SEATS has established routes throughout Robeson County and operates Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition to the transportation services provided throughout Robeson County, SEATS provides scheduled routes for out-of-county medical trips to Duke Hospital, UNC-Chapel Hill Hospital, and Veterans Administration Hospitals in Durham and Fayetteville. SEATS operates 15 Light Utility Transit vehicles that accommodate between 8 and 22 passengers. All vehicles are equipped with heavy duty wheelchair lifts to serve passengers using mobility aids to travel. The South East Area Transit System also works closely with several private transportation providers to help meet the mobility needs of as many passengers as possible.



There is one private taxicab company, A-I Gotcha Taxi, and one taxi/van service provider, Quality Transit, in Robeson County. Greyhound Bus Lines provide scheduled inter-city bus service to Lumberton and Coach America provides inter-city travel services.

Map 7. 2019 AADT Volumes



Rail and Air

Today four major rail lines operate within Robeson County, including CSX Transportation Intermodal terminals and freight routes and the Palmetto/Silver Meteor Passenger route.

Air transportation and access is available in Lumberton. The current airport, located on Airport Boulevard, was opened in January 1943. It was leased by the War Department in July of the same year and closed to civilian use. The facility was utilized for military training through the end of World War II and returned to City of Lumberton in 1945. Improvements to the facility remain steady. The newest terminal was completed in 2020.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

The 125-mile bicycle route known as the Sandhills Sector North Carolina Bike Route runs through the northern portion of Robeson County. The route starts in Albemarle and finishes along the Cape Fear River.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES*Fire/Emergency Medical Services*

Fire response and emergency medical services are provided to Robeson County residents through a total of 33 fire departments, all but one department (Lumberton) operate on a volunteer basis. Each district has its own separate taxing district and rate.



In addition to fire protection, Robeson County EMS (RCEMS) provides EMT-Paramedic emergency medical care to citizens and visitors of Robeson County. RCEMS operates 4 shifts, A and B shift employees work permanent days while C and D work permanent nights. RCEMS is staff with 64 full-time employees and 50 part-time employees. Each shift operates a minimum of 7 ambulances. RCEMS operates from 8 stations that are shared with local fire departments and rescue departments.

Emergency Management

The Robeson County Emergency Management Department oversees emergency response efforts following natural and manmade hazardous events. The mission of the Robeson County Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Department is to protect life, property, and the environment through a partnership effort between local, state, and federal agencies through effective leadership in emergency response, planning, recovery, training, and mitigation. Also, to preserve and protect public health and safety in Robeson County through the enforcement of the NC Building Code Volume V, Fire Prevention. The department provides technical assistance to fire departments, the public, industry, and schools in obtaining the above-referenced goals and assists with investigation into cause and origin of fires in Robeson County. Robeson County Emergency Management also undertakes pre-disaster mitigation planning efforts. The Bladen-Columbus-Robeson Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2020 to assist with ongoing mitigation activities and floodplain management. This plan must be updated every five years.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is provided to the county by the Robeson County Sheriff’s Department. The department is located at 120 Legend Road in Lumberton, NC. The department has three divisions: Administration, Patrol, and Detective. The Chief Deputy assists the Sheriff in day-to-day administrative operations and assumes responsibility in the Sheriff’s absence, including working with Animal Cruelty Aid on a daily basis and supervising the Sheriff’s Office Internal Affairs Investigator and the Domestic Violence Unit. The Patrol Division Major supervises Patrol Division, Warrant Division, DSS, Civil Division, Courthouse Security/Bailiffs, Traffic Enforcement Team, and the Narcotics Enforcement Team. The Detectives Division Major supervises the Major Crimes Unit, Juvenile Division (School Resource Officers), Arson Investigator, Copper Theft Detective, and Gang Detectives. The Robeson County Detention Center is located at 122 Legend Road in Lumberton and has a current capacity of 412 inmates.

The Towns of Fairmont, Maxton, Pembroke, Red Springs, Rowland, and St. Pauls, and the City of Lumberton all have municipal police departments which provide service to their residents.

Table 3-2 provides a comparison of the 2019 and 2020 crime rates in Robeson County. Index Crime includes the total number of violent crimes and property crimes committed in the jurisdiction. Violent crimes are defined as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes are defined as burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Overall, crime has seen an increase of 20.2% in the planning jurisdiction. The largest increase occurring in the violent crime category.

Table 13. Robeson County Crime Rate Per 100,000			
Year	Index Crime Rate	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate
2019	3,811.5	767.6	3,043.9
2020	4,779.0	1,190.3	3,588.7
% Change	+20.2%	+35.5%	+15.2%

Source: NC Uniform Crime Report.

Health Care

Medical Facilities

The nearest hospital serving the region, UNC Health Southeastern, is located in the county seat, Lumberton, NC. UNC Health Southeastern, which is licensed for 452 beds, is a comprehensive healthcare system that offers an array of services through its affiliated divisions. The medical center is accredited by DNV-GL Healthcare and offers a combination of acute care, intensive care and psychiatric services to more than 13,000 inpatients and 60,000 emergency patients annually. There are more than 135 physicians on the active medical staff. UNC Health Southeastern is still the only hospital in Robeson County and serves patients throughout southeastern North Carolina.



UNC Health Southeastern Image Source: Lumberton Visitors Bureau.

Specialty areas include: Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Emergency Medicine, Otolaryngology, Family Practice, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Hematology, Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Nuclear Medicine, Obstetrics, Occupational Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pathology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Plastic Surgery, Podiatry, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Medicine, Radiation Oncology, Radiology, Rheumatology, Urology, and Vascular Medicine.

In addition to UNC Health Southeastern, there are a number of physicians’ offices, as well as other healthcare providers, located within the Robeson County planning jurisdiction.

Robeson County Health Department

Established in 1912, the Robeson County Health Department is recognized as the nation’s oldest rural health department. It is the department’s mission for all residents to achieve the highest level of health possible through identification and reduction of health risks; detection, investigation, and prevention of the spread of disease; promotion of healthy lifestyles and a safe and healthy environment; promotion of the availability and accessibility of health care services through the private sector; and the provision of quality health services to those in need.

For the last 7 years (years 2016-2022), Robeson County has been ranked as the unhealthiest among North Carolina’s 100 counties.

(County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

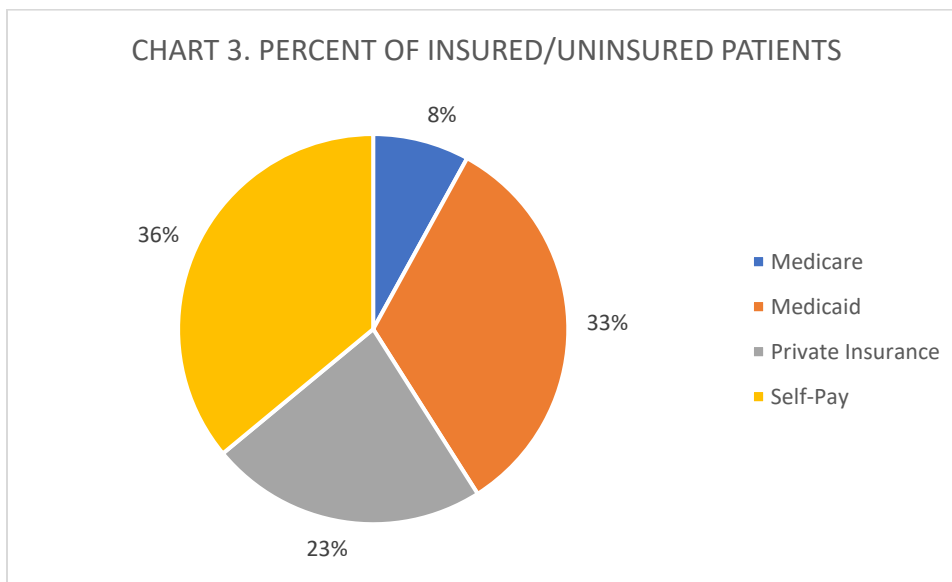
The department provides the following services:

- Adult Primary Care Clinic
- Animal Services (Animal Shelter)
- Care Management for At Risk Children
- Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies
- Child Health – Primary Care Clinic
- Communicable Disease
 - HIV Case Management
 - Robeson/UNC Specialty (Infectious Disease) Clinic
 - STD Clinic
 - TB testing and treatment
- Environmental Health
- Health Education
 - Adolescent Parenting Program
 - Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program
 - Color Me Healthy Program
 - Parents as Teachers
 - Safe Kids Coalition
 - Tobacco Prevention (Lead County Health Department for NC Region 8, which includes the following 9 southeastern counties: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson)

CHAPTER 3. ENVIRONMENT/EXISTING CONDITIONS

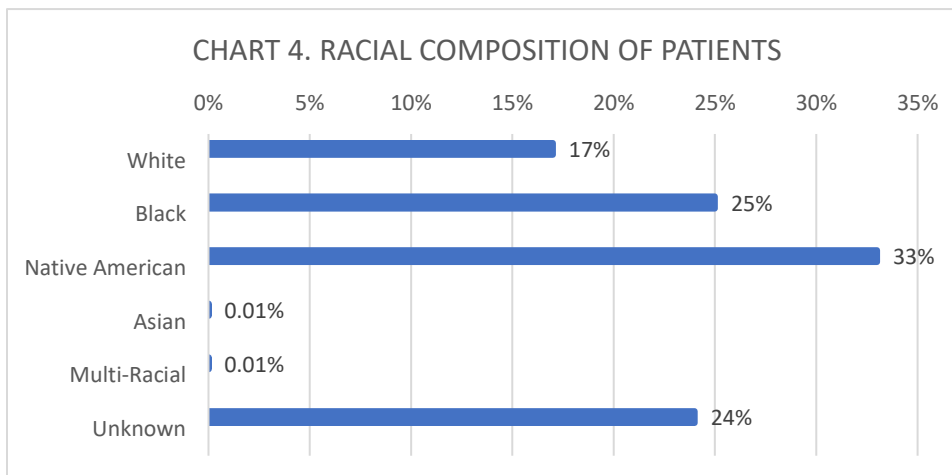
- Home Health Care
- Immunizations
- Interpreter Services
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Nutrition
 - Breastfeeding Peer Counseling
 - Nutritional Counseling and Education (Pediatric and Adult)
 - WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)
- Vital Statistics
- Women's Health

Data on Clients Utilizing Health Department Services:



Source: Robeson County Health Department.

In the last year the Health Department has served 13,508 patients; and the total number of patient visits exceeded 50,000. The majority of clients are self-pay patients and have no medical insurance.



Source: Robeson County Health Department.

The clientele served are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Illegal drug abuse, prescription drug abuse, chronic disease, gangs/violence, and alcohol abuse were cited as the priority health issues in our county’s most recent *Community Health Assessment* (which is conducted every 3 years, with the last assessment taking place in the year 2020).

In general, the socio-economic and health profile of our public health consumers mirrors the county’s population as a whole. With roughly 30% of our total population living in poverty, Robeson County consistently ranks as the poorest county in the state.

Top 5 barriers impacting quality health care: economic, race, literacy, language barrier, and sex/gender.

-Robeson County respondents

Provider	Ratio per Robeson County resident
Primary Care Physicians	2,380:1
Dentists	3,510:1
Mental Health Provider	470:1

Like most rural, Tier 1 counties, Robeson County lacks a sufficient number of providers to care for the multiple needs of its underserved residents. Therefore, the Robeson County Health Department serves as a medical home for persons who otherwise lack access to affordable, high quality health care. Referencing the 2020 Community Health Assessment, county respondents cited the following as the top 5 barriers impacting quality health care: economic, race, literacy, language barrier and sex/gender.

Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department consists of eleven staff members, including the director. The department is responsible for the maintenance of twenty-seven parks around the county, provides attractive recreational programs for citizens of all ages, and recently added services for the newly organized senior center.

A Recreation Advisory Board, consisting of 16 members total (two from each of the eight districts), provides input on operations of recreation programs and facilities. Current facilities are identified below.

- Sammy Cox Park, Lumberton
- Tom Blanks Park, Lumberton
- Allenton Community Park, Lumberton
- Sam Noble Park, Lumberton
- Alamac Park, Lumberton
- Deep Branch Park, Lumberton
- Archie Oxendine Park, Pembroke
- Maggie Oxendine Park, Pembroke
- James Dial Memorial Park, Rowland
- Purvis Community Park, Rowland
- Bonnie/Ballard Little League Field, Rowland
- Oxendine Ball Park, Maxton
- Prospect Park/ Prospect Little League Park, Maxton
- Barker Ten Mile Building, Lumberton
- Rob Henderson Park, Maxton
- Parkton Community Park, Parkton
- St. Pauls District Park, St. Pauls
- Calvin Hoggins Park, Fairmont
- Rudolph Curry Park, Fairmont
- Tom Cope Park, Red Springs
- J. W. Hunt Park, Rowland
- Raynham Community Park, Raynham

Programs offered to the public include youth cheerleading, baseball, softball, wrestling, t-ball, basketball, football, volleyball, baton, and soccer. Adult programs include volleyball and softball. Current Senior Center programs include weekly activities, socials, and field trips.



The Lumber River was designated a "Natural and Scenic River" in 1989 by the NC General Assembly.

There are also several recreation areas within the County that are either operated by the State of North Carolina or the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, the Lumber River is an exceptional natural resource and offers opportunity for passive open space. In 1989, the river was designated as a "Natural and Scenic River" by the North Carolina General Assembly. In addition, it is the only blackwater river in North Carolina to be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River by the Department of Interior. In 2010, the Lumber River was voted one of North Carolina's Ten Natural Wonders, the

result of an on-line contest held by Land for Tomorrow, a coalition dedicated to supporting the preservation of North Carolina's land and water resources.

The Lumber River and some of its adjoining banks are part of the Lumber River State Park, which contains 9,234 acres of land and 115 miles of state natural and scenic waters that meanders through four North Carolina counties. The park's recreational activities are currently at Princess Ann Access in the south (near the Towns of Orrum and Fair Bluff) and the Chalk Banks access to the north (near the Town of Wagram).

There are 24 boat launches along the Lumber River that serve as access points to Lumber River State Park. The entire length of the river is open to fishing. Nine primitive camping sites are located at the Princess Ann section of the park. Each camp site features a picnic table and grill, lantern holder, trash can, and fire ring. There are several hiking trails and picnic areas at Princess Ann as well as the many municipal and county parks that are located on the Lumber River.

Education

The Robeson County Board of Education consists of eleven members, eight elected within their district and three at-large. Each member serves a four-year term and is elected during the spring primary election in even numbered years. The Robeson County Board of Education offers 36 options, including twenty elementary schools, nine middle schools, and seven high schools. In addition to the public schools governed by the County Board of Education, the planning area provides three charter schools, two in Lumberton and one in Pembroke. Charter schools are public schools of choice, authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors.

In addition to primary, intermediate and secondary schools, Robeson County residents have access to Robeson Community College (RCC) for an associate degree or trade school program and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) for several bachelor and master's degree options. Both post-secondary educational opportunities are public and funded by the state. Public colleges and universities are generally larger than private schools and have larger class sizes.

Libraries

The Robeson County Public Library system provides eight locations, a bookmobile, and various outreach programs. The main library, Robeson County Public Library, is located in Lumberton and contains a comprehensive collection and an array of services. It serves as a resource center for the bookmobile and all branches. The additional branches are located throughout the county in Maxton, Fairmont, Rowland, St Pauls, Pembroke, and Red Springs. The bookmobile is a mobile branch delivering library services to rural areas of the County. Courier service is available to allow circulation materials to be transferred from one branch to another.



Robeson County Public Library. Image Source: Lumberton Visitors Bureau.

The Mary Livermore Library is open to UNCP students, its personnel, and to the general public. The library's resources include over 481,000 cataloged volumes, over 172,000 licensed eBooks, over 58,000 subscriptions to print and electronic serials, access to more than 167 databases, special collections that include the Charlie Rose Collection, government documents, and current reading and media materials.

Natural Gas

Natural gas service is provided to Robeson County by Piedmont Natural Gas. Exact line locations are available from Piedmont Natural Gas; however, Federal Homeland Security provisions prohibit the publication of the specific locations of gas distribution lines.

Electricity

Electrical service is provided throughout the County. Depending upon location, service is provided by one of the following: Lumbee River Electric Membership, Lumberton Electric Utilities, and Lumberton Power.

Telecommunications

Robeson County residents have multiple options for internet and phone service, including Century Link, LocalNet, Bluewave Communications, NCNet, Conteras Communications, and Spectrum.

Solid Waste

Robeson County Solid Waste currently employs 25 full-time staff and 79 part-time staff. The department is responsible for the maintenance of the county landfill, 20 collection sites, and recycling and education programs. Additionally, the Solid Waste Department is tasked with managing a methane to energy generator initiative and a full-time garage.

Robeson County adopted their initial Solid Waste Management Plan for the Robeson County planning area (Robeson County and the municipalities of Lumberton, Red Springs, Fairmont, Pembroke, St. Pauls, Rowland, Parkton, Rennert, Marietta, Proctorville, McDonald, Lumber Bridge, Orrum, and Raynham) in June 1997. NOTE: Maxton is not included in the Robeson County planning area because they utilize Scotland County facilities. The fourth update of the County’s Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan was prepared in accordance with NC General Statute, which requires a mandatory update every three years.

Based on the County’s Waste Disposal Report for FY2007-2008 (most recent full year of reporting), the Robeson County planning area disposed of approximately 88,748 tons (1,328 annual pounds per person) of residential, commercial, and institutional waste and 21,511 tons of construction and demolition debris (C&D) waste in FY2007-2008. These wastes represent approximately 80.5% and 19.5% of the disposed waste stream, respectively. By comparison, in 2011, North Carolina had 1,352 pounds per person of domestic waste and the United States produced 861 annual pounds per person. Residential, commercial, and institutional waste was disposed of at the Robeson County Landfill in St. Pauls (86,534 tons), the Uwharrie Environmental Regional Landfill in Montgomery County (3,425 tons) via the Scotland County Transfer Station, and the Waste Industries Sampson County Disposal Landfill (2,620 tons). C&D waste was disposed of at the Robeson County C&D Landfill (17,709 tons), the Scotland County C&D Landfill (3,793 tons), and the Waste Industries Sampson County Disposal C&D Landfill Unit (9 tons).

Water System

Robeson County has its own water system that supplies water service to its residents. The Robeson County Water Department, which is not regulated by the NC Utilities Commission, has about 25,000 customers.

The County’s water system consists of 12 well treatment facilities and one water treatment plant. The water transmission and distribution system is comprised of approximately 1,739 miles of water lines ranging in size from 2 to 24 inches in diameter. Maxton Water Treatment Plant was completed in 1981 to provide service to county customers and the Campbell Soup Company. The plant drew water from the Lumber River and from a couple of wells until it was migrated into a complete Well facility in the early 1990s. The Lumber Bridge well treatment facility was established and maintained by that local municipality until it was purchased and upgraded to supply water to the local community and Piedmont poultry (now known as MountAire). Additionally, Robeson County has buy-sell agreements with all municipalities in the county. The following summarizes the water use by type:

Type of Use	Metered Connections	Metered Average Use (MGD)
Residential	24,398	4.519
Commercial	0	0.000
Industrial	6	6.266
Institutional	0	0.000

Sewer System

Currently, Robeson County does not provide wastewater treatment services to any unincorporated portions of the county. Central sewer service is available within the City of Lumberton, and the towns of Fairmont, Maxton, Pembroke, Red Springs, Rowland, St. Pauls. These systems are operated independent of the county. Developments throughout unincorporated portions of the county are required to either establish local septic systems or package treatment plants to provide sewer service.

Administration

Robeson County is a council-manager form of government and is governed by an eight-member Board of Commissioners. Each commissioner is elected by the constituents to represent the interest of one of eight districts. The manager is the chief administrator and is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for the administration of 32 departments.

Current Land Use Regulations and Planning Program

The Community Development Department consists of three different divisions: Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement. The role of the department is to foster public involvement and assist both the decision-makers and the public in formulating and implementing policies that balance environmental, economic, and social needs. Day-to-day operations include processing development permits, ensuring that new construction is compatible and beneficial to the character of the community, and protecting the safety and wellbeing of county citizens through code enforcement and education.

EXISTING LAND USE*Methodology*

All land has an inherent utilization that can be classified to better understand the existing conditions and makeup of a given jurisdiction. Because Robeson County is predominately undeveloped and rural, much of the existing lands are classified as vacant, rural residential, or agricultural lands. Vacant 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. Lumberton, Pembroke, Maxton, Fairmont, St. Pauls, Parkton, and Red Springs enforce zoning regulations within their corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdictions.

Eight (8) 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 2 acres

- Low Density Residential - all residential properties 2 to 10 acres
- Rural Residential/Agriculture - all residential properties 10+ acres, land may be utilized for agricultural purposes
- Recreational - public open space and recreational facilities
- Vacant - uninhabited properties with no significant structures, land may be utilized for agricultural purposes

The Robeson 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 vacant.

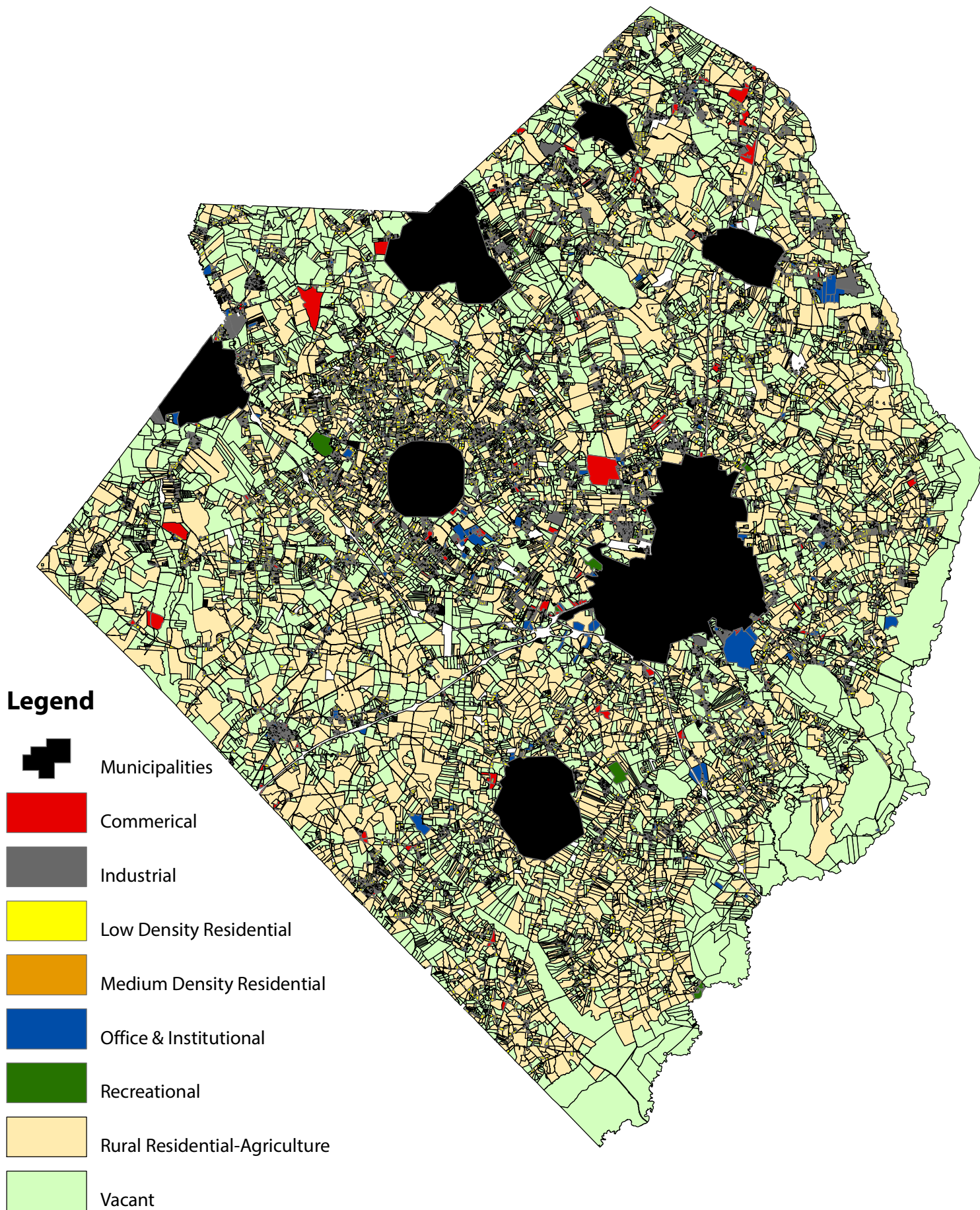
Existing Land Use Patterns - Unincorporated Robeson County (see Map 13)

The vast majority of lands in the unincorporated areas of the county are undeveloped or used for agricultural purposes (52.8%). Rural Residential - Agriculture is the second largest land use category in unincorporated Robeson County, occupying well over a quarter of the acreage (37.7%). This pattern is consistent with other rural counties in eastern North Carolina.








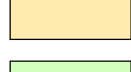
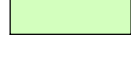
Land Use Category	Acres	% of Total
Commercial	2,760.31	0.52%
Office & Institutional	5,665.48	1.07%
Industrial	1,689.63	0.32%
Medium Density Residential	16,173.99	3.05%
Low Density Residential	22,718.69	4.29%
Rural Residential-Agriculture	199,988.85	37.74%
Recreational	1,127.70	0.21%
Vacant	279,827.42	52.80%
Total	529,952.07	100.00%

Note: Right-of-way is not included. Source: Insight Planning & Development.

Map 8 - Existing Land Use



Legend

-  Municipalities
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Low Density Residential
-  Medium Density Residential
-  Office & Institutional
-  Recreational
-  Rural Residential-Agriculture
-  Vacant

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4

CHAPTER 4

Projections/Future Demand

CHAPTER 4. PROJECTIONS/FUTURE DEMAND

INTRODUCTION

The national economy has been tested repeatedly in the last century, with the steep decline in markets during the recession of 2008 and the most recent stress brought on by the global pandemic. Forecasting has never been a definitive science but has become ever more difficult in a recovering economy.

POPULATION

The State Demographer produces the official population projections for the state and counties. Population projections take historical trends in population change and the components of population change (births, deaths, migration) to estimate a future population. Projections are made annually and make certain assumptions about future changes in the components of population change.

The forecast data provides general parameters within which the County’s path will be charted. Table 4-1 Provides population forecasts for Robeson County, the State, and surrounding counties through 2045. Robeson County is forecast to experience a decline in population from 2020 through 2045, similar to the adjacent North Carolina counties, with the exception of Cumberland. An average decline of 5.54% may occur which would result in a 2045 population of 87,004. The largest decline occurring between 2020 and 2025.

Jurisdiction	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Bladen	29,405	26,698	24,450	22,513	20,884	19,564
Columbus	50,240	45,707	41,283	36,858	32,433	28,008
Cumberland	334,776	334,788	334,926	334,953	334,955	334,958
Robeson	115,863	107,136	100,362	94,918	90,540	87,004
North Carolina	10,456,593	10,963,764	11,527,150	12,094,279	12,669,133	13,245,876

Source: NC Office of State Budget and Management.

HOUSING

In 2020, there were 45,881 occupied dwelling units, with an average of 2.79 persons per occupied dwelling unit. With a forecast 2045 population of 87,004 and an assumed constant 2.79 persons per dwelling, the demand for additional occupied dwelling units will decrease. However, the increasing age of the existing housing stock, outlined in Chapter 2, including 44.3% of the current inventory exceeding 40 years of age as of 2022, may impact the necessity of additional inventory. As the age of the housing increases, the number of dwellings declining to a substandard status may increase, stimulating a need for replacement housing.

The lack of housing inventory paired with recent interest rate increases, may continue to make the goal of homeownership difficult for Robeson County residents. Therefore, it is expected that the increase in rental housing will continue through the planning period.

ECONOMY

It is difficult, if not impossible, to provide any meaningful economic forecasts. In general, it is expected that the County's economy will slow based on a declining population. However, economic growth while slowed, will not be stagnant. The local economy can still anticipate being supported by the following:

- Continued skilled work training in the public school system and Southeastern Community College.
- Strengthening of the County's tourism, including eco-tourism.
- Targeting businesses/industries which are in the growth sectors of food processing, health care, and forestry products.
- Continued support and development of the County's entrepreneurial/proprietorship sector.
- Continued development of the County's water system.

Economically, the County will face the following challenges:

- Improvement of internet access, including County-wide high-speed access.
- In-migration may lead to higher land values.
- Financially achievable standard housing will be a continuing challenge for the work force.

County growth will place greater demands on infrastructure, including water, sewer, schools, and recreational facilities.

- Expansion of sewer service in the County.
- Land use planning and zoning of key high growth areas will be an important tool for economic growth.
- Expanding the County's skilled work force.
- Protection of the 295 Corridor areas for economically productive purposes.
- Control of the County's tax rate to remain competitive with surrounding counties.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Fire/Emergency Medical Services

The majority of fire service protection is provided by local municipalities; therefore, there are no significant program or facility expansions anticipated during the planning period.

Healthcare Facilities

Robeson County Administration is pursuing funding assistance and developing a timeline for the construction of a new health department. Constructed in 1974, the current facility is outdated; dilapidated; and lacks sufficient clinic, office, and waiting area space to efficiently serve the consumers. Along with the construction of a new facility, the department will also be working with a document management company to scan and convert all medical records currently in paper format.

Concerns and Considerations for the Future

Limited access to safe places to walk/play is also a risk factor that shows up in the County's Community Health Assessments. The Robeson County Health Department has led regional initiatives to encourage individuals to adapt healthier eating and exercise patterns. Over the course of several years, Health Department staff have collaborated with multiple community groups and church congregations throughout the county and region, to offer Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-Management education.

Efforts have included a program called "Faithful Families Eating Smart & Moving More", which was co-led by the Health Department and Cooperative Extension Services. Additionally, staff worked with churches to establish community gardens, walking trails, and healthy eating policies for all food functions sponsored by the churches, and much more. Most of these efforts were made possible through grant funding (allocated to the NC Division of Public Health). Unfortunately, federal dollars for chronic disease prevention are limited (take into consideration the shift towards COVID related activities over the last few years).

Another previous successful grant was the Community Transformation Grant (CTG). Robeson was the lead Health Department for the 9 southeastern counties that comprise NC Region 8 (Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, and Sampson). Many positive outcomes resulted from the multi-year grant.

Robeson County elected officials and citizens should continue to support grant opportunities that provide supplemental assistance for various programming needs that otherwise unobtainable.

Health and wellness priority areas identified on the future land use map (see Map 10, page 48) should be used in concert with the other land use categories; however, it should be noted that these areas should take priority with consideration of future public facility improvements due to the potential lack of access to healthy foods, transportation, active living facilities, and healthcare services.

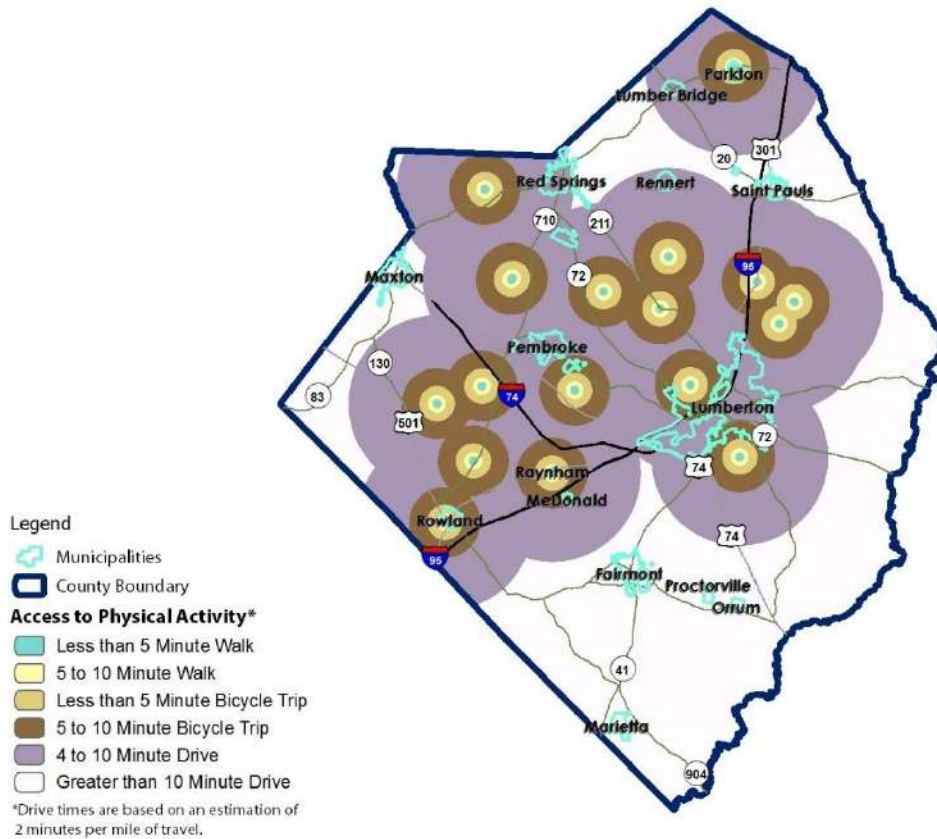
School Facilities

As previously mentioned, the Robeson County School Board consists of eleven members with diverse backgrounds. The Board determines facility needs, solicits grant funding, and ultimately decides on site specific development opportunities. In 2022, the Board secured a \$5 million grant to rebuild a new Planetarium, to replace the facility lost during Hurricane Matthew. Additionally, the Board was awarded \$40 million, from the State Lottery, to construct a new Career and Technical Education Center for high school students. The joint campus location is anticipated to be determined by the end of Summer 2022. The Robeson County School Board voted to select the 35-acre Comm Tech site as the potential joint campus on May 23, 2022.

Capital Improvements underway include the Red Springs High School Athletic Facility, which is nearing completion and is anticipated to be open to students in the Fall of 2022.

Recreational Facilities

Residents located in the southern portion of the county have little access to active recreation opportunities; therefore, capital improvement planning should consider providing additional facilities and programming to this area. The County should consider development of a parks and recreation master plan.



Open Space Proximity Image Source: Insight Planning & Development

Transportation System

The Robeson County future roadway improvements and needs are identified in the Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP was last adopted in 2010; however, the Lumber River Council of Governments is currently coordinating an update, with the goal of a formal adoption in 2023. Map 9 identifies the anticipated transportation needs through 2045. The following summarizes the proposed transportation improvement recommendations for Robeson County, subject to review and consideration of both NCDOT and the local elected officials:

Roadway

Fayetteville Outer Loop (I-295). Construct Freeway on new location from Camden Road in Cumberland County to I-95 north of St. Pauls in Robeson County. Project construction is underway and is scheduled for completion in late 2024.

NC 20. Modernize from US 401 Business in Hoke County to NC 71 in Lumber Bridge in Robeson County. Add paved shoulders, turn lanes, realign at-grade intersections where needed, improve rail crossings, and add bike lanes (inside Lumber Bridge Town Limits).

US 74 Business. Upgrade Freeway to Interstate standards East of Laurinburg to US 74 Business West of Maxton.

Deep Branch Road (SR 1339). Intersection Improvement including construction of a roundabout at NC 710/SR 1339 (Deep Branch Road) approximately 1.2 miles West of Pembroke.

Union Chapel Road (SR 1515). Replace Bridge 369 over Richland Swamp in Robeson County.

Mount Olive Church Road (SR 1529). Replace Bridge 770299 & 770300 over Saddle Tree Swamp in Robeson County.

NC 711 from SR 1003 (Chicken Road) to just west of Arrowhead Drive. Widen the existing two-lane section of NC 711 to a three-lane section from the existing three-lane section at SR 1003 (Chicken Road) to the existing three-lane section near Arrowhead Drive.

Low Road (SR 1550). Replace Bridge 770200 over Bear Swamp in Robeson County.

I-95. Widen I-95 to 6-lanes from SC State Line (Mile Marker 0) to I-74 (Mile Marker 13).

US 74 & Creek Road (SR 2225). Convert at-grade intersection of US 74 and SR 2225 (Creek Road) to grade separation.

NC 20. Modernize NC 20 from NC 71 in Lumber Bridge to SR 1743 (Covington Farm Road). Add paved shoulders, turn lanes, realign at-grade intersections where needed, improve rail crossings and add bike lanes (inside Lumber Bridge Town Limits).

Water and Sewer

A comprehensive study regarding existing and anticipated capacities should be considered. Given the projected decline in population, immediate attention should be afforded to maintenance.

Solid Waste

The County should continue to review and update the Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan to ensure compliance with North Carolina General Statutes.

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS
Proposals that address identified needs through 2045



Robeson County
Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Highway Features

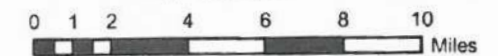
Proposal ID # Improve New Location

Congestion / Mobility (e.g., add lanes)	#	—	---
Access Management / Operations (e.g., add median)	#	—	---
Modernization (e.g., widen lanes, add turn lanes)	#	—	---
Other (e.g., safety, economic development)	#	—	---
Interchange	⊗	□	□
Bridge / Overpass	⊗	○	○
Intersection	⊗	△	△

Other Features
Studied Roads



Full report at:
<http://tinyurl.com/RobesonCTP>



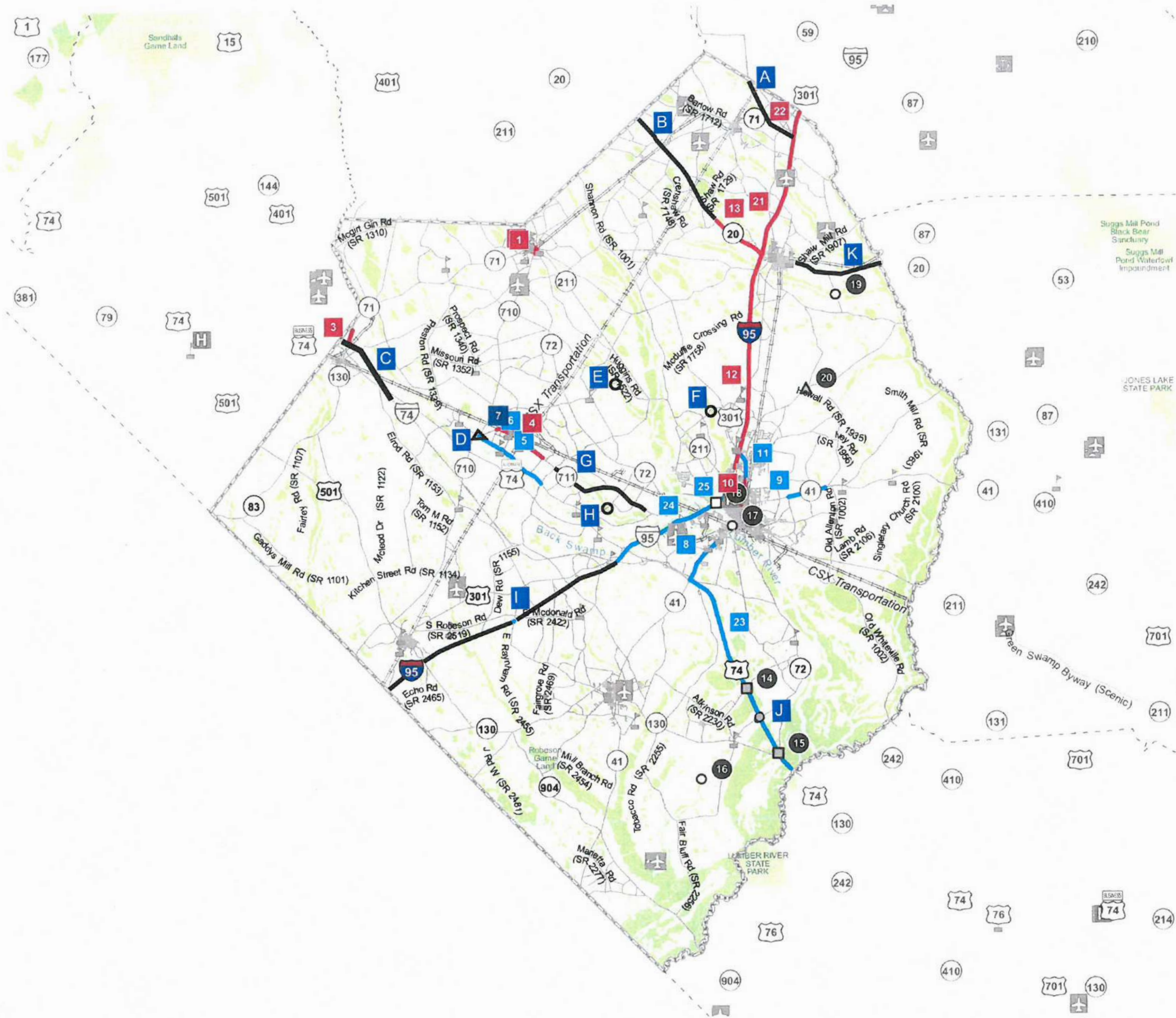
Sheet 2 of 4

Base map date: March 18, 2018

Legal Disclaimer

These concepts will need additional analysis to meet state and federal environmental regulations, to determine final locations and designs, and to be funded for implementation. Local zoning or subdivision ordinances may require the dedication of right of way based on the concepts shown on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and local collector street plans, based on N.C.G.S. § 136-66.2 and § 136-66.10.

DRAFT WORKING MAP
Plan Date: May 09, 2022





5

CHAPTER 5

Future Land Use

CHAPTER 5. FUTURE LAND USE

INTRODUCTION

Adopting a future land use map is critical to achieving a preferred pattern of growth for Robeson County. The future land use map is a community's visual guide to future planning. The future land use map balances all of the elements of the comprehensive plan, including natural resources, economic development, housing and transportation. Further, it makes recommendations of future development patterns based on known and anticipated infrastructure investments and site constraints.

The land use classifications utilized include:

- Local Commercial Service Areas,
- Regional Commercial Service Areas,
- Community Services Areas,
- Low Density Residential Areas,
- Residential/ Agricultural Areas,
- Certified Industrial Sites, and
- Conservation.

The future land use map establishes objectives for development throughout the county. The future land use map (Map 10) and supporting policies/implementing strategies should be used on a daily basis to make decisions regarding growth and development of the county.

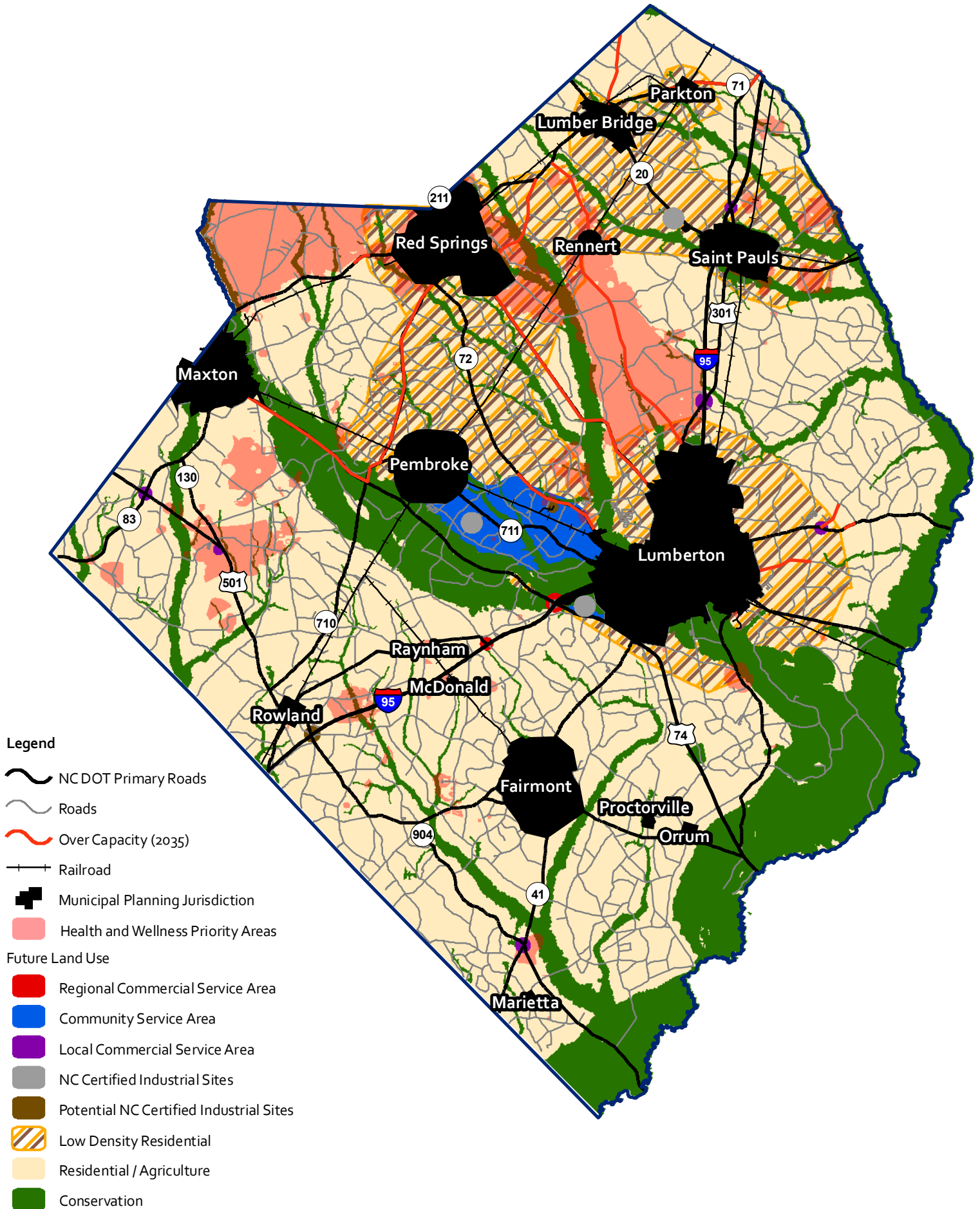
Table 16. Future Land Use Acreages

Land Use Category	Acres	% of Planning Jurisdiction
Local Commercial Service	1,037.64	0.19%
Regional Commercial Service	220.48	0.04%
Community Service	8,959.65	1.62%
Certified Industrial	1,243.75	0.22%
Low Density Residential	96,607.80	17.42%
Residential/Agriculture	313,714.77	56.56%
Conservation	132,831.37	23.95%

Source: Insight Planning & Development.

The Future Land Use Map is not intended to provide precise, parcel-level detail. Rather, it is intended to serve as a general guide for important infrastructure development and other land use investment decisions. The Future Land Use Map is intended to be dynamic and continually evolving with changing conditions. Also, it should be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains relevant and accounts for important changes affecting schools, recreation, transportation, sewer and water infrastructure, and economic development planning.

Map 10 - Future Land Use



- Legend**
- NCDOT Primary Roads
 - Roads
 - Over Capacity (2035)
 - Railroad
 - Municipal Planning Jurisdiction
 - Health and Wellness Priority Areas
- Future Land Use**
- Regional Commercial Service Area
 - Community Service Area
 - Local Commercial Service Area
 - NC Certified Industrial Sites
 - Potential NC Certified Industrial Sites
 - Low Density Residential
 - Residential / Agriculture
 - Conservation

FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

Local Commercial Service (LCS)

Local Commercial Service areas are intended to be relatively intensive, efficient, defined concentrations of mixed services that meet the needs of the surrounding community and local service areas. These nodes are appropriate for a mixture of commercial uses scaled to the service area in question; residential areas of varying densities depending upon available services; and community facilities such as schools, parks, community centers, and other community facilities.

The mixture and intensity of land uses contained within LCS areas are intended to be dictated by the service demand of the surrounding community. These areas should be located in concentrations at higher traffic volume intersections, thoroughfares, and central locations that are convenient to nearby residential development so as to minimize problems associated with “strip” commercial development.

These areas should be priority targets of investment for water, public transportation, pedestrian facilities, other general road improvements, and other appropriate infrastructure improvements.

Regional Commercial Service (RCS)

Regional Commercial Service areas should be located at key regional transportation access points. Land use in this area is intended to service a regional market. As such, they serve high volumes of traffic and should be located on major roadways and have adequate water and sewer service capacity. The classification supports a variety of retail sales and services, and public and private administrations.

Certified Industrial Sites (CI)

All Certified Industrial sites should be coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Robeson County Economic Development Commission. The designation includes both existing and potential industrial sites. These sites should have access to a full range of infrastructure including water and sewer and are often paired with a Regional Commercial Service designation. Industries which use noxious materials or produce hazardous materials are not desired.

Community Service (CS)

The Community Service areas are where most urban services and urban-scale development is expected to be concentrated. Growth and development may be proactively managed through proactive planning. Some of the CS areas may be absorbed into municipal planning jurisdictions and eventually managed by those jurisdictions. Land use planning for those areas within the county’s jurisdiction should be compatible in its approach and intensity with planning conducted within the adjacent municipal jurisdictions. Wide ranges of residential densities should be supported in these areas initially but should steady around 2 to 3 units per acre. Over the long term, land use regulations and policies should favor higher density development, consistent with natural constraints and the availability of urban services.

The CS areas may contain commercial development at a mixture of scales. Commercial development should be in keeping with the surrounding community and may contain minimal light industrial development. Development within these areas should be accessible by roads which are developed to urban standards, with capacities to accommodate increasingly complex volumes of traffic. Access along roads should be managed appropriately.

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 that would damage them or diminish their integrity. Infrastructure improvements should be prioritized to economic development sites, commercial districts, dense residential areas, schools, and existing areas prone to septic failure with the CS areas.

Low Density Residential (LDR)

The Low-Density Residential areas have historically been predominantly rural and agricultural and are developing as such. Economic development activities within these areas are limited. Noxious or hazardous industrial and regional commercial land uses should be discouraged in these areas. Both central water and municipal sewer service should be increasingly available during the planning period.

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. Appropriate density for these areas shall be 0.05 to 2 units per acre.

Residential/Agriculture (RA)

The Residential/Agriculture areas cover those portions of the county that are predominantly rural and are characterized by low-density residential development with substantial land areas devoted to agriculture and undeveloped lands. Land use decisions should seek to support that character in these areas. Most sections of the RA areas do not have municipal sewer service readily available and extensions are difficult. Land development policies should recognize this by not encouraging densities that would require sewer services or introduce traffic capacity problems.

Care should be taken in these areas to preserve their rural character and to protect valuable farmlands as well as environmental and cultural resources. Farmland protection measures should be pursued within the RA areas. Voluntary agricultural districts may be established and should be supported in these locations.

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.

Commercial development and community facilities will be directed to defined LCS areas, which are located at key intersections within LDR areas. Commercial development should be of a local service nature, and most industrial and regional commercial land uses should be prohibited. Large economic development activities should normally be encouraged in industrial park settings which have access to infrastructure. Density should be restricted to a maximum of 0.05 units per acre.

Conservation (C)

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. Conservation areas are lands that generally exhibit any of the characteristics of sensitive natural areas such as floodplains and wetlands.



6

CHAPTER 6

Goals and Implementing Strategies

CHAPTER 6. GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

Implementation of these strategies is the responsibility of Robeson 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.

Implementation of the policies contained in this plan will be an ongoing process. Some of the strategies contained in this plan may be implemented in months, others may require years to effectively accomplish, and some may be continual.

In order to effectively support the policies and strategies included in this plan and achieve the desired land use patterns portrayed on the county's future land use map, numerous specific implementing actions should occur. This plan includes goals and specific implementing actions that are categorized into six genres: Land Use and Form, Natural Environment, Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Services, Transportation, and Housing.

Goals were established based on issues identified by the Planning Board, survey respondents (see Appendix B), and citizens who were able to attend the public engagement workshop during the planning process. 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.

LAND USE AND FORM

The planning and zoning profession has evolved from mandating separation of specific land uses to encouraging a mix of uses. This shift includes a concentration on the form structures take and creation of sustainable communities that house residents in close proximity to services and amenities. Best practices still seek to ensure compatible growth occurs across the entire planning jurisdiction.

Goal 1.1: Encourage compatible and efficient development patterns.

- 1.1.1 All land use decisions should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Land Use Map and coordinating policies.
- 1.1.2 Development shall create places, streets, and spaces that are visually attractive, safe, and accessible.
- 1.1.3 Development should encourage compact patterns that reinforce the efficient provision of public utilities, preserve open space, and reduce impacts of non-contiguous development.
- 1.1.4 Development should include provisions for parks, community facilities, and other amenities desired by the Robeson County residents.
- 1.1.5 Development and infrastructure should be designed to promote healthy communities by providing enhanced bicycle and pedestrian circulation, access, and safety.

- 1.1.6 Compatible design and site planning shall be promoted to ensure both new and infill development do not adversely impact the desired character of the existing built environment.
- 1.1.7 Low to medium density residential developments should serve as transitions between lower - density neighborhoods and more intensive commercial, residential, and mixed-use areas.

Goal 1.2: Protect existing farmland from development pressures.

- 1.2.1 Support transfer of development rights for protection of prime farmland areas.
- 1.2.2 Collaborate with the Robeson County Cooperative Extension to establish protocols and commerce networks between local farmers and food establishments.
- 1.2.3 Discourage heavy industries which generate air pollution, damage surface and groundwater, and have other side effects detrimental to agriculture.
- 1.2.4 Support development of agri-tourism.
- 1.2.5 Support land use decisions which will protect agricultural lands and encourage new developments to locate near towns and existing subdivisions.
- 1.2.6 Encourage proper agricultural and forestry management practices.
- 1.2.7 Pursue grant funds which may assist with the preservation of agricultural lands.

Goal 1.3: Consider all potential impacts when siting business and industrial development projects.

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 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.
- 1.3.3 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. Locational decisions should be coordinated with the future land use map.
- 1.3.4 Industrial uses should be located in or near existing infrastructure. Careful design and/or buffering shall be required to ensure compatibility with surrounding areas.
- 1.3.5 Warehousing, storage, and distribution facilities should have access to appropriate thoroughfares.
- 1.3.6 New industrial development should be encouraged to locate in existing and/or planned industrial parks.

Goal 1.4: Mixed-use projects should be embraced.

- 1.4.1 Mixed use centers should contain a diverse mix of uses and integrated designs that avoid segregation of uses.
- 1.4.2 Mixed use centers should promote multimodal access with convenient live work opportunities.

Goal 1.5: Commercial development shall be strategically sited at key locations.

- 1.5.1 Redevelopment of aging and high-vacancy shopping centers should be encouraged and incentivized.
- 1.5.2 Commercial development should be designed with appropriate height, mass, and scale to provide suitable transitions.
- 1.5.3 The location of high-impact commercial uses that generate excessive traffic, late night activity, and noise shall be located to ensure minimal impact on the quality of life of Robeson County citizens.
- 1.5.4 Institutional land uses can also serve as transitions when designed at appropriate scale and adequate buffers are installed adjacent to low density residential areas.

Goal 1.6: The character of existing residential neighborhoods should be protected.

- 1.6.1 Growth should be accommodated throughout the planning jurisdiction to ensure a variety of housing types and price points are available.
- 1.6.2 The need to increase housing supply and commerce should be balanced with the need to protect desired neighborhood character, preserve historic resources and protect the natural environment.
- 1.6.3 Usable open space that preserves natural landscapes and ecological resources should be encouraged in new developments.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The term 'natural environment' refers to the non-human-made surroundings and conditions in which all living and non-living things exist. The concept of the natural environment encompasses five components: land, air, water, plants, and animals.

The natural environment gives us a wealth of services that are difficult to measure financially but can significantly impact a local community all the same. Natural areas help clean our air, purify our water, produce food, reduce chemical and noise pollution, and slow floodwaters.

Goal 2.1: Areas of environmental concern should be protected, and development impacts should be minimal.

- 2.1.1 Support regulation of development in the county's flood hazard areas.

- 2.1.2 Environmentally sensitive areas should be mapped, protected, enhanced, and maintained.
- 2.1.3 Discourage new development and redevelopment activities which would significantly degrade the quality of natural and scenic resources in Robeson County. Utilize the future land use map as a development management tool to protect valuable resources, in particular the Lumber River and its tributaries.
- 2.1.4 New development and redevelopment activities which would significantly degrade the quality of natural and scenic resources in Robeson County, prematurely diminish the predominantly rural character of the area, or create incompatibilities of scale, design, or land use shall not be permitted.

Goal 2.2: Create partnerships to educate the public on the importance of environmentally sensitive areas and their contributions to the wellbeing of the community.

- 2.2.1 Work with economic development agencies to promote reuse of abandoned commercial and industrial sites, and to explore funding opportunities for brownfield site cleanup and redevelopment.
- 2.2.2 Oppose the disposal of any toxic wastes, as defined in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Listing of Hazardous Substances and Priority Pollutants (developed pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1977), within the county's planning jurisdiction.

Goal 2.3: New construction, including public facilities, should utilize best management practices.

- 2.3.1 Support septic systems approved by the Robeson County Health Department and package treatment plants approved by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- 2.3.2 Walkable and bikeable communities, strengthening public transit, and integrated land use and transportation planning should be promoted.
- 2.3.3 Energy efficient measure should be incorporated into public facility design, construction, and renovations to reduce resource use, fuel costs, and carbon emissions.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The four main factors of economic growth are land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship. This plan, through policies and land use mapping recommendations, provides a path to cultivate the county's successes and rectify any prior shortcomings.

Goal 3.1: Improve the image of Robeson County.

- 3.1.1 Adopt a brand campaign for Robeson County to establish an identity that is marketable to companies and individuals.
- 3.1.2 Partner with outside agencies, including the North Carolina Department of Commerce, to update Robeson County's assets.

- 3.1.3 Signage should be utilized to enhance the overall built environment with attention afforded to aesthetic, economic, and safety needs.

Goal 3.2: Promote appropriate opportunities for industrial, commercial, and residential development.

- 3.2.1 Industrial development should be encouraged in Red Springs along NC 71, adjacent the railroad site on Highway 72, at the Air Park West site off Interstate -95, and in Rowland along Interstate-95.
- 3.2.2 Technology and bioscience industries should be supported as a means to diversify the county’s economy and strengthen local research and training opportunities.
- 3.2.3 A broad range of employment opportunities should be supported to diversify the local job market and provide equal opportunity to residents.
- 3.2.4 Land use patterns and zoning should support retail, office, and mixed-use opportunities and should not push non-residential users to the fringe or municipal limits.
- 3.2.5 Support a more diversified economic base, including increased healthcare services.

Goal 3.3: Support tourism and provide a solid foundation for overall economic development.

- 3.3.1 Work with regional and state partners to promote the county’s riverine resources, such as the Lumbee River.
- 3.3.2 Support sustainable aquiculture and energy generation as feasible economic development initiatives.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Community facilities and infrastructure extensions are provided for the benefit of the community. This section shall guide decisions about the location, operation, programming, and design of future facilities and expansions.

Goal 4.1: Proactively extend necessary infrastructure equitably throughout the planning jurisdiction to promote sustainable and desirable land use patterns.

- 4.1.1 Expand municipal sewer services to existing and potential industrial, commercial, and housing sites. Consultation of the Future Land Use Map is appropriate.
- 4.1.2 Increase the availability of access to 6- to 8-inch natural gas lines.
- 4.1.3 Support efforts to increase broadband service areas across the planning jurisdiction.
- 4.1.4 Shared location of community facilities and services should be considered, where possible, to maximize citizen and business access, reduce costs, and encouraging efficient use of land and resources.

- 4.1.5 Review residential development proposals in coordination with the Robeson County Public Schools 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.
- 4.1.6 Make all Robeson County locational decisions for community facilities in consideration of the facility impact on adjacent land uses and infrastructure capacity for support including the water system, municipal sewer systems, and transportation system.
- 4.1.7 Seek state and federal technical and financial assistance to provide facilities for physically challenged persons.
- 4.1.8 Support educational grants to subsidize in-county continuing education by nearby colleges and universities and support community education programs.
- 4.1.9 A comprehensive review of existing parks and recreation programs, solid waste disposal, emergency management, and education services and facilities should be pursued to identify underserved areas of the county.

Goal 4.2: Emergency services should be planned for to protect the health and safety of Robeson County's population.

- 4.2.1 Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques in retrofits, new and infill developments.
- 4.2.2 Continue to plan for the provision of fire and life safety facilities that meet current and future needs.
- 4.2.3 Annually adopt a Capital Improvements Plan to address solid waste disposal, law enforcement, emergency management, recreation, and educational service needs.

Goal 4.3: Coordinated planning for schools should be ensured through strong partnerships with the county, local municipalities, and the School Board.

- 4.3.1 Equity in school facilities should be considered when making determinations about school construction, closures, and rehabilitation. The end goal should be to provide all students with consistent high quality learning environments.
- 4.3.2 School siting should consider walkable, bikeable neighborhood locations.
- 4.3.3 Focus should be afforded to strengthening the local curriculum.
- 4.3.4 Work force training opportunities should be encouraged to support growing industries.

TRANSPORTATION

The definition of transportation is simple, the movement of goods and persons from place to place and the various means by which such movement is accomplished. However, the impacts the many modes of transportation have on the local economy can vary. A fine-tuned transportation network is necessary to a thriving community.

Goal 5.1: Support regional intergovernmental planning and cooperation for transportation improvements to and within southeastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

- 5.1.1 Endorse and support the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Projects in the vicinity.
- 5.1.2 Support and continue to seek funds for sidewalk and bikeway improvements identified and endorsed in this plan, including expansion of bike lanes and trails in the CS land use sector located along NC 711 between Lumberton and Pembroke.
- 5.1.3 Support and continue to explore funding and funding opportunities available for a paratransit service provided throughout the county for persons with disabilities.
- 5.1.4 Encourage local access street connections between adjoining residential subdivisions which have public roads, and connections between parking lots of adjoining commercial developments.
- 5.1.5 Explore opportunities to establish truck routes that diverts traffic away from charming downtown areas.

Goal 5.2: Provide dependable transit services to meet the needs of county residents.

- 5.2.1 Encourage expansion of services of the existing South East Area Transit System (SEATS).
- 5.2.2 Increase ridership to support additional stops throughout the planning area.
- 5.2.3 Encourage private developers to partner with SEATS to integrate sustainable facilities and stops adjacent to or within new developments.

Goal 5.3: Improve bicycle and pedestrian circulation through the county.

- 5.3.1 A continuous bicycle and pedestrian network shall be included within and between existing and new developments to facilitate safe alternative travel ways.
- 5.3.2 Resurfacing projects shall include plans for bicycle and pedestrian facilities compatible with the built environment.
- 5.3.3 Bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be installed and maintained to accommodate universal access.
- 5.3.4 Alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycles and pedestrians, shall be accommodated on bridges, interchanges, and over and underpasses, where permitted by law.

HOUSING

Quality, affordable housing is a key component to ensuring a healthy, strong, and secure community. The majority of Robeson County's existing land use is residential. Robeson County's housing stock is primarily single-family homes with minimal multifamily development and mobile homes. One of the consistent responses to the needs of the community to ensure a high quality of life is an abundance of diverse housing stock.

Goal 6.1: Create and maintain a diverse housing stock.

- 6.1.1 Affordable and workforce housing units, with universal design elements, should be promoted.
- 6.1.3 The county should seek partnerships with nonprofit housing providers to expand their capacity.
- 6.1.4 Alternative housing units, such as accessory dwelling units, granny flats and mother-in-law suites, should be permitted in areas with adequate infrastructure.
- 6.1.5 Higher density developments should be embraced as an opportunity to provide quality, affordable housing units.

Goal 6.2: New residential development should be compatible with or improve the character of the existing built environment.

- 6.2.1 Quality design and appearance of all housing, including assisted and market rate housing, shall be encouraged.
- 6.2.2 Location-efficient housing should be promoted and preserved.

IMPLEMENTATION

Successful implementation of this document requires County decision makers, including staff, Planning Board, and County Commissioners, to consult and execute the goals and policies established with support of residents, business owners, and developers of the community. The adoption of this plan is not the end but rather the beginning of a continuous process.

A window of opportunity exists for Robeson County to provide positive direction to development in a proactive, rather than reactive, approach. The creation of a county plan, workable conditions, and capital spending programs is not burdensome; however, it requires commitment and forethought. The true test will come in putting this plan, ordinances, and programs into action on a day-to-day basis.

Implementation of the policies contained in this plan will be an ongoing process. Some of the strategies contained in this plan may be implemented in months, others may require years to effectively accomplish, while some will be a continuous effort. Planning is only as good as the commitment and abilities of the people responsible for implementing the plan. This plan provides the framework upon which zoning, land use regulations, and the capital improvements program should be based.

Zoning regulations shall be designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare. To that end, the regulations may address, among other things, the following public purposes: to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers; and to facilitate the efficient and adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements. The regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration as to, among other things, the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, and with a view of conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the county. In addition, the regulations shall be made with reasonable consideration to expansion and development of any cities/towns within the county, in order to provide for their orderly growth and development.

Specifically, in implementing this plan, the following should serve as guiding land use/planning principles:

- Consider the future land use map as part of the policies included in this plan.
- Consult this plan, including the future land use map, during the deliberation of all re-zoning requests and proposed text amendments, as required by NCGS 160 D-701.
- Consider the following in deliberation of all zoning petitions:
 - All uses that are allowed in a zoning district must be considered. A decision to re-zone or not to re-zone a parcel or parcels of property cannot be based on consideration of only one use, or a partial list of the uses allowed within a zoning district.
 - Requests for zoning changes should not be approved if the requested change will result in spot zoning. Spot zoning is a form of discriminatory zoning whose sole purpose is to serve the private interests of one or more landowners instead of furthering the welfare of the entire community as part of an overall zoning plan. Spot zoning is based on the arbitrary and inappropriate nature of a re-zoning change rather than, as is commonly believed, on the size of the area being re-zoned.
 - Zoning which will result in strip development should be discouraged. Strip development is a mélange of development, usually commercial, extending along both sides of a major street. Strip development is often a mixture of auto-oriented enterprises (e.g., gas stations, motels, and food stands), and truck-dependent wholesale and light industrial enterprises along with the once-rural homes and farms that await conversion to commercial use. Strip development may severely reduce traffic-carrying capacity of abutting streets by allowing for excessive and conflicting curb cuts.

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A

APPENDIX A

Citizen Participation Plan



**ROBESON COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

Introduction

Robeson County has initiated the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan. The final document will provide a creative and dynamic plan to guide future long-term growth and development throughout the next fifteen to twenty years. The intent of this project is to draft a plan that will establish a solid foundation for the ongoing planning program and to serve as the primary policy guide for short and long-range planning, zoning, and development related decision-making within the Robeson County planning area.

Recognizing that a collaborative effort with the public is essential, the initial step in the planning process is the adoption of this Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) by the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. Approval of the CPP was accomplished on February 7, 2022.

Responsibility

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners has appointed the Planning Board to supervise the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. The county's staff and consultant will serve in an advisory capacity to the Planning Board. The Comprehensive Plan will be drafted by Insight Planning & Development, the county's consultant. Final approval will be by the Robeson County Board of Commissioners.

Meetings

All Planning Board meetings will be conducted in an open format which will encourage public involvement/engagement. The Planning Board will conduct up to four (4) work sessions to prepare the draft Comprehensive Plan. At a minimum, the following meetings will be conducted throughout the plan preparation process:

- Work sessions with the Planning Board. At each meeting, the location, date, and time of the succeeding meeting will be determined.
- Public visioning and issues identification workshop to identify key issues and concerns, develop a plan vision statement, and participate in a future land use map exercise.
- Mid-project presentation to the Board of Commissioners to provide an overview of results from the public engagement process and remaining steps.

- Submit the final draft plan to the Planning Board for review and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Present the final plan to the Board of Commissioners for public hearing and adoption.

Public Notification

As public bodies, all meetings of the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners are conducted in an open and transparent manner. All meetings are open to the public and Robeson County citizens are encouraged to attend and participate.

To ensure public awareness of the Comprehensive Plan project, meeting times and dates, project updates, and public participation opportunities, and to increase ease of access to Comprehensive Plan-specific information, the following are proposed:

- The project team will create and maintain an interactive Comprehensive Plan-dedicated website to both collect and disseminate information. Project progress, public notifications, and the draft plan will be posted on this website for ease of public review and comment.
- Advertisements will be placed on the specialized Comprehensive Plan-dedicated website, the County’s website, <https://www.co.robeson.nc.us/>, posted on all County bulletin boards, electronically distributed, and published in the local newspaper.
- Sign-up sheets will be placed in the Robeson County Community Development office in the front lobby and at all Planning Board meetings for interested persons and groups to register to receive electronic messaging, including meeting notifications, update information, and opportunities for review of the Comprehensive Plan. Similar opportunities for registration will be placed on the project website. Staff will transmit lists updates to the consultant on an at-least bi-weekly basis. Individuals who place their names on this list will be mailed or emailed notices announcing meeting times for review of the Comprehensive Plan.
- The County will utilize email and electronic communications on all aspects of the public participation program to public distribution lists, civic groups, interested groups and organizations.

Dissemination of Information

The following procedures will be utilized to ensure the availability of information:

- Copies of the draft Comprehensive Plan will be available for public review in the Community Development office, 435 Caton Road, Lumberton, NC.

- Using the sites and methods of public notification provided in the **Public Notification** section, the availability of the draft plan will be publicly announced, and the draft document will be posted for public review and/or printing. Information regarding the location of the online document will be included in all published notices of Planning Board meetings and communicated at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners.
- As they are readied for discussion, sections of the draft plan will be provided to the Planning Board prior to any meetings at which they will be discussed. Planning Board meetings materials, as well as Board of Commissioners meetings materials, will all be posted on the County’s website, for public information and review.
- Copies of the draft Comprehensive Plan or sections of the draft plan may also be obtained from the Community Development office, 435 Caton Road, Lumberton, NC.

Public Comment

Throughout the process, the public will have the following opportunities for input:

- At each Planning Board meeting, time will be allocated for public comment, both written and oral, which includes the opportunities for questions.
- At any time during the preparation of the draft plan, the public may submit written or email comments. Information on how to submit such comments will be provided on public notices/advertisements and websites.
- The Planning Board work sessions, public visioning and issues identification workshop(s), and public hearing will all provide additional opportunities for public input and questions.

Schedule

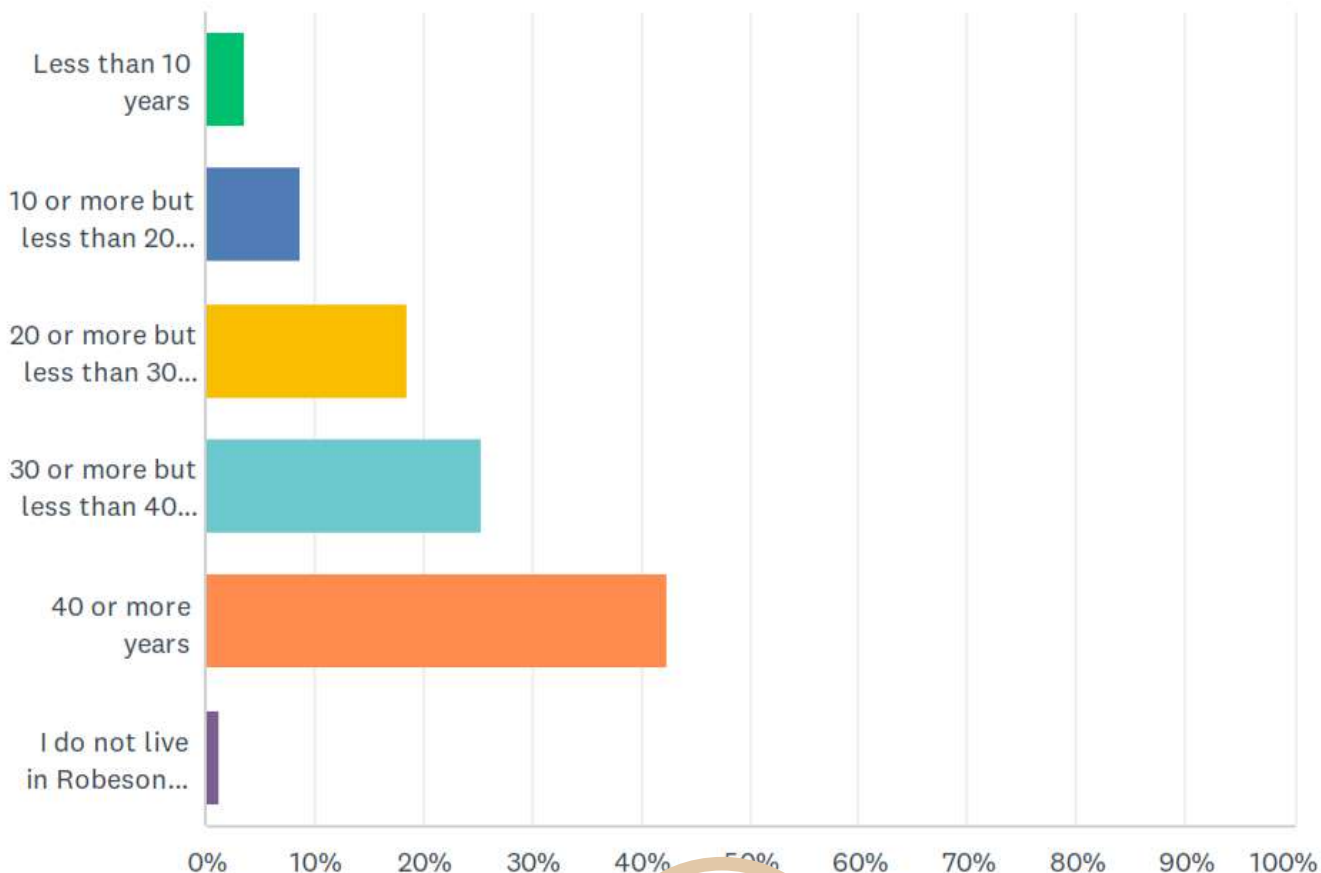
The Comprehensive Plan planning process will utilize the following schedule:

Phase	Project Task	Timeframe
Phase I:	• Issue Notice to Proceed	October 2021
	• Project Kickoff	November-December 2021
Phase II:	• Plan Development/Public Engagement	January-April 2022
Phase III:	• Completion, Review, and Adoption	May-June 2022

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Q2 How many years total have you lived in Robeson County?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



B

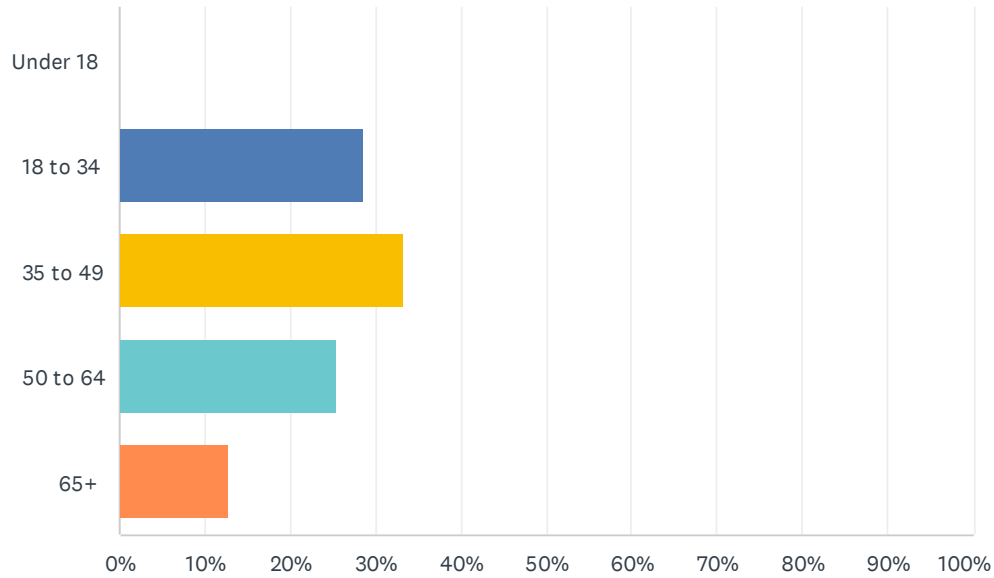
APPENDIX B

Citizen Survey Results

APPENDIX B. ROBESON COUNTY CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 What is your age range (age of person completing this survey)?

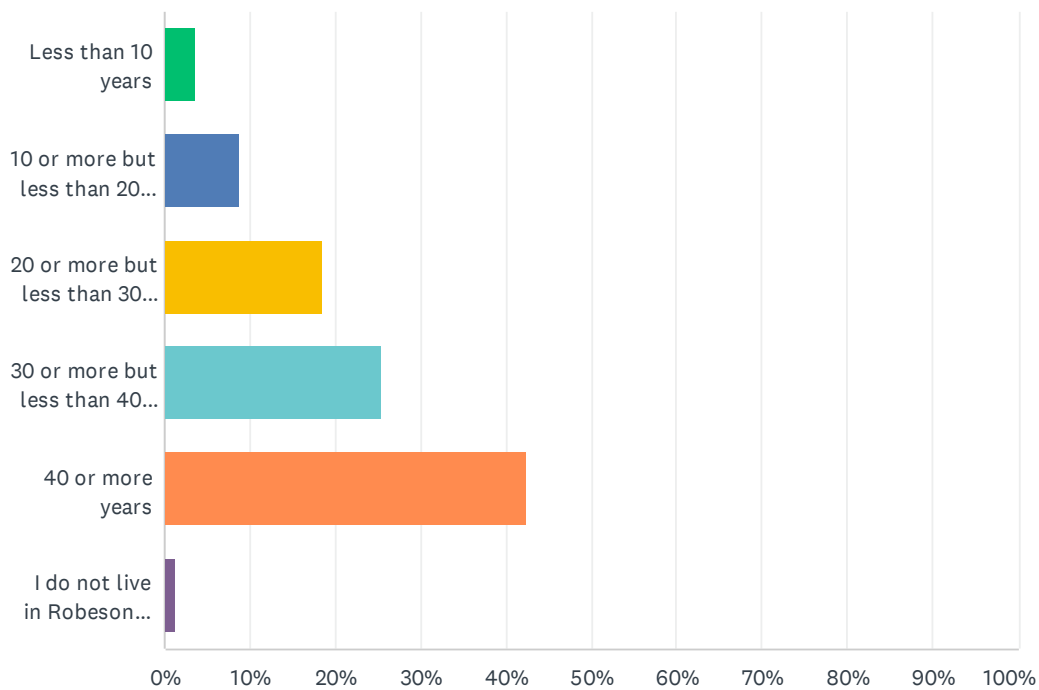
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18 to 34	28.57%	72
35 to 49	33.33%	84
50 to 64	25.40%	64
65+	12.70%	32
TOTAL		252

Q2 How many years total have you lived in Robeson County?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0

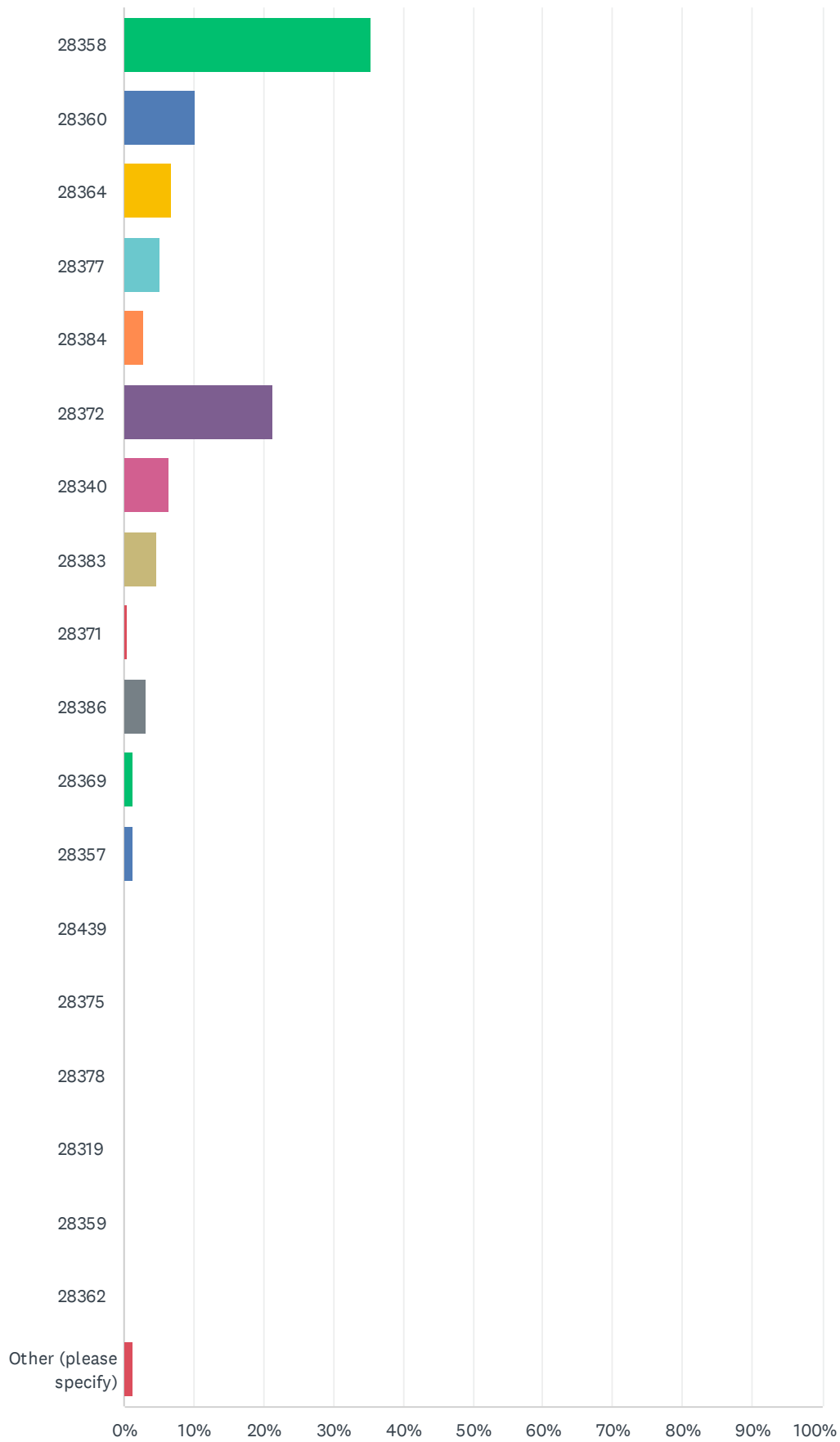


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 10 years	3.57%	9
10 or more but less than 20 years	8.73%	22
20 or more but less than 30 years	18.65%	47
30 or more but less than 40 years	25.40%	64
40 or more years	42.46%	107
I do not live in Robeson County	1.19%	3
TOTAL		252

Q3 Please identify the zip code where you live:

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey



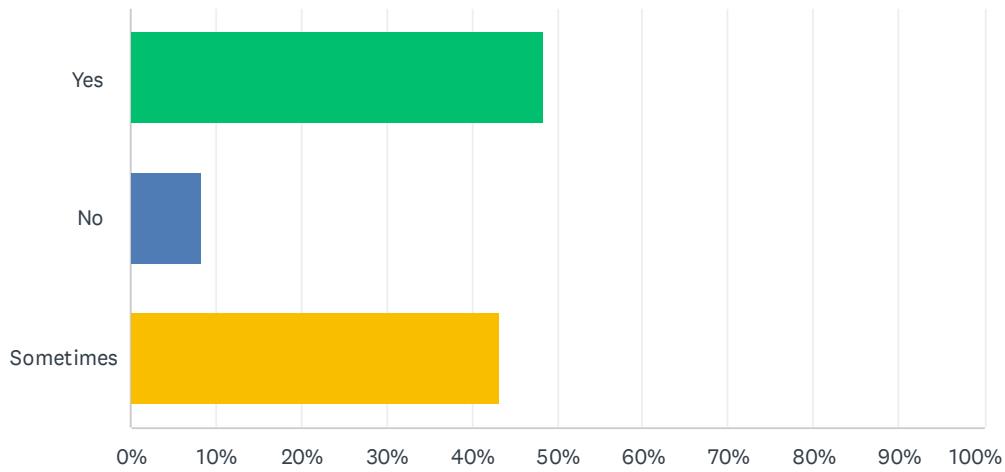
Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
28358	35.32%	89
28360	10.32%	26
28364	6.75%	17
28377	5.16%	13
28384	2.78%	7
28372	21.43%	54
28340	6.35%	16
28383	4.76%	12
28371	0.40%	1
28386	3.17%	8
28369	1.19%	3
28357	1.19%	3
28439	0.00%	0
28375	0.00%	0
28378	0.00%	0
28319	0.00%	0
28359	0.00%	0
28362	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.19%	3
TOTAL		252

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	28376	5/3/2022 9:28 AM
2	28320	4/25/2022 1:19 PM
3	28352 (Border of Robeson and Scotland Counties)	3/30/2022 7:16 PM

Q4 Do you follow your local government plans and initiatives?

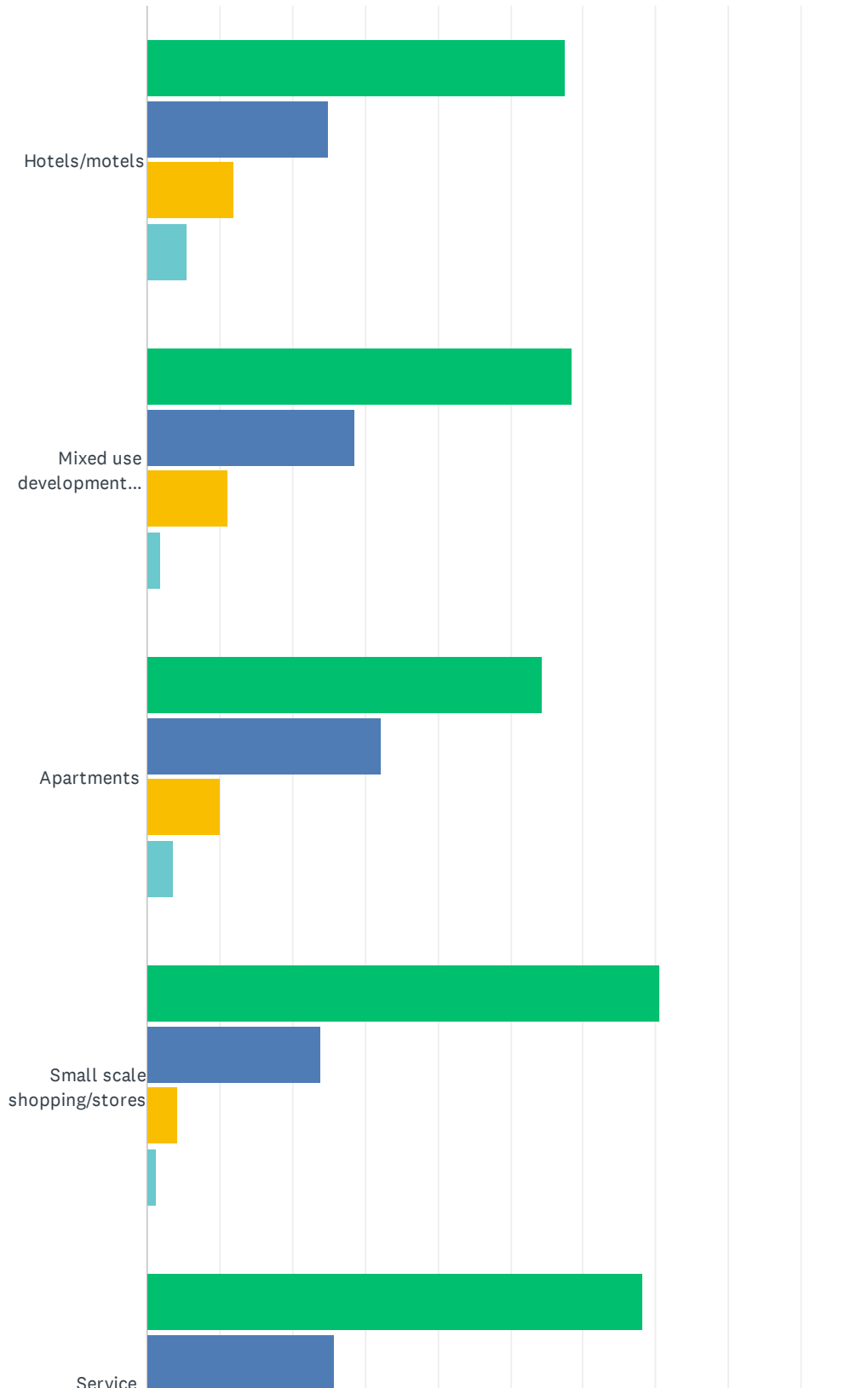
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



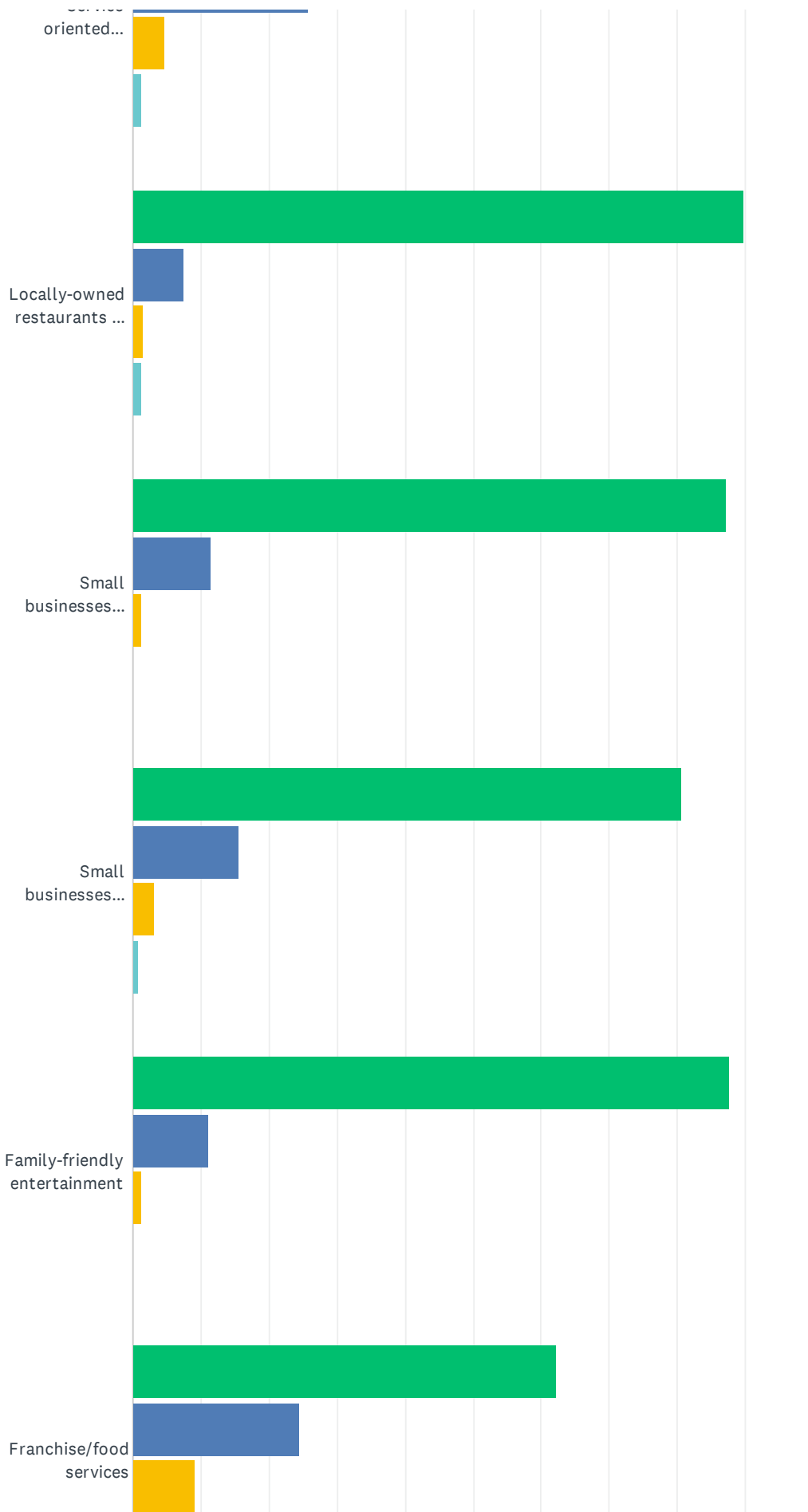
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.41%	122
No	8.33%	21
Sometimes	43.25%	109
TOTAL		252

Q5 How important are the following business and commercial activities to the future of Robeson County?

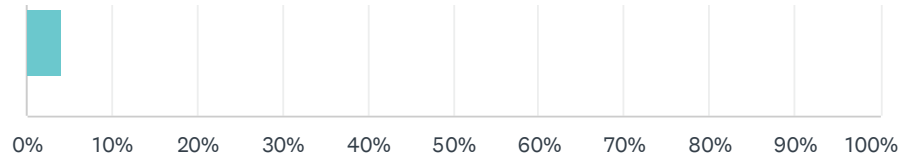
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey



Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

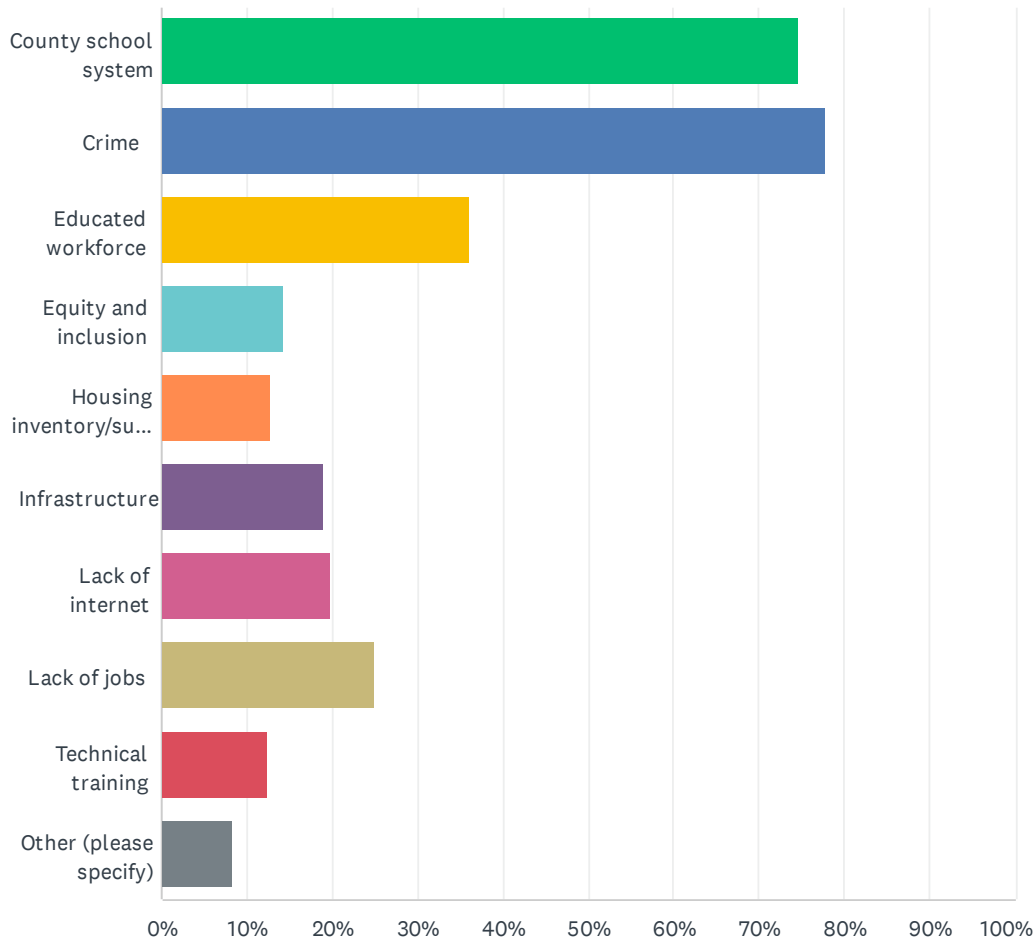


■ Very Import...
 ■ Somewhat I...
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Not Import...

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Hotels/motels	57.54% 145	25.00% 63	11.90% 30	5.56% 14	252
Mixed use development (residential and commercial combined)	58.33% 147	28.57% 72	11.11% 28	1.98% 5	252
Apartments	54.37% 137	32.14% 81	9.92% 25	3.57% 9	252
Small scale shopping/stores	70.63% 178	23.81% 60	4.37% 11	1.19% 3	252
Service oriented businesses & offices	68.25% 172	25.79% 65	4.76% 12	1.19% 3	252
Locally-owned restaurants & businesses	89.68% 226	7.54% 19	1.59% 4	1.19% 3	252
Small businesses oriented towards needs of community	87.30% 220	11.51% 29	1.19% 3	0.00% 0	252
Small businesses oriented towards needs of young professionals	80.56% 203	15.48% 39	3.17% 8	0.79% 2	252
Family-friendly entertainment	87.70% 221	11.11% 28	1.19% 3	0.00% 0	252
Franchise/food services	62.30% 157	24.60% 62	9.13% 23	3.97% 10	252

Q6 What would you consider to be Robeson County's top THREE (3) challenges to its success? (Please select ONLY THREE - choices are listed in alphabetical order)

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



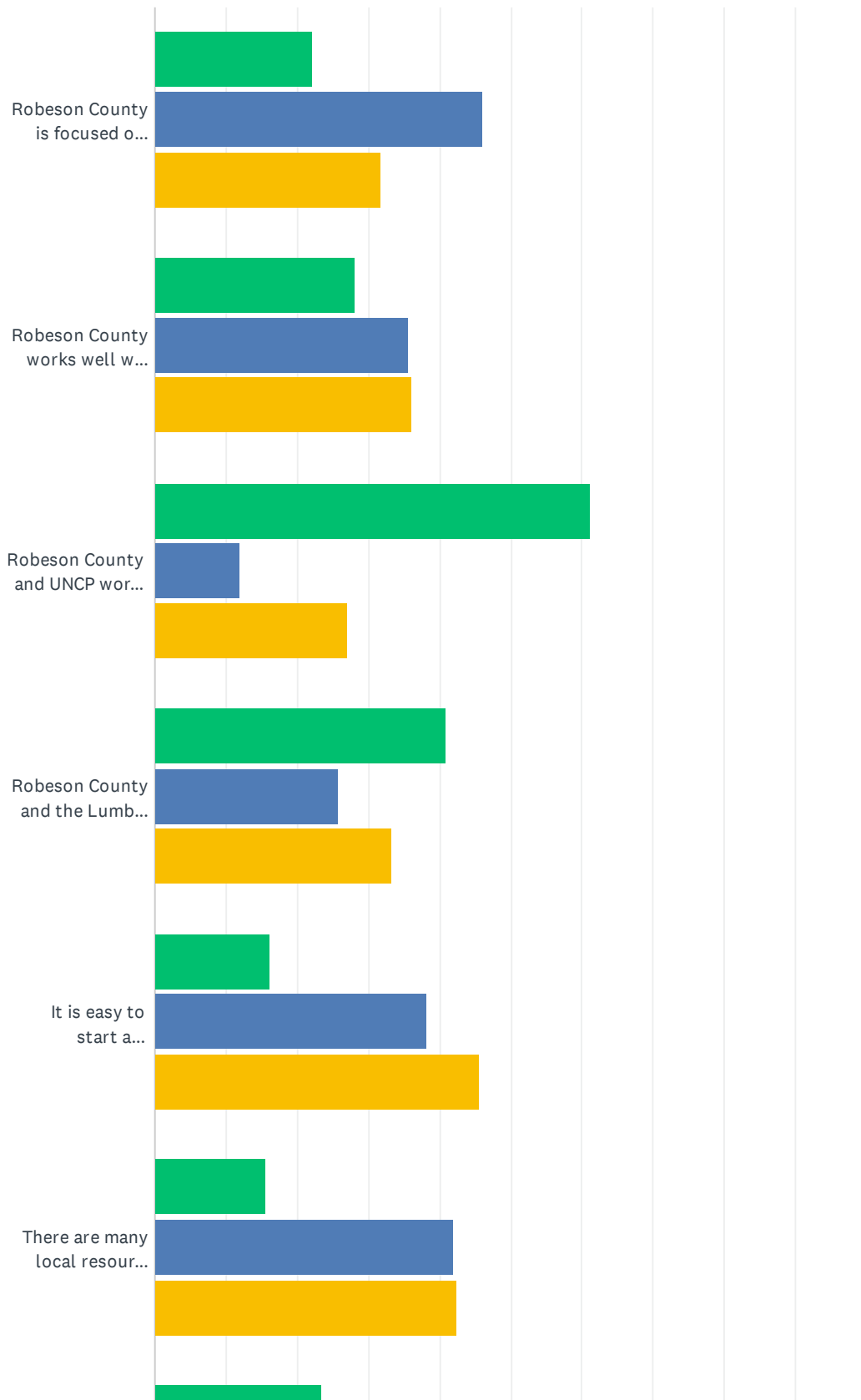
Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
County school system	74.60%	188
Crime	77.78%	196
Educated workforce	36.11%	91
Equity and inclusion	14.29%	36
Housing inventory/supply	12.70%	32
Infrastructure	19.05%	48
Lack of internet	19.84%	50
Lack of jobs	25.00%	63
Technical training	12.30%	31
Other (please specify)	8.33%	21
Total Respondents: 252		

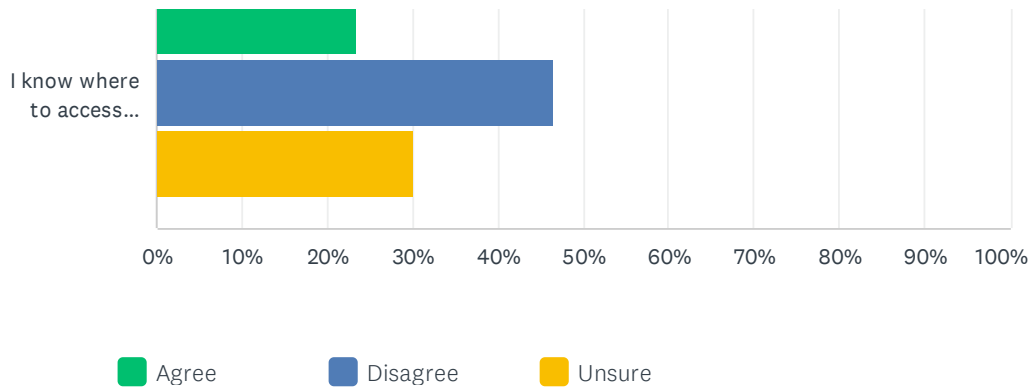
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	recruit well paying manufactureing companies	5/8/2022 7:10 PM
2	not having natural gas	5/6/2022 7:54 AM
3	Local govt failure to maintain property: dilapidated gym in Maxton	5/4/2022 11:52 AM
4	Substance Abuse Epidemic	5/3/2022 10:51 PM
5	Racial politics	5/3/2022 7:13 PM
6	Substance abuse	5/3/2022 7:01 PM
7	Mindset	5/3/2022 6:47 PM
8	Socioeconomic status	5/3/2022 3:33 PM
9	protecting our natural environment	5/3/2022 9:55 AM
10	Lack of high paying jobs	5/3/2022 9:28 AM
11	Politics	5/3/2022 7:57 AM
12	Restaurants	5/3/2022 3:28 AM
13	No fear of God	4/27/2022 10:10 PM
14	Drugs	4/27/2022 12:45 AM
15	Higher ups taking advantage.. making decisions based on their pay not community needs	4/26/2022 11:01 PM
16	Politics	4/25/2022 1:54 PM
17	Apathy	4/25/2022 10:43 AM
18	Litter across the county	4/22/2022 9:48 AM
19	Residential overcrowding and farm land being bought up and taken away	4/15/2022 7:40 PM
20	Drug problem	3/10/2022 9:48 PM
21	Lack of senior citizen services: affordable housing, independent/assisted/skilled/memory living facilities, doctors specializing in geriatric medicine, cultural offerings, reliable transportation	3/7/2022 4:36 PM

Q7 Please respond to the following:

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



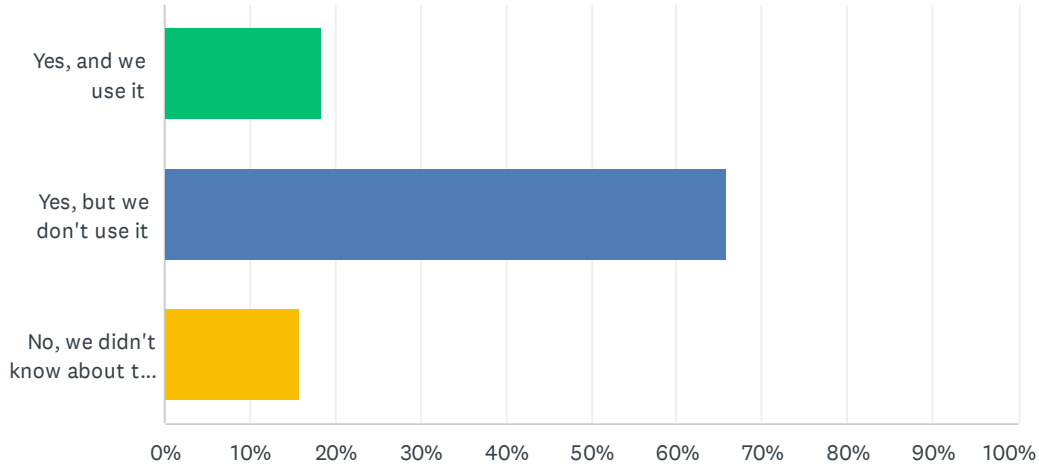
Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey



	AGREE	DISAGREE	UNSURE	TOTAL
Robeson County is focused on policy that contributes to citizen's quality of life	22.22% 56	46.03% 116	31.75% 80	252
Robeson County works well with the municipalities within the county	28.17% 71	35.71% 90	36.11% 91	252
Robeson County and UNCP work well together	61.11% 154	11.90% 30	26.98% 68	252
Robeson County and the Lumbee Tribe work well together	40.87% 103	25.79% 65	33.33% 84	252
It is easy to start a business in Robeson County	16.27% 41	38.10% 96	45.63% 115	252
There are many local resources available to start and support a local business	15.48% 39	42.06% 106	42.46% 107	252
I know where to access resources to start or support a business	23.41% 59	46.43% 117	30.16% 76	252

Q8 Are you aware of the Lumber River State Park with access to camping and boat ramp?

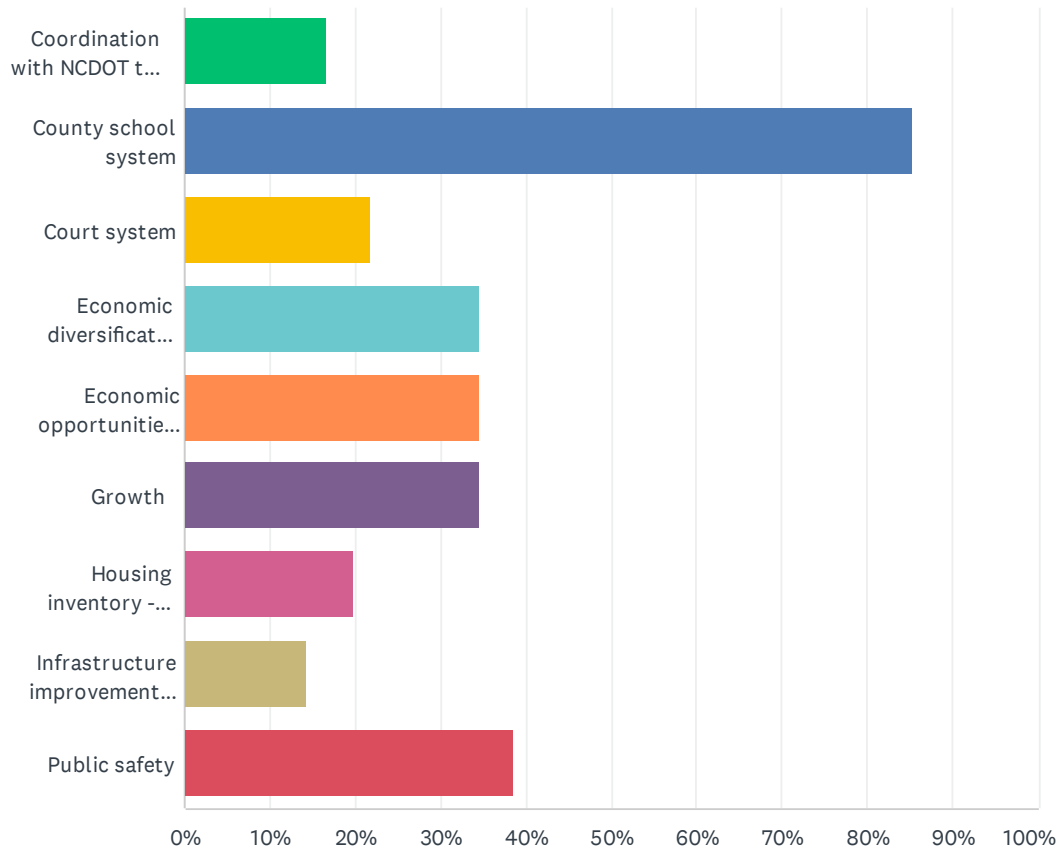
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, and we use it	18.25%	46
Yes, but we don't use it	65.87%	166
No, we didn't know about the State Park	15.87%	40
TOTAL		252

Q9 Select THREE (3) current challenges to focus on which will benefit Robeson County's future. (Please select ONLY THREE - choices are listed in alphabetical order)

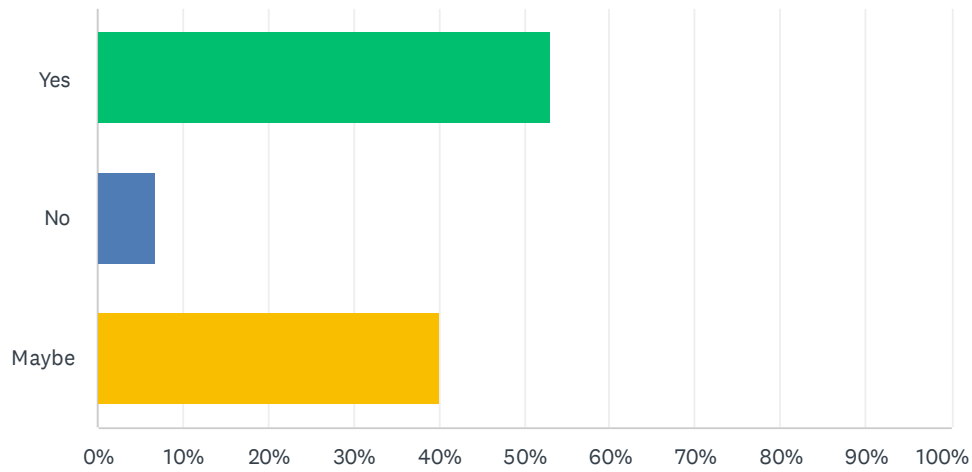
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Coordination with NCDOT to improve roads	16.67%	42
County school system	85.32%	215
Court system	21.83%	55
Economic diversification - variety of job pay and positions	34.52%	87
Economic opportunities - jobs	34.52%	87
Growth	34.52%	87
Housing inventory - variety of options and prices	19.84%	50
Infrastructure improvement (water and sewer)	14.29%	36
Public safety	38.49%	97
Total Respondents: 252		

Q10 I would volunteer in the Robeson County Clean and Green Program

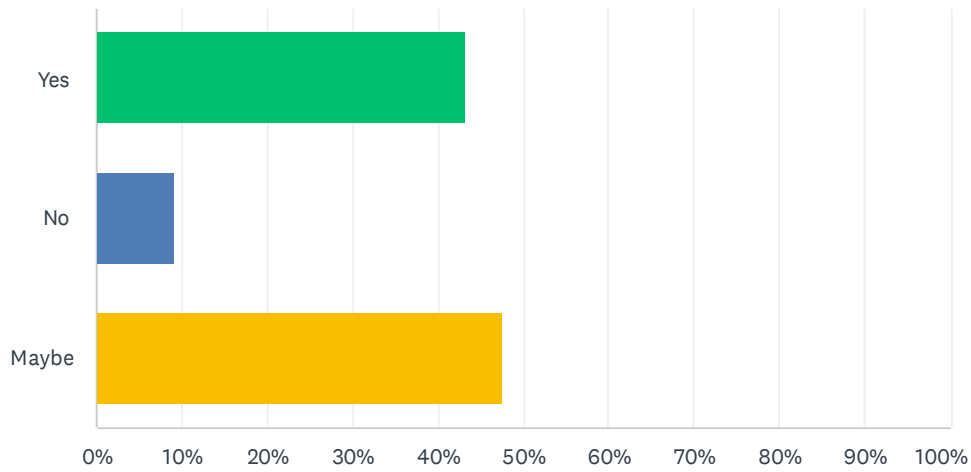
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.17%	134
No	6.75%	17
Maybe	40.08%	101
TOTAL		252

Q11 Would you volunteer if there was an Adopt a Park program?

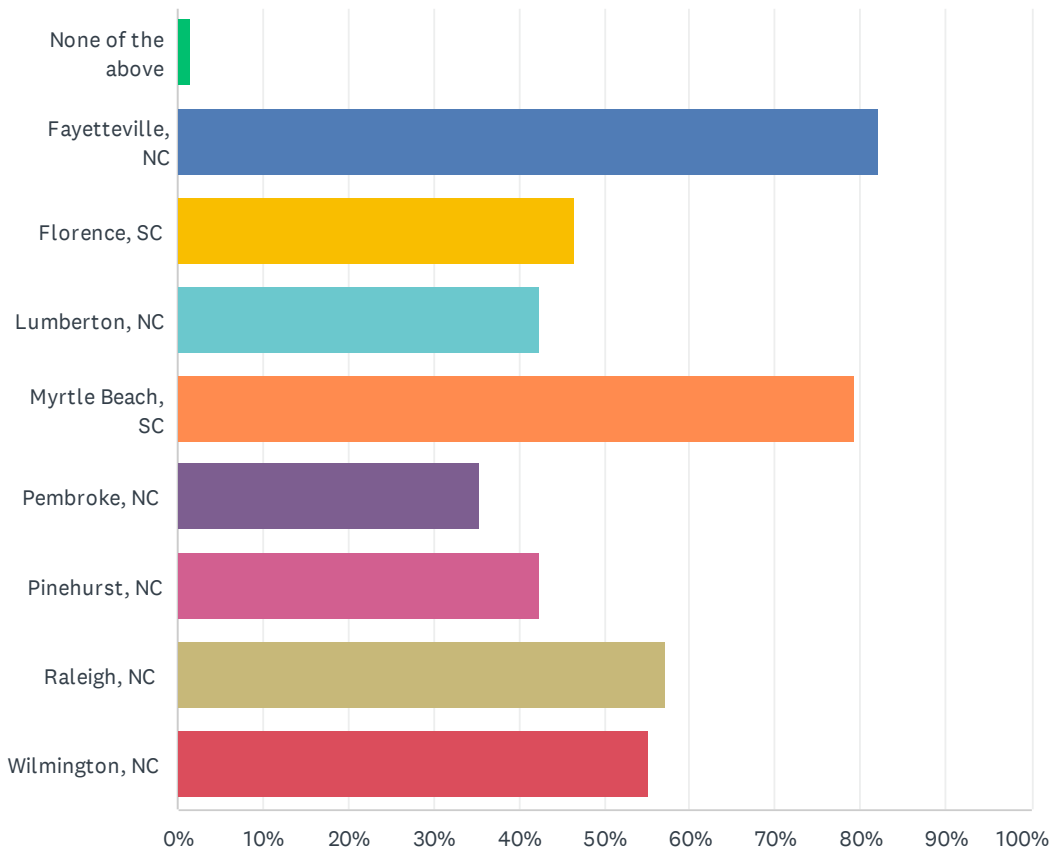
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.25%	109
No	9.13%	23
Maybe	47.62%	120
TOTAL		252

Q12 At least once a year, I (or my family) take day trips to... (choose more than 1 if appropriate)

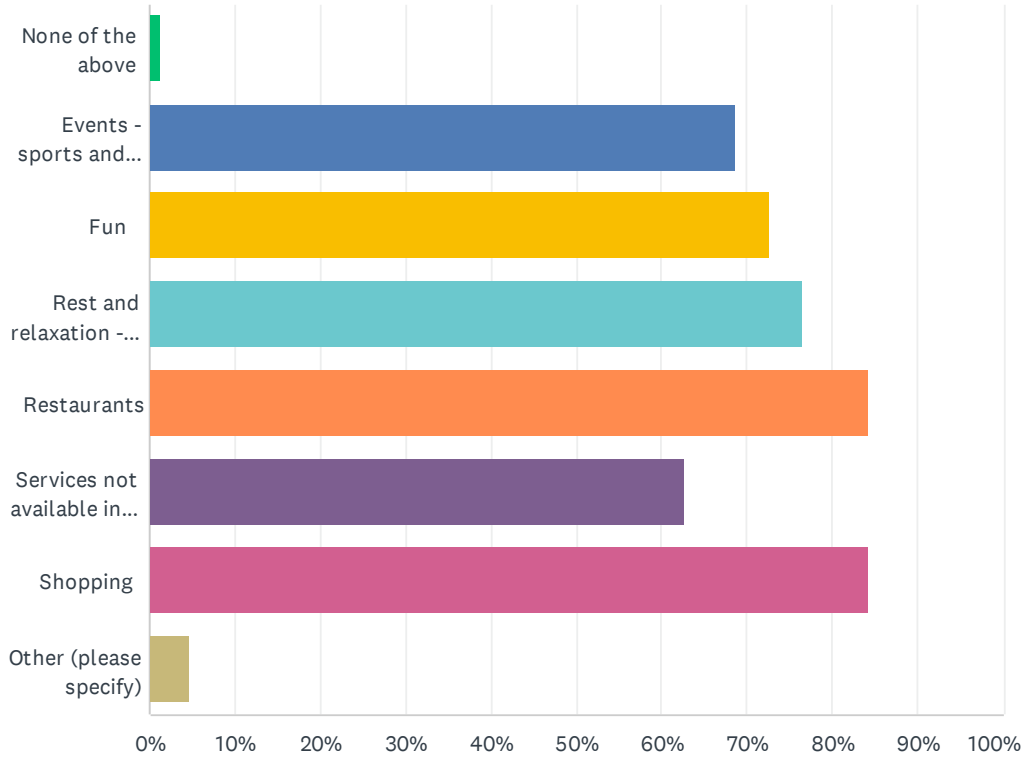
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.59%	4
Fayetteville, NC	82.14%	207
Florence, SC	46.43%	117
Lumberton, NC	42.46%	107
Myrtle Beach, SC	79.37%	200
Pembroke, NC	35.32%	89
Pinehurst, NC	42.46%	107
Raleigh, NC	57.14%	144
Wilmington, NC	55.16%	139
Total Respondents: 252		

Q13 At least once a year, I (or my family) take day trips to other towns or cities for... (choose more than 1 if appropriate)

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	1.19%	3
Events - sports and entertainment	68.65%	173
Fun	72.62%	183
Rest and relaxation - a day getaway	76.59%	193
Restaurants	84.13%	212
Services not available in Robeson County	62.70%	158
Shopping	84.13%	212
Other (please specify)	4.76%	12
Total Respondents: 252		

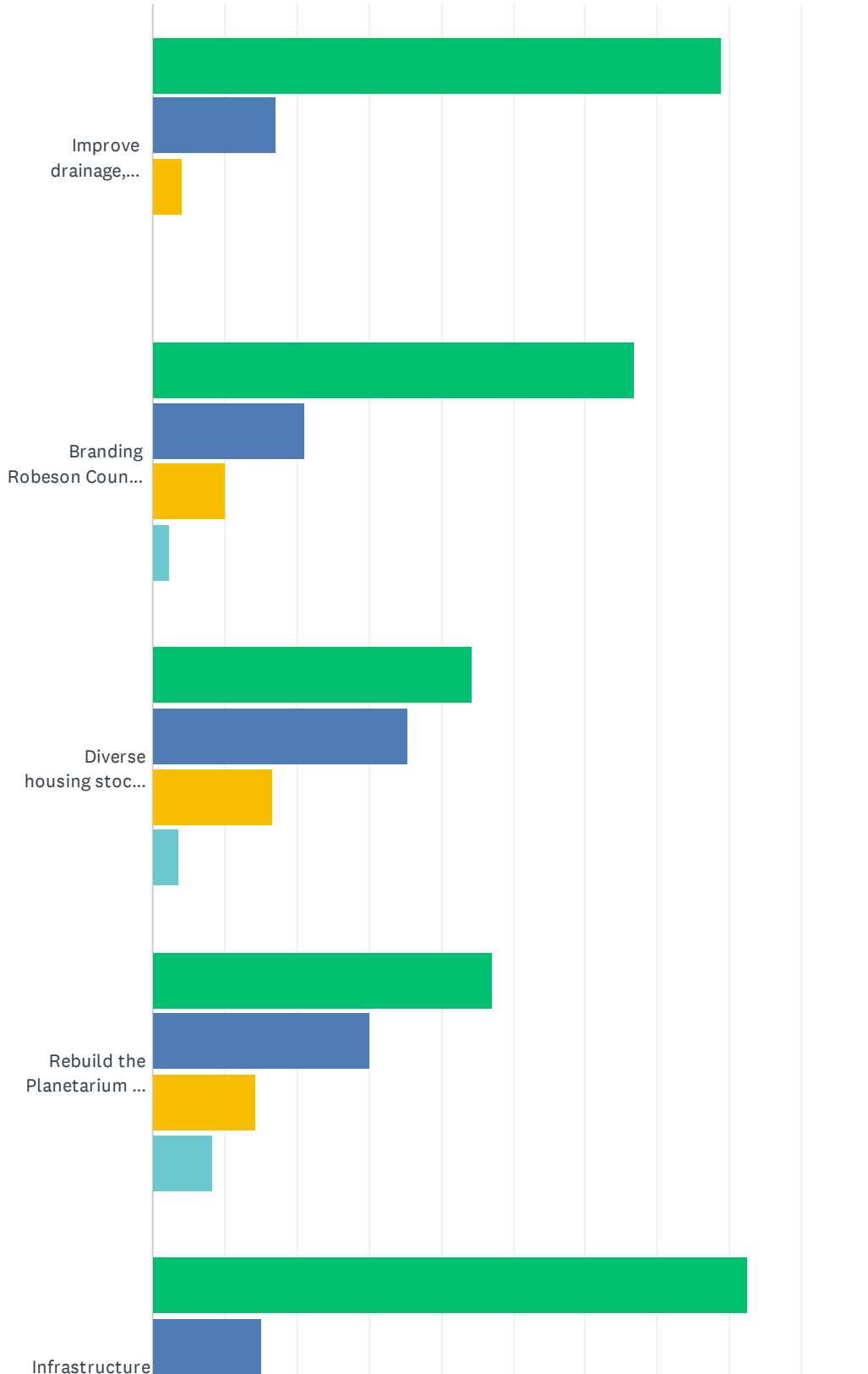
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Art events	5/10/2022 12:54 PM
2	Cheaper groceries	5/4/2022 10:28 AM
3	Medical appointments	5/4/2022 2:41 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

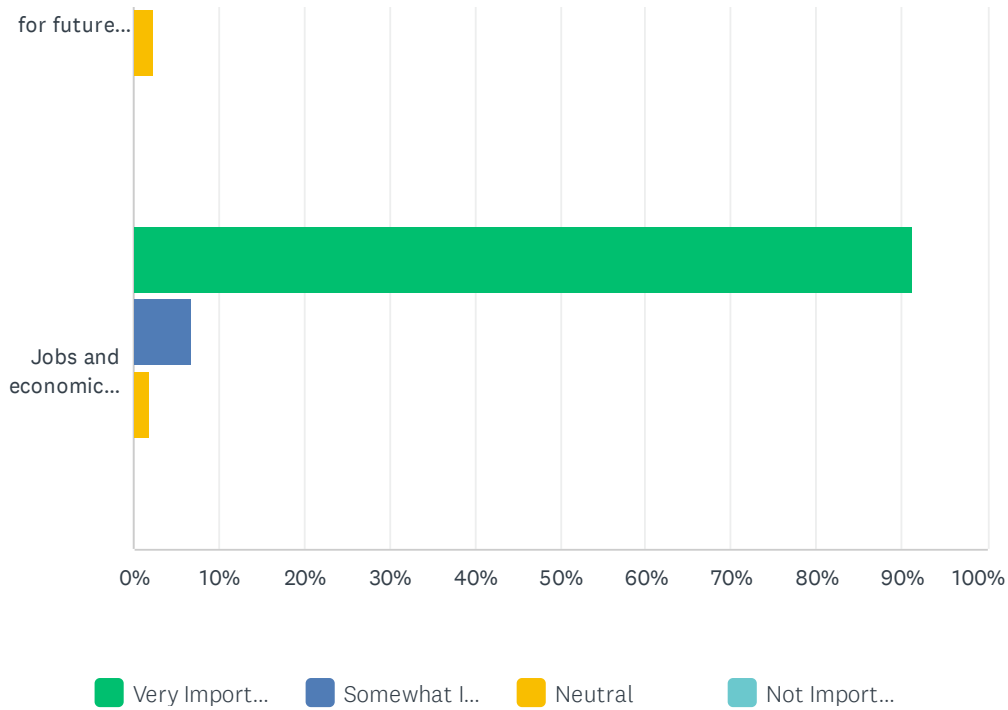
4	Spa services, hiking opportunities, camping	5/3/2022 12:07 PM
5	Business	5/3/2022 7:41 AM
6	Medical	5/3/2022 7:24 AM
7	Conventions	5/3/2022 6:45 AM
8	art	5/3/2022 6:05 AM
9	Vacation	4/25/2022 10:41 AM
10	Arts & Culture	4/17/2022 1:24 PM
11	Job	4/15/2022 7:59 PM
12	Live music that isn't "beach" or other such groups. I would love to have some kind of venue, other than at UNCP where touring musicians could stop over to play even a weekday show.	3/30/2022 7:16 PM

Q14 I think the County government should prioritize the following and provide funding towards:

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Improve drainage, stormwater through drainage districts	78.97% 199	17.06% 43	3.97% 10	0.00% 0	252	1.25
Branding Robeson County with an identity that is marketed to companies and individuals	66.67% 168	21.03% 53	9.92% 25	2.38% 6	252	1.48
Diverse housing stock options	44.44% 112	35.32% 89	16.67% 42	3.57% 9	252	1.79
Rebuild the Planetarium and Science Center	47.22% 119	30.16% 76	14.29% 36	8.33% 21	252	1.84
Infrastructure for future growth (including internet access)	82.54% 208	15.08% 38	2.38% 6	0.00% 0	252	1.20
Jobs and economic development	91.27% 230	6.75% 17	1.98% 5	0.00% 0	252	1.11

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We need more cloth stores.	5/11/2022 2:59 PM
2	STOP WITH THE RESTAURANTS/MOM & POP SHOPS. WE NEED CLOTHING & ENTERTAINMENT. ITS SAD LUMBERTON DOESNT EVEN HAVE A MOVIE THEATER AT THE MOMENT	5/4/2022 4:20 PM
3	Remove dilapidated gym in Maxton	5/4/2022 11:52 AM
4	Increasing educational achievement and reducing substance abuse and crime	5/3/2022 7:01 PM
5	Better support for the arts and small businesses.	5/3/2022 8:22 AM
6	Remove accessibility to drugs; support other court options for treatment ; set consistent long term standards and goals for schools -equitable access for all schools and reduce student/adult ratio with adequate school nurses, social workers, counselors, instruction facilitators etc	5/3/2022 6:45 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

7	Instead of more drainage districts we need a comprehensive detailed study of the entire Lumber River Watershed from up in Richmond, Montgomery and Moore Counties all the way down to Nichols SC, that includes a details on what is happenitng with each individual smaller swamp watershed. Where is the water going, why are some canals flowing backwards and why are some never cleared and others are? (MONEY). We also need to let the swamps have room to be swamps which would allow flooding to happen where it is already and we could really assist folks in the 500 year flood plain. Lumberton needs to move the water plant and let everything from 5th street to the river be a park with swamp land. Common Sense please. Not more Drainage boards that didn't clean out the canals for years....until it was too later	3/30/2022 7:16 PM
8	School System Growth, New Updated Schools, Strong effort to retain and obtain quality teachers	3/15/2022 9:00 PM

Q15 Finish this sentence: In 5 years, I wish Robeson County would...

Answered: 202 Skipped: 50

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Would have a school superintendent that would put the kids education as a top priority to be the best in the state, so when they go outside of the county for higher education they would be ready for the challenge, and keep the politics out of the school system.	5/15/2022 7:48 PM
2	Would have safer parks in all local cities.	5/15/2022 2:51 PM
3	be more diverse for all.	5/11/2022 3:02 PM
4	have more cloth stores.	5/11/2022 2:59 PM
5	provide more education, recreation, and access to better health to improve the quality of life for all citizens.	5/10/2022 12:57 PM
6	become a place where people have hope that they can be accomplished, productive members of society.	5/10/2022 12:54 PM
7	Create a more sustainable people able to provide and protect themselves.	5/10/2022 12:51 PM
8	have more jobs and more educated people to work these jobs. In other words, more education for jobs.	5/10/2022 9:52 AM
9	Redevelop South Lumberton complete.	5/10/2022 9:43 AM
10	A county that was a growing industrial destination for Tech or Manufacturing Companies.	5/8/2022 7:10 PM
11	Look different than it does today	5/7/2022 8:15 PM
12	Invest in their educational systems	5/7/2022 5:44 PM
13	Have more outlets for youth	5/6/2022 10:41 AM
14	have a lot more to offer.	5/6/2022 7:54 AM
15	invest in the Town of Maxton.	5/5/2022 10:05 PM
16	Have better internet access.	5/5/2022 7:31 PM
17	Actually show growth	5/5/2022 6:28 PM
18	Known for educational advancements, cultural diversity and not crime rate and poverty.	5/4/2022 11:33 PM
19	Not be the poorest county in the state	5/4/2022 9:59 PM
20	Have more places to go and have fun or hang out	5/4/2022 9:45 PM
21	Not look so trashy!	5/4/2022 6:31 PM
22	Keep in mind the youth & take advantage of the green trees in NC. We need to get rid of all these small restaurant & get some entertainment/clothes stores. Better home/rent choices	5/4/2022 4:20 PM
23	Not be overrun with drugs and provided positive futures for the youth	5/4/2022 3:32 PM
24	Had more safe fun options for family entertainment	5/4/2022 2:20 PM
25	Improve the air port for bigger travel planes instead of having to travel to fayetteville or Raleigh or Wilmington or myrtle beach	5/4/2022 12:06 PM
26	Will have more restaurants, shopping	5/4/2022 11:59 AM
27	Hold PSRC accountable for failure to maintain property and keep superintendents, costing the taxpayers undue financial burden	5/4/2022 11:52 AM
28	Provide a comprehensive education to all students	5/4/2022 11:48 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

29	Stop worrying about people selling weed and worry about people literally murdering other people	5/4/2022 10:28 AM
30	Get harder on crime and bring more businesses to the count	5/4/2022 10:10 AM
31	have apprenticeship programs in all skilled trades for any persons from 14 year of age to 30 years of age	5/4/2022 10:08 AM
32	Improve county school system and develop more programs for crime reduction and substance use.	5/4/2022 9:40 AM
33	Provide multiple options for our youth, an outlet to keep them out of trouble.	5/4/2022 9:31 AM
34	Add activities for family	5/4/2022 9:25 AM
35	Improve school system	5/4/2022 8:59 AM
36	had more skilled workers.	5/4/2022 7:28 AM
37	Have affordable housing a living wage and a better school system	5/4/2022 7:06 AM
38	Have less crime, more jobs and more family and youth oriented activities so that it would be more attractive to industry and franchise that might be interested in coming into our county.	5/4/2022 6:41 AM
39	Have more local restaurants for families in the community as well as the new college students (Pembroke community).	5/4/2022 2:41 AM
40	Lower its crime rate by social programs dedicated to eradicating poverty through universal basic income for all residents, educating our youth in technical, agricultural & primary education roles, organizing all citizens for federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe, and reproductive justice initiatives that teach young people how to plan & prepare to be parents.	5/4/2022 1:33 AM
41	Stop allowing political agendas to guide decisions.	5/4/2022 12:40 AM
42	Have more opportunities for artists and small business owners. More entertainment places for young adults/young couples i.e. move theater, museums, parks	5/3/2022 11:37 PM
43	Do better.	5/3/2022 11:33 PM
44	Have a positive online presence to reflect a safe enjoyable place to live and raise a family.	5/3/2022 10:28 PM
45	Address the lack of transportation issue in our community	5/3/2022 10:21 PM
46	Open new restaurants and shopping centers that include family friendly entertainment options.	5/3/2022 9:49 PM
47	stop basing everything on race. It's 2022 and people are people that shouldn't be defined by their skin color.	5/3/2022 9:17 PM
48	Improve places for homeless to stay	5/3/2022 7:54 PM
49	realize there is life beyond the county line.	5/3/2022 7:13 PM
50	truly value education and work in unity to achieve the greatness that is very possible.	5/3/2022 7:01 PM
51	Have nicer restaurants	5/3/2022 6:47 PM
52	Be a place desired by others to visit and it's citiZens proud to call home.	5/3/2022 6:15 PM
53	Stop being identified as the worse place to live (highest crime area)	5/3/2022 3:33 PM
54	Would have flourishing business and lower crime rate	5/3/2022 3:00 PM
55	Work on infrastructure	5/3/2022 2:50 PM
56	have excellent schools, much less crime, and better job opportunities.	5/3/2022 2:33 PM
57	Revitalize Downtown Businesses	5/3/2022 2:32 PM
58	Improved median reading level	5/3/2022 2:25 PM
59	become more modern, have more opportunities and things for youth to do, and have a better name than it has now.	5/3/2022 2:03 PM
60	Bring more family entertainment, a variety of restaurants and more shopping centers	5/3/2022 1:41 PM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

61	Provide family oriented facilities or activities for all ages.	5/3/2022 1:30 PM
62	Frow and developed.	5/3/2022 12:47 PM
63	have more restaurant and shopping options	5/3/2022 12:09 PM
64	See growth via better school systems, restaurant options, and family oriented activities.	5/3/2022 12:07 PM
65	have healthier food options, increase youth appropriate entertainment, and increase availability of mental health services.	5/3/2022 11:48 AM
66	Have a better school system, keep the crimes of the street, and have better housing.	5/3/2022 11:47 AM
67	Get out of its own way. Don't dwell on the way things have been done and focus on what needs to be done to make it better.	5/3/2022 11:32 AM
68	Grow	5/3/2022 11:31 AM
69	Have better infrastructure and more green spaces.	5/3/2022 11:18 AM
70	have a drastically improved county school system ranking in the state.	5/3/2022 11:04 AM
71	Become a safer place with a better school system. We fail our teachers and students daily.	5/3/2022 10:13 AM
72	Rid the county of run down buildings, get healthier resturant options, and a movie theater/ famy friendly entertainment	5/3/2022 10:11 AM
73	Have more opportunities for UNCP and RCC students.	5/3/2022 9:58 AM
74	be a shining example of a quick turnaround.	5/3/2022 9:55 AM
75	Be a united county with less crimes	5/3/2022 9:53 AM
76	grow to be a safer and family friendly community	5/3/2022 9:48 AM
77	improve the business/shopping options and offer more options & expand housing options in better areas.	5/3/2022 9:38 AM
78	Become a place where college graduates and other menebers of society would be proud to come back to and live.	5/3/2022 9:38 AM
79	Grow	5/3/2022 9:31 AM
80	have more affordable drug programs available for people that need it. County would be litter free and more education programs.	5/3/2022 9:31 AM
81	Have more job opportunities with higher wages and better school systems.Out	5/3/2022 9:28 AM
82	Have better school systems	5/3/2022 9:28 AM
83	Have a lower crime rate and homeless population as well as have more restaurants and things to do.	5/3/2022 8:57 AM
84	Grow and improve school system	5/3/2022 8:50 AM
85	Have more high-earning job opportunities and a better school system.	5/3/2022 8:45 AM
86	Have a better reputation	5/3/2022 8:29 AM
87	Prioritize finishing the drainage system specifically in the Tanglewood community.	5/3/2022 8:24 AM
88	Be known for more than it's crime.	5/3/2022 8:22 AM
89	Provide opportunities for financia growth for teachers.	5/3/2022 8:11 AM
90	Grow and offer healthy options for food.	5/3/2022 7:57 AM
91	be a place that I am proud to call "HOME." I envision a place free of crime, a top tier public school system, infrastructure that doesn't make me fear storms, and equal opportunity for everyone, especially our people of color and lower socioeconomic class.	5/3/2022 7:50 AM
92	Bring in the state DPI and completely hand over the school system. There needs to be a focus on catching up the murder cases and getting the bonded murderers off the street. Typically you can kill a couple of times in Robeson cty before you get time. Like a buy one get one	5/3/2022 7:41 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

93	Look at supporting teachers so it would bring more educators into the county, which in the end would help the growth of education within their students.	5/3/2022 7:18 AM
94	Lower crime rates	5/3/2022 7:13 AM
95	Have a downtown like Florence, Mt Airy, West Jefferson	5/3/2022 7:07 AM
96	Have decreased crime by focusing on initiatives and services that address families' and young adults' needs.	5/3/2022 7:05 AM
97	Would be able to offer more things for our youth	5/3/2022 6:52 AM
98	Have housing for families who are displaced or need safe emergency help, increase literacy levels in public schools, provide adequate law enforcement so all citizens know drugs and crime related to addiction is not accepted, trust between citizens of all ethnicities, have a well defined process of services do there is one place to call or get directed for services instead of calling a church or group to eventually find resources to meet needs	5/3/2022 6:45 AM
99	have growth in small businesses and community involvement	5/3/2022 6:45 AM
100	Have multiple, new hundred+ home subdivisions.	5/3/2022 6:41 AM
101	have built a much better public school education for our children and grandchildren. We need a court system that does more than slapping criminals on the wrist and sending them baa a clue out in society so we can quit being on the worst place to live in NC list. We need to clean up our city by tearing down old abandoned houses and buildings or take the time to revitalize them for use. Our downtown needs to be beautified and a focused area to draw in businesses so we can draw people from out of town to boost our economy. This is just a start.	5/3/2022 6:41 AM
102	No longer have a reputation for crime but rather the positive things it has to offer	5/3/2022 6:32 AM
103	Have a county school district that is not low performing and is staffed with qualified teachers.	5/3/2022 6:26 AM
104	Be better than we are now.	5/3/2022 6:22 AM
105	Take advantage of the potential that downtown holds	5/3/2022 6:22 AM
106	grow in a way that helps the community it's in.	5/3/2022 6:05 AM
107	Be a better place live in	5/3/2022 5:03 AM
108	Do more to retain teachers in public school system!	5/3/2022 3:54 AM
109	not be as dangerous.	5/3/2022 3:37 AM
110	Have more to do and be safer	5/3/2022 3:29 AM
111	Bring more restaurants and shopping in.	5/3/2022 3:28 AM
112	Continué to invest in the Arts and Educational opportunities for youth in the county	5/3/2022 3:05 AM
113	Improve our school system.	5/3/2022 2:37 AM
114	Maximize its location and leverage tourism dollars from travelers.	5/3/2022 2:07 AM
115	Have more family friendly entertainment	4/28/2022 8:21 PM
116	would improve economic growth.	4/28/2022 12:49 PM
117	Have more family entertainment options.	4/28/2022 6:54 AM
118	Regain growth and more development for our families to enjoy	4/27/2022 11:44 PM
119	Get tougher on crime	4/27/2022 10:10 PM
120	Work together through all large stakeholders. Contact UNCP CCE department about ABC Model to do so.	4/27/2022 10:08 PM
121	Invest in parks and recreation. Why do you not have a viable community center? Look at the investment a small county like Hoke just made! \$20 million plus facility. Your parks and recreation department is horrible but you wonder why youth in the county go astray? YOU, at	4/27/2022 1:11 PM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

the upper level do not invest in YOUTH! PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND FUNDING FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES!!

122	Grow better more job s	4/27/2022 12:21 PM
123	Step it up	4/27/2022 8:09 AM
124	Disolve public shool system and go 100% charter schools	4/27/2022 1:06 AM
125	Improve school system especially for special needs kids	4/27/2022 12:45 AM
126	be considered a safe place to live with more activities to do.	4/26/2022 11:45 PM
127	Show growth within school system and public stability as far as jobs education and family oriented activities.... reduce the need for welfare and food stamps...put people to work	4/26/2022 11:34 PM
128	Crack down on the crime and drug rate	4/26/2022 11:23 PM
129	Be drug free.	4/26/2022 11:01 PM
130	Widen and resurface roads	4/26/2022 11:00 PM
131	Continue to grow more, with more opportunities with a less crime rate.	4/26/2022 10:54 PM
132	Be ranked in the top 20 schools within NC.	4/26/2022 10:45 PM
133	Have more options for our young kids	4/26/2022 10:16 PM
134	Would see significant growth	4/26/2022 10:14 PM
135	Be fair among all people	4/26/2022 9:36 PM
136	Offer more higher paying jobs	4/26/2022 9:19 PM
137	Be crime free	4/26/2022 9:01 PM
138	Improve public school system	4/26/2022 8:51 PM
139	Have more activities for kids	4/26/2022 8:41 PM
140	Grow and clean up	4/26/2022 8:40 PM
141	Have more opportunities for teenage youths that do not include sports!!! Band, theater, marine biology type activities!!!	4/26/2022 8:37 PM
142	Have health restaurant options	4/26/2022 8:32 PM
143	Improve their public education system, experience growth in businesses and opportunities,that would keep local dollars in the county.	4/26/2022 8:19 PM
144	Have more jobs, a nice steak house restaurant also a movie theater, a shopping center and also one important thing we need are newer and more advanced school system. Robeson county also needs a true trade school because all kids are not going to college we need to prepare them for the real world.	4/26/2022 8:18 PM
145	Grow	4/26/2022 8:09 PM
146	Provide growth opportunities through our local university and community college.	4/26/2022 8:07 PM
147	Bigger chain restaurants	4/26/2022 8:06 PM
148	Improve our public school system.	4/26/2022 8:05 PM
149	Have better job choices, restaurants, school system, family friendly places	4/26/2022 8:04 PM
150	Rebuild some schools	4/26/2022 7:56 PM
151	Provide more restaurants and kid friendly places to visit	4/26/2022 7:38 PM
152	Have family friendly activities and decrease crime an drug rates	4/26/2022 7:37 PM
153	Do better with recycling	4/26/2022 7:27 PM
154	Secure a Fortune 500 business	4/26/2022 7:08 PM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

155	Be less political.	4/25/2022 1:54 PM
156	fix city streets instead of digging multiple holes in the roads and patching them	4/25/2022 1:24 PM
157	Expand job opportunities and increase companies presence	4/25/2022 1:19 PM
158	More inclusive & progressive	4/25/2022 10:43 AM
159	have more shopping and restaurants	4/25/2022 10:41 AM
160	Have more stores to provide jobs and improve the county. In some rural areas there's nothing but trees we need plants, businesses, etc so we don't have to leave the county to go other places.	4/24/2022 9:09 AM
161	be litter free and internet access.	4/22/2022 9:48 AM
162	Promote growth for "all" races.	4/21/2022 10:21 AM
163	have more activities for all ge groups and ethnic groups, more restaurants, and shopping stores. Safe events for our youth.	4/20/2022 7:17 PM
164	have excellent schools, much less crime, and better job opportunities.	4/20/2022 11:36 AM
165	Bring communities together and a decrease in crime. I do feel law enforcement is doing their part. We need to step up as a community and help.	4/20/2022 7:42 AM
166	Have a free after school recreation for kids along with other opportunities for youth to learn and develop skills close to Fairmont and Rowland	4/19/2022 9:08 AM
167	Have more to do	4/19/2022 7:56 AM
168	Assist the downtown development of the incorporated small towns in the county. Promote art & culture throughout the county and in our schools. We are one of the most diverse counties in the nation.	4/17/2022 1:24 PM
169	Would have public transportation	4/15/2022 10:44 PM
170	Assist farmers to preserve existing farm land and protect the number one industry in Robeson County.	4/15/2022 7:59 PM
171	Increase harm reduction drug policies	4/15/2022 7:40 PM
172	Give attention to meeting the need for treatment for substance use disorder. It is the #1 driver of crime, and long term economic loss in Robeson County	4/15/2022 7:57 AM
173	Come into the 2020's	4/14/2022 10:16 PM
174	Be more unified	4/14/2022 7:35 PM
175	bring more jobs back	4/14/2022 4:37 PM
176	Take down the confederate statue in front of the courthouse	4/14/2022 3:22 PM
177	invest more in education.	4/14/2022 1:46 PM
178	Be one of the fastest growing counties in the state	4/14/2022 11:12 AM
179	expand and give locals every opportunity that other cities and counties have such as finer dine in restaurants, parks inclusive of all children even those with disabilities, job opportunities for special needs kids/programs that offer support for all disabilities	4/14/2022 11:10 AM
180	Revamp the school system and have amenities similar be to other bigger cities to bring in visitor and potential new residents.	4/14/2022 1:41 AM
181	Do more for the young people	4/14/2022 12:02 AM
182	Focus on a stronger penalty/punishment for crime and drugs which will in turn, help with with the drug problems, school system and economic development. Would love to see our drainage system, including swamps up to standard	4/13/2022 7:21 PM
183	Have more shops and restaurants so we do not have to travel out of county.	4/13/2022 7:02 PM
184	Have more affordable housing for renters.	4/7/2022 7:53 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

185	<p>Be making strides towards equity and justice for all communities and economic levels and poverty is on the decline. No longer be the destination for heavy polluting industries that are circling like pellet mills and Duke Energy's LNG plant. See poultry and swine operations closing down because the county is growing and folks don't want their kids to grow up next to the stench of hogs and chickens with flies trying to beat the pains of glass in everytime they change flocks. Bid farewell to Mountaire, which has been polluting the air and water for 30 years non-stop. Have a real plan to train high school students and young people in their 20's, bulding the community college capacity through large foundation grants that want change instead of \$50,000 and \$100,000 payoffs from Duke Energy when they want favorable politicians and citizens on their side so they can build dangerous and polluting energy infrastructure, crossing our wetlands with more pipelines. Have a comprehensive plan based on a detailed assessment of the watershed and the issues that we face in a place that is more wetland than we realize (swamps drained in the early 20th Century are trying to reclaim the swamp taken and climate change is pushing that harder and faster. We need to elevate houses instead of just tearingdown, especially in the Indian communities that have been on the land for thousands of years. Have a school system that is growing from new population growth from jobs in clean industries in the county, a school system that has money enough to educate the children so that the neighsaying and back biting stops . Children should not be bargaining chips used for political gain. HAVe a new Central OFFice that is built as a Central Office. Have clean roads with no litter, safe communities wit little crime, no deaths from suicide and opiod overdose, and clean water systems, wells and waste water treatment systems that function properly. HAVe freshly paved roads. An anchoring Industry that isn't just chicken and hog agriculture. Be embraced by that anchor industry because they realized that Robeson County is the center of the CARolinas Two hours from everywhere with crisscrossing Interstates and well trained, able and skilled employees. Have a thriving tourism industry with constant tours of the Lumbee River and her extensive and important swamp system, with camping, hiking i nthe state park sites and money being spent on gear, lodging and amenities. Get it's groove back and be known again, because it is flourishing, as the STATE OF ROBESON></p>	3/30/2022 7:16 PM
186	Build youth center to build and grow our children in academic abilities, the arts, and sports	3/15/2022 9:00 PM
187	Build new schools	3/15/2022 7:11 PM
188	have a lower crime rate	3/15/2022 1:20 PM
189	Be crime free	3/15/2022 10:24 AM
190	have more restaurant choices such as K&W Cafeteria, Red Lobster, or Olive Garden; entertainment such as a Family Arcade Center, Movie Theater, Go-Cart, or Putt-Putt Golf; department stores such as Kohl's, Old Navy; discount center such as Costco or BJ's Wholesale	3/15/2022 6:32 AM
191	Be crime free	3/13/2022 6:46 AM
192	Be a positive, thriving county with adequate housing, diversity in jobs and wonderful quality of life with all citizens working together for common goals.	3/10/2022 9:48 PM
193	Would bring in more new businesses!	3/9/2022 10:39 PM
194	overcome the stigma of being the most poverty stricken and crime infested county in the state.	3/8/2022 11:38 AM
195	Realize its strengths and stop focusing on comparing itself to other areas. Promote what we have and who we are. Highlight our benefits.	3/8/2022 11:28 AM
196	Cities would be as big or bigger than Fayetteville. More industrial parks for jobs and revenue for the county.	3/8/2022 10:10 AM
197	Improve the crime rate and revamp the local school system	3/8/2022 9:09 AM
198	Have a good reputation for our young children to be proud of.	3/7/2022 5:54 PM
199	Give better to the well being of schools.	3/7/2022 4:53 PM
200	Help south and west Lumberton rebuild	3/7/2022 4:48 PM
201	With Lumberton finally living up to its Sr. Citizen community status, the whole county provide many more services, housing, cultural, and medical options for senior citizens. Most everything geared toward that population will also benefit those younger.	3/7/2022 4:36 PM

Q16 Please provide any additional comments you may have about the current or future aspects of Robeson County.

Answered: 77 Skipped: 175

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Local YMCA would be nice. Safer, more up to date parks. Larger recovery centers.	5/15/2022 2:51 PM
2	Bring more business to Fairmont.	5/11/2022 2:59 PM
3	The County must do more to support the Church & Community Center. Our agency supports tens of thousands of residents and invests millions in in-kind food and services. DSS sends almost all referrals to us.	5/10/2022 12:54 PM
4	The people here need to travel more, to see and learn more about people, things, and the world.	5/10/2022 9:52 AM
5	The county has to get the state to direct and assist financially with more Tech and manufacturing to locate in this region.	5/8/2022 7:10 PM
6	Get off the list as one of the poorest counties.	5/6/2022 7:54 AM
7	Stop reserving resources for Pembroke and Lumberton.	5/5/2022 10:05 PM
8	Bringing light to all issues listed would further support the rising youth and young adults to come. Generational poverty has surpassed its stay in Robeson County and any type of change can alter our course in history, let's make it a good one.	5/4/2022 11:33 PM
9	I love Robeson county, but people don't take pride anymore.,the litter on the road sides is horrible., people do not shop here but go to Fayetteville.,	5/4/2022 9:59 PM
10	Crime	5/4/2022 12:06 PM
11	Crime	5/4/2022 12:06 PM
12	Parks and Rec should refund \$\$\$ for services not delivered during during pandemic. Neighboring counties thrived in this area...not RobCo.	5/4/2022 11:52 AM
13	There's no room for anybody to grow as a business. Housing situation is ridiculously overpriced, there's no entertainment and no way to relax without worrying if my car is going to be robbed or if my neighborhood will get shot up.	5/4/2022 10:28 AM
14	need to improve the education of people so good jobs would come here. Robeson County doesn't have a very good name in the state.	5/4/2022 10:10 AM
15	Making improvements for the community everyday	5/4/2022 8:59 AM
16	Our children are our future but we are not making it better	5/4/2022 7:06 AM
17	...	5/4/2022 2:41 AM
18	Our county is blessed to have and. Goodwin leading these initiatives. We will rise to new heights under the leadership of lifelong residents dedicated to our County like her.	5/4/2022 1:33 AM
19	The top problem is not crime, it's not education. The #1 problem is access to job opportunities for working class/blue collar & white collar workers. Accordingly, these folks leave the county seeking better opportunities, a better standard of living, an environment where politics doesn't drive all decisions, where school systems have good learning environments fir their children v. PSRC's dilapidated school bldgs. The school bldgs are in poor shake because the County Commissioners are too busy trying to control tye school system v. adequately funding it. Job opportunities in manufacturing, not more chicken farms or related agribusiness operations that are making the county unlovable, should be the laser focus of ALL political bodies in the County.	5/4/2022 12:40 AM
20	Non-profit organizations should be involved in any and all systemic planning for Robeson	5/3/2022 11:33 PM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

	County.	
21	The current school board leadership is divided and needs an intervention. It's affecting teachers, students and overall the county's educational achievements. Low education is directly linked to high crime.	5/3/2022 10:28 PM
22	I currently run a 22 million dollar business and have lived here all my life. Guess what, I barely even do work in my hometown, because you're too busy trying to appease the tribe, or grease someone from somewhere else's pockets.	5/3/2022 9:17 PM
23	Poverty is the root cause of the major problems in RobCo.	5/3/2022 7:13 PM
24	?	5/3/2022 2:50 PM
25	The young people in the county largely do not have a work ethic. They are satisfied to go on welfare and get free services. This is dragging our county down. Families need to be supported and educated to value work and education and the abilities to benefit themselves and the county.	5/3/2022 2:33 PM
26	There needs to be more community involvement in the Public Schools of Robeson County at the district level (not just school to community). There needs to be wide scale relationships being built within the community to build trust in our education system, in our relationships with teachers, to learn the needs of the district as a whole and problem solve with the community on how to meet those needs. All wonderful things begin with relationships, and the relationship between PSRC and Robeson County citizens is very strained and in need of repair. Community members are distrusting and guarded and teachers/administration are overwhelmed, overworked, and in need of community support.	5/3/2022 2:32 PM
27	Robeson County has great potential if they take advantage of the most important resource: the people.	5/3/2022 2:25 PM
28	I want to see the county use abandoned lots for community-oriented projects, such as community gardens. I also want to have more people have Internet access so they can obtain job opportunities at home, if transportation is not possible for them. This can also help students in rural areas to succeed in the classroom.	5/3/2022 11:18 AM
29	Our secondary roads need repaving and help reduce litter.	5/3/2022 10:11 AM
30	If you haven't already check out the websites for Johnston County, they do a great job of promoting local resources and businesses.	5/3/2022 10:00 AM
31	Please focus more on encouraging the preservation of our natural environment through regenerative agriculture practices and land trust options and less on money and growth.	5/3/2022 9:55 AM
32	WE need internet access made available to rural areas.	5/3/2022 9:31 AM
33	Our children are the future so therefore we need to have more things put into place for them to succeed.	5/3/2022 9:28 AM
34	The court system is another serious concern. It is impossible to find a lawyer for family/custody issues. Once in court the judges act like they do not care at all. The issue needs to be addressed.	5/3/2022 8:24 AM
35	I do worry that if we start bringing in a lot of new things without providing affordable jobs and housing for the people we already have, that we will end up creating a county that is gentrified and no longer is affordable to current residents.	5/3/2022 8:22 AM
36	I love Robeson county	5/3/2022 7:57 AM
37	It's a big county and needs representation. Pembroke and Lumberton should not be favored over other townships.	5/3/2022 7:41 AM
38	Have a hub with list of resources	5/3/2022 7:13 AM
39	We need small business resources for legitimate small businesses downtown.	5/3/2022 7:07 AM
40	We need to start addressing issues while people are young and not waiting until they are grown.	5/3/2022 7:05 AM
41	Robeson county has a rich history and people are resilient; the value of location I 95 has been underused and estimated; the value and services of RCC and UNCP has been under used and	5/3/2022 6:45 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

	valued;	
42	Robeson County is full of untapped potential.	5/3/2022 6:45 AM
43	It's going to take a wave of young people working in non-profits, for profit & politics to lead the charge towards growth. RobCo citizens especially the children deserve that.	5/3/2022 6:26 AM
44	Thank you!!	5/3/2022 6:22 AM
45	I know we have the agriculture center, but it seems like Robeson county(Lumberton) is missing out on opportunities for bringing people here to our area like for instance,all these young families involved in travel ball. They travel to Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Myrtle beach for different types of tournaments. Weekend long. They have to stay at motels. Here we are, right off 95, and would be the perfect location to hold/house something like this. Which would not only give our folks access and a chance to host, but bring in even more people to our area to visit and help our local businesses. Getting additional restaurants (other than chicken or subs) and just increasing tourism in our area over all. And as far as stores, big department/clothing stores, your options are now Burke's and Belks. You pretty much have to go to another city when you need to find something special. It's just a shame that how easy access our town is to a major interstate that we are so behind in growth. Missing many opportunities.	5/3/2022 5:09 AM
46	Appreciative of the efforts made of late by RCCC Would be great to expand staff to have someone bilingual on staff	5/3/2022 3:05 AM
47	When the top 3 issues are resolved, the others will almost self-resolve.	4/28/2022 12:49 PM
48	Play to our strengths	4/27/2022 10:08 PM
49	Robeson County is notorious for political capitalism. If you don't know someone, you will be at a disadvantage. Stop the nonsense and invest into every tax paying citizen instead of the top 10%.	4/27/2022 1:11 PM
50	We've got a prime opportunity in this county not to just be the biggest county in the state but best to visit Robeson county can grow but it must start with Pembroke you've gotta help the University by bringing more attractive restaurants, hotels, and things the students can do. Partner with the tribe and do some stuff for the kids and elders. Bring more manufacturing companies in. Build bigger and better sport complex parks more pools time to grow is now	4/27/2022 8:09 AM
51	Honestly what do yall people do with all this tax money. The poorest county in the state but taxes are so high.	4/27/2022 1:06 AM
52	The crime rate is awful. Judicial system needs to be changed to do more than slap on the wrist	4/27/2022 12:45 AM
53	Fix the drug problem and the other issues wont be so bad here.	4/26/2022 11:01 PM
54	Robeson County should have more opportunities for the residents than what they have. Such as more restaurants so citizens wouldn't have to travel outside of Robeson County to get a good decent (dine in or take out) meal. Most important of all, I would like to see more Job opportunities, and more to do opportunities for our kids.	4/26/2022 10:54 PM
55	Take the politics out of decision making and do what's best for the greater good	4/26/2022 8:37 PM
56	No division.	4/26/2022 8:04 PM
57	Provide more incentives to recruit and retain top notch employees (quit being a feeder to other counties) and develop plans to Utilize free labor from the RCSD housed inmates. Recruit non violent inmates to help keep the parks and roads clean and beautiful. Work with Vol FD to support their needs. Together we can make our county a better place to live. Build citizen committees to bring ideals to the table for improvements. Open Communication, let the tax payers know what your doing and the impact on the county it will bring.	4/26/2022 7:08 PM
58	fix roads, fix roads, fix roads	4/25/2022 1:24 PM
59	Need to improve the perception of the community from outside the county. Most North Carolinians view Lumberton as a high crime rural area.	4/25/2022 1:19 PM
60	Need to work with City of Lumberton on getting business	4/25/2022 10:41 AM
61	I believe that my elected officials will be fair to everyone and be equally fair. Please include me to future post	4/19/2022 9:08 AM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

62	N/a	4/19/2022 7:56 AM
63	We need to accent the positives in Robeson County. Our fields, fruits and vegetables. Find a way to get rid of the smell of chicken manure on main roads. Develop tourist trails through our small towns. Develop our retirement communities and associated services. Use Lake City, SC as an example of art & culture increasing econ development and Florida as a state that favors retirees.	4/17/2022 1:24 PM
64	Education, restricting low income housing, law enforcement and preserving farm land should be the main priorities to enhance the future of Robeson County.	4/15/2022 7:59 PM
65	I wish there were more ordinances and laws regarding the use of land used for low income housing in which land lords and land owners squeeze housing and create unhealthy and inequitable living environments that do not make the county look could	4/15/2022 7:40 PM
66	Take down that Statue at the courthouse	4/14/2022 7:35 PM
67	We are taking farm land away to build houses on questionable land areas that are in very rural areas. My concern is that houses built in heavy soil areas will contribute to more flooding around the county. My other concern is that the level of water supplied by the county will struggle with the growth we are seeing throughout the county. The county is struggling to keep up the infrastructure in order to maintain the quality of service that the citizens expect.	4/14/2022 1:46 PM
68	The types of industry that the leaders in economic development bring to the county offer few good paying local jobs, like that plant at alamac and the chicken houses, and the county and state pay grants to that pay companies that worsen the quality of life and health like the alamac plant and the sanderson chicken plant. These jobs are low paying and really horrible work. The leadership in the county and towns won't admit it, but I don't think they really have a clue about how to bring good paying low polluting industry to Robeson County. Everybody has promised the same thing for 50 years and nothing changes. It gets worse. Small farming died, the county shed manufacturing jobs for years and there has not been a real plan or good idea of what to do other than ask for more help from state and national governments. The crime rate is high and the poverty rate is the same as it was 50/60 years ago. I think that the County officials that put together this survey steered the answers in directions they want them to go, by not allowing for more diversity in the multiple choice and phrasing many of the choices in slanted, biased ways. We have to do better in all areas. We must or we will be a one animal industry county like sampson and duplin or a dead county like others in NC that keep losing population because there is nothing there for them or their kids. I hope and pray for new ideas and thinking that is non-partisan and above the fray, that centers the people, land, air and water in Robeson County above the corporate and political players who keep playing games with the future of our children and theirs, on to the next 7 generations. We have to have jobs that don't harm the place or the people, if not, we are just going to keep killing ourselves with breathing problems, cancer, heart disease, and everything else that we die of at higher rates than just about anyone else in NC. We must do better for each other. Thanks. and Good Luck.	3/30/2022 7:16 PM
69	In order for Robeson County to grow and be a productive county we must start with our youth. Then next focus on drugs and crime.	3/15/2022 9:00 PM
70	My current or future is that black people will receive equal pay and benefits	3/15/2022 7:11 PM
71	Sorry school's beget unemployed individuals begets crime	3/15/2022 10:24 AM
72	I am just thankful for the opportunity to have input. I love my home of Robeson County and I appreciate all that EVERYONE in leadership for Robeson County are doing to make this place a better place for the future.	3/15/2022 6:32 AM
73	Drugs and crime related to this pervasive problem is the crux to a lot of Robeson county's issues and it needs focus. Otherwise the available workforce is not going to be available regardless of how many jobs are created.	3/10/2022 9:48 PM
74	Robeson County should work to promote economic development in all its towns; specifically in its historic downtown districts.	3/8/2022 11:28 AM
75	The News is hurting the county as for industry.. If I had a big company, I would not bring it here because the news shows only the bad of Robeson County, (Front Page) ... There are great people in this county	3/8/2022 10:10 AM
76	Very much a cultural, shopping, specialized medical care (especially for geriatric medical needs) desert. Further, the jobs market is abysmal with very few major corporations locating	3/7/2022 4:36 PM

Robeson County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Survey

here and providing good jobs: example, Amazon decided to put fulfillment center in Fayetteville which could have gone here just as easily and be better sited with our access to major interstate highways; ditto for car and computer chip plants that went elsewhere. The county is seen as a backwater land of non-skilled workers good only for agri-business. Until this county gets it in gear and starts drawing in major manufacturing companies the economic prospects for county residents will be abysmal. It is near barren wasteland when it comes to cultural opportunities too. And shopping is third-tier at best, especially for food and clothing.

77	none	3/7/2022 3:42 PM
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