# Wilkes County



# 2023 Growth Management Plan

# *Acknowledgments*

**Wilkes County Board of Commissioners**

Keith Elmore, Chairman
Stoney Greene, Vice Chairman
Casey Joe Johnson
Bill Sexton
Greg Minton

**Wilkes County Joint Planning Board**

Charles Sink, Chairman          Joseph Byrd, Vice Chairman
Johnny Alexander                John Steve Steele
Don Love                        Peggy Woodruff
Eddie Holland                   Chris Steele
Terrie Stackhouse               William Allen Lankford
Micah Sidden

**Wilkes County Staff**

W.C. Scroggs, Planning Director
Tony Triplett, County Attorney
Brooke Felts, Assistant County Attorney
Aaron Sloan, County Planner



Prepared with Assistance From:

**High County Council of Governments**

468 New Market Blvd. Boone, NC 28607

# Table of Contents

# Table of Contents

# Introduction

## Purpose

This plan is designed to guide decisions related to land use in Wilkes County over the next 10-15 years. It serves to fulfill the requirement set by North Carolina General Statute Chapter 160D that local governments adopt a comprehensive plan as a prerequisite to exercising certain development regulations. To that end, the contents of this plan meet the standards for a comprehensive plan as set forth in N.C.G.S. 160D-501 (a-c).

## Process

This plan will take into account and build off of previous plans, including the 2014 Wilkes County Growth Management Plan, the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Recreation Plan, and the 2017 Wilkes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The bulk of the plan consists of background information related to land use in Wilkes County. The reader can find information related to demographics, economics, housing, existing infrastructure, parks, tourism, natural resources, and existing development regulations.

Public input for this plan was obtained via an online public survey and by contacting stakeholders with specific questions related to land use that pertained to their organization. The public survey was advertised through a variety of different mediums and organizations, including the Wilkes Journal-Patriot, all town websites (North Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro, and Ronda), the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce website, and the Wilkes County Economic Development Corporation website. This survey received 312 responses between March and July of 2023.

Stakeholders were identified at the beginning of the planning process and a list of questions was developed for each. An email was sent to each of these stakeholders describing the plan and asking for responses to the questions that had been developed. Of the 29 stakeholders that were contacted, 10 responses were received. Those responses can be found in Appendix II.

# Background Information

Wilkes County is located in the northern foothills of North Carolina. The County encompasses 757 square miles and has a population of 65,969 according to 2020 census data. The County has three municipalities, North Wilkesboro, Ronda, and Wilkesboro. Wilkes is considered primarily a rural county with a long history of agriculture and manufacturing; however, employment in health care, education services, and retail have now surpassed the agriculture industry.

## Population

The population in Wilkes County over the last 100 years has steadily increased at an average rate of 10% per year until 2010, but has begun to decline since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, the population in Wilkes County declined from 69,340 to 65,969, a decrease of 4.86%.



Wilkes County
Population 1920-2020
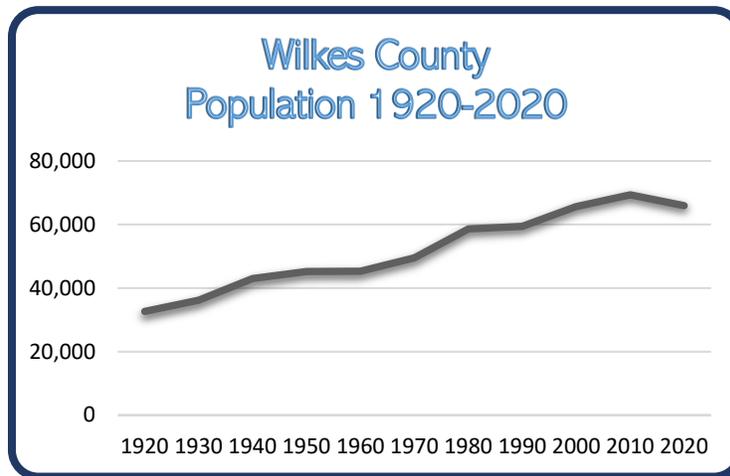
*US Decennial Census*

### Wilkes County Population 1920-2020

| Year | Population |
|------|-----------|
| 1920 | 32,644 |
| 1930 | 36,162 |
| 1940 | 43,003 |
| 1950 | 45,243 |
| 1960 | 45,269 |
| 1970 | 49,524 |
| 1980 | 58,657 |
| 1990 | 59,939 |
| 2000 | 65,632 |
| 2010 | 69,340 |
| 2020 | 65,969 |

*US Decennial Census*

# Wilkes County
# General Characteristics

**HIGH COUNTRY**
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

This map is not for survey, legal, or excavation use. It is intended for display, reference, and planning purposes only.

— Hydrology

— Secondary Roads

## Municipalities

Wilkesboro

Ronda

North Wilkesboro

Elkin

Elk

Jobs Cabin

Stanton

Lewis Fork

Union

Beaver Creek

Reddies River

Mulberry

North Wilkesboro

Boomer

Walnut Grove

Moravian Falls

Rock Creek

Brushy Mountain

Wilkesboro

Lovelace

Antioch

Edwards

Traphill

Somers

New Castle

421

18

268

16

421

18

16

18

421

115

115

268

21

5
Miles

N
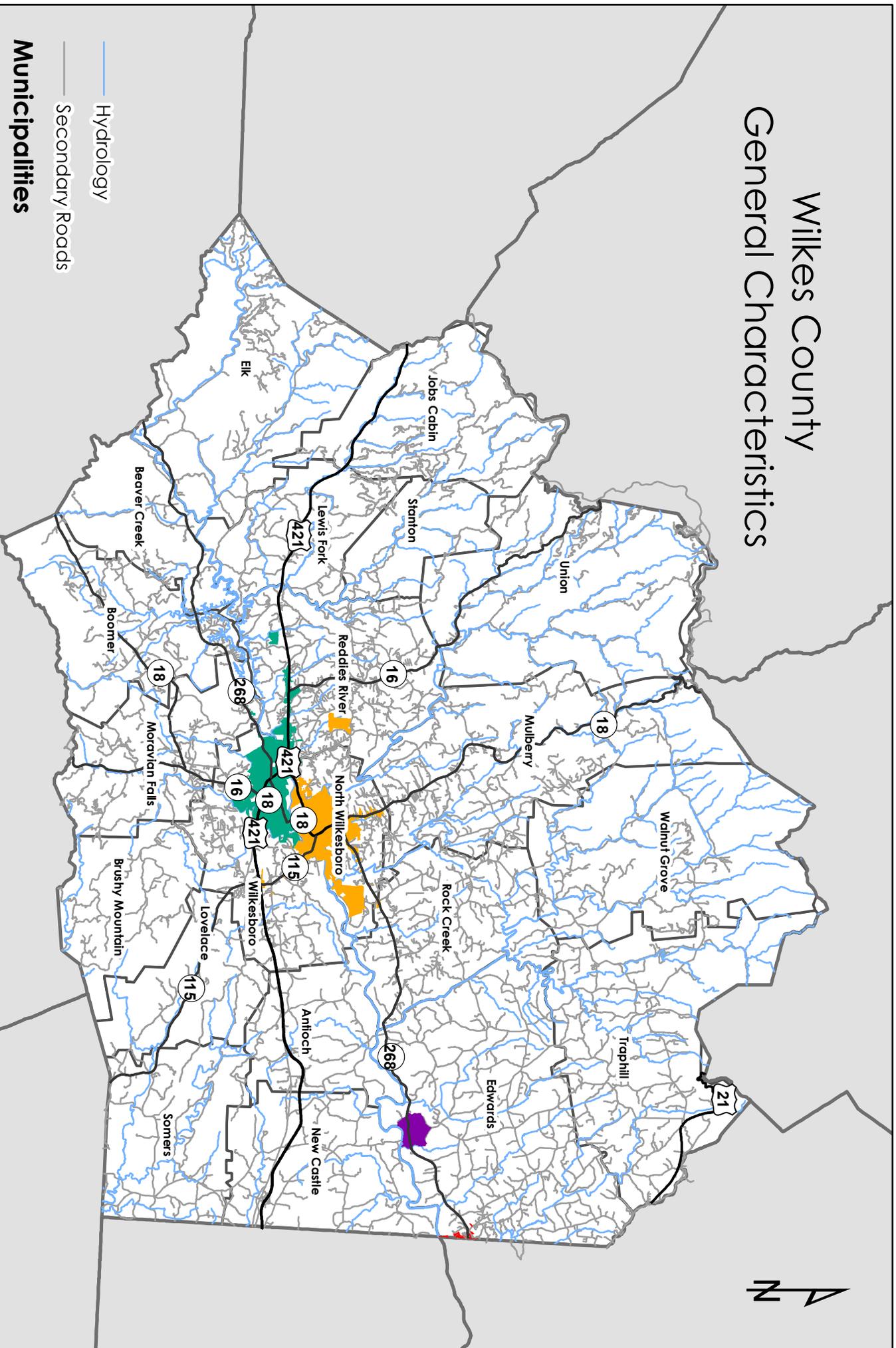
Looking at Wilkes County population by townships, population losses are apparent, with the largest decreases occurring in the Elk and Union Townships both located in the west. There were gains in population in Brushy Mountain and Moravian Falls, located in the southern part of the County; however, those gains could not overcome losses in the other areas.

## Wilkes County Townships Population Change 2010-2020

| Township | Change |
|---|---|
| Wilkesboro | -4.8% |
| Walnut Grove | -9.7% |
| Union | -13.7% |
| Traphill | -10.7% |
| Stanton | -11.1% |
| Somers | -7.6% |
| Rock Creek | -4.2% |
| Reddies River | -4.1% |
| North Wilkesboro | 0.1% |
| New Castle | -1.8% |
| Mulberry | -6.2% |
| Moravian Falls | 0.4% |
| Lovelace | -2.5% |
| Lewis Fork | -7.5% |
| Jobs Cabin | 2.3% |
| Elk | -15.2% |
| Edwards | -6.1% |
| Brushy Mountain | 17.1% |
| Boomer | -6.3% |
| Beaver Creek | -11.7% |
| Antioch | -8.4% |
| Wilkes County | -4.9% |
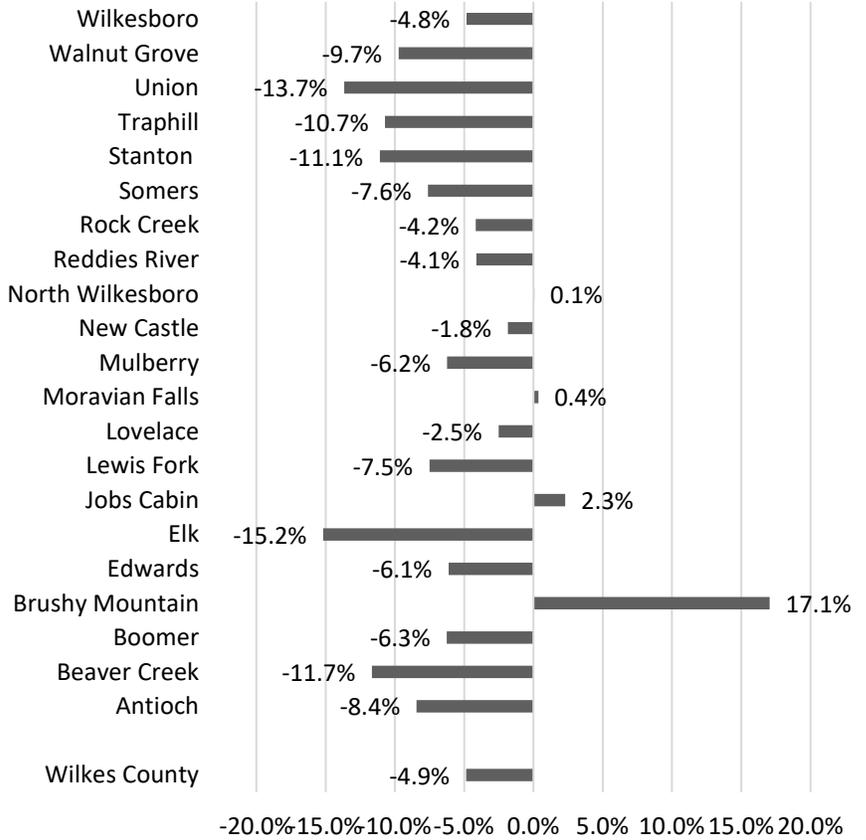
## Wilkes County Population Projections 2020-2050
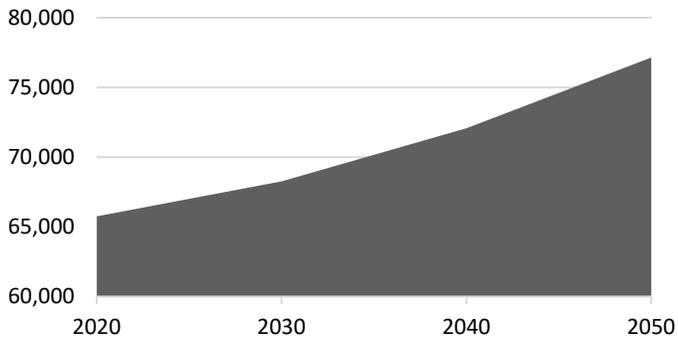
*NC Office of State and Budget Management*

Projections from the NC Office of Budget and Management show that the declining population trend in Wilkes County is expected to reverse course in the next 10 years and continue through 2050. The population is expected to grow by over 17% from 2020-2050, from 65,764 to 77,149.

The largest minority populations in Wilkes County are Hispanic and African American, comprising 7.1% and 4.0% of the population, respectively. Similar to the total population projections for Wilkes County, the African American population appears to be declining; however, over the next 25 years the Hispanic population in Wilkes County is expected to grow. The median age of Wilkes County residents is also expected to get older in the coming decades. By the year 2050, the projected median age of County residents will be 45.7 years, compared with 43.8 years in 2020.

## Wilkes County Median Age Statistics and Projections

| Year | Median Age |
|------|------------|
| 2000 | 38.5 |
| 2005 | 40.4 |
| 2010 | 42.4 |
| 2015 | 43.5 |
| 2020 | 43.8 |
| 2025 | 43.4 |
| 2030 | 43.2 |
| 2035 | 43.2 |
| 2040 | 44 |
| 2045 | 44.9 |
| 2050 | 45.7 |

*NC Office of State and Budget Management*

The population of citizens aged 18 and under in Wilkes County was 13,694 in 2020.  By 2050 that number is expected to fall to 11,957, a 12.7% decrease.  The elderly population (65 and over), however, is expected to rise, from 9,200 in 2000 to a peak of 15,169 by 2030. The elderly population is then expected to decline a bit by 2050 to 13,942 but will remain higher than the youth population at that time.
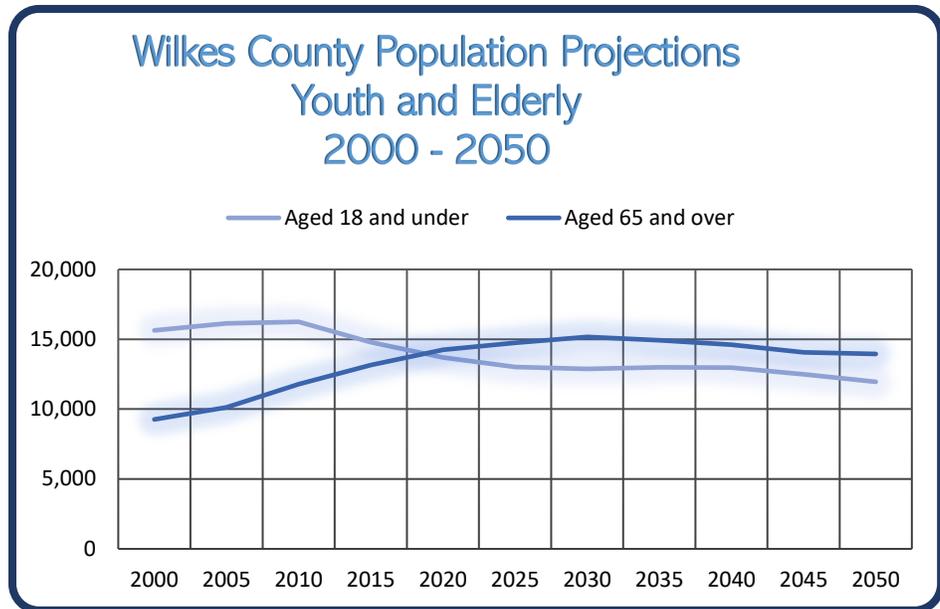


*NC Office of State and Budget Management*

There are four high schools and a 2-year Community College located in Wilkes County. Several Colleges and Universities are located within a 50-mile radius of the County including Appalachian State University, Wake Forest University, Gardner-Webb University, Lenoir-Rhyne University, and Lees-McRae College. Wilkes County has an average high school educational attainment rate of 81.2%, 7.8% lower than the State's 89.0% rate.  However, the County has a slightly higher rate of residents attaining associate degrees.
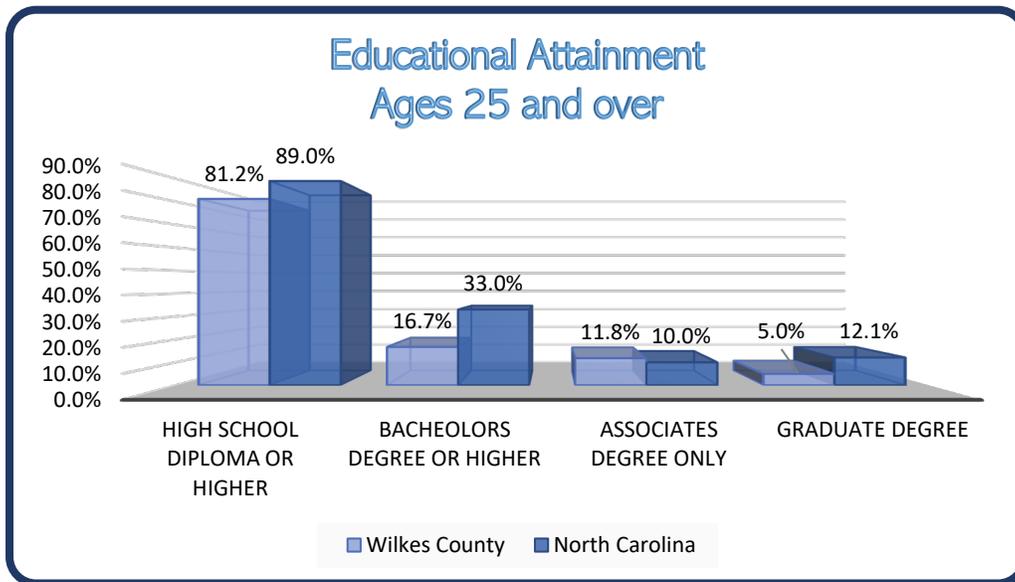


*2021 American Community Survey*

## Industry

Wilkes County's economy is reliant on manufacturing and retail trade.  Education, accommodations and food services, and health care services also round out the top 5 industry sectors in the County.  The largest employer, Tyson Farms, Inc, processes chickens and has over 2,000 employees.  Lowes Home Improvement stores, formerly headquartered in Wilkesboro, still has a presence in the County as the 3rd largest employer with Wal-Mart also in the top 10.

As of the 2nd quarter of 2022, there were 3,361 retail jobs in the County, second to the 3,943 manufacturing jobs. Health Services and Education employ 2,694 and 2,048 respectively. Accommodations and food services also employ 1,000+ people in Wilkes County.

## Wilkes County Employment and Payrolls by Sector
## (2nd Quarter 2022)

| NAICS Code | Industry | Establishments | Average Employment | Total Wages | Average Weekly Wage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Utilities | 7 | 42 | $747,516 | $1,380.00 |
| 23 | Construction | 136 | 660 | $7,395,412 | $862.00 |
| 31 | Manufacturing | 61 | 3,943 | $44,342,319 | $865.00 |
| 42 | Wholesale Trade | 69 | 797 | $17,303,244 | $1,671.00 |
| 44 | Retail Trade | 215 | 3,361 | $28,589,933 | $654.00 |
| 48 | Transportation and Warehousing | 47 | 513 | $7,116,557 | $1,068.00 |
| 51 | Information | 23 | 240 | $3,726,350 | $1,194.00 |
| 52 | Finance and Insurance | 61 | 317 | $5,752,563 | $1,396.00 |
| 53 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 40 | 187 | $2,273,510 | $935.00 |
| 54 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 97 | 513 | $6,418,116 | $962.00 |
| 55 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 8 | 304 | $4,479,839 | $1,132.00 |
| 56 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 66 | 689 | $5,381,347 | $601.00 |
| 61 | Educational Services | 35 | 2,048 | $17,275,295 | $649.00 |
| 62 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 172 | 2,694 | $32,640,905 | $932.00 |
| 71 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 12 | 187 | $638,533 | $263.00 |
| 72 | Accommodation and Food Services | 100 | 1,683 | $7,786,053 | $354.00 |
| 81 | Other Services (except Public Administration) | 155 | 352 | $3,124,868 | $702.00 |
| 92 | Public Administration | 25 | 1,300 | $14,706,010 | $870.00 |
| | | | | | *NC Department of Commerce* |

Manufacturing in Wilkes County has the largest payroll of any sector at $44,342,319 in the second quarter of 2022. Health Care and Retail came in at 2nd and 3rd highest for the quarter. While manufacturing has the highest payroll, positions in the wholesale trade, finance, and utilities sectors tend to pay higher salaries. Since 2020, employment in many industries like finance, administrative support, and manufacturing in Wilkes County have been on the decline. However, the areas of professional, scientific, and technical services, arts, entertainment, recreation, health care, and real estate have seen an increase in jobs.

## Wilkes County Average Annual Employment

| NAICS Code | Industry | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | Utilities | 46 | 43 | * | 41 | * | * |
| 23 | Construction | 948 | 1,022 | 1,022 | 578 | 680 | 707 |
| 31 | Manufacturing | 7,766 | 5,219 | 3,608 | 4,497 | 4,209 | 3,921 |
| 42 | Wholesale Trade | 1,110 | 1,075 | 724 | 798 | 681 | 719 |
| 44 | Retail Trade | 5,671 | 2,712 | 2,489 | 2,575 | 3,017 | 3,132 |
| 48 | Transportation & Warehousing | 486 | 842 | 501 | 429 | 495 | 520 |
| 51 | Information | 273 | 217 | 305 | 214 | 242 | 239 |
| 52 | Finance and Insurance | 908 | 926 | 604 | 335 | 307 | 305 |
| 53 | Real Estate & Rentals | 190 | 111 | 163 | 198 | 209 | 212 |
| 54 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 310 | 521 | 402 | 494 | 453 | 521 |
| 55 | Mgmt. of Companies | * | 3,369 | * | * | * | * |
| 56 | Administrative and Support | 1,643 | 665 | 585 | 522 | 793 | 680 |
| 61 | Educational Services | 2,196 | 2,170 | 2,203 | * | * | * |
| 62 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 2,118 | 2,762 | 2,713 | 2,494 | 2,455 | 2,587 |
| 71 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 74 | 77 | * | * | 188 | 146 |
| 72 | Accommodation and Food Services | 1,453 | 1,444 | 1,570 | 1,901 | 1,551 | 1,570 |
| 81 | Other Services (except Public Administration) | 479 | 551 | 535 | 492 | 425 | 521 |
| 92 | Public Administration | 1,205 | 1,182 | 1,315 | 1,227 | 1,290 | 1,229 |

*NC Department of Commerce*

## Employment & Income

Mirroring the State and the Nation, unemployment rates in Wilkes County have been declining over the past several years, with the exception of 2020 and covid related statistical abnormalities. The County annual unemployment rate from 2015-2023 is shown below along with the NC and US rates. The most current data available, July of 2023, shows the unemployment rate for Wilkes County at 3.9%, North Carolina at 3.6% and the US at 3.8%.

## Unemployment Statistics

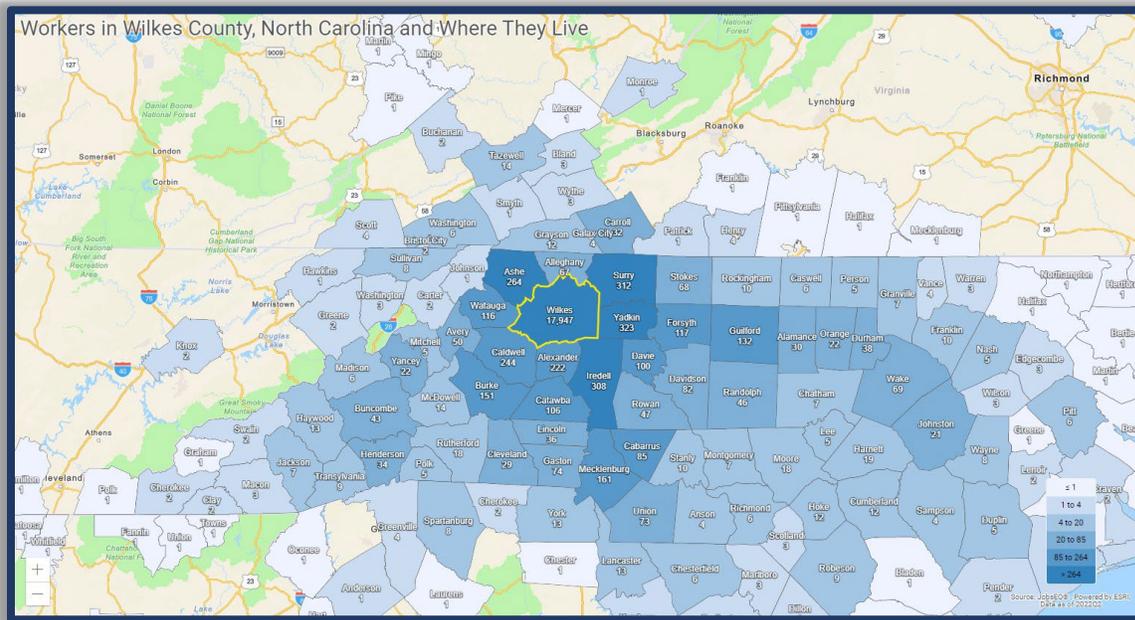|  | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wilkes County** | 5.6% | 4.8% | 4.3% | 3.8% | 4.0% | 6.6% | 4.8% | 3.8% | 3.9% |
| **North Carolina** | 5.7% | 5.1% | 4.5% | 4.0% | 3.8% | 7.1% | 4.9% | 3.7% | 3.6% |
| **United States** | 5.3% | 4.9% | 4.4% | 3.9% | 3.6% | 8.1% | 5.3% | 3.3% | 3.8% |

*NC Department of Commerce*

Per the 2022 American Community Survey, Wilkes County's median household income is $45,508. This is lower than both North Carolina and the United States, with median household incomes of $67,481 and $74,755, respectively. The poverty rate in Wilkes County is 22.5%, about 10% higher than both North Carolina and the United States.

## Workforce

Of the total population in Wilkes County over the age of 16, 55.0% are in the labor force with most being in the civilian (non-military) population. Women make up 45.5% of the County's labor force. The majority of the County's workforce (over the age of 16) commute to work by driving alone (82.7%). Almost 10% carpool with another 6% working from home. The mean commute time for a Wilkes County worker is 26.9 minutes.

Approximately 74% of the residents in Wilkes County do not travel outside of the County for work. Most that do work outside the county commute to Forsyth, Surry, Iredell and Yadkin Counties with some frequent commuters going as far as Mecklenburg and Guilford Counties. There are also many people who travel into Wilkes County to work. The maps below show where those commuters who work in Wilkes County commute from, with the most workers coming from the nearby Counties of Yadkin, Surry, Iredell, Ashe, Caldwell, and Alexander.



## Housing

Per the 2021 American Community Survey, there are 31,783 homes in Wilkes County with 27,265 occupied and 4,518 considered vacant. Of the occupied homes in the County, 74.5% are owner-occupied, while the rest are rentals. Just over 69% of the occupied homes in Wilkes are single-family detached homes with mobile homes the second most popular at 23.2%.

Of the vacant homes in Wilkes County 22% are considered seasonal or recreational, 7% for rent, and 4% for sale. However, the majority of the vacant homes in the County (67%) are classified as "Other Vacant'. Per the US Census this means the homes do not fit into the previous categories and can apply to houses that are in foreclosure, in probate, being repaired/renovated, extended absence of the occupant/owner, or abandoned.

## Select Housing Characteristics 2011-2021

| | 2011 | 2016 | 2021 | Change 2011-2021 |
|---|---:|---:|---:|---:|
| **Total units** | 32,887 | 33,046 | 31,783 | -3.36% |
| **Single Family** | 21,806 | 21,747 | 21,980 | 0.80% |
| **Mobile Home** | 8,322 | 8,953 | 7,362 | -11.54% |
| | | | | |
| **Occupied** | 27,928 | 27,583 | 27,265 | -2.37% |
| **- Owner** | 20,546 | 20,625 | 20,301 | -1.19% |
| **- Renter** | 7,382 | 6,958 | 6,964 | -5.66% |
| | | | | |
| **Vacant** | 4,392 | 5,463 | 4,518 | -8.89% |
| **- Seasonal /Recreational** | 1,509 | 1,627 | 1,016 | -32.67% |
| | | | | |
| **Median Home Value** | $112,200 | $119,100 | $133,200 | 18.72% |
| **Homes over $1M** | 120 | 110 | 134 | 11.67% |

*2011, 2016, & 2021 American Community Survey Estimates*

Over the last ten years the housing landscape has changed slightly. There are 3.36% less total housing units, but the amount of single-family homes has increased by .8% in the same time frame. There are less vacant homes in the County and more people are buying homes as opposed to renting even with an 18.72% increase in the median home value.

## Age of Housing Units

| Year Constructed | Number of Units |
|---|:---:|
| **2020 or later** | 79 |
| **2010-2019** | 832 |
| **2000-2009** | 5,135 |
| **1990-1999** | 5,636 |
| **1980-1989** | 5,551 |
| **1970-1979** | 5,552 |
| **1960-1969** | 3,217 |
| **1950-1959** | 2,110 |
| **1940-1949** | 2,321 |
| **1939 or earlier** | 1,409 |

*2022 American Community Survey Estimates*

# Existing Land Use

A land use analysis was conducted of all parcels in Wilkes County at the start of this plan. The analysis gave a land use classification to each parcel in the County. Parcel data was collected from the Wilkes County Tax Administration Department and condensed into 18 different land use classifications. All of those classifications are listed below.

- Agriculture
- Churches/Religion
- Commercial/Retail
- Government/Education
- Hotels/Motels
- Industrial
- Manufacturing
- Mixed use
- Professional Services

- Recreation
- Residential Manufactured Homes
- Residential Multi-Family
- Residential Single-Family
- Retail/Commercial
- Solid Waste (landfill)
- Transportation
- Undeveloped/Vacant
- Utilities

Of these classifications, Undeveloped and Residential Single-Family uses accounted for the most land, combining for a total of 80%. Agriculture and residential manufactured homes accounted for an additional 15% of land, and each of the remaining classifications accounted for less than 1%. A table showing the results of the land use study is shown below. Maps showing each parcel in the County along with their classifications are shown on the following pages.
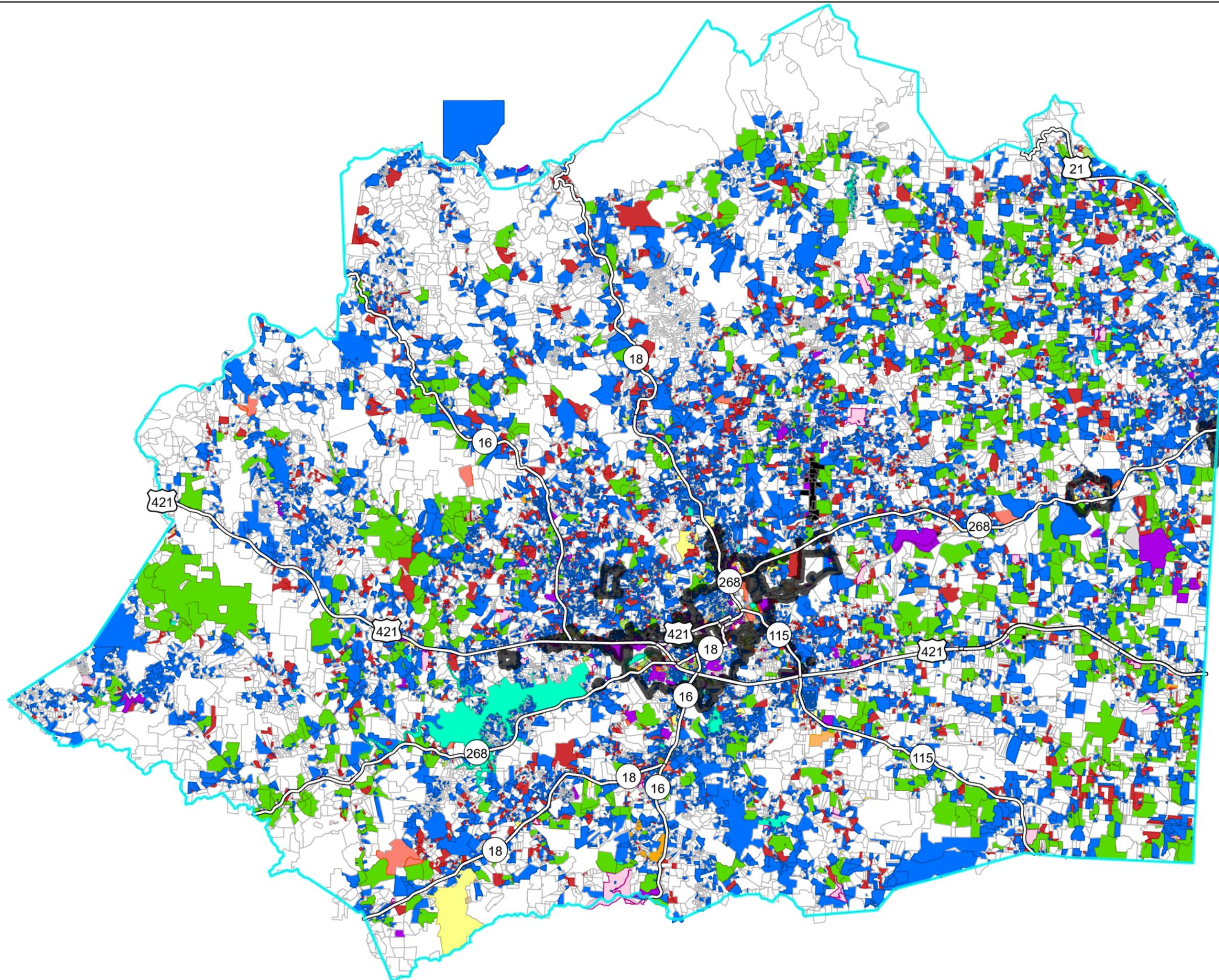
| Classification | Number of Parcels | Total Acreage | Average Acreage | Percentage of Total Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Undeveloped/Vacant | 21,991 | 267,087.2 | 12.1 | 56.36% |
| Residential Single-Family | 20,400 | 114,310.7 | 5.6 | 24.12% |
| Agriculture | 870 | 50,172.8 | 57.7 | 10.59% |
| Residential Manufactured Homes | 4,447 | 23,839.1 | 5.3 | 5.03% |
| Recreation | 92 | 4,318.2 | 46.9 | 0.91% |
| Retail/Commercial | 630 | 3,879.2 | 6.2 | 0.82% |
| Churches/Religion | 349 | 2,800.9 | 8.0 | 0.59% |
| Mixed Use | 139 | 2,444.2 | 17.6 | 0.52% |
| Government/Education | 89 | 1,445.1 | 16.2 | 0.30% |
| Professional Services | 590 | 1,384.5 | 2.3 | 0.29% |
| Residential Multi-Family | 169 | 543.7 | 3.2 | 0.11% |
| Transportation | 106 | 505 | 4.8 | 0.11% |
| Manufacturing | 55 | 480.3 | 8.7 | 0.10% |
| Industrial | 35 | 338.7 | 9.7 | 0.07% |
| Utilities | 73 | 290.3 | 4.0 | 0.06% |
| Hotels/Motels | 6 | 16.6 | 2.8 | 0.003% |
| Commercial/Retail | 2 | 3.4 | 1.7 | 0.00072% |
| Solid Waste (landfill) | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.00011% |

# Wilkes County Land Use Classification



## Land Use Classifications

- **Agricultural**
- **Churches/Religion**
- **Government/Education**
- **Hotels/Motels**
- **Industrial**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Mixed Use**
- **Professional Services**
- **Recreation**
- **Residential-Manufactured Homes**
- **Residential-Multi-Family**
- **Residential-Single Family**
- **Retail/Commercial**
- **Solid Waste (Landfill)**
- **Transportation**
- **Undeveloped/Vacant**
- **Utilities**
- **Corporate Limits**
- **Highways**

High Country Council of Governments attributed land use classifications by grouping the Wilkes County Tax Department's 143+ land use codes into 18 general classes. Map created in January 2023.

**HIGH COUNTRY**
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

0   1.5   3
Miles

# Wilkes County Land Use Classification



N
W — E
S

## Land Use Classifications

- **Agricultural**
- **Churches/Religion**
- **Government/Education**
- **Hotels/Motels**
- **Industrial**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Mixed Use**
- **Professional Services**
- **Recreation**
- **Residential-Manufactured Homes**
- **Residential-Multi-Family**
- **Residential-Single Family**
- **Retail/Commercial**
- **Solid Waste (Landfill)**
- **Transportation**
- **Undeveloped/Vacant**
- **Utilities**
- **Corporate Limits**
- **Highways**

High Country Council of Governments attributed land use classifications by grouping the Wilkes County Tax Department's 143+ land use codes into 18 general classes. Map created in January 2023.

**HIGH COUNTRY** COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

0    0.5    1
Miles
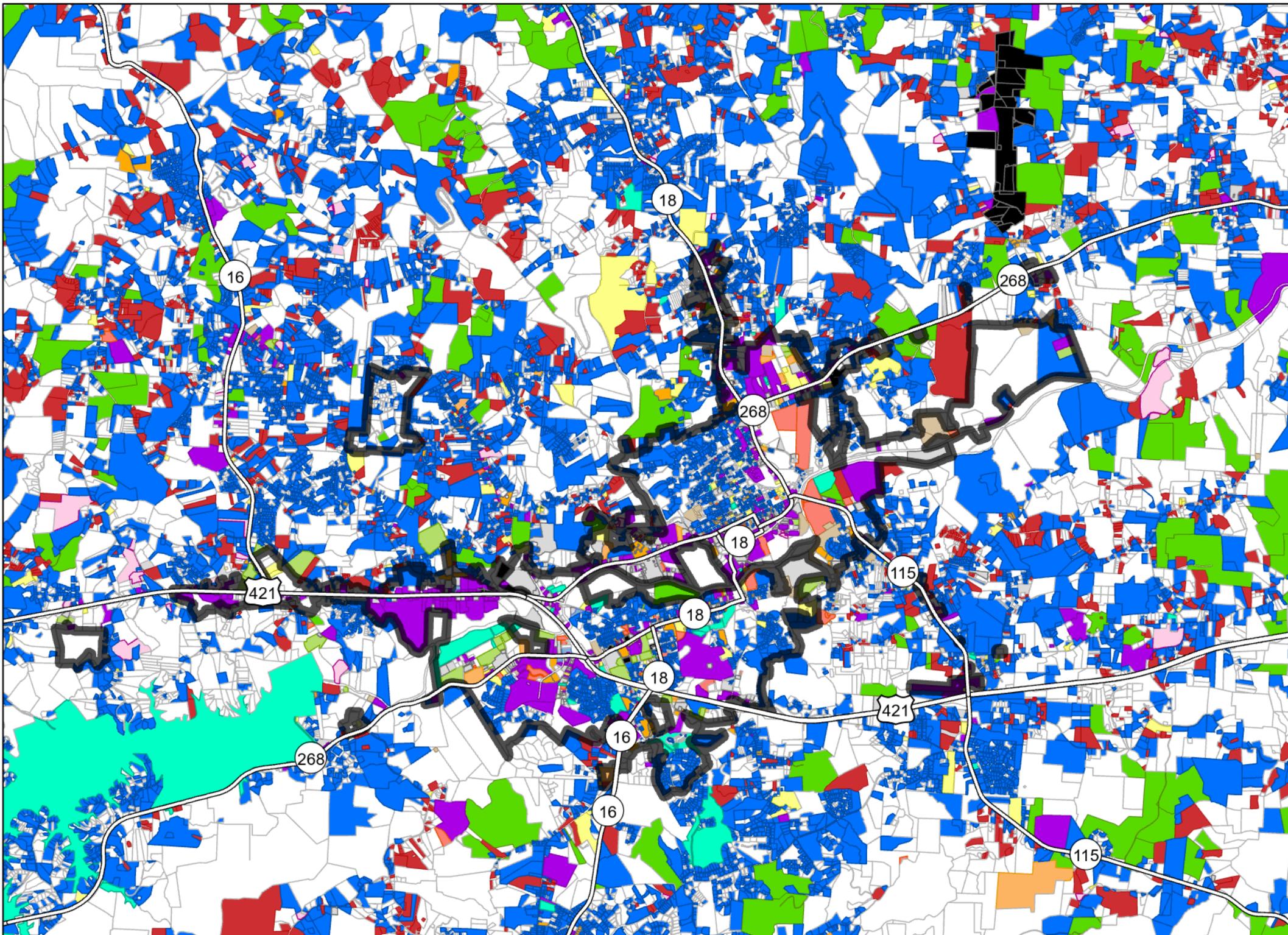
## Building Permits

## Wilkes County Building Permits 2017-2022

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Residential** | | | | | | |
| **Single-Family** | 109 | 80 | 85 | 98 | 147 | 113 |
| **Modular** | 9 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 19 |
| **Mobile Home (single-wide)** | 57 | 54 | 47 | 59 | 53 | 51 |
| **Mobile Home (double wide)** | 15 | 16 | 31 | 33 | 35 | 50 |
| **Multi-Family** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Non-Residential** | | | | | | |
| **Commercial** | 10 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 16 |
| **Industrial** | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| **Institutional** | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 |

*Wilkes County Building Inspections*

Building permit data is an effective way to analyze development trends and changes in a County. The building permits issued by the Wilkes County Building Inspections Office range from repairs and alterations to an existing structure, to construction of a new home or building, to the installation of a mobile/manufactured home. Residential permit data over the past six years show year to year fluctuations in permits issued for new single-family housing and home repairs. Residential Single-Family permits declined slightly from 2018-2020, before experiencing a spike in 2021 and 2022. The data also shows a shift in permits for manufactured homes; singlewide permits were down 10.5% from 2017 to 2022 while permits issued for double-wide manufactured homes rose 233.3%, from 15 in 2017 to 50 in 2022. Non-residential permits remained relatively the same in this period, fluctuating only slightly year to year. Commercial permits saw an increase from 10 in 2017 to 16 in 2022.

## Wilkes Industrial Park

Wilkes Industrial Park, located just off Liberty Grove/River Road in North Wilkesboro, is one of North Carolina's largest Certified Industrial Parks. The park has just over 497 acres and a wide variety of sites. The park has a new southern access road and is in the process of constructing a northern access road that will open up several parcels for development.  The park is currently home to JELD-WEN, a window manufacturer, Woodpecker Properties, and Haynes Insulation contractors.
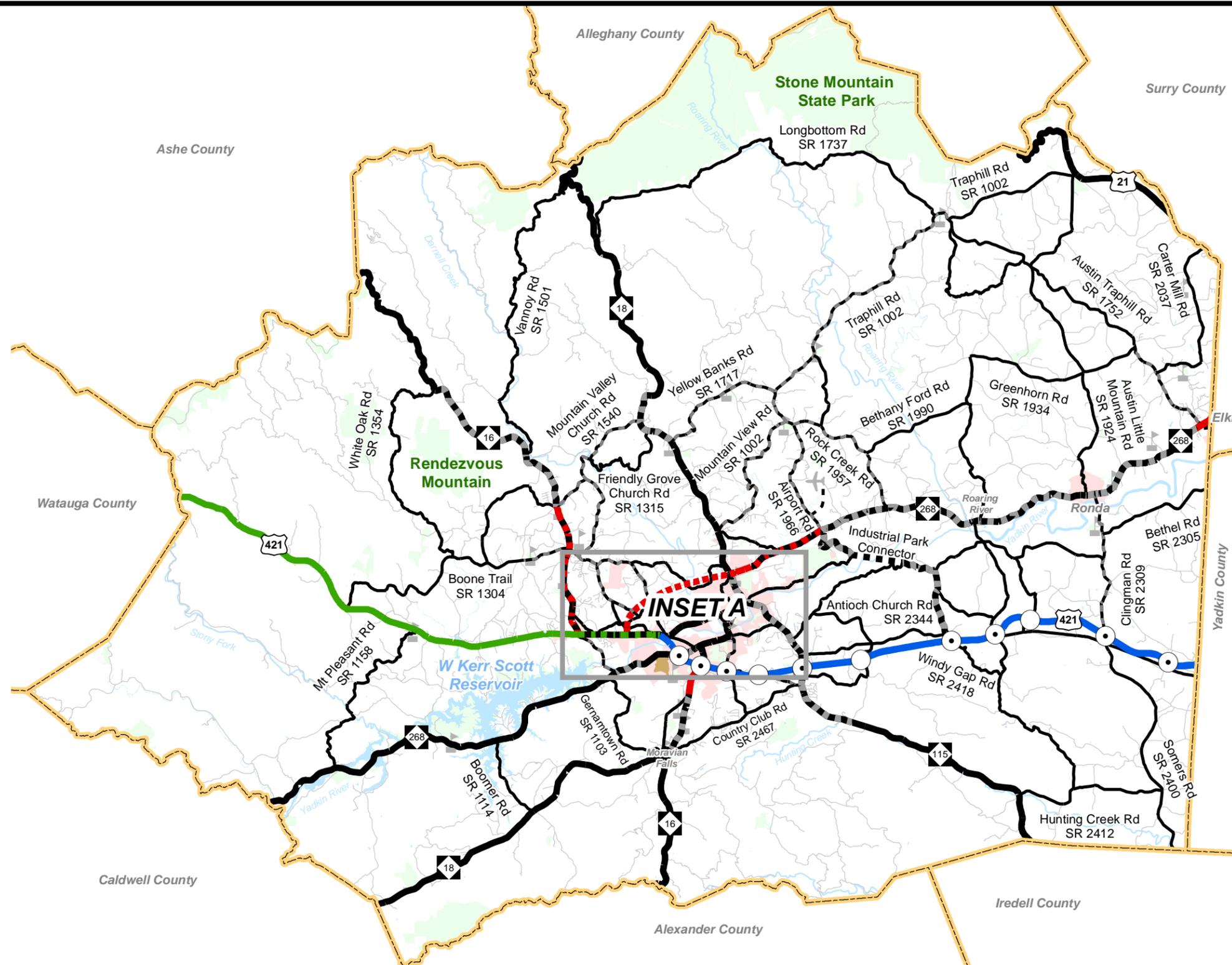
The Town of North Wilkesboro owns the undeveloped portions of the park and has zoned it General Industrial.  Most of the available sites have access to water and sewer, natural gas, telecommunications fiber, and three-phase electricity.  The park is located 1 mile from NC Highway 268, 5 miles from US Highway 421, and 20 miles from Interstate 77.
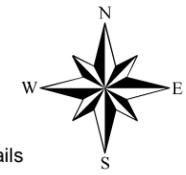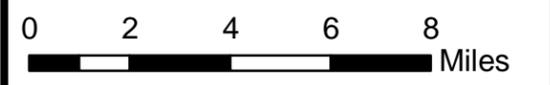
# Existing Infrastructure

## Roads and Highways

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) maintains 1,317.49 miles of highways and roads in Wilkes County. Of these, 127.47 are primary roads including US and NC Highways, 1,149.69 miles are secondary roads, and 40.33 miles are municipal system roads. In addition to NCDOT roads, the municipalities of North Wilkesboro, Ronda, and Wilkesboro maintain a combined 67.6 miles of streets in the County.

The County completed a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) with NCDOT in 2017. The CTP is a plan addressing all modes of transportation including highway, bicycling, pedestrian, transit, and rail. It is a long-range multi-modal plan that covers transportation needs through 2040. Comprehensive Transportation Plans are an integral part of transportation improvements in North Carolina, and are the basis for projects eventually being included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Needs identified in the County level planning process are evaluated by the state using a data-driven scoring process to help prioritize funding, and ultimately construction for transportation projects. The Wilkes County 2017 CTP findings and recommendations were based on an analysis of the transportation system, environmental screening, and public input. Maps detailing recommended improvements from that CTP can be found on the following pages.

## Legend

**Freeways**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Expressways**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Boulevards**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Other Major Thoroughfares**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Minor Thoroughfares**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended
- Existing Interchange
- Proposed Interchange
- Interchange Needs Improvement
- Existing Grade Separation
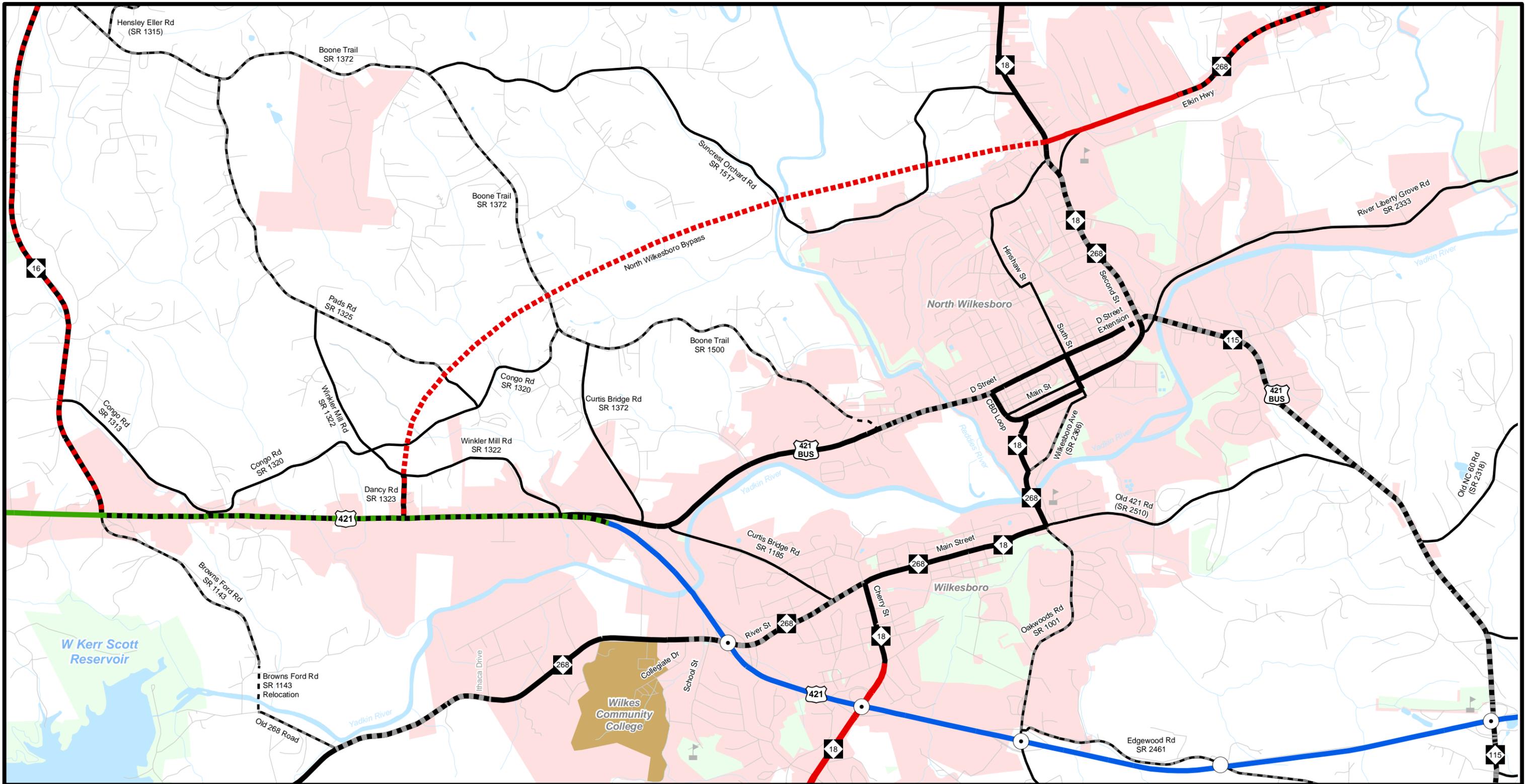- Proposed Grade Separation

0 2 4 6 8 Miles

Sheet 2 of 5
Base map date: August 4, 2015
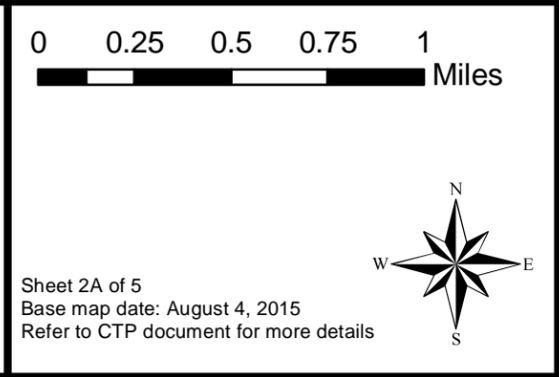Refer to CTP document for more details

# Highway Map

# Wilkes County

## Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Plan Date: September 21, 2016

**Highway Map Inset A**

**Wilkes County**

**Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Plan Date: September 21, 2016

Legend:

**Freeways**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Expressways**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Boulevards**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Other Major Thoroughfares**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

**Minor Thoroughfares**
- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

- Existing Interchange
- Proposed Interchange
- Interchange Needs Improvement
- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation

0  0.25  0.5  0.75  1  Miles

Sheet 2A of 5
Base map date: August 4, 2015
Refer to CTP document for more details

Map labels:
- Hensley Eller Rd (SR 1315)
- Boone Trail SR 1372
- Boone Trail SR 1372
- Suncrest Orchard Rd SR 1517
- North Wilkesboro Bypass
- River Liberty Grove Rd SR 2333
- Elkin Hwy
- North Wilkesboro
- Hinshaw St
- Sixth St
- Second St
- D Street Extension
- D Street
- Main St
- CBD Loop
- Reddies River
- Wilkesboro Ave (SR 2366)
- Yadkin River
- Old NC 60 Rd (SR 2318)
- Pads Rd SR 1325
- Congo Rd SR 1320
- Boone Trail SR 1500
- Curtis Bridge Rd SR 1372
- Congo Rd SR 1313
- Winkler Mill Rd SR 1322
- Congo Rd SR 1320
- Winkler Mill Rd SR 1322
- Dancy Rd SR 1323
- Curtis Bridge Rd SR 1185
- Old 421 Rd (SR 2510)
- Browns Ford Rd SR 1143
- Browns Ford Rd SR 1143 Relocation
- Ithaca Drive
- Collegiate Dr
- Wilkes Community College
- School St
- River St
- Curtis Bridge Rd
- Main Street
- Cherry St
- Wilkesboro
- Oakwoods Rd SR 1001
- Edgewood Rd SR 2461
- Old 268 Road
- Yadkin River
- W Kerr Scott Reservoir
- 16
- 18
- 268
- 115
- 421 BUS
- 421

NCDOT's most recent State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) covers years 2024-2033. The program identifies construction funding and schedule for projects over this period. NCDOT updates the program every 2 years. The STIP distinguishes between projects that are funded and scheduled for construction, and those that are not but are still included in the program. The table below lists projects from Wilkes County that are currently in this program, and whether they are scheduled for construction, under construction, complete, or not yet funded. A map showing these projects can be found on page 23.

## North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program – 2024-2033 Wilkes County Projects

| Project Type | Project Description | Project Status | Construction Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Bridge** | **SR 1313** Replace bridge over Fish Dam Creek | Complete | 2021 |
| **Bridge** | **Shumate Moutain Road** Replace bridge over West Prong Roaring River | Complete | 2021 |
| **Bridge** | **Traphill Road** Replace bridge over East Prong Roaring River | Complete | 2021 |
| **Bridge** | **Austin Traphill Road** Replace bridge over Sparks Creek | Complete | 2021 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1148** Replace bridge over Naked Creek | Under Construction | 2021 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 2418** Replace bridge over Little Hunting Creek | Complete | 2022 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 2516** Replace bridge over Cub Creek | Under Construction | 2022 |
| **Highway** | **NC 268, from NC 18 to Airport Road.** - Construct sidewalk from NC 18 to Shaver Street. - Widen to five lanes from Shaver Street to Fairplains Road. - Widen to four lanes divided from Fairplains Road to Airport Road. | Complete | 2023 |
| **Highway** | **US 421, from NC 16 to US 421 Business.** | Scheduled for Construction | 2023 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Convert existing roadway to reduced conflict intersections and add service roads. | | 23 \| P a g e |
| **Highway** | **NC 115, from US 421 to 2ⁿᵈ Street** Widen Roadway. | Scheduled for Construction | 2024 |
| **Aviation** | **Wilkes County Airport** Extend runway to 7,000 feet. | Scheduled for Construction | 2024 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1559** Replace bridge over Mid Fork Reddies River. | Scheduled for Construction | 2025 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1567** Replace bridge over Wingler Creek | Scheduled for Construction | 2025 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1355** Replace bridge over South Fork Reddies River. | Scheduled for Construction | 2025 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1185** Replace bridge over Yadkin River. | Scheduled for Construction | 2027 |
| **Bridge** | **SR 1170** Replace bridge over Stony Fork. | Scheduled for Construction | 2027 |
| **Bridge** | **US 421 Business** Replace bridge over Reddies River. | Scheduled for Construction | 2027 |
| **Highway** | **Oakwoods Road, from US 421 to Forest Hills Drive** Upgrade roadway | Scheduled for Construction | 2027 |
| **Highway** | **NC 268, SR 1966 to four lanes west of Austin Traphill Road** Modernize Roadway | Scheduled for Construction | 2031 |
| **Highway** | **New Route, NC 268 connector from NC 18 to US 421** Construct multi-lane facility, part on new location | Not funded | N/A |

# Wilkes County
## Transportation Improvements

**STIP 2024-2033**

Legend:
- ——— Funded Highway Projects
- ——— Unfunded Highway Project
- ● Bridge Projects
- ✈ Aviation Project

**HIGH COUNTRY**
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

0    6
Miles

N
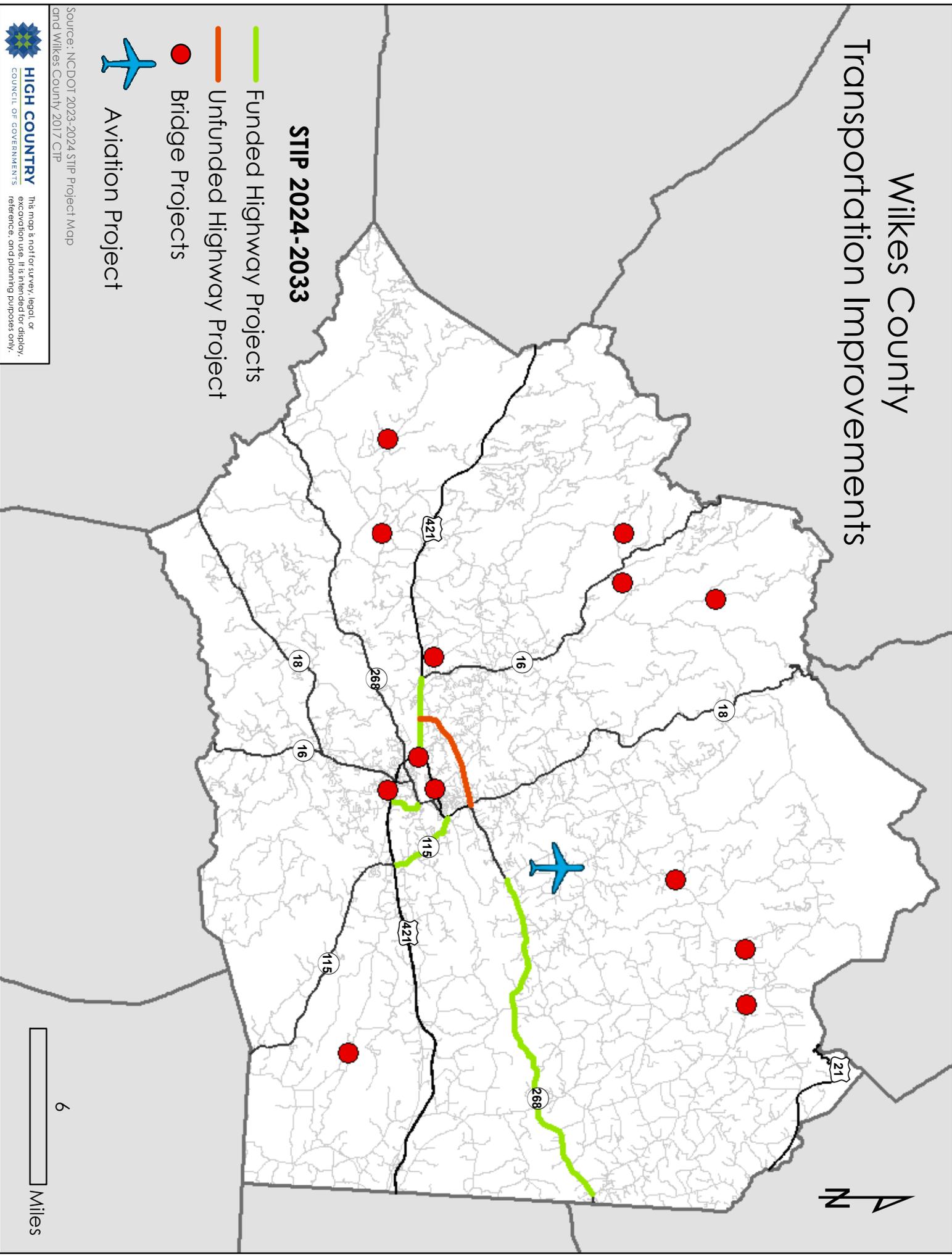
## Aviation

The Wilkes County Airport is located at 640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro approximately three miles northeast of the Town. This County-owned airport, completed in 1990, has a 6,200 x 100-foot asphalt runway (Runway 1/19). In December 2021, a $1.08 million contract was awarded to construct a new 10-bay T-hangar and taxi lanes at the airport. This project was completed in 2023.

The Airport, open to the public, can accommodate aircraft types ranging in size from small, single-engine propeller aircraft to multi-engine turboprops and small jets. The maximum landing weight for single-wheel aircraft is 45,000 pounds and 65,000 pounds for double-wheel. In 2021, the airport had approximately 10,100 annual operations (meaning either a landing or take-off) consisting of 50% local generated aviation, 35% non-local generated aviation, 15% air taxi, and 1% military operations. As of July 2021, of the 38 aircraft based at the airport there are 5 jets, 6 multi-engine airplanes, 25 single-engine airplanes, and 2 helicopters. The Wilkes County airport does not have a control tower; air traffic around the airport is controlled by the Atlanta (GA) Center. Runway 1 has a Category Instrument Landing System (ILS) approach with Runway Light Indicator Lights. Both Runway 1 and Runway 19 are equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) approach. Funding and maintenance of these landing systems is provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The airport's runway (constructed in 1990) is approaching the limit of its maximum useful life, which is generally 20 years. The runway 1/19 is scheduled to be improved and extended to 7,000 feet beginning in 2023, with funding provided by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

## Rail

The Yadkin Valley Railroad operates two lines leased from Norfolk Southern Railway, one of which serves Wilkes County. The short line railroad extends into Wilkes County from the east, following the Yadkin River. Short line railroads provide connections between large railroad systems and local industries. The Yadkin Valley Railroad connects the Town of Ronda and the Roaring River Community with the Norfolk Southern Railway in Winston Salem. Products handled by the Yadkin Valley Railroad include poultry feed ingredients, wood products, liquid propane gas, cleaning products, and plastic products. In 2021, the railroad was awarded $1.5 million by the NC Department of Transportation to upgrade track, switches, and bridges in multiples counties including Wilkes. This project is expected to be complete in May of 2024.

The Yadkin Valley Railroad has an industrial development program, which lists buildings and sites that are accessible and/or available for sale or lease along or near the railroad. Two sites in Wilkes County are currently listed as development sites: Wilkes Industrial Park and the Jenkins Building. The railroad also operates a transloading service to allow goods to be transferred from railroad cars to trucks for industries who do not have tracks running directly to their locations.

## Public Transportation

Since 1991, public transportation in Wilkes County has been provided by Wilkes Transportation Authority. WTA is a private, non-profit agency funded through the NC Department of Transportation. WTA operates one fixed route, as well as on-demand trips to destinations within Wilkes County and throughout the State. The Wilkes Express Shuttle, the fixed route, operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm with 25 scheduled stops. On-demand

trips vary, and fees are based upon pick-up and drop-off destinations.  Trips can be scheduled Monday through Friday and must be requested before 12:00 pm on the prior business day. A map showing all stops on the WTA fixed route can be found on page 26.

## Sunway Mountaineer East/West Route

The Mountaineer East/West route operates along US 421 through Wilkes County. The daily intercity bus service operates 7 days a week and provides services from Wilkesboro to Boone, Winston-Salem, Hamptonville, and Greensboro.

Wilkes Transportation Authority
Wilkes Express Fixed Route Stops

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Legend

Wilkes Express
Stops

Wilkes Express
Fixed Routes

Highways

Source: Wilkes CTP Public Transportation and Rail Map Inset A

Miles
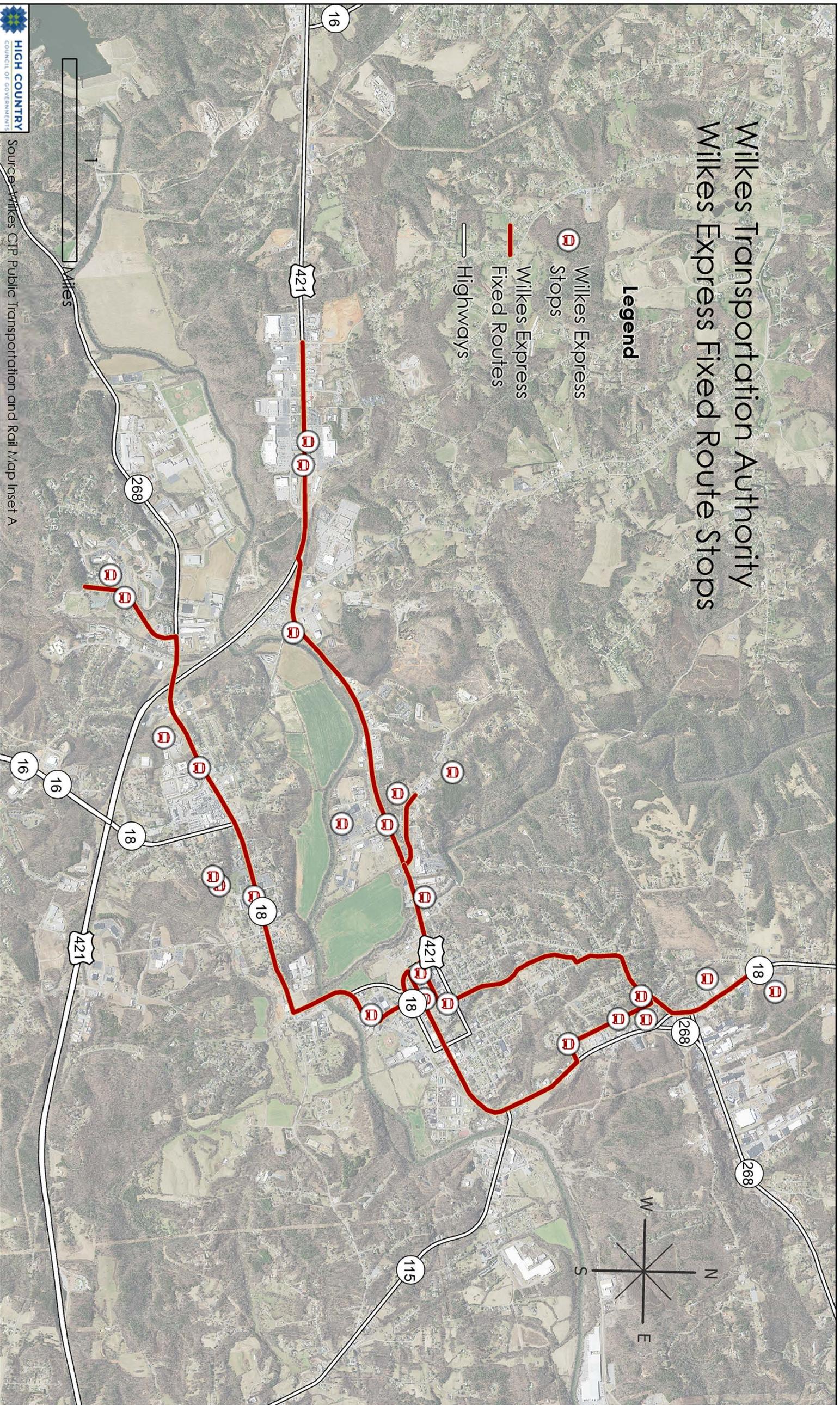
## Utilities

### Town of North Wilkesboro – Water and Wastewater

The Town of North Wilkesboro owns and operates public water and sewer systems that serve the majority of the Town and limited areas outside of town limits including the industrial park. The Town's water source is an intake off the Reddies River located upstream from D Street. The Town is in the process of developing a new water intake on the Yadkin River. Construction for that project is estimated to begin in 2024. The Town has an available raw water supply of 15 million gallons per day (MGD) with a water treatment plant permitted to treat 4.32 MGD. North Wilkesboro sells approximately 1.701 million gallons of water per day (65% of its average daily withdrawal) to several water associations including Blue Ridge, Broadway, West Wilkes, and Mulberry/Fairplains, and provides emergency water to the Town of Wilkesboro. The Town's current water usage is 19% of their supply. A table detailing the Town's metered connections by use type as well as the average daily use of each is shown below.

### North Wilkesboro Water System – Connections by Type of Use

| Type of Use | Metered Connections | Metered Average Use (MGD) |
|---|---|---|
| Residential | 1,224 | 0.1500 |
| Commercial | 473 | 0.2100 |
| Industrial | 14 | 0.1000 |
| Institutional | 100 | 0.1240 |

*North Wilkesboro 2022 NCDEQ Local Water Supply Plan*

The Town of North Wilkesboro's wastewater treatment plant is located at 104 Thurman Street. The treatment plant has a permitted and design capacity of 2.0 MGD and discharges into the Yadkin River (NPDES permit NC0020761). The plant currently operates at a 1.129 MGD average daily use. A map detailing North Wilkesboro's water and sewer system can be found on page 32.

### Town of Ronda – Water and Wastewater

The Town of Ronda operates a public water system that serves a majority of the area within town limits. Water is supplied by one regular well with a daily average withdrawal of 0.0252 MGD and one emergency well with a 12-hour supply of 0.068 MGD. In addition to the wells, the Town purchases on average 0.0261 MGD from the Town of Elkin. The Town's average daily usage is 0.0513 MGD using about 43% of its available supply (including groundwater and purchased water). A table detailing the Town's metered connections by use type as well as the average daily use of each is shown on the following page.

## Ronda Water System – Connections by Type of Use

| Type of Use | Metered Connections | Metered Average Use (MGD) |
|---|---|---|
| **Residential** | 374 | 0.0473 |
| **Commercial** | 10 | 0.0014 |
| **Industrial** | 5 | 0.0026 |
| **Institutional** | 23 | 0.0034 |

*Ronda 2022 NCDEQ Local Water Supply Plan*

In 2011, Ronda completed its first public sewer system. The system is operated by the Yadkin River Sewer Authority made up of the Towns of Elkin (Surry County), Jonesville (Yadkin County), and Ronda (Wilkes County).  The authority joins the three towns, consolidating their wastewater treatment into one central facility with one discharge (NPDES NC0089389) on the Yadkin River in Jonesville. The system currently serves 185 customers in the Town of Ronda. There are no immediate plans for expansion of the Town's sewer system. A map detailing Ronda's water and sewer system can be found on page 33.

## Town of Wilkesboro – Water and Wastewater

The Town of Wilkesboro owns and operates both water and sewer systems that serve the majority of the Town and limited areas outside the town limits.  Approximately 18% of the Town's water is sold to the Moravian Falls and West Wilkes water associations. The Town's water source is the Yadkin River with an available raw water supply of 16.0 MGD. The WTP has a treatment capacity of 10.0 MGD with an average daily withdrawal of 4.923 MGD in 2021. The Town's demand is approximately 31% of its available supply. A table detailing the Town's metered connections by use type as well as the average daily use of each is shown below.

## Wilkesboro Water System – Connections by Type of Use

| Type of Use | Metered Connections | Metered Average Use (MGD) |
|---|---|---|
| **Residential** | 1,297 | 0.1650 |
| **Commercial** | 409 | 0.0220 |
| **Industrial** | 27 | 2.6757 |
| **Institutional** | 116 | 0.4605 |

*Wilkesboro 2022 NCDEQ Local Water Supply Plan*

The Town of Wilkesboro's wastewater treatment plant is located at 701 Snyder Street with a discharge into the Yadkin River (NPDES NC0021717) permitted at 4.9 MGD.  In 2021, the Town's average annual daily discharge was 4.2042 MGD, 85% of its capacity. The Town's largest water and sewer customer, Tyson Foods, Inc, currently accounts for 75% of the Town's treatment plant influent. Tyson owns and operates a pre-treatment facility adjacent to the Town's wastewater treatment plant. As a result of a feasibility study done in 2001, the Town upgraded the plant in order to accommodate increasing demand. A map detailing Wilkesboro's water and sewer system can be found on page 34.

## Water Associations

Five private water associations operate in Wilkes County. These include Blue Ridge Water Association, Broadway Water Association, Inc., Moravian Falls Water Works, Mulberry-Fairplains Water Association, and West Wilkes Water Association. Their purpose is to deliver water to their customer base, which is overwhelmingly residential, through the provision and maintenance of water distribution lines and storage. The Associations purchase finished water directly or indirectly form the Towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. The associations produce no water on their own. A map showing the service area of all of these water associations can be found on page 35. A table showing various statistics on each water association is shown below.

## Wilkes County Water Association Statistics

|  | Water used per day (gal.) | Source | Customers | Population Served | Storage Capacity (gal.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Blue Ridge** | 650,000 | Mulberry-Fairplains and North Wilkesboro | 3,301 | 8,216 | 1,100,000 |
| **Broadway** | 176,000 | North Wilkesboro | 1,370 | 3,600 | 300,000 |
| **Moravian Falls** | 251,000 | Wilkesboro | 1,330 | 2,951 | 200,000 |
| **Mulberry-Fairplains** | 350,000 | North Wilkesboro | 2,401 | 8,150 | 1,200,000 |
| **West Wilkes** | 645,100 | North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro | 4,717 | 12,202 | 1,400,000 |

*2022 DEQ Local Water Supply Plan*

## Electric

Blue Ridge Energy, Duke Energy, Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation (SYEMC), and Energy United each provide three-phase electrical service to the County. Three-Phase power provides the voltage necessary to meet the higher electrical demands of large manufacturers. Three-phase lines serve the western part of the county along the Ashe, Watauga, and Caldwell County lines and along the Alleghany County line to the north. SYEMC's three-phase lines run from the Surry County line west ending at Mulberry Township; Energy United's three-phase lines are located in the southern part of the County along the Alexander, Iredell, and a portion of the Yadkin County lines; the remainder of the County is serviced by Duke Energy's three-phase lines. A map showing the service areas of all of these providers, excluding Duke Energy, can be found on page 36.

## Natural Gas

Frontier Natural Gas Company provides natural gas service in Wilkes County. Frontier Natural Gas currently owns and maintains 156.07 miles of natural gas lines in the County, up from 99 miles in 2014. A ten-inch "mainline" traverses the County from east to west. The mainline roughly follows the Yadkin River from the Yadkin County line to North Wilkesboro, serving the Tyson Feed Mill in Roaring River, Wilkes Industrial Park, and other locations. The mainline extends west into Watauga County along the US 421 corridor.

Six-inch lateral lines extend off the mainline to serve various industries in the County. Currently, a lateral follows airport road serving the Wilkes County Airport, the Hayes Community, and a recent extension down Rock Creek Road to Lengo Farm, LLC. Laterals also serve Tyson Foods in Wilkesboro and Gardner Glass in North Wilkesboro. Laterals also extend northwest along US Highway 21 from Elkin to serve several chicken farms in the Thurmond community; south to serve the Clingman, New Castle, and Somers Crossroads communities as well as various chicken farms; from downtown Wilkesboro along NC Highway 268 to the Interflex Group, Inc; and south off US Highway 421 in the Champion community along Dragway Road to serve chicken farms in the area. Expansion of electrical and natural gas service is based on customer demand. A map showing the location of all natural gas lines in the County can be found on page 36.

## Broadband

As a general rule, growth follows infrastructure development. Broadband access, both residential and business, has become a vital part of day-to-day life in recent years across the country. Broadband access allows people more affordable and efficient access to basic amenities such as education, health care, public safety, and government services. Since the pandemic, access to adequate broadband has become even more necessary allowing for more online classes, telehealth consultations, and has allowed a large number of people to work from home. Sufficient broadband speed is also important to business and industry. For a rural and agriculturally based County like Wilkes, broadband can reduce the cost of interaction between distant buyers and sellers and provide real-time information to aid in production and marketing decisions by improving management practices.

Broadband in Wilkes is offered by a variety of providers. These include Spectrum, CenturyLink, HughesNet, Viasat, CarolinaWest Wireless, USCellular, EarthLink, Wilkes Communications, T Mobile home internet, and King Street Wireless. According to the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, several clusters of unserved populations exist, as well as a few scattered unserved locations. Unserved clusters exist in the Mulberry and Union areas, as well as at the southeast corner of the County, at the border of Yadkin and Iredell counties. The cluster at the border of Yadkin and Iredell has received some funding through the American Rescue Plan Act's GREAT program for improving broadband infrastructure across the country. That program is also funding improvements in other parts of the County, including a cluster of improvements at the border of Surry County near the Town of Elkin, and scattered improvements in and around the Town of North Wilkesboro. A map from the NCDIT detailing unserved locations and ARPA GREAT program awards can be found on page 37.

# North Wilkesboro Water and Sewer Systems

## Municipal Systems

— Water
— Sewer

Town Limits

● WWTP
● Water Tank
● Clearwells

1 Mile

N

# Ronda
## Water and Sewer Systems

Yadkin Sewer Authority Service
continues towards Elkin

268

**Municipal Systems**

— Water
— Sewer

Town Limits

● Water Tank
● Well

0.5 Mile

N

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# Wilkesboro
## Water and Sewer Systems

Municipal Systems

—— Water

—— Sewer

Town Limits
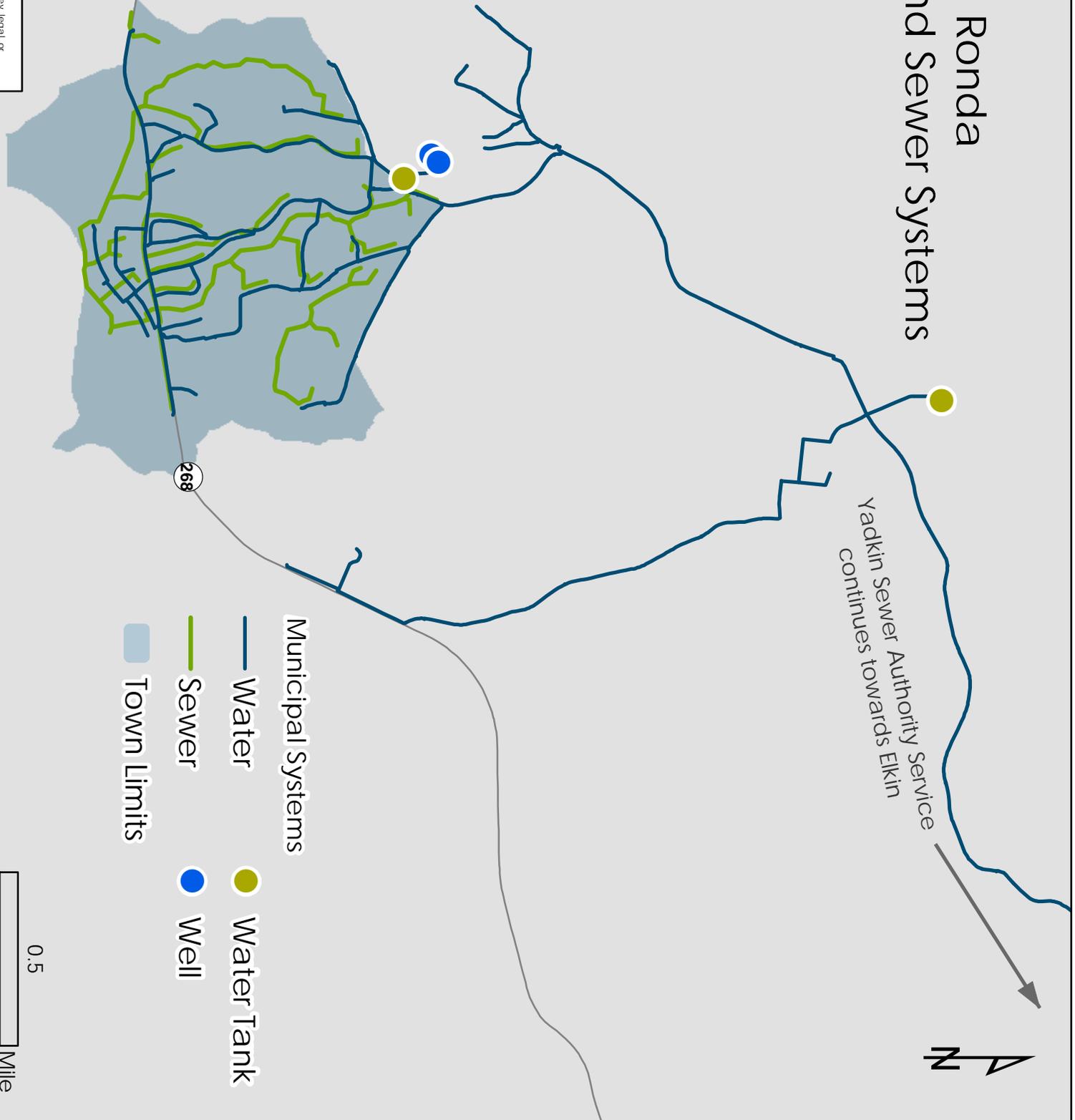
⬤ WWTP

🟡 Water Tank

🔵 Clearwell
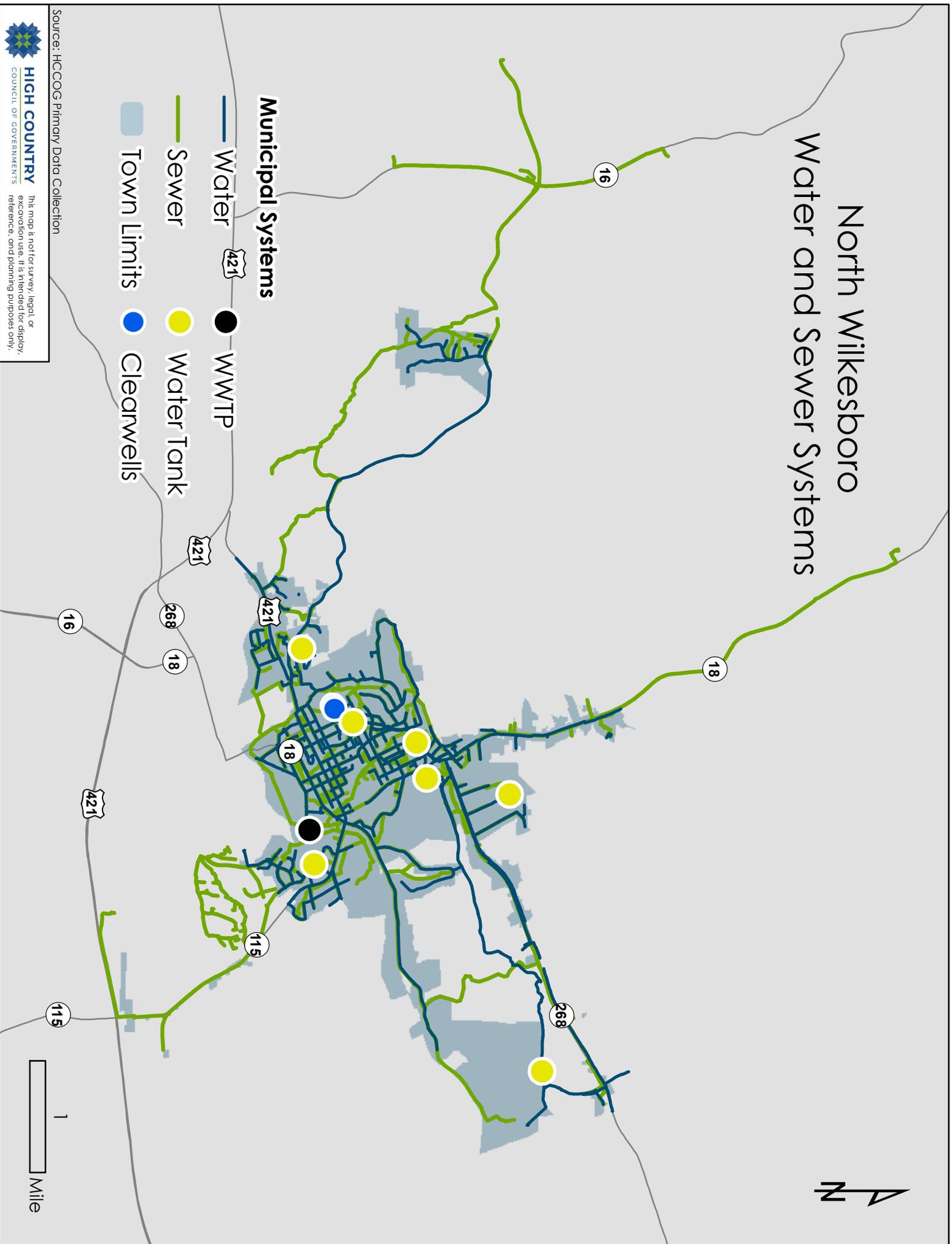
Source: HCCOG Primary Data Collection

This map is not for survey, legal, or excavation use. It is intended for display, reference, and planning purposes only.

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

268

421

18

16

18

421

421
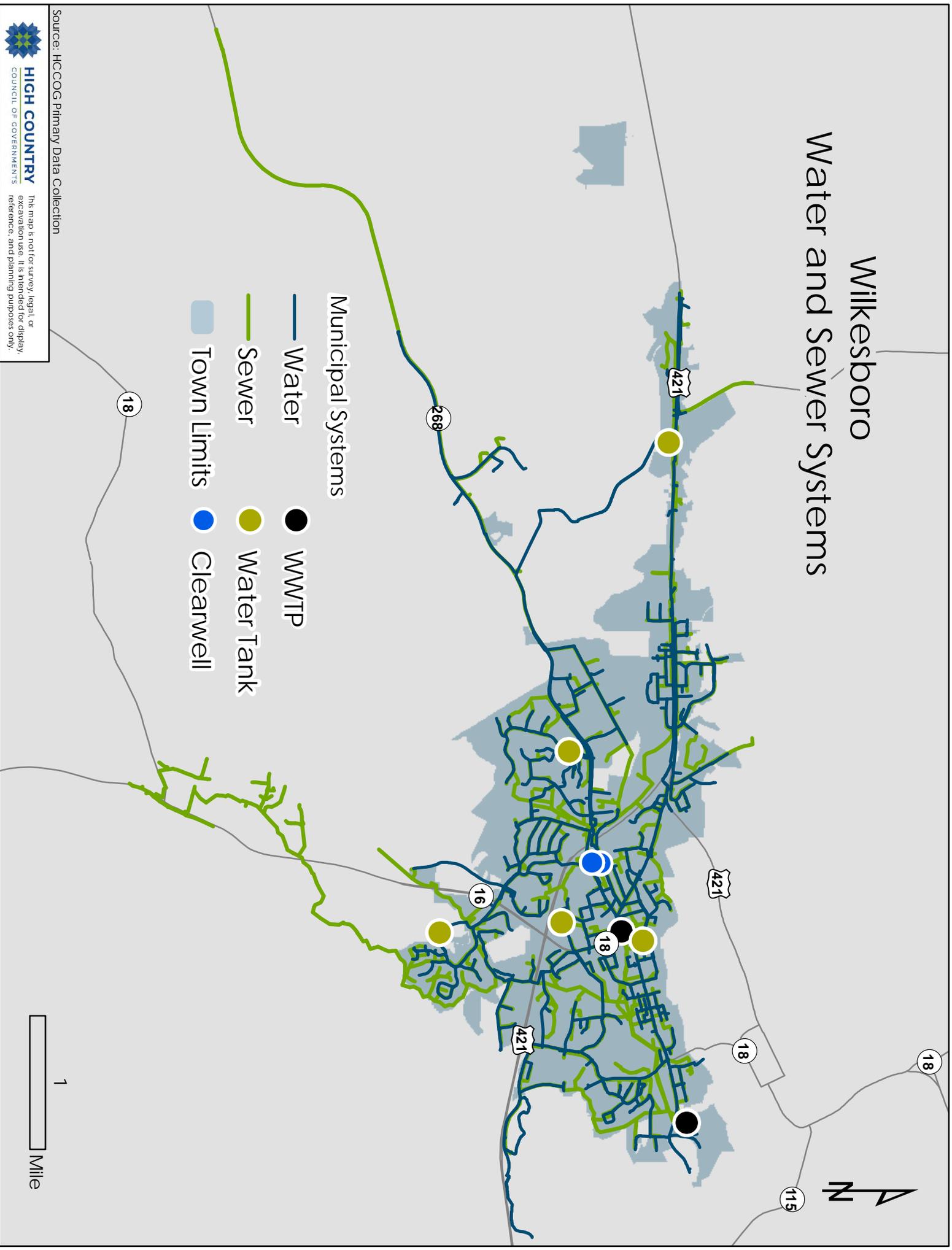
18

18

115

N

1 Mile

# Water Association Coverage Areas

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

This map is not for survey, legal, or excavation use. It is intended for display, reference, and planning purposes only.

## Private Rural Water Service Areas

- BLUE RIDGE WATER ASSOCIATION
- BROADWAY WATER SYSTEM
- BRUSHY MTN MUTUAL WATER & SEWAGE CO.
- CRICKETT-MILLERS CREEK WATER ASSOC.
- MORAVIAN FALLS
- MULBERRY FAIRPLAIN WATER ASSOC.

5 Miles

N
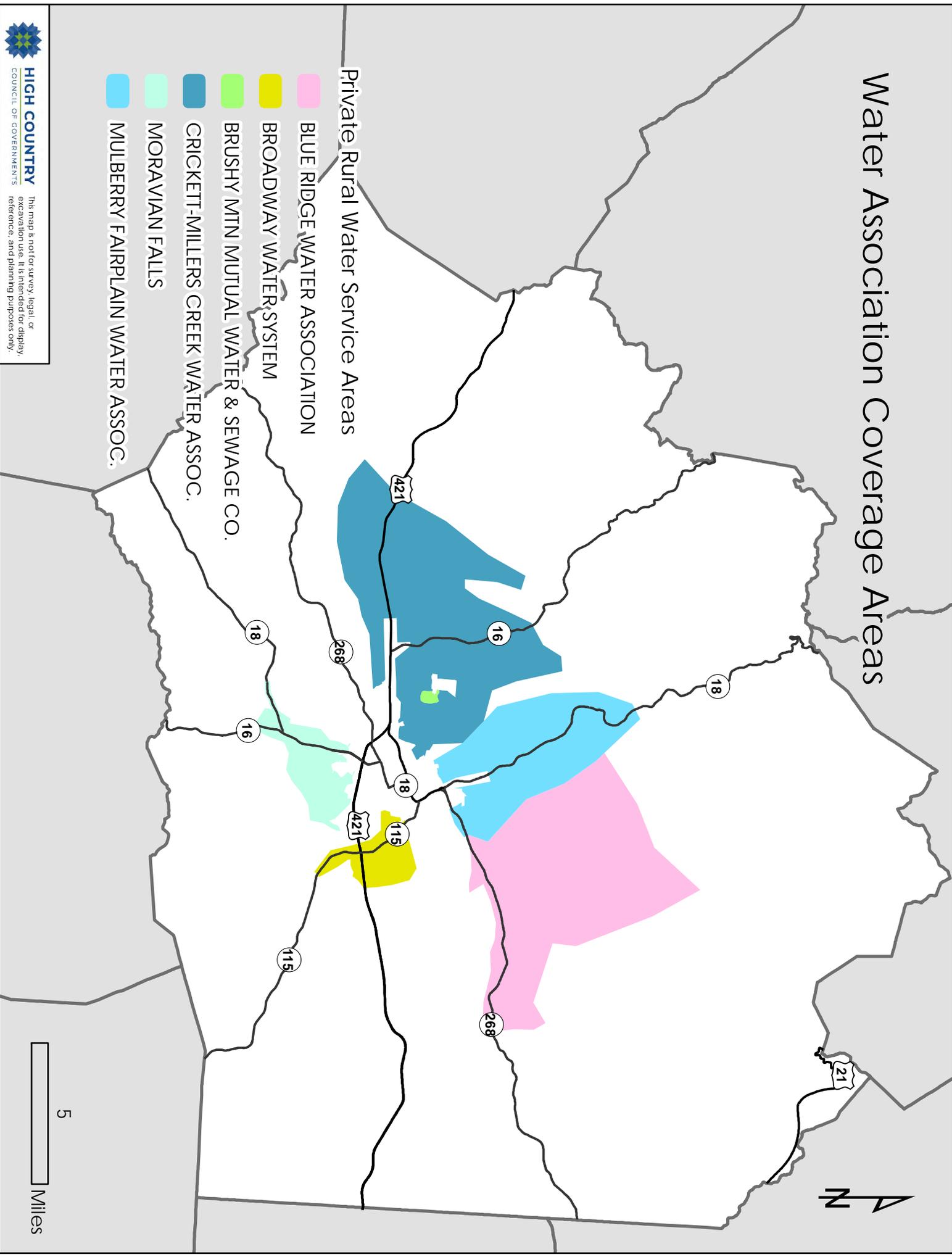
# Wilkes County Utilities
## Electric and Natural Gas
Does not include Duke Power coverage areas.
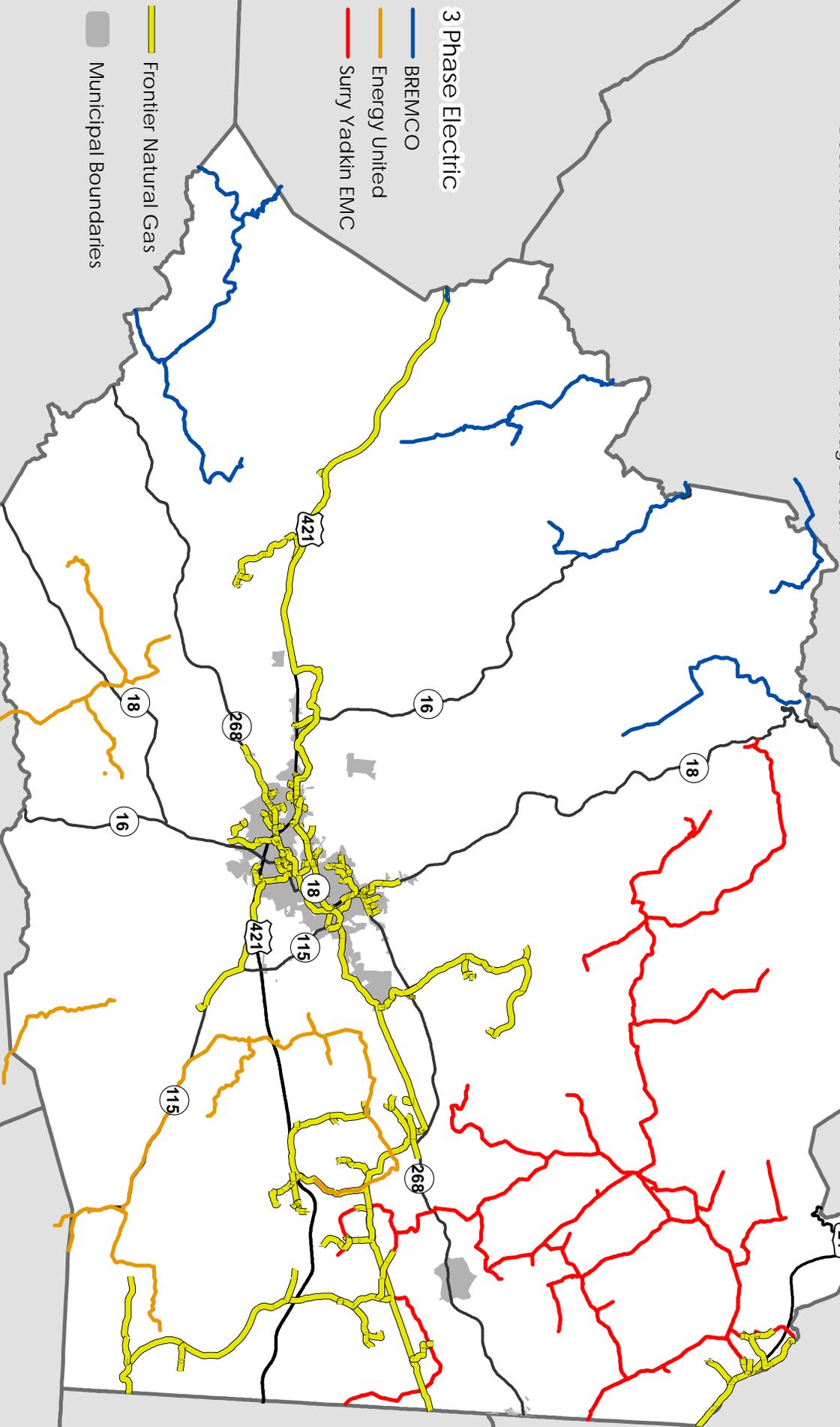
**3 Phase Electric**
- Surry Yadkin EMC
- Energy United
- BREMCO

- Frontier Natural Gas
- Municipal Boundaries

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5
Miles

N

# WILKES COUNTY BROADBAND PROFILE

Summary of broadband service in the county based on FCC reported unserved areas compared with current funding programs focusing on improving broadband in the county.

## FCC Reported Unserved Locations

**Count of Unserved**

**Percent Unserved**

High — High

Low — Low
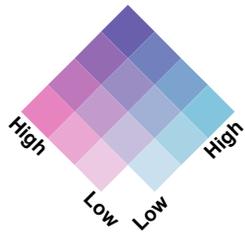
Unserved Locations from the FCC Broadband Data Collection have been aggregated into hexagon-shaped bins to show both the count and percent of unserved locations within each bin. Darker shades of pink indicate higher total counts of unserved locations. Darker shades of blue indicate a higher percentage of locations within a bin are unserved. Darker shades of purple indicate both a higher total of unserved locations and a higher percentage of total locations within a bin are unserved.

- ▲ NC Broadband Survey - Unserved Responses
- ● GREAT Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contracted
- ● GREAT Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contingent
- ● CAB Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contingent
- ● GREAT Award Locations (State Funded)
- ▨ GREAT Award Areas (State Funded)
- ▨ FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Grant
- ▨ Other Federal Grants

## WILKES COUNTY ESTIMATES

**Percent Unserved ***
(No Service 25mb/s Download and 3mb/s Upload or Greater)

**0.71%**    247 Total Locations

**Percent Underserved ***
(No Service 100mb/s Download and 20mb/s Upload or Greater)

**3.61%**    1,261 Total Locations

**Percent with Fiber Broadband Available ***

**56.67%**    19,820 Total Locations

**Percent with DSL Only ***

**3.79%**    1,325 Total Locations

**Percent with Broadband Subscription ****

**70.81%**

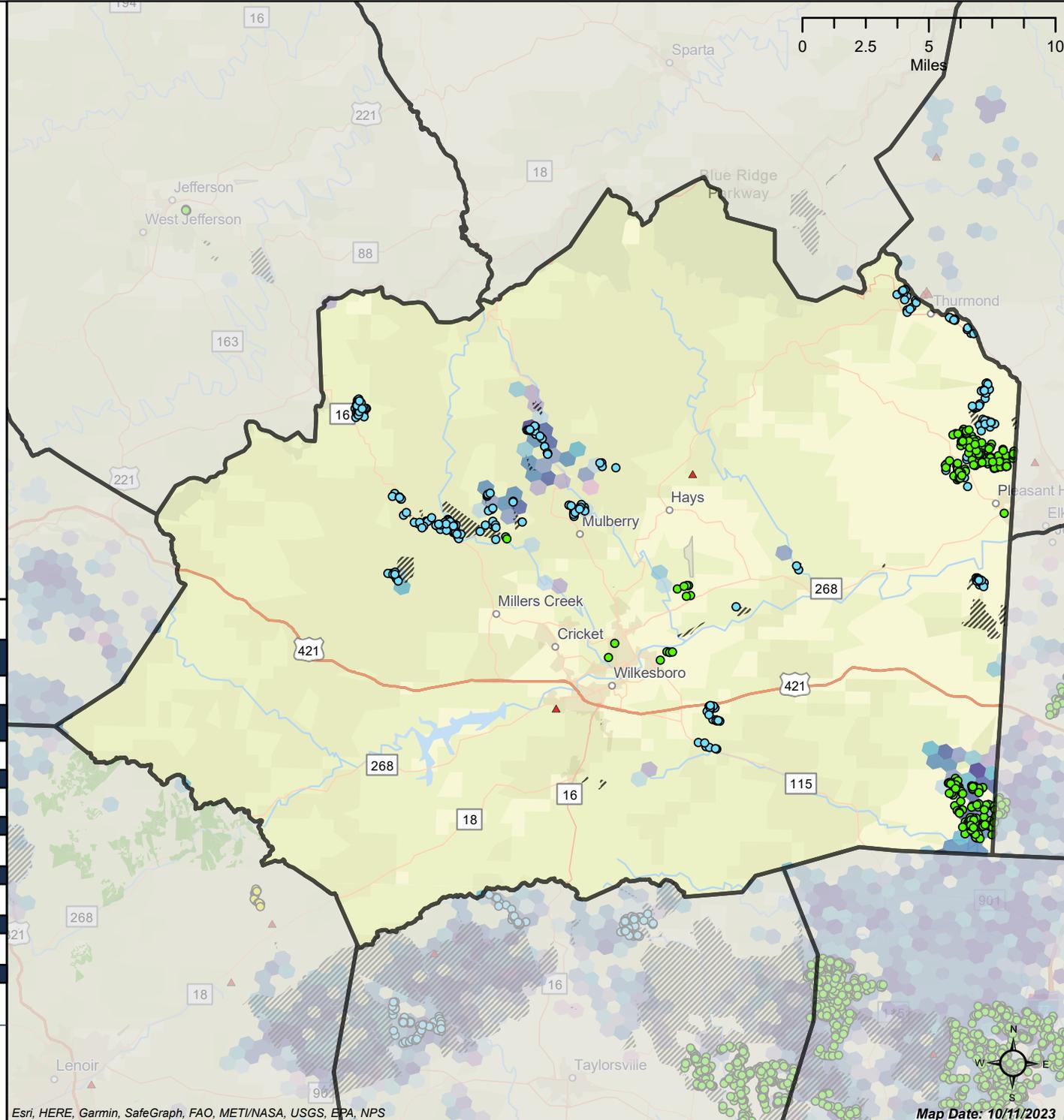**Percent with No Internet Access ****

**16%**

**Percent with No Internet Devices ****

**12.85%**

*DATA SOURCES:*
*FCC BDC - Federal Communication Commission Broadband Data Collection Published June 2023 (Data as of December 31, 2022)*

**ACS - U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates*

Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS

Map Date: 10/11/2023

# Education

## Public Education

The Wilkes County School System consists of 13 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 4 high schools, plus an early college high school located at Wilkes Community College. The schools and their locations are shown in the table below.

### Wilkesboro K-12 Schools and Locations

| School | Town or Township |
| --- | --- |
| Boomer Ferguson Elementary | Boomer |
| CB Eller Elementary | Elkin |
| CC Wright Elementary | North Wilkesboro |
| Central Wilkes Middle School | Moravian Falls |
| East Wilkes Middle School | Ronda |
| East Wilkes High School | Ronda |
| Miller's Creek Elementary | Miller's Creek |
| Moravian Falls Elementary | Moravian Falls |
| Mount Pleasant Elementary | Ferguson |
| Mountain View Elementary | Hays |
| Mulberry Elementary | North Wilkesboro |
| North Wilkes Middle School | North Wilkesboro |
| North Wilkes High School | Hays |
| North Wilkesboro Elementary | North Wilkesboro |
| Roaring River Elementary | Roaring River |
| Ronda-Clingman Elementary | Ronda |
| Traphill Elementary | Traphill |
| West Wilkes Middle School | Wilkesboro |
| West Wilkes High School | Miller's Creek |
| Wilkes Central High School | Wilkesboro |
| Wilkesboro Elementary | Wilkesboro |
| Wilkes Early College High School | Wilkesboro |

## Alternate Curriculums

Wilkes Career & Technical Education Center courses prepare participating students for a wide range of high-wage, high-skilled, high-demand careers. These courses are located at all high schools. The program provides both technical training and hands-on learning for students to develop skills for post-secondary education and the workforce.

Wilkes Early College High School allows participating students to work toward an associate degree while earning their High School Diploma.

In FY 2021/2022, per the National Center for Education Statistics, Wilkes County Schools had a total enrollment of 8,798 students. By reviewing enrollment data from the American Community Survey over the past 10 years, Wilkes County's student population is in a gradual decline, with losses in 6 of the last 10 years.

**Wilkes County School Enrollment K-12**
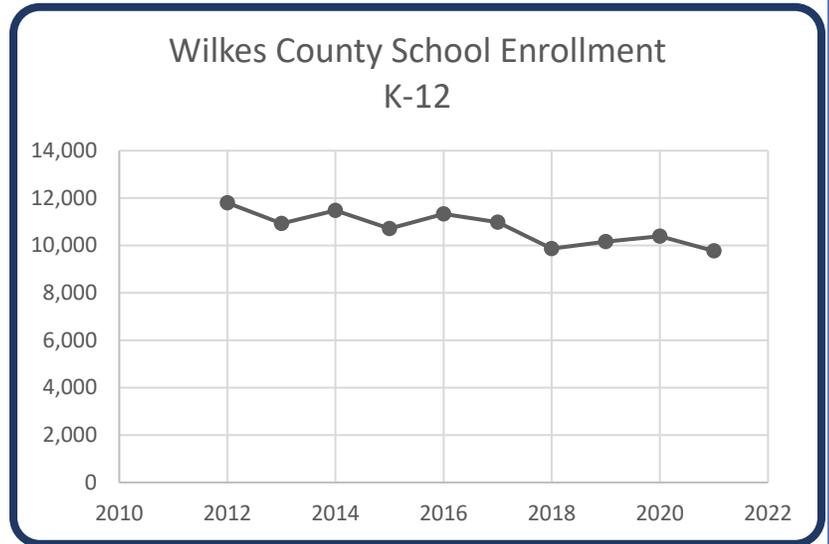


## Wilkes Community College

Wilkes Community College is a public two-year, open-door institution serving the people of Wilkes, Ashe, and Alleghany Counties. The main campus, located on South Collegiate Drive in Wilkesboro, comprises 17 buildings on 151.7 acres with an enrollment of approximately 2,600 students. The college offers basic skills, high school diploma programs for adults, continuing education, technical certificates, an associate degree program, career services, and credits that will transfer to several 4-year universities. The Community College coordinates with local businesses, the NC Department of Commerce, and local Economic Development Commissions to develop and provide customized workforce training.

In 2021 WCC updated their Facility Master Plan. Facility improvements proposed in the plan are as follows:

- Renovation of **Herring Hall** to add Cosmetology Suite.
- Renovation of **Thompson Hall**'s 3rd floor to relocate the IT Department and for Disability Services and the SAGE program.
- Renovation of **Thompson Hall** for accessible bathrooms.
- Renovation of **Hayes Hall** for accessible bathrooms.
- Expansion of the **Welding Lab**.
- **Alumni Hall** – addition for new main campus entrance and added space for student and administrative support.
- Construction of an accessible sidewalk between **Thompson Hall** and **Hayes Hall**.

A map showing the location of all public schools in the County can be found on the following page.

# Wilkes County
# Public Schools

ELEMENTARY ●

MIDDLE ●

HIGH ●

COLLEGE ●
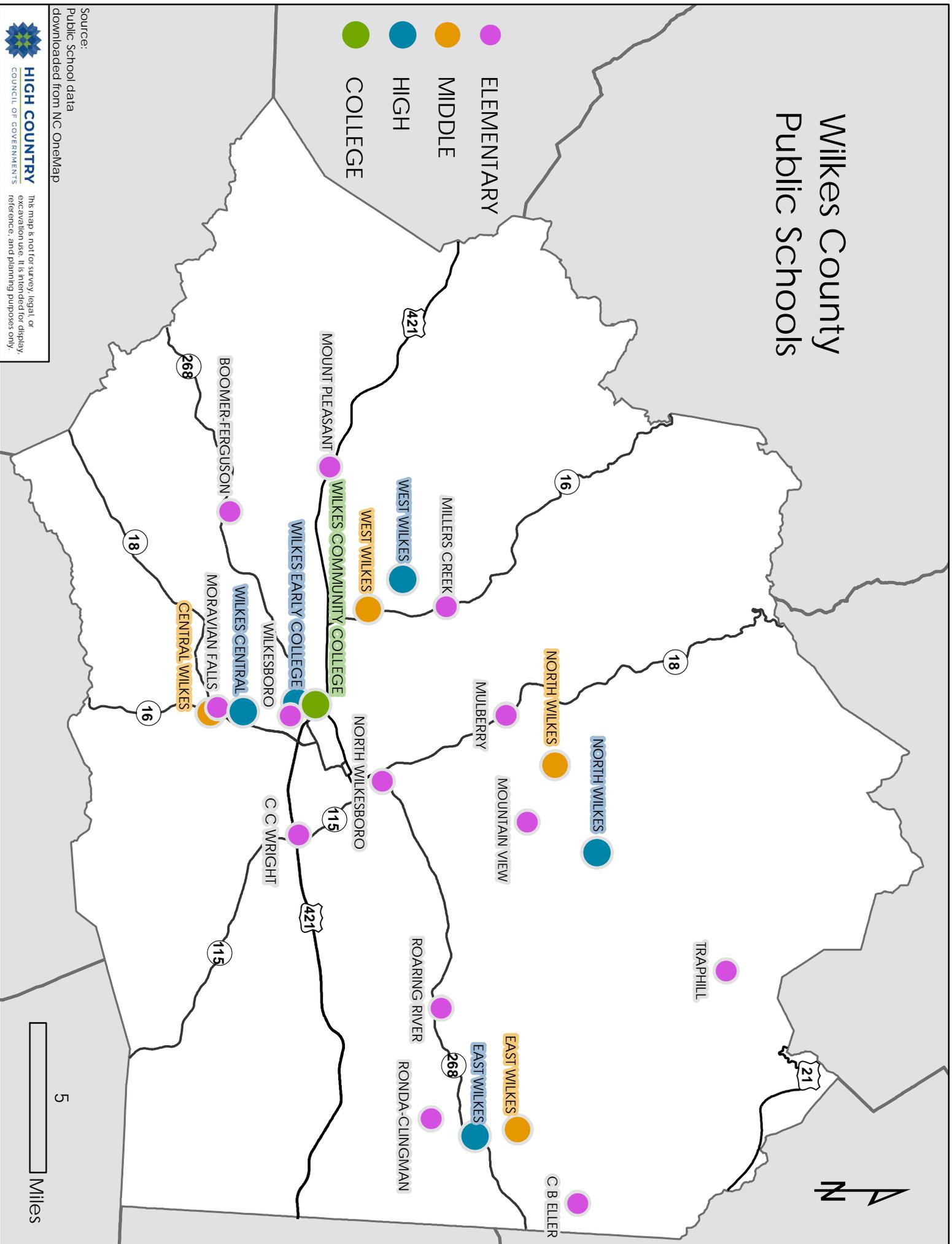
BOOMER-FERGUSON

MOUNT PLEASANT

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WEST WILKES

WEST WILKES

MILLERS CREEK

WILKES EARLY COLLEGE

WILKESBORO

WILKES CENTRAL

MORAVIAN FALLS

CENTRAL WILKES

MULBERRY

NORTH WILKES

NORTH WILKES

MOUNTAIN VIEW

NORTH WILKESBORO

C C WRIGHT

TRAPHILL

ROARING RIVER

RONDA-CLINGMAN

EAST WILKES

EAST WILKES

C B ELLER

421

268

18

16

16

18

16

115

421

115

268

21

5

Miles

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# Parks and Recreation

The Wilkes County Parks and Recreation Department provides recreation services to County residents through facilities and organized sports leagues. Wilkes County owns and maintains Roaring River Public Fishing Access offering public access to the Yadkin River for watercraft and fishing; Carter Falls with varying difficulties of hiking trails to the falls; and leases and maintains the 90-acre Lowe's Park at Rivers Edge that has soccer, baseball, and tee-ball fields, basketball and volleyball courts, trails, horseshoes, a picnic area, skate park, and BMX track.

The County has lease agreements with North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro for use of the Town's ballfields at Cub Creek Park and Smoot Park for their baseball and tee-ball leagues. The County also utilizes the fields at the elementary, middle, and high schools for league play. A map of all Town and County parks, as well as a map showing state and federal parks and land, can be found on pages 43 and 44.

According to the *2022 Annual County Health Rankings*, the percentage of Wilkes County Residents with adequate access to locations for physical activity was 65%, close to the North Carolina average of 68%. Individuals who reside in a census block within a half mile of a park or within one mile of a recreational facility in urban areas (3 miles in rural areas) are considered to have adequate access to physical activity. The percentage of Wilkes County adults aged 18 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity is 30%, compared to the state average of 26%. The *2020 North Carolina Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* ranks Wilkes County 21st, of 100 counties, for public access to athletic fields, 48th for access to athletic courts, 26th in trail miles, and 42nd in local park acreage.

Wilkes County has finished developing "The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan". The plan's purpose was to create a community-led vision and a 15-year roadmap to ensure strategic decision making to grow the outdoor economy in Wilkes County and encourage active living.

The Yadkin River Greenway Council (https://www.yadkinrivergreenway.com/home), a non-profit agency based in Wilkes County, has created a greenway that is a natural area between the urban communities of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro where wildlife, vegetation, and streams are preserved and provides transportation, recreation, and exercise opportunities for the community. The Council, established in 1994, opened the first phase of the greenway in May 2002. Since then, 8 greenway trail sections have been established, totaling 8.23 miles. They are Rivers Edge Park (1.95 mi.), Fish Dam Creek (0.54 mi.), Moravian Creek (0.82 mi.), Mulberry Fields (1.86 mi.), Historic Jefferson Turnpike (1.01 mi.), Memorial/Smoot Park (1.16 mi.),

| Parks and Recreation Facilities in Wilkes County |
| --- |
| **Wilkes County Parks** |
| Carter Falls |
| Lowe's Park at Rivers Edge |
| Roaring River Public Fishing Access |
| **Town of North Wilkesboro Parks** |
| Memorial Park |
| Smoot Park |
| **Town of Ronda Parks** |
| North Park |
| Ronda Memorial Park |
| **Town of Wilkesboro Parks** |
| Cub Creek Park |
| Heritage Square Splash Pad |
| Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course |
| School Street Park |
| Westwood Park |
| Wilkesboro Campground |
| **State Parks** |
| Stone Mountain State Park |
| Rendezvous Mountain State Forest |
| **Federal Parks** |
| W. Kerr Scott Reservoir & Dam |
| Blue Ridge Parkway |

Lowe's Trailhead to Cub Creek (0.41 mi.), and Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connector (0.48 mi.). The trails are suitable for walking, hiking, biking, and jogging.  A few of the trails have a river access and one (Mulberry Fields) has a fishing pier.  The Council has plans to eventually extend the greenway approximately 7.1 miles from the WRMC Wellness Center along the Yadkin River to connect to the Fish Dam Creek trail. A map of existing greenway facilities can be found on page 45.

## MerleFest

MerleFest, a 4-day music festival at the Wilkes Community College Campus, brings in over 100 artists and bands that perform on 13 stages. The festival, founded in 1988 in memory of Eddy Merle Watson, son of local bluegrass artist Doc Watson, has about 78,000 attendees each year.

## Faith Fest

This evangelistic festival, held at the Watson Stage on the Wilkes Community College campus, has approximately 10,000 attendees each year to "use worship music and the word of God to unite believers."

## Carolina in the Fall

A relatively new event hosted by the local band The Kruger Brothers, Carolina in the Fall is a music and food festival held in the Carolina West Wireless Community Commons in North Wilkesboro. The festival includes several artists and bands playing live music and features a food truck competition.

## North Wilkesboro Speedway

The North Wilkesboro Speedway, built in 1949, was an official NASCAR track, hosting Winston Cup Races, until it closed in 1996. It recently reopened in the Spring of 2022. In 2021, the Speedway received an allocation from the State budget providing the starting capital for the facility to rebuild the infrastructure and modernize the property to host racing and special events. The speedway hosted a weeklong racing event in May of 2023, culminating with a NASCAR all-star race.

## Wilkesboro Dragway

The Wilkesboro Dragway, opened in 1955, is the oldest dragway in operation in North Carolina. The Dragway was recently purchased in 2021 and is operating with a full calendar of events with drag racing events held each weekend.

# Town and County Parks

**HIGH COUNTRY**
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

This map is not for survey, legal, or excavation use. It is intended for display, reference, and planning purposes only.
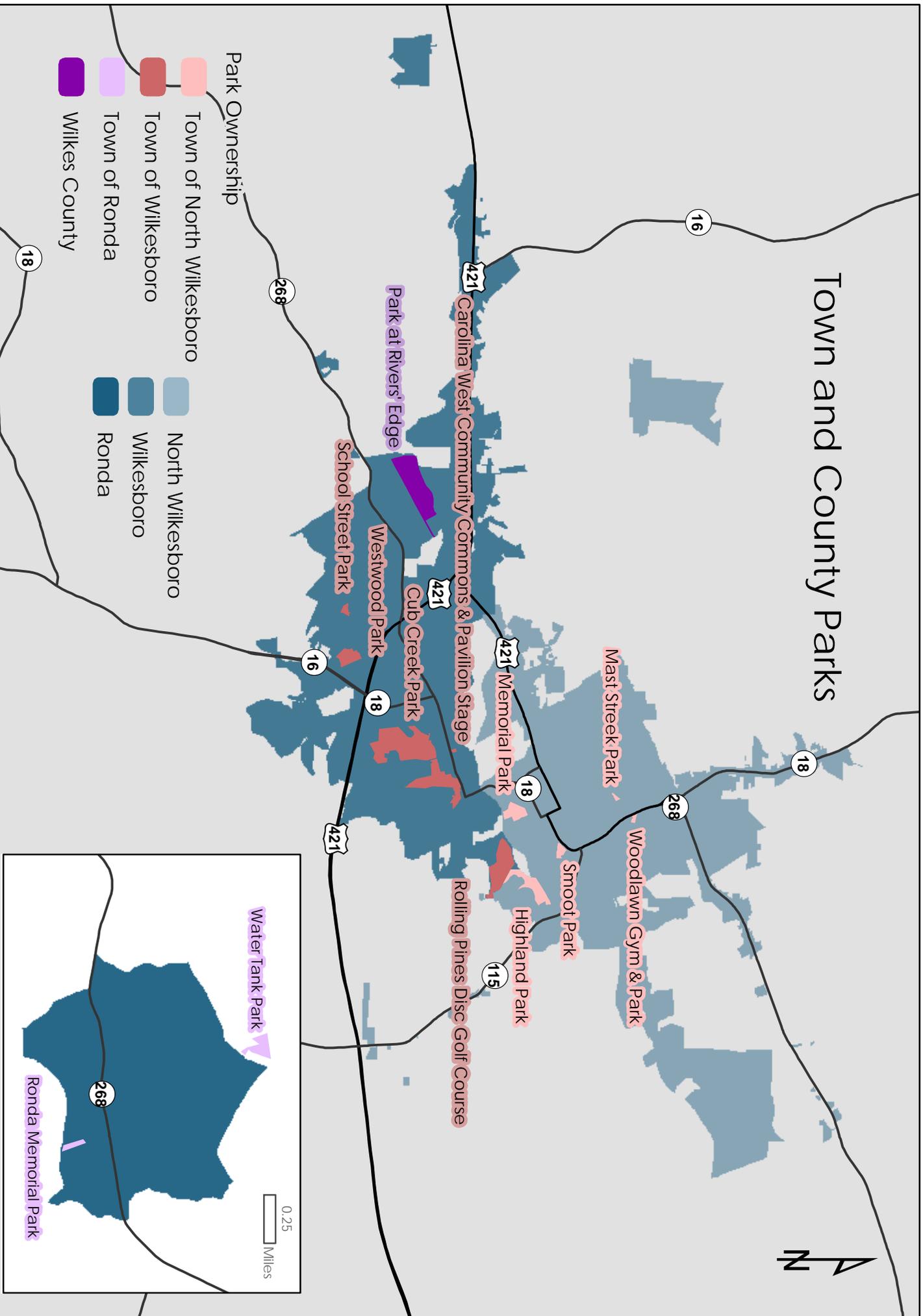
## Park Ownership

Town of North Wilkesboro

Town of Wilkesboro

Town of Ronda

Wilkes County

North Wilkesboro

Wilkesboro

Ronda

Park at Rivers' Edge

Carolina West Community Commons & Pavilion Stage

School Street Park

Westwood Park

Cub Creek Park

Memorial Park

Mast Street Park

Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course

Highland Park

Smoot Park

Woodlawn Gym & Park

Water Tank Park

Ronda Memorial Park

0.25
Miles

1
Mile

N
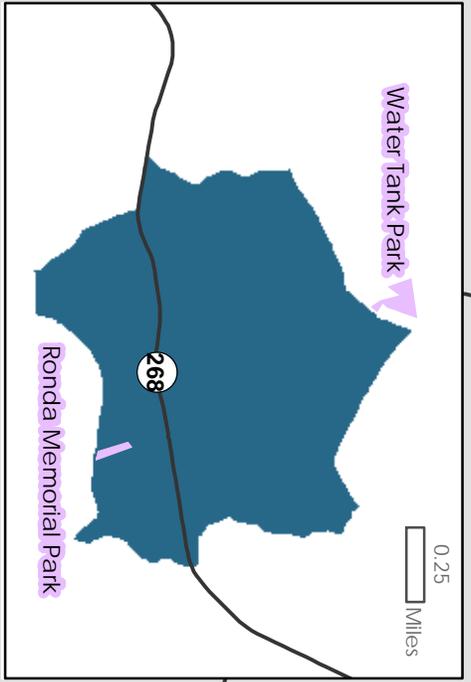
# Wilkes County
## Public Lands and Parks

Blue Ridge Parkway

Rendezvous Mountain State Forest

Blue Ridge Parkway

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir

Buffalo Cove

Rendezvous Mountain State Forest

Thurrmond Chatham

Stone Mountain State Park

421
16
18
268
421
18
18
115
16
18
115
268
21

**Game Lands- 14,536.91 AC**
**State Public Lands - 51,935.22 AC**
**Federal Public Lands - 55,448.22 AC**
**City Limits**

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

N
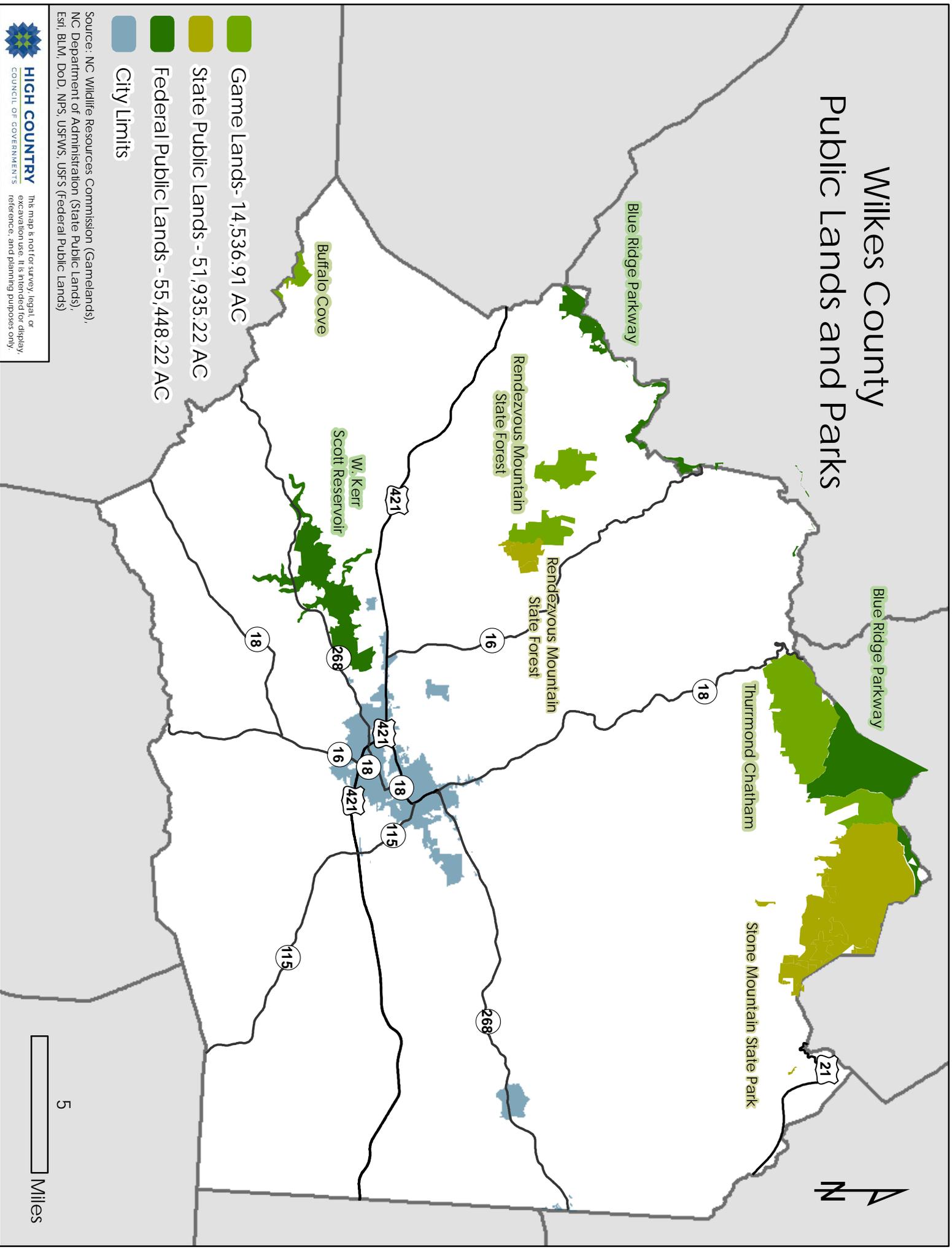
5
Miles

# Yadkin River Greenway

## 8.1 Miles of Greenway Sections
### (As of July 2019)

| Greenway Sections | 911 Color* | Length (mi.) |
|---|---|---|
| River's Edge Park | Blue | 1.95 |
| Fish Dam Creek | Brown | 0.54 |
| Moravian Creek | Gold | 0.81 |
| Mulberry Fields | Green | 1.71 |
| Historic Jefferson Turnpike | Orange | 1.00 |
| Memorial/Smoot Parks | Red | 1.16 |
| Lowe's Trailhead to Cub Creek | Silver | 0.41 |
| Memorial Park to Mulberry Fields Connector | Red/Green | 0.47 |
| Lowes Trailhead to E Main Street Extension - Proposed | | 0.34 |

*In case of emergency, report section color via personal cell phone to 911 dispatcher. Reference section colors on the map or on marked signs along the greenway.

All greenway sections along the Yadkin River are part of the Overmountain Victory Trail.
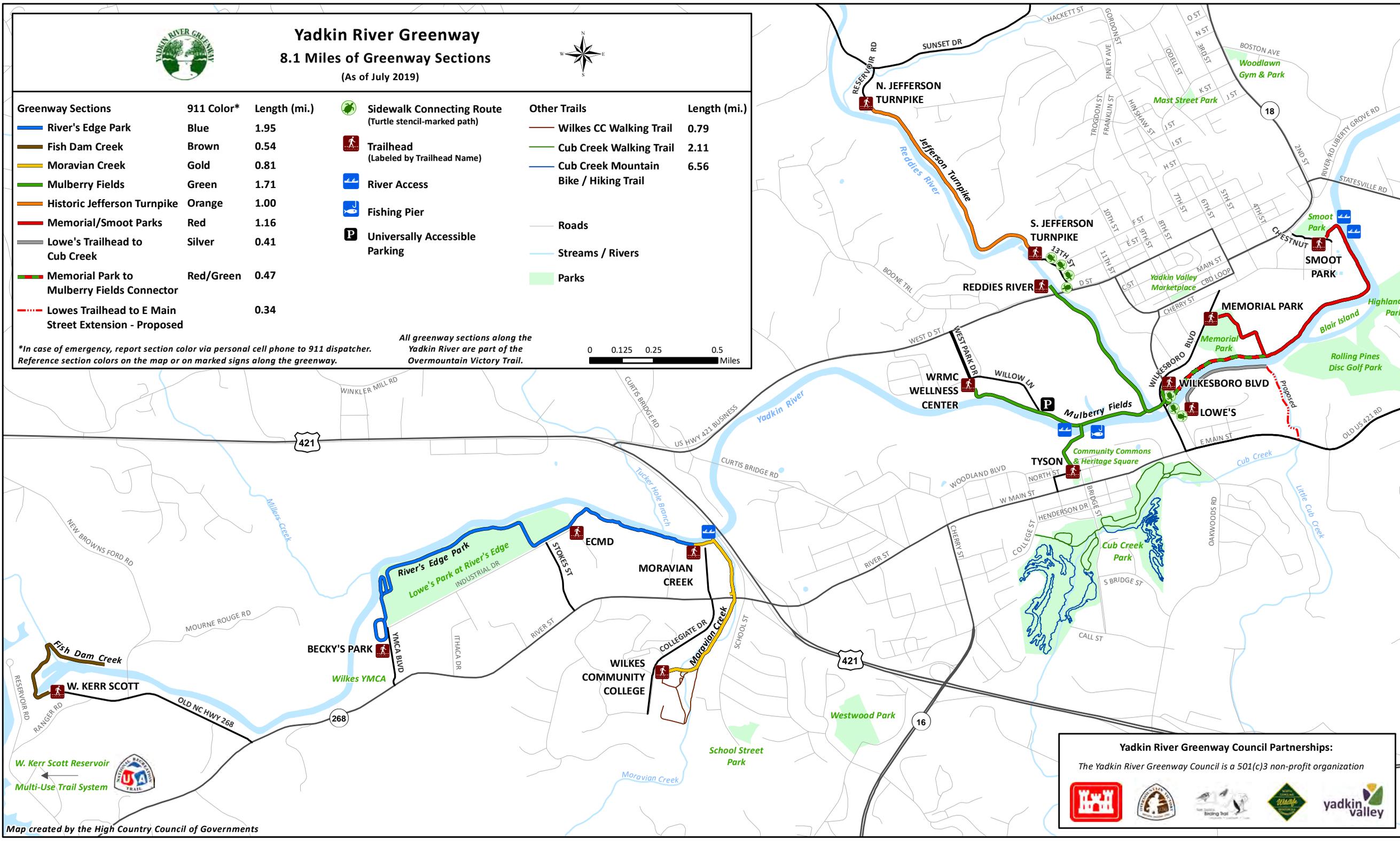
- Sidewalk Connecting Route (Turtle stencil-marked path)
- Trailhead (Labeled by Trailhead Name)
- River Access
- Fishing Pier
- Universally Accessible Parking

| Other Trails | Length (mi.) |
|---|---|
| Wilkes CC Walking Trail | 0.79 |
| Cub Creek Walking Trail | 2.11 |
| Cub Creek Mountain Bike / Hiking Trail | 6.56 |

- Roads
- Streams / Rivers
- Parks

0   0.125   0.25   0.5   Miles

Map created by the High Country Council of Governments

# Natural Resources

## Agriculture

Agriculture comprises a significant portion of Wilkes County's economy and continues to be a key factor in overall growth and land usage. According to the 2017 US Census of Agriculture (most recent data available) from 2007 to 2017 Wilkes County lost 163 farms and 3,760 acres of farmland, however the number of acres of harvested cropland increased by more than 30% from 26,599 acres in 2007 to 34,798 acres in 2017.

Farm operators have been retiring in significant numbers, the primary reason the total number of farms in the County has declined. The average age of growers in the County is 58.2, down from an average of 60 in 2012.

In 2020, according to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Wilkes County ranked number 6 in the State in farm cash receipts for livestock, dairy, and poultry ($230,889,463). The County ranked $2^{nd}$ in the state in the production of Broilers (chicken), $3^{rd}$ in Beef Cows, $4^{th}$ in Beef, all, $4^{th}$ in Milk Cows, and $10^{th}$ in Layers (chicken).

Prime farmland, as defined by the US Department of Agriculture, is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. Generally, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. There are 139,876.46 acres of prime farmland in Wilkes County.

In 2008, the County adopted an ordinance creating the Voluntary Agriculture District Program (VAD) to encourage voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. Participating landowners establish a conservation agreement with the County that prohibits non-farm use or development of their land for at least 10 years. This agreement will continually renew for terms of 3 years as long as the farmland in question qualifies under the terms of the Wilkes County VAD and EVAD Ordinance. In 2022, the County adopted an ordinance creating an Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District (EVAD) and added its provisions to the existing VAD ordinance. The EVAD follows the same procedures, but conservation agreements for land within an EVAD are irrevocable. As of 2023, more than 170 parcels were enrolled in the VAD consisting of 6,551.43 acres. An additional 8 parcels consisting of 645.62 acres were enrolled in the EVAD. A map showing parcels participating in both the VAD and EVAD programs, as well as prime farmland soils in the County, can be found on the following page.

In addition to the VAD and EVAD ordinances, the County also has Farmland Protection Plan, adopted in 2021. The purpose of the plan was to document existing agricultural practices in Wilkes County, as well as expected trends. It includes an overview of agricultural activity in the County including current production, expected trends, and economic impact, among other topics. The plan also includes sections on challenges and strengths as well as opportunities in Wilkes County. It culminates with action steps to ensure a viable agricultural community, as well as a schedule for implementation.

## Forests

Approximately 70% (340,628 acres) of the land in Wilkes County is timberland and forestland. In addition to making an economic contribution to the county of $260 million and supporting 1,062 jobs with payrolls of $64 million, the forest sector provides recreational opportunities for County residents and visitors, flood protection, fish & wildlife habitat, and air filtration.

Per the NC Cooperative Extension Forest Service, in 2020 Wilkes County had a growth over harvest ratio of 3.67 (better than the State ration of 1.80) translating to only 0.17 tons of timber harvested for every 0.61 tons of growth.

# Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Program

**Legend:**
- VAD
- Enhanced VAD - 8 Parcels
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Municipal Boundaries
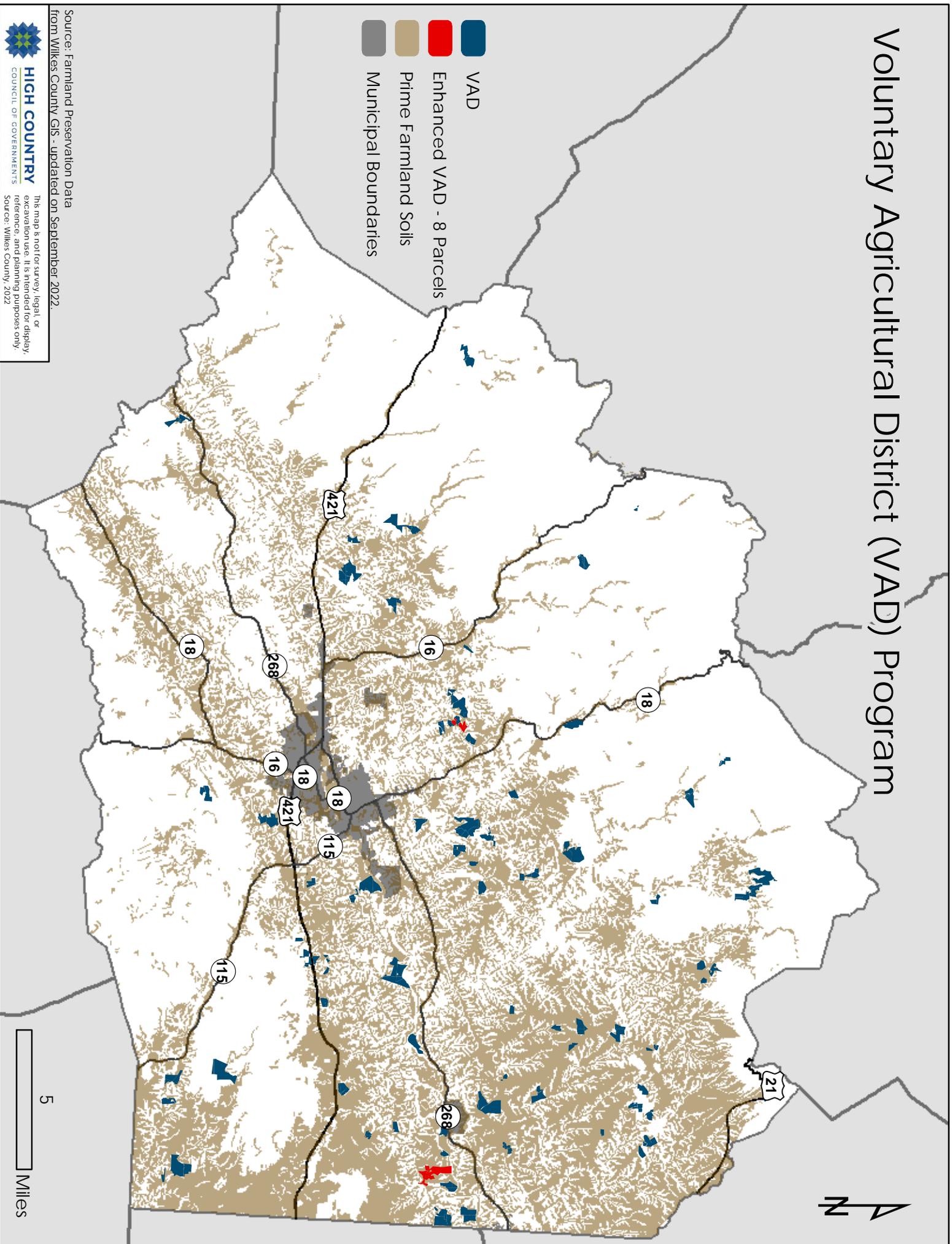
HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

N

5
Miles

421
16
18
268
18
16
18
421
115
115
268
21

# Water Supply and Watersheds

## Surface Water

The NC Division of Water Resources assigns classifications to surface waters (rivers, streams, lakes) in the State. The classifications define the best uses to be protected within these waters, for example, swimming, fishing, or drinking water supply. They also carry with them an associated set of water quality standards to protect those uses. Wastewater discharges and development activities are regulated in watersheds carrying certain surface water classifications, but the classifications do not restrict dam or water supply projects.

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a body of water such as a lake, river, or stream.  It is separated from other watersheds by high points in the area like hills or slopes.  A water supply watershed is an area from which water drains to a point where it is collected and held and then used as a public drinking water source.

There are currently seven water supply watersheds located in Wilkes County.  They are located in portions of Union, Stanton, Lewis Fork, Boomer, Moravian Falls, Reddies River, Mulberry, Traphill, Edwards, New Castle, Somers, and Brushy Mountain Townships. The water supply watersheds in the County cover a total area of 178,793 acres or about 36% of the County (279 square miles).

The Towns of North Wilkesboro, Ronda, and Wilkesboro, as well as Wilkes County, have all adopted Water Supply Watershed Protection Ordinances setting standards for development occurring and to protect the critical environment in their local public water supply watershed areas.

Each water supply watershed has an established critical area, defined as land within one-half mile upstream of a water supply intake. The risk associated with pollution is greater in these areas due to proximity to the water supply intake. Development regulations in critical areas are more stringent than in other areas.

There are five surface water classifications that are assigned based on existing water supply streams. Any stream that serves as a public water supply source is assigned a Water Supply (WS) classification – WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV, or WS-V.  The lower the WS classification, the higher the degree of land use restrictions. The restrictions are intended to protect the water quality of the streams for both aquatic habitat and water supply. A description of all water supply watersheds in Wilkes County, as well as a map showing the location of each, can be found on the following pages.

## Water Supply Watersheds

**Yadkin River – Wilkesboro**
31,216 acres – WS-IV classification; water supply for the Town of Wilkesboro; total watershed is in Wilkes County; 2 dwelling units/acre, 24% built-upon area; density and coverage only apply to projects requiring an erosion control/sediment control plan under State law.

Approximately 173.26 acres of the eastern portion of this watershed is designated a critical area (WS-IV-CA). Further restrictions in the CA include the prohibition of sludge application sites and landfills.

**Reddies River – North Wilkesboro**
59,445.22 acres – WS-II Classification; water supply for the town of North Wilkesboro; a portion of the watershed extends into Ashe and Alleghany Counties; 1 dwelling unit/acre, 12% built-upon area.

Approximately 217.49 acres of the southern portion of this watershed is classified WS-II-CA. Further restrictions include a maximum of 1 dwelling unit/2 acres, 6% built-upon area, and the prohibition of sludge application sites and landfills.

**Yadkin River – Jonesville**
26,025.99 acres – WS-IV Classification; water supply for the Town of Jonesville (Yadkin County); the watershed extends into Wilkes County; 2 dwelling units/acre, 24% built upon area; density and coverage only apply to projects requiring an erosion/sedimentation control plan under State Law.

**Elkin Creek – Elkin**
21,820.56 acres – WS-II Classification; water supply for the Town of Elkin (Surry County); watershed extends into Wilkes County; 1 dwelling unit/acre, 12% built-upon area.

**Hunting Creek – Mocksville**
127,981 acres – WS-III Classification; water supply for the Town of Mocksville (Davie County); watershed extends into Wilkes from Yadkin and Iredell Counties; 2 dwelling units/acre, 24% built-upon area.

**South Yadkin River – Alexander County**
35,615.24 acres -   WS-II Classification; water supply for Alexander County; watershed extends into Wilkes from Alexander County; 1 dwelling unit/acre, 12% built-upon area.

**Little Cub Creek – Wilkesboro**
217.49 acres – WS-I-CA Classification; backup water supply for the Town of Wilkesboro; total watershed is in Wilkes County; agriculture and silviculture are only permitted uses.
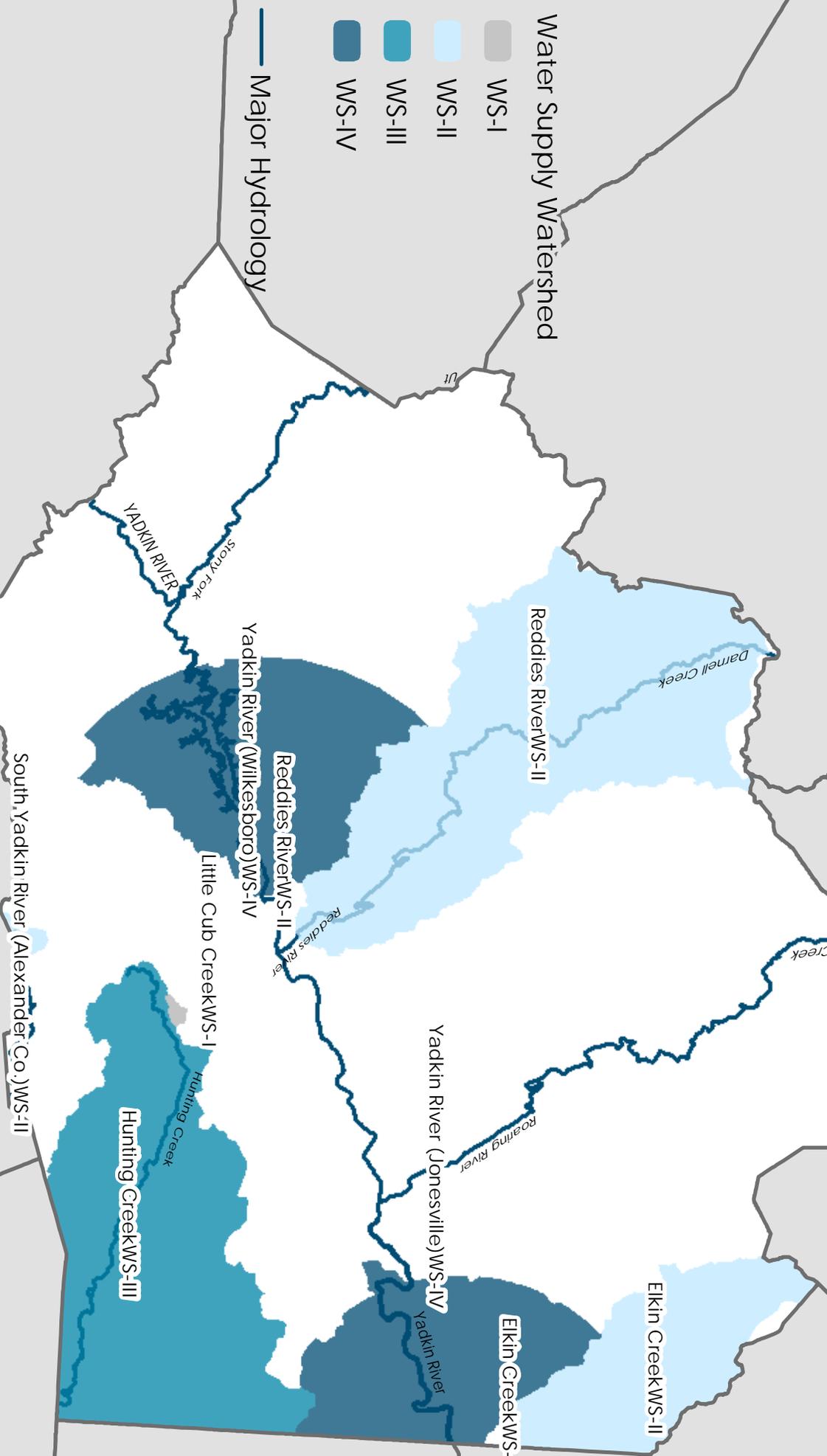
## Large Non-Municipal Water Users

North Carolina General Statues require the registration with the Division of Water Resources of water withdrawals of 100,000 gallons or more per day. In 2021, there was only one registered user in the County, Vulcan Construction Materials' 115 Quarry. The quarry used an average of 580,000 gallons of water per day, operating for 13 days in 2021. The water used was drawn from the quarry itself using a sump pump.

Wilkes County has five rural water associations, serving approximately 35,119 persons, in 12,706 households with public water. Approximately 63% of the population of Wilkes County receives water from a public supply (a municipality or water association). Accordingly, the other 36% (or about 25,543 people) receive their water from private on-site wells. All five water associations purchase water from either the Town of North Wilkesboro or Wilkesboro.

Per the most recent data from the US Geological Survey (USGS), water usage in Wilkes County in 2015 can be broken down into seven categories.  Most of the water usage in Wilkes County can be attributed to the public water supply and domestic self -supplied water (on-site wells) which accounted for 48% of the water usage in the County, with Industrial use a close second at 23%. This is a change from past years where livestock usage was nearly equal to the public and domestic supplied water. Wilkes County still ranks high in poultry and cattle production; however, there has been a continuing reduction in farms and farmland acreage.

# Wilkes County
## Water Supply Watershed



**Water Supply Watershed**

- WS-I
- WS-II
- WS-III
- WS-IV

—— Major Hydrology

YADKIN RIVER

Stony Fork

Ut

Reddies RiverWS-II

Darnell Creek

Yadkin River (Wilkesboro)WS-IV

Reddies RiverWS-II

Reddies River

Basin Creek

Little Cub CreekWS-I

South Yadkin River (Alexander Co.)WS-II

Hunting Creek

Hunting CreekWS-III

Yadkin River (Jonesville)WS-IV

Roaring River

Yadkin River

Elkin CreekWS-II

Elkin CreekWS-II

5 Miles

# Existing Development Regulations

## County

### *Zoning*

The Wilkes County Zoning Ordinance, adopted in November 1977, regulates land development by location and intensity in zoning districts established on the Official Zoning Map. The ordinance has identified nine zoning classifications:

- R-20A                                   Residential/Agricultural
- R- 20, R-15, & R-8                Residential
- R-15R                                  Residential/Resort
- H-B                                      Highway Business
- C-S                                      Community Shopping
- L-I                                        Light Industrial
- H-P                                      Heavy Industrial

In addition to the classifications listed above, the County has also designated a Floodway and Floodway Fringe Overlay district.

The Zoning Ordinance establishes permitted uses, dimensional requirements (lot size, setbacks, building height), and conditional uses within the non-zoning classifications. The Ordinance also sets requirements for signs, parking, and loading areas county-wide.
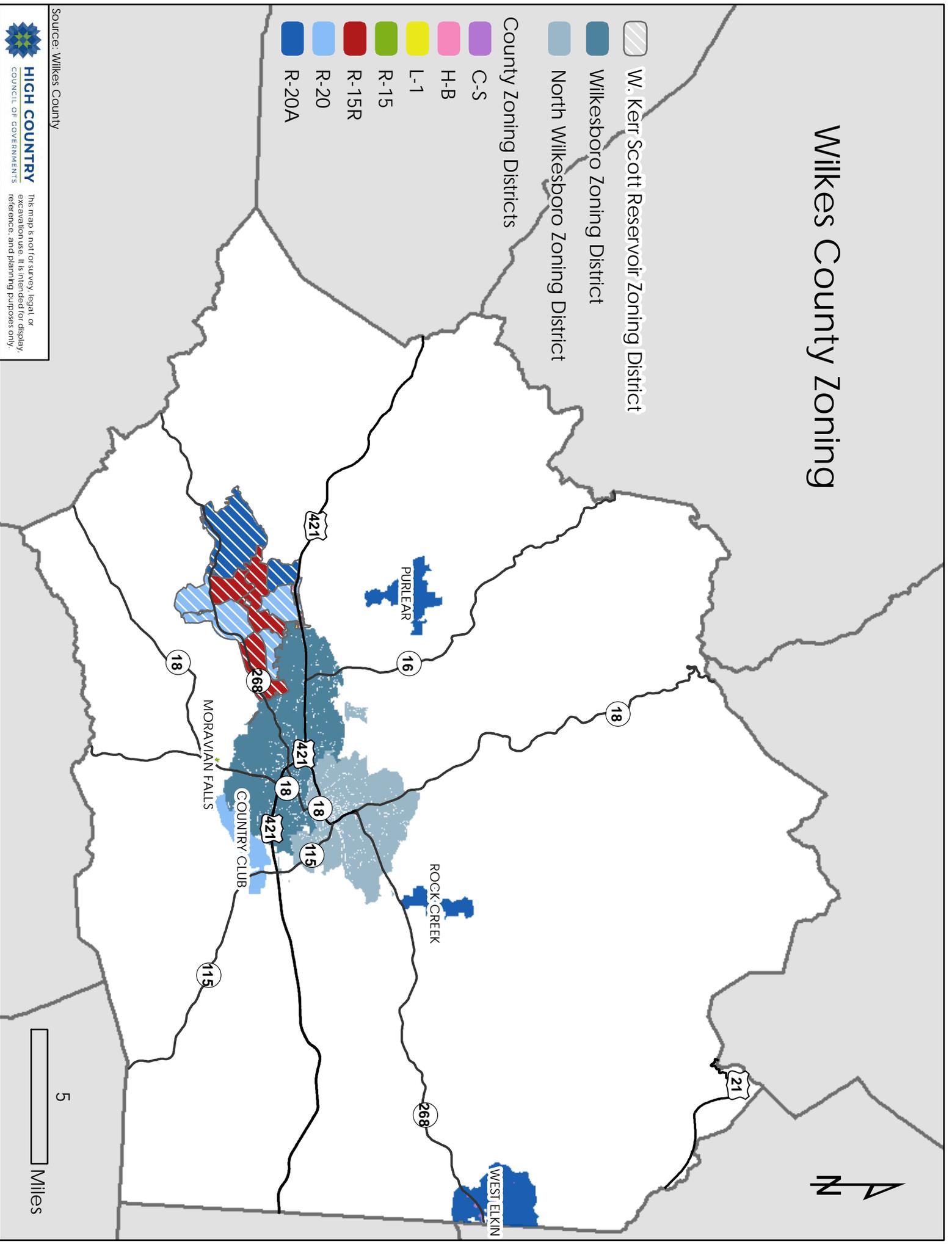
The County currently has six areas that have zoning:

- Purlear Zoning District (2,160 acres, 3.37 sq miles) – R-20A – Residential/Agricultural
- Rock Creek Zoning District (900 ac, 1.4 sq mi) – R-20A – Residential/Agricultural
- West Elkin Zoning District (3,672 ac, 5.73 sq mi) – R-20A – Residential/Agricultural
- Country Club Zoning District (2,073 ac, 3.2 sq mi) – R-20 – Residential
- Moravian Falls Zoning District (83ac, 0.13 sq mi) – R-15 – Residential
- W. Kerr Scott Reservoir (11,442 ac, 17.87 sq mi) – Various Districts

The Moravian Falls and Country Club districts allow only residential development. The Purlear, Rock Creek, and West Elkin districts are primarily residential, but allow small areas of agriculture, home businesses, public facilities (schools, parks, public works), and faith-based facilities (churches, etc.). The W. Kerr Scott Reservoir district allows for a wide variety of different uses depending on location within the district. A map of all zoning in Wilkes County can be found on the following page.

# Wilkes County Zoning

Source: Wilkes County

HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

This map is not for survey, legal, or excavation use. It is intended for display, reference, and planning purposes only.

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Zoning District

Wilkesboro Zoning District

North Wilkesboro Zoning District

County Zoning Districts

C-S
H-B
L-1
R-15
R-15R
R-20
R-20A

PURLEAR

MORAVIAN FALLS

COUNTRY CLUB

ROCK CREEK

WEST ELKIN

421
16
18
268
421
18
18
115
115
268
21
115

5 Miles

N

**Road Naming and Addressing**
The original Wilkes County Road Naming Ordinance was adopted in 1985 with amendments in 2001. In August 2022, a new Ordinance titled Wilkes County Road Naming and Addressing took its place. This ordinance contains both procedural and substantive provisions concerning the naming of private roads and assigning addresses for addressable locations in Wilkes County. The updated 2022 ordinance was necessary to make it clear that campers and/or Recreational Vehicles (RVs) that do not have a state regulated septic system or are part of a County-approved RV park are not eligible to have a 911 address.

**Subdivisions**
Wilkes County adopted its current Subdivision Ordinance in September 2007. The ordinance regulates the development and subdivision of real estate within the County in an effort to ensure legal boundaries, land use, traffic control, stormwater drainage, and emergency access. The ordinance establishes requirements for lot size, street standards, provision of water and sewer, property owners' associations, and promotes the elimination of any unsafe or unsanitary conditions arising from undue population concentrations. In addition to the General Subdivision, the ordinance recognizes the following subcategories: Minor Subdivisions, Family Subdivisions, and Estate Settlement Subdivisions with regulations that may vary from the general category. The Subdivision Ordinance applies to the entire County outside municipal jurisdictions.

**Mobile Home Parks**
The Wilkes County Mobile Home Park Ordinance was adopted in April 1982.  The Ordinance establishes procedures and standards for regulation of mobile homes in the development of mobile home parks within Wilkes County. A mobile home park is defined as a piece of land (minimum of 2 acres) designed and improved to accommodate two or more mobile homes and is licensed as a mobile home park. The ordinance not only creates a licensing mechanism for the parks, but establishes minimum standards for roads, parking, and lot dimensions. The ordinance also requires provision for electric, water, and sewer hookups for each home, lighting, solid waste disposal, and recreation space for the park. There are separate requirements in the ordinance for recreational vehicle (RV) parks.

**Watershed Protection**
Wilkes County adopted the County Watershed Protection Ordinance in December of 1993 and amended the Ordinance in 1998 and 2001. The ordinance regulates types and intensity of development within seven designated water supply watersheds in the County, previously listed on page 48. The watersheds extend at least ten miles upstream from surface water intakes and contain all the area that drains into the water supply source. Classifications are assigned to the watersheds based on current level of development ranging from W-I – natural & undeveloped areas with only low intensity uses allowed to W-IV – higher intensity development allowed with erosion control measures required for new development.  The watersheds also contain critical areas that extend one-half mile upstream of a surface water intake. Development within the critical areas is more restrictive than in the remainder of the watershed.

| Wilkes County Public Supply Watersheds | Classification |
|---|---|
| Yadkin River (Wilkesboro) | WS-IV |
| Reddies River | WS-II |
| Hunting Creek (Portion) | WS-III |
| Yadkin River (Jonesville) | WS-IV |
| Elkin Creek | WS-III |
| South Yadkin River (Alexander Co.) (portion) | WS-II |
| Little Cub Creek | WS-I-CA |

Regulations associated with the Wilkes County Watershed Protection Ordinance consist of density limits (expressed as dwelling units/acres) for single family residential development and limits on built-upon areas for all other development. Certain uses like landfills and hazardous materials storage are prohibited in public water supply watersheds. The ordinance also contains a provision known as the "10/70 Provision" which allows up to 10% of the area in each watershed, excluding critical areas, to be developed at higher densities (up to 70% built-upon areas).

**Noise**
The Wilkes County Noise Ordinance, adopted in June 2000, sets regulations for the creation or existence of certain unreasonably loud or disturbing noise that constitutes a danger and disturbance to the health, safety, welfare, peace, dignity, comfort, and repose of the public. The ordinance establishes some exemptions such as emergencies, on-going business activity, warning devices, special events, properly equipped motor vehicles, lawn equipment, firearms, and fireworks. The ordinance is enforced by the Sheriff's Department and violators may incur monetary penalties of up to $500 a day.

**Wireless Communications**
The County's Wireless Communications Tower Ordinance was adopted in October 2000. The ordinance regulates the siting and construction of wireless communication towers within all areas of Wilkes County, with the exceptions of the municipal jurisdictions. The ordinance encourages the orderly development of wireless communication facilities consistent with the requirements of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 by establishing a permitting process for tower construction with construction standards including maximum height, setbacks, landscaping, color and camouflaging, and lighting. Also noted in the document, for any tower to be constructed within view areas of the Blue Ridge Parkway permission from the National Park Service is required. The ordinance also has a list of nine preferred, preapproved locations identified for wireless communication facilities.

**Flood Damage Prevention**
The Wilkes County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, adopted in 2002, is designed to promote public health, safety, and general welfare. The ordinance minimizes public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by:
1. Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water erosion hazards or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities.

2. Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction.
3. Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation of floodwaters.
4. Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other activities which may increase erosion or flood damage.
5. Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which would unnaturally divert flood waters or may increase flood hazards to other lands.

**High Impact Land Use**
Adopted in 2004, the Wilkes County High Impact Land Use Ordinance establishes criteria relating to high impact land uses, which produce objectionable levels of noise, odors, vibrations, fumes, light, smoke, and/or other impacts on the lands adjacent to them. Regulated uses include asphalt plants, cement mixing facilities, chemical manufacturing, electricity generating facilities, fuel bulk storage facilities, and radio and television broadcast towers. The ordinance allows for the placement of such uses, while maintaining the health, safety, and general welfare standards of established residential and commercial areas in Wilkes County.

**Solid Waste**
The County's Solid Waste Ordinance regulates, in an economically feasible, cost-effective, and environmentally safe manner, the collection, transportation, separation, processing, recycling, and disposal of solid waste, including hazardous waste and medical waste. The ordinance also provides means of abating illegal dump sites; encourages voluntary efforts to monitor and report littering and illegal dumping; and provides for the regulation of junkyards and automobile graveyards.

**On-site Water and Septic (Wilkes County Health Department)**
The Wilkes County Health Department Environmental Health section regulates development through the permitting of on-site water (wells) and septic systems. Properties located outside of a public water and/or sewer service area must obtain valid permits for on-site septic and well placement before a building permit can be issued.

## Municipal

The Towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro have Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances that help manage development within the Town's jurisdiction. The zoning ordinances regulate location and development intensity of land uses, while the Subdivision Ordinances establish procedures and standards regarding the division of land and the construction of infrastructure (streets, waterlines, sewer) that is dedicated to the municipality.

The Town of North Wilkesboro updated their Zoning Ordinance in May of 2021 and modified their Subdivision Ordinance in June 2021.

The Town of Wilkesboro updated their Zoning Ordinance in September 2016 with their Subdivision Ordinance adopted in May 2007.

The Town of Ronda does not currently have Zoning or Subdivision Ordinances. Through an agreement with Wilkes County, County subdivision and mobile home park regulations are enforced within Ronda's corporate limits.

## State

**Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973**
This Act sets the following minimum mandatory requirements for the control of sedimentation pollution caused by land-disturbing activities:

1. No land-disturbing activity in proximity to surface waters without a buffer zone to confine sedimentation.
2. Graded slopes and fills cannot have an angle such as it cannot retain vegetative cover and exposed slopes must be planted within 21 calendar days of completion.
3. When more than one acre of ground will be disturbed, proper sedimentation and erosion control devices and practices must be incorporated to prevent sediment from leaving the site.
4. At least 30 days prior to disturbing more than one acre of land, an erosion control plan must be submitted and approved by the Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Energy, Mineral, & Land Resources.

Exempt from the Act are emergency activities to protect human life; agriculture, silviculture, and mining practices; and wetlands restoration projects, which have to follow Clean Water Act regulations. In addition, the Act allows local governments to establish their own sedimentation and erosion control programs.

**Mountain Ridge Protection Act of 1983**
This Act prohibits the construction of tall buildings or structures of more than 40 feet tall on protected ridges, or those with an elevation of more than 3,000 feet whose elevation is 500 feet or more above the valley floor. Water, radio, telephone, & telephone towers or their equipment; chimneys, flagpoles, spires, steeples, antenna poles, windmills, and buildings on the National Historic Registry are exempt from the regulations of this Act.

In 2013, General Statute 143-215.120(a)(8) was adopted regarding wind energy. This regulation states that the construction or expansion of windmill on a protected ridge must follow the Mountain Ridge Protection act and is no longer an exempt structure.

**North Carolina State Building Code**
Wilkes County Building Inspection Office is authorized by the North Carolina General Statutes to enforce the North Carolina State Building Code. The NC Building Code establishes requirements and restrictions for all buildings and structures including, but not limited to the following: location, height, use after construction, lighting, ventilation, ingress/egress, permitted materials, specifications for chimneys, HVAC installations, electrical systems, plumbing systems and safety issues (fire protection, carbon monoxide alarms).

The Code regulates new construction and existing structures when minor activities performed cost in excess of $20,000 and/or the work includes load bearing structures, increasing the capacity of plumbing or electrical systems, and additional (not replacement) roofing or the building is a public or institutional building. Some exceptions to aspects of the code are certain farm buildings (barns, stables, greenhouses), and primitive camps.

The Town of North Wilkesboro Planning and Inspections Department adopted the NC State Building Code for structures within their jurisdiction. The Towns of Ronda and Wilkesboro are served by the Wilkes County Building Inspections Office for building code and inspections.

**North Carolina Well Construction Act**
Using the North Carolina Well Construction Act, the Wilkes County Health Department regulates the placement and construction of onsite wells for properties outside of a public water service area such as municipalities or established water associations. The Act requires the location, construction, repair, and abandonment of wells, and installation of pumping equipment to conform to reasonable requirements as may be necessary to protect the public welfare, safety, health, and groundwater resources. A permit must be obtained for well construction before it can be drilled or before a building permit can be issued for a structure.

The NC Administrative Code (15A NCAC 02C.0107) expands on the standards of constructing a water supply well for a single-family residence. The section of the code sets the rules for casing type and size, allowable grouts and placement, well screens, and most importantly location of the well. The well may not be located 25 ft from a body of water, public sewer line or out-building; 50ft from a dwelling with a septic tank or underground storage tanks; and 100 ft from an on-site septic tank or wastewater system, chemical storage areas, agricultural areas and barns, or landfills.

The restrictive well placement parameters, enforced with a permitting process beginning in July 2008, can make building or development of a smaller acreages difficult with location options sometimes extremely limited to a small section of the property, that may or may not have the best access to the water table.

**Wastewater systems**

Like wells, the Wilkes County Health Department regulates the installation of on-site septic and wastewater systems to properties with no access to public sewer services. NCGS § 130A-333 outlines the regulations for new on-site wastewater systems and repairs to existing systems. The statute includes the permitting process, property and soil evaluation parameters, size and type of treatment system, placement of the system, and construction/inspection requirements.

New on-site septic systems must be located 100 feet from public or private water supplies, including streams and reservoirs; 50 feet from ponds and lakes; 15 feet from basements and pools; 10 feet from property lines and upslope of a drainage system; and 5 feet from the building foundation. In July 2008, the State of North Carolina began requiring a well placement permit to be issued along with a septic permit before a county building permit could be issued.  Like the well placement parameters, locating an area to install a septic system could become problematic for small acreage building sites.

**Flood Hazard Prevention Act of 2000**

The Flood Hazard Prevention Act of 2000 prohibits construction of solid waste disposal facilities, hazardous waste management facilities, salvage yards, and chemical storage facilities in the 100-year floodplain. The act allows local governments to adopt ordinances regulating land use in flood hazard areas.

The Act allows flood hazard areas to be used for general farming, parking areas, lawns and gardens, golf courses, tennis courts, and other such recreational uses. The Act also allows for acquisition of existing structures located in flood hazard areas as is necessary to prevent damage from flooding.

## Environmental Constraints

Environmental features such as steep slope, flood zones, streams, and wetlands can have a significant effect on development patterns. Steep slopes and flood zones can prevent construction or make it impractical.

Such features are present throughout Wilkes County, with concentrations in different areas. In general, steep slopes are prominent and the northern, western, and southern portions of the County. The County's central and northeastern areas are relatively flat and comprise the bulk of the County's existing development as well as land suitable for development. Flood zones in the County mostly correspond with the Yadkin River and its tributaries. The Yadkin River runs through the center of the County, with offshoots intersecting with the river at various points. A map of these environmental features can be found on the following page.

# Wilkes County
## Steep Slope and Floodplain

**0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500 year)**

- AE, Floodway
- AE (100 year)
- AE, Floodway
- Slope >30%
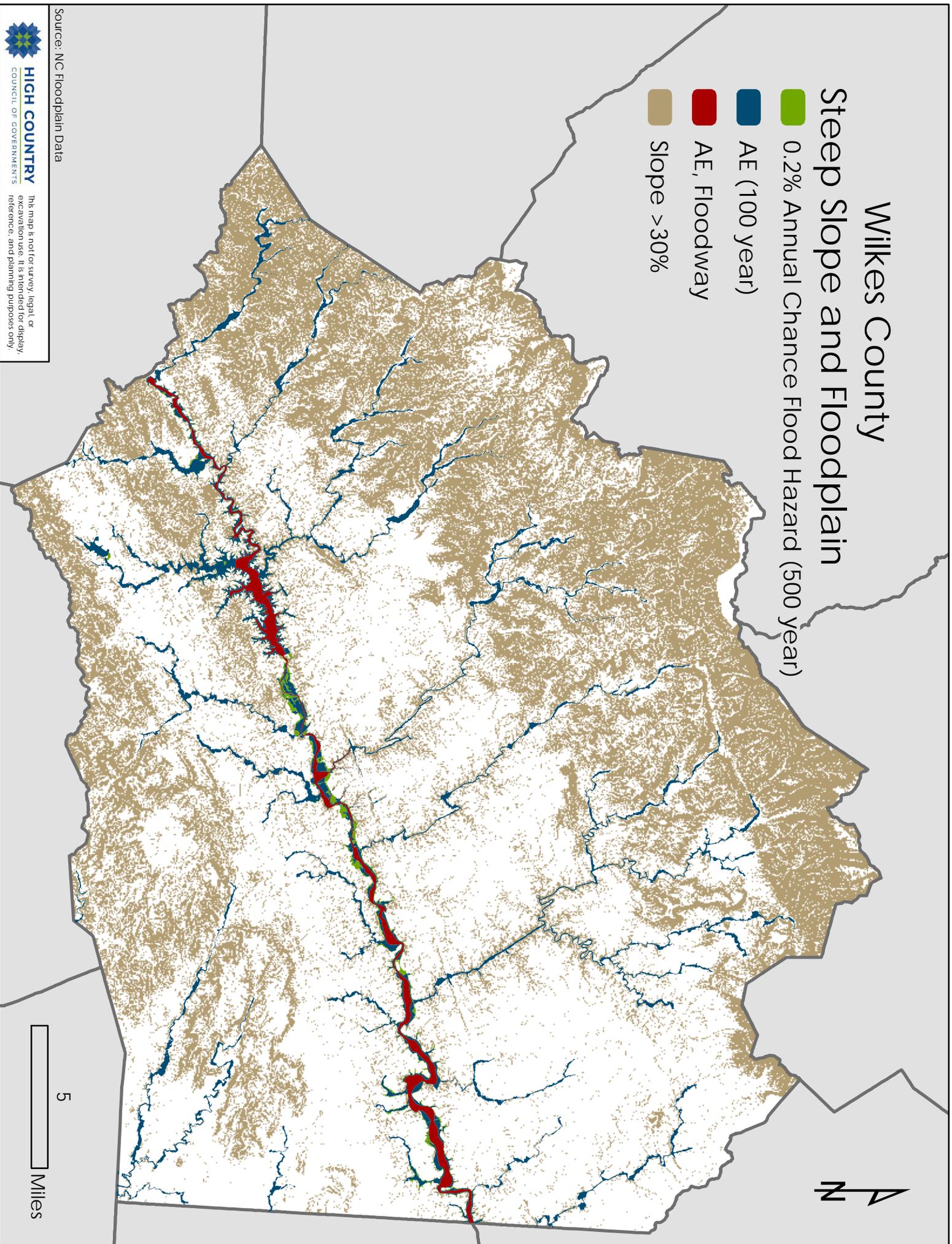
HIGH COUNTRY
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Miles

N

## Public Input

Public input for this plan was gathered via an online survey and interviews with stakeholders. The survey was promoted by various entities in the County beginning in March of 2023, including the Wilkes Economic Development Corporation, the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, the Towns of Wilkesboro, North Wilkesboro, and Ronda, and the County newspaper, the Wilkes Journal-Patriot. 312 responses to the survey were received between March and July of 2023. A summary of these survey responses is shown below. A full summary of all responses can be found in Appendix I.
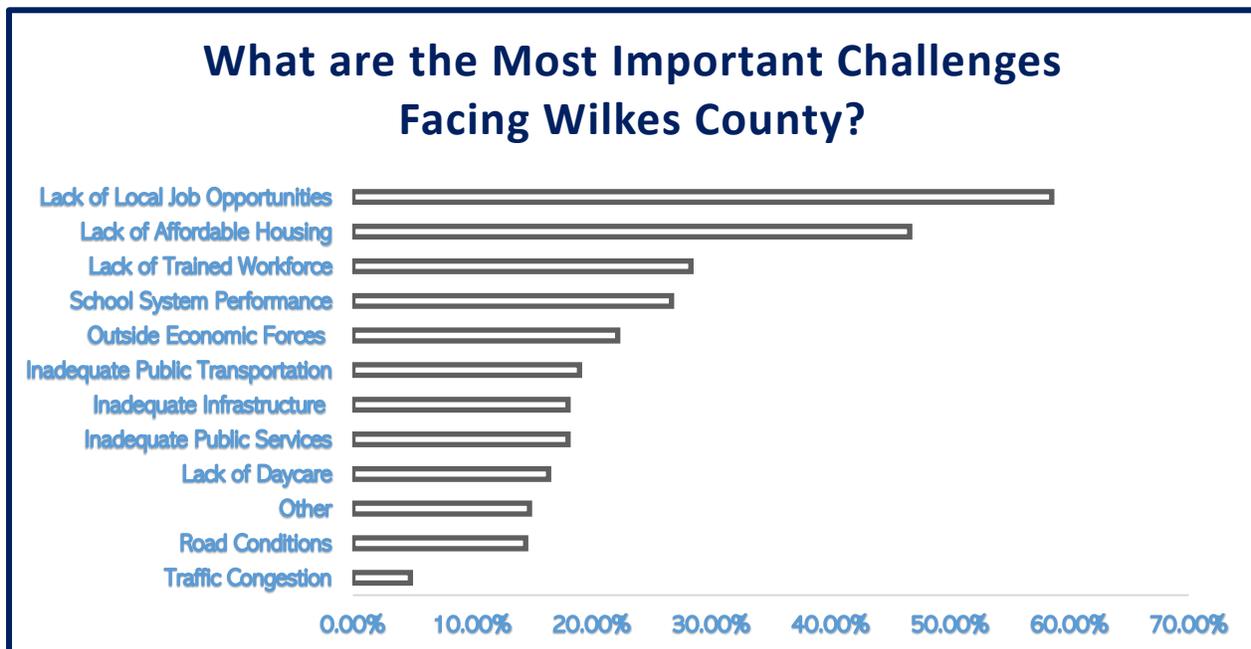
97% of respondents to the survey were residents of Wilkes County. 99% of these were year-round residents and a majority had lived in Wilkes County for 20+ years.
Age groups of respondents were split relatively evenly. The largest number of responses came from the 25-34 age group. The 35-44 and 65+ groups also accounted for a large share of responses.
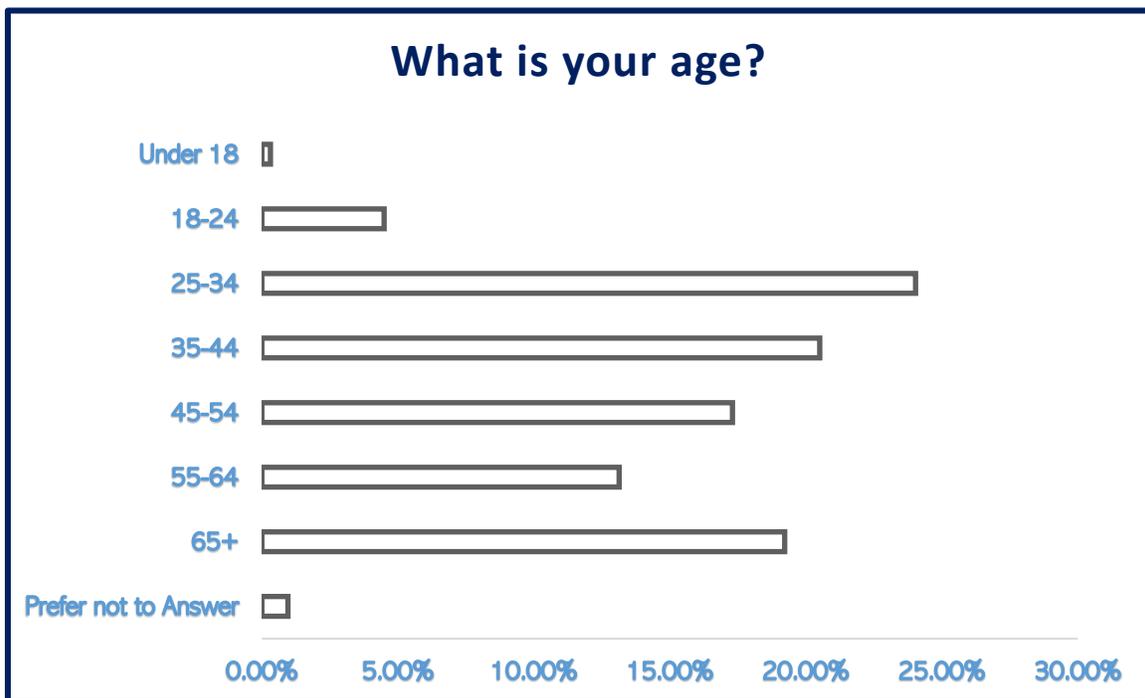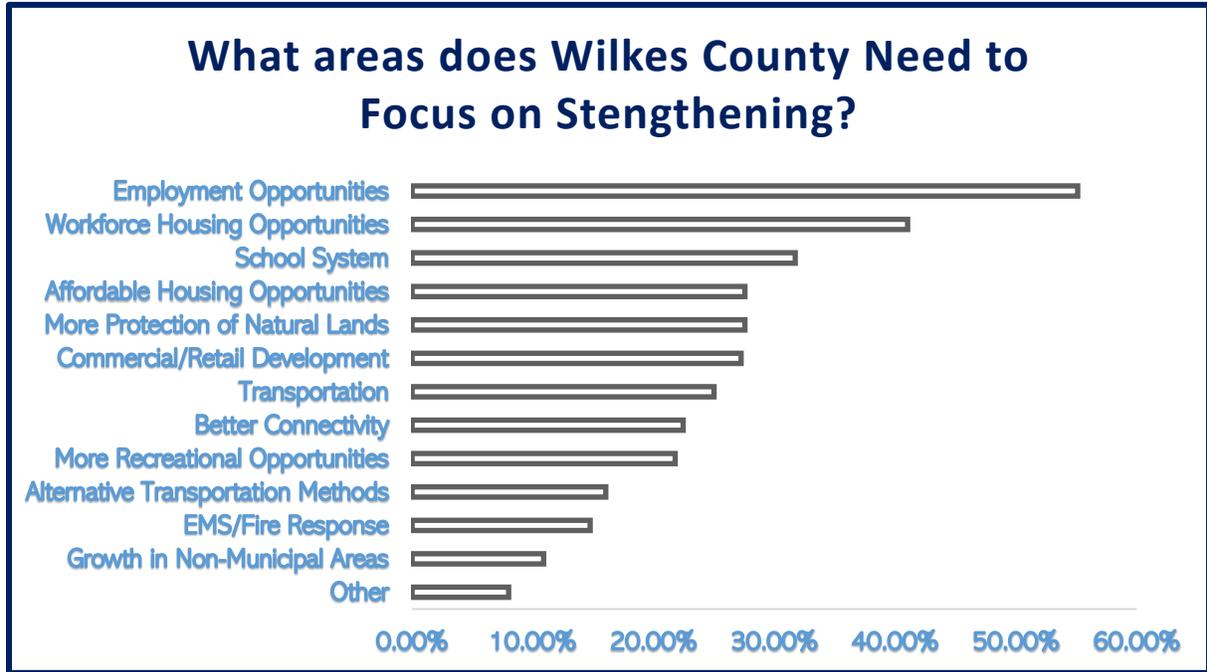
When asked about Wilkes County's greatest strength, rural feeling, proximity to the High Country and municipalities, and cost of living/affordability received the highest number of responses.

## What is Wilkes County's Greatest Strength

| Category | |
|---|---|
| Rural Feeling | ~63% |
| Proximity to High Country and Municipalities | ~52% |
| Cost of Living/affordability | ~42% |
| Parks and Recreation Opportunities | ~37% |
| Community activities/events/festivals | ~35% |
| Other | ~20% |
| Schools | ~19% |
| Broadband Availability | ~17% |
| Shopping/retail opportunities | ~12% |
| Employment opportunities/business climate | ~12% |
| Workforce | ~8% |
| Housing opportunities | ~7% |

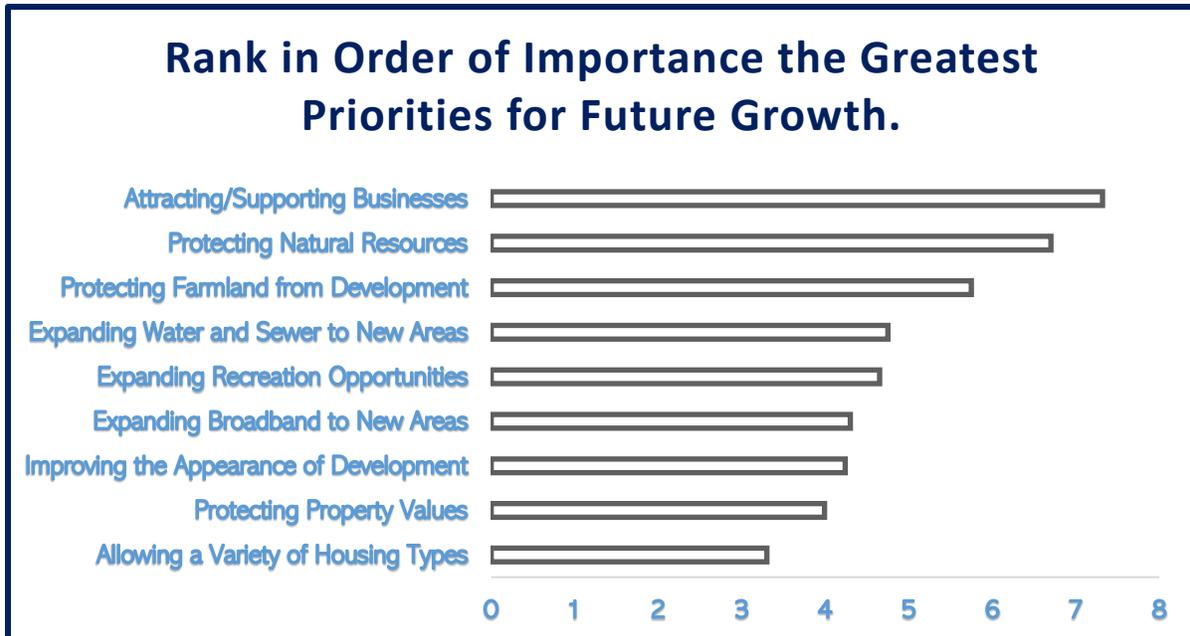(x-axis: 0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00%)

When asked what challenges Wilkes County faces, lack of local job opportunities, lack of affordable housing, lack of trained workforce, and school system performance received the highest number of responses.

## What are the Most Important Challenges Facing Wilkes County?

| Category | |
|---|---|
| Lack of Local Job Opportunities | ~59% |
| Lack of Affordable Housing | ~47% |
| Lack of Trained Workforce | ~29% |
| School System Performance | ~27% |
| Outside Economic Forces | ~22% |
| Inadequate Public Transportation | ~19% |
| Inadequate Infrastructure | ~18% |
| Inadequate Public Services | ~18% |
| Lack of Daycare | ~16% |
| Other | ~15% |
| Road Conditions | ~15% |
| Traffic Congestion | ~5% |

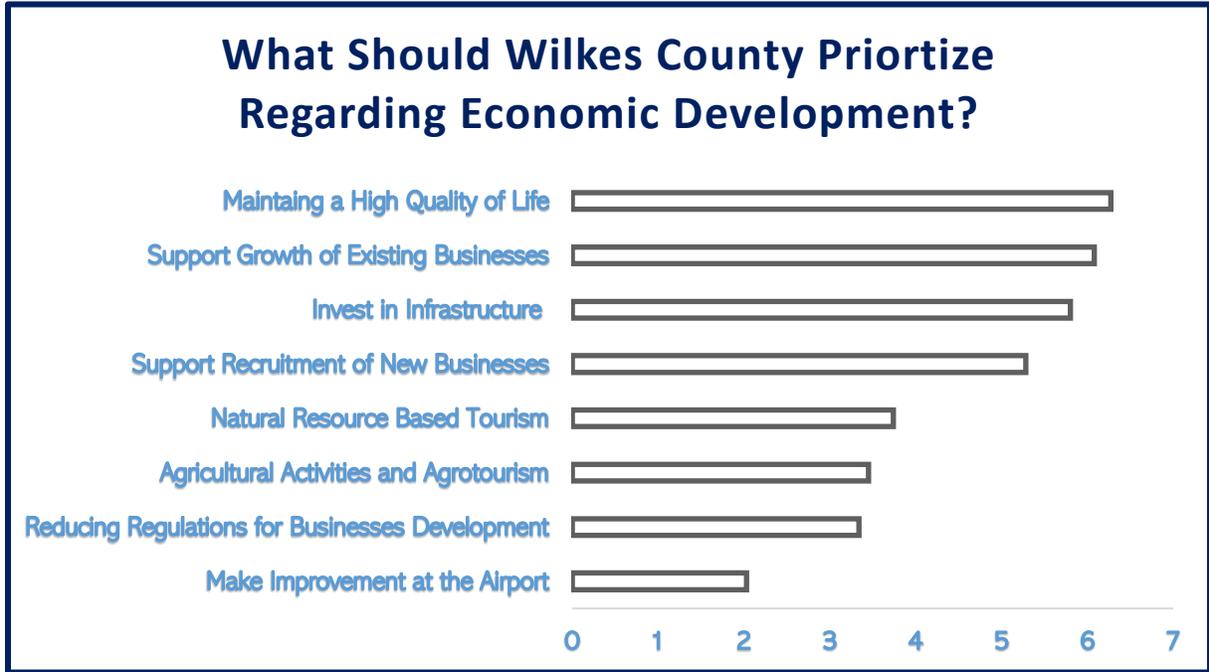(x-axis: 0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00%)

When asked what areas Wilkes County should focus on strengthening, highly rated responses included employment opportunities, workforce housing, affordable housing, the school system, protection of natural land in the County, and commercial/retail development.

## What areas does Wilkes County Need to Focus on Stengthening?

| Category | |
|---|---|
| Employment Opportunities | ~55% |
| Workforce Housing Opportunities | ~40% |
| School System | ~33% |
| Affordable Housing Opportunities | ~28% |
| More Protection of Natural Lands | ~28% |
| Commercial/Retail Development | ~28% |
| Transportation | ~25% |
| Better Connectivity | ~22% |
| More Recreational Opportunities | ~21% |
| Alternative Transportation Methods | ~16% |
| EMS/Fire Response | ~15% |
| Growth in Non-Municipal Areas | ~11% |
| Other | ~8% |

When asked to rank priorities for future growth in order of importance, attracting new businesses, supporting existing businesses, protecting natural resources, protecting farmland from development, and expanding water and sewer to new or underserved areas received the highest rankings.

## Rank in Order of Importance the Greatest Priorities for Future Growth.

| Category | |
|---|---|
| Attracting/Supporting Businesses | ~7.3 |
| Protecting Natural Resources | ~6.5 |
| Protecting Farmland from Development | ~5.7 |
| Expanding Water and Sewer to New Areas | ~4.6 |
| Expanding Recreation Opportunities | ~4.6 |
| Expanding Broadband to New Areas | ~4.2 |
| Improving the Appearance of Development | ~4.2 |
| Protecting Property Values | ~4.0 |
| Allowing a Variety of Housing Types | ~3.3 |

When asked what Wilkes County should prioritize regarding economic development, highly rated responses included maintaining a high quality of life to attract new business investment, supporting growth of existing businesses, investing in infrastructure, and supporting recruitment of new businesses.

## What Should Wilkes County Priortize Regarding Economic Development?

| Category | |
|---|---|
| Maintaing a High Quality of Life | ~6.2 |
| Support Growth of Existing Businesses | ~6.0 |
| Invest in Infrastructure | ~5.7 |
| Support Recruitment of New Businesses | ~5.2 |
| Natural Resource Based Tourism | ~3.7 |
| Agricultural Activities and Agrotourism | ~3.4 |
| Reducing Regulations for Businesses Development | ~3.3 |
| Make Improvement at the Airport | ~2.0 |

(x-axis: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7)

A list of stakeholders for the plan was identified at the beginning of the planning process. This included 29 contacts representing various organizations and agencies throughout the County. These stakeholders were contacted via email with a list of questions related to land use pertaining to their organization. Of the 29 stakeholders who were contacted, 10 responded. The full list of questions and responses from stakeholders can be found in Appendix II.

# Recommendations

Based on meetings with the County's Joint Planning Board, discussions with County staff, and results of the public survey and stakeholder outreach, the following list of recommendations has been compiled.

## Administration

1. Adopt an Interlocal Agreement for a Joint Planning Board.
    a. The current planning board for the County is a joint Board, comprising members from the Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, as well as the County. While NC General statutes allow for the formation of such a board, there is currently no formal establishment for the Board in Wilkes County. Drafting and adopting an interlocal agreement for this Board will ensure that it has formal establishment and authority to meet.
2. Add a section to the Zoning Ordinance that establishes the Planning Board.
    a. In order to codify the Interlocal Agreement for the Joint Planning Board and to ensure that its provisions are easily accessible to citizens as well as Town and County staff, the Zoning Ordinance should be amended to add a section which details establishment, membership, terms, powers, and duties of the Joint Planning Board.
3. Amend Zoning Ordinance Article XI to show appointment of Board of Adjustment by the Planning Board.
    a. The Wilkes County Board of Adjustment is currently appointed by the Planning Board, however the County Zoning Ordinance states that this authority belongs to the County Commissioners. The Zoning Ordinance should be amended so that it is consistent with current Board of Adjustment appointment procedures.
4. Align all ordinances to ensure that special use/conditional use permit authority is solely the responsibility of the Board of Adjustment.
    a. NC General Statutes state that decisions regarding conditional/special use permits are quasi-judicial decisions. Quasi-judicial decisions must be based on competent, substantial evidence, and must include written findings of fact on which decisions are made. Given the specific procedural requirements for the proceedings, it is recommended that special/conditional use permit authority should reside only with the Board of Adjustment. Currently this authority belongs to different boards across different ordinances.
5. Align all ordinances to ensure that variance and appeal procedures are solely the responsibility of the Board of Adjustment.
    a. Like recommendation number 4, NC General Statutes state that decisions on variances and appeals are quasi-judicial. Authority for this currently varies across ordinances.

6. Maintain current, searchable, digital versions of all county ordinances on the County's website.
   a. For ease of staff and public access, all County ordinances should be posted online in a searchable, user-friendly format.

7. Align existing zoning districts to parcel boundaries, roads, streams, or other logical boundaries.
   a. Several County zoning districts have boundaries which do not correspond with property lines. Many properties on the edges of these districts are located only partially in a zoning district, causing ambiguity and uncertainty with regard to their allowed uses. To avoid confusion and ensure that zoning district boundaries are clear, the County should amend the Zoning Map to ensure that properties are either fully in or out of a zoning district.

## Ordinances

8. Revise all ordinances to modernize language and correct errors.
   a. Many County ordinances currently contain either outdated language or grammatical errors. These errors should be identified and corrected.

9. Revise all ordinances for compliance with NC General Statute 160D requirements.
   a. Some policies, procedures, and references in County ordinances are not in compliance with NC General Statute 160D due to updates to that statute since the ordinances were written and adopted. Those ordinances or sections not in compliance should be identified and updated.

10. Add page numbers to all ordinances.
    a. Some County ordinances do not contain page numbers. For ease of use, page numbers should be added to all County ordinances which do not currently have them.

11. Revise County Zoning Ordinance to include:
    a. Correction of grammatical errors.
    b. Updates to outdated language.
    c. Addition of a table of permitted uses.
    d. Removal of Section 89 from the Ordinance, accompanied with a Zoning map amendment to remove the F-W and F-F districts.
    e. Incorporation of past amendments to the Ordinance that are not currently in the main document including:
       i. Amendments from the Watershed Protection Ordinance
       ii. Amendments from Wireless Communication Tower Ordinance
       iii. Amendments from Airport Height Restrictions Ordinance

12. Ensure Mobile Home Park Ordinance and mobile home park standards in Zoning Ordinance do not conflict.
    a. The County currently has a Mobile Home Park Ordinance in addition to mobile home park standards in its Zoning Ordinance. Many of the provisions and

standards in these ordinances conflict, such as minimum lot size and setback requirements. To avoid confusion and ensure that there is a definitive set of standards for mobile home parks, the County should identify which standards they prefer and remove the others from their ordinances.

13. Ensure Subdivision Ordinance regulations do not conflict with Zoning Ordinance regulations.
    a. The County has a Subdivision Ordinance containing development standards which conflict with the County Zoning Ordinance. These include conflicting definitions, as well as property line setback requirements for certain types of development. The County should ensure that these standards align.

14. Amend the High Impact Land Use Ordinance to include:
    a. Requirements for decommissioning of abandoned facilities
    b. A reference to the County's Solid Waste Ordinance, to indicate that the authority for County removal of abandoned facilities comes from that Ordinance.
    c. A definition of "cement mixing facility".
    d. Revise Article II, Section 1.D. to include "Electricity Generating, Transfer, and Storage Facilities".
    e. Definition of "Electricity Transfer Facility"
    f. Definition of "Electricity Storage Facility"

15. Amend Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to include:
    a. Changing the Ordinance title to indicate that it has been adopted and is now the Wilkes County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.
    b. Addition of language from Zoning Ordinance section 89 including:
        i. 89.3 (b) – Flood Fringe prohibited uses
        ii. 89.4 (c) – Floodway prohibited uses
        iii. 89.5 – Bridges, Culverts, and Other Channeling Devices
        iv. 89.7 – Planned Unit Developments

The County currently has flood damage prevention standards in its Zoning Ordinance as well as a standalone Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. These Ordinances contain conflicting standards for floodplain and floodway development, most notably in their definitions of flood hazard areas and required height above Base Flood Elevation for construction. It is recommended that the County amend the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance as outlined above, and subsequently remove flood standards and districts from its Zoning Ordinance (as seen in recommendation 11. D).

16. Promote/support the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District (EVAD) programs.
    a. Voluntary and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts are a non-regulatory method of farmland preservation. Respondents to the public survey for this plan heavily indicated a desire for preservation of agricultural land as well as the County's rural landscape. The VAD and EVAD programs are a method of achieving this preservation.

17. Combine current development regulations into a Unified Development Ordinance for administrative efficiency and public accessibility.
    a. A Unified Development Ordinance is a method of consolidating all of a local jurisdiction's development ordinances into one document. It is particularly useful and beneficial for staff working with the ordinances on a regular basis. It allows for all ordinances to be grouped together in one convenient place rather than being separate and scattered, where it may be difficult for staff, developers, or the public to access.
    b. Wilkes County has nine individual ordinances regulating land development. Many of these ordinances require review and amendments, as shown in this list of recommendations. Once all necessary updates and changes to these ordinances have been made, the County should begin the process of consolidating all development ordinances into a single Unified Development Ordinance.

## Infrastructure

18. Construct new interchange on US 421 to serve Speedway.
    a. The restoration of the North Wilkesboro Speedway will result in increased traffic and events in the area. This will likely cause strain on the existing infrastructure around the speedway, which is not currently suited for holding large scale events. The County should request funding and construction of this project from NCDOT.
19. Pursue US 421 Interstate designation.
    a. US Highway 421 runs through Wilkes County and continues East to Winston-Salem. It is a 4-lane divided highway that is suited for interstate designation in the future. This designation would be beneficial to the County for economic development purposes. The County should pursue avenues for obtaining this designation.
20. Develop Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Recreation
    a. The County should develop a comprehensive systemwide plan for parks and recreation in order to inventory current assets, gauge community wants and needs, and to plan for the future.
    b. A comprehensive parks and recreation plan will aid the County in securing funds for parks and recreation improvements in the future. The plan will be particularly useful when applying to North Carolina's Parks and Recreation Trust Fund competitive grant program, where communities with comprehensive plans gain a considerable advantage in scoring.
21. Take appropriate County involvement in infrastructure projects that support economic and community development.
22. Implement the Wilkes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
23. Develop additional Yadkin River accesses for EMS and recreational use.
    a. Current accesses to the Yadkin River for both EMS and recreational use are very limited and often become inundated with recreational users. Wilkes County EMS has the capability for swift water rescue, but has difficulty deploying on days when the River is busy due to the number of recreational users at River access

points. To enhance river access for both EMS and recreational users, it is recommended that additional accesses to the Yadkin River be developed.

24. Take available opportunities to improve housing conditions for residents and increase availability of "workforce housing".
    a. Apply for State and Federal funding.
    b. Consider support to BROC's housing weatherization efforts as requested.

25. Remove excess sediment from W Kerr Scott Reservoir.
    a. Sediment build up from the Yadkin River and streams which flow into the W Kerr Scott Reservoir has become problematic in recent years. The amount of sediment currently in the Reservoir has substantially decreased its conservation storage capacity as well as its flood storage capacity, leading to increased risk of flooding. In order to restore the capacity of the Reservoir, it is recommended that the County pursue means to remove excess sediment.

# Appendix I – Public Survey Results

# Q1 What is your residency status?

Answered: 294     Skipped: 0
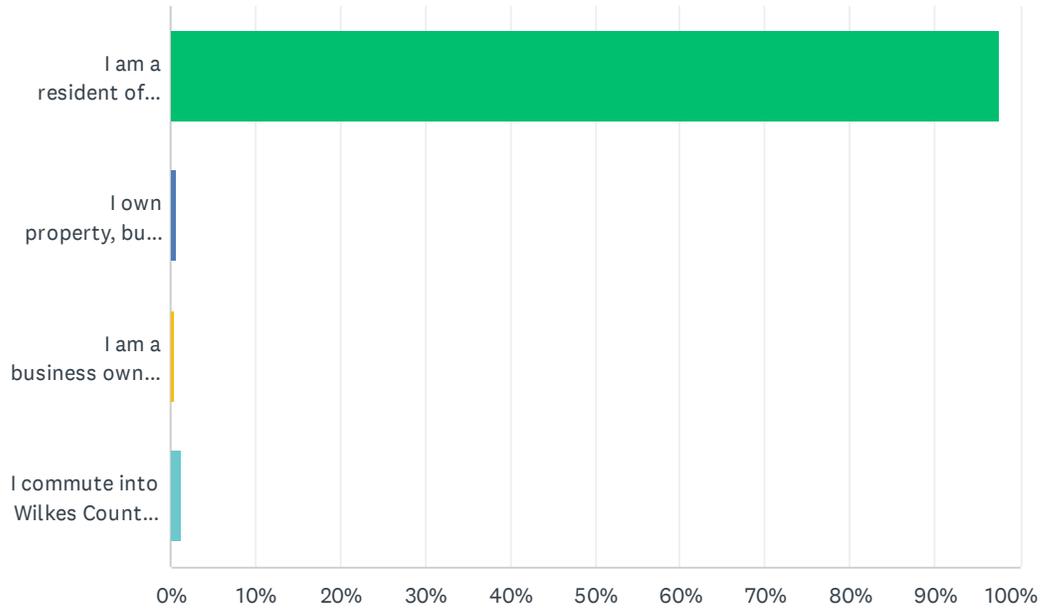


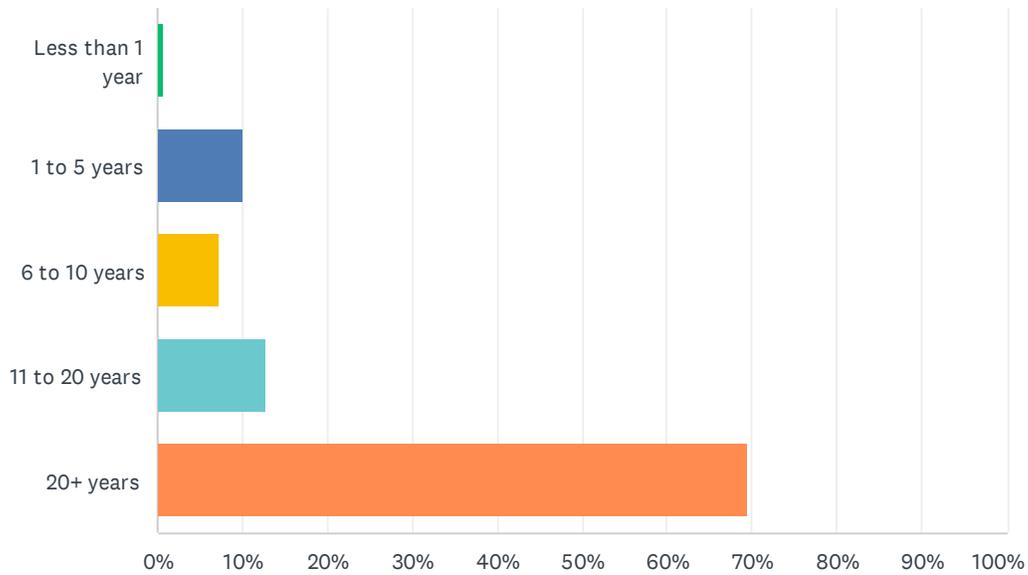| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| I am a resident of Wilkes County. | 97.62% | 287 |
| I own property, but do not live in Wilkes County | 0.68% | 2 |
| I am a business owner in Wilkes County, but do not live here. | 0.34% | 1 |
| I commute into Wilkes County for work. | 1.36% | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 294 |

# Q2 Are you a year-round or seasonal resident?

Answered: 292    Skipped: 2
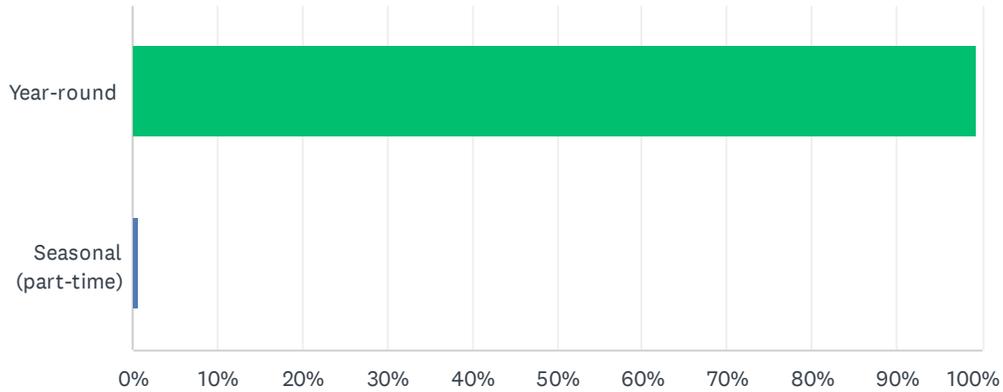


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Year-round | 99.32% | 290 |
| Seasonal (part-time) | 0.68% | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 292 |

# Q3 If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Wilkes County?

Answered: 291    Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|----------------|-----------|------|
| Less than 1 year | 0.69% | 2 |
| 1 to 5 years | 9.97% | 29 |
| 6 to 10 years | 7.22% | 21 |
| 11 to 20 years | 12.71% | 37 |
| 20+ years | 69.42% | 202 |
| TOTAL | | 291 |

# Q4 Do you rent or own your home?

Answered: 290    Skipped: 4
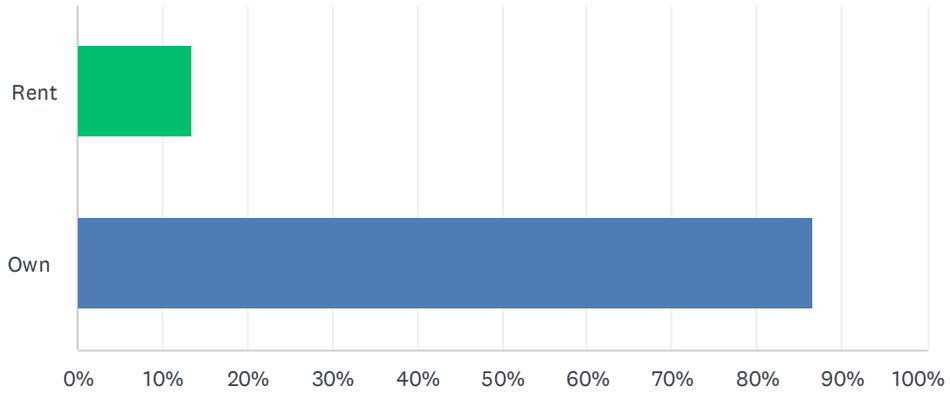


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Rent | 13.45% | 39 |
| Own | 86.55% | 251 |
| TOTAL | | 290 |

# Q5 Where in Wilkes County do you live?

Answered: 289    Skipped: 5
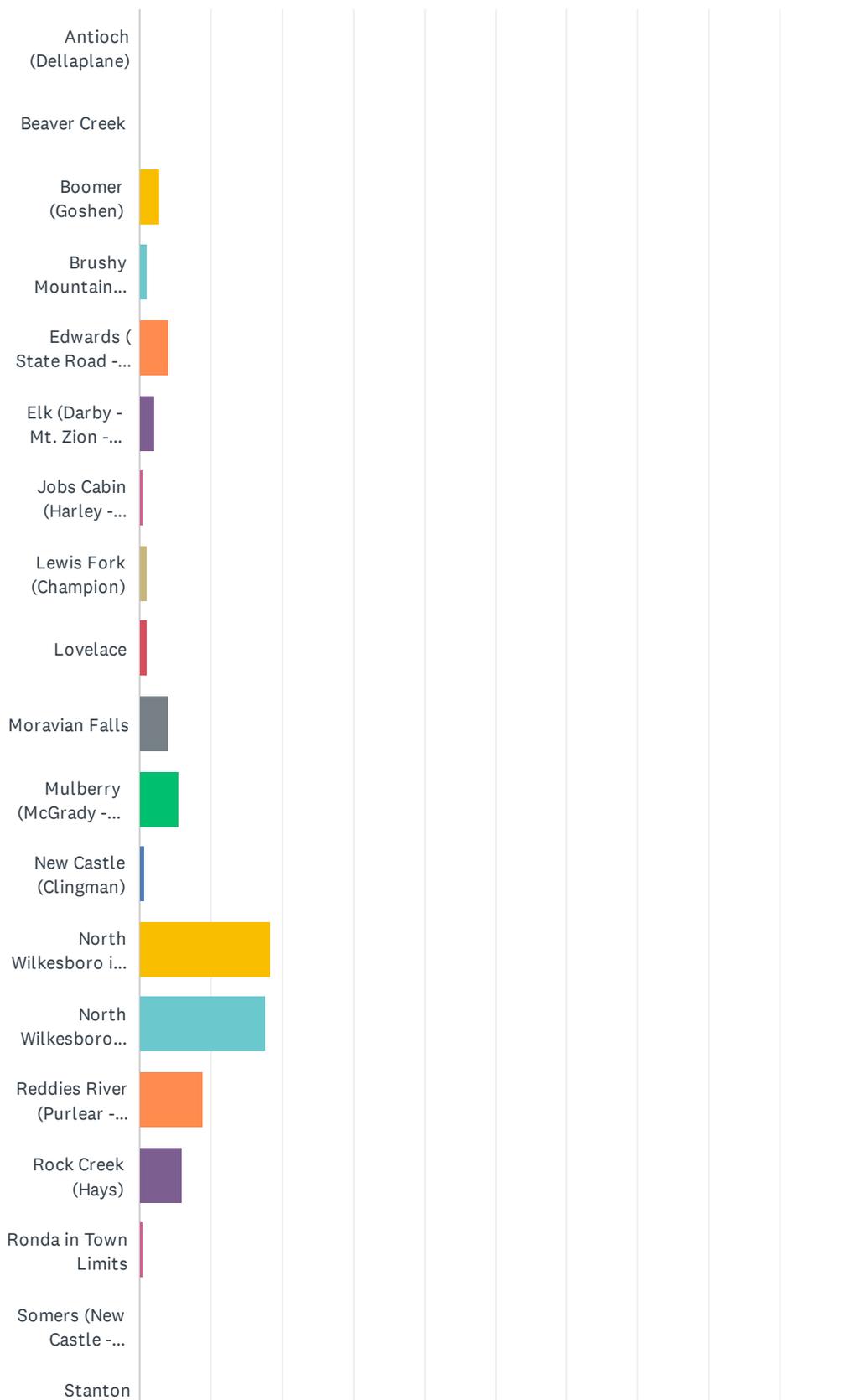


Antioch (Dellaplane)

Beaver Creek

Boomer (Goshen)

Brushy Mountain...

Edwards ( State Road -...

Elk (Darby - Mt. Zion -...

Jobs Cabin (Harley -...

Lewis Fork (Champion)

Lovelace

Moravian Falls

Mulberry (McGrady -...

New Castle (Clingman)

North Wilkesboro i...

North Wilkesboro...

Reddies River (Purlear -...

Rock Creek (Hays)

Ronda in Town Limits

Somers (New Castle -...

Stanton
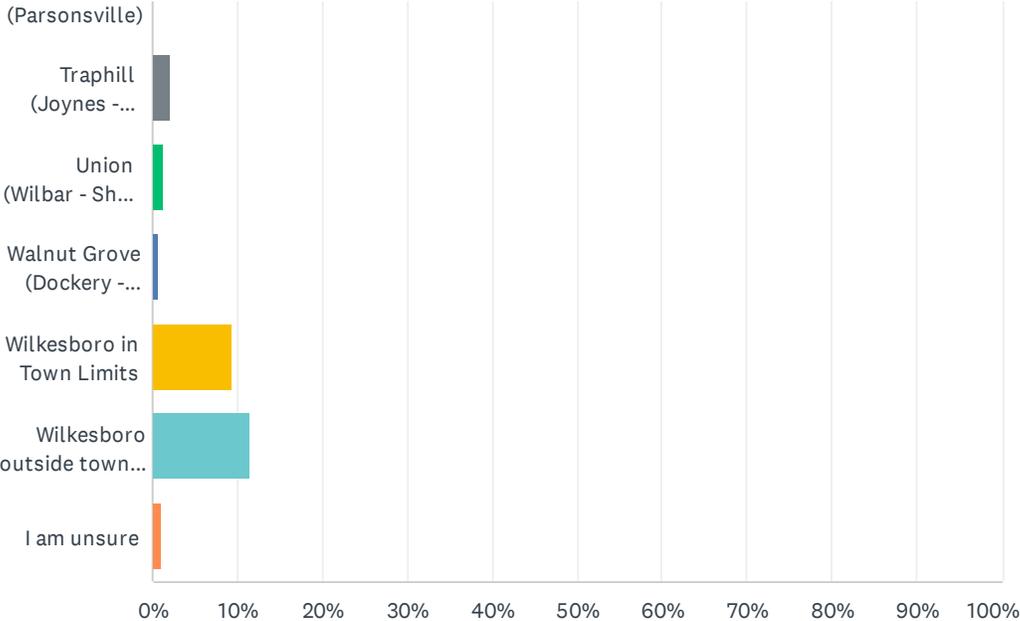
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Antioch  (Dellaplane) | 0.00% | 0 |
| Beaver Creek | 0.00% | 0 |
| Boomer  (Goshen) | 2.77% | 8 |
| Brushy Mountain  (Gilreath) | 1.04% | 3 |
| Edwards  ( State Road - Lomax - Benham - Pleasant Hill - Roaring River) | 4.15% | 12 |
| Elk  (Darby  -  Mt. Zion - Hendrix -  Ferguson) | 2.08% | 6 |
| Jobs Cabin  (Harley - Patton Ridge - Summit -  Maple Springs) | 0.35% | 1 |
| Lewis Fork  (Champion) | 1.04% | 3 |
| Lovelace | 1.04% | 3 |
| Moravian Falls | 4.15% | 12 |
| Mulberry  (McGrady - Mertie - Halls Mill) | 5.54% | 16 |
| New Castle   (Clingman) | 0.69% | 2 |
| North Wilkesboro in Town Limits | 18.34% | 53 |
| North Wilkesboro outside town limits  (Fairplains - Cricket) | 17.65% | 51 |
| Reddies River   (Purlear - Millers Creek - Buck - Congo) | 9.00% | 26 |
| Rock Creek   (Hays) | 5.88% | 17 |
| Ronda in Town Limits | 0.35% | 1 |
| Somers  (New Castle - Osbornville) | 0.00% | 0 |
| Stanton   (Parsonsville) | 0.00% | 0 |
| Traphill    (Joynes - Austin -  Thurmond - Doughton) | 2.08% | 6 |
| Union   (Wilbar - Shoe - Daylo - Vannoy - Sherman) | 1.38% | 4 |
| Walnut Grove   (Dockery - Moxley - Radical - Springfield) | 0.69% | 2 |
| Wilkesboro in Town Limits | 9.34% | 27 |
| Wilkesboro outside town limits   (Call - Oakwoods) | 11.42% | 33 |
| I am unsure | 1.04% | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 289 |

# Q6 What brought you to Wilkes County? (select all that apply)
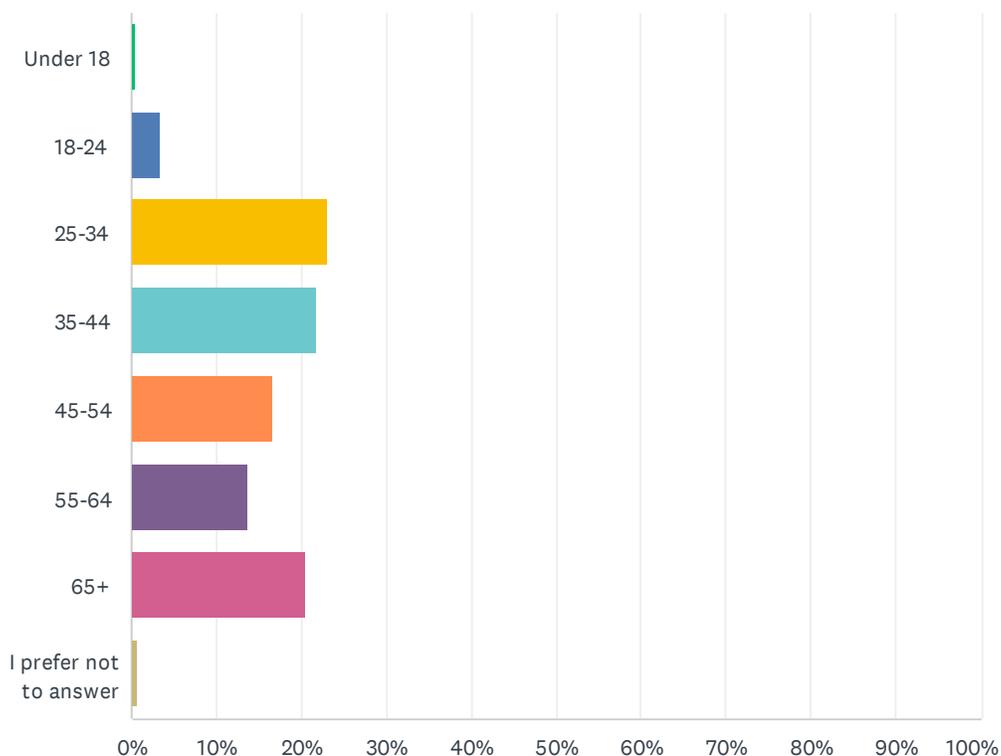
Answered: 294    Skipped: 0
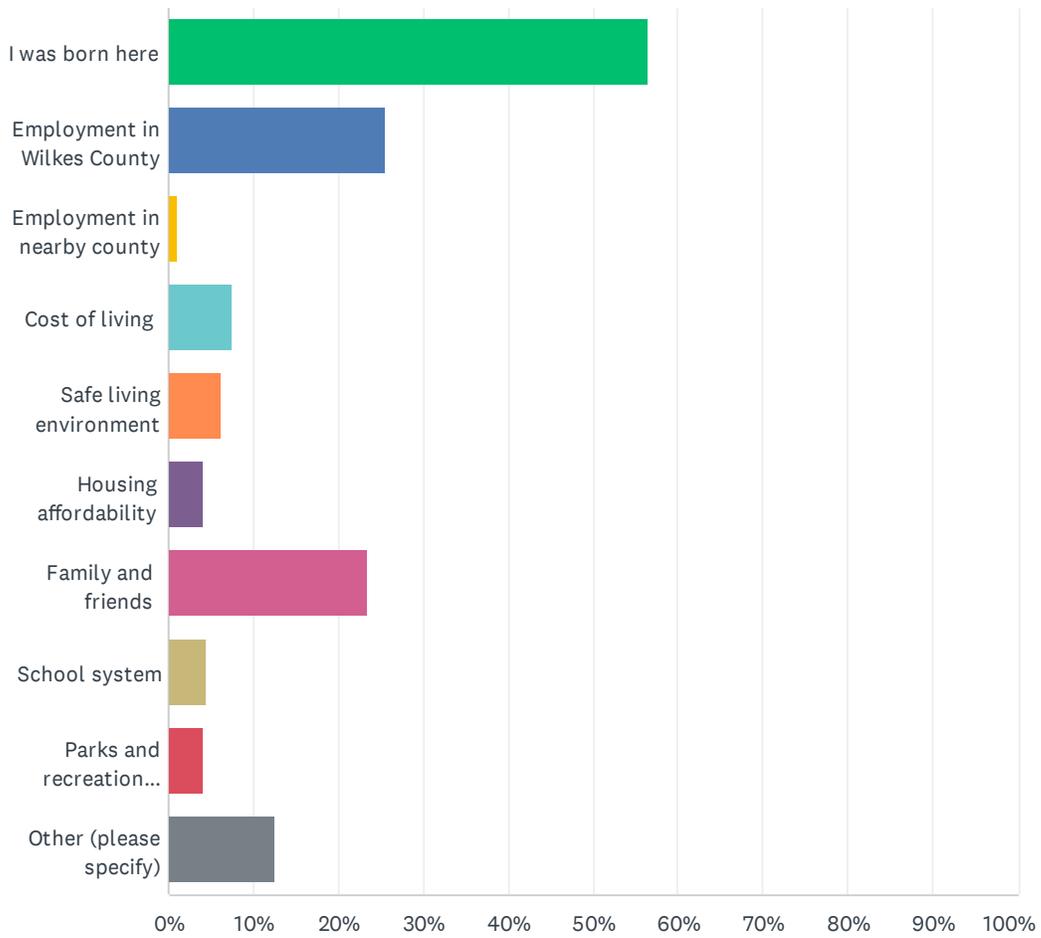
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| I was born here | 56.46% | 166 |
| Employment in Wilkes County | 25.51% | 75 |
| Employment in nearby county | 1.02% | 3 |
| Cost of living | 7.48% | 22 |
| Safe living environment | 6.12% | 18 |
| Housing affordability | 4.08% | 12 |
| Family and friends | 23.47% | 69 |
| School system | 4.42% | 13 |
| Parks and recreation opportunities | 4.08% | 12 |
| Other (please specify) | 12.59% | 37 |
| Total Respondents: 294 | | |

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|

## Q7 What is your age?

Answered: 294     Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Under 18 | 0.34% | 1 |
| 18-24 | 3.40% | 10 |
| 25-34 | 23.13% | 68 |
| 35-44 | 21.77% | 64 |
| 45-54 | 16.67% | 49 |
| 55-64 | 13.61% | 40 |
| 65+ | 20.41% | 60 |
| I prefer not to answer | 0.68% | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 294 |

# Q8 Where do you work?

Answered: 294     Skipped: 0
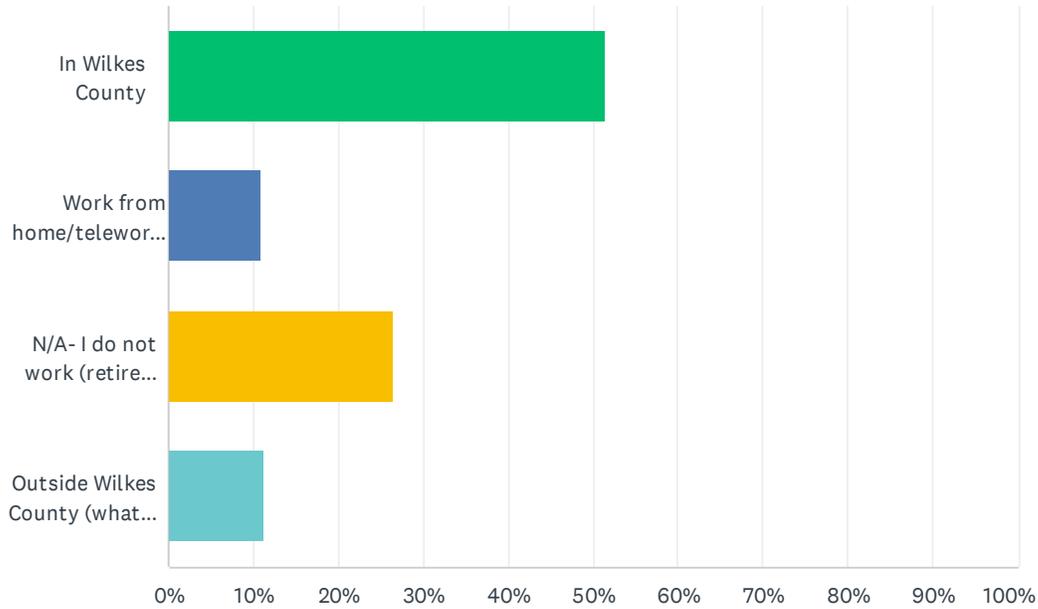


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| In Wilkes County | 51.36% | 151 |
| Work from home/telework in Wilkes County | 10.88% | 32 |
| N/A- I do not work (retired, unemployed, etc.) | 26.53% | 78 |
| Outside Wilkes County (what County?) | 11.22% | 33 |
| TOTAL | | 294 |

# Q9 I am:

Answered: 294    Skipped: 0
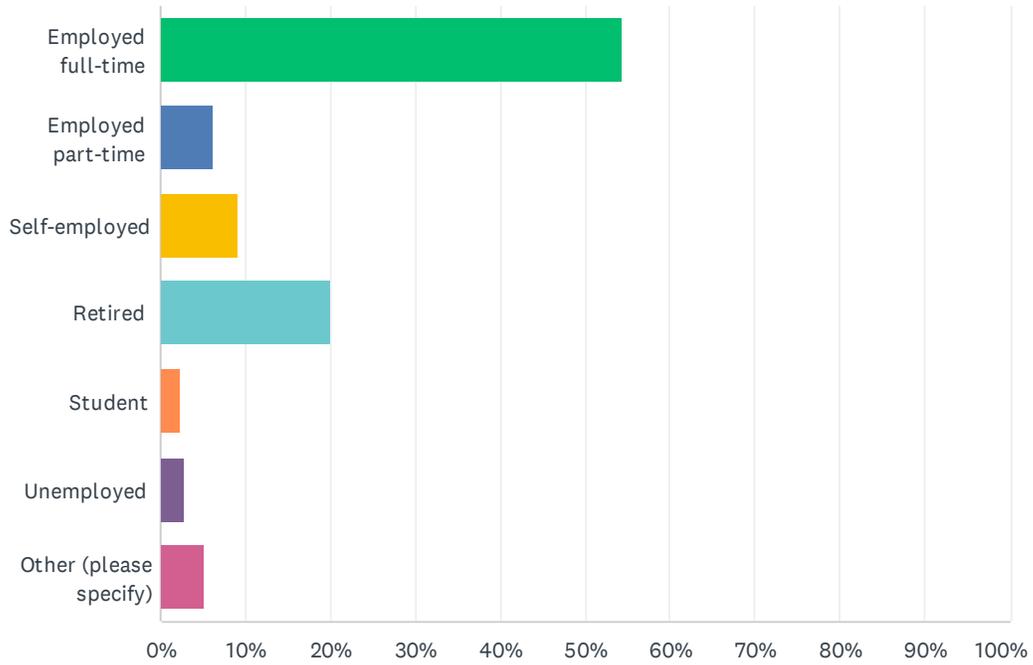


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Employed full-time | 54.42% | 160 |
| Employed part-time | 6.12% | 18 |
| Self-employed | 9.18% | 27 |
| Retired | 20.07% | 59 |
| Student | 2.38% | 7 |
| Unemployed | 2.72% | 8 |
| Other (please specify) | 5.10% | 15 |
| TOTAL | | 294 |

# Q10 What is Wilkes County's Greatest Strength? (Select up to 3)

Answered: 291    Skipped: 3
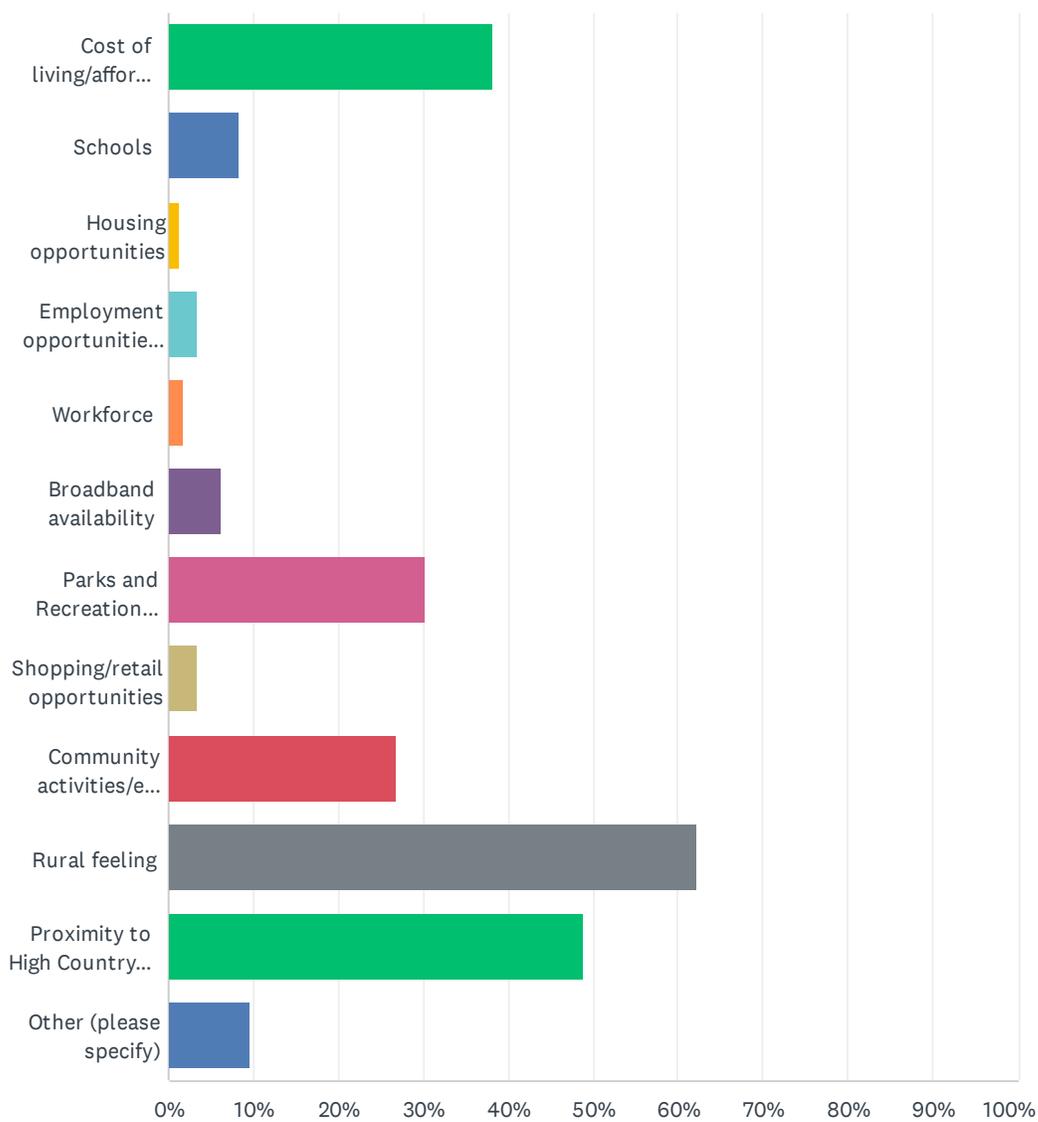
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Cost of living/affordability | 38.14% | 111 |
| Schools | 8.25% | 24 |
| Housing opportunities | 1.37% | 4 |
| Employment opportunities/ business climate | 3.44% | 10 |
| Workforce | 1.72% | 5 |
| Broadband availability | 6.19% | 18 |
| Parks and Recreation opportunities | 30.24% | 88 |
| Shopping/retail opportunities | 3.44% | 10 |
| Community activities/events/festivals | 26.80% | 78 |
| Rural feeling | 62.20% | 181 |
| Proximity to High Country, Winston-Salem, Hickory, etc. | 48.80% | 142 |
| Other (please specify) | 9.62% | 28 |
| Total Respondents: 291 | | |

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|

# Q11 Rank in order of importance the greatest priorities when looking forward at Wilkes County's future growth?

Answered: 292    Skipped: 2
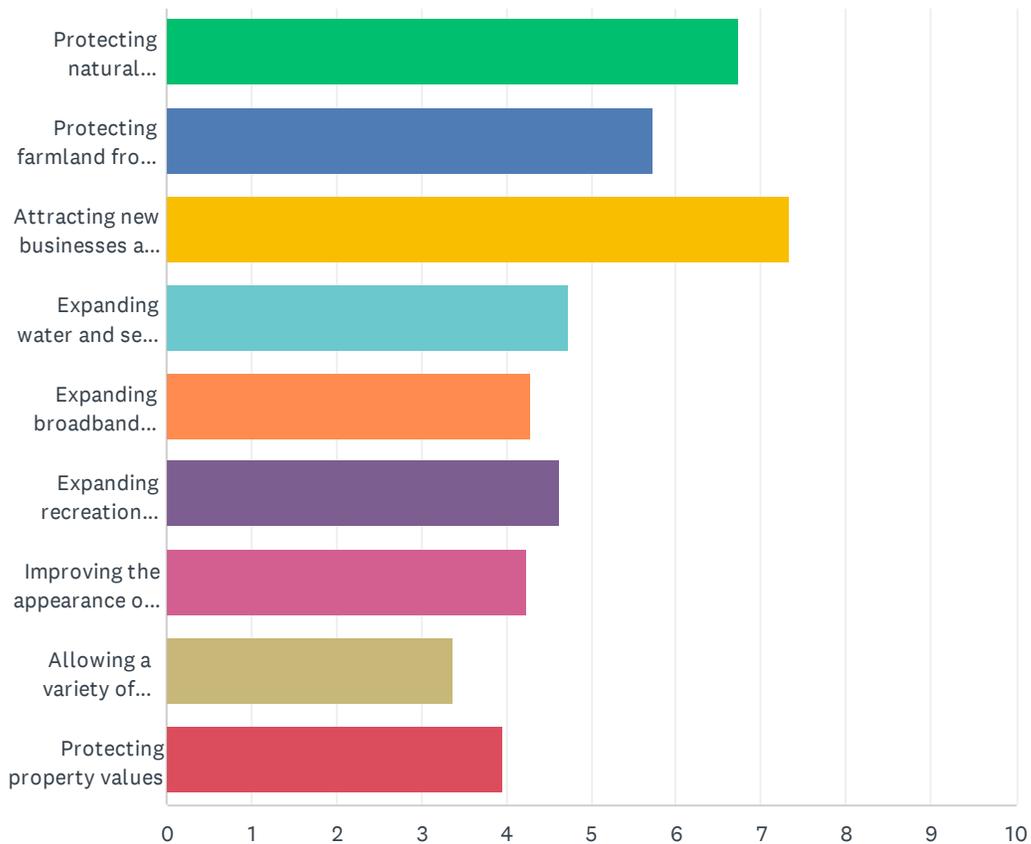
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | TOTAL | SCORE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Protecting natural resources | 27.74% 81 | 18.15% 53 | 16.10% 47 | 10.96% 32 | 8.56% 25 | 7.88% 23 | 5.82% 17 | 3.42% 10 | 1.37% 4 | 292 | 6.73 |
| Protecting farmland from development | 13.01% 38 | 21.58% 63 | 10.62% 31 | 13.01% 38 | 7.88% 23 | 10.96% 32 | 7.53% 22 | 9.59% 28 | 5.82% 17 | 292 | 5.73 |
| Attracting new businesses and supporting existing businesses | 33.56% 98 | 22.26% 65 | 17.47% 51 | 10.96% 32 | 8.22% 24 | 4.11% 12 | 0.68% 2 | 2.40% 7 | 0.34% 1 | 292 | 7.33 |
| Expanding water and sewer utilities to new areas or underserved areas | 5.14% 15 | 7.88% 23 | 10.62% 31 | 16.44% 48 | 13.01% 38 | 11.64% 34 | 16.44% 48 | 12.33% 36 | 6.51% 19 | 292 | 4.74 |
| Expanding broadband internet service to new areas or underserved areas | 2.74% 8 | 4.45% 13 | 8.22% 24 | 12.67% 37 | 18.49% 54 | 16.44% 48 | 11.30% 33 | 16.10% 47 | 9.59% 28 | 292 | 4.28 |
| Expanding recreation opportunities | 3.42% 10 | 6.51% 19 | 11.99% 35 | 11.99% 35 | 13.36% 39 | 17.81% 52 | 20.21% 59 | 9.59% 28 | 5.14% 15 | 292 | 4.62 |
| Improving the appearance of buildings and development | 2.74% 8 | 7.88% 23 | 7.53% 22 | 11.30% 33 | 11.99% 35 | 15.07% 44 | 18.84% 55 | 15.07% 44 | 9.59% 28 | 292 | 4.25 |
| Allowing a variety of housing types to be built | 6.16% 18 | 5.48% 16 | 6.51% 19 | 3.42% 10 | 6.85% 20 | 7.19% 21 | 10.96% 32 | 21.92% 64 | 31.51% 92 | 292 | 3.37 |
| Protecting property values | 5.48% 16 | 5.82% 17 | 10.96% 32 | 9.25% 27 | 11.64% 34 | 8.90% 26 | 8.22% 24 | 9.59% 28 | 30.14% 88 | 292 | 3.96 |

# Q12 What areas do Wilkes County need to focus on strengthening? (Select up to 3)

Answered: 294    Skipped: 0
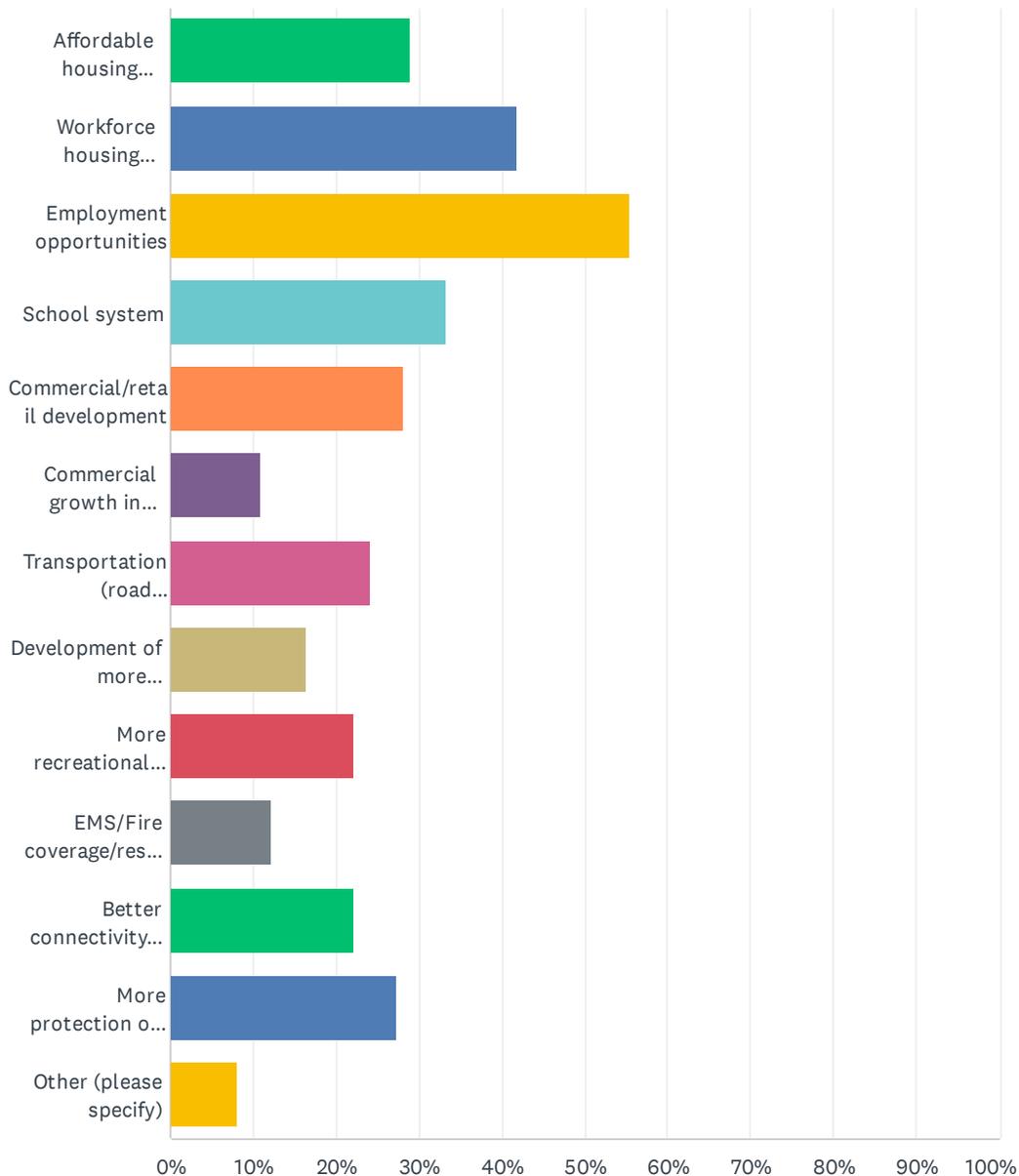
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Affordable housing opportunities (low income) | 28.91% | 85 |
| Workforce housing opportunities (middle income) | 41.84% | 123 |
| Employment opportunities | 55.44% | 163 |
| School system | 33.33% | 98 |
| Commercial/retail development | 28.23% | 83 |
| Commercial growth in non-municipal portions of the County | 10.88% | 32 |
| Transportation (road conditions, traffic, etc.) | 24.15% | 71 |
| Development of more non-traditional types of transportation (public transportation, cycling, pedestrian friendly roads, etc.) | 16.33% | 48 |
| More recreational opportunities | 22.11% | 65 |
| EMS/Fire coverage/response | 12.24% | 36 |
| Better connectivity (cell service, internet, etc) | 22.11% | 65 |
| More protection of natural lands in the county, such as farmlands, floodplains, forests, historic sites, and scenic ares | 27.21% | 80 |
| Other (please specify) | 8.16% | 24 |
| Total Respondents: 294 | | |

# Q13 What are the most important challenges facing Wilkes County? (Select up to 3)

Answered: 293    Skipped: 1
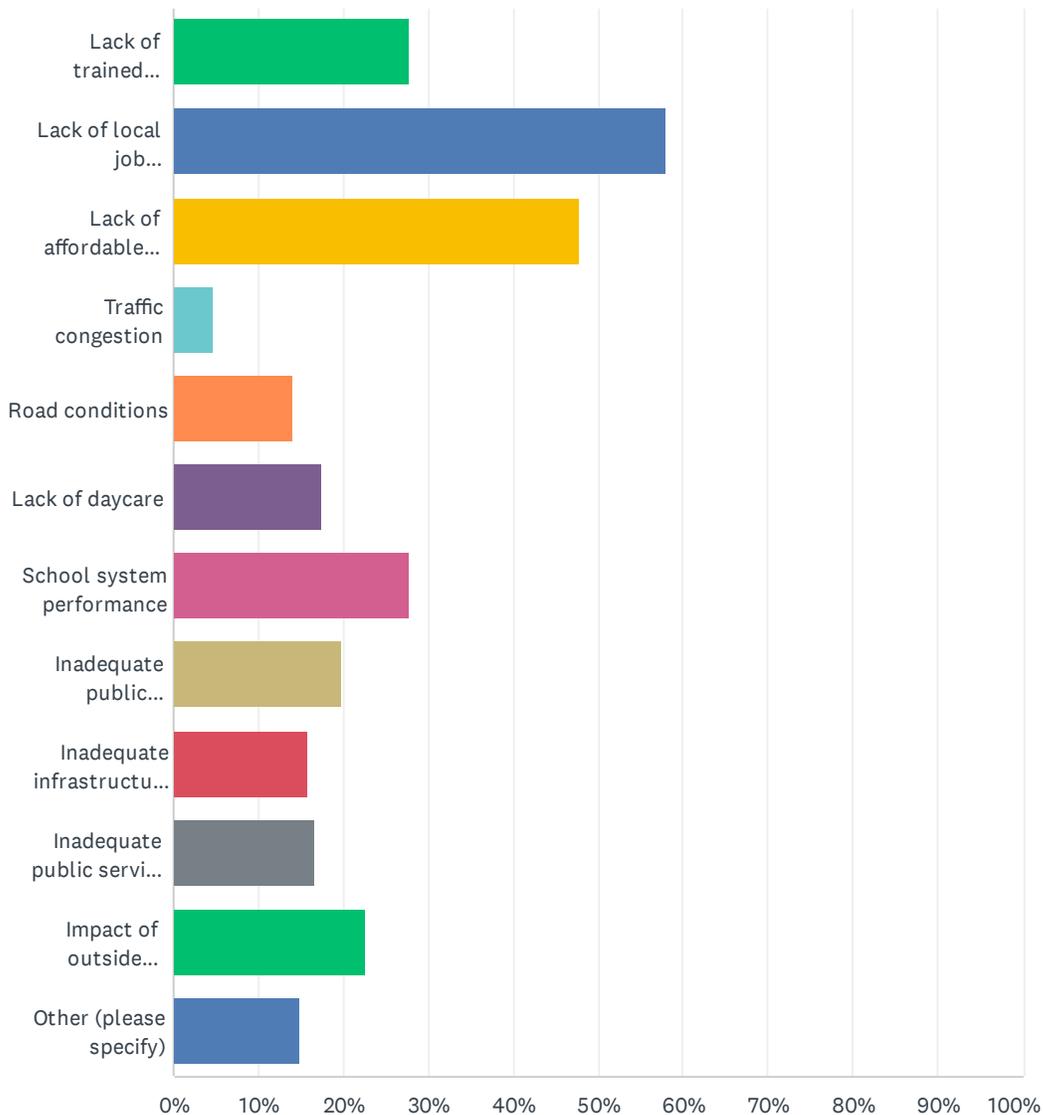
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of trained workforce | 27.65% | 81 |
| Lack of local job opportunities | 58.02% | 170 |
| Lack of affordable housing | 47.78% | 140 |
| Traffic congestion | 4.78% | 14 |
| Road conditions | 13.99% | 41 |
| Lack of daycare | 17.41% | 51 |
| School system performance | 27.65% | 81 |
| Inadequate public transportation | 19.80% | 58 |
| Inadequate infrastructure (roads, internet, etc.) | 15.70% | 46 |
| Inadequate public services (parks, emergency services, senior services, libraries, etc.) | 16.72% | 49 |
| Impact of outside economic forces on the County | 22.53% | 66 |
| Other (please specify) | 15.02% | 44 |
| Total Respondents: 293 | | |

# Q14 What are the impacts of growth in Wilkes County that concern you most? (Select up to 3)

Answered: 293    Skipped: 1
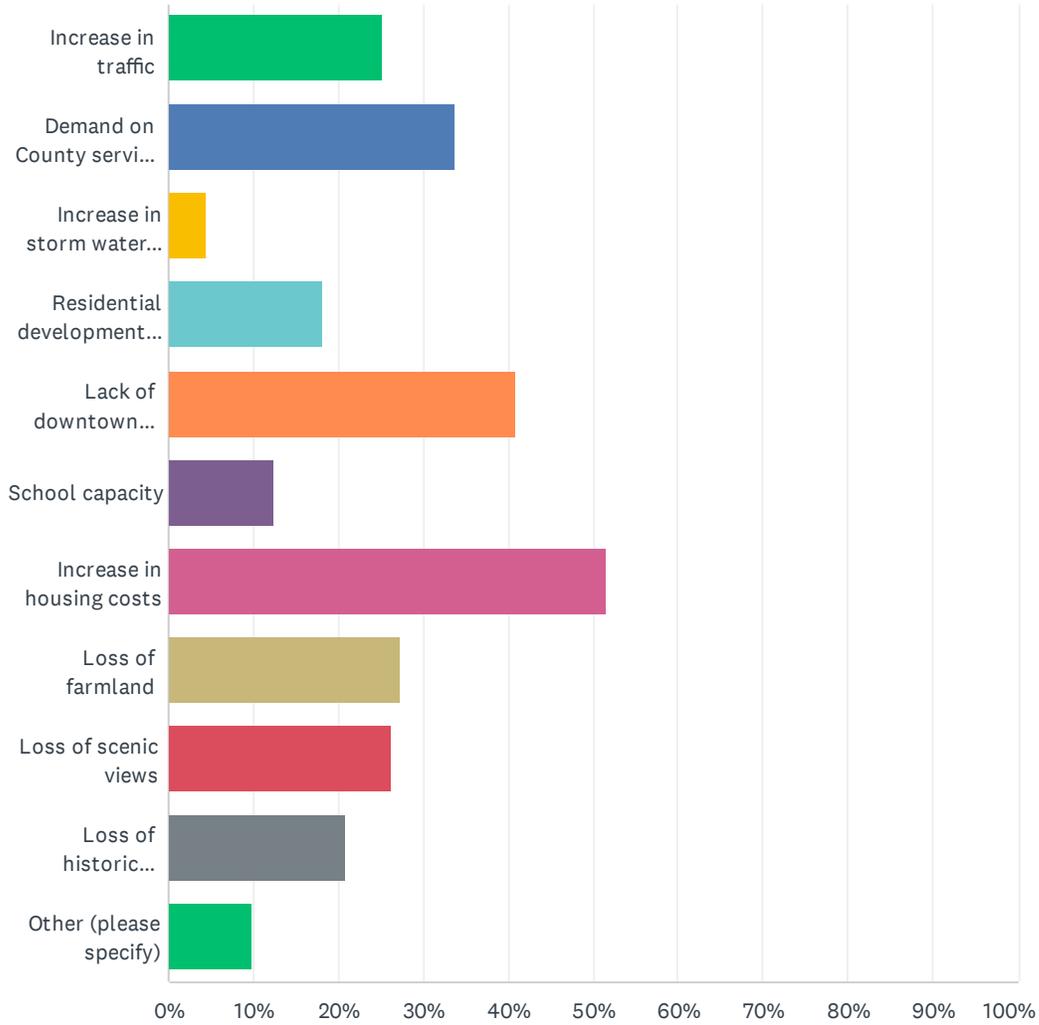
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Increase in traffic | 25.26% | 74 |
| Demand on County services (EMS, schools, senior services, etc.) | 33.79% | 99 |
| Increase in storm water runoff | 4.44% | 13 |
| Residential development outpacing commercial development | 18.09% | 53 |
| Lack of downtown businesses | 40.96% | 120 |
| School capacity | 12.29% | 36 |
| Increase in housing costs | 51.54% | 151 |
| Loss of farmland | 27.30% | 80 |
| Loss of scenic views | 26.28% | 77 |
| Loss of historic buildings | 20.82% | 61 |
| Other (please specify) | 9.90% | 29 |
| Total Respondents: 293 | | |

# Q15 What Types of development regulations would you support? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 287    Skipped: 7
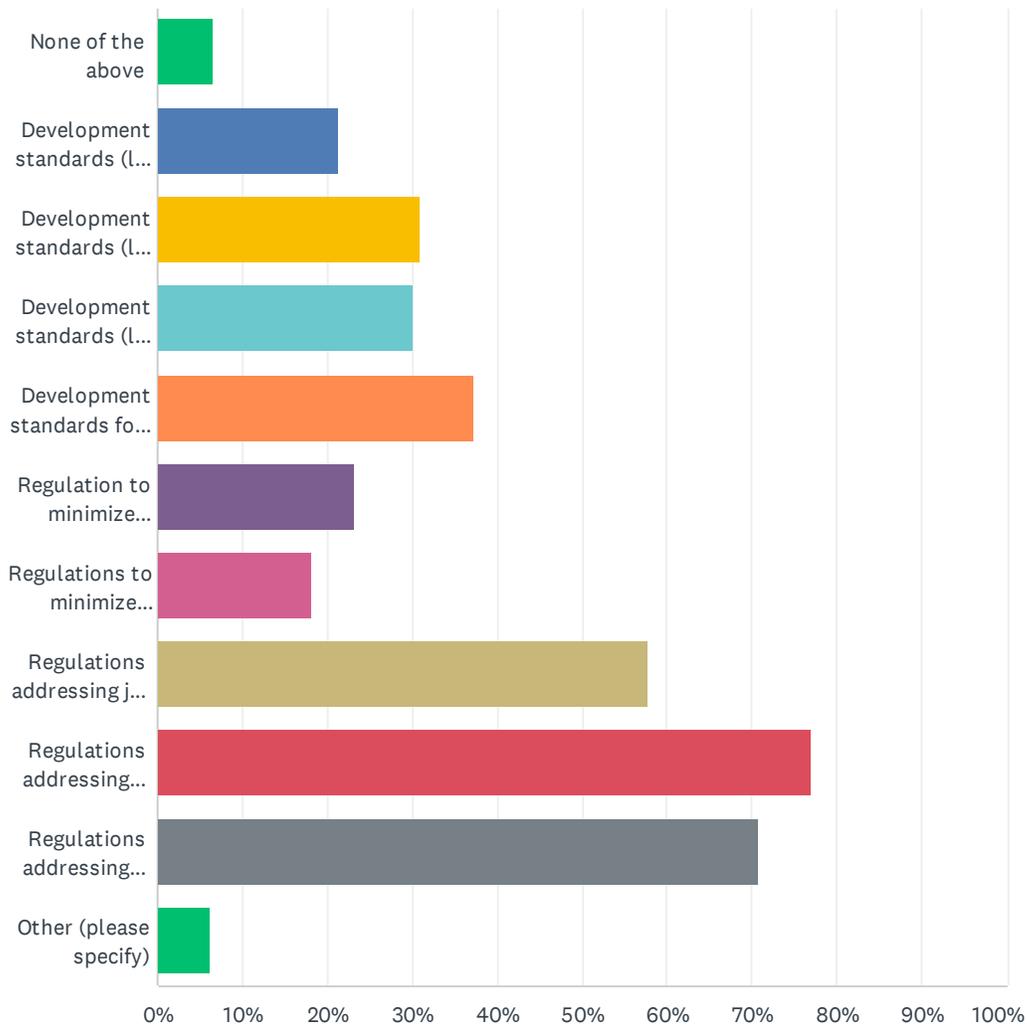
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| None of the above | 6.62% | 19 |
| Development standards (lot size, setbacks, height restrictions, landscaping, etc.) for residential development | 21.25% | 61 |
| Development standards (lot size, setbacks, height restrictions, landscaping, etc.) for commercial development | 31.01% | 89 |
| Development standards (lot size, setbacks, height restrictions, landscaping, etc.) for industrial development | 29.97% | 86 |
| Development standards for mobile homes (underpinning, pitched roofs, hitch removal, deck, etc.) | 37.28% | 107 |
| Regulation to minimize development in floodplains | 23.34% | 67 |
| Regulations to minimize development on steep slopes | 18.12% | 52 |
| Regulations addressing junk cars | 57.84% | 166 |
| Regulations addressing vacant/dilapidated homes | 77.00% | 221 |
| Regulations addressing vacant/dilapidated commercial and industrial buildings | 70.73% | 203 |
| Other (please specify) | 6.27% | 18 |
| Total Respondents: 287 | | |

# Q16 How important are the following business sectors to Wilkes County's future? (please rank in order of importance)

Answered: 285    Skipped: 9
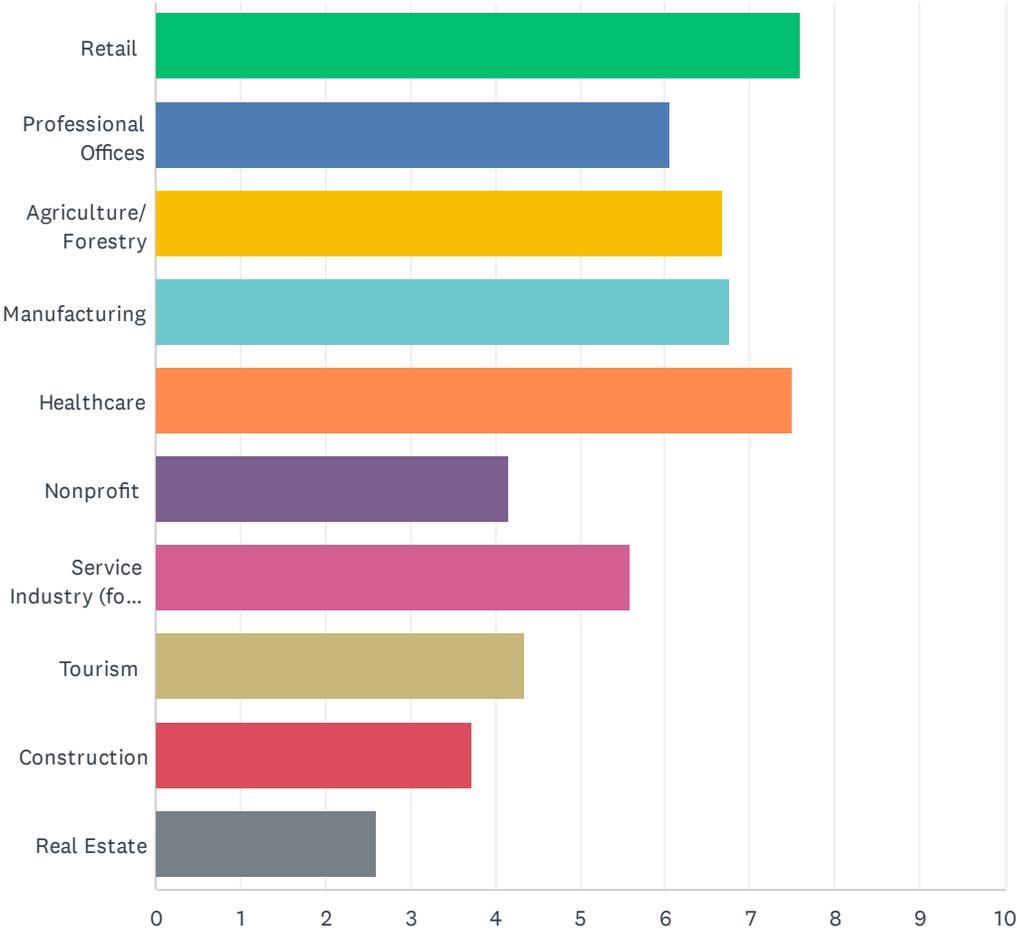
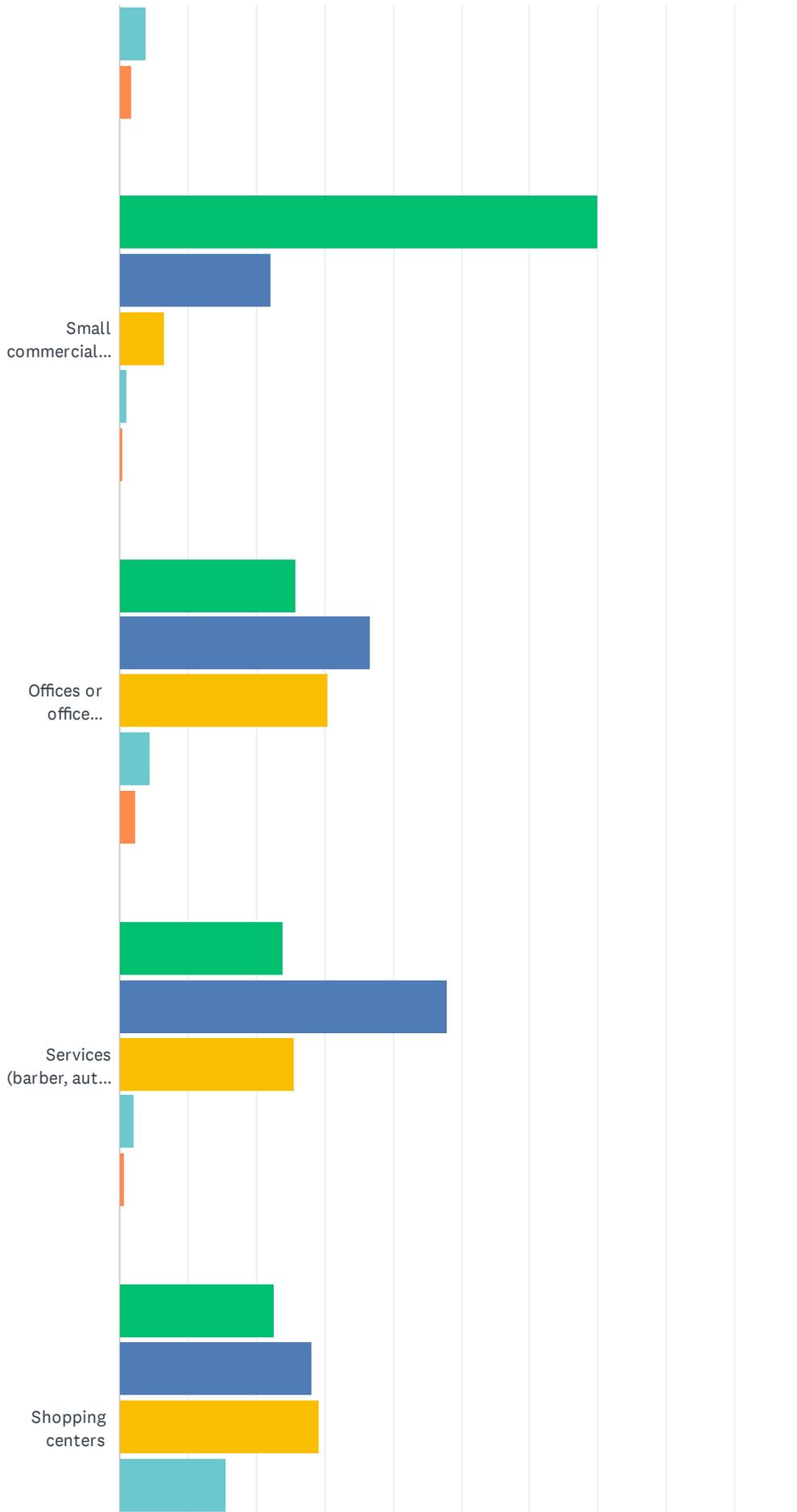# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Retail | 26.32%<br>75 | 17.54%<br>50 | 15.44%<br>44 | 11.58%<br>33 | 11.23%<br>32 | 5.61%<br>16 | 4.91%<br>14 | 3.16%<br>9 | 3.16%<br>9 | 1.05%<br>3 | 285 |
| Professional Offices | 7.37%<br>21 | 17.19%<br>49 | 10.88%<br>31 | 12.98%<br>37 | 11.23%<br>32 | 9.82%<br>28 | 10.88%<br>31 | 7.02%<br>20 | 5.26%<br>15 | 7.37%<br>21 | 285 |
| Agriculture/ Forestry | 14.74%<br>42 | 15.09%<br>43 | 14.39%<br>41 | 11.93%<br>34 | 14.74%<br>42 | 7.37%<br>21 | 6.67%<br>19 | 7.37%<br>21 | 4.91%<br>14 | 2.81%<br>8 | 285 |
| Manufacturing | 10.53%<br>30 | 13.33%<br>38 | 18.25%<br>52 | 18.25%<br>52 | 13.33%<br>38 | 9.82%<br>28 | 6.32%<br>18 | 4.56%<br>13 | 2.46%<br>7 | 3.16%<br>9 | 285 |
| Healthcare | 25.26%<br>72 | 15.09%<br>43 | 14.39%<br>41 | 12.28%<br>35 | 11.58%<br>33 | 12.28%<br>35 | 4.56%<br>13 | 2.81%<br>8 | 1.40%<br>4 | 0.35%<br>1 | 285 |
| Nonprofit | 2.11%<br>6 | 4.56%<br>13 | 2.11%<br>6 | 5.26%<br>15 | 8.07%<br>23 | 19.65%<br>56 | 17.54%<br>50 | 15.79%<br>45 | 11.58%<br>33 | 13.33%<br>38 | 285 |
| Service Industry (food & beverage, lodging, etc.) | 3.51%<br>10 | 8.77%<br>25 | 13.33%<br>38 | 10.53%<br>30 | 11.93%<br>34 | 13.68%<br>39 | 21.40%<br>61 | 8.77%<br>25 | 4.91%<br>14 | 3.16%<br>9 | 285 |
| Tourism | 6.67%<br>19 | 3.86%<br>11 | 4.21%<br>12 | 8.07%<br>23 | 8.77%<br>25 | 7.37%<br>21 | 8.77%<br>25 | 26.67%<br>76 | 12.98%<br>37 | 12.63%<br>36 | 285 |
| Construction | 1.40%<br>4 | 3.16%<br>9 | 4.21%<br>12 | 7.02%<br>20 | 5.96%<br>17 | 9.47%<br>27 | 10.53%<br>30 | 12.28%<br>35 | 39.65%<br>113 | 6.32%<br>18 | 285 |
| Real Estate | 2.11%<br>6 | 1.40%<br>4 | 2.81%<br>8 | 2.11%<br>6 | 3.16%<br>9 | 4.91%<br>14 | 8.42%<br>24 | 11.58%<br>33 | 13.68%<br>39 | 49.82%<br>142 | 285 |

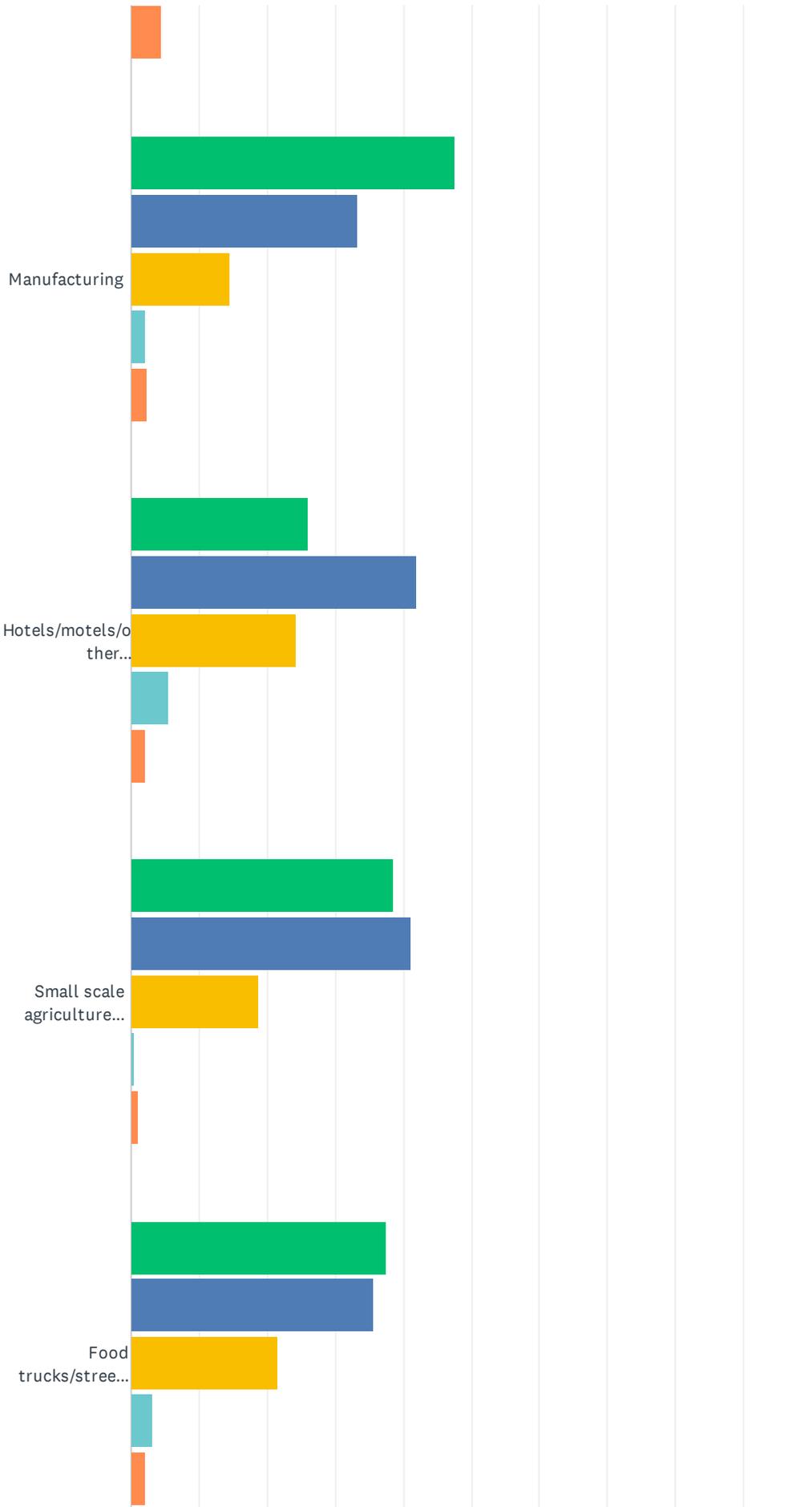# Q17 Wilkes County should encourage the following commercial development.
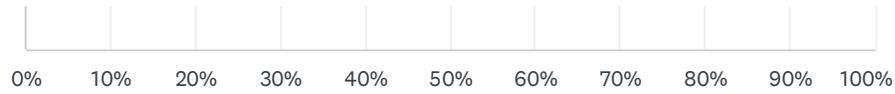
Answered: 293    Skipped: 1
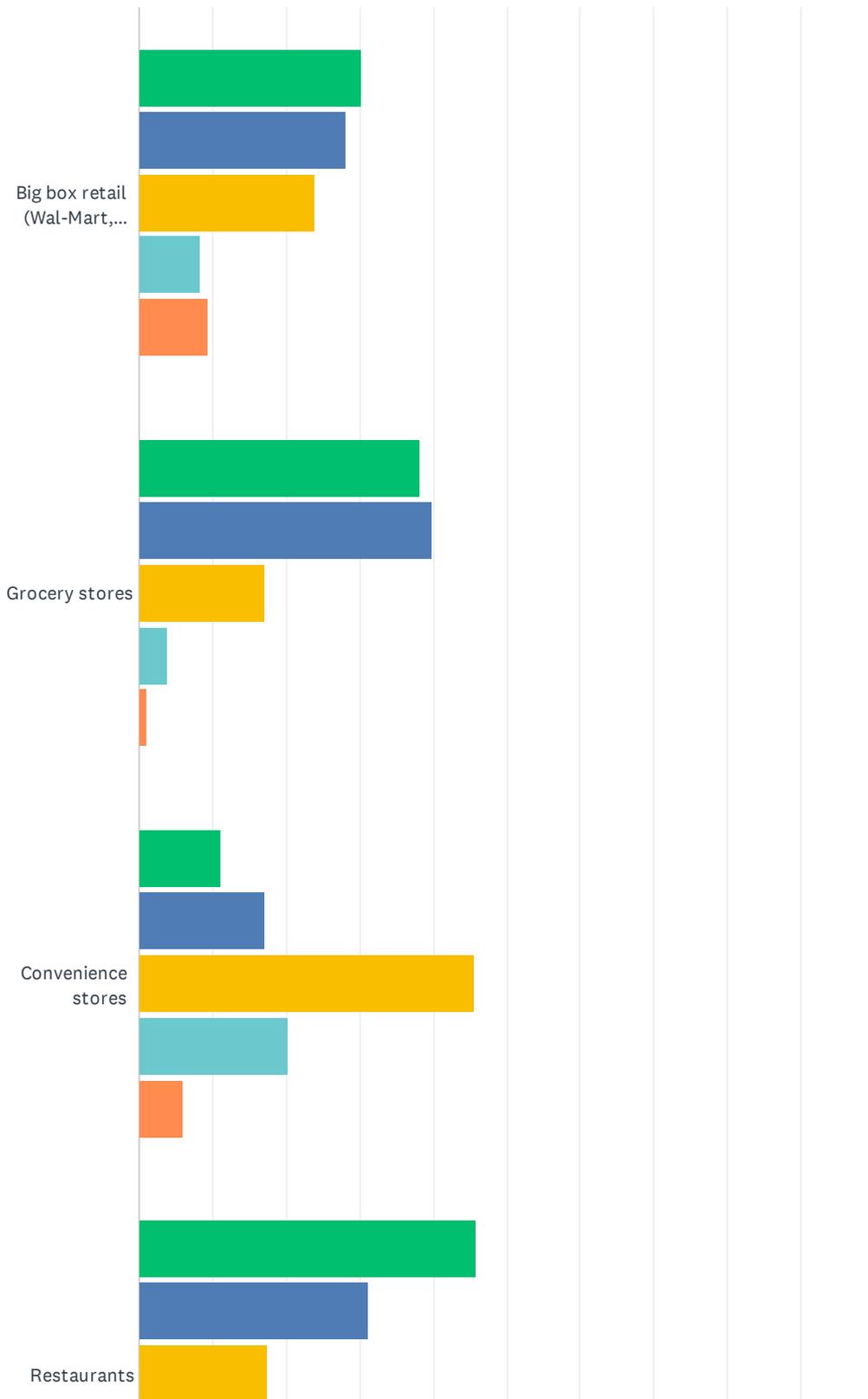
Manufacturing

Hotels/motels/o
ther...

Small scale
agriculture...

Food
trucks/stree...

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



| | STRONGLY AGREE | AGREE | NEUTRAL | DISAGREE | STRONGLY DISAGREE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Big box retail (Wal-Mart, Target, Lowes, etc.) | 30.21% 87 | 28.13% 81 | 23.96% 69 | 8.33% 24 | 9.38% 27 | 288 |
| Grocery stores | 38.19% 110 | 39.93% 115 | 17.01% 49 | 3.82% 11 | 1.04% 3 | 288 |
| Convenience stores | 11.15% 32 | 17.07% 49 | 45.64% 131 | 20.21% 58 | 5.92% 17 | 287 |
| Restaurants | 45.86% 133 | 31.03% 90 | 17.59% 51 | 3.79% 11 | 1.72% 5 | 290 |
| Small commercial businesses a.k.a. "Mom & Pop" stores | 70.00% 203 | 22.07% 64 | 6.55% 19 | 1.03% 3 | 0.34% 1 | 290 |
| Offices or office complexes (medical, legal, accounting, etc.) | 25.77% 75 | 36.77% 107 | 30.58% 89 | 4.47% 13 | 2.41% 7 | 291 |
| Services (barber, auto repair, etc.) | 23.78% 68 | 47.90% 137 | 25.52% 73 | 2.10% 6 | 0.70% 2 | 286 |
| Shopping centers | 22.57% 65 | 28.13% 81 | 29.17% 84 | 15.63% 45 | 4.51% 13 | 288 |
| Manufacturing | 47.57% 137 | 33.33% 96 | 14.58% 42 | 2.08% 6 | 2.43% 7 | 288 |
| Hotels/motels/other accommodations | 26.12% 76 | 41.92% 122 | 24.40% 71 | 5.50% 16 | 2.06% 6 | 291 |
| Small scale agriculture with on-site retail | 38.68% 111 | 41.11% 118 | 18.82% 54 | 0.35% 1 | 1.05% 3 | 287 |
| Food trucks/street vendors | 37.63% 108 | 35.54% 102 | 21.60% 62 | 3.14% 9 | 2.09% 6 | 287 |

# Q18 What should Wilkes County prioritize regarding economic development? (Rank from most important to least)

Answered: 275    Skipped: 19
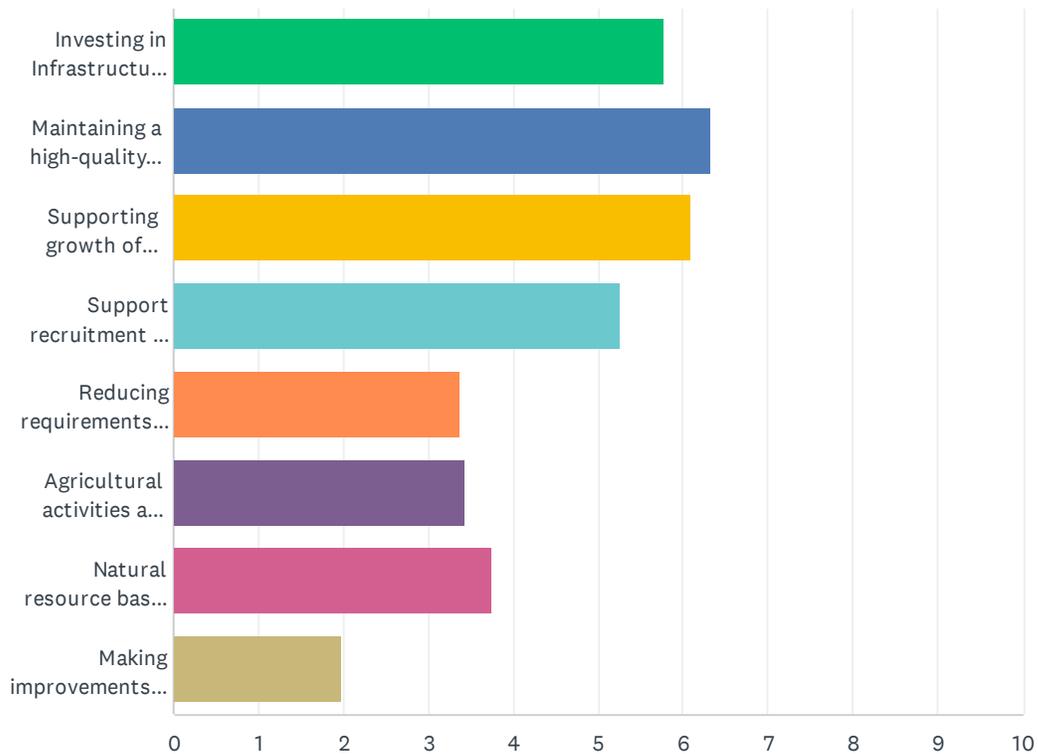
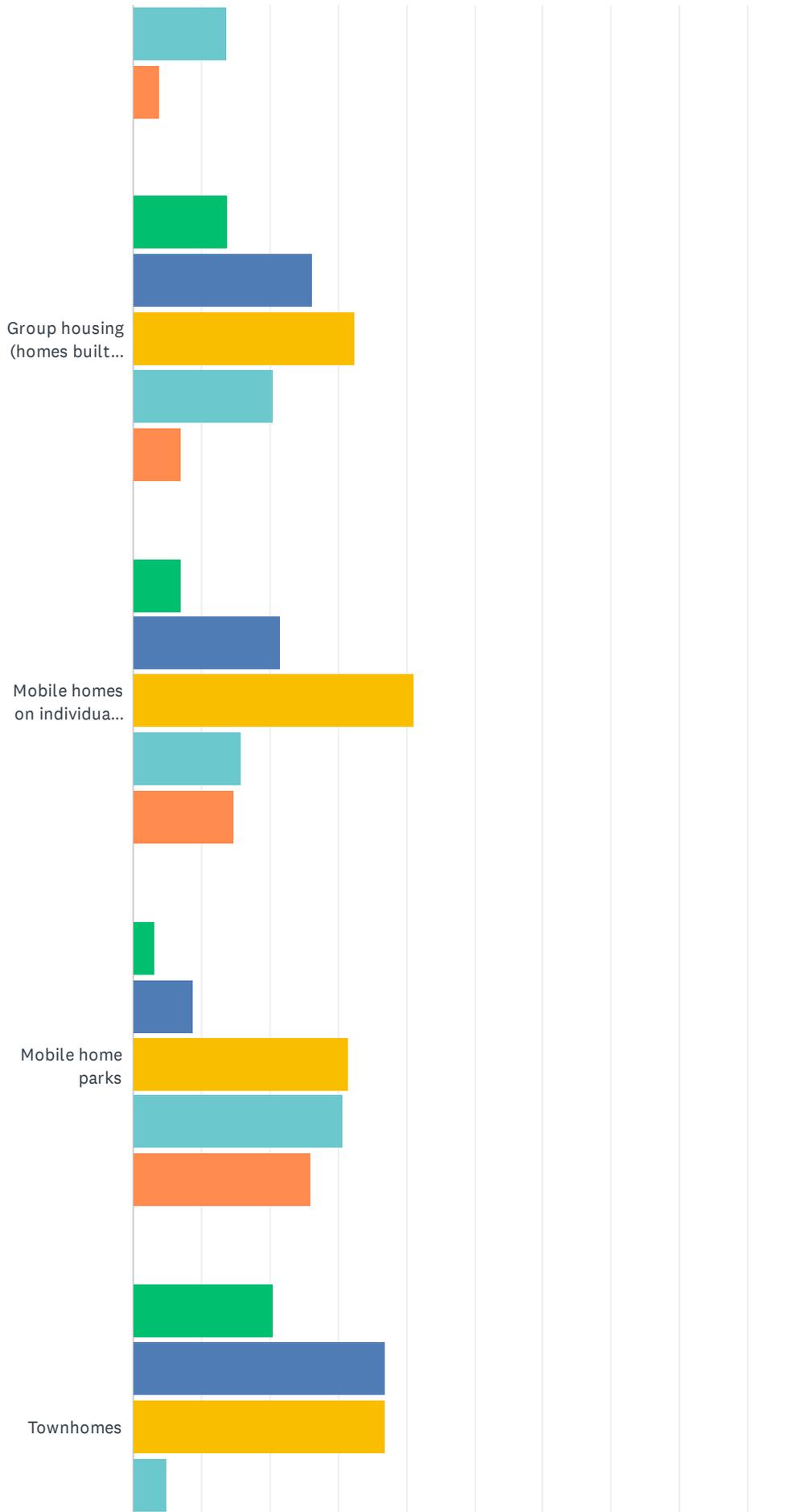# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | TOTAL | SCORE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investing in Infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband, natural gas, etc.) | 28.36% 78 | 13.82% 38 | 14.55% 40 | 14.18% 39 | 14.55% 40 | 9.82% 27 | 3.27% 9 | 1.45% 4 | 275 | 5.77 |
| Maintaining a high-quality of life to attract new business investment | 28.73% 79 | 29.45% 81 | 14.91% 41 | 11.64% 32 | 7.27% 20 | 4.73% 13 | 2.91% 8 | 0.36% 1 | 275 | 6.33 |
| Supporting growth of existing business | 17.09% 47 | 24.36% 67 | 29.82% 82 | 14.55% 40 | 10.18% 28 | 2.18% 6 | 0.73% 2 | 1.09% 3 | 275 | 6.09 |
| Support recruitment of new business | 10.18% 28 | 16.00% 44 | 18.18% 50 | 28.00% 77 | 12.36% 34 | 7.64% 21 | 4.73% 13 | 2.91% 8 | 275 | 5.27 |
| Reducing requirements/regulations necessary for developing businesses | 3.64% 10 | 3.64% 10 | 4.73% 13 | 10.91% 30 | 22.91% 63 | 17.82% 49 | 18.18% 50 | 18.18% 50 | 275 | 3.37 |
| Agricultural activities and agritourism | 2.18% 6 | 5.45% 15 | 6.91% 19 | 7.64% 21 | 12.73% 35 | 35.64% 98 | 21.45% 59 | 8.00% 22 | 275 | 3.44 |
| Natural resource based tourism (hiking, hunting, fishing, paddling, etc.) | 8.36% 23 | 5.45% 15 | 8.73% 24 | 9.09% 25 | 13.09% 36 | 16.36% 45 | 31.27% 86 | 7.64% 21 | 275 | 3.75 |
| Making improvements at the airport to facilitate economic development | 1.45% 4 | 1.82% 5 | 2.18% 6 | 4.00% 11 | 6.91% 19 | 5.82% 16 | 17.45% 48 | 60.36% 166 | 275 | 1.98 |

# Q19 Please indicate whether Wilkes County should encourage or discourage the following residential developments?
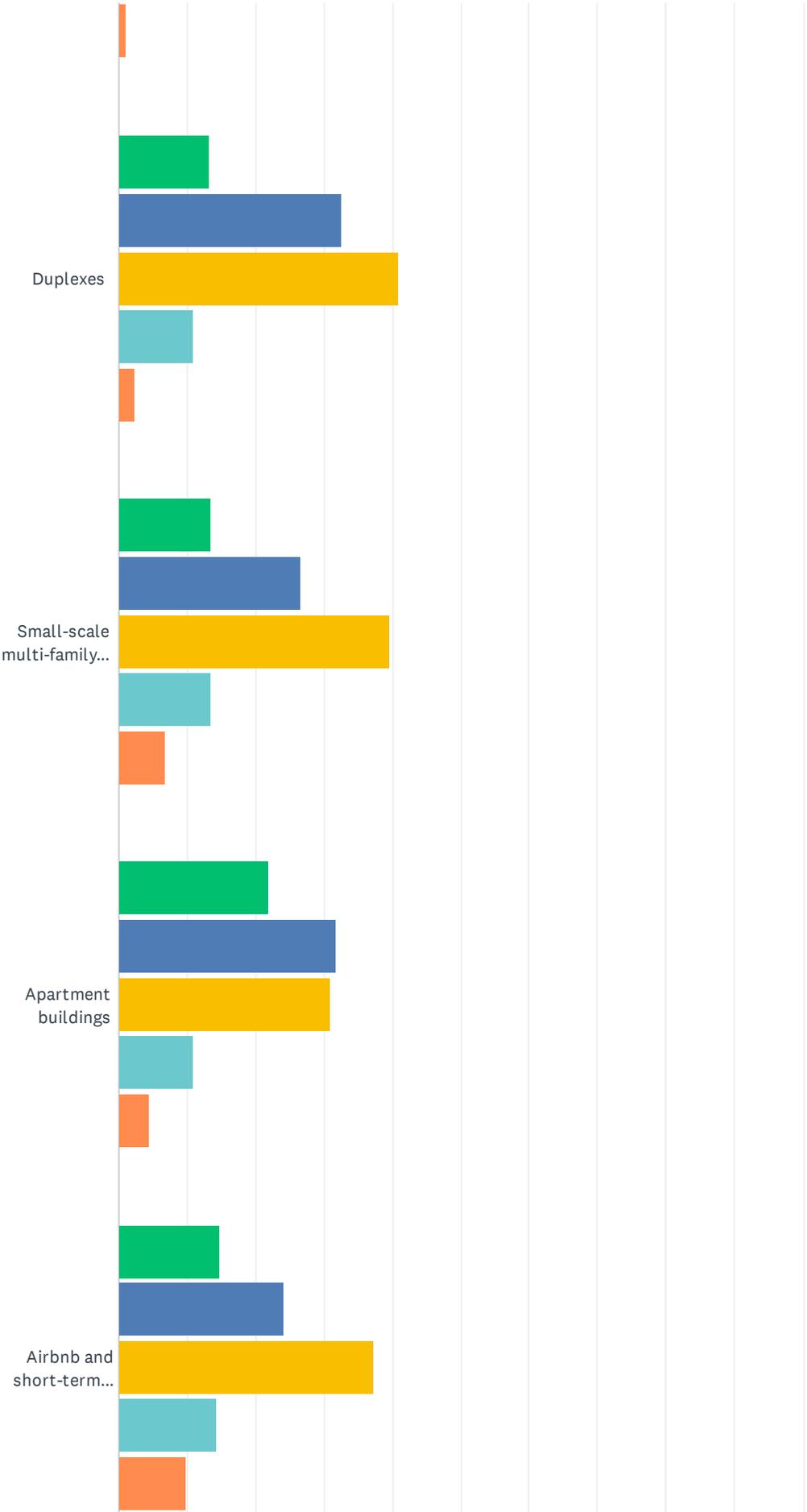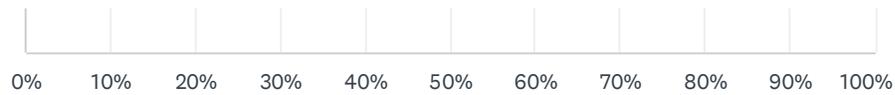
Answered: 292 Skipped: 2
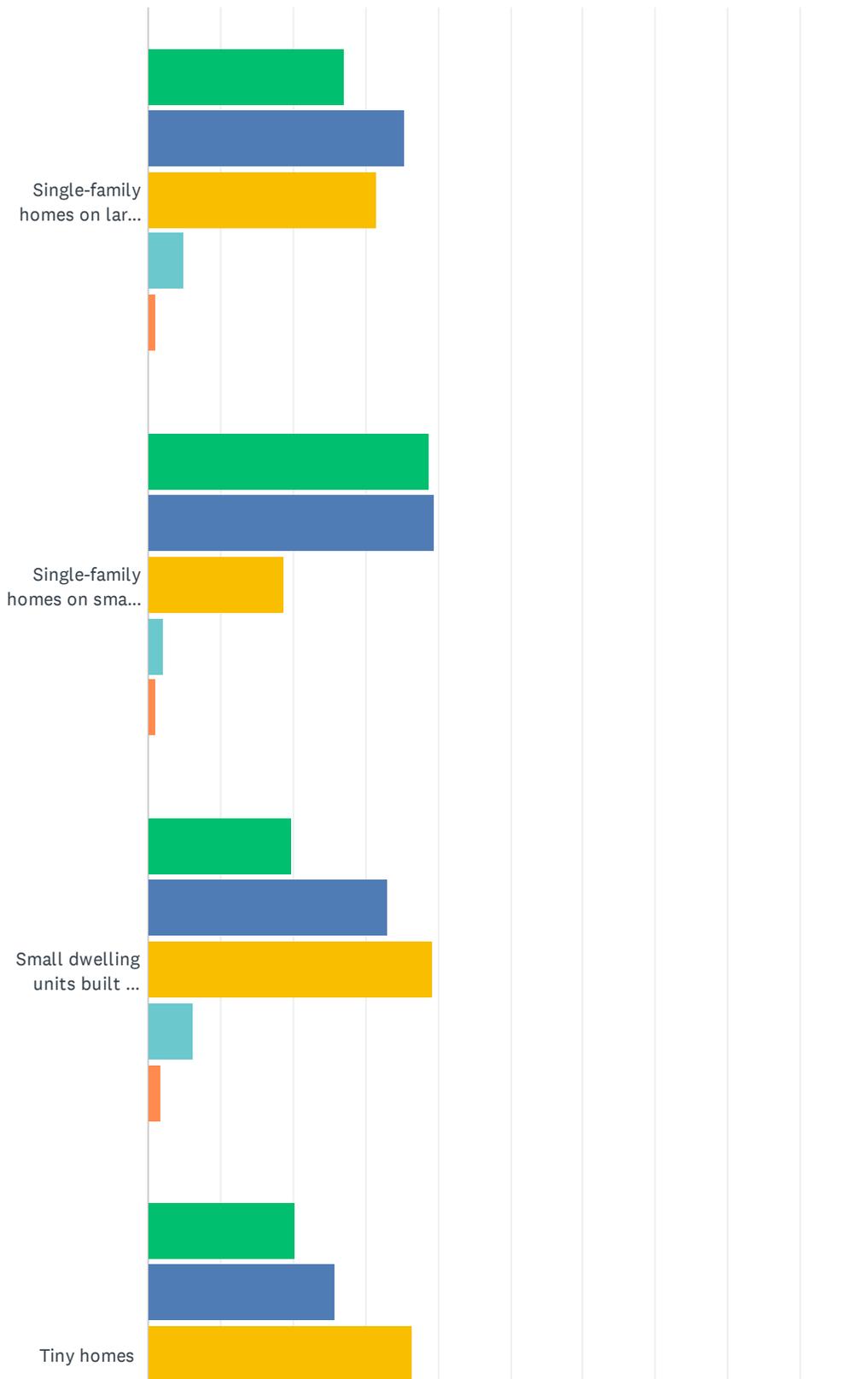
Group housing (homes built...

Mobile homes on individua...

Mobile home parks

Townhomes

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



|  | STRONGLY ENCOURAGE | ENCOURAGE | NEUTRAL | DISCOURAGE | STRONGLY DISCOURAGE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single-family homes on large lots | 27.08% 78 | 35.42% 102 | 31.60% 91 | 4.86% 14 | 1.04% 3 | 288 |
| Single-family homes on small lots in walkable neighborhoods | 38.75% 112 | 39.45% 114 | 18.69% 54 | 2.08% 6 | 1.04% 3 | 289 |
| Small dwelling units built as an accessory to a single-family home (garage apartment, mother-in-law flat, etc.) | 19.93% 58 | 32.99% 96 | 39.18% 114 | 6.19% 18 | 1.72% 5 | 291 |
| Tiny homes | 20.28% 58 | 25.87% 74 | 36.36% 104 | 13.64% 39 | 3.85% 11 | 286 |
| Group housing (homes built close together sharing a communal yard/space) | 13.94% 40 | 26.13% 75 | 32.40% 93 | 20.56% 59 | 6.97% 20 | 287 |
| Mobile homes on individual lots | 6.97% 20 | 21.60% 62 | 41.11% 118 | 15.68% 45 | 14.63% 42 | 287 |
| Mobile home parks | 3.11% 9 | 8.65% 25 | 31.49% 91 | 30.80% 89 | 25.95% 75 | 289 |
| Townhomes | 20.49% 59 | 36.81% 106 | 36.81% 106 | 4.86% 14 | 1.04% 3 | 288 |
| Duplexes | 13.29% 38 | 32.52% 93 | 40.91% 117 | 10.84% 31 | 2.45% 7 | 286 |
| Small-scale multi-family housing (triplexes, fourplexes) | 13.45% 39 | 26.55% 77 | 39.66% 115 | 13.45% 39 | 6.90% 20 | 290 |
| Apartment buildings | 21.95% 63 | 31.71% 91 | 31.01% 89 | 10.80% 31 | 4.53% 13 | 287 |
| Airbnb and short-term housing rentals | 14.63% 42 | 24.04% 69 | 37.28% 107 | 14.29% 41 | 9.76% 28 | 287 |

# Q20 What transportation features do you think are most important to the future development of Wilkes County? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 289     Skipped: 5
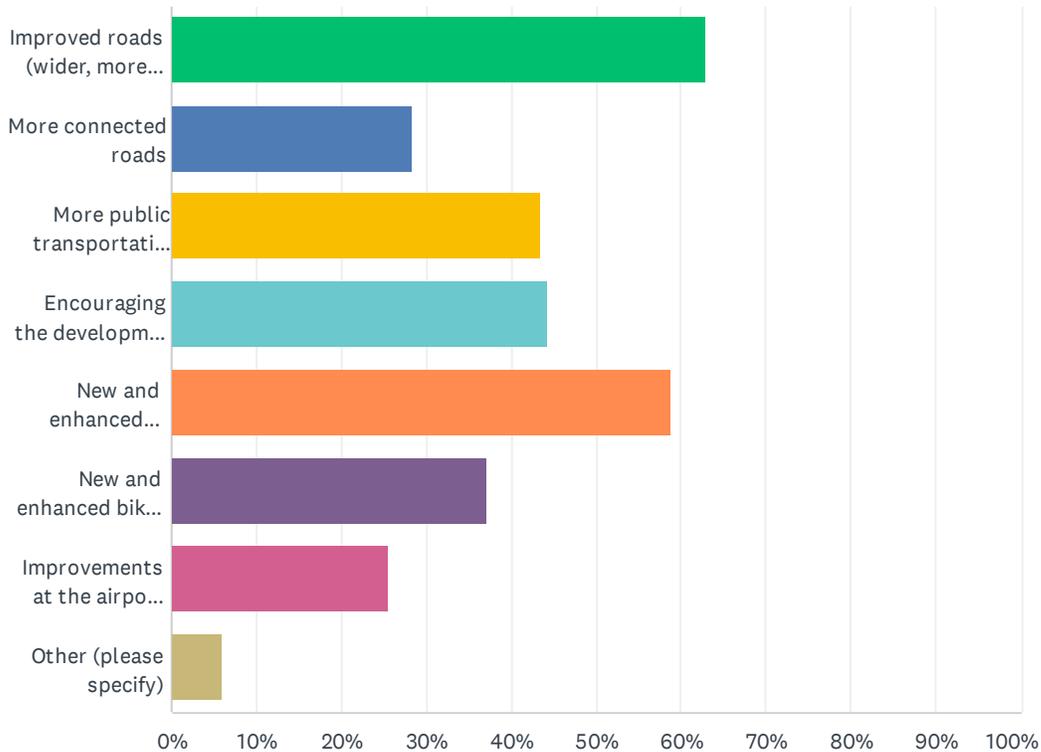


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Improved roads (wider, more turn lanes, etc.) | 62.98% | 182 |
| More connected roads | 28.37% | 82 |
| More public transportation options (more bus routes) | 43.60% | 126 |
| Encouraging the development of private taxi and/or uber/lyft services | 44.29% | 128 |
| New and enhanced sidewalks, trails, and other walking spaces | 58.82% | 170 |
| New and enhanced bike lanes, paths, an other safe cycling spaces | 37.02% | 107 |
| Improvements at the airport to expand commuter travel | 25.61% | 74 |
| Other (please specify) | 5.88% | 17 |
| Total Respondents: 289 | | |

# Q21 Please rank your satisfaction with the following:
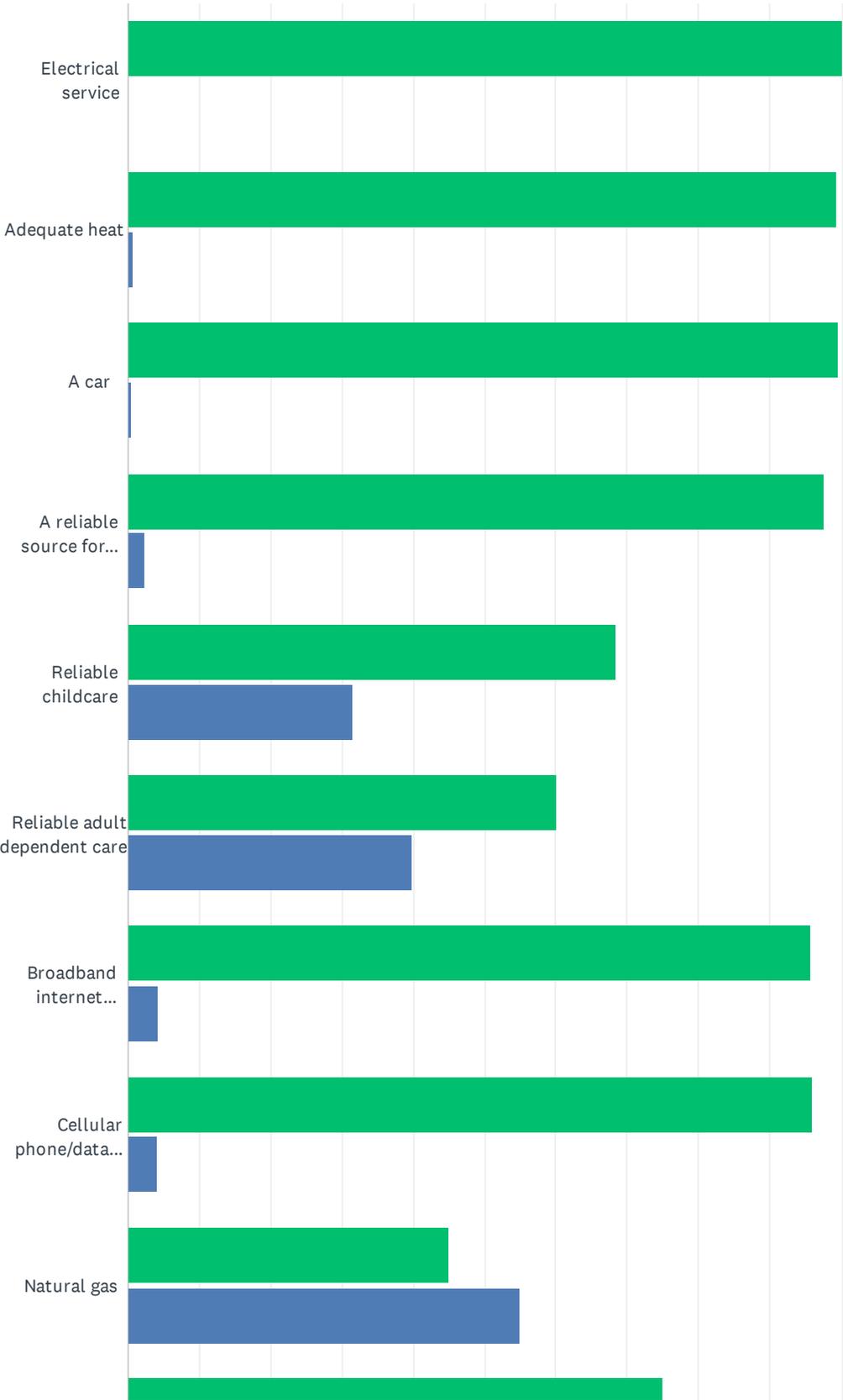
Answered: 290    Skipped: 4
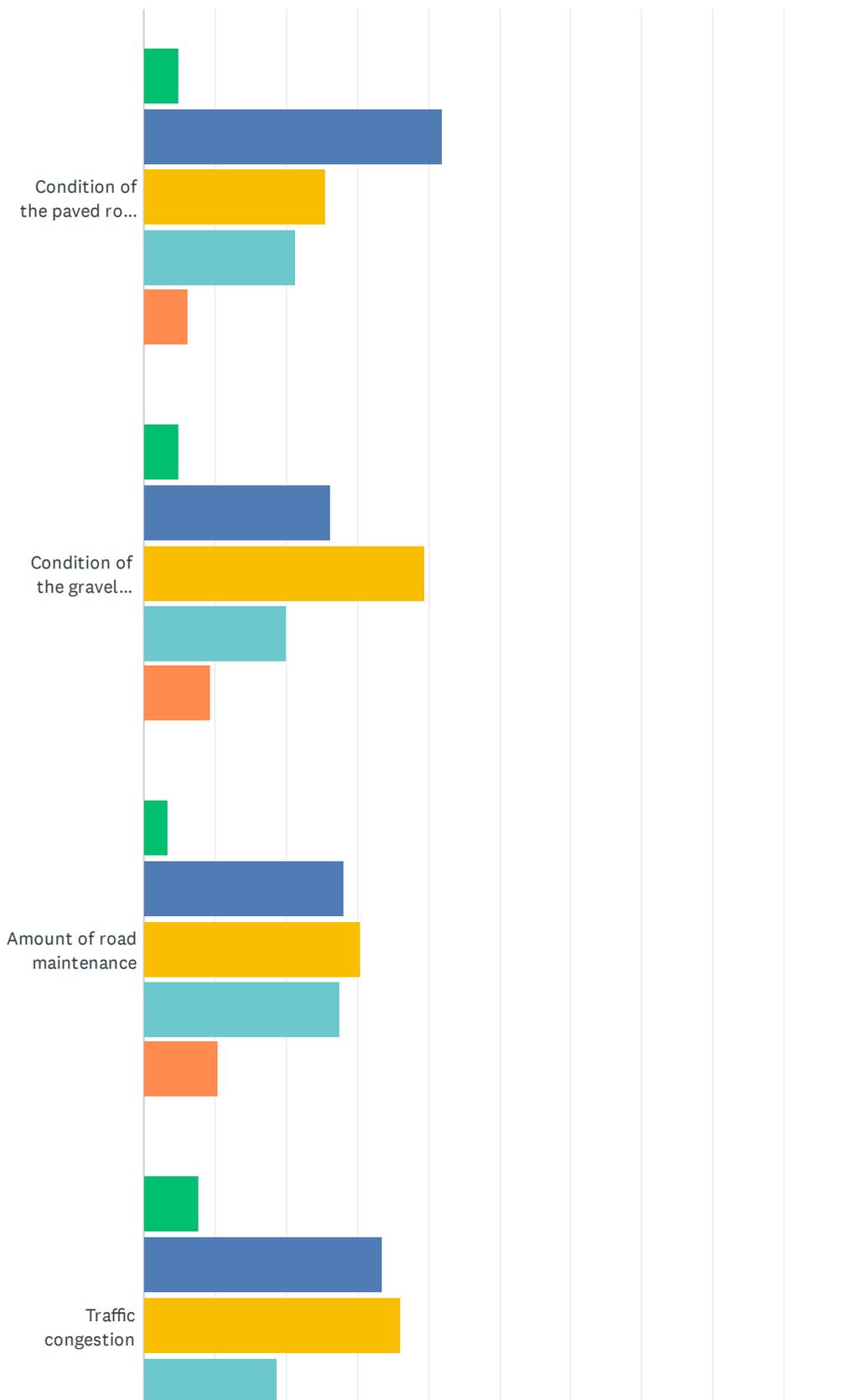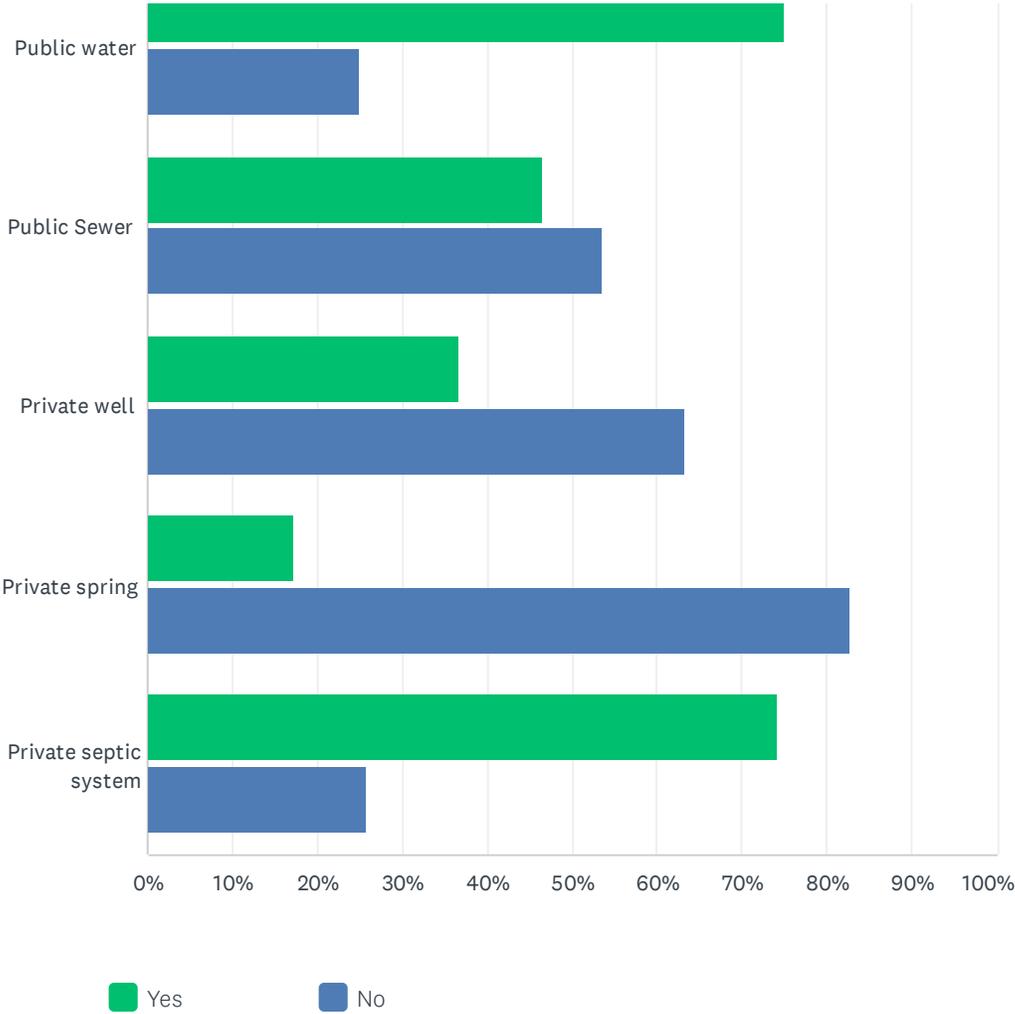
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey
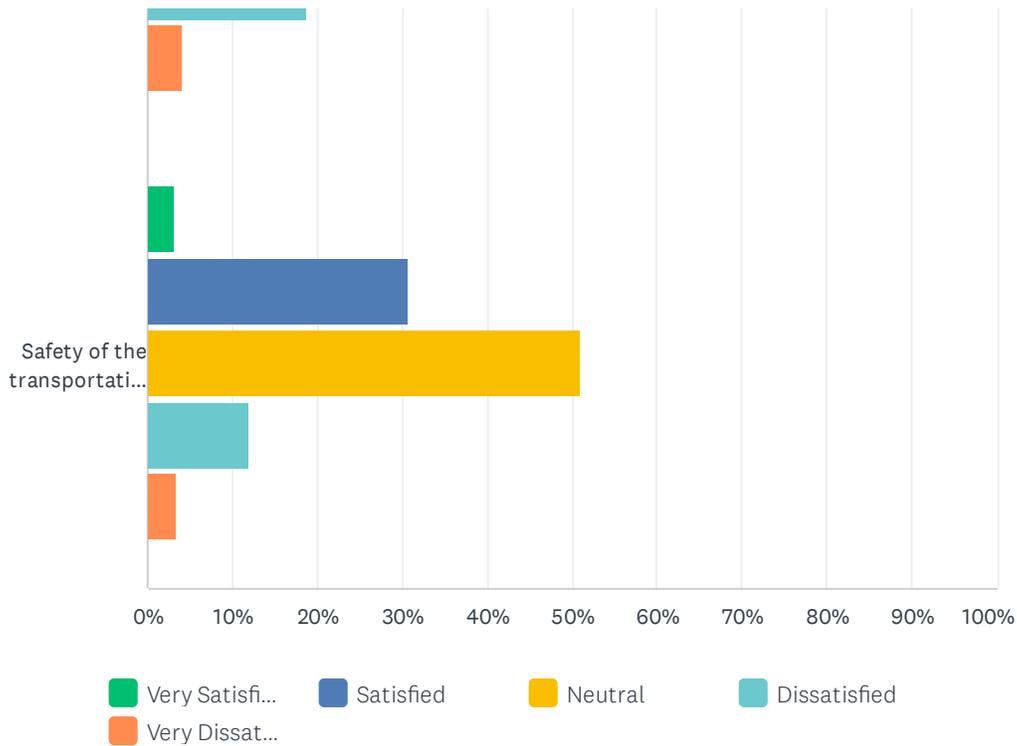


| | VERY SATISFIED | SATISFIED | NEUTRAL | DISSATISFIED | VERY DISSATISFIED | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Condition of the paved roads in the county | 4.83%<br>14 | 42.07%<br>122 | 25.52%<br>74 | 21.38%<br>62 | 6.21%<br>18 | 290 |
| Condition of the gravel roads in the county | 4.84%<br>14 | 26.30%<br>76 | 39.45%<br>114 | 20.07%<br>58 | 9.34%<br>27 | 289 |
| Amount of road maintenance | 3.47%<br>10 | 28.13%<br>81 | 30.56%<br>88 | 27.43%<br>79 | 10.42%<br>30 | 288 |
| Traffic congestion | 7.61%<br>22 | 33.56%<br>97 | 35.99%<br>104 | 18.69%<br>54 | 4.15%<br>12 | 289 |
| Safety of the transportation system | 3.14%<br>9 | 30.66%<br>88 | 50.87%<br>146 | 11.85%<br>34 | 3.48%<br>10 | 287 |

# Q22 I have access to:

Answered: 290    Skipped: 4
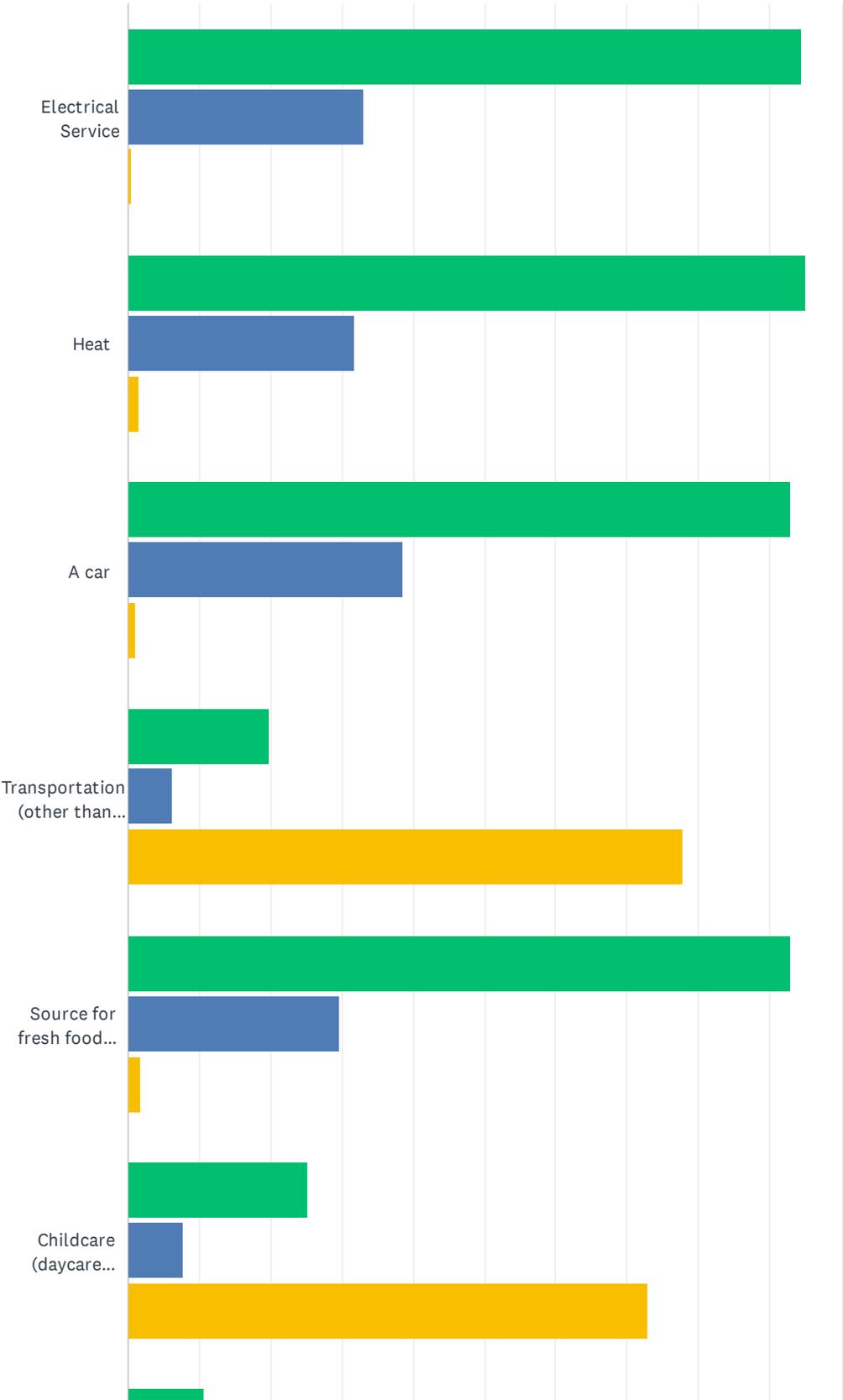
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Legend: Yes (green), No (blue)

Chart showing survey responses for:
- Public water: Yes ~75%, No ~25%
- Public Sewer: Yes ~47%, No ~53%
- Private well: Yes ~37%, No ~63%
- Private spring: Yes ~17%, No ~83%
- Private septic system: Yes ~74%, No ~26%

| | YES | NO | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Electrical service | 100.00% 289 | 0.00% 0 | 289 |
| Adequate heat | 99.31% 288 | 0.69% 2 | 290 |
| A car | 99.65% 287 | 0.35% 1 | 288 |
| A reliable source for fresh food (vegetables, fresh meat from grocery store, farmers market, etc.) | 97.59% 283 | 2.41% 7 | 290 |
| Reliable childcare | 68.44% 154 | 31.56% 71 | 225 |
| Reliable adult dependent care | 60.09% 137 | 39.91% 91 | 228 |
| Broadband internet service | 95.80% 274 | 4.20% 12 | 286 |
| Cellular phone/data service | 95.85% 277 | 4.15% 12 | 289 |
| Natural gas | 44.91% 119 | 55.09% 146 | 265 |
| Public water | 75.09% 214 | 24.91% 71 | 285 |
| Public Sewer | 46.55% 128 | 53.45% 147 | 275 |
| Private well | 36.63% 100 | 63.37% 173 | 273 |
| Private spring | 17.24% 45 | 82.76% 216 | 261 |
| Private septic system | 74.19% 207 | 25.81% 72 | 279 |

# Q23 I have reliable  and/or affordable access to:

Answered: 290     Skipped: 4

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey
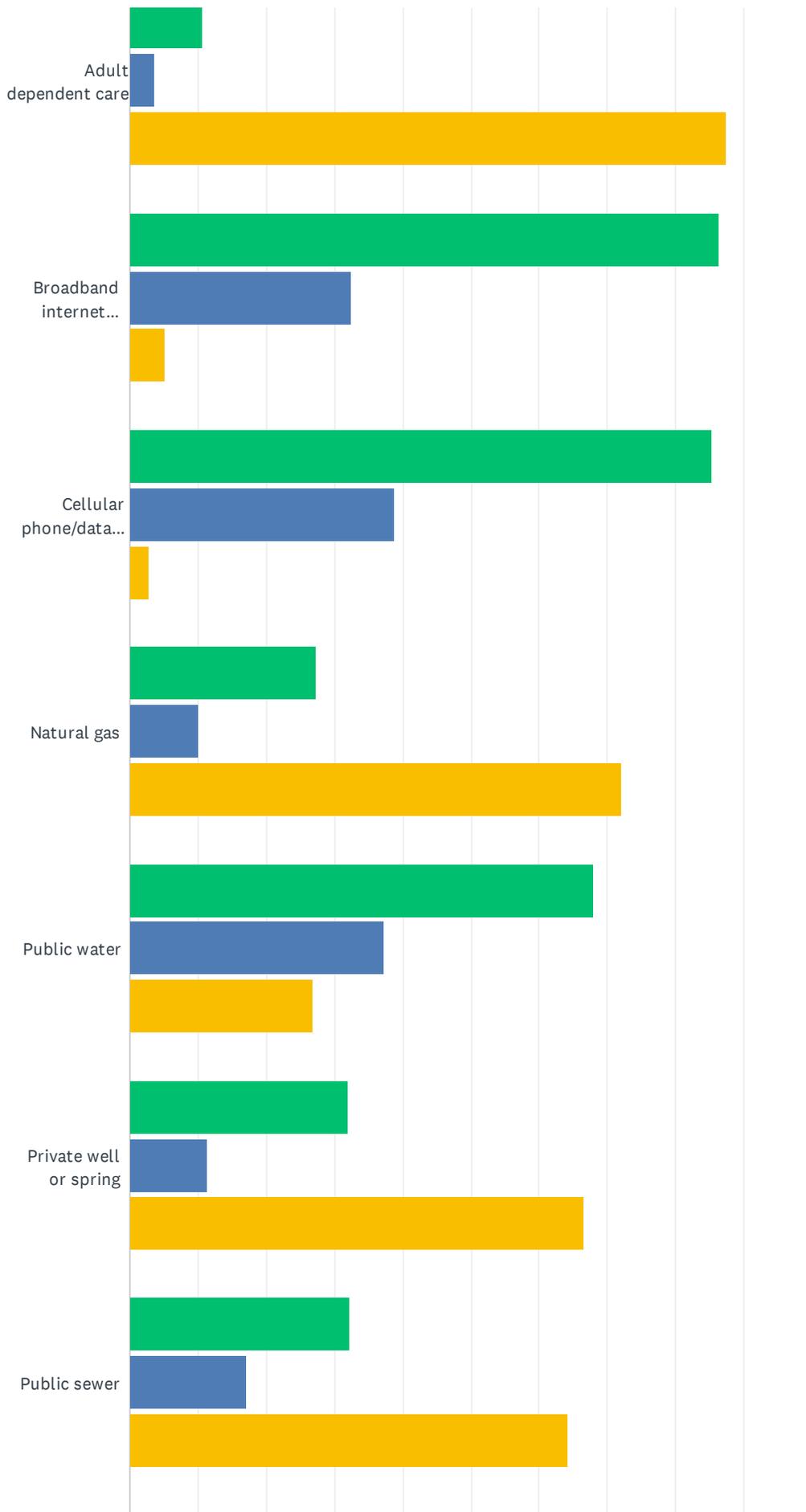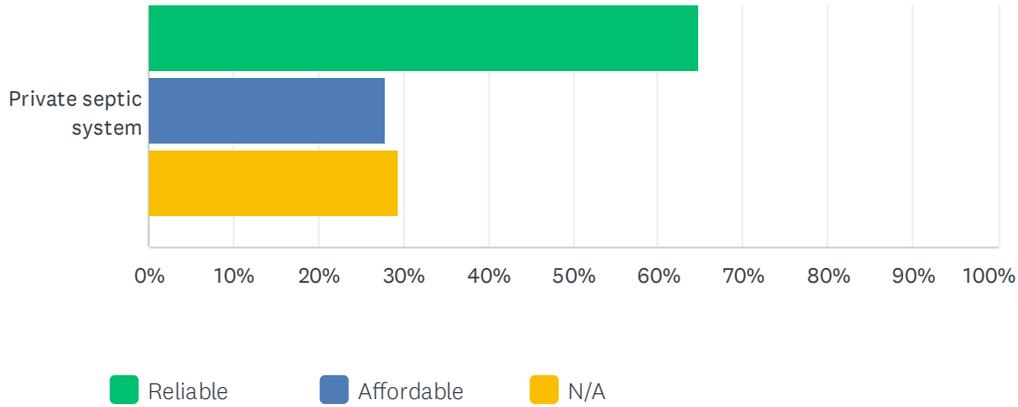
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Legend: ■ Reliable ■ Affordable ■ N/A

| | RELIABLE | AFFORDABLE | N/A | TOTAL RESPONDENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Electrical Service | 94.44%<br>272 | 32.99%<br>95 | 0.35%<br>1 | 288 |
| Heat | 95.12%<br>273 | 31.71%<br>91 | 1.39%<br>4 | 287 |
| A car | 93.06%<br>268 | 38.54%<br>111 | 1.04%<br>3 | 288 |
| Transportation (other than owning a car) | 19.85%<br>52 | 6.11%<br>16 | 77.86%<br>204 | 262 |
| Source for fresh food (grocery, farmers market, etc.) | 92.96%<br>264 | 29.58%<br>84 | 1.76%<br>5 | 284 |
| Childcare (daycare center, church, babysitter, family, etc) | 25.18%<br>69 | 7.66%<br>21 | 72.99%<br>200 | 274 |
| Adult dependent care | 10.74%<br>29 | 3.70%<br>10 | 87.41%<br>236 | 270 |
| Broadband internet service | 86.33%<br>240 | 32.37%<br>90 | 5.04%<br>14 | 278 |
| Cellular phone/data service | 85.25%<br>237 | 38.85%<br>108 | 2.88%<br>8 | 278 |
| Natural gas | 27.21%<br>74 | 9.93%<br>27 | 72.06%<br>196 | 272 |
| Public water | 68.09%<br>192 | 37.23%<br>105 | 26.95%<br>76 | 282 |
| Private well or spring | 31.99%<br>87 | 11.40%<br>31 | 66.54%<br>181 | 272 |
| Public sewer | 32.12%<br>88 | 17.15%<br>47 | 64.23%<br>176 | 274 |
| Private septic system | 64.87%<br>181 | 27.96%<br>78 | 29.39%<br>82 | 279 |

# Q24 If there are children living in your home are they: (Select all that apply)

Answered: 130    Skipped: 164
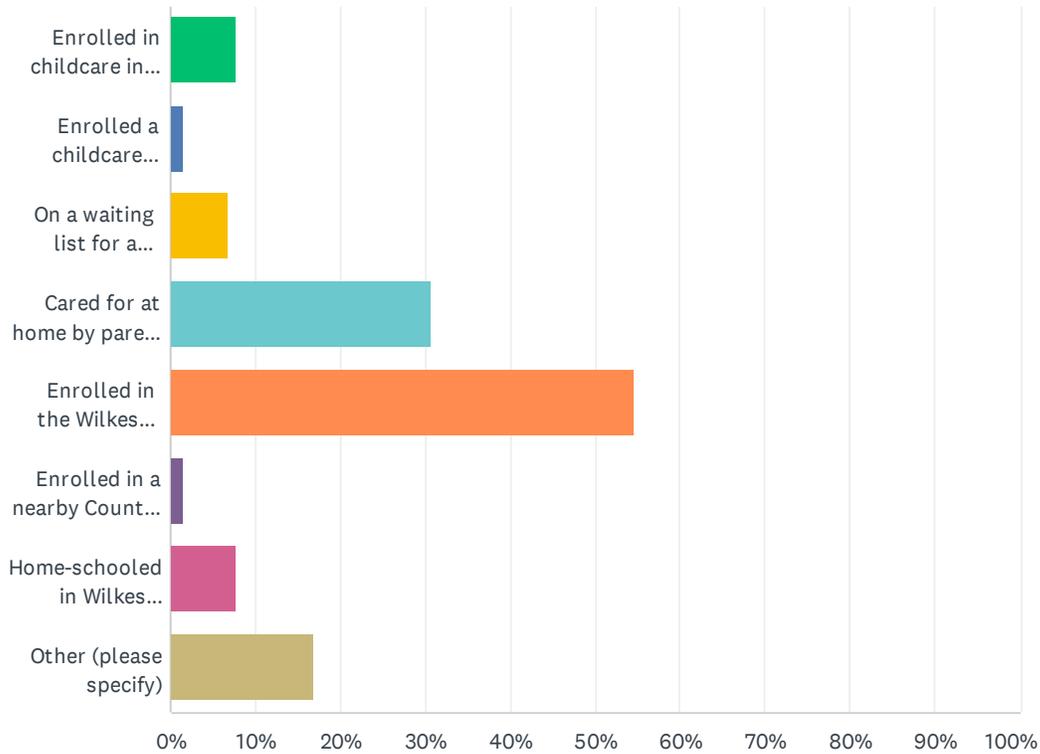


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Enrolled in childcare in Wilkes County | 7.69% | 10 |
| Enrolled a childcare outside of Wilkes County | 1.54% | 2 |
| On a waiting list for a space in a childcare center | 6.92% | 9 |
| Cared for at home by parent or other family member | 30.77% | 40 |
| Enrolled in the Wilkes County School system | 54.62% | 71 |
| Enrolled in a nearby County school system | 1.54% | 2 |
| Home-schooled in Wilkes County | 7.69% | 10 |
| Other (please specify) | 16.92% | 22 |
| Total Respondents: 130 | | |

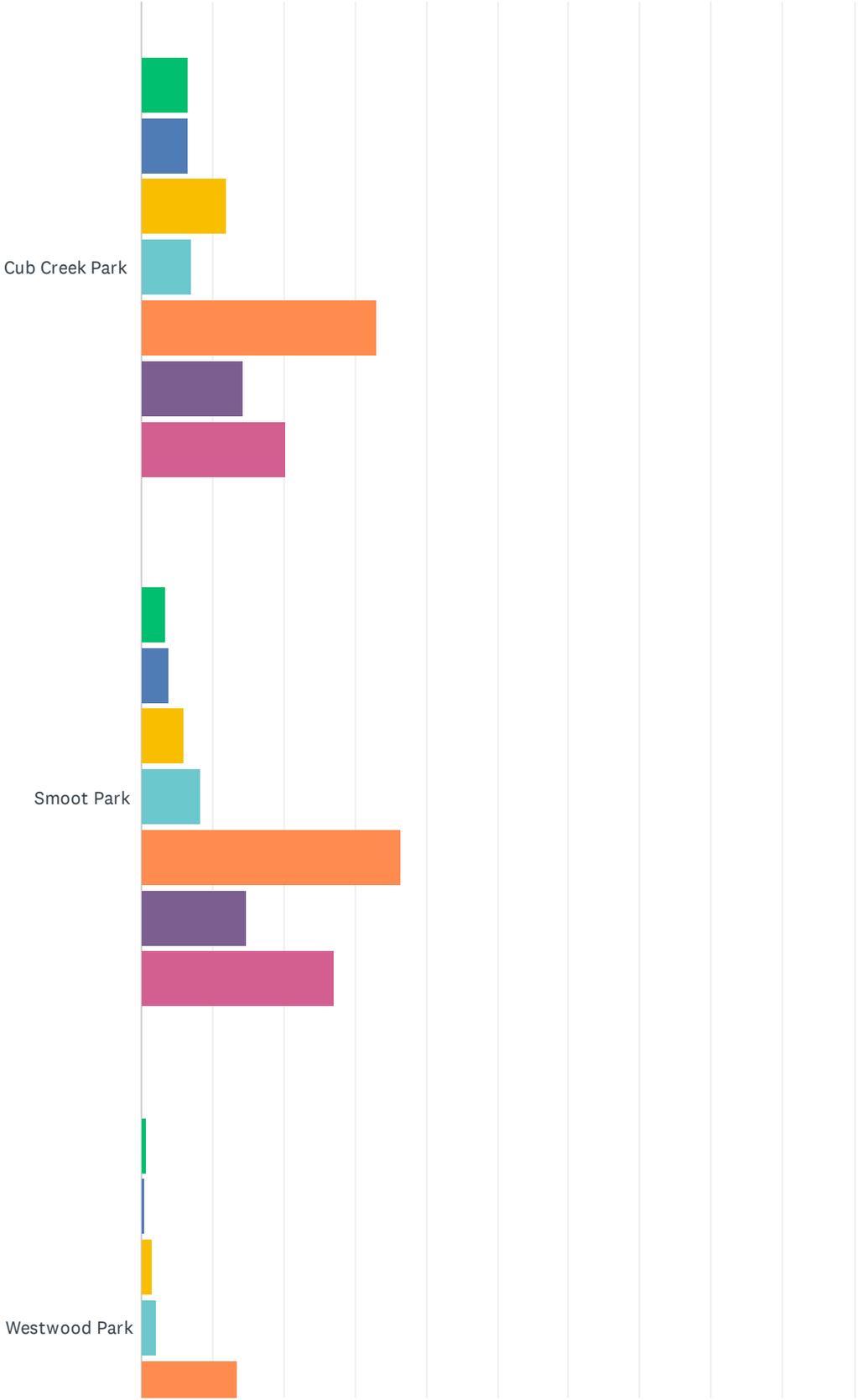# Q25 Are you a caregiver for any of the following? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 229 Skipped: 65
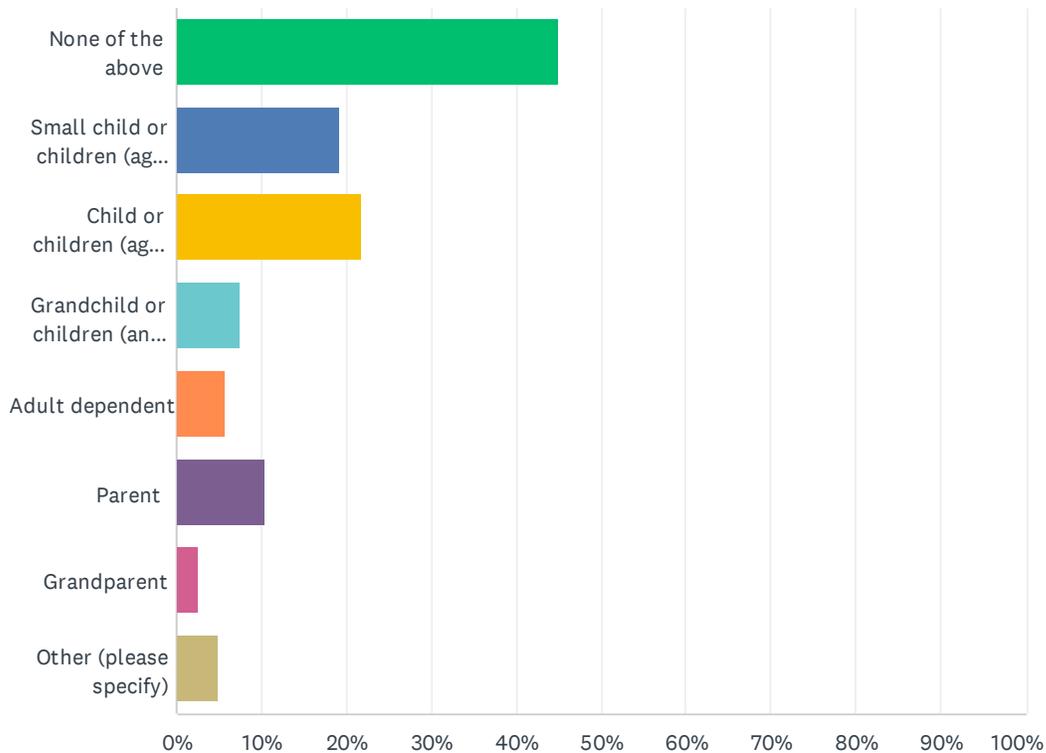


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| None of the above | 44.98% | 103 |
| Small child or children (ages 0-4) | 19.21% | 44 |
| Child or children (ages 5-12) | 21.83% | 50 |
| Grandchild or children (any age) | 7.42% | 17 |
| Adult dependent | 5.68% | 13 |
| Parent | 10.48% | 24 |
| Grandparent | 2.62% | 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 4.80% | 11 |
| Total Respondents: 229 | | |

# Q26 How frequently do you visit the following parks in Wilkes County?

Answered: 290    Skipped: 4
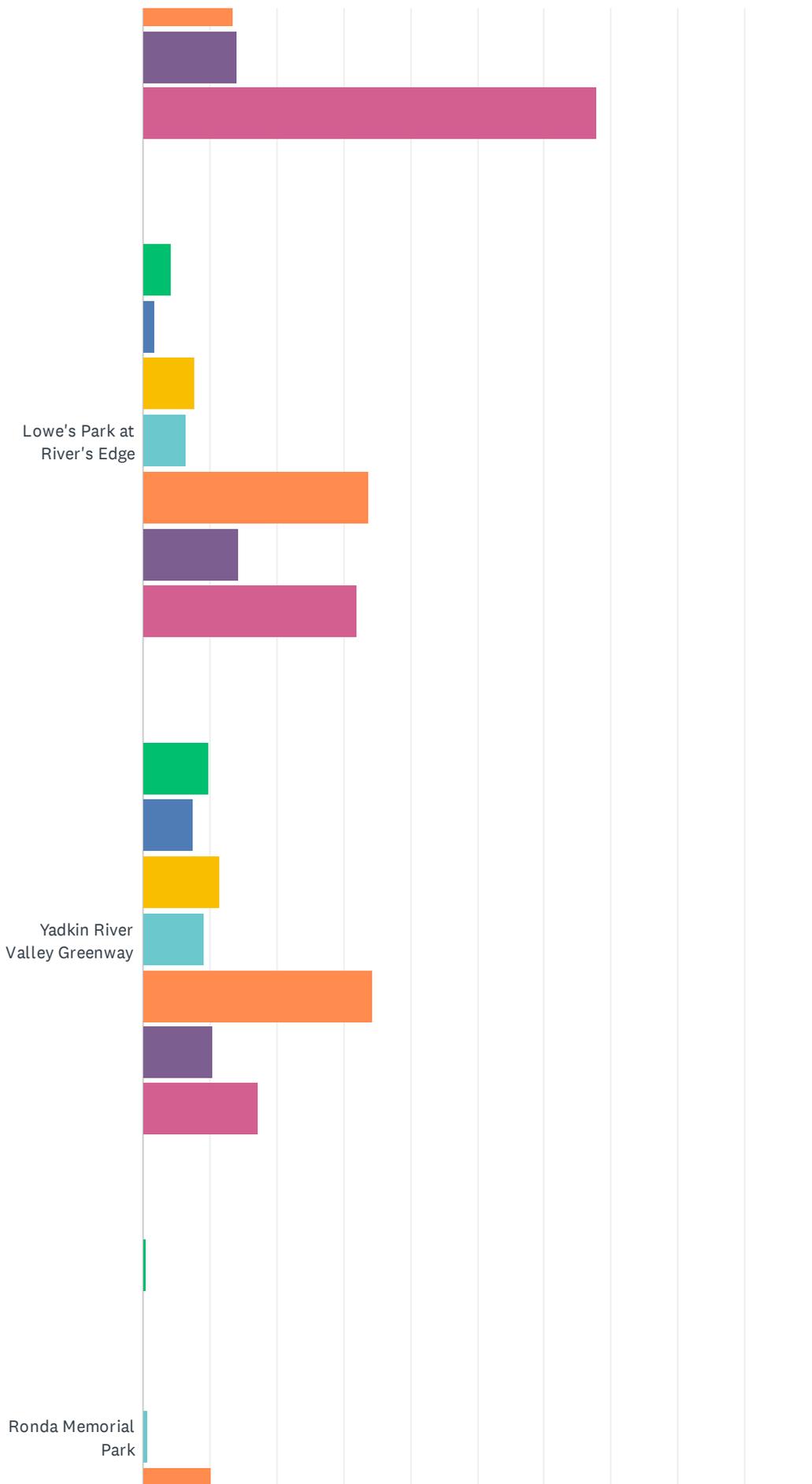
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Lowe's Park at River's Edge

Yadkin River Valley Greenway

Ronda Memorial Park

Memorial Park
(North...

School Street
Park

Rolling Pines
Disc Golf...

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Heritage
Square Splas...

W. Kerr Scott
Reservoir & Dam

Wilkes

## Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Community...

Wilkes
Community...

Stone Mountain
State Park

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey



Legend:
- Multiple ti...
- Weekly
- Multiple ti...
- Monthly
- A few times...
- Every few y...
- Never
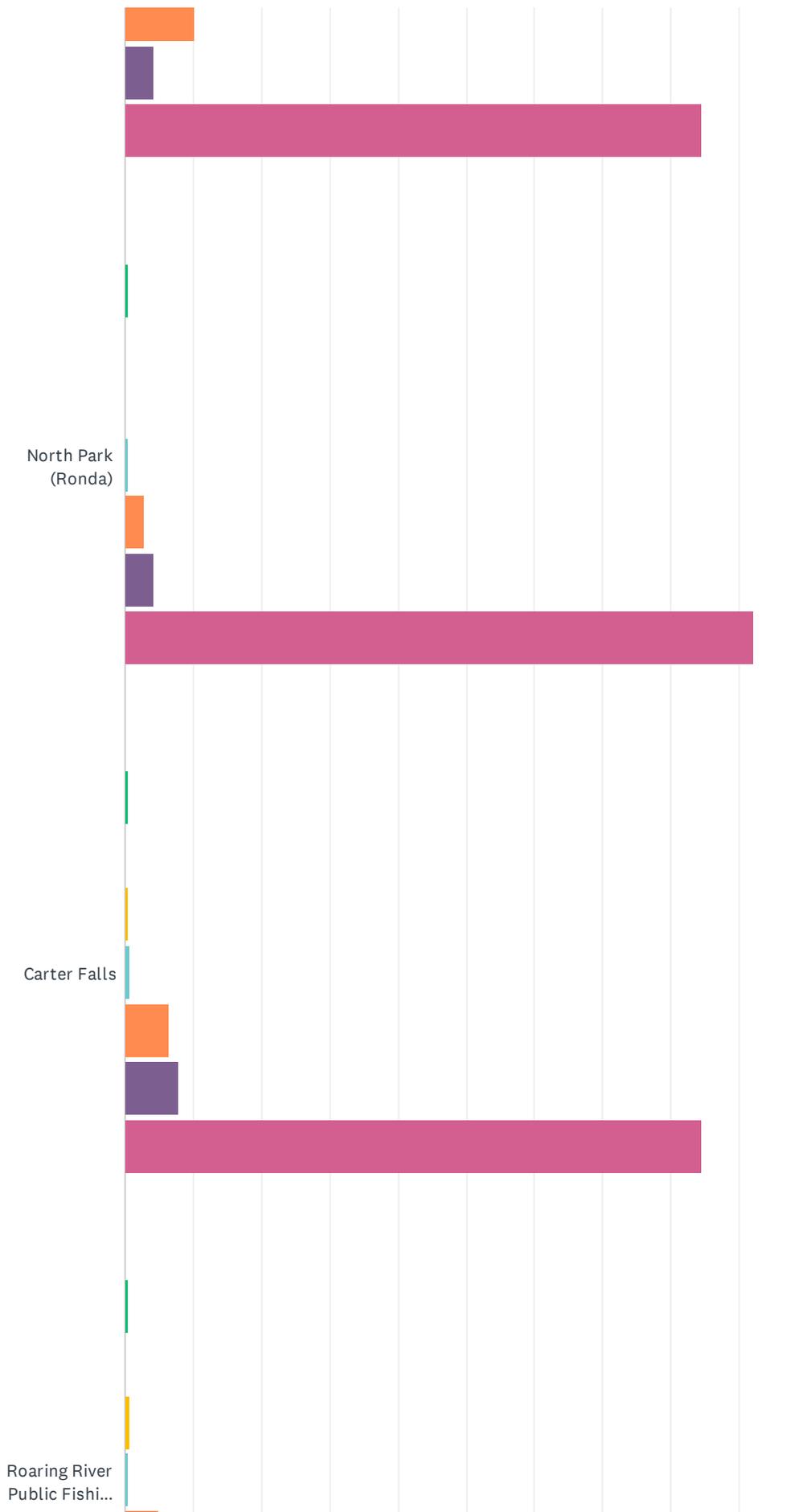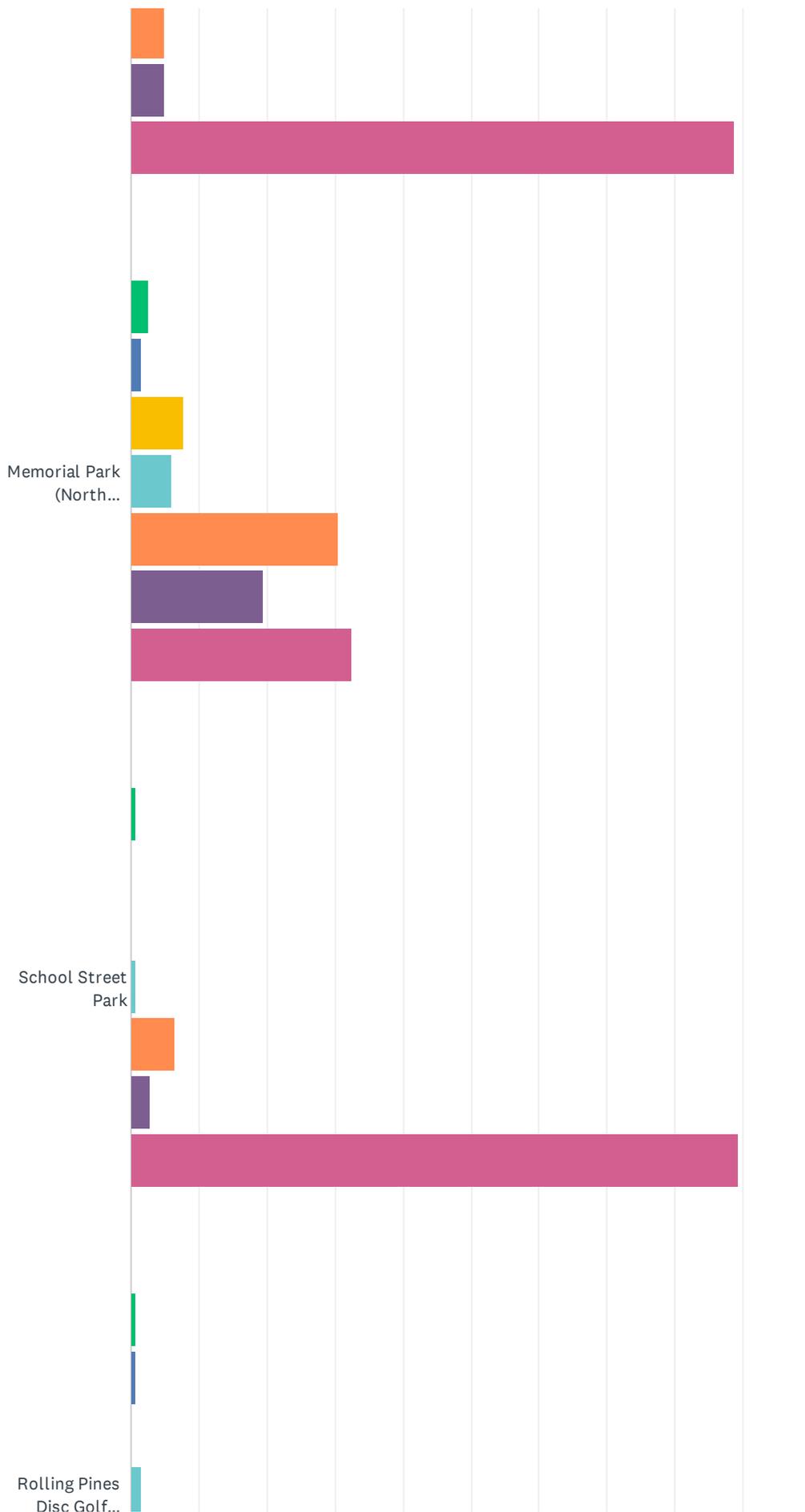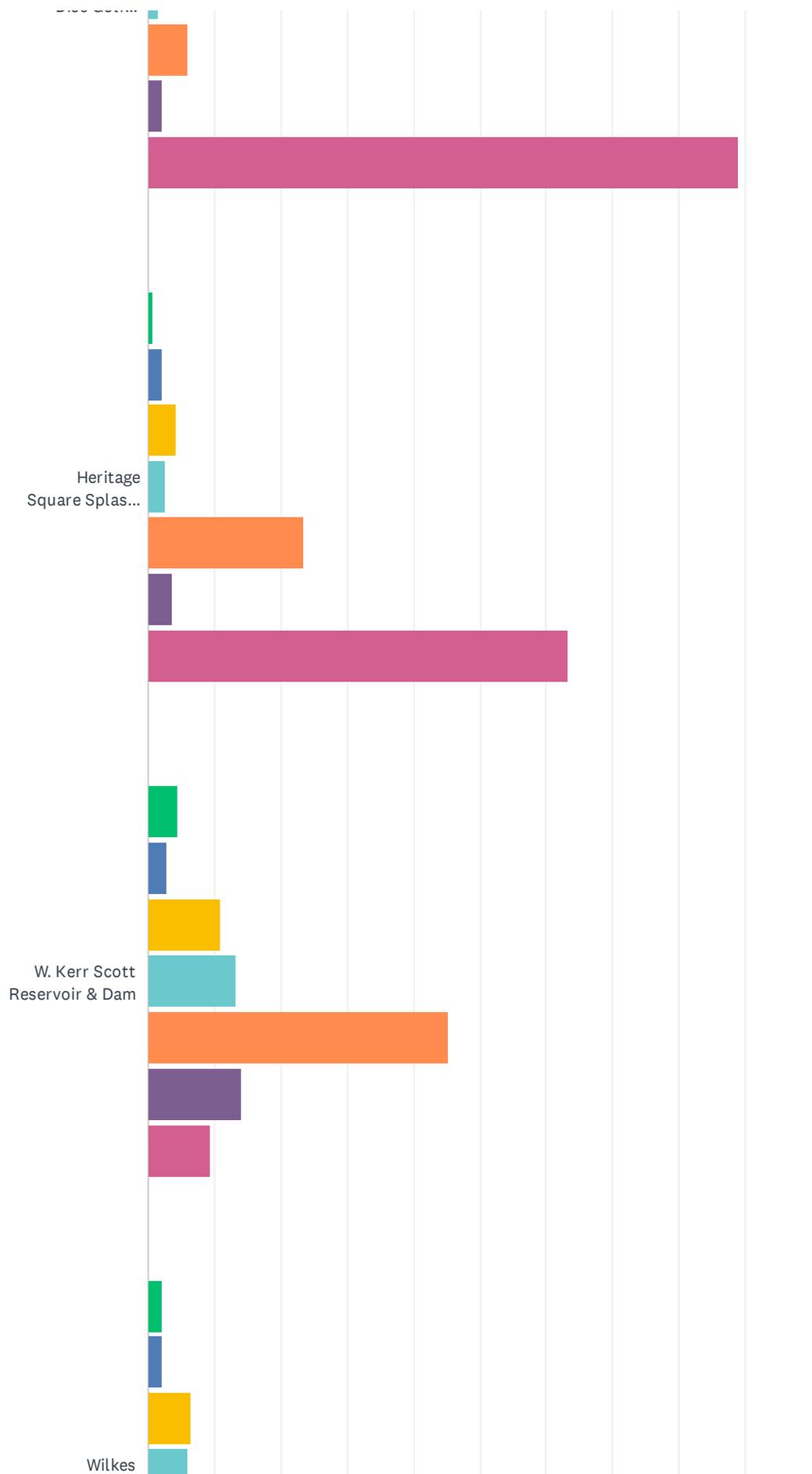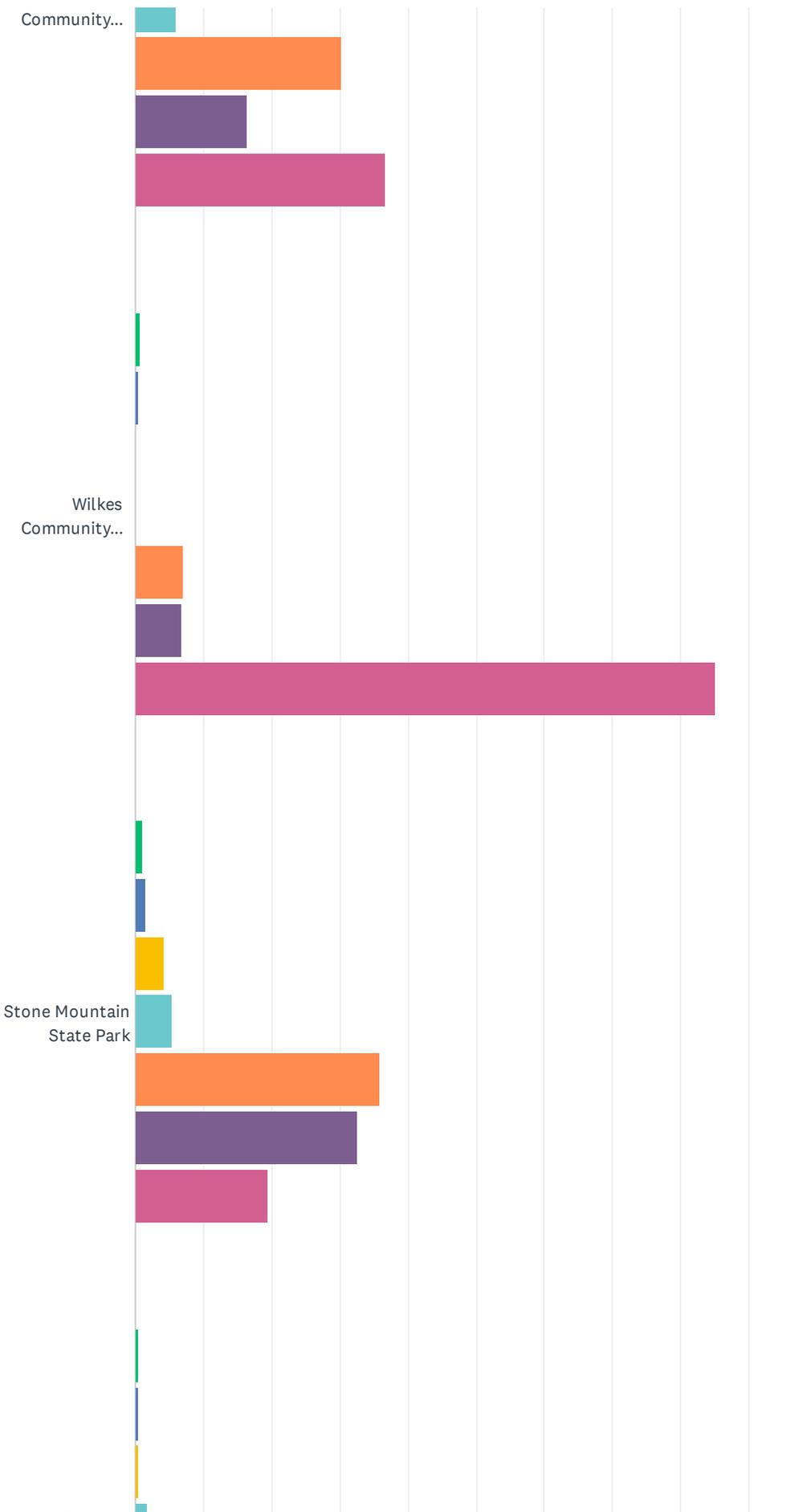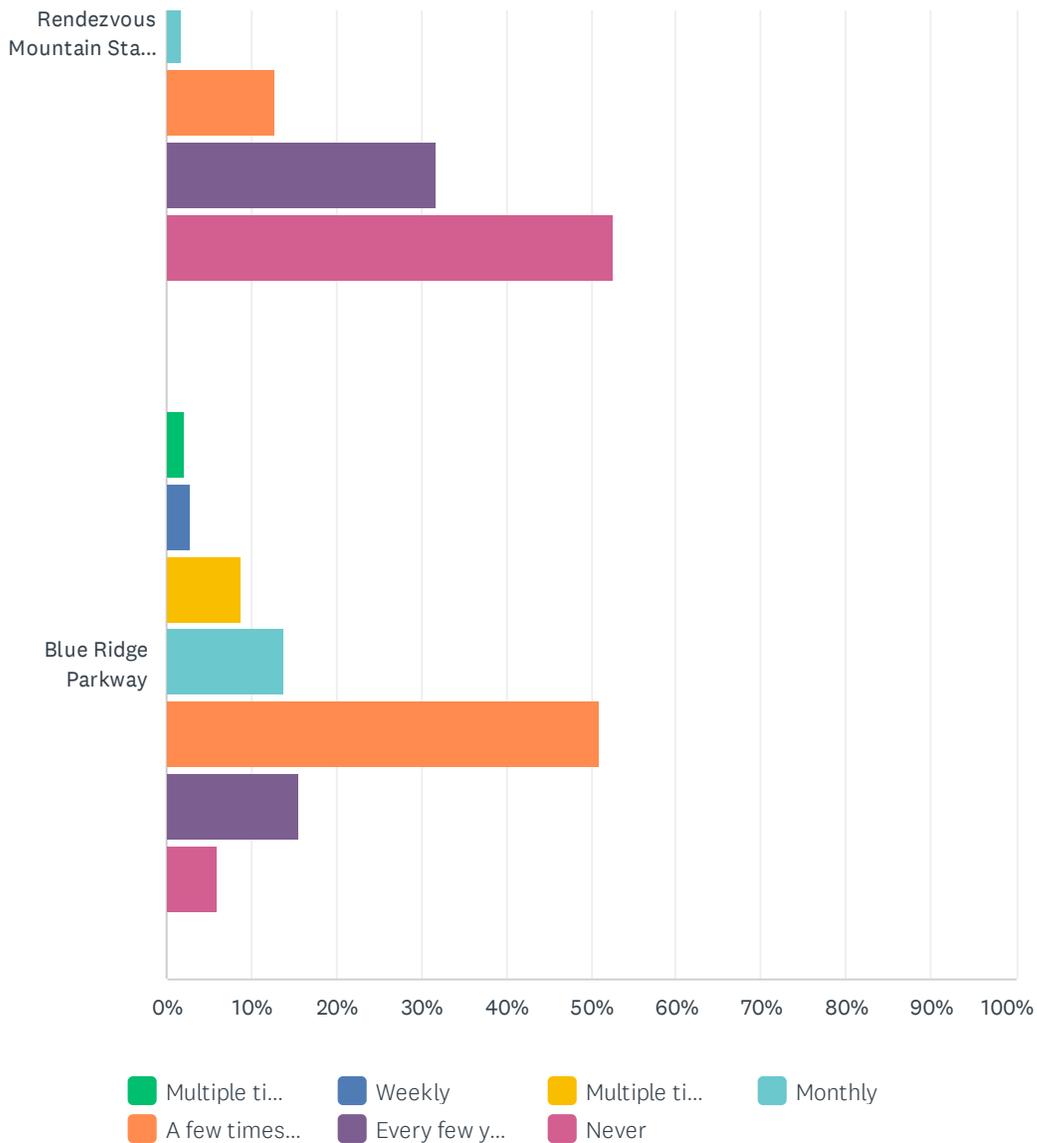
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| | MULTIPLE TIMES A WEEK | WEEKLY | MULTIPLE TIMES A MONTH | MONTHLY | A FEW TIMES A YEAR | EVERY FEW YEARS | NEVER | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cub Creek Park | 6.67%<br>19 | 6.67%<br>19 | 11.93%<br>34 | 7.02%<br>20 | 32.98%<br>94 | 14.39%<br>41 | 20.35%<br>58 | 285 |
| Smoot Park | 3.51%<br>10 | 3.86%<br>11 | 5.96%<br>17 | 8.42%<br>24 | 36.49%<br>104 | 14.74%<br>42 | 27.02%<br>77 | 285 |
| Westwood Park | 0.72%<br>2 | 0.36%<br>1 | 1.45%<br>4 | 2.17%<br>6 | 13.41%<br>37 | 14.13%<br>39 | 67.75%<br>187 | 276 |
| Lowe's Park at River's Edge | 4.21%<br>12 | 1.75%<br>5 | 7.72%<br>22 | 6.32%<br>18 | 33.68%<br>96 | 14.39%<br>41 | 31.93%<br>91 | 285 |
| Yadkin River Valley Greenway | 9.82%<br>28 | 7.37%<br>21 | 11.58%<br>33 | 9.12%<br>26 | 34.39%<br>98 | 10.53%<br>30 | 17.19%<br>49 | 285 |
| Ronda Memorial Park | 0.35%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.71%<br>2 | 10.28%<br>29 | 4.26%<br>12 | 84.40%<br>238 | 282 |
| North Park (Ronda) | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.36%<br>1 | 2.85%<br>8 | 4.27%<br>12 | 92.17%<br>259 | 281 |
| Carter Falls | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.71%<br>2 | 6.41%<br>18 | 7.83%<br>22 | 84.34%<br>237 | 281 |
| Roaring River Public Fishing Access | 0.35%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.71%<br>2 | 0.35%<br>1 | 4.96%<br>14 | 4.96%<br>14 | 88.65%<br>250 | 282 |
| Memorial Park (North Wilkesboro) | 2.47%<br>7 | 1.41%<br>4 | 7.77%<br>22 | 6.01%<br>17 | 30.39%<br>86 | 19.43%<br>55 | 32.51%<br>92 | 283 |
| School Street Park | 0.71%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.71%<br>2 | 6.41%<br>18 | 2.85%<br>8 | 89.32%<br>251 | 281 |
| Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course | 0.71%<br>2 | 0.71%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 1.42%<br>4 | 6.03%<br>17 | 2.13%<br>6 | 89.01%<br>251 | 282 |
| Heritage Square Splash Pad | 0.71%<br>2 | 2.14%<br>6 | 4.27%<br>12 | 2.49%<br>7 | 23.49%<br>66 | 3.56%<br>10 | 63.35%<br>178 | 281 |
| W. Kerr Scott Reservoir & Dam | 4.55%<br>13 | 2.80%<br>8 | 10.84%<br>31 | 13.29%<br>38 | 45.10%<br>129 | 13.99%<br>40 | 9.44%<br>27 | 286 |
| Wilkes Community College Walking Trial | 2.14%<br>6 | 2.14%<br>6 | 6.41%<br>18 | 6.05%<br>17 | 30.25%<br>85 | 16.37%<br>46 | 36.65%<br>103 | 281 |
| Wilkes Community College Tennis Courts | 0.71%<br>2 | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 7.12%<br>20 | 6.76%<br>19 | 85.05%<br>239 | 281 |
| Stone Mountain State Park | 1.06%<br>3 | 1.42%<br>4 | 4.26%<br>12 | 5.32%<br>15 | 35.82%<br>101 | 32.62%<br>92 | 19.50%<br>55 | 282 |
| Rendezvous Mountain State Park | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.36%<br>1 | 0.36%<br>1 | 1.78%<br>5 | 12.81%<br>36 | 31.67%<br>89 | 52.67%<br>148 | 281 |
| Blue Ridge Parkway | 2.08%<br>6 | 2.78%<br>8 | 8.68%<br>25 | 13.89%<br>40 | 51.04%<br>147 | 15.63%<br>45 | 5.90%<br>17 | 288 |

# Q27 How satisfied are you with the variety of parks and recreation opportunities available in Wilkes County?

Answered: 288    Skipped: 6
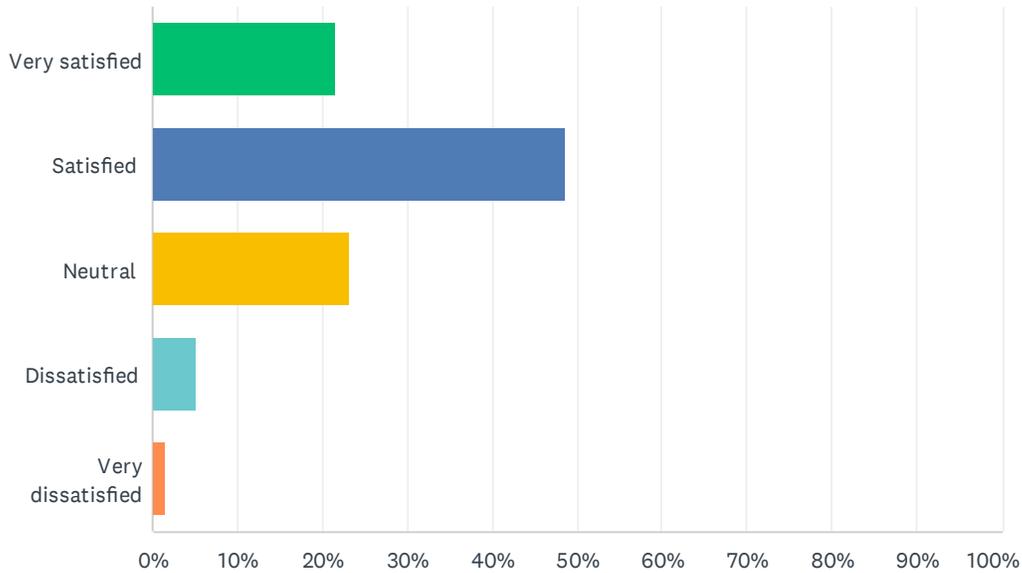


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| Very satisfied | 21.53% | 62 |
| Satisfied | 48.61% | 140 |
| Neutral | 23.26% | 67 |
| Dissatisfied | 5.21% | 15 |
| Very dissatisfied | 1.39% | 4 |
| TOTAL | | 288 |

# Q28 What efforts should Wilkes County make to provide quality recreational opportunities? (Select up to 5)

Answered: 257    Skipped: 37
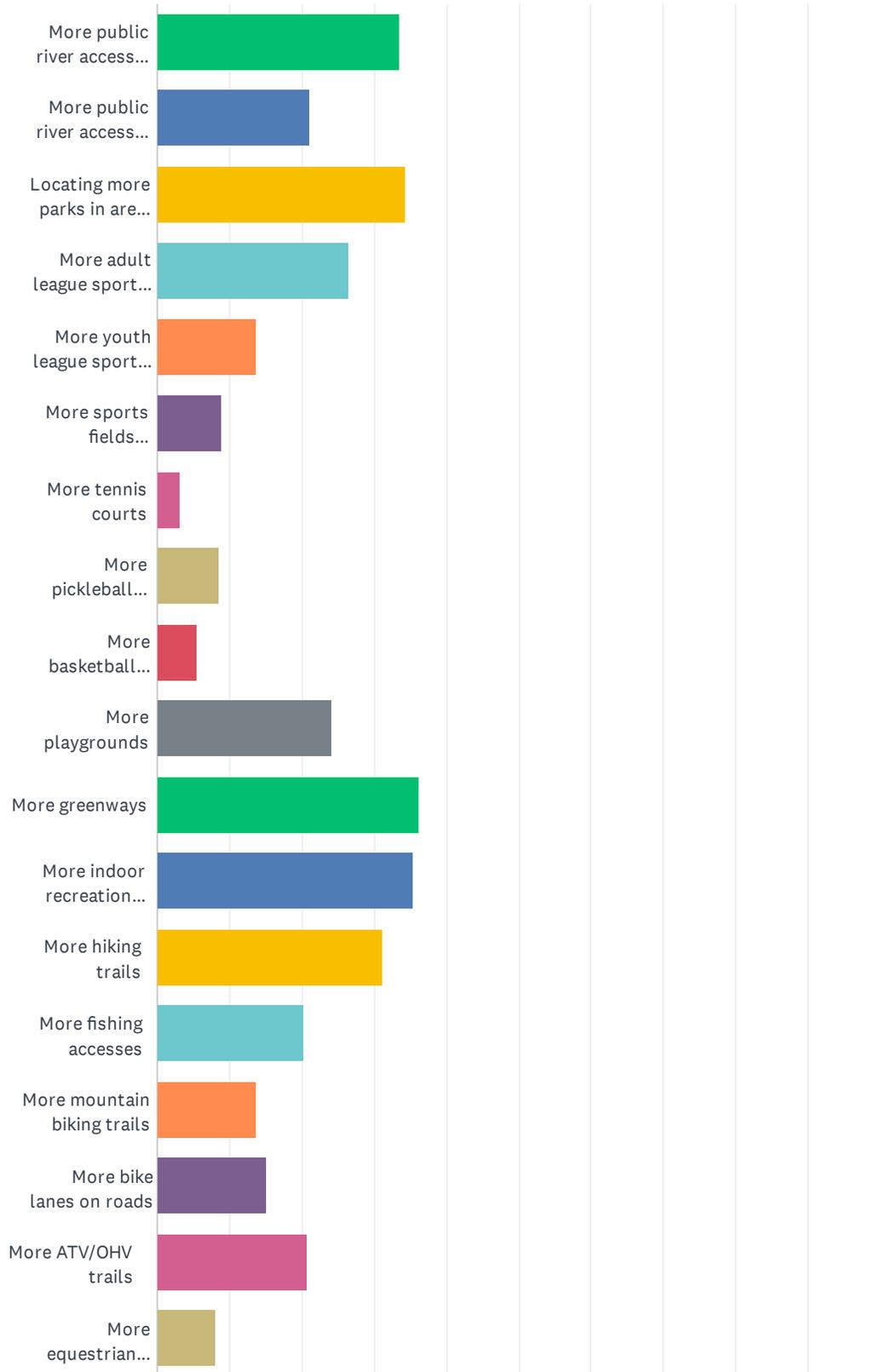
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey
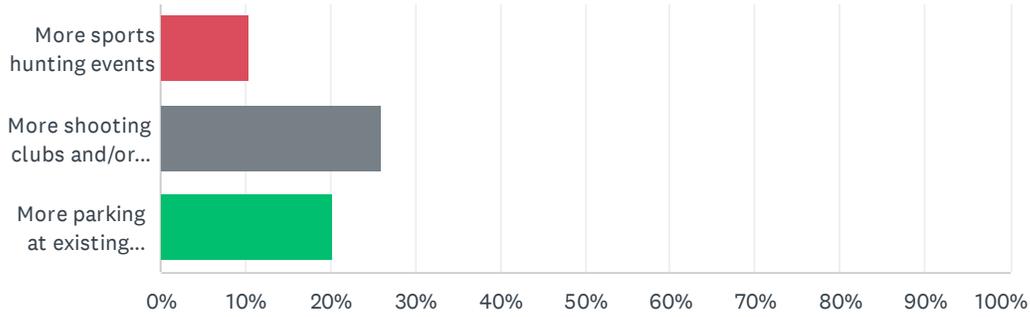


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| More public river access to the Yadkin River | 33.46% | 86 |
| More public river access to the Reddies River | 21.01% | 54 |
| Locating more parks in areas of the County outside of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro | 34.24% | 88 |
| More adult league sport options | 26.46% | 68 |
| More youth league sport options | 13.62% | 35 |
| More sports fields (baseball, soccer, football, etc.) | 8.95% | 23 |
| More tennis courts | 3.11% | 8 |
| More pickleball courts | 8.56% | 22 |
| More basketball courts | 5.45% | 14 |
| More playgrounds | 24.12% | 62 |
| More greenways | 36.19% | 93 |
| More indoor recreation facilities | 35.41% | 91 |
| More hiking trails | 31.13% | 80 |
| More fishing accesses | 20.23% | 52 |
| More mountain biking trails | 13.62% | 35 |
| More bike lanes on roads | 15.18% | 39 |
| More ATV/OHV trails | 20.62% | 53 |
| More equestrian trails | 8.17% | 21 |
| More sports hunting events | 10.51% | 27 |
| More shooting clubs and/or ranges (pistol, skeet, etc.) | 26.07% | 67 |
| More parking at existing facilities | 20.23% | 52 |
| Total Respondents: 257 | | |

# Q29 What efforts should Wilkes County undertake to encourage more tourism? (Select up to 3)

Answered: 277    Skipped: 17
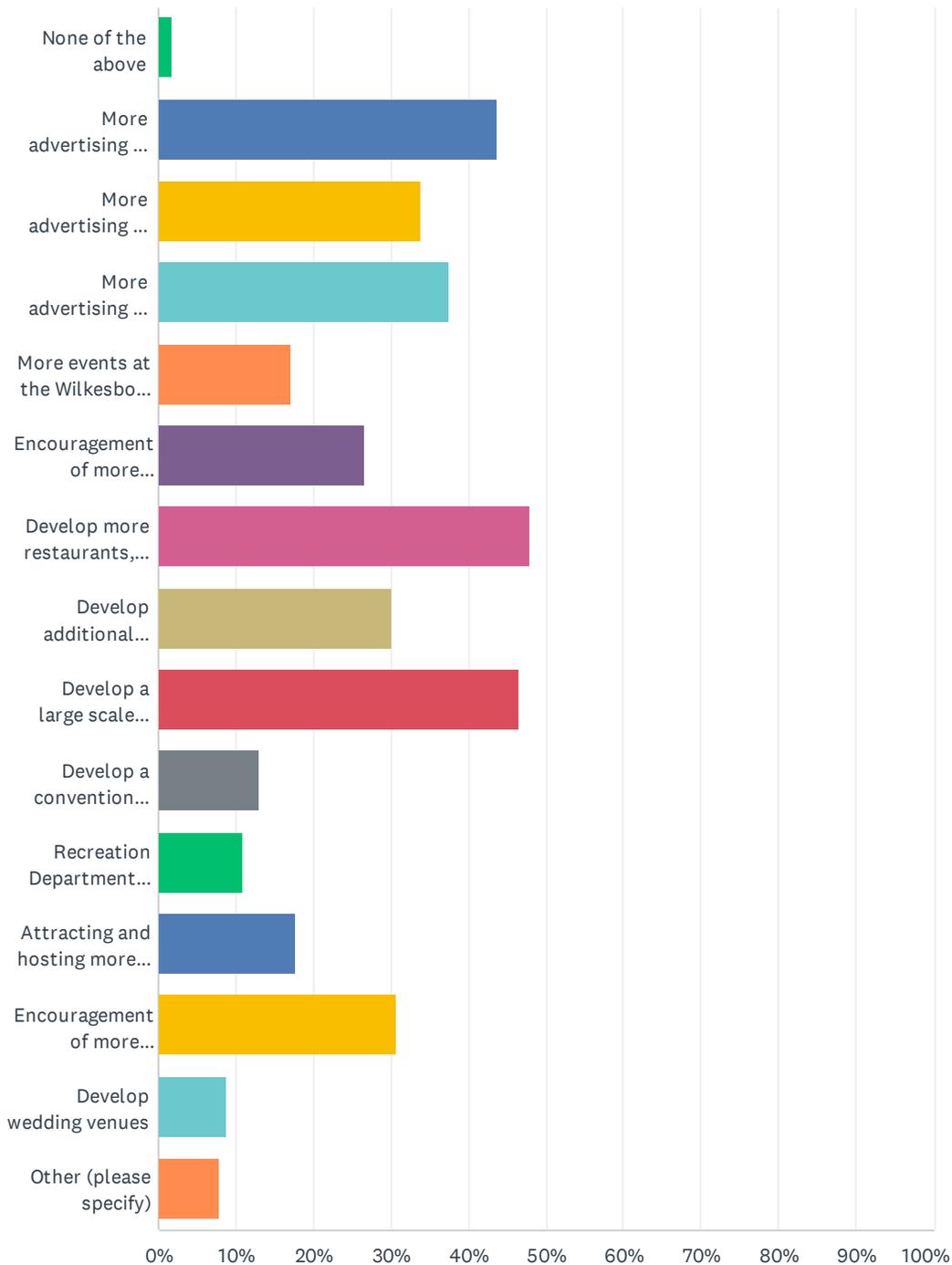
# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan Citizen Survey

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---|---|---|
| None of the above | 1.81% | 5 |
| More advertising and promotion of travel and tourism opportunities in Wilkes County  (Merlefest, Faithfest, events at the Speedway, etc.) | 43.68% | 121 |
| More advertising and promotion of the local wineries, breweries, and distilleries | 33.94% | 94 |
| More advertising of downtown events | 37.55% | 104 |
| More events at the Wilkesboro Dragway | 16.97% | 47 |
| Encouragement of more hotel/motel/accommodation development to handle event traffic | 26.71% | 74 |
| Develop more restaurants, hotels, and shopping to attract visitors | 48.01% | 133 |
| Develop additional outdoor recreation facilities | 29.96% | 83 |
| Develop a large scale farmer's market (similar to Greensboro) | 46.57% | 129 |
| Develop a convention center | 13.00% | 36 |
| Recreation Department needs to coordinate more tournaments (travel ball) and related events | 10.83% | 30 |
| Attracting and hosting more sporting tournaments (baseball, softball, soccer, etc.) | 17.69% | 49 |
| Encouragement of more Agri-tourism (i.e. corn mazes, choose and cut Christmas trees, apple picking, etc.) | 30.69% | 85 |
| Develop wedding venues | 8.66% | 24 |
| Other (please specify) | 7.94% | 22 |
| Total Respondents: 277 | | |

# Appendix II – Stakeholder Responses

# Wilkes County Growth Management Plan - Stakeholder Responses

**Responses are recorded in blue.**

## Wilkesboro Manager – Ken Noland

1. Do you have any annexation plans?
   **No**
2. Do you have any plans to change your ETJ?
   **No**
3. Do you have any plans to extend water/sewer service outside of Town limits?
   **Not at this time, but would consider for economic development and or housing opportunities.**
4. Do you have any plans for new surface water intake?
   **Have capital project in development to upgrade existing intake facility.**
5. Do you have any plans for major changes to zoning regulations?
   **Defer to Planning.**
6. Does the County enforce land use regulations in Town?
   **They do not.**
7. Does the County use Town recreation facilities for County run programs? If so, where and for what?
   **Yes, Cub Creek Park for organized baseball leagues.**
8. Does the Town allow mobile home parks?
   **Defer to Planning Department for response.**
9. Are there any road improvements that are needed in Town?
   **DOT projects as identified in RPO process.**
10. Do you have any issues with short-term rentals?
    **Defer to planning.**
11. Do you regulate short-term rentals? If so, how?
    **Defer to Planning.**
12. Do you offer public wifi downtown?
    **Defer to planning.**
13. Are there any trends in development you are seeing?
    **Defer to planning.**
14. Does public water and sewer serve everyone in Town limits? If not, why?
    **Yes**
15. Does public water and sewer serve everyone in the ETJ?
    **No**

16. Have there been any recent (since 2015) improvements to the water or sewer systems in the Town?
**We continually rehabilitate our water distribution and sewer collection lines. The water plant and wastewater plant are both in final design for upgrades.**

17. Do you have any plans to extend water and or sewer service outside Town limits?
**None at present.**

18. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
**We struggle with enforcement of minimum housing and nuisance claims in the county as we have limited jurisdiction in these areas. Policies should be updated to allow for better county enforcement where the town does not have police powers to enforce standards outside corporate limits.**

## Wilkes County Parks and Recreation – Kevin Anderson

1. Do you have any major improvements planned?
**Wants to build 2 more baseball fields at River's Edge.**

2. Do you have any efforts underway to develop a comprehensive parks and recreation plan?
**HCCOG is working on development of a 10-year master plan.**

3. How is the use of ballfields in the Towns coordinated?
**The County has leases with both Towns for use of baseball fields.**

4. What facilities or programs are most requested by the public?
**Has close to 1,000 youth participants in soccer, baseball/softball, and basketball.**

5. Can EMS/fire/law enforcement access recreational facilities adequately?
**EMS can access all facilities.**

## Wilkesboro Police Department – Tommy Rhodes

1. How many 911 calls were received in 2022?
**All of our 911 calls are generated from the Wilkes County Communications Center. Our Calls for Service in 2022 was 11,480 which was a 9.8% increase from 2021.**

2. Is this standard or did you receive more/less than usual last year?
**See above**

3. What is your average response time?
**Less than 5 Minutes**

4. Where in your jurisdiction do most of the calls come from?
**The majority of our calls are generated from the US Hwy 421 area. This area has the majority of our business/people/traffic.**

5. Are there areas that are hard to access for emergency response due to road conditions?
   **Not really, we are pretty flexible and able to get almost anywhere.**
6. Has growth over the past 5 years caused any issues for your department?
   **Yes**
7. If so, where what is the nature of the issues?
   **I would say the daytime population and motor vehicle traffic have probably increased. This has also caused the homeless population to be more as well.**
8. Do you have adequate capacity for law enforcement at events?
   **Yes**
9. Do gated communities cause an issue for 911 response?
   **N/A**
10. Have calls increased over the past 5 years?
    **We have stayed between 11,299 (2018) - 11,480 (2022).**
11. If so, where and what types of problems are being reported?
    **Suspicious People, Disturbances, and Motor Vehicle Crashes; in recent years it seems that people are more likely to call in things that they see and don't think are right.**
12. What areas of your jurisdiction do you receive the most calls from?
    **US Hwy 421 Area**
13. Does the County 911/communications receive and dispatch calls for the police forces in Wilkesboro?
    **We have our own dispatch M-F 7a-11p, and we dispatch for NWPD M-F 4p-11p, Wilkes County 911 takes all our 911 calls and sends them to our dispatch when we are covered in-house.**
14. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
    **Dealing with the homeless population is becoming a very big issue. They find an area around businesses and set up a camp. In the summer months, the camp may go unseen until fall when the leaves fall.**

## Wilkes Chamber of Commerce – Linda Cheek

1. Has there been an increase in short-term rentals in the County?
   **Yes, there has been a fairly large increase in short-term rentals. With the recent "All Star Race" week we experienced, the chamber added accommodations to our website enabling visitors to find what was available. We were amazed at the number of Airbnbs, cabins, campgrounds, etc. requesting to be listed.**
   **Here's a link to that long list which indicates the increased numbers:**
   **https://www.wilkeschamber.com/assets/pdf/Accomodations+PDF+5.9.23/**

2. Are more hotels needed for Speedway and/or MerleFest visitors?
   **Yes, there are more hotels needed primarily for those two events, but I don't think we would fill the hotels that often the remaining nights. We are working diligently to create activities and events that bring in overnight stays, however the consistent occupancy is not there.**

3. Is more RV camping needed for Speedway and/or MerleFest visitors?
   **RV camping in Wilkes has always been strong from Spring through Fall. Most of the existing campgrounds are occupied April through October. Additional campgrounds with full service hookups would certainly be utilized by RV/Camping visitors.**

4. What will occupancy tax be used for?
   **The 6% Occupancy Tax is regulated by the State stating that 2/3's of the proceeds are to be used to promote travel and tourism for the county and 1/3 used for tourism-related expenditures – such as capital improvements.**

5. Is there a TDA?
   **Yes, Wilkes County District K Tourism Development Authority was selected by the County and started in April 2023. The Wilkesboro TDA began in early 2000's and has been working diligently to promote travel and tourism since its inception.**

6. Do businesses have a hard time recruiting employees due to affordable housing issues?
   **Businesses are certainly challenged in their recruitment efforts and retention due to the lack of housing available. Yesterday a team of us visited with Tyson to meet some of the new management and discuss their needs. Their number one need discussed was "housing".**

7. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
   **The lack of sewer available throughout the county is a big issue when it comes to development of business or housing. Water too is an issue as the supply to various locations is limited in pipe size or availability. Many times the water lines are too small to meet the need of the facility or the lines are at the main highways, but are not made available to the proposed development site.**

## Wilkes County Transportation Authority – Michael Johnson

1. Have you seen an increase or decrease in public transportation ridership in the last 3-4 years? If so, why?
   **Yes, We have seen a decrees due to covid. We are almost back to out trip load for pre covid trips.**

2. How many on demand trips do you do per month and per year?
   **So far this year we have averaged 4700 trip a month with last year we ran 44166 trips with an average of 3680. So you can see we are up about a 1000 a month on average.**

3. Where are the most calls for on demand trips coming from?
   **Our demand response trips generally come from through out the county. With about 60% coming from with-in city limits or just out side of them.**

4. Where are the most popular or typical destinations for on demand trips?
**They are mostly medical and shopping for local grocery stores and box stores.**
5. Do you operate a fixed route/shuttle?
**Yes, we run a fixed shuttle of 24 stops thru Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. See attached schedule for locations.**
6. Do you have any projected change in services?
**No planned changes scheduled.**
7. Are there specific roads in the County that are an issue getting vans to?
**Our biggest challenges are driveways and turning around on the clients property.**
8. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
**We still see a lot of homes with out proper 911 addresses posted. That is our biggest tool to help find clients with GPS not always being on point.**

## Wilkes County Airport – Dustin Caudill

1. Do you have any plans to expand the airport aside from runway extension?
**Not only the runway extension but we also plan to develop some T-Hangars on the East side of the runway. Hopefully in another year or so.**
2. Do you get requests that you can't accommodate?
**No**
3. What is the status of the contract awarded in 2021 to build a new hangar and taxi lanes?
**This project is almost complete. Hopefully be completed in another week or two.**
4. Are there any incompatible uses adjacent to the airport?
**No**
5. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
**No**

## North Wilkesboro Police Department – Ron Thornburg

1. How many 911 calls were received in 2022?
**9331 Calls for service in 2022**
2. Is this standard or did you receive more/less than usual last year?
**We received 663 more calls in 2022 than in 2021**
3. What is your average response time?
**6 Minutes or less**
4. Where in your jurisdiction do most of the calls come from?
**Commercial Properties**

5. Are there areas that are hard to access for emergency response due to road conditions?
   **No**
6. Has growth over the past 5 years caused any issues for your department?
   **Yes. We have received increased calls for service, and staffing issues are low with high turnover to other agencies paying more money.**
7. If so, what is the nature of the issues?
   **Alcohol, Drugs, Homeless, False Alarms, and Motor Vehicle Accidents.**
8. Do you have adequate capacity for law enforcement at events?
   **For small events, yes. For more significant events, NO.**
9. Do gated communities cause an issue for 911 response?
   **We have no gated communities within our jurisdiction.**
10. Have calls increased over the past 5 years?
    **Yes**
11. If so, where and what types of problems are being reported?
    **Alcohol, Drugs, Homeless, False Alarms, and Motor Vehicle Accidents.**
12. What areas of your jurisdiction do you receive the most calls from?
    **Commercial properties**
13. Does the County 911/communications receive and dispatch calls for the police forces in North Wilkesboro?
    **Third shift and weekends only.**
14. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
    **None that I can think of at this time.**

## Wilkes EMS – Tim Pennington

1. Are there any new stations needed? If so, where?
   **Yes, in the future I see the need for Boomer, Mulberry, and Traphill.**
2. Are there any new stations planned?
   **None presently**
3. Are there any roads in the County that is difficult for ambulances to travel?
   **Lots of narrow winding roads that effect response time.**
4. Do you have any land-use related issues?
   **None**
5. Do you have issues with trail rescue/water rescue?
   **Some issues locating patients on trails and pinpointing the location.**
6. Do you have issues with campgrounds?
   **None known.**

7. Are current floodplain regulations adequate in regard to floor height relative to base flood elevation? (lowest floor at least 2 feet above base flood elevation)
   **None known.**
8. Are there any flood-prone areas in the County that are developed or that pose an issue?
   **None known.**
9. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?
   **None at this time.**

## Wilkes EDC – LeeAnn Nixon

1. Is workforce housing an issue?
   **Yes refer to Housing Study 2020**
2. Where is central water/sewer needed to attract new business/industry?
   **421 West & East**
3. Are there any new industrial sites planned?
   **Bumgarner Site off of Hwy. 115 at Speedway Road, Also Wilkes Industrial Park received funds for Due Diligence.**
4. Where is EDCs primary focus area(s) in the County? (ex. 421, NW industrial site, etc.)
   **Same as above.**
5. Is there a need for more commercially or industrial zoned property?
   **Bumgarner Site**
6. Are there any road improvements needed for economic development?
   **Carolina Core/Forsyth-Yadkin-Wilkes Interstate Designation**

## Wilkes Health Department – Angie Rhodes

1. Are there areas of the County that have trouble accommodating septic systems?
   **Lynnwood and Iron Gate Subdivisions**
2. Are lot minimums adequate for well and septic?
   **No minimums from Environmental Health but limited through water shed.**
3. Does the Health Department regulate water and sewage disposal for RV campgrounds?
   **There is a RV Ordinance for Wilkes County**
4. Do you have any issues with campgrounds?
   **Handle per state guidance and sent to State Engineer for design and approval.**
5. Does the Health Department regulate small community water and sewer systems? If so, what is the size threshold and are regulations adequate?
   **The Wilkes County Health Department permits shared wells for dwellings which would be 2 or more connections. These wells must be 100-foot set back from septic**

**systems.  If there is 15 or more connections water supply would be regulated by Division of Public Water Supply.**

6. Are there any other thoughts or concerns you have related to land use that we have not addressed?

   **Not aware of any other concerns.**