

2013-2014

Caswell County Comprehensive Plan



CASWELL COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Adopted by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners on August 4, 2014.



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Table of Contents

Section 1 Introduction & Overview	1
1.1 Purpose of the Plan.....	2
1.2 Planning Period.....	2
1.3 Planning Area.....	2
1.4 Organization of the Plan.....	3
1.5 Planning Process & Methodology.....	3
Section 2 Existing Conditions in Caswell County	4
Population & Housing Characteristics.....	4
2.1 County Population & Growth.....	4
2.2 Municipal Population & Growth.....	9
2.3 Components of Population Growth.....	12
2.4 Demographics.....	14
2.5 Housing & Household Characteristics.....	16
2.6 Miscellaneous Growth Factors.....	19
Economic Development Characteristics.....	21
2.7 Education.....	21
2.8 Income & Poverty.....	22
2.9 Labor Force, Employment, & Jobs.....	26
2.10 Commuting Patterns.....	30
2.11 Other Economic Factors.....	33
Infrastructure Characteristics.....	34
2.12 Water & Wastewater Systems.....	34
2.13 Transportation System.....	37
Natural & Cultural Resources.....	50
2.14 Natural Resources & Conservation Areas.....	50
2.15 Cultural Resources.....	55
Agriculture Characteristics.....	57
2.16 Farms & Farmland.....	57
2.17 Farmland Preservation.....	58
Health & Wellness Characteristics.....	60
2.18 Environmental Health.....	60
2.19 Physical Health.....	61

2.20 Leading Causes of Death	63
2.21 Access to Health Care.....	64
2.22 Health Statistics Maps	65
Land Use & Land Suitability	74
2.23 Existing Land Use	74
2.24 Land Development Suitability	79
Section 3 Community Input.....	85
3.1 Purpose of Gathering Community Input	85
3.2 Community Meetings Format	86
3.3 Community Meetings Results	87
3.4 Top Ten Ideas	93
3.5 Community Meetings Conclusions	94
Section 4 Issues, Goals, & Strategies.....	95
4.1 Economic Development	96
4.2 Health & Wellness.....	102
4.3 Agriculture & Rural Preservation.....	108
4.4 Community Infrastructure.....	113
4.5 General Land Use Strategies.....	116
Section 5 Plan Implementation	122
5.1 Recommendations for Implementing the Plan.....	122
5.2 How to Use the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan.....	122
5.3 Revisions & Monitoring	123
Appendix	124
Appendix A - Resources	124
Appendix B - Grant Resources.....	124
Appendix C - Caswell County Bicycling Brochure.....	124
Appendix D - Community Meetings Documents	124
Appendix E - Polk County, NC Agriculture Economic Development Director Job Description.....	124
Appendix F - Caswell County Local Foods Directory	124
Appendix G - Caswell County Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Access Project	124

Caswell County Comprehensive Plan

Section 1 Introduction & Overview

In Caswell County, North Carolina, centuries old traditions are facing the demands of the global economy. Like many rural communities across the state, Caswell seeks to preserve its heritage and landscape while also strengthening the economy for its 23,719 residents. Embracing a future that projects limited growth requires creative strategies. Recently, the County's interest in addressing economic and quality of life issues was met with the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Project's desire to improve the health and wellness of Caswell residents. The Comprehensive Plan was developed with funding assistance from the CTG Project and Caswell County.

Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Project



The North Carolina Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Project is a Centers for Disease Control funded initiative to support evidence-based public health efforts to reduce preventable chronic diseases. The project focuses on four strategic directions: healthy eating, active living, tobacco free living, and evidence-based clinical preventive services. The aim of the project is to create equal access to healthy living opportunities for all North Carolinians. Under the project, North Carolina has been divided into multi-county regions. Region 5 includes Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Guilford, Orange, Person, and Rockingham. One of the active living goals of the CTG Project is to increase the number of communities that develop comprehensive plans that include healthy living considerations. The CTG Project is able to support the development of such plans with financial assistance, as well as CTG Project staff time.

Past Planning Efforts

Over the past several decades Caswell County has completed several planning efforts to address important issues facing the County. These efforts have included: the Caswell County Strategic Plan of 1992, the Rural Design Assistance Team (RDAT) in 2000, the Caswell County Land Use Plan of 2003, the 21st Century Communities Plan (2005), the Agricultural Inventory of Caswell County, North Carolina (2010), and the Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan (2013). These plans have resulted in tangible projects and products for the County including the development of a Senior Center, legislation to protect agricultural lands through the Voluntary Agricultural District Program and the development of a brand for Caswell County agricultural products - 'Caswell Fresh'. It is important to note and appreciate successes of past planning efforts because too often we forget the victories and remember the defeats. The issues, goals and strategies included within this document build upon these previous planning efforts and hope to move Caswell County forward. As Helen Keller stated "ideas without action are worthless". Caswell County must make sure that it identifies people and groups that can help put these ideas into action.

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The Caswell County Comprehensive Plan is a guide for making strategic decisions about the orderly growth and development of our community. The plan serves as:

1. **A Source of Information** – containing information on local demographics, economics, housing, environmental constraints and development suitability, infrastructure, and existing and proposed land use patterns and policies.
2. **A Guide to Likely Government Decisions** – including a general County-wide growth strategy, and specific goals, policies, and recommendations to help guide public and private development decisions, giving greater insight and predictability concerning likely government actions.
3. **An Opportunity for Community Involvement** – active participation of the County Commissioners, Planning Board, staff and citizens during plan preparation help to ensure community values are represented and embodied in the plan.
4. **An Outline of Strategic Actions** – a guide for potential ordinance recommendations and revisions and a range of activities to implement the vision, goals, policies and recommendations outlined in the plan.

To access additional resources and an interactive map, visit <http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldp>.

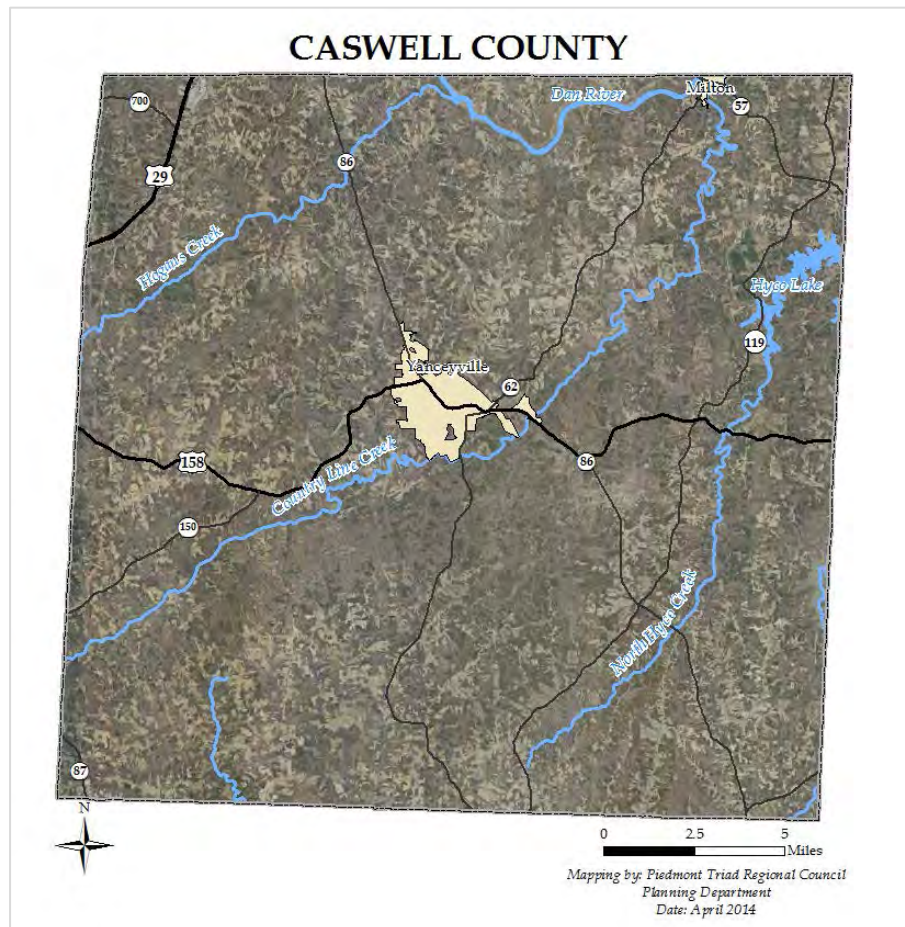
Figure 1: Planning Area Map

1.2 Planning Period

Twenty-One Years:
2014-2035

1.3 Planning Area

The plan encompasses the entire County (428 square miles) with the exception of the following municipalities and any accompanying extraterritorial planning jurisdictions: Yanceyville and Milton.



1.4 Organization of the Plan

- **Section 1 - Introduction and Overview:** Summary of the plan purpose, process, and scope.
- **Section 2 - Existing Conditions:** Detailed analysis of the factors affecting the County.
- **Section 3 - Community Input:** Framework of values based on Steering Committee and citizen input.
- **Section 4 - Issues, Goals, and Strategies:** Detailed examination of the three major issues confronting Caswell County and a general land use strategy including the development of general goals, strategies, and policies for implementation in the County.
- **Section 5 - Plan Implementation:** Recommendations for implementing, using, and revising the plan.

1.5 Planning Process & Methodology

A detailed analysis of existing conditions was conducted to ensure the plan responds adequately to the most relevant and current land development issues and trends. Computerized mapping and database technology, known as geographic information systems (GIS), was utilized to map and analyze a wide variety of demographic, economic, environmental, and urban service growth factors. General population, housing, and economic data was updated using the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census and American Communities Survey to provide a better understanding of how best to strategically plan for Caswell County's future growth.

Environmental growth factors were mapped and analyzed to identify the most suitable sites for development and conservation in the County. A detailed map of existing land uses was created to identify land development patterns and trends. Physical landscape features including topography, hydrology, and soil limitations were mapped to identify the most appropriate and feasible sites for future growth. Vacant or under-utilized sites located out of the 100-year flood plain and with gentle slopes and few soil limitations were considered prime development sites and most suitable for future growth. Urban service areas including existing and planned roads and existing and planned water and sewer systems were mapped. The provision and maintenance of roads, water services, and sewer services are three of the most influential and expensive factors driving growth. Therefore, special attention was paid to analyzing the potential expansion of water and sewer services. Extensive input from the Steering Committee and citizens was used to identify core community values and to build ownership of and support for the plan. This framework of community values was applied to the detailed analysis of existing conditions and used to draw conclusions and make recommendations. Recommended general growth strategies and guidelines were developed to provide a strategic, proactive vision of where and how the community wishes to grow.

Section 2 Existing Conditions in Caswell County



Population & Housing Characteristics

2.1 County Population & Growth

Caswell County has a population of 23,719 people, but its central east coast location puts it in close proximity to a number of other large urban areas. Approximately 1.8 million people live within a 50 mile radius of the County, 5.9 million people within a 100 mile radius, and 11.8 million people live within a 150 mile radius.

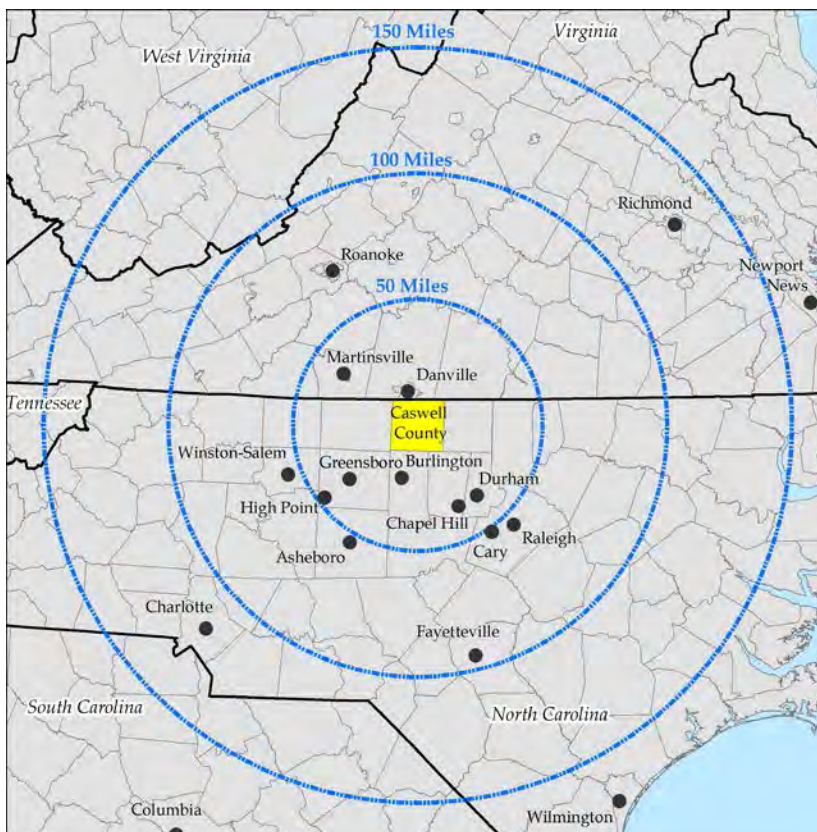
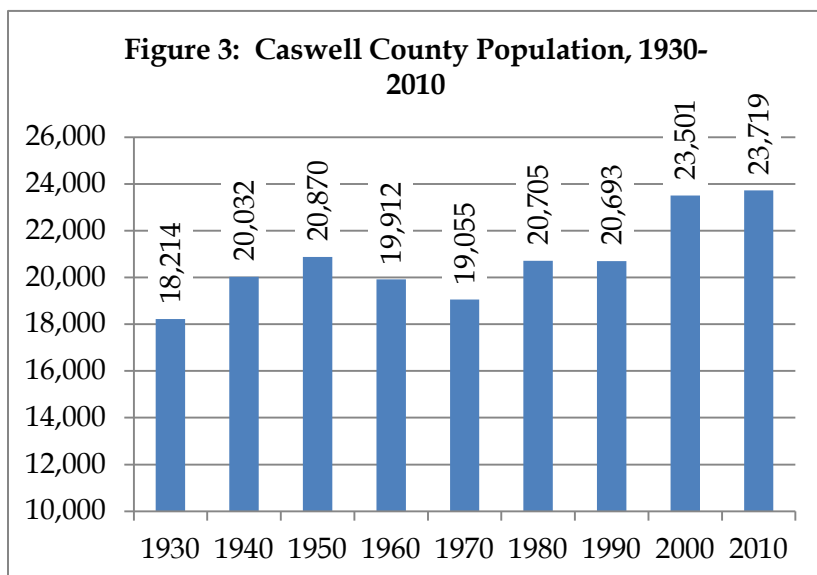


Figure 2: Overview Map

The County's population has seen varying growth and decline over the past few decades, growing by an average of 87 people per year since 1980. The 1990's saw the highest population increase, growing by an average of 247 people per year.



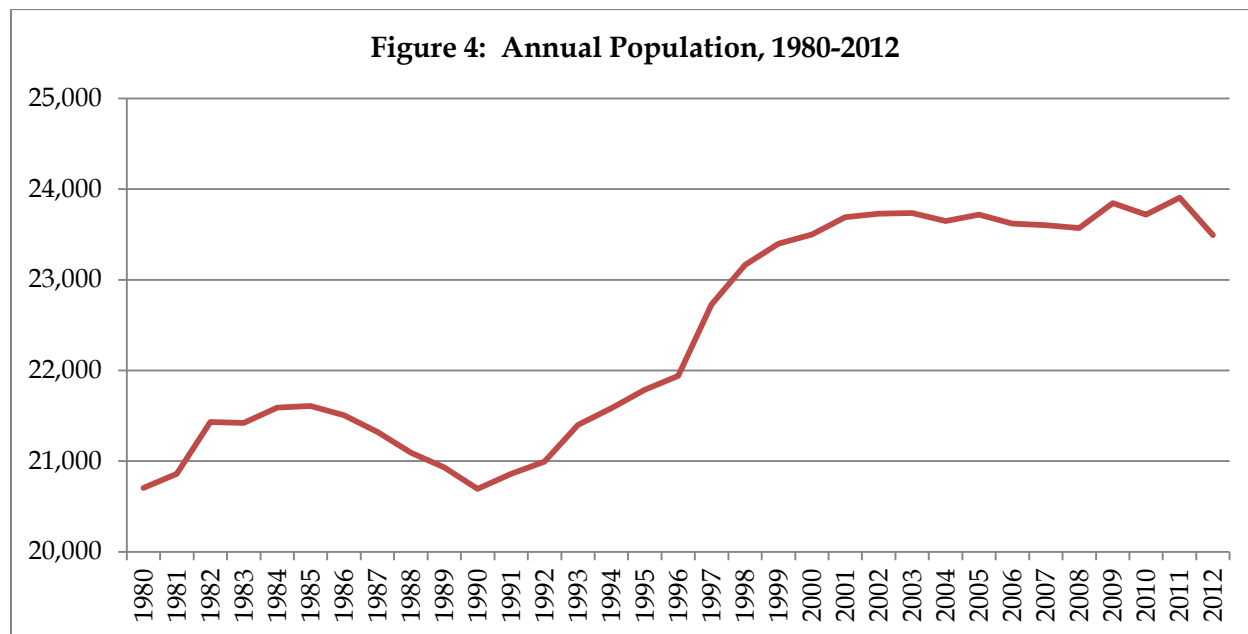
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Table 1: Caswell County Population Growth Rates

Decade	Population Change	Percent Growth
1930's	1,818	10.0%
1940's	838	4.2%
1950's	-958	-4.6%
1960's	-857	-4.3%
1970's	1,650	8.7%
1980's	-12	-0.1%
1990's	2,808	13.6%
2000's	218	0.9%
2010's (Projected)	-378	-1.59%
2020's (Projected)	-79	-0.34%

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing; NC Office of Budget & Management.

The State Demographer predicts that Caswell County’s population will slightly decline over the next 20 years. During much of the twentieth century, the County’s population changes were characterized by cycles of growth and decline. The 1950’s and 1960’s resulted in a combined 8.9% loss of the population. The most significant growth period occurred during the 1990’s when approximately 264 people were added each year.



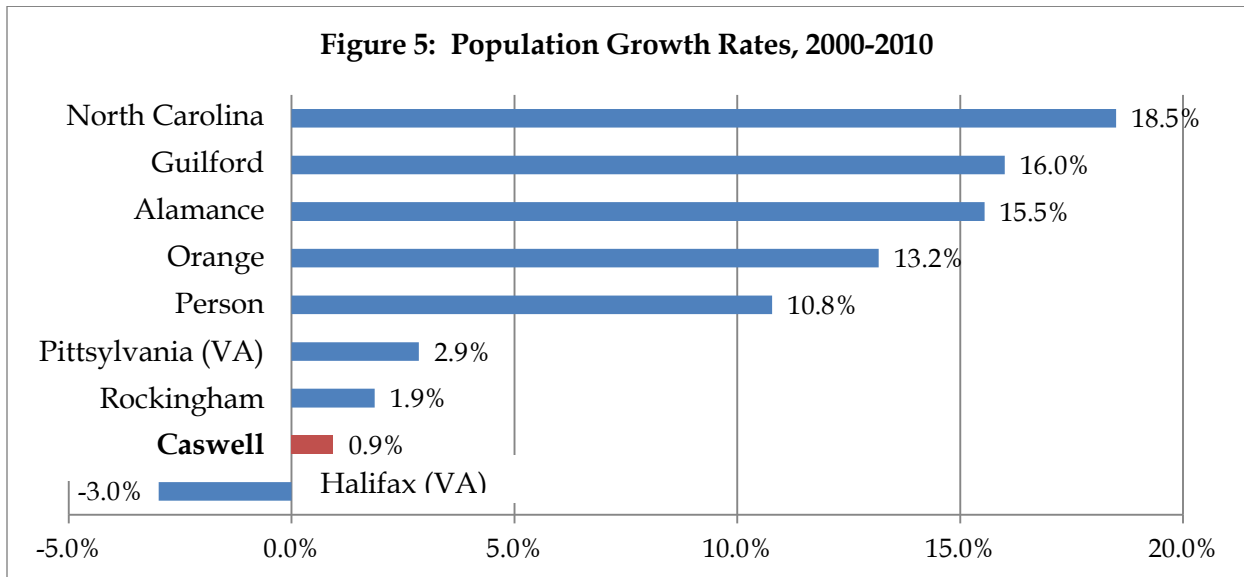
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing; NC Office of Budget & Management.

Table 2: Comparison Growth Rates

County	Population			Growth Rates	
	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Alamance	108,213	130,800	151,131	20.9%	15.5%
Caswell	20,693	23,501	23,719	13.6%	0.9%
Guilford	347,420	421,048	488,406	21.2%	16.0%
Orange	93,851	118,227	133,801	26.0%	13.2%
Person	30,180	35,623	39,464	18.0%	10.8%
Rockingham	86,064	91,928	93,643	6.8%	1.9%
Halifax (VA)	29,033	37,355	36,241	28.7%	-3.0%
Pittsylvania (VA)	55,655	61,745	63,506	10.9%	2.9%
North Carolina	6,628,637	8,049,313	9,535,483	21.4%	18.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

The County's growth rate is lower than the state average and lower than most neighboring counties. Only Halifax County, VA has seen lower growth rates since 2000.



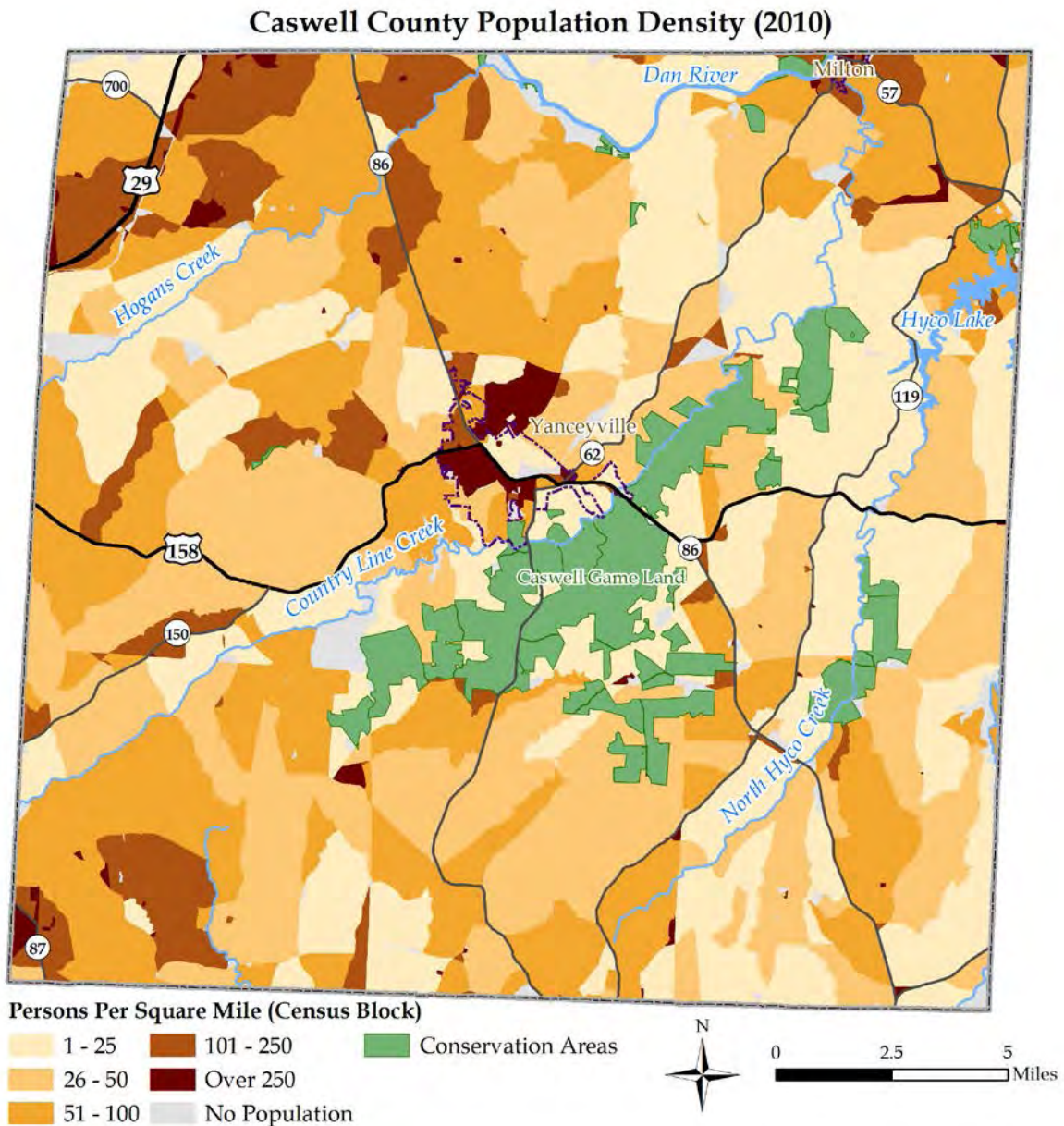
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

A. Population Density

Caswell County has a population density of nearly 56 people per square mile, up from 40 people per square mile 20 years ago. The population density is not expected to change much over the next several decades. Population density is higher within the municipal limits of Yanceyville and Milton.

The population density within the 5.5 square mile area of Yanceyville is 367 people per square mile while the population density of Milton, which is less than half a square mile in area, is 426 people per square mile. *Figure 5* shows population density by census block and *Figure 6* shows population density by township. The Pelham Township in the northwest corner of the County along US-29 has the highest population density.

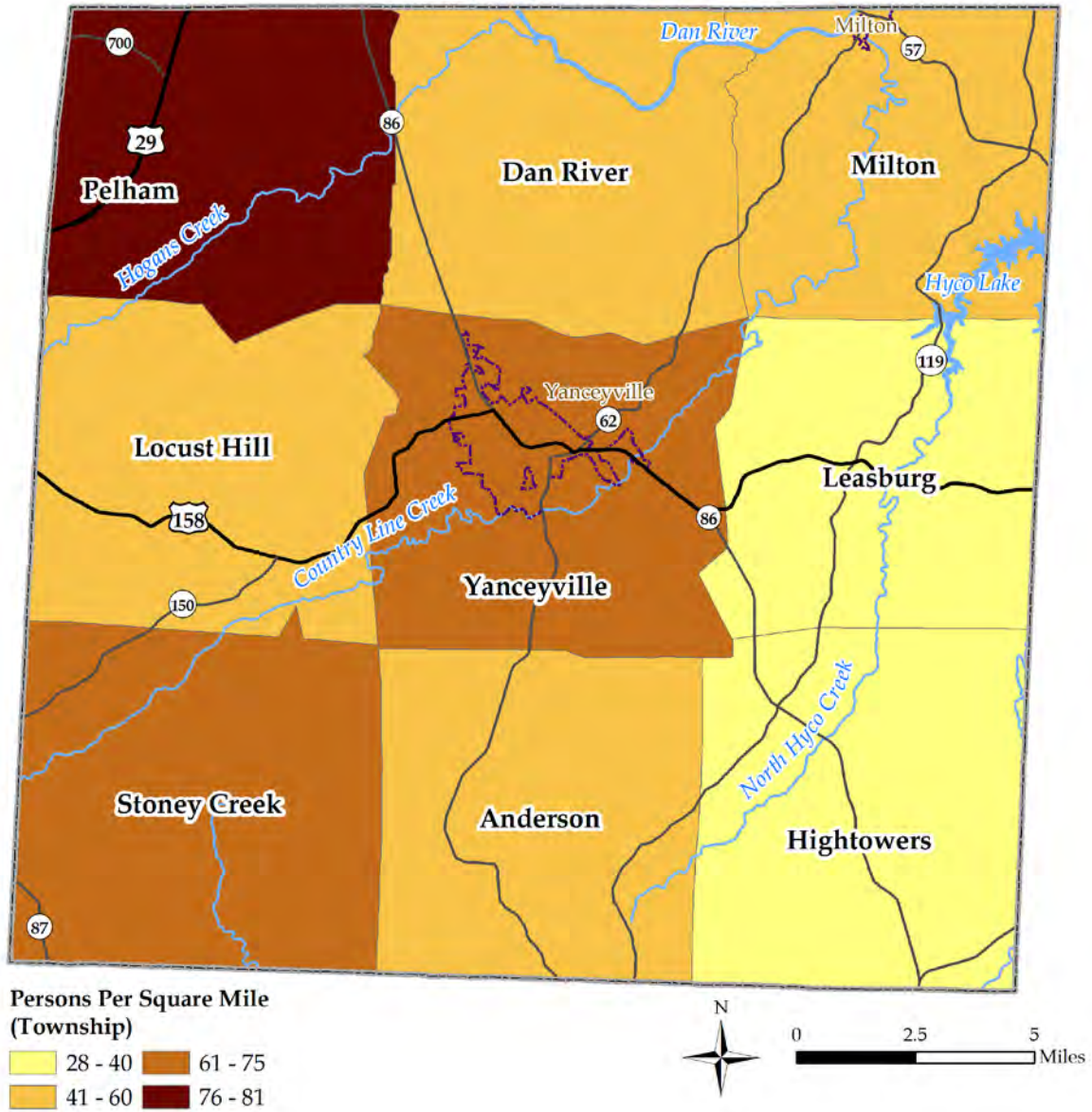
Figure 6: 2010 Population Density by Census Block



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Figure 7: 2010 Population Density by Township

Caswell County Population Density (2010)



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Table 3: Density Comparison, Caswell & Neighboring Counties

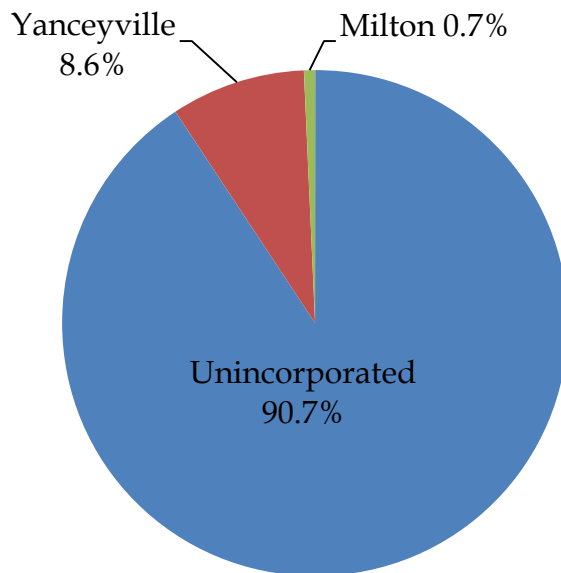
County	Persons Per Square Mile			Change in Density	
	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Alamance	255.3	308.5	356.5	53.3	48.0
Caswell	48.7	55.3	55.8	6.6	0.5
Guilford	538.1	652.1	756.4	114.0	104.3
Orange	235.8	297.1	336.2	61.3	39.1
Person	76.9	90.8	100.6	13.9	9.8
Rockingham	152.2	162.5	165.6	10.4	3.1
Halifax (VA)	35.5	45.7	44.3	10.2	-1.4
Pittsylvania (VA)	57.4	63.7	65.5	6.3	1.8
North Carolina	136.3	165.6	196.1	29.2	30.5

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

2.2 Municipal Population & Growth

Municipalities in Caswell County include Yanceyville and Milton. As of 2010, only about 9% of the County’s population lives in these incorporated areas.

Figure 8: Population of Incorporated Areas with Caswell County, 2010



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Table 4: Population Growth in Caswell County Municipalities

Area	2000	2010	% Growth
Caswell County (Total)	23,501	23,719	0.9%
Yanceyville	2,091	2,039	-2.5%
Milton	132	166	25.8%
Unincorporated Areas	21,278	21,514	1.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Between 1990 and 2000, the fastest growing township in Caswell County, as measured by change in the number of people per square mile, was Stony Creek, followed by Yanceyville. Over the past 10 years, the fastest growing townships were Hightowers, Pelham, Stony Creek, and Locust Hill.

Table 5: Population & Density by Township within Caswell County

Township	Population			Percent Change	
	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Anderson	2,189	2,258	2,172	3.2%	-3.8%
Dan River	2,361	2,644	2,567	12.0%	-2.9%
Hightowers	1,363	1,557	1,773	14.2%	13.9%
Leasburg	1,318	1,256	1,210	-4.7%	-3.7%
Locust Hill	1,903	2,419	2,545	27.1%	5.2%
Milton	2,451	2,298	2,217	-6.2%	-3.5%
Pelham	3,498	3,470	3,602	-0.8%	3.8%
Stony Creek	2,562	3,725	3,866	45.4%	3.8%
Yanceyville	3,048	3,874	3,767	27.1%	-2.8%

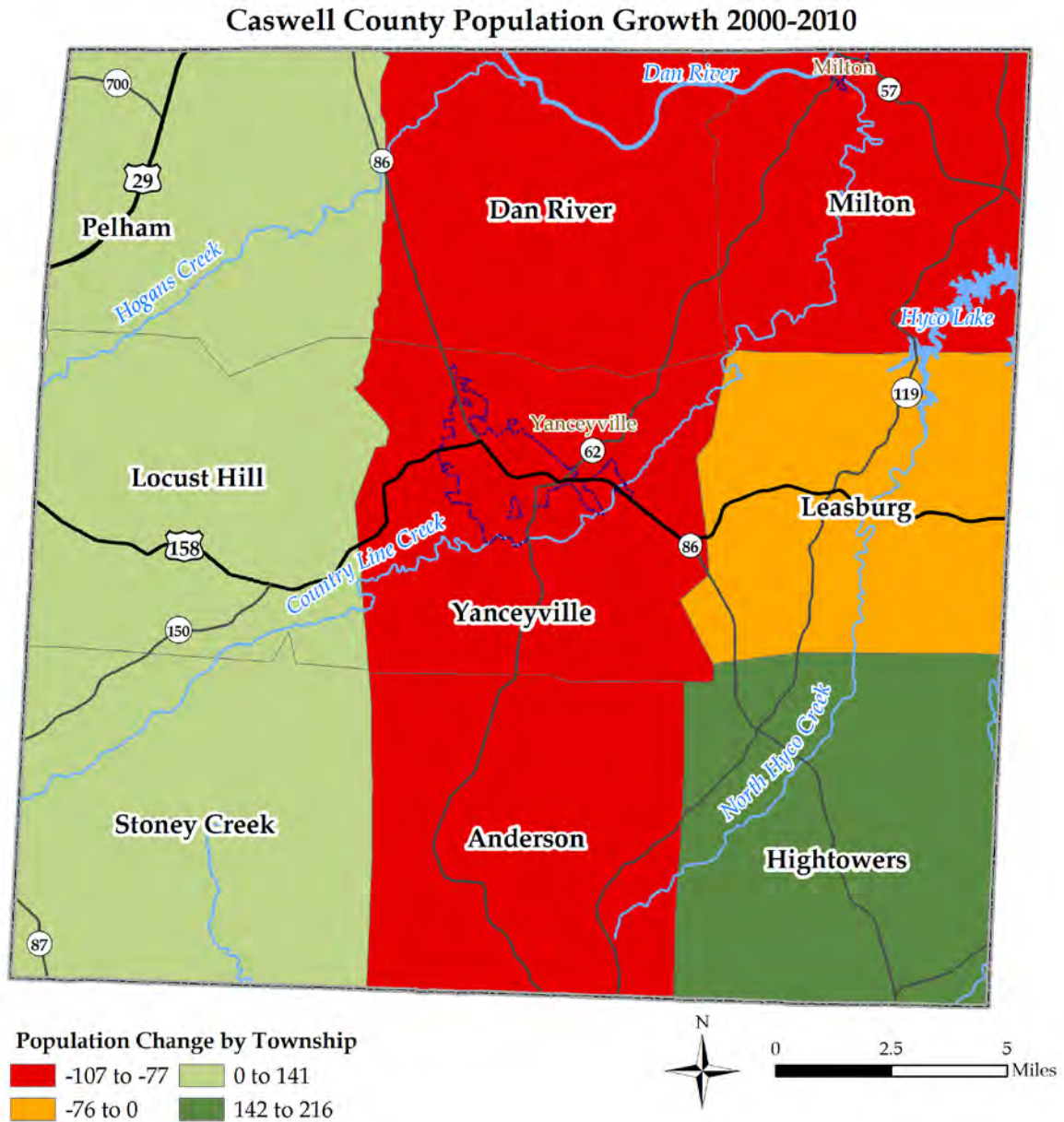
Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Table 6: Township Density & Growth

Township	Persons Per Square Mile			Change in Density	
	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Anderson	47.88	49.39	47.51	1.51	-1.88
Dan River	48.68	54.52	52.93	5.84	-1.59
Hightowers	26.8	30.61	34.86	3.81	4.25
Leasburg	30.82	29.37	28.29	-1.45	-1.08
Locust Hill	39.49	50.2	52.81	10.71	2.61
Milton	56.95	53.39	51.51	-3.56	-1.88
Pelham	78.19	77.56	80.51	-0.63	2.95
Stony Creek	47.55	69.14	71.75	21.59	2.61
Yanceyville	60.23	76.55	74.43	16.32	-2.12

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Figure 9: Caswell County Population Growth, 2000-2010



2.3 Components of Population Growth

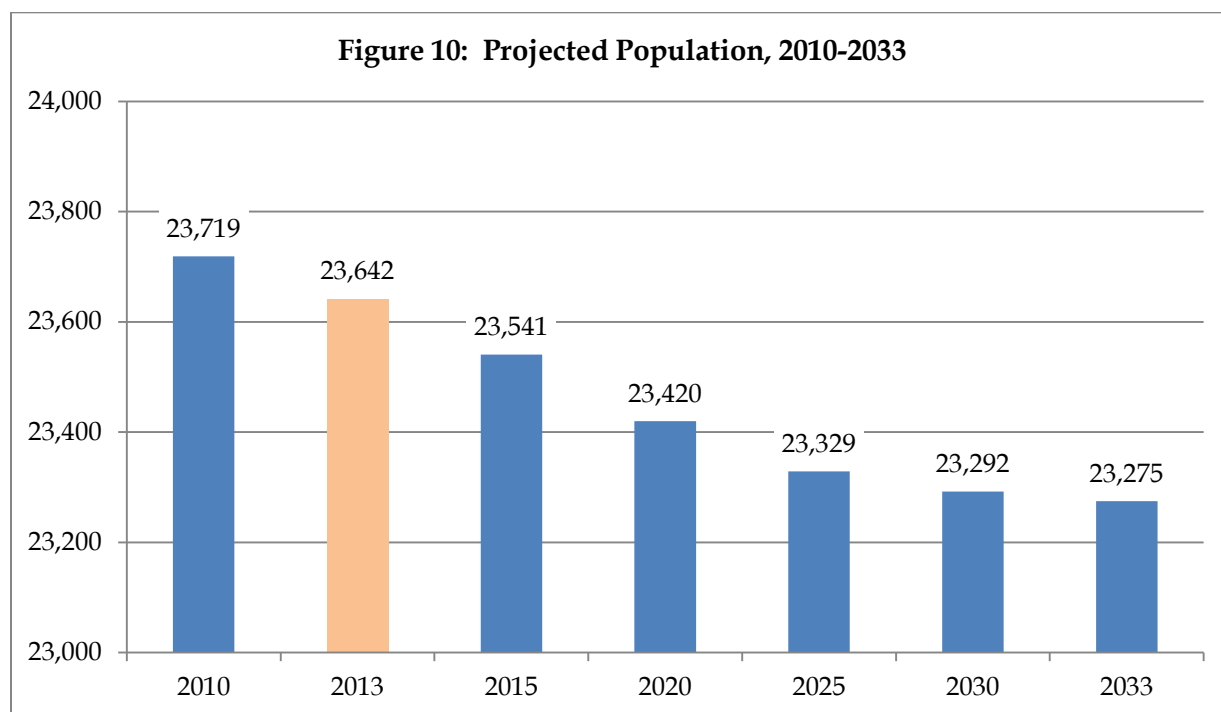
2011 estimates from the US Census Bureau indicate that 98% of Caswell County's migration is domestic migration, i.e., persons moving in from another part of the US. Only 2% of migration is international, or persons moving in from another country.

Table 8: Population Changes Due to Migration

Caswell County	Moving In	Moving Out	Difference
<i>Total (Age 1+)</i>	2,095	1,636	459
% of total residents	8.9%	7.1%	-
in/out from another area in NC	1,476	1,081	395
in/out from another state in the US	579	555	24
in/out from another country	40	N/A	-
<i>By Race/Origin:</i>			
White (non-Hispanic)	1,144	585	559
Black/ African American	745	959	(214)
Hispanic or Latino	60	37	23
Some Other Race	146	55	91
<i>By Age Range</i>			
0-17	550	473	77
18-24	325	258	67
25-34	579	239	340
35-44	449	213	236
45-54	113	160	(47)
55-64	56	170	(114)
65 and older	23	123	(100)
<i>By Educational Attainment (age 25+)</i>			
Not a High School Graduate	411	177	234
High School Diploma or Higher	809	728	81
4-year degree of higher	106	43	63
<i>Income (Age 15+)</i>			
No Income	493	278	215
Less than \$25,000	938	713	225
\$25,000 to \$49,000	178	184	(6)
\$50,000 or more	99	59	40
Median Income	\$7,021	\$12,852	(\$5,831)
<i>Poverty (Age 1+)</i>			
Living at or below Poverty Level	648	708	(60)
Poverty Rate	45.4%	52.3%	-
<i>Tenure (All persons 1+ living in households)</i>			
Homeowner	503	289	214
Renter	898	1,036	(138)

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2007-2011.

A. Projected Population



Source: NC Office of Budget & Management.

Over the next several decades, Caswell County's population is projected to remain relatively steady with a slight decline. Through 2020, the population decline rate will remain slightly higher at -1.4%. By 2030, the decline rate will slow down to -0.5%. This projection matches that of several surrounding counties, including Rockingham (NC) and Halifax (VA).

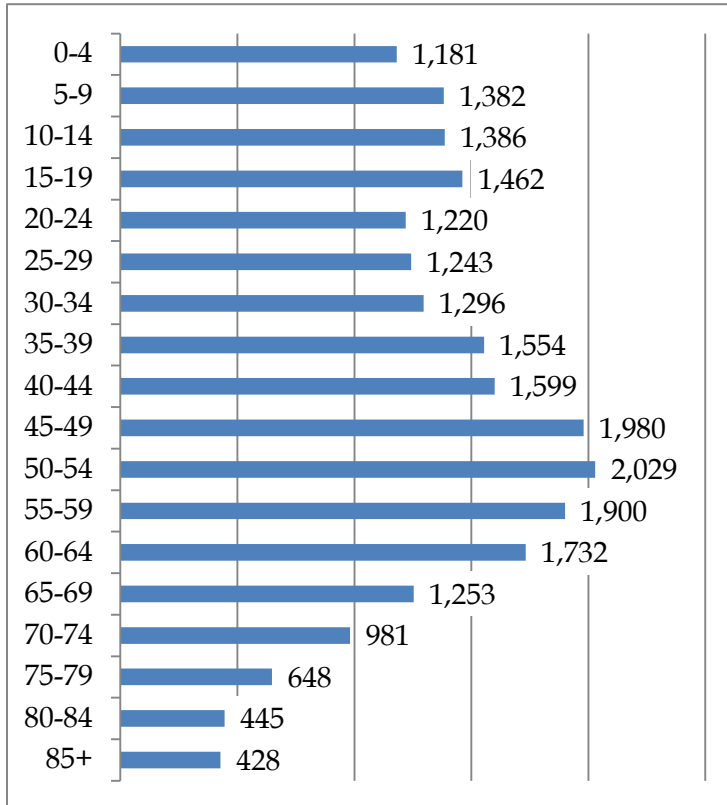
Table 9: Projected Population for Neighboring Counties

County	Current Population	Projected Population		Projected Growth Rates	
	2010	2020	2030	2010-2020	2020-2030
Alamance	151,131	161,590	173,425	6.9%	7.3%
Caswell	23,719	23,398	23,292	-1.4%	-0.5%
Guilford	488,406	558,293	635,665	14.3%	13.9%
Orange	133,801	155,337	178,535	16.1%	14.9%
Person	39,464	39,669	40,381	0.5%	1.8%
Rockingham	93,643	90,728	90,023	-3.1%	-0.8%
Halifax (VA)	36,241	35,770	35,486	-1.3%	-0.8%
Pittsylvania (VA)	63,506	63,751	63,720	0.4%	0.0%
North Carolina	9,535,483	10,616,859	11,682,262	11.3%	10.0%

Source: NC Office of Budget & Management; University of Virginia.

2.4 Demographics

Figure 11: Population Distribution by Age Range, 2010



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

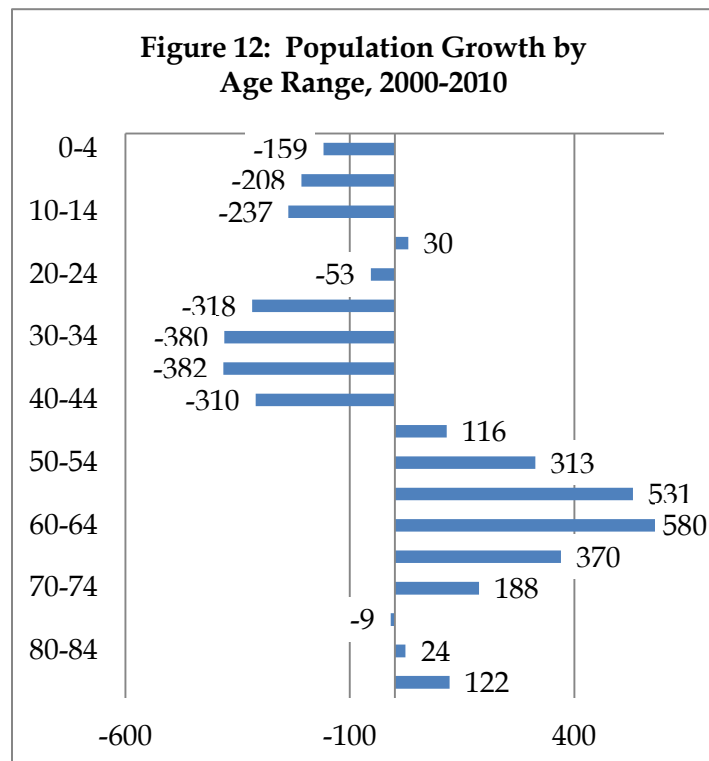
The three largest age groups in the county are those ages 45-49, 50-54, and 55-59. One of every six county residents is school age, and one of every six is elderly.

Of the working age population (18-64), 39% are under the age of 40 while 61% are 40 or older.

The older adult population (ages 45 plus) in Caswell County has grown faster than those under the age of 45 in the past decade. The age group that has gained the most is those ages 60-64, followed by those ages 55-59.

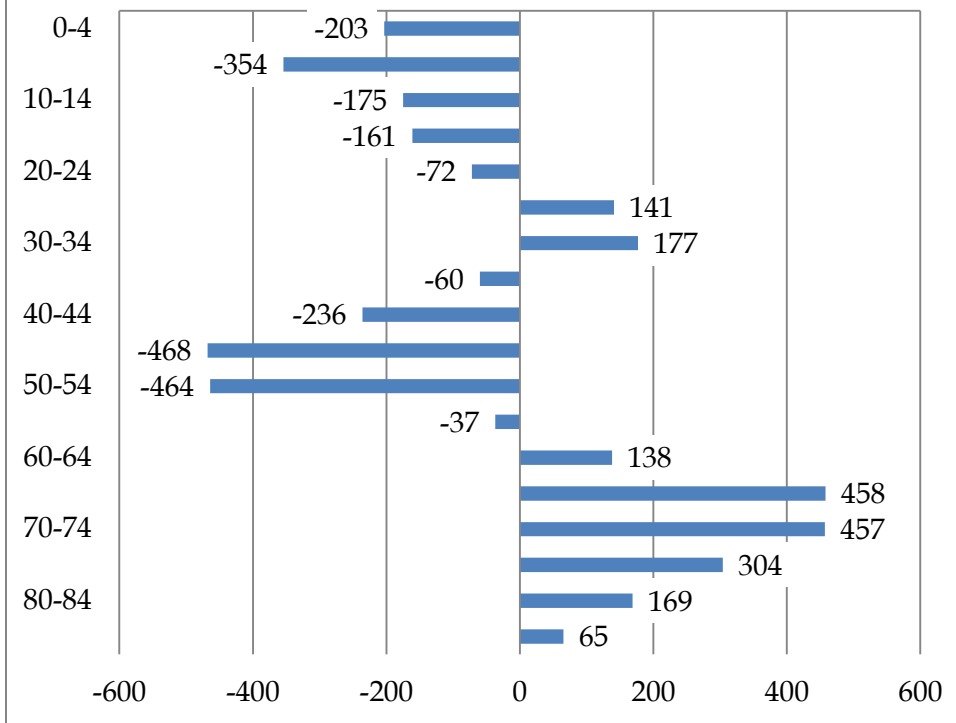
The County has also seen a decline in the college age young adult population (ages 20-44). Preschool, elementary, and middle school age children have also declined.

Figure 12: Population Growth by Age Range, 2000-2010



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Figure 13: Projected Population Growth by Age Range, 2010 - 2020



In this current decade, the highest growth is expected in those ages 65-69, followed by those ages 70-74. Schools will continue to see a reprieve on growth due to the decline in ages 0-24.

Persons age 35-59 are also expected to decline between 2010 and 2020.

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

A. Race & Ethnic Origin

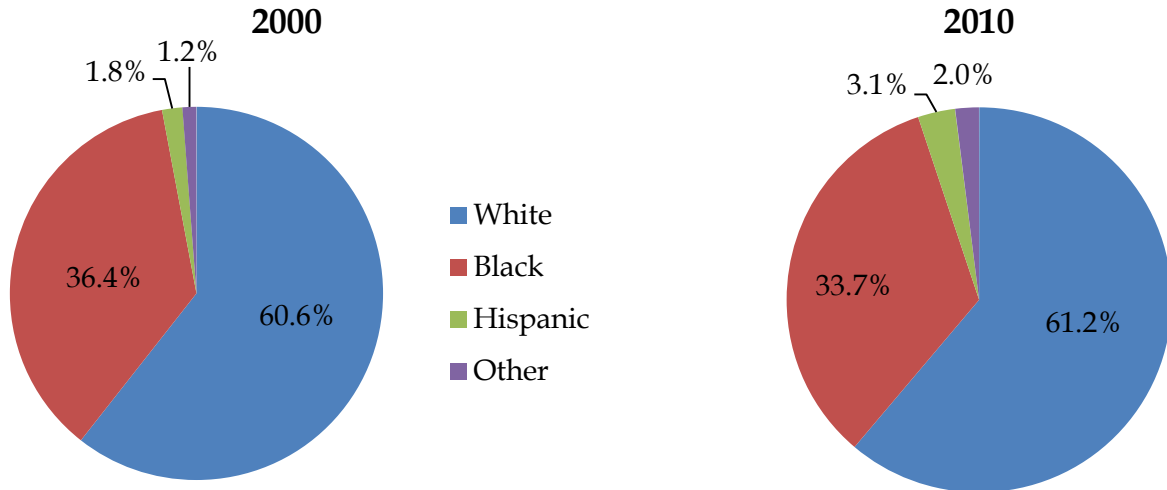
The majority of residents in Caswell County (61%) are non-Hispanic whites. The largest minority group is Black/African American (34%). However, the county has seen a decline in this minority group between 2000 and 2010, while the number of other minority groups in the County has continued to grow rapidly

Table 10: Population Growth by Race & Ethnic Origin

Caswell County	2000		2010		2000-2010
	#	%	#	%	Growth Rate
Total	23,501	-	23,719	-	0.9%
White	14,239	60.6%	14,513	61.2%	1.9%
Black/African American	8,557	36.4%	7,991	33.7%	-6.6%
American Indian	39	0.2%	70	0.3%	79.5%
Asian	36	0.2%	60	0.3%	66.7%
Some Other Race	215	0.9%	341	1.4%	58.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	415	1.8%	744	3.1%	79.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

Figure 14: Caswell County Population by Race & Ethnic Origin, 2000-2010



Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing.

2.5 Housing & Household Characteristics

The proportion of households made up of families, and in particular families with children under 18, is on the decline in Caswell County. Married couples with children under the age of 18 make up only 23% of households. Households comprised of a person living alone have increased 22.9% between 2000-2010.

Table 11: Characteristics of Households in Caswell County

Caswell County	2010	2000	% Change
Families	6,358	6,401	-0.67%
Married Couples with Children under 18	1,475	1,931	-23.6%
Married Couples without Children	3,061	2,855	7.2%
Female Single Parent Households	637	606	5.1%
Non-Families	2,832	2,269	24.8%
Persons Living Alone	2,471	2,010	22.9%
Households with Children under 18	2,733	3,100	-11.8%
Households with Older Adult(s) 65+	2,796	2,216	26.1%
Average Household Size	2.43	2.56	-5%

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing, 2000 & 2010.

Table 12: Housing Characteristics in Caswell County

Caswell County	2010	2000
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	1.9%	1.1%
Rental Vacancy Rate	10.5%	8.3%
Percent Owner-Occupied	76%	79.3%
Percent Renter-Occupied	24%	20.7%
Total Housing Units	10,619	9,601
Total Occupied Housing Units	9,190	8,670
Total Vacant Housing Units	1,429	931

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population & Housing, 2000 & 2010.

In 2010, there were 10,619 housing units in Caswell County, up from 9,601 in 2000. In 2011, 17.8% of housing units in the County were vacant, which is higher than most neighboring counties. The median home value in Caswell County is similar to its northern and western neighboring counties.

Table 13: Housing Comparison Data

Counties	% Vacant	% Owner-Occupied	% Single Family (Detached)	% Multi-Family	% Mobile Home/Other	Median Home Value
Alamance	9.2%	90.8%	65.9%	19%	15.1%	\$136,000
Caswell	17.8%	82.2%	66.5%	3.6%	29.8%	\$100,900
Guilford	11.1%	88.9%	64.1%	32.4%	3.4%	\$156,200
Orange	8.1%	91.9%	57%	35%	7.9%	\$270,300
Person	14.1%	85.9%	69.2%	6.2%	24.7%	\$118,900
Rockingham	13.2%	86.8%	71.6%	10.2%	18.2%	\$102,800
Halifax (VA)	19.1%	80.9%	74.1%	6.3%	19.6%	\$102,300
Pittsylvania (VA)	15.5%	84.5%	71.8%	4.2%	24%	\$105,100

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.

A. New Residential Construction within Caswell County

Building permits issued for new residential construction indicate that 210 new housing units were built within the County from 2008-2012. Fewer residential housing permits have been issued in Caswell County than in neighboring counties, however only three counties had higher average values.

Table 14: Residential Building Permits Issued, Jan. 2008-Dec. 2012

Year	Total # Building Permits
2008	266
2009	206
2010	205
2011	206
2012	175

Source: Caswell County Building Inspections Dept.

Table 15: Building Permits Issued for New Residential Construction in Neighboring Counties, Jan. 2008-Dec. 2012

County	New Housing Units	Total Value	Average Value
Alamance	3082	\$371366188	\$120,495
Caswell	210	\$36,730,701	\$174,908
Guilford	7840	\$916094604	\$116,848
Orange	2178	\$456475963	\$209,584
Person	390	\$71698397	\$183,842
Rockingham	650	\$139804642	\$215,084
Halifax (VA)	348	\$43168381	\$124,047
Pittsylvania (VA)	553	\$58879718	\$106,479

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau, Annual Building Permit Survey.

2.6 Miscellaneous Growth Factors

A. Disability Status

A total of 4,361 persons in Caswell County reported a disability in 2011. The highest proportions of disabled residents were those ages 18-64, with 58% reporting a disability.

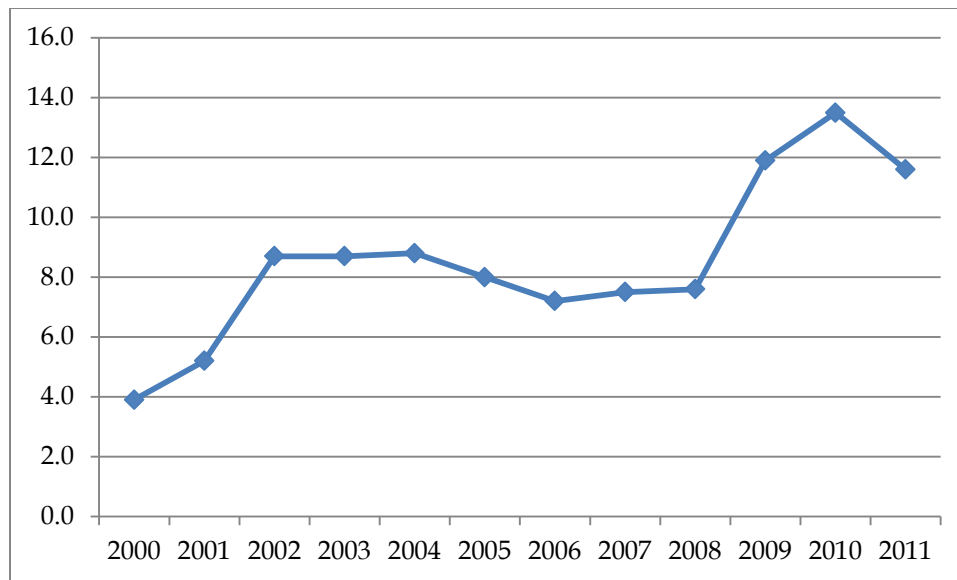
Table 16: Disability by Type, by Age

Age	Disabled Population	Percent of Disabled Population	Percent of Total Age Group
Total Population with a Disability	4,361	-	19.6%
Age 5-17	363	8.3%	9.7%
Age 18-64	2,529	58%	18.5%
Age 65+	1,469	33.7%	39.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2011 3-Year Estimates

B. Registered Vehicles

Figure 15: Registered Vehicles, 2000-2011



Source: State Agency Data: Department of Transportation

As of 2012, there were 20,993 vehicles registered in Caswell County. The estimated number of people age 16 and older in Caswell County was 19,121. The vast majority of Caswell County residents drive alone to work (83.5%). Approximately 12% (11.7%) of Caswell resident's carpool to work, while 0% take public transportation and 1.6% walked to work. The average travel time to work for a Caswell County resident is 30.5 minutes.

C. Crime Rates

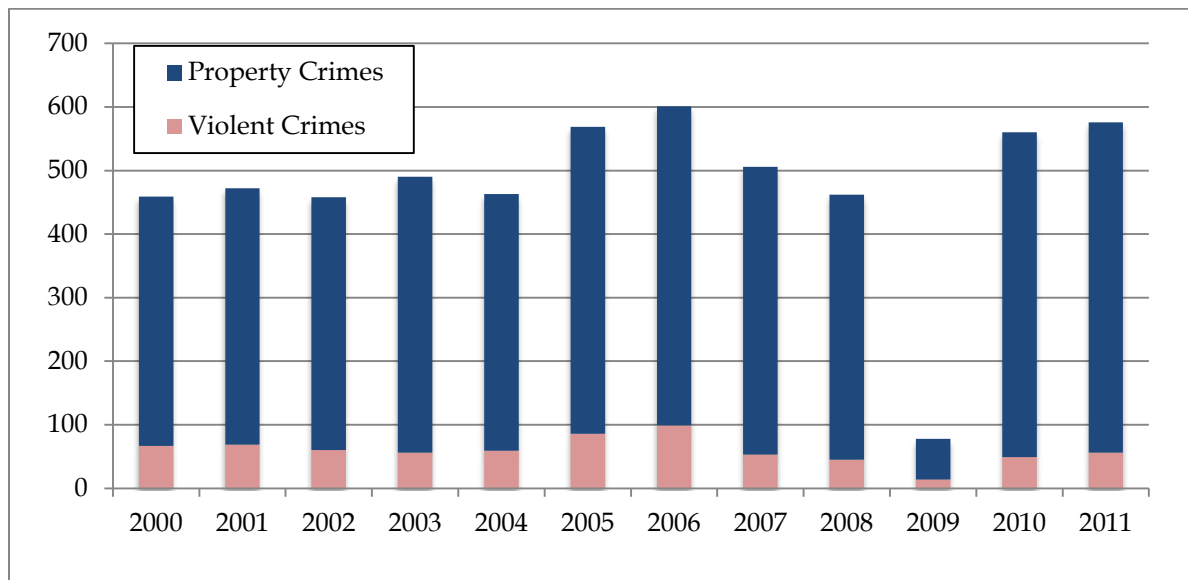
Table 17: Crime by Type, 2000-2011

Year	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes	Total
2011	56	520	576
2010	49	511	560
2009	14	64	78
2008	45	417	462
2007	53	453	506
2006	99	502	601
2005	86	483	569
2004	59	404	463
2003	56	434	490
2002	60	398	458
2001	69	403	472
2000	67	392	459

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census.

Historically, approximately 9.0 - 10.0% of Caswell County's crime is violent crime.

Figure 16: Historical Crime Rates by Type



Source: State Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.



2.7 Education

In 2012, almost 76% of adults age 25 or older had a high school diploma in Caswell County. This is up significantly from 2000, but still lags the state average by 8.3%. The gap was 9.1% in 2000, so Caswell County is closing the gap. However, there is an even bigger gap in the proportion of Caswell County residents who have a 4-year college degree when compared with the state average. Only one out of ten Caswell County adults has a college degree, compared with 26.5% (or one in four) NC residents. The proportion of college graduates is advancing more rapidly in NC overall than in Caswell County.

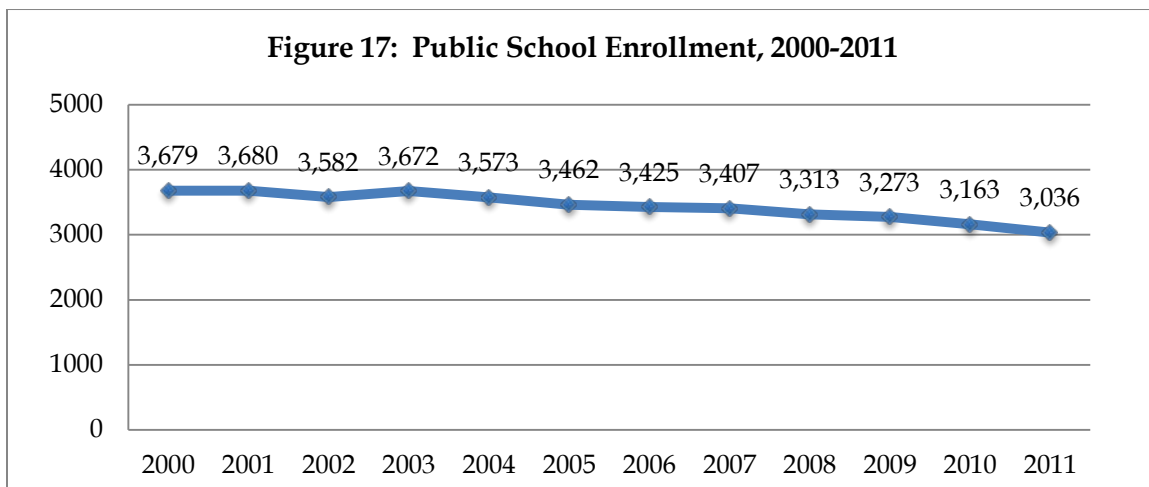
Table 18: Educational Attainment

% of High School Graduates	2012	2000
Caswell County	75.8%	69.0%
North Carolina	84.1%	78.1%
% College (4 year) Graduates	2012	2000
Caswell County	9.4%	8.3%
North Carolina	26.5%	22.5%

Source: 2000 Census of Population & Housing, American Community Survey, 2011.

A. Public School Enrollment, Past 20 Years

Public school enrollment in Caswell County has declined since 2000. Since reaching a high of 2,680 enrolled students in 2001, Caswell’s Public Schools has witnessed its enrollment decrease by 644 students in ten years. Between 2000 and 2005, enrollment was pretty constant, but since 2005 the County has seen the decline in public school enrollment escalate. This trend can be partially attributed to the aging of the County and a loss of younger residents.



Source: NC Department of Public Instruction.

B. Enrollment in Caswell County School System

From 2005 to 2010, enrollment decreased by approximately 8.6% in the Caswell County school system. Caswell County elementary and high schools tend to be smaller than the state average.

Table 19: School System Enrollment and Average School Size

School System Enrollment	Enrollment		
	2009-10	2004-05	% Change
Caswell County Schools	3,163	3,462	-8.6%
Average School Size by Type, 2012-13	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Caswell County	322	708	783
North Carolina	497	667	837

Source: NC Dept. of Public Instruction, NC School Report Cards, 2012-2013, Caswell County Schools; Statistical Profile, 2004-2005 and 2009-2010.

2.8 Income & Poverty

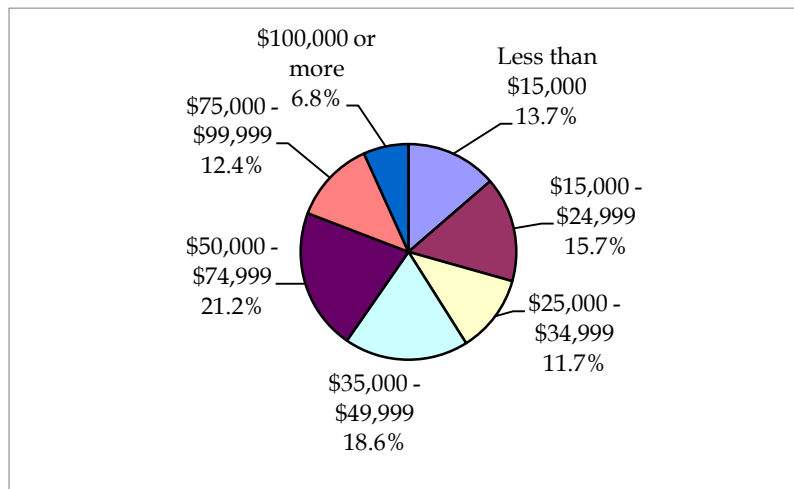
Median household income in Caswell County is lower than the NC average. Due to the lagging economy, income growth this decade has been slower than in the 1990's. Caswell County's household income growth outpaced North Carolina's and the comparison counties between 1990 and 2000. However, since 2000 Caswell County's Median Household Income has been relative stagnant.

Table 20: Median Household Income, 1990-2010

Counties	Median Household Income			Percent Change	
	2010	2000	1990	2010-2000	2000-1990
Alamance	\$44,167	\$39,168	\$27,231	12.8%	43.8%
Caswell	\$36,927	\$35,018	\$22,736	5.5%	54%
Guilford	\$45,676	\$42,618	\$30,148	7.2%	41.4%
Orange	\$52,981	\$42,372	\$29,968	25%	41.4%
Person	\$44,668	\$37,159	\$25,625	20.2%	45%
Rockingham	\$39,231	\$33,784	\$25,402	16.1%	33%
North Carolina	\$45,570	\$39,184	\$26,647	16.3%	47%

Source: US Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, and 2010.

Figure 18: Caswell County Household Income by Range



Source: US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey

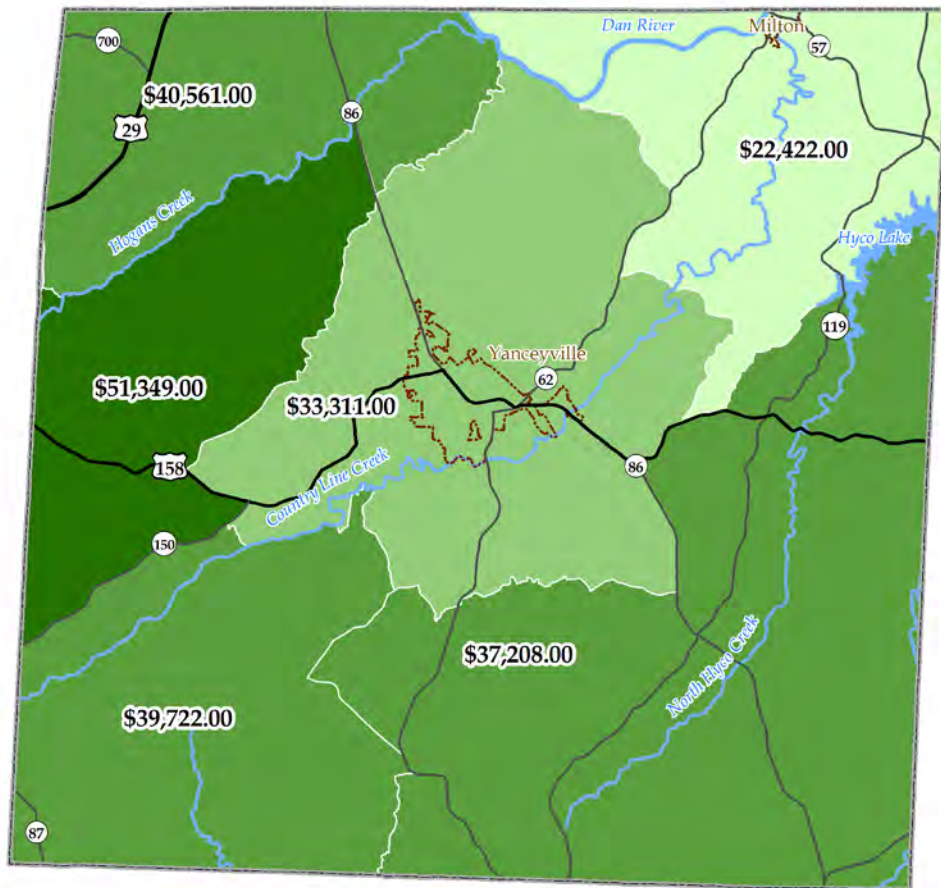
Caswell County’s proportion of low-income households is higher than the state average. However, Caswell County has a higher proportion of moderate/middle-income households than NC, and a lower proportion of higher income households

Table 21: Household Income by Range, 2011

Income Range	Caswell County	North Carolina
Less than \$25,000	29.4%	26.5%
\$25,000 - \$74,999	51.5%	45.2%
\$75,000 or more	19.2%	28.2%

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey.

Figure 19: Median Household Income



Median Household Income

- < \$30,000
- \$30,000 - \$35,000
- \$35,001 - 50,000
- > \$50,000

Source: US Census Bureau ACS 2007-2011
Table S1903 (mapped at Census Tract geography).

CASWELL COUNTY

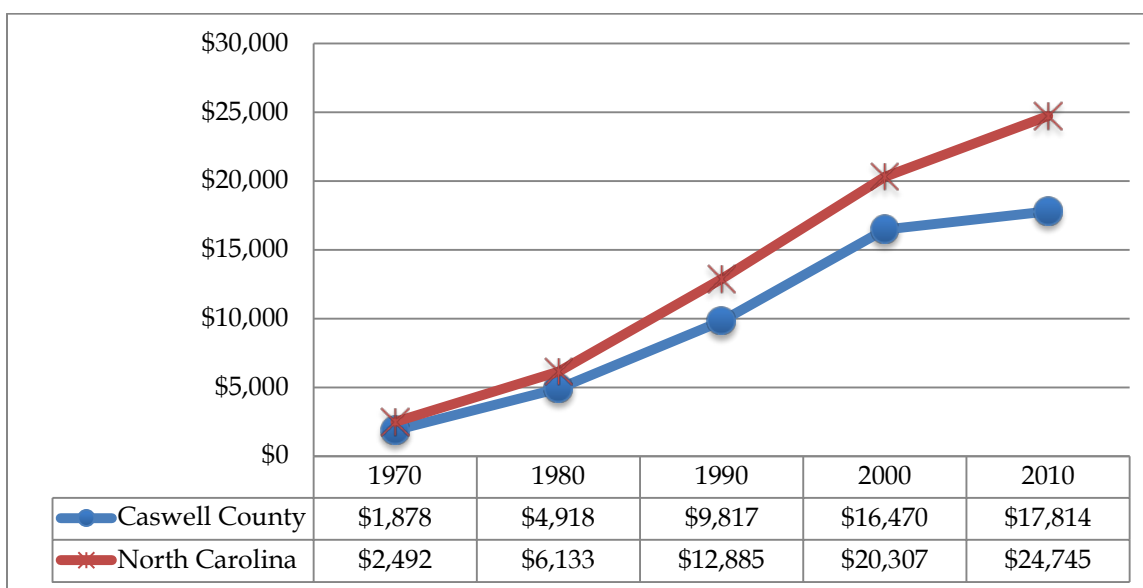


Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: December 2013

The lowest median household incomes in Caswell County can be found in the Northeast part of the county, adjacent to Virginia and Person County. The highest median household incomes are in the western 1/3 of the County adjacent to Rockingham County.

A. Per Capita Income

Figure 20: Per Capita Income, 1970-2010



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2010 figures released in 2011.

Between 1970 and 2000 Caswell County's per capita income was similar to that of North Carolina's. At the beginning of this decade, prior to the recession, per capita income lagged the state average by less than \$4,000 (\$3,837). However, more recently per capita income in Caswell County has not kept pace with the State's average and trails the state average by almost \$7,000 (\$6,931).

B. Poverty

Table 22: Percentage of All Ages in Poverty, 2000-2010

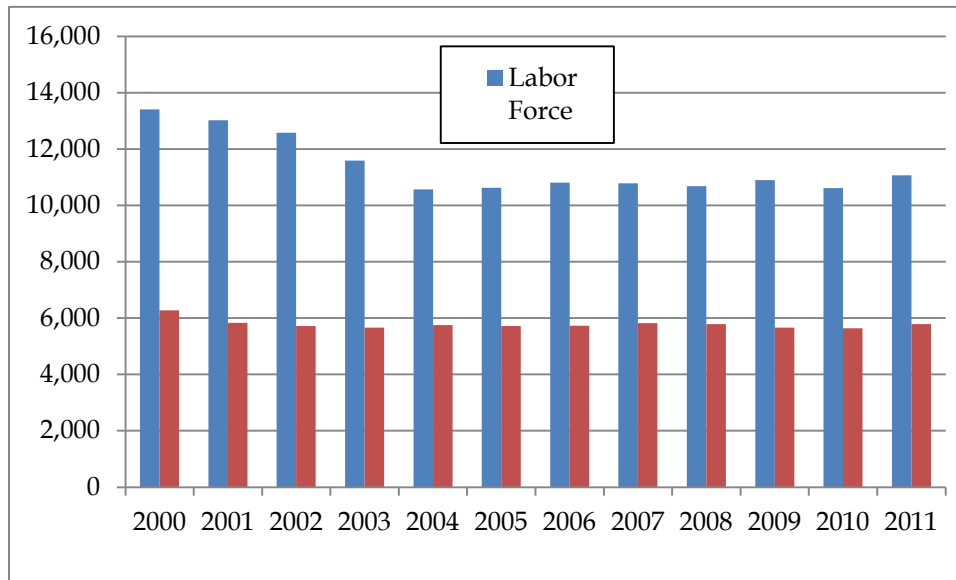
County	2010	2000	% Change in Poverty
Alamance	16.3	11.1	46.8%
Caswell	21.7	14.4	50.7%
Guilford	15.9	10.6	50%
Orange	16.3	14.1	15.6%
Person	16	12	33.3%
Rockingham	15.6	12.8	21.9%
North Carolina	15.5	12.3	26%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census.

The poverty rate within Caswell County is on the increase, rising from 14.4% in 2000 to 21.7% in 2010. This represents a 50.7% increase and represents the largest increase in poverty. According to the data, Caswell County had the highest percentage of residents living in poverty (21.7%). Meanwhile, Rockingham County had the lowest percentage of residents living in poverty with 15.6% for the counties examined.

2.9 Labor Force, Employment, & Jobs

Figure 21: Labor Force and Jobs, 2000-2011



Source: Employment Security Commission of NC, Labor Market Information Division.

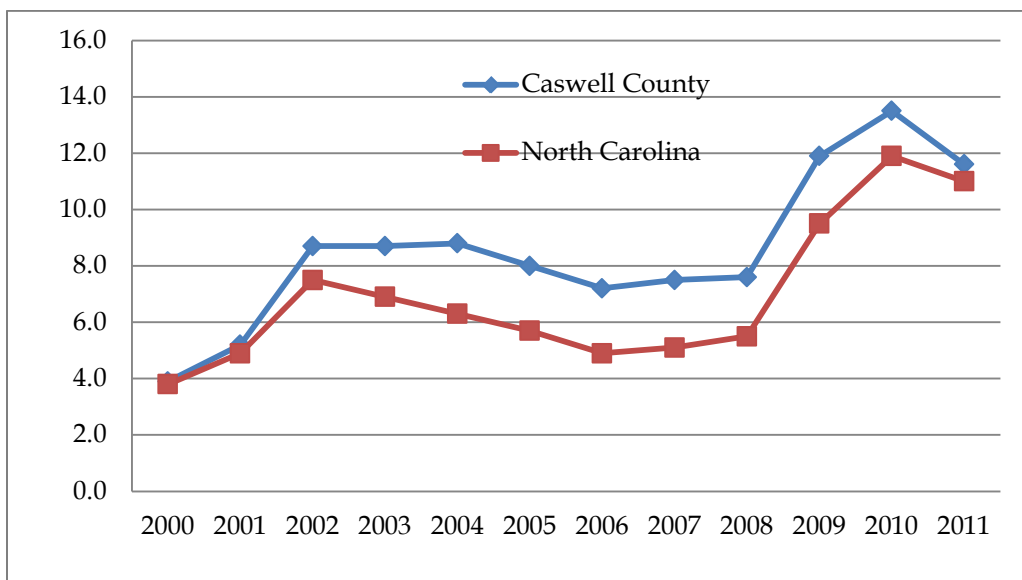
Caswell County has a labor force of just over 10,800 people. After seeing a general decline during the first half of the last decade, Caswell's labor force has seen a modest increase in more recent years.

As of the second quarter of 2011, there were 5,784 jobs in Caswell County according to the Employment Security Commission of NC. Because the labor force is almost double the number of jobs in the county, large numbers of workers commute outside of the county to work each day. The NC Employment Security Commission shows the number of jobs in Caswell County peaked in 2000 at 6,275. Since that time, the County and larger region has experienced numerous closings and layoffs in a variety of industries. Recently, Caswell County has seen the number of jobs stabilize around 5,700.

A. Unemployment Rate

The county's unemployment rate tends to closely mirror economic downturns. Recessions hit the US economy in the beginning of the last decade and at the end of the last decade. The County's un-employment rate typically spikes during these economic downturns, and in general, jumps higher than the NC average unemployment rate. Since 2001, Caswell County's unemployment rate has remained higher than the state average. According to the most recent data Caswell County's unemployment rate is similar to the State's rate.

Figure 22: Historical Unemployment Rate, 2000-2011



Source: Employment Security Commission of NC, Labor Market Information Division.

From 2000-2012, Caswell County showed a net job loss of 682. A number of industry sectors lost jobs, but the predominant job loss was seen in manufacturing and government related jobs. The biggest job gains have been seen in health care and wholesale trade. Fortunately, these two industry sectors also have decent average weekly wages.

B. Employment & Job Growth by Industry

Table 23: Employment and Job Growth by Industry, 2000-2012

Caswell County Industry	Employment			Avg. Weekly Wage (\$)
	2012	2000	Change	2012
Total All Industries	3,059	3,771	(682)	562
Total Federal Government	45	70	(25)	766
Total State Government	464	588	(124)	661
Total Local Government	827	851	(24)	570
Total Private Industry	1,724	2,263	(539)	525
<i>By Industry Classification</i>				
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	77	63	14	-
Utilities	-	-	-	-
Construction	119	260	(141)	550
Manufacturing	270	918	(648)	571
Wholesale Trade	80	-	80	821
Retail Trade	284	295	(11)	371
Transportation and Warehousing	59	45	14	732
Information	16	17	(1)	279
Finance and Insurance	48	48	0	671
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	10	-	10	658
Professional & Technical Services	48	76	(28)	670
Management of Co. & Enterprises	-	-	-	-
Administrative & Waste Services	80	52	28	563
Educational Services	582	609	(27)	601
Health Care and Social Assistance	460	292	168	508
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	18	-	18	229
Accommodation & Food Services	135	90	45	208
Public Administration	704	812	(108)	608
Other	55	60	(5)	327

Source: Employment Security Commission of NC, Labor Market Information Division, Employment & Wages in NC by Quarter.

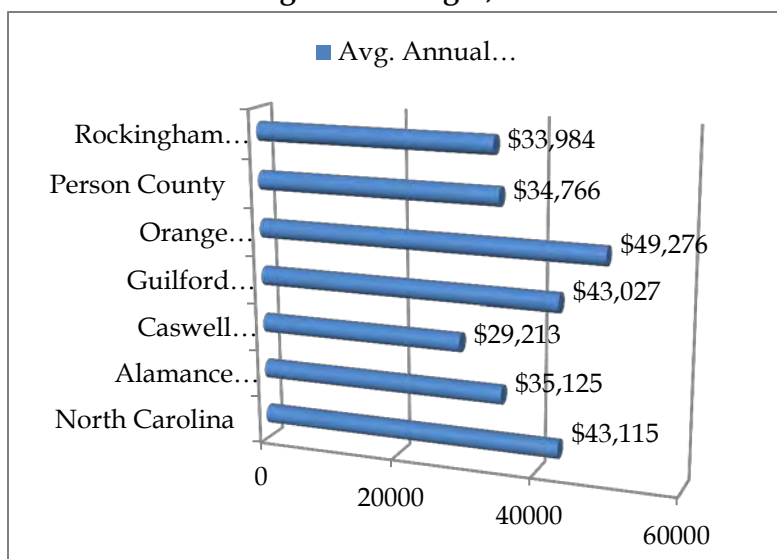
Table 24: Top Employers in Caswell County

Rank	Company	Industry	Employment Range
1	Caswell County Schools	Education & Health Services	500-999
2	State Of NC Dept. Of Correction	Public Administration	250-499
3	County of Caswell	Public Administration	250-499
4	SSC Yanceyville Operating Company	Education & Health Services	100-249
5	Piedmont Community College	Education & Health Services	50-99
6	Certainteed Gypsum NC Inc.	Manufacturing	50-99
7	Bayada Home Health Care Inc.	Education & Health Services	50-99
8	Caswell House	Education & Health Services	50-99
9	Hayes Iron & Metal Inc.	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	50-99
11	McDonald's	Leisure & Hospitality	Below 50
11	W S Construction	Construction	Below 50
12	Food Lion	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	Below 50
13	Wizards Cauldren	Manufacturing	Below 50
14	Royal Textile Mills Inc.	Manufacturing	Below 50
15	Piedmont Health Services Inc.	Education & Health Services	Below 50
17	Bartlett Nuclear Inc.	Professional & Business Services	Below 50
17	U S Postal Service	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	Below 50
18	Hardee's	Leisure & Hospitality	Below 50
20	The Caswell Family Medical Center	Education & Health Services	Below 50
20	N C Dept Of Transportation	Public Administration	Below 50
21	Bryan Wagoner Tree Farm Llc.	Natural Resources & Mining	Below 50
22	Dollar General	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	Below 50
24	North Village Pharmacy Inc.	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	Below 50
24	Stx Machine & Fabrication	Manufacturing	Below 50
25	Southside Materials Llc.	Natural Resources & Mining	Below 50

Source: NC Department of Commerce, 2012

Figure 23: Wages, 2012

Average annual wages in Caswell County are lower than the comparison areas. Caswell County's annual wages trail the next closest County (Rockingham) by almost \$5,000 and trail the State of North Carolina's average annual wage by almost \$14,000.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012

2.10 Commuting Patterns

As of 2010, it is estimated that approximately 6,474 people commute outside of Caswell County to work each day. Almost 1,550 people commute into Caswell County for work from surrounding counties. Since 1990 the percentage of employed residents that are classified as out-commutes has risen from 68.8% to 73.3%. More Caswell residents are finding jobs outside the county. Interestingly, the percentage of people who are employed in the County who are in-commuters has also risen from 1990 to 2010. This may highlight a spatial mismatch between jobs and needed job skills.

Table 25: Workforce Commuting Patterns, 1990-2010

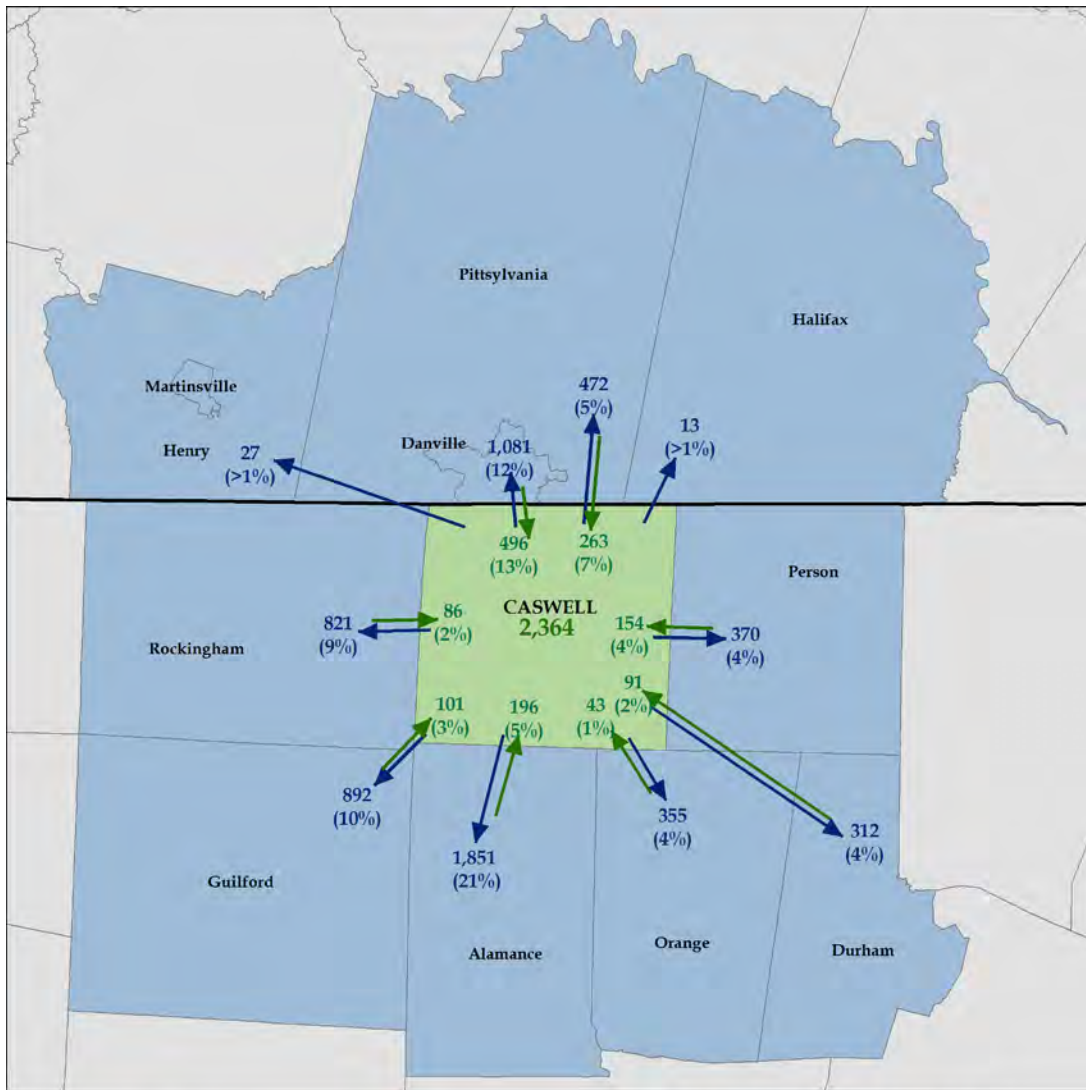
Caswell County	Year			Change	
	1990	2000	2010	1990 to 2000	2000 to 2010
Total Out-Commuters	6,502	7,224	6,474	722	(750)
Total In-Commuters	867	1,169	1,547	302	378
Live & Work in County	2,953	2,693	2,364	(260)	(329)
Persons working in County	3,820	3,862	3,911	42	49
Employed Residents	9,455	9,917	8,838	462	(1,079)
Net Commuting	5,635	6,055	4,927	420	(1,128)
% of employed residents who are out-commuters	68.8%	72.8%	73.3%	-	-
% of those employed in the county who are in-commuters	22.7%	30.3%	39.6%	-	-

Source: US Census Bureau, decennial census of population & housing, Journey to Work Data, 1960-2000; CTPP 2006-2010

The largest commuting out-flows are to Alamance County (21%) and Danville, VA (12%). Approximately 10% of Caswell's residents commute to Guilford County for employment. The majority of Caswell's in-commuters are from Danville, VA (13%), while Pittsylvania County, VA supplies 7% of in-commuters to Caswell.

Within Caswell County, the majority of Caswell's out-commuters come from the Pelham and Stoney Creek Townships. For Pelham, the majority of residents that commuter out of the county work in Danville. The majority of Stoney Creek's residents work in Alamance County

Figure 24: Daily County to County Commuting Patterns for Caswell County



**Daily County to County
Commuting Patterns**

- Inflow Commuters
- Outflow Commuters

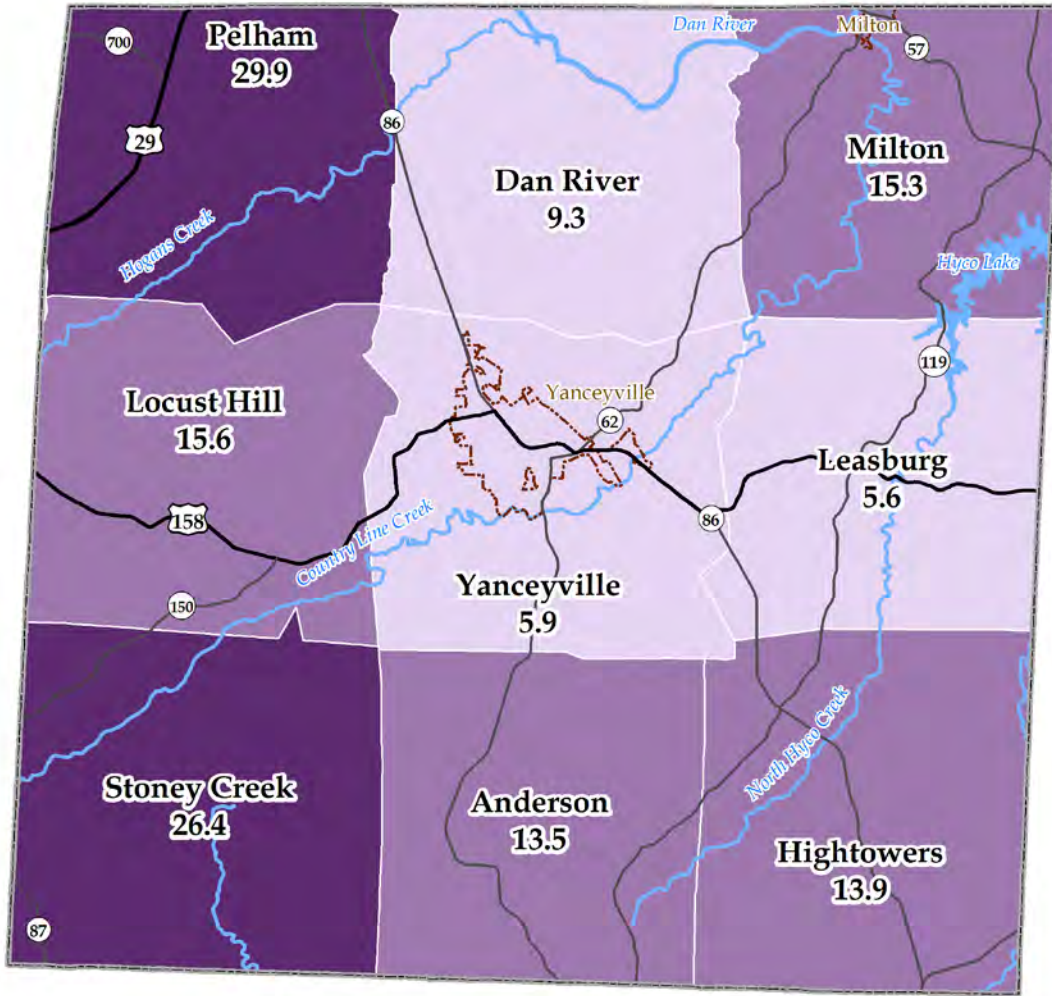
Source: Census Transportation Planning
Products Program 2006-2010.

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: December 2013

Figure 25: Commuting Outflows for Caswell County

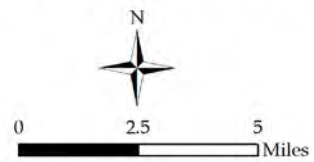


Commuting Outflows
Persons Per Square Mile
 Working Outside Caswell County

- < 10
- 10 - 20
- > 20

Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 2007-2011,
 Table B08007 (mapped at county subdivision geography).

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
 Planning Department
 Date: December 2013

2.11 Other Economic Factors

The number of businesses in Caswell County rose between 2002 and 2007. The proportion of businesses owned by females now accounts for almost one out of every five businesses. Data on other types of minority business in Caswell County is not available.

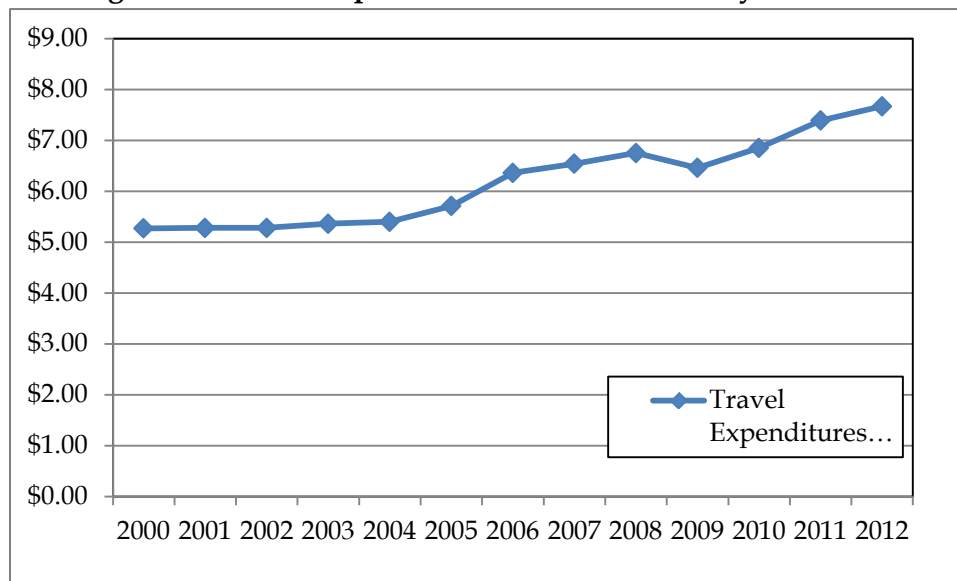
Table 26: Survey of Minority Business Owners in Caswell County

Caswell County	2007	2002
All Firms	1,647	1,092
Female-Owned	371	Suppressed
Black/African American Owned	(F)	(F)
All Other Races	(F)	(F)

Source: US Census Bureau, Economic Census.

(F) Fewer than 100 firms

Figure 26: Travel Expenditures in Caswell County Since 2000



Source: Employment Security Commission of NC, Labor Market Information Division.

Table 27: Tourism Expenditures, 2000-2012

Caswell County	2012	2000	% change
Travel Expenditures *	\$7.67	\$5.27	45.5%
Local Tax Receipts * from Tourism	\$0.88	\$0.67	31.3%

Source: NC Department of Commerce.

* In millions.

Domestic tourism in Caswell County generated an economic impact of \$7.67 million in 2012. This was a 3.80% change from 2011. In 2012, Caswell County ranked 95 in travel impact among North Carolina's 100 Counties. More than 40 jobs in Caswell County were directly attributable to travel and tourism. Travel generated a \$0.76 million payroll in 2012.



Caswell County's infrastructure systems are strongly linked to the area's land use patterns. The Town of Yanceyville maintains public water and sewer services, which has encouraged growth in surrounding areas. Proximity to Virginia has increased transportation connectivity within the region and allowed communities in the northern portion of the County to access water services. The absence of major highways, rail corridors, and widespread water/sewer systems provides opportunities to maintain rural and agricultural land uses while also presenting challenges for economic development.

2.12 Water & Wastewater Systems

Caswell County contains two drinking water reservoirs (Fuller's Creek Reservoir and Farmer Lake) and two water and wastewater systems (Town of Yanceyville and Town of Milton). The County also purchases water for the Pelham area from Danville, Virginia.

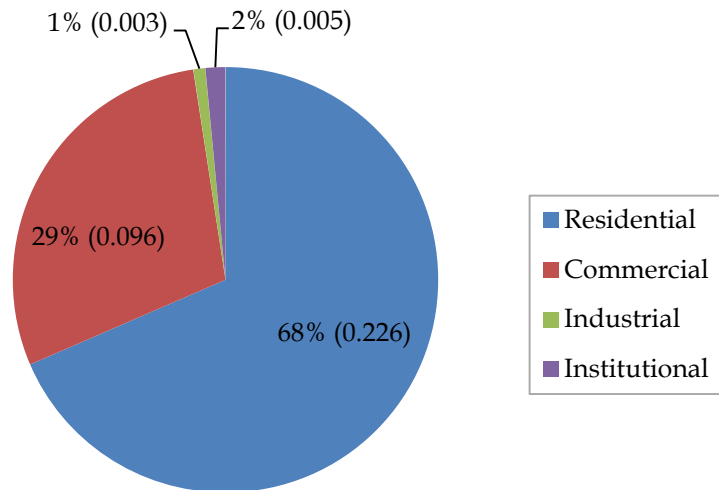
The Town of Yanceyville provides water and sewer services to over 1,000 accounts (an estimated 2,730 people) both inside and outside of the municipal limits. The water system consists of approximately 31 miles of distribution lines, including 3,200 feet of new water mains installed in 2012. A water line currently extends along Highway 86 to the Providence community. Built in 1983, Farmer Lake is the source for the Town of Yanceyville and connects to Fuller's Creek Reservoir through gravity-fed in-take pipes. Despite having two reservoirs, the Town lacks an interconnection with another system in the event of an emergency.

The Yanceyville Water Treatment Plant, constructed in 2001, is capable of treating up to one million gallons of water per day and storing over one million gallons in its holding tanks. Residential water use represents the largest consumer of water in the Town at 0.226 million of gallon per day (MGD), or 68% of total water use. Commercial water use is the second largest at 0.096 MGD, or 29% of total water use. Both types of water use are expected to increase over the next 50 years as population increases. Local governments providing public water services are required to complete a local water supply plan (LWSP), as mandated by NCGS 143-355 (I). These plans help communities to manage existing infrastructure and plan for expansions. Yanceyville's most recent LWSP was completed in 2012.

Yanceyville's sewer system includes 700 connections and a wastewater treatment plant capable of process up to .45 million gallons of wastewater per day. Originally constructed in 1967, the plant was updated in 1996 as the capacity levels were increased. Effluent is released into Fuller's Creek and Country Line Creek. Envirolink manages both the water and the wastewater treatment plants for Yanceyville.

The Town of Milton provides water and sewer services to residents within its limits and extends water services to a limited number of outside residents. In recent years, the Town experienced wastewater treatment issues due to failing septic systems and installed an alternative treatment system that was compatible with the Town's development.

**Figure 27: Town of Yanceyville: Water Use by Type
Metered Average Use in Million of Gallons per Day (MGD)**



Source: Yanceyville Local Water Supply Plan 2012, NCDENR

Table 28: Town of Yanceyville: Water Use by Type

Type of Use	Metered Connections	Metered Average Use (MGD)
Residential	682	0.226
Commercial	258	0.096
Industrial	3	0.003
Institutional	12	0.005

Source: Yanceyville Local Water Supply Plan 2012, NCDENR



Farmer Lake

Image Credit: PTRC

Table 29: Town of Yanceyville: Projected Water Use by Type (MGD)

Type of Use	Metered Average Use (MGD)					
	2012	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Year-Round Population	2,730	3,556	4,335	5,000	6,000	7,200
Residential	0.226	0.392	0.499	0.597	0.685	0.759
Commercial	0.096	0.190	0.218	0.239	0.276	0.301
Industrial	0.003	0.043	0.071	0.048	0.065	0.097
Institutional	0.005	0.079	0.131	0.162	0.191	0.207
System Process	0.001	0.072	0.099	0.138	0.168	0.203
Unaccounted-for	-0.001	0.009	0.012	0.015	0.017	0.020

Source: Yanceyville Local Water Supply Plan 2012, NCDENR

Table 30: Town of Yanceyville: Demand as Percent of Water Supply

Demand	2012	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
Total Available Supply (MGD)	6.300	6.300	6.300	6.300	6.300	6.300
Total Demand (MGD)	0.330	0.785	1.030	1.199	1.402	1.587
Demand as Percent of Supply	5%	12%	16%	19%	22%	25%

Source: Yanceyville Local Water Supply Plan, NCDENR

2.13 Transportation System

Transportation systems affect economic development, quality of life, health, and connectivity of communities. Caswell County is a member of the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization (RPO), a voluntary transportation planning organization that consists of four rural counties in central North Carolina. The Piedmont Triad Regional Council serves as the lead planning agency for the RPO. Since its creation in May 2002, the Piedmont Triad RPO has been working cooperatively with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for rural communities. The RPO is responsible for:

- Developing long range transportation plans for the region;
- Providing transportation related data to local governments;
- Developing and prioritizing projects for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP);
- Providing a forum for public involvement in the transportation planning process.

A. Caswell County Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) outlines a number of goals and objectives for the County including improving connectivity, mobility, efficiency, and safety among others. The most recent CTP was completed in 2009 and serves as a long-range guide for transportation planning. When deciding specific transportation projects and programs to pursue, planners will consult the plan for information regarding highway, public transit, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian recommendations.



Caswell County Roadway

Image Credit: Jesse Day

Table 31: Caswell County CTP Recommendations - Major Improvements

Route Number	Description
<i>Major Improvements</i>	
US 29 (Future I-785)	It is recommended that US 29 (Future I-785) be upgraded to Interstate standards from the Virginia State Line to the Rockingham County Line in accordance with the Strategic Highway Corridors (SHC) Initiative.
US 158	US 158, from the Rockingham County line to the Person County line, is a SHC and is recommended to be improved to an expressway. The total length of the project is approximately 24 miles.
NC 86	NC 86 is a SHC and is recommended to be improved to an expressway. This recommendation includes widening the existing two lane facility to a four-lane divided facility from the Virginia State Line to US 158 (north of Yanceyville) and from US 158 (south of Yanceyville) to the Orange County Line. The total length of the project is approximately 21 miles.
NC 87	NC 87, from the Alamance County Line to Rockingham County Line, is a SHC and it is recommended that it be upgraded to a boulevard. The total length of the project is approximately 2 miles. This segment of NC 87 is part of TIP project R-2560 which includes widening NC 87 to a multi-lane facility from SR 1547 in Alamance County to US 29 in Reidsville.
NC 62 Bypass	It is recommended that a two-lane bypass be constructed east of the existing location of NC 62 from SR 1745 (Moorefield Road) to US 158/NC 86. This bypass is expected to improve safety by routing through traffic, especially trucks, around the residential and school area in the vicinity of Main Street and NC 62.

Source: NCDOT Caswell County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, August 2009

B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

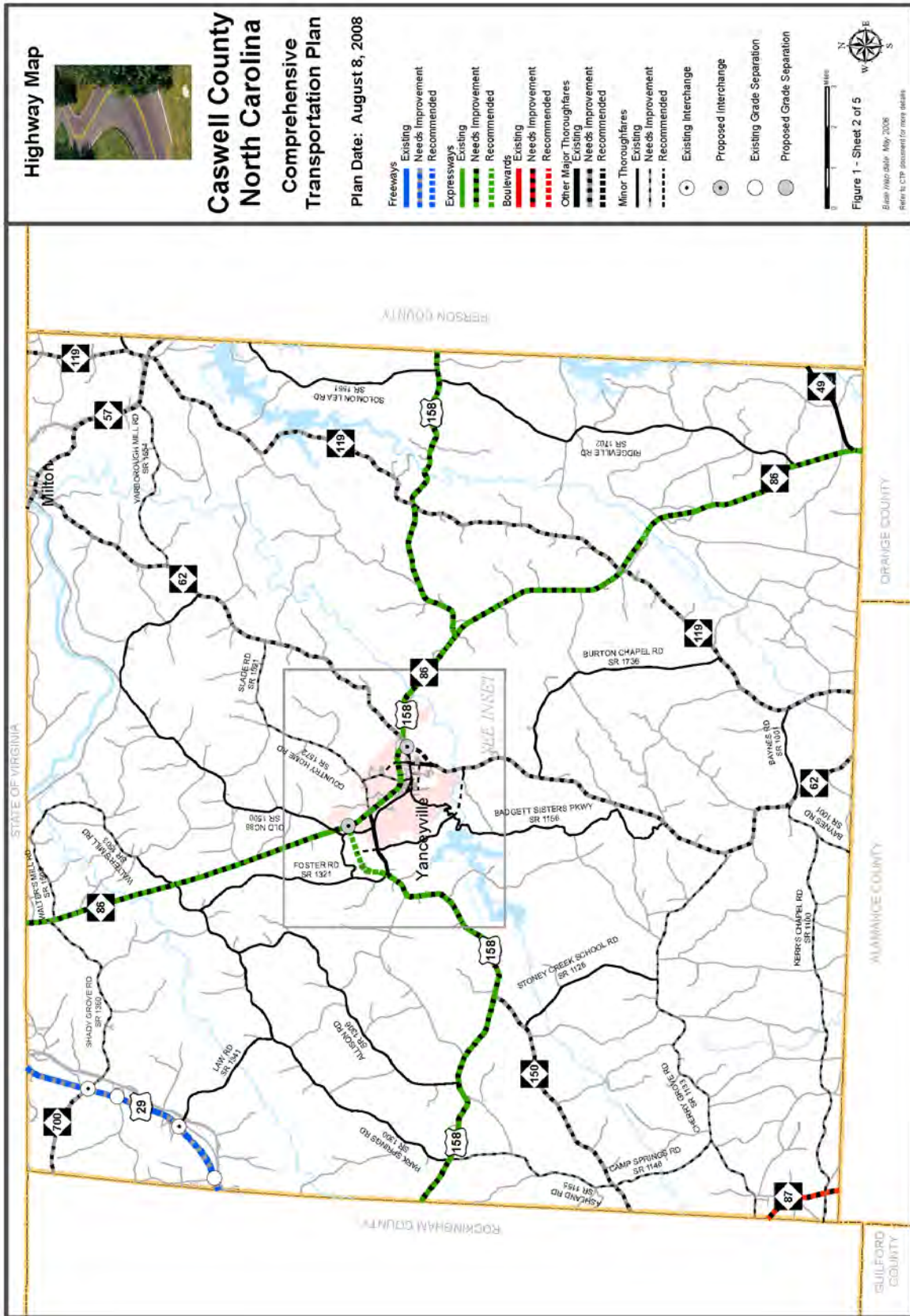
The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a long-term outline of North Carolina's transportation priorities. Through the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization (RPO), Caswell County's transportation projects are prioritized using a public input process. *Table 32* contains existing TIP highway projects as of 2013.

Table 32: Caswell County TIP Projects

TIP Number	Route Number	Description
R-2560DA	NC 87	SR 1547 in Alamance County to US 29 in Reidsville. Widen to Multi-Lanes. Section C: SR 1159 (Parkdale Road) in Caswell County to NC 150 East of Williamsburg in Rockingham County
R-2575A	US 158	Widen to Multi-Lanes from NC 86 West of Yanceyville to NC 86 Near Pleasant Grove
R-2586	US 158	Widen to Multi-Lanes from US 29 at NC 14 to NC 86 West of Yanceyville
R-3418	NC 86	Widen to Multi-Lanes from US 158 to Virginia State Line

Source: NCDOT Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation

Figure 28: Caswell County



C. Public Transportation & Rail System

Like many rural communities, residents without access to vehicles or living with disabilities that prevent them from driving often experience challenges in reaching destinations for work, school, and medical care. According to the 2011 ACS 5-Year Estimates, approximately 7.6% of households in the County did not own a vehicle, which is higher than the statewide average (6.5%). Caswell County is currently served by a demand response public transit system; a fixed public transportation route is not available.

The County contains one active rail line, operated by Carolina and Northwestern Railways, which extends from the Virginia State Line to the Rockingham County Line.

D. Bicycle Routes

Due to its rural environment, minimal traffic congestion, and scenic beauty, Caswell County serves as an ideal place for cycling. The County has a series of on-road bicycle routes, including North Carolina Bicycle Route #4 – North Line Trace, which crosses the County east to west and passes through Yanceyville. A bicycle plan, funded by the NC Department of Commerce, developed recommendations that were incorporated into a bicycling brochure and the 2005 Piedmont Triad RPO Regional Bicycle Study Plan. Eight routes and four connectors are identified and allow riders to customize their experience by linking different routes. Through the routes and connectors, riders can circle the entire County.



Caswell County Bicycle Route

Image Credit: Jesse Day

Figure 30: Caswell County CTP Public Transportation & Rail Map

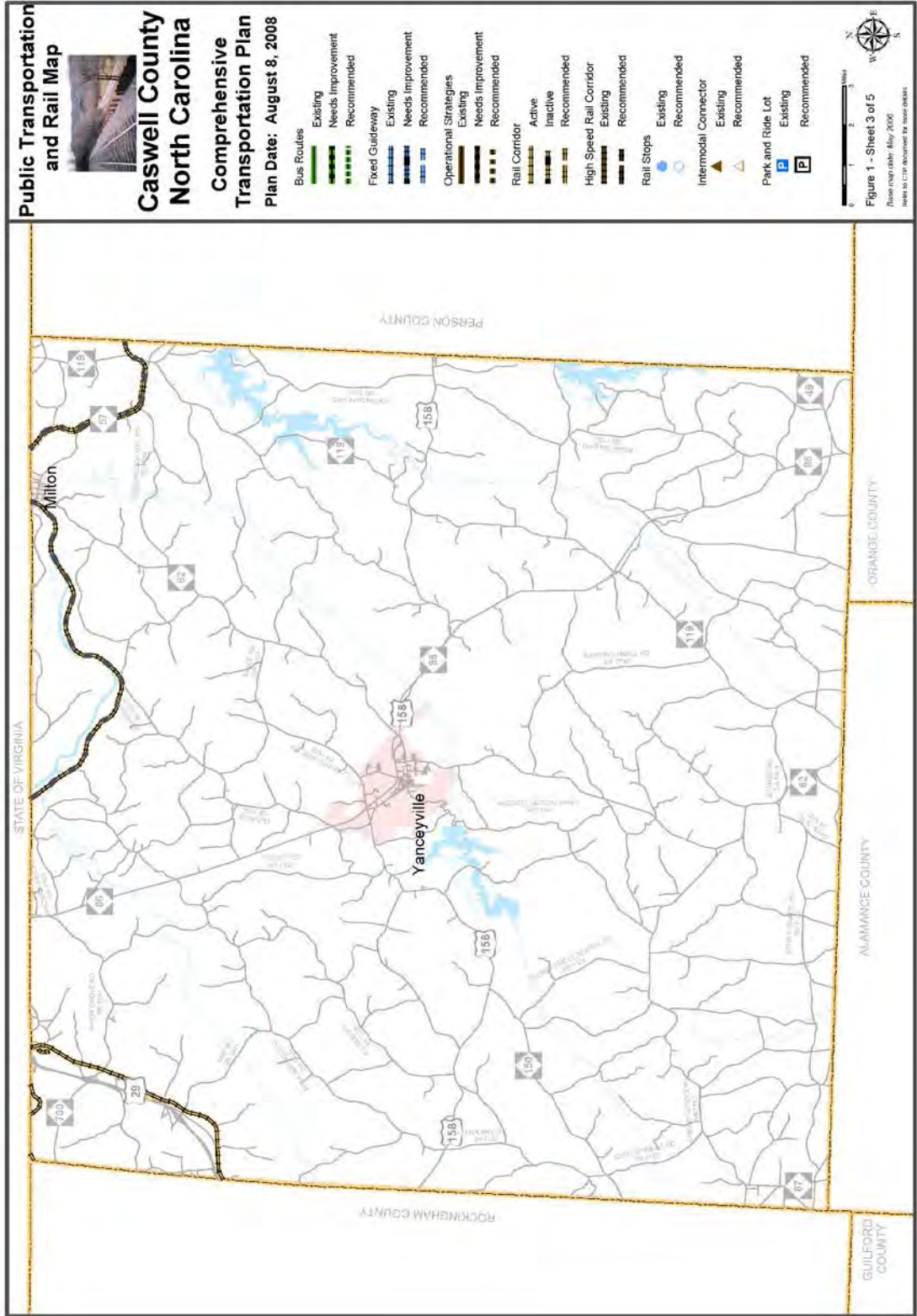


Figure 31: Caswell County CTP Bicycle Map

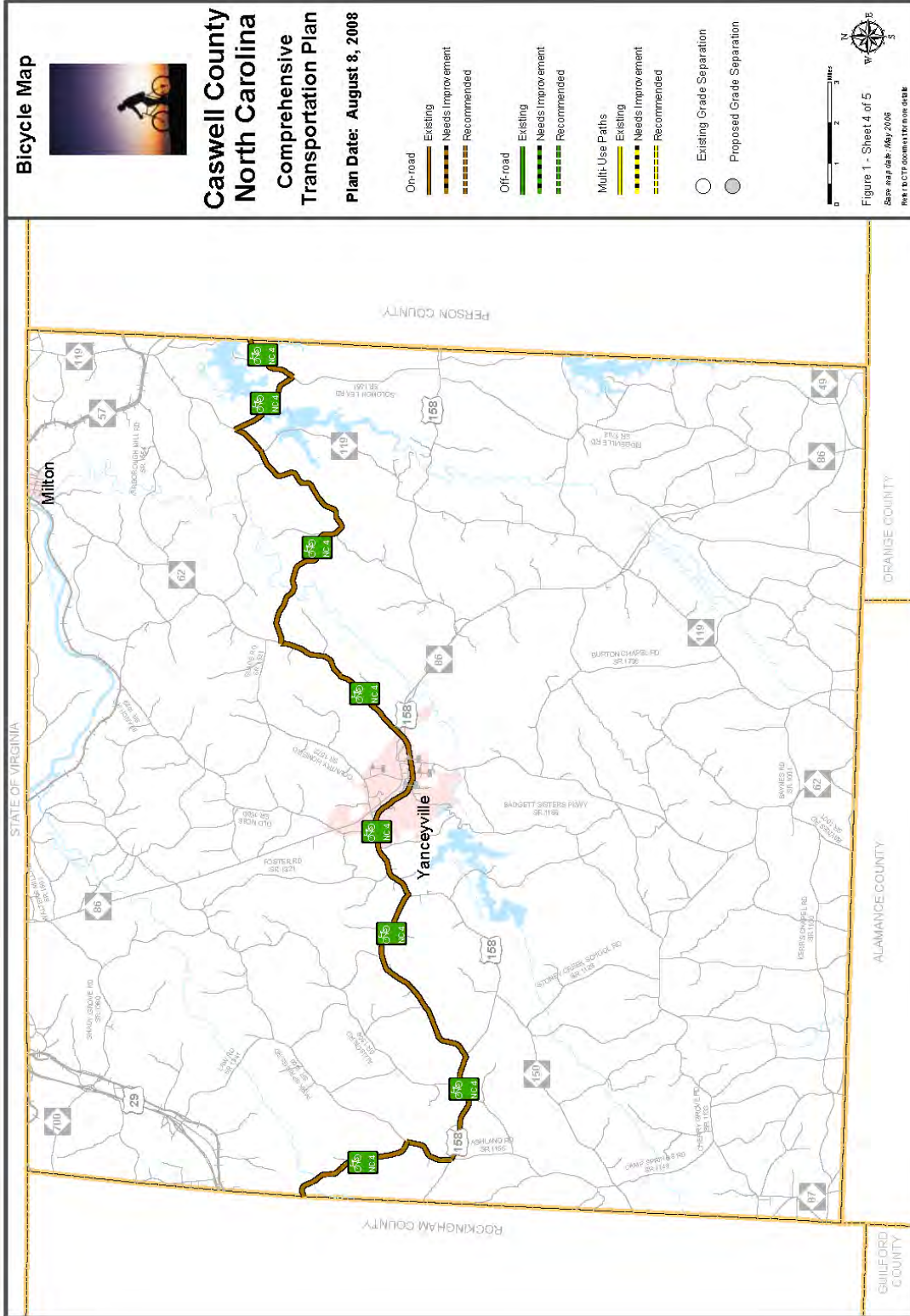
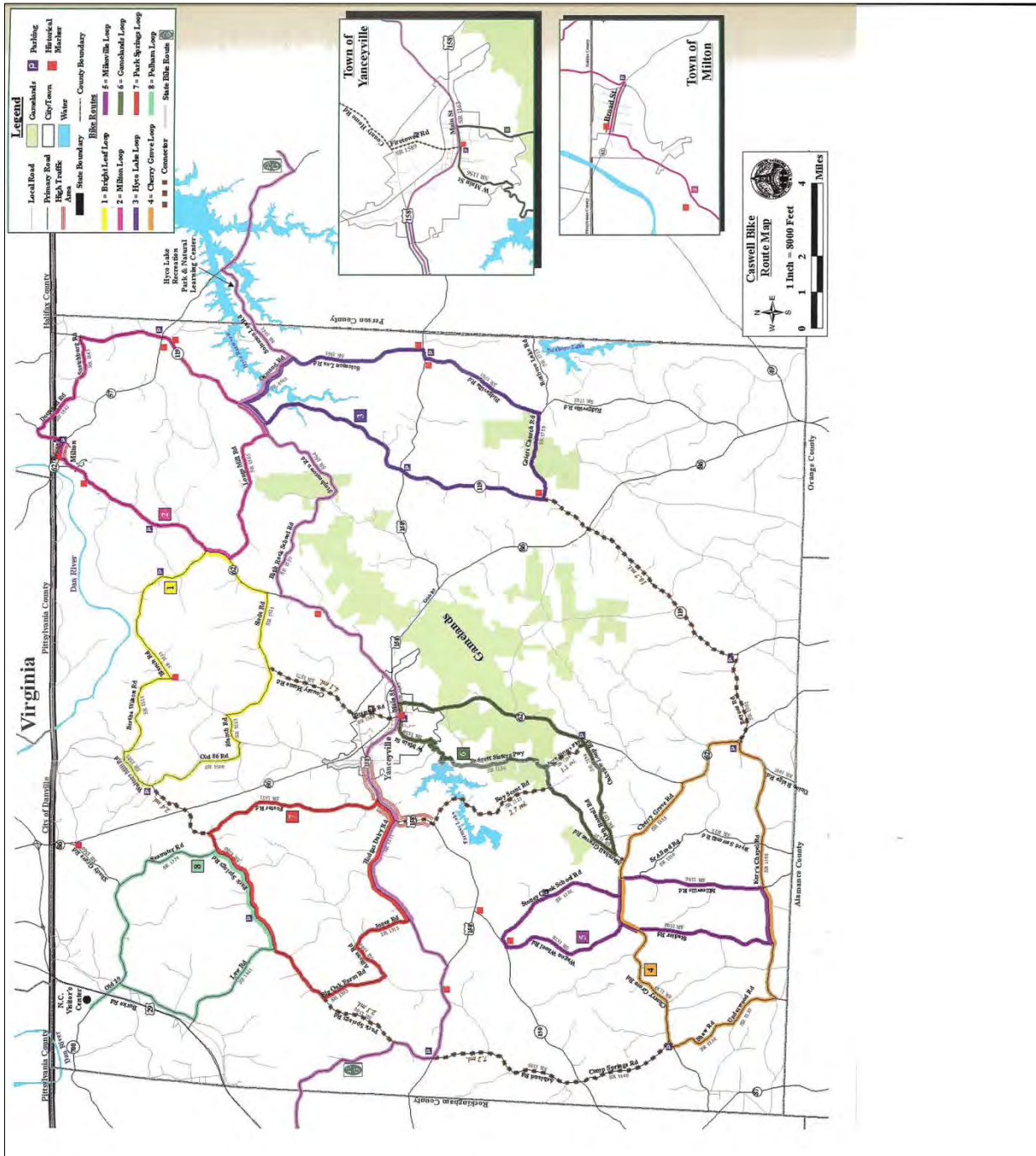


Figure 32: Caswell County Bicycling Brochure Map



For the entire Caswell County Bicycling Brochure, see the Appendix.

Table 33: Caswell County Bicycle Routes and Connectors

Route	Length	Description
1 - Bright Leaf Loop	19.6 miles	This route takes riders past the historic Slade Hill farm and the discovery site of the Bright Leaf tobacco curing process. The route has many long hills and should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.
2 - Milton Loop	20.8 miles	This route takes riders through historic Milton. Incorporated in 1796, Milton is one of the oldest towns in Caswell County. Just into Virginia is the Virginia International Raceway (VIR), which is one of the best automotive road racing courses in North America and host to many sports car and Rolex series races. Just south of Semora on Highway 119 is Red House Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1756. General Cornwallis ransacked much of this community after chasing Nathaniel Greene to the Dan River in February of 1781. Along this route, riders will find many 19 th century homes and farm buildings. Overall, this route is fairly flat with only a few hills, mainly from Milton to VIR, the Snatchburg Road and Longs Mill Road.
3 - Hyco Lake Loop	22.0 miles	This route takes riders through historic Leasburg, the original county seat when Caswell County was formed in 1777. Riders will find many 19 th century homes in Leasburg. Also along the route riders will pass by historic Griers Presbyterian Church, founded by Hugh McAden in 1753. The existing church building was constructed in 1856. This pleasant route is generally easy, smooth riding with a few long hills along Griers Church Road, NC 119 near Hyco Lake and the Osmond Road crossing Hyco Lake.
4 - Cherry Grove Loop	22.3 miles	This route takes riders through some of the best and most productive farmland in Caswell County and the historic Camp Springs Community. The route is relatively easy with very few steep hills.
5 - Milesville Loop	18.2 miles	This route takes riders past historic Locust Hill. The armies of both General Greene and General Cornwallis passed by this location during the "Race to the Dan" in February 1781. Brown's Store, built in 1780, is located at the intersection of Wagon Wheel Road and NC 150. The store served as a stage stop, country store, and post office and is one of the oldest remaining commercial structures in North Carolina. This route is moderate with a few long hills mainly along Wagon Wheel Road and Stoney Creek School Road.
6 - Game Lands Loop	18.4 miles	On this route riders will experience the old and the new in highway construction. Badgett Sisters Parkway is "old NC 62" and features two (2) one lane bridges built in 1922 over Country Line Creek. This section of the route runs through the Caswell Game Lands with many tight turns and steep hills that will make some riders think they're in the mountains. The route also passes by the historic Courthouse in Yanceyville. Recently renovated and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the courthouse was constructed between 1857 and 1861 and is one of the most beautiful Italianate-Victorian Courthouses remaining in North Carolina. The Badgett Sisters Parkway is hilly and steep with many sharp curves and should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.
7 - Park Springs Loop	19.8 miles	This route travels along some of the highest points in the County and offers riders many beautiful views of the county. Along this route, riders will pass by many 19 th century plantation homes. The route is moderate with a few long hills.

8 - Pelham Loop	15.8 miles	The route features a stop at the Piedmont Triad Visitors Center, one of the best travel and tourism information centers in the state. Except for Park Springs Road section, this route has many long hills over the rough terrain typical of this rather isolated section of northwest Caswell County. Even into the early 20 th Century, this area was a sparsely populated "frontier" country and the area still maintains much of that character. This route should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.
Baynes Store Connector	10.7 miles	This connector links the Hyco Lake Loop (Route 3) to the Cherry Grove Loop (Route 4). The connector follows NC 119 to Baynes Store and follows Baynes Road to NC 62. The connector then crosses NC 62 and connects with Union Ridge Road on the Cherry Grove Loop. This connector is very easy with few hills.
Casville Connector	10.7 miles	This connector links the Cherry Grove Loop (Route 4) to the Park Springs Loop (Route 7). The route runs from the Cherry Grove Road at Camp Springs along the Camp Springs Road to Ashland and then follows the Ashland Road to the Park Springs Road/US 158 intersection in Casville. Continue north on the Park Springs Road to Big Oak Farm Road where it connects to the Park Springs Loop (Route 7). It also connects with the Pelham Loop (Route 8) at Law Road. The route is very easy with few hills.
Park Springs Connector	2.4 miles	This connector links the Park Springs Loop (Route 7) to the Bright Leaf Loop (Route 1) at the Providence Community. This connector is short, but hilly.
County Home Connector	4.1 miles	This connector links the "Courthouse Square" in Yanceyville and the Gamelands Loop (Route 6) to the Bright Leaf Loop (Route 1). The route is very easy with only one hill going up Firetower Road to the County Home Road.

Source: NCDOT Caswell County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, August 2009

E. Sidewalk System

The Town of Yanceyville completed a Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan in 2011 in order to create connected, accessible, and safe pedestrian networks. The Plan recommended four priority sidewalk, crosswalk, and multi-use path projects. The Piedmont Triad Regional Council conducted a sidewalk inventory which provides information about existing conditions in the Town of Yanceyville and Town of Milton.

Table 34: Town of Yanceyville Pedestrian Plan Sidewalk Recommendations

Sidewalk Route	Recommendations
Fire Tower Trail	Multi-use sidepath from Senior Center to NC 158
Core Area Sidewalks & Crossings	Sidewalk (one-side) from: 1). North side of Wall Street; 2). Church Street from Main Street to North Avenue; and 3). East side of North Avenue
Park & School Loop	Sidewalk (one-side) and a multi-use sidepath: 1). From south side of Church Street; 2). East side of Barco Street; 3). Connection to High School; and 4). Sidepath on east side of NC 62
Northwest Area Intersections	Crosswalk at the following intersections: 1). NC 86 and County Home Road; 2). Main Street and 10 th Street; and 3). Old Hwy. 86 and County Home Road

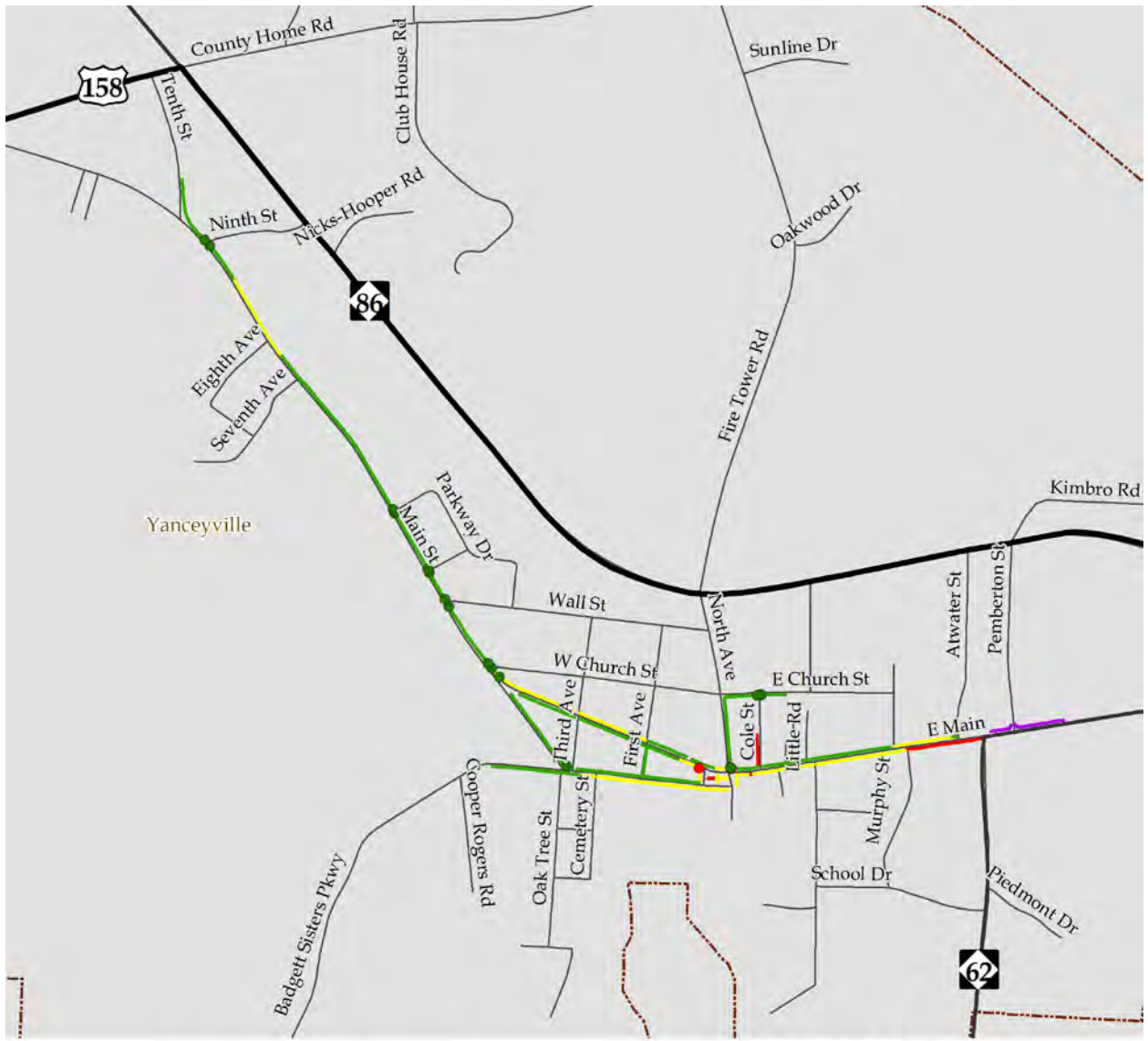
Source: Yanceyville Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan, 2011.

F. Greenway Systems

Greenways serve an important transportation need and can act as a unifying element that links neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other land uses. Greenways can be especially valuable because they are usually created as independent transportation elements that provide an alternative to automobile travel and can help in the reduction of traffic congestion and air pollution. When following streams, greenways provide buffers and help reduce pollution caused by stormwater surface runoff.

The Heritage Trails Master Plan for Caswell County (2012), an initiative led by The Dan River Basin Association, developed a network of greenways, trails, and blueways throughout the County. The Piedmont Triad Area Agency on Aging sponsored the Caswell County Senior Center Trail Plan (2008) in order to promote physical activity among the older adult population and overall health in Caswell County. The recommendations link the County's Senior Center to parks, schools, and other future trail connections.

Figure 33: Town of Yanceyville Sidewalk Inventory



Sidewalk Inventory

*Sidewalk Length:
Approximately 17,085 Feet*

Sidewalk Condition Curb Ramps

- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Gap
- ADA Compliant
- ADA Non-Compliant

YANCEYVILLE



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: December 2013

Source: Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization, 2007.

Figure 34: Town of Milton Sidewalk Inventory



Sidewalk Inventory

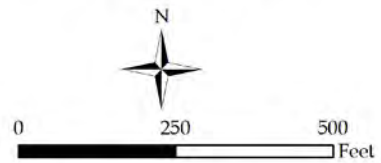
*Sidewalk Length:
Approximately 3,278 Feet*

Sidewalk Condition

-  Good
-  Fair
-  Poor
-  Gap

Source: Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization, 2007.

MILTON



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: December 2013



Caswell County encompasses a range of unique natural and cultural features, ranging from open spaces and rivers to historic sites and high quality farmland. These features are important in the comprehensive planning process due to their interdependence with economic development, tourism, infrastructure, health, and quality of life.

2.14 Natural Resources & Conservation Areas

A. Natural Heritage Areas

An inventory of significant natural heritage areas was conducted in Caswell County by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. A Significant Natural Heritage Area is a site that supports natural assemblages of flora and fauna which are significant to the county, region, and state. The R. Wayne Bailey Caswell Gamelands represents a combination of Significant Natural Heritage Areas, Other Natural Heritage Areas, and Managed Areas.

B. Wetlands

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains the National Wetlands Inventory, which was used to identify wetlands located within the study area. Small areas of wetlands can be found adjacent to streams or other bodies of water. Significant numbers of wetlands exist along Hyco Lake.

C. Impaired Rivers and Streams

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify rivers and streams which do not meet water quality standards or that have become impaired. An impaired stream may have high turbidity, high levels of fecal coli form bacterial counts, or other pollutants that result in not meeting minimum water quality standards.



Image Credit: Jesse Day

Table 35: Impaired Rivers and Streams in Caswell County

AU Number	Stream Name	Location
22-56-(3.5)a	Country Line Creek (Farmer Lake)	Upper reservoir- From a point 0.5 mile upstream of mouth Nats Fork to dam at Farmer Lake (Town of Yanceyville water supply intake located 1.8 mile upstream of N.C. Hwy. 62)
22-(39)a	Dan River (North Carolina portion)	From Mill Branch to NC/VA crossing downstream of Wolf Island Creek
22-(39)b	Dan River (North Carolina portion)	From NC/VA crossing downstream of Wolf Island Creek to last crossing of North Carolina-Virginia State Line
22-58-4(1.4)	South Hyco Creek (Lake Roxboro)	From backwaters of Lake Roxboro to dam at Lake Roxboro

Source: NC Division of Water Quality

D. Parks and Recreation

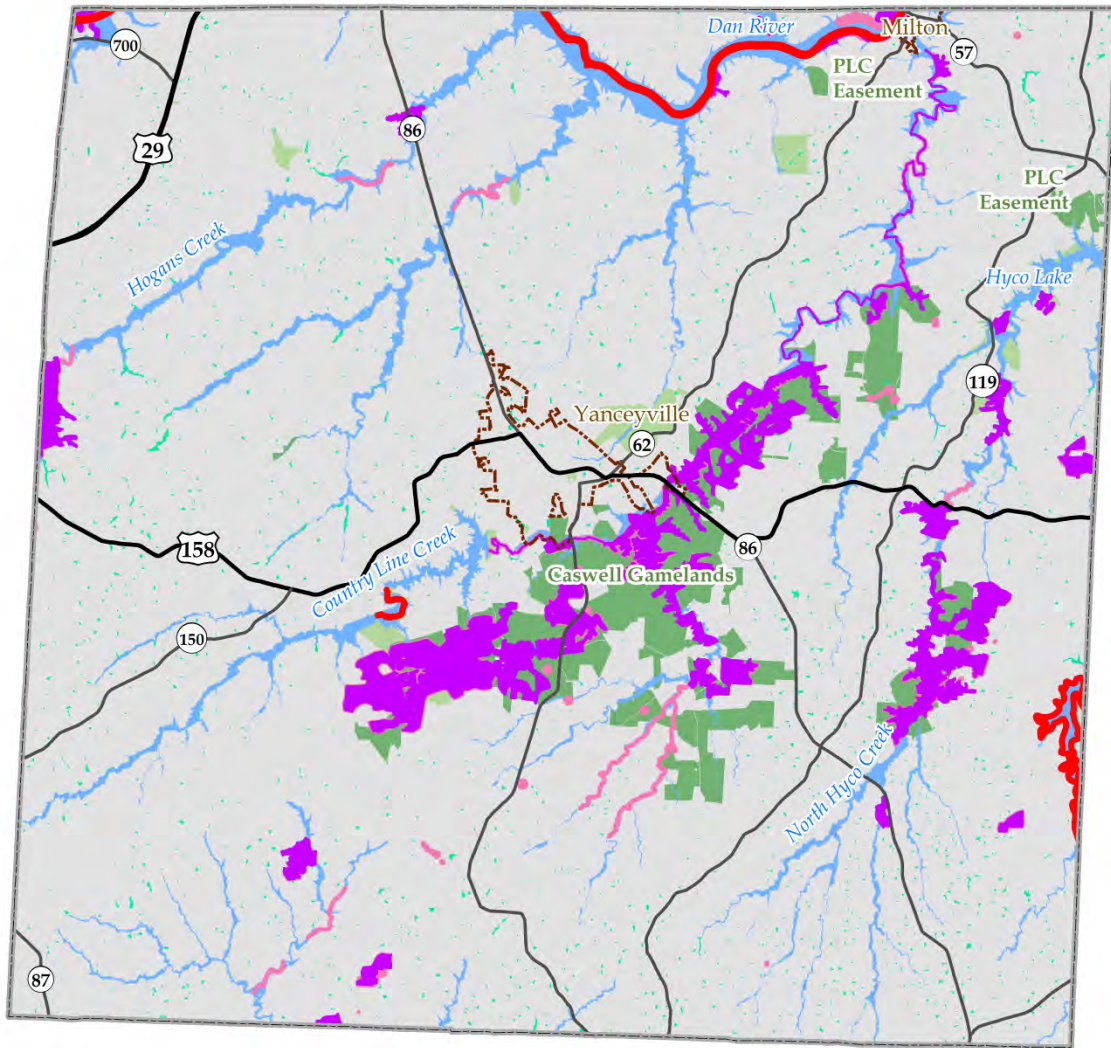
Caswell County offers both local and state recreation facilities. The County Parks and Recreation Department manages the County Park, which features a variety of programs and facilities. The Caswell Community Arboretum, sponsored by the Caswell County Horticulture Club, provides a scenic walking trail and garden featuring native plants. In addition, Caswell residents enjoy the Town of Yanceyville’s Pavilion and Maud Gatewood Memorial Park as well as the Pelham Community Center. The largest recreation facility is the R. Wayne Bailey Caswell Gamelands, which consist of 17,788 acres of publically-owned hunting land.

Table 36: Caswell County Parks and Recreation

Facilities	Programs and Activities
Gymnasium	Youth basketball, softball, baseball, volleyball, soccer, football, and flag football
Picnic Shelter	
Tennis Courts (6)	Adult basketball, softball, and volleyball
1/3 Mile Paved Walking Track	Preschool age starter sports
Playgrounds (2)	Zumba and Kickboxing fitness classes
Lighted Athletic Fields (3)	Open gym
Horseshoe Pits	Tennis
Bocce Court	
Concession Facilities	

Source: Caswell County Parks & Recreation Department

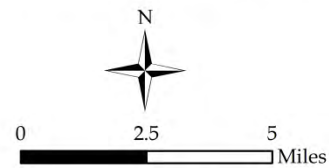
Figure 35: Caswell County Natural Features



Natural Features

-  Impaired Water
-  Floodplain
-  Wetland
-  Significant Natural Heritage Area
-  Other Natural Heritage Area
-  Managed Area
-  Other Open Space/Recreation Area
-  Municipal Boundary

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
 Planning Department
 Date: November 2013

Source: NC Division of Water Quality, NC Floodplain Mapping Program, National Wetlands Inventory, & NC Natural Heritage Program

E. Soils

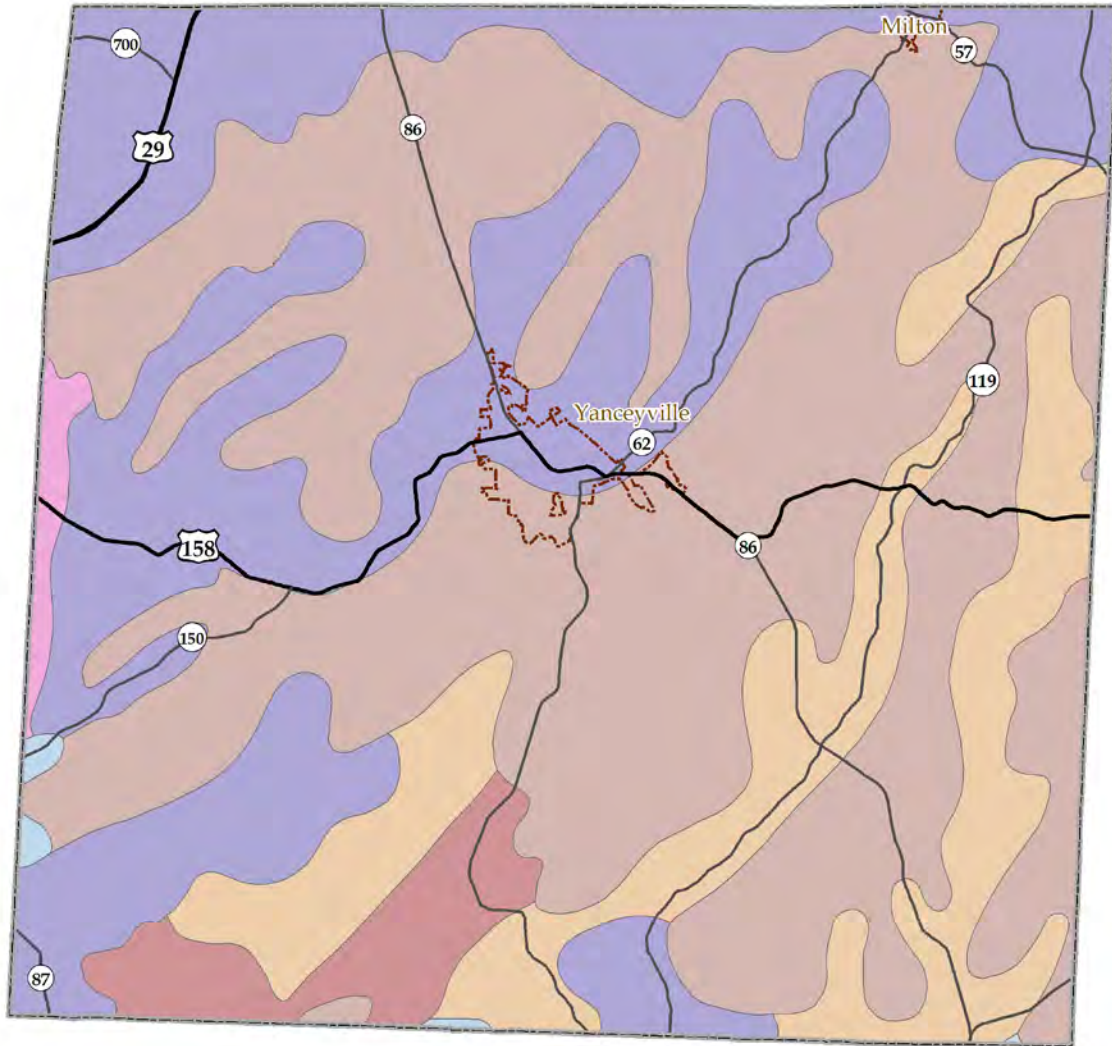
According to the survey conducted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the six major soil associations identified within the study area include: Hiwassee-Cecil; Mecklenbury-Enon-Cecil; Mecklenburg-Madison-Iredell-Hiwassee-Enon; Tallapoosa-Pacolet-Madison; Vance-Enon-Cecil-Appling; and Wilkes-Pacolet.

Table 37: Caswell County Soil Classifications

Soil Classification	Description	Soil Grade
Hiwassee	Well-drained mineral soils	II
Enon	Well-drained mineral soils	III/IV (Ag.) II (Forestry)
Cecil	Well-drained mineral soils, moderately permeable, located along upland ridges and side slopes	II
Appling	Well-drained mineral soils; average soil below 10% slope; for slopes above 10%, soil is more suitable for horticulture	II
Iredell	Well-drained mineral soils; For slopes below 7%, soil is average for agriculture	II (Ag./Forestry) III (Horticulture)
Madison	Well-drained mineral soils; Average soil when below 7% slope	II
Mecklenburg	Well-drained mineral soils; Average soil for agriculture when slope is below 8-10%	II
Pacolet	Well-drained mineral soils; Average soil when less than 6-8% slope	II
Tallapoosa	Excessively well-drained soils	II (Ag./Forestry) I (Horticulture)
Vance	Well-drained mineral soils	II-III (Ag.) II (Forestry/Horticulture)
Wilkes	Excessively well-drained soils; soil grade dependent upon slope for Wilkes-Pacolet	IV (Ag.) III (Forestry) II (Horticulture)
NC Department of Revenue Soil Classes		
I	Best Soils	
II	Average Soils	
III	Fair Soils	
IV	Non-Productive Soils	

Source of Soil Association Descriptions: Caswell County Cooperative Extension, An Agricultural Inventory of Caswell County, NC (September 2010).

Figure 36: Caswell County General Soils



General Soils Map

-  Hiwassee-Cecil
-  Mecklenburg-Enon-Cecil
-  Mecklenburg-Madison-Iredell-Hiwassee-Enon
-  Tallapoosa-Pacolet-Madison
-  Vance-Enon-Cecil-Applying
-  Wilkes-Pacolet

Source: USDA NRCS STATSGO Soil Database

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: October 2013

2.15 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources reflect the identity of Caswell County and its residents. By identifying and preserving historic buildings, structures, monuments, archaeological sites, and landscapes, this identity remains intact and influential to the County's future.

A. Historic Properties

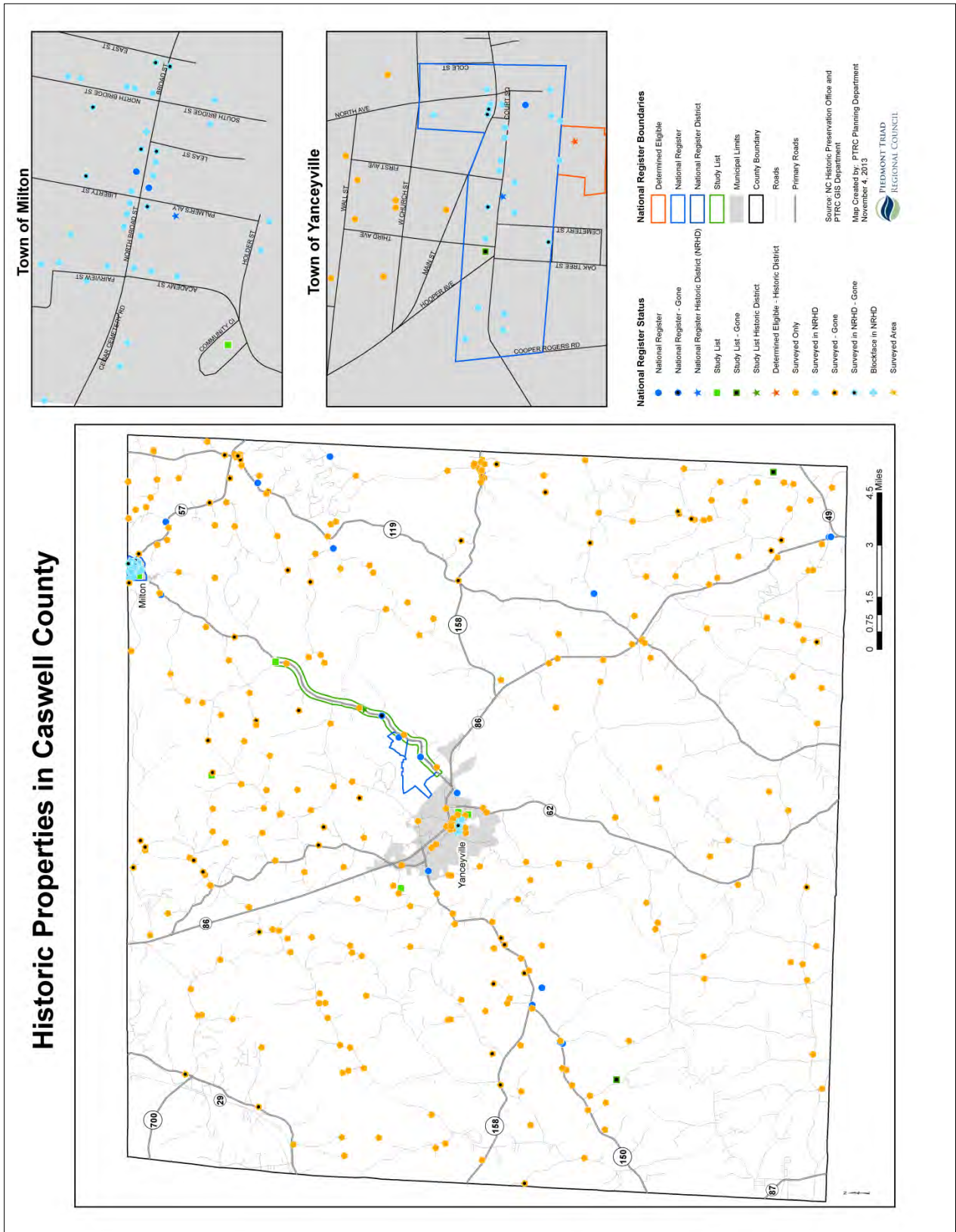
Caswell County contains numerous historic sites, many of which have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). *Table 38* shows National Register of Historic Places properties that are located within Caswell County, including the date they were nominated for the designation. Properties of historical significance have also been surveyed for potential listing on the NRHP or identified as a Study List property. The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office maintains data on historic properties and serves as a resource for communities seeking to preserve their cultural resources.

Table 38: National Register of Historic Places, Caswell County

Name of Property	NRHP Listing Date	Location
Union Tavern	5/15/1975	Milton
Brown-Graves House and Brown's Store	7/15/1974	Locust Hill
Caswell County Courthouse	5/4/1973	Yanceyville
Garland-Buford House	1/24/1974	Osmond vicinity
Graves House	11/20/1974	Yanceyville vicinity
Griers Presbyterian Church	12/30/1985	Frogsboro vicinity
John Johnston House	3/14/1997	Yanceyville vicinity
Longwood	9/15/1976	Milton vicinity
James Malone House	4/30/2008	Leasburg
Melrose (Williamson House)	2/28/1985	Yanceyville vicinity
Milton Historic District	10/25/1973	Milton
Milton State Bank	4/13/1973	Milton
Moore House (Annie Y. Gwynn House)	8/28/1973	Locust Hill vicinity
Poteat House	10/24/1979	Yanceyville vicinity
Red House Presbyterian Church	5/1/2007	Semora
Rose Hill (Bedford Brown House)	10/25/1973	Locust Hill
Union Tavern (Yellow Tavern)	5/15/1975	Milton
Warren House and Warren's Store	6/19/1973	Prospect Hill
Wildwood (Monroe Long House)	10/5/2001	Semora vicinity
Woodside (Richmond House)	3/6/1986	Milton vicinity
Bartlett Yancey House	12/4/1973	Yanceyville vicinity
Yanceyville Historic District	10/15/1973	Yanceyville

Source: NC State Historic Preservation Office

Figure 37: National Register of Historic Places Listings, Caswell County





2.16 Farms & Farmland

The U.S. Census of Agriculture shows 97,060 acres of farmland in Caswell County as of 2012. Between 2007 and 2012, the amount of farmland within the County declined by 5.1%. In comparison, North Carolina experienced overall a smaller loss at 0.71% of farmland during the same period. Caswell County experienced a decline in the number of farms by 3.4%, from 562 in 2007 to 543 in 2012. The number of farms in North Carolina declined by 5.1% between 2007 and 2012.

Table 39: A Historical Look at Farm Land and Numbers in Caswell County

Year	Total Land Area in Farms	Number of Farms
1910	263,870	2,002
1920	253,565	2,558
1930	227,588	2,934
1940	237,327	3,000
1950	244,036	3,051
1959	222,438	2,284
1969	166,501	1,263
1974	149,826	1,063
1978	151,384	980
1982	141,480	870
1987	130,334	707
1992	125,428	601
1997	137,873	564
2002	116,753	517
2007	102,299	562
2012	97,060	543

Source: US Census of Agriculture: Historical Data

Table 41: Farms by Size, 1997-2007

Farm Size	2012	2007	1997
1-9 acres	18	25	30
10-49 acres	157	143	109
50-179 acres	231	238	208
180-499 acres	101	109	139
500-999 acres	25	38	56
1,000+ acres	11	9	22

Source: US Census of Agriculture, 1997, 2007, and 2012

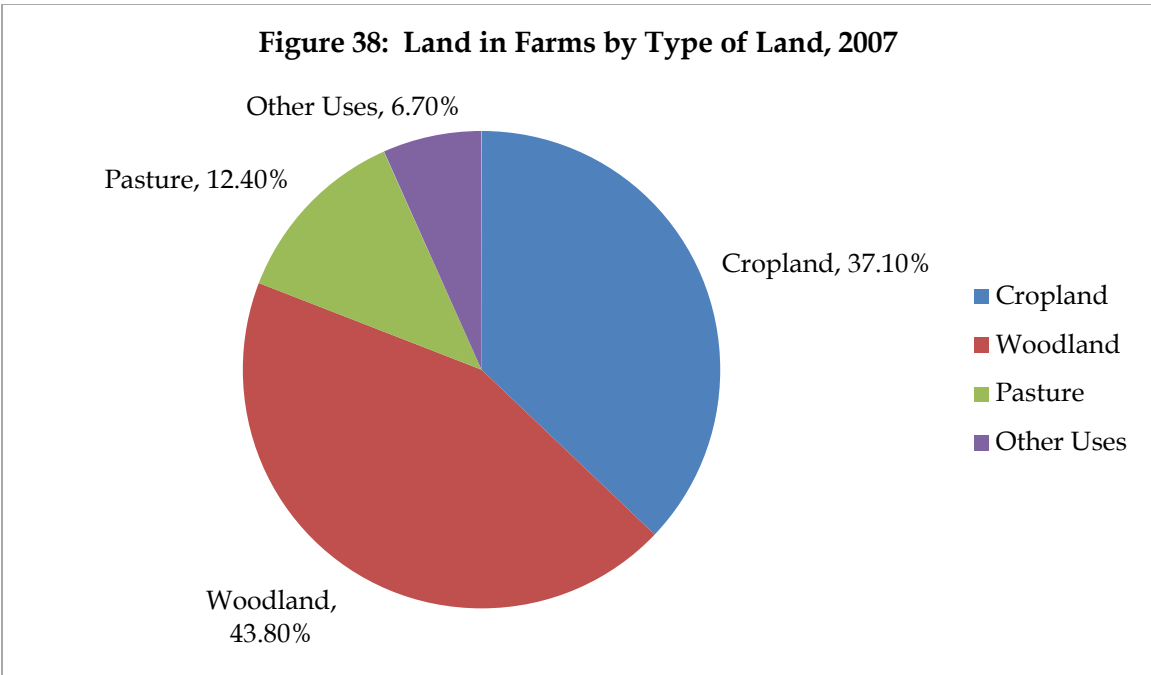
Table 40: Farm Acreage as a Percentage of Total Land Area, 2007

County	2012 Farm Acreage	2007 Farm Acreage
Alamance	30.8%	32.4%
Caswell	35.7%	37.7%
Guilford	22%	23.3%
Orange	22.2%	23.6%
Person	38%	39.2%
Rockingham	31%	32.4%
North Carolina	27%	27.2%
Halifax (VA)	40.4%	37%
Pittsylvania (VA)	44.4%	42.4%

Source: US Census of Agriculture 2007 and 2012



Image Credit: Jesse Day



Source: US Census of Agriculture 2007: Caswell County Profile

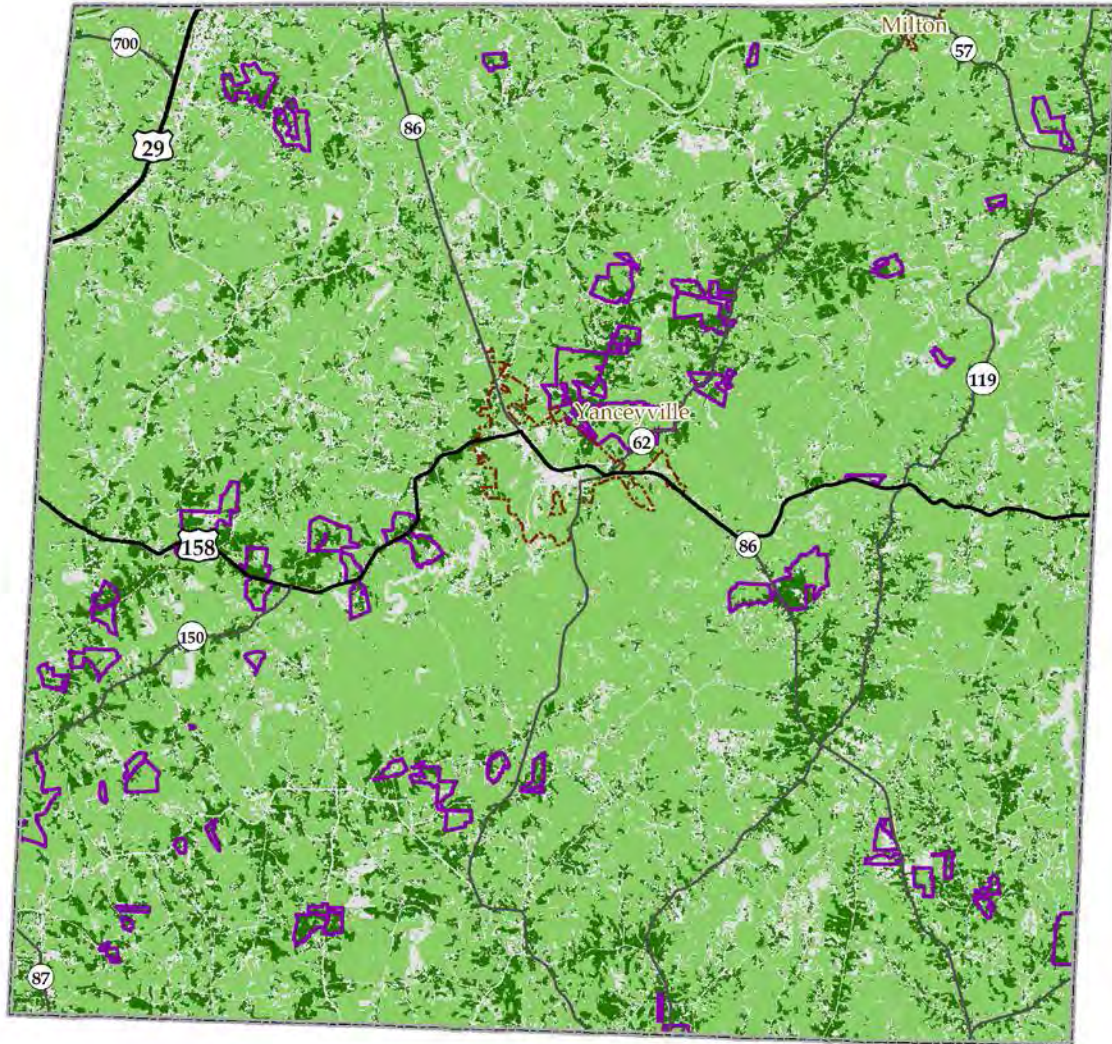


Image Credit: Jesse Day





2.17 Farmland Preservation

A number of efforts are under way to preserve farmland in Caswell County. The Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program (VAD) had approximately 100 farms and 9,800 acres enrolled as of 2012. The program, overseen by the Caswell County Agricultural Advisory Board, promotes farming through signage, education, and exemptions from nuisance complaints. An initiative led by the Piedmont Land Conservancy advocates farming through the Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan. This plan identifies two conservation priority areas: The Colonial Heritage Scenic Byway and the Dan River watershed.

Figure 39: Agricultural and Forestry Map

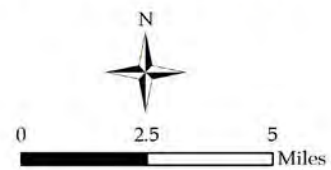


Agricultural & Forestry Map

-  Farm Preservation Property
-  Crop Land Cover
-  Forest Land Cover
-  Municipal Boundary

Source: Caswell County Tax Office & Cropland Dataset Layer (2012)

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: November 2013



A Community Health Assessment (CHA) for Caswell County was completed in 2011. This report includes a wealth of information related to the health and wellness of the County and should be consulted for additional information not part of this brief analysis. The assessment carried out in the CHA included: identifying priority health issues, priority health populations and community resources. Additionally, the CHA also developed a community-based action plan to address local concerns. Finally, the report was circulated to residents, community agencies and community stakeholders.

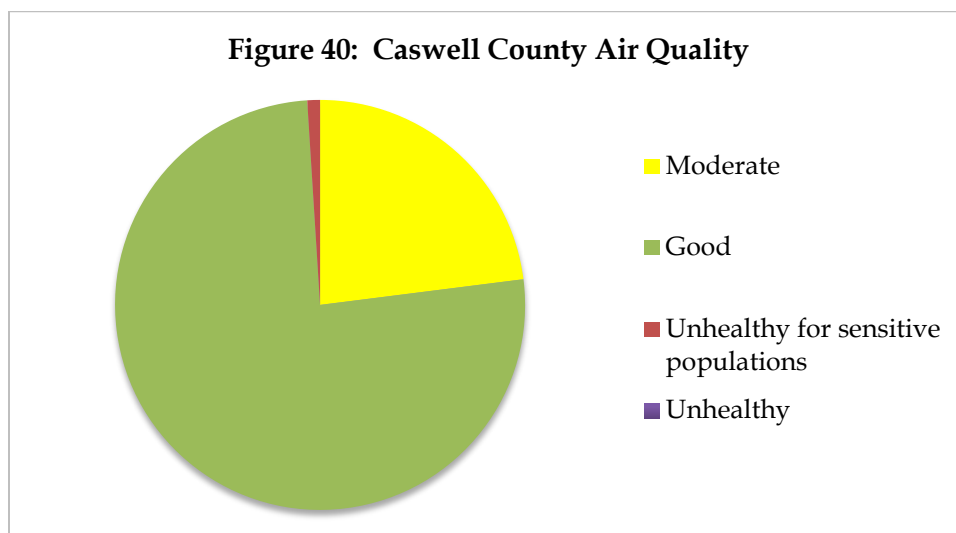
For a complete copy of the Caswell County Community Health Assessment 2011 please visit: <http://www.cchd.caswellinc.us/resources/CHA+2011-Caswell-Finalb.pdf>

2.18 Environmental Health

The environment in which we live, work and play can have a major impact on our overall quality of life. Two measures of environmental health include: air quality and water quality. Below is an examination into each variable.

A. Air Quality

According to the Air Quality Index (AQI), 76% of Caswell County’s Air Quality Days qualify as ‘Good’, 23% as considered “Moderate”, 1% have been determined to be ‘unhealthy for sensitive populations’ and 0% are characterized as ‘unhealthy’. Caswell County’s Air Quality tends to be the worst during the summer months when moderate and unhealthy levels of ozone and particle pollution can be found in the air.



B. Water Quality

Caswell County contains a portion of two watersheds: Haw River and Dan River. 9% of the surface waters in Caswell County have reported problems according to State and EPA data sources. 32 individual water bodies have problems according to State data. The leading source of water pollution is non-point source usually associated with runoff. *See the Natural and Cultural Resources section for more information.*

2.19 Physical Health

The physical health of Caswell County's residents is an important indicator of the overall quality of life in the community. Residents must be able to go to school, work, and contribute to civic life. Without a healthy population, the County will face insurmountable obstacles in the future. The average life expectancy of a child born in Caswell County today is 76.5 and the median age of Caswell County's residents is 43.6. The median age has increased from the 2000 Census (i.e. 38.2), which reflects the aging population residing in the County. Below is an examination into several physical health factors including: Obesity, Infectious & Communicable Diseases, Immunizations and Maternal & Child Health.

A. Overweight & Obesity

North Carolina is ranked as the 14th heaviest state according to 2011 national rankings. In Caswell County, obesity is an especially acute problem for children. 46% of children between 12 and 18 are considered to be obese or overweight, 46.5% of 5 - 11 years olds are categorized as obese and 28.6% of 2 - 4 years of age.

B. Infectious & Communicable Diseases

There are a total of 93 reportable communicable diseases in North Carolina. The following chart shows the Communicable Diseases report for Caswell County between November 1, 2011 and November 1, 2012.

Table 42: Infectious & Communicable Diseases Reported in Caswell, 2011-2012

Communicable Disease	Reported Cases
Chlamydia	79
Gonorrhea	23
Syphilis	0
HIV/AIDS	2 - HIV, 0 - AIDS
Hepatitis B	1
Tuberculosis	1
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	0
Salmonella	4
Ehrlichia	1
Rabies	2 - 1 Pelham, 1 Blanch
Creutzfeldt-Jakob	1 case/death
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	7 probable cases
Lyme's Disease	1 probable case

Source: Caswell County: State of the County Health Report, December 3, 2012.

C. Immunizations

The CDC reports that immunizations have saved millions of lives and prevent hundreds of millions of illnesses. According to North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) data 93% of Caswell County Health Department patients had been immunized with the recommended regiment of vaccines by 24 months. The remaining 7% of patients received their immunizations late and as a result 100% of Health Department children in Caswell County have been immunized. This is compared with only 57% of non-Health Department children in the County. This is lower than the reported State of North Carolina rate of 63% for non-Health Department child patients. The majority of the children in Caswell County that were not considered covered by the appropriate immunizations can be brought into compliance through an additional visit to their healthcare provider.

Caswell County's Health Department also provides seasonal flu shots to adults and children. Since 2008, the Health Department has provided more than 1,300 flu vaccines to residents, 34% of which were administered to adults.

D. Maternal & Child Health

In 2009, only 1.4% of Caswell County women who gave birth did not receive prenatal care. This is lower than the 2.4% recorded for the State of North Carolina and is a considerable drop from Caswell County's percentage from the early 2000's (5.1%).

While prenatal care has been increasingly popular among pregnant Caswell County women, smoking continues to be a problem. 22% of Caswell County's expected mothers smoked between 2005 and 2009. This figure has remained relatively stable over the last two decades and is considerably higher than the State of North Carolina's percentage, which has been declining since 1994.

Caswell County has a higher infant mortality rate is also higher than the State of North Carolina's rate, 13.9 deaths per 1,000 births compared to 8.3 deaths per 1,000 births.

Healthy children and mothers are signs that a community is providing for its residents. Healthy children are also more likely to succeed because they can attend school regularly and contribute to society.

2.20 Leading Causes of Death

The leading causes of death in Caswell County are examined in the following section to determine what steps can be taken to increase the life expectancy of residents and help people lead longer, happier lives. Specifically, the top causes of death are presented as well as cancer rates for the County compared to the State of North Carolina.

A. Top 5 Causes of Death in Caswell County

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
4. Unintentional Injury
5. Cerebrovascular Disease

Heart Disease and Cancer are the two leading cause of death in Caswell County (2006 – 2010). This finding mirrors the results for the United States. In 2011, North Carolina experienced a higher death rate as a result of cancer than heart disease.

B. Cancer Rates in Caswell County

Table 43: Cancer Incidence and Death Rates

Cancer Types	Incidence Rates Caswell Co. (2005-2009)	Incidence Rates NC (2005-2009)	Death Rates Caswell Co. (2010)	Death Rates NC (2010)
Lung - Bronchus	67.2	75.9	42.2	57.8
Colorectal	39.0	45.4	8.4	15.7
Prostate	138.1	158.3	33.1	19.7
Breast	135.0	154.5	42.9	27.5
Total 'All Cancers'	435.3	500.1	215.0	188.2

Source: SOTCH, December 3, 2012

The data contained in the table above showcases that for most types of cancer, rates are lower in Caswell County compared to the State of North Carolina. However, death rates for prostate and breast cancer are higher in Caswell County. It is important to note that do to Caswell County's relatively small population, the validity of statistics can be questioned.

2.21 Access to Health Care

A limiting factor to the health and wellness of any community is access to health care. Health care access can be affected by the number of medical personnel within the community, the number of health care facilities, transportation options, insurance, language, culture and medical costs.

Recently, the County has witnessed an increase in medical service providers with several doctors, physical therapists and a dentists coming into the community. This has improved County residents health care access to medical professionals.

Caswell County does not have a hospital and as a result residents must visit other counties or another State (Virginia) in order to receive emergency care. Four main health care options exist within the County for adults and children:

1. Caswell County Health Department,
2. Caswell Family Medical Center,
3. Prospect Hill Community Health Center, and
4. Yanceyville Primary Care

These health care centers provide primary care service to the population.

Transportation options are limited in the County with most residents having to rely on private automobiles for the primary means of transportation. With an aging population this can become a major issue in the future.

Finally, according to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine 10.7% of county children were uninsured and 23.3% of adults, both these figures place Caswell County in the Mid-Low range for the State. However, 20% of Caswell's population that is 65 or older was also uninsured which places Caswell in the Mid-High range for North Carolina counties.

2.22 Health Statistics Maps

Figure 41: Caswell County Aging Population by Census Tract, 2010

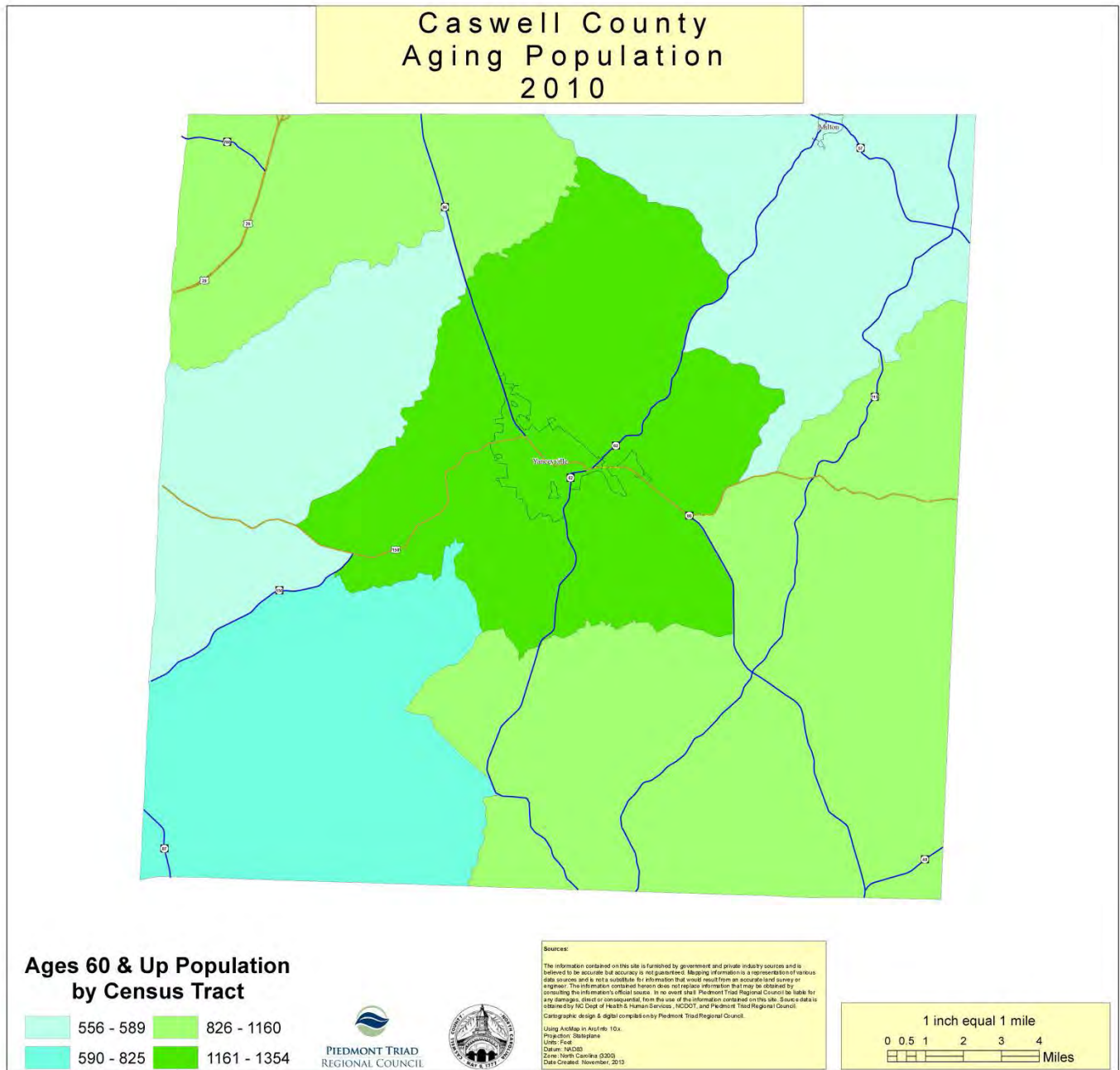


Figure 42: Caswell County Heart-Related Deaths, 2005-2009

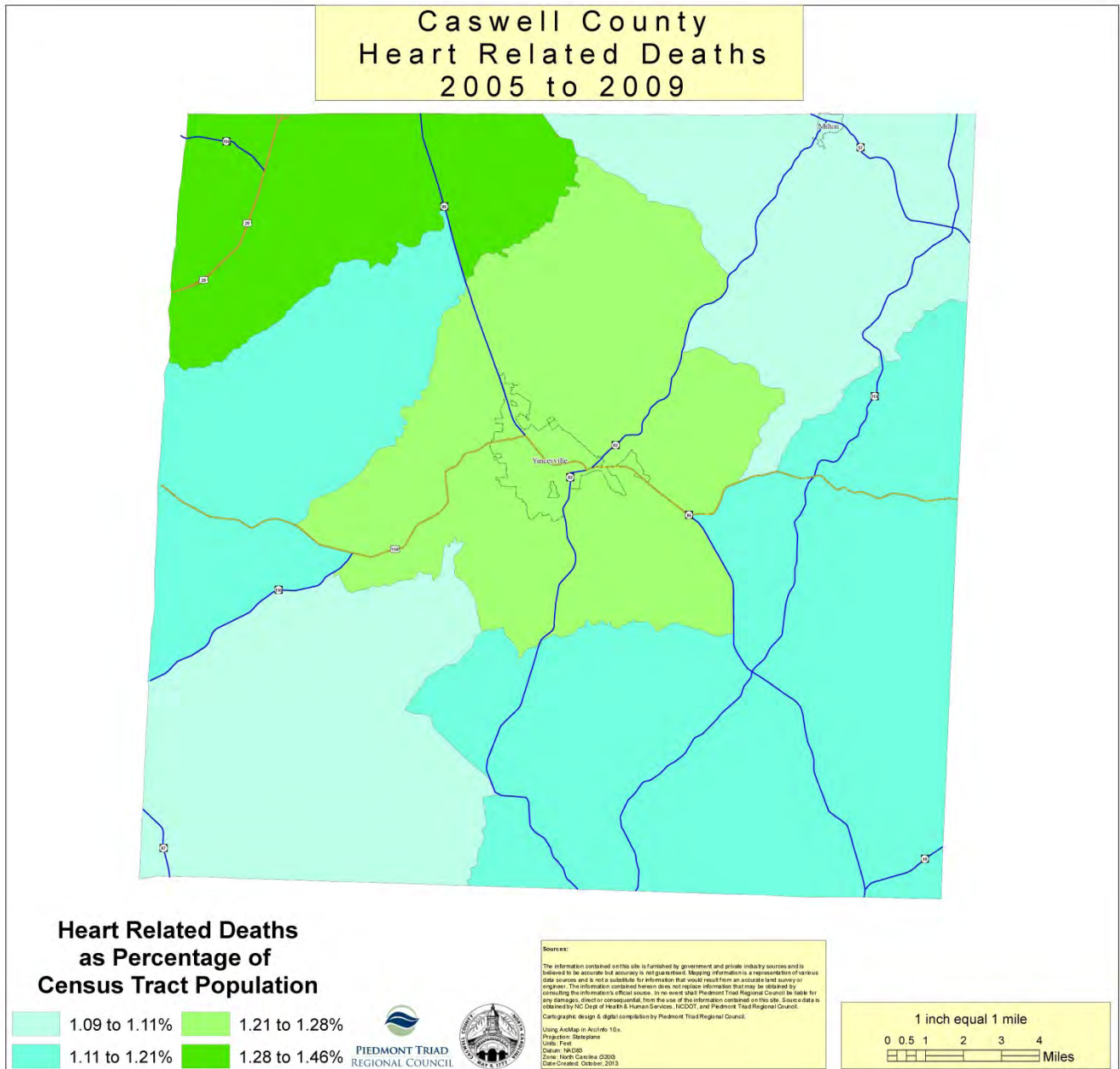


Figure 43: Caswell County Heart Mortality Rate, 2005-2009

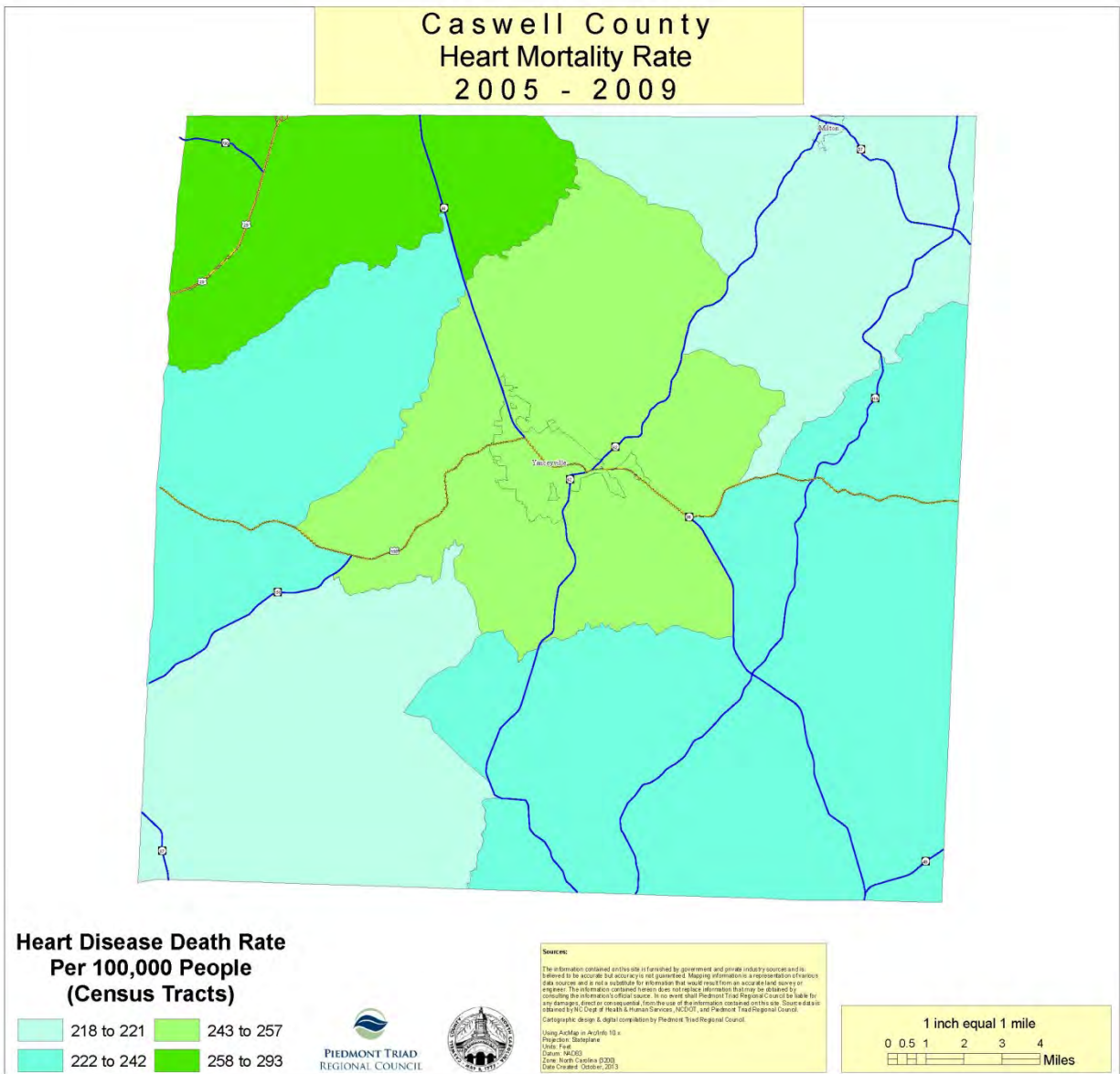


Figure 44: Caswell County Death due to Diabetes, 2005-2009

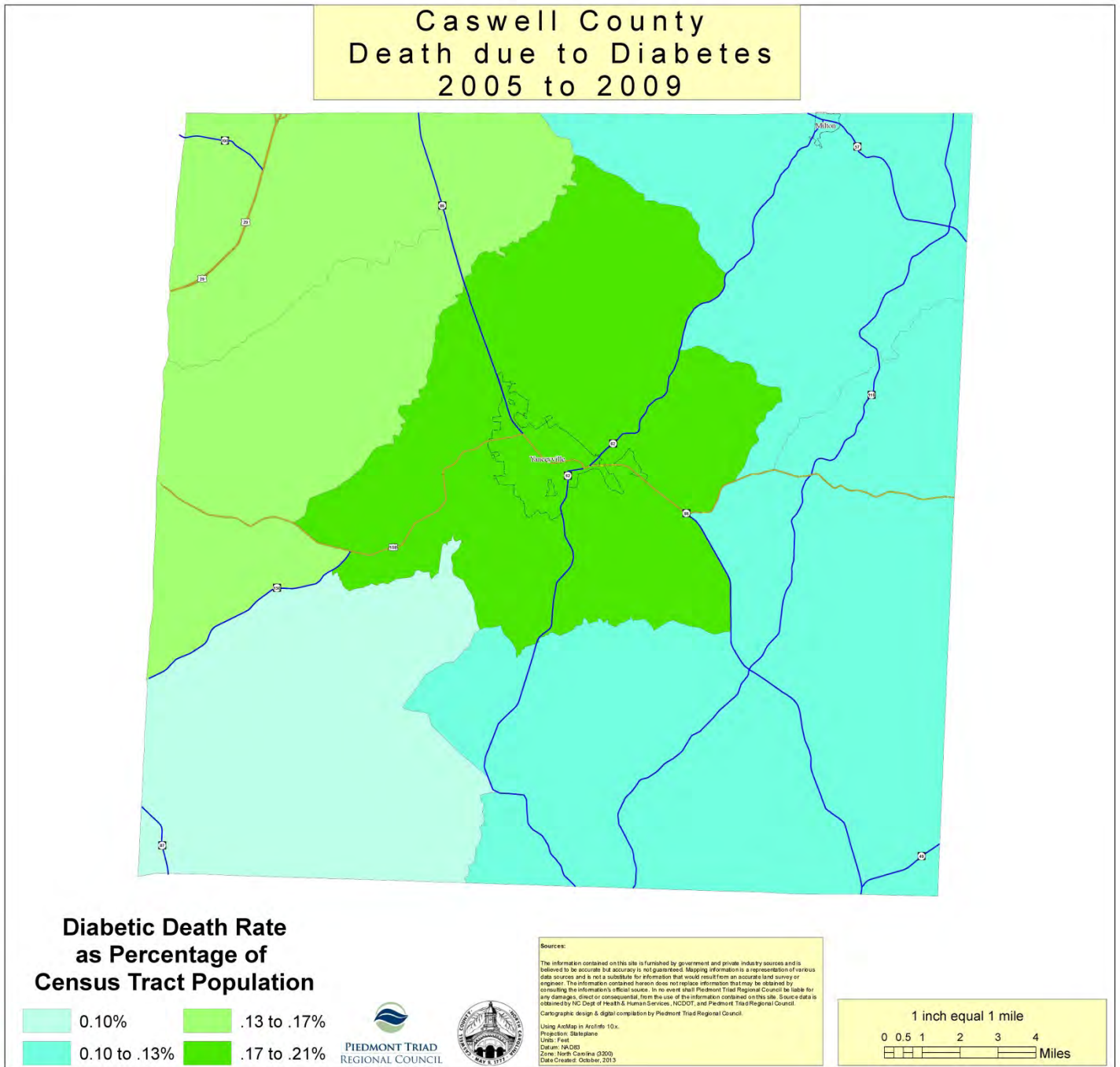


Figure 45: Caswell County Cholesterol Death Rate, 2005-2009

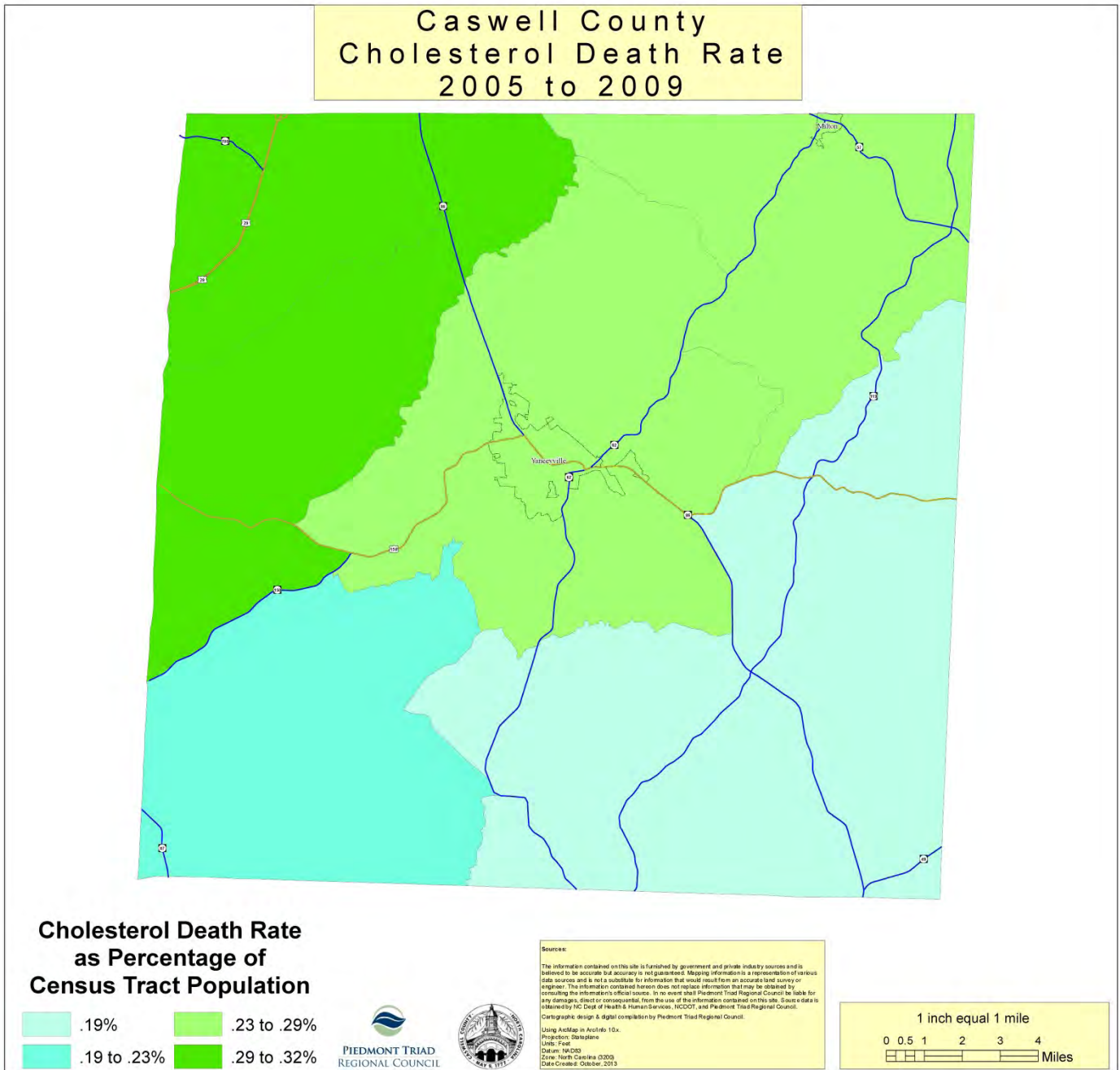


Figure 46: Caswell County Food Deserts by Census Tract, 2013

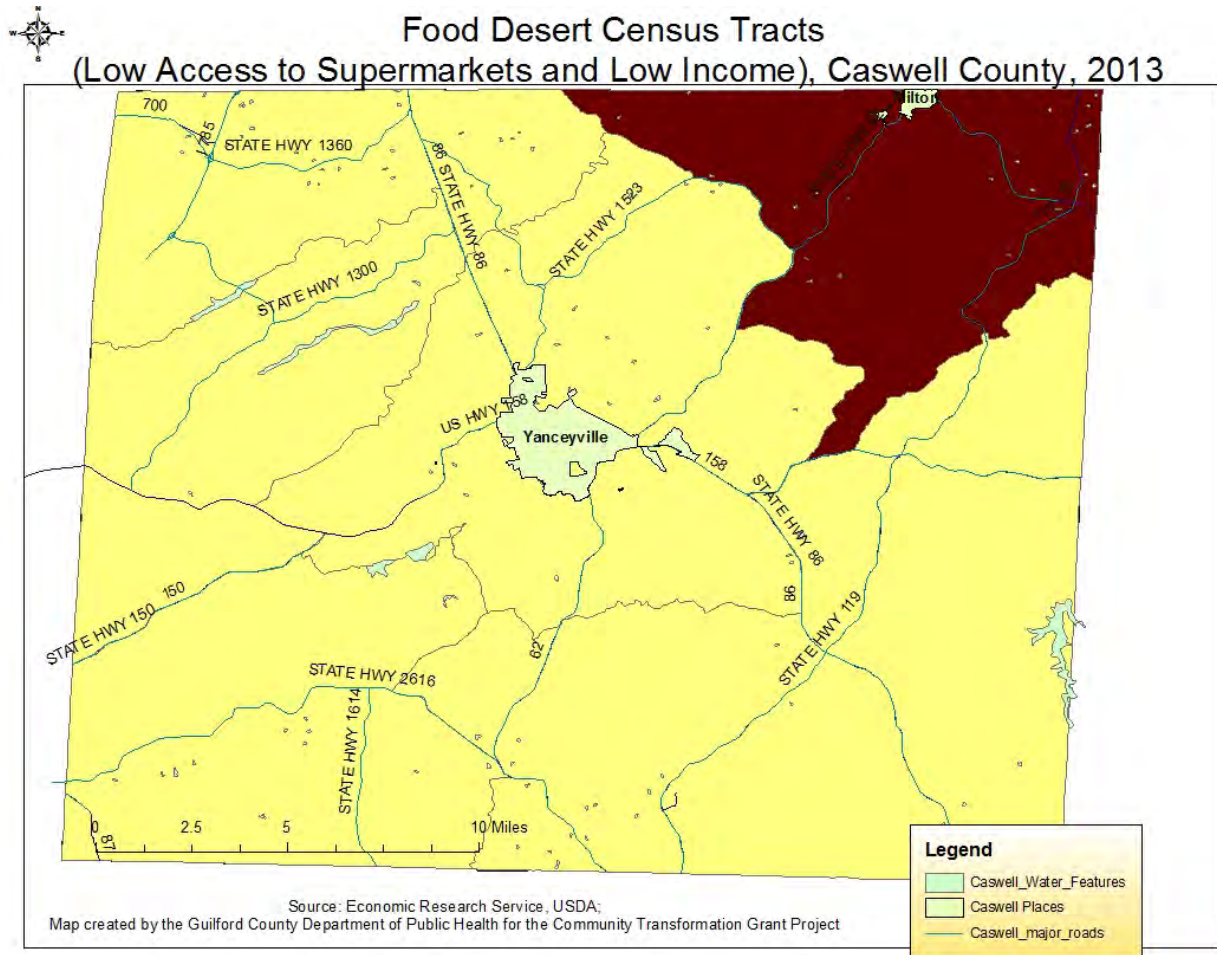


Figure 47: Caswell County Families with SNAP/EBT, 2013



Families with SNAP/EBT, Caswell County, 2013

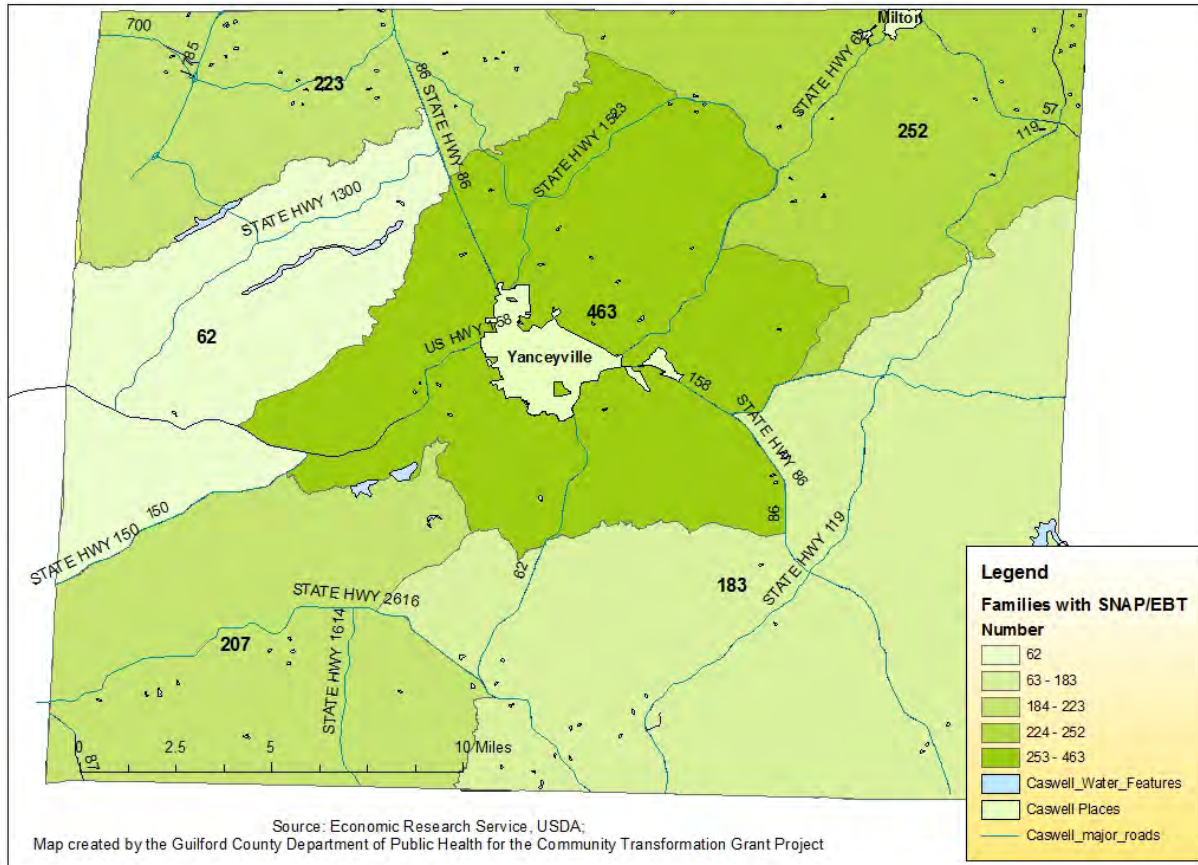


Figure 48: Caswell County Percentage of Households with No Vehicle Available, 2008-2012

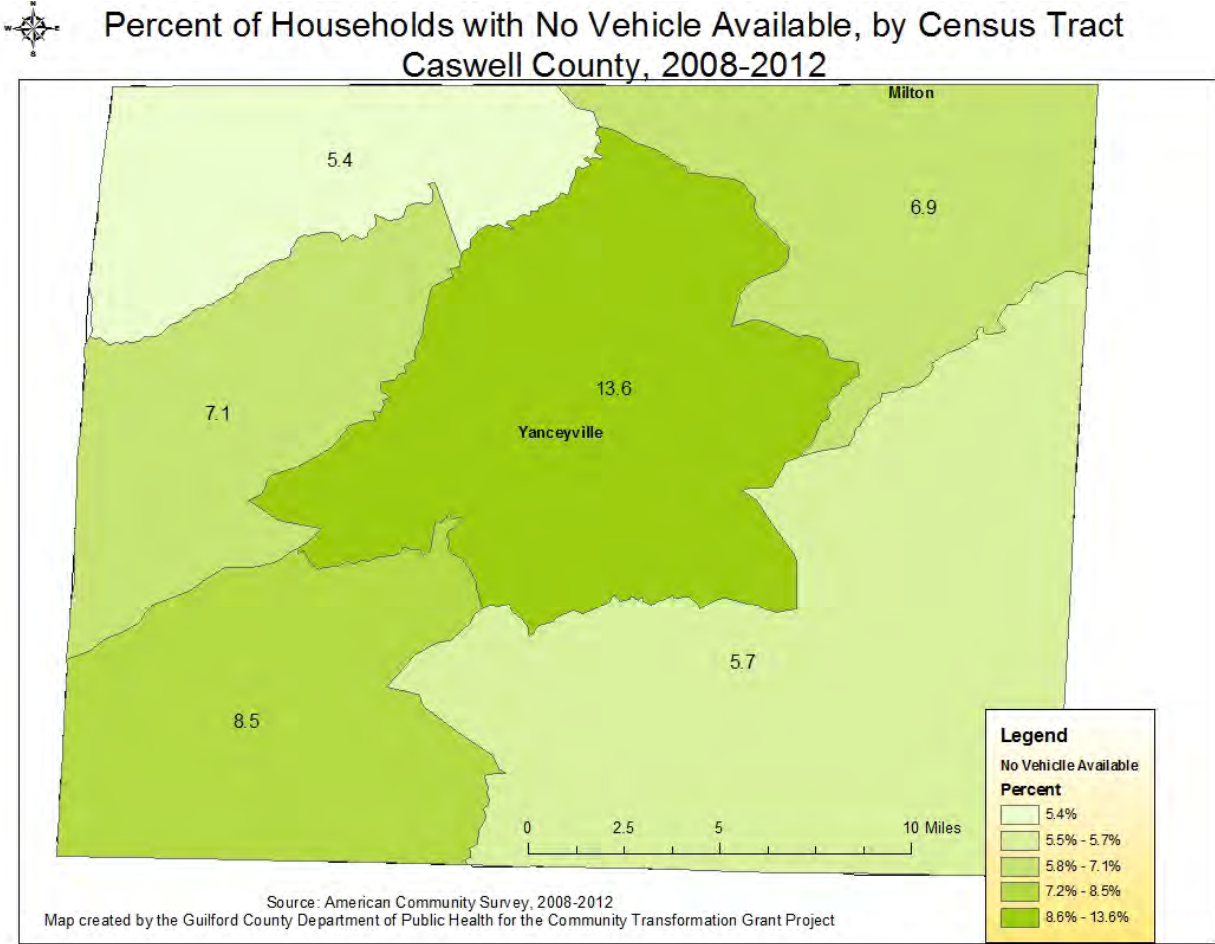
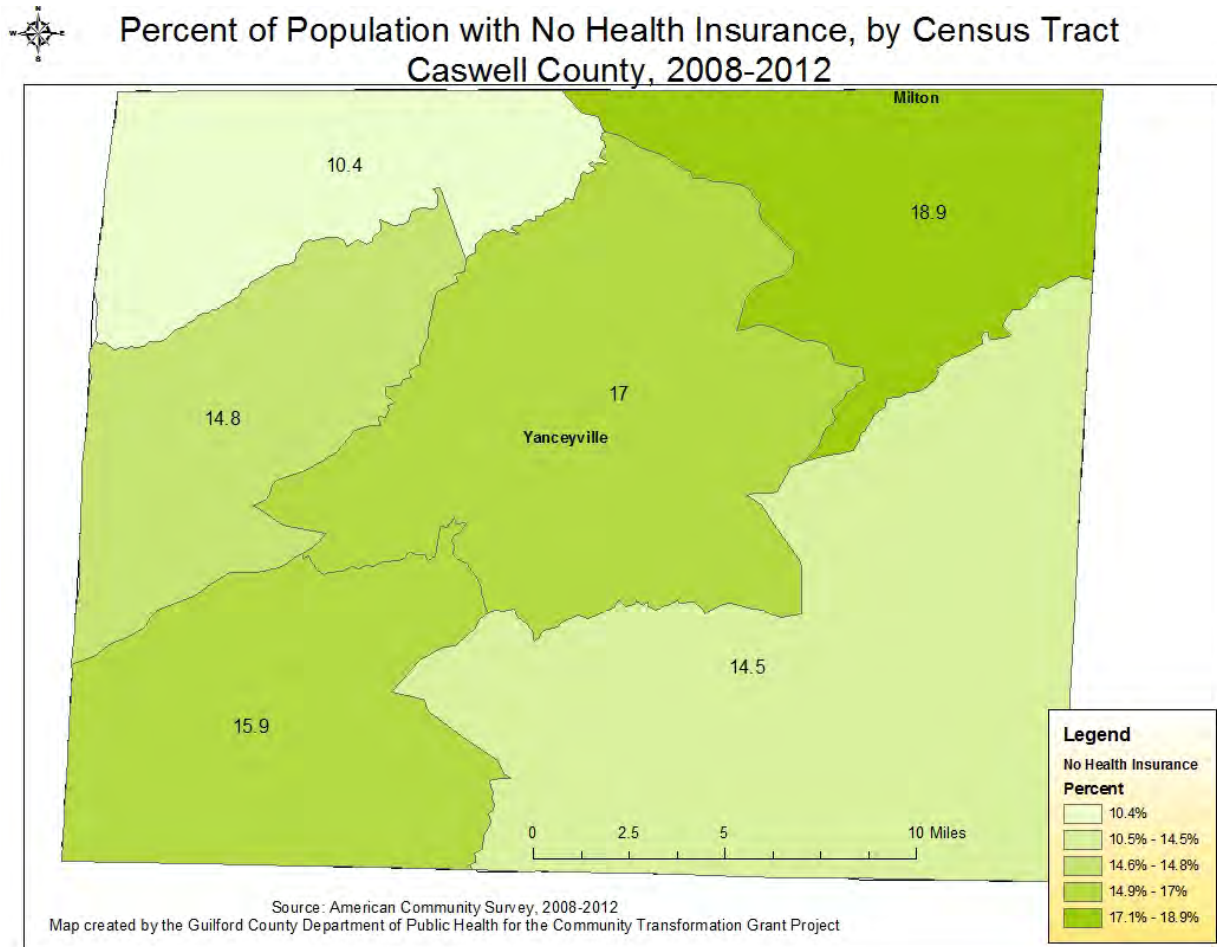


Figure 49: Caswell County Percentage of Population with No Health Insurance, 2008-2012





2.23 Existing Land Use

Land uses were mapped and analyzed to identify existing land development patterns within Caswell County. An existing land use map was developed using data from the County Tax Department’s records obtained in 2013 (see *Figure 50 – Caswell County Existing Land Use*). The table below shows the acreage and share totals for each major land use category within Caswell County. Acreage and percentage numbers are based on the land area within tax parcels, and do not include land area within road and railroad rights-of-way.

Table 44: Acreage & Share Totals for Existing Land Use Categories

Existing Land Use	Acres	Percent
Farmland Preservation or Present Use Value	120,247	44%
Single Family (including Mobile Homes)	66,594	25%
Vacant	60,924	22%
Recreation	18,319	7%
Institutional/Governmental	1,821	1%
Water	1,694	1%
Commercial/Office	908	< 1%
Industrial	234	< 1%
Utility	80	< 1%
Mobile Home Park	27	< 1%
Multi-family	25	< 1%

Source: Caswell County Tax Department, 2013

The following sub-section provides a more detailed description of the approximate amounts and general patterns of existing residential and non-residential land uses throughout the County’s planning jurisdiction.

Single Family – About 25% of the study area (66,594 acres) is occupied by site-built, manufactured and mobile homes. These parcels range in size from only 0.1 acres to several hundred acres.

Multi-family – Less than 1% of the study area (25 acres) is occupied by multi-family units. These units are apartment building located within existing municipal limits.

Mobile Home Parks – Less than 1% of the study area (27 acres) is occupied by mobile home parks. These parcels contain many mobile home units in close proximity.

Farmland Preservation/ Present Use Value – About 44% of the study area (120,247 acres) is enrolled in either a Present-Use Valuation (PUV) Property Tax Program or Farmland Preservation Program.

Table 45 below presents the main types of buildings or facilities included in each major non-residential land use category. The primary factor used in determining an existing land use designation was the County Tax Department's current land classification records.

Table 45: Facilities Included in Major Non-Residential Land Use Categories

Institutional / Governmental - schools, churches and church-owned facilities, governmental properties, and cemeteries

Commercial / Office - retail services, restaurants, automobile dealers, automobile service facilities, offices, and convenience stores

Industrial - manufacturing, saw mills, gas and oil storage, mining and quarrying, landfills, and airports

Institutional / Governmental - Less than 1% of the study area (1,821 acres) is categorized as institutional/governmental. Church facilities and schools are the most prevalent institutional uses found in the study area.

Commercial / Office - Less than 1% of the land within the study area is being used for commercial/office purposes (908 acres). The predominate commercial/office development pattern in the County study area consists of standalone convenience stores, gas stations and small, locally-owned business establishments. Most commercial/office uses within the county are scattered along primary roads.

Industrial - Approximately 0.1% (234 acres) of industrial land uses lie within the study area. This category consists mostly of standalone industrial building.

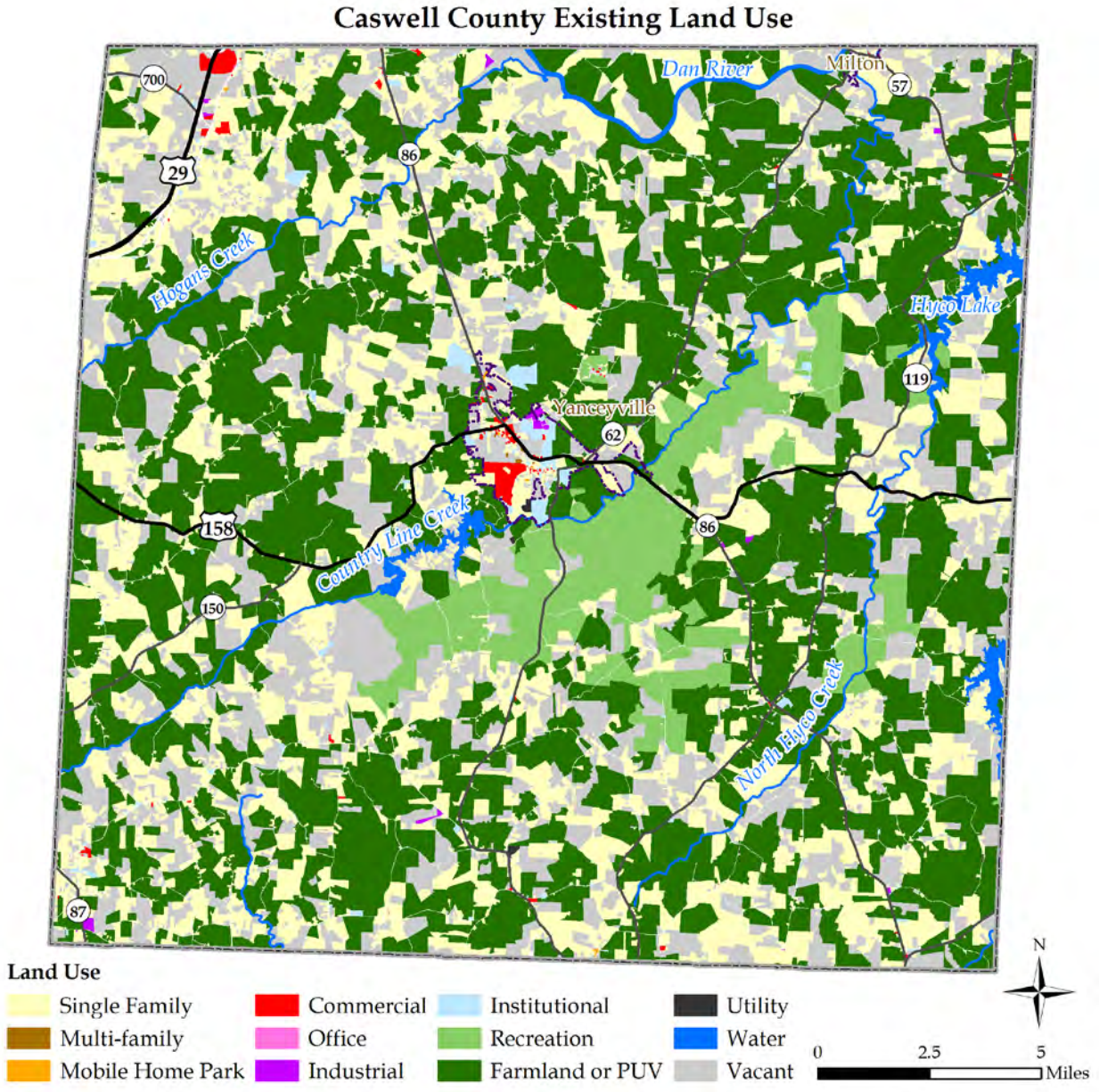
Recreation - The recreational land use category contains 7% (18,319 acres) of the study area. The Caswell Gamelands (south of Yanceyville) managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission are included in this category.

Utility - Less than 1% (80 acres) of the study area is dedicated to public utilities, including telephone and electric operations.

Water - About 1% (1,694 acres) of the study area are classified as water. This includes the large water bodies of Hyco Lake, South Hyco Lake, and County Line Creek.

Vacant - About 22% (60,924 acres) of the study area are classified as vacant property with no improvement structure on the parcel.

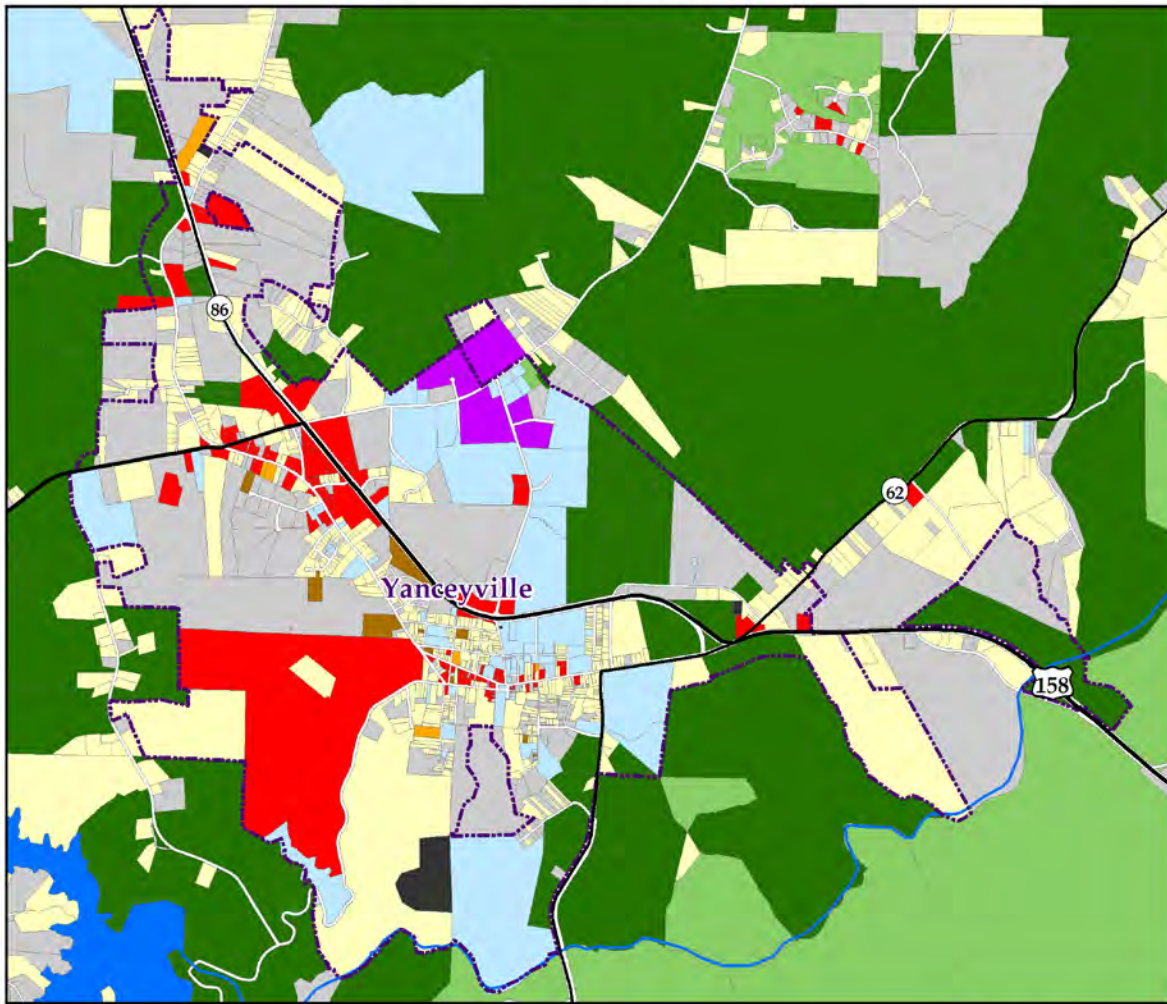
Figure 50: Caswell County Existing Land Use



Source: Caswell County Tax Department, 2013

Figure 51: Town of Yanceyville Existing Land Use

Yanceyville Existing Land Use



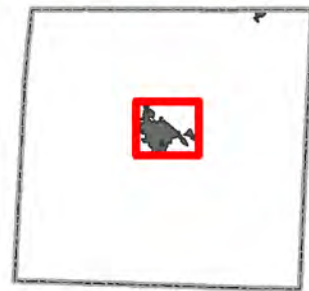
Land Use

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Single Family | Institutional |
| Multi-family | Recreation |
| Mobile Home Park | Farmland or PUV |
| Commercial | Utility |
| Office | Vacant |
| Industrial | Water |



0 0.5 1 Miles

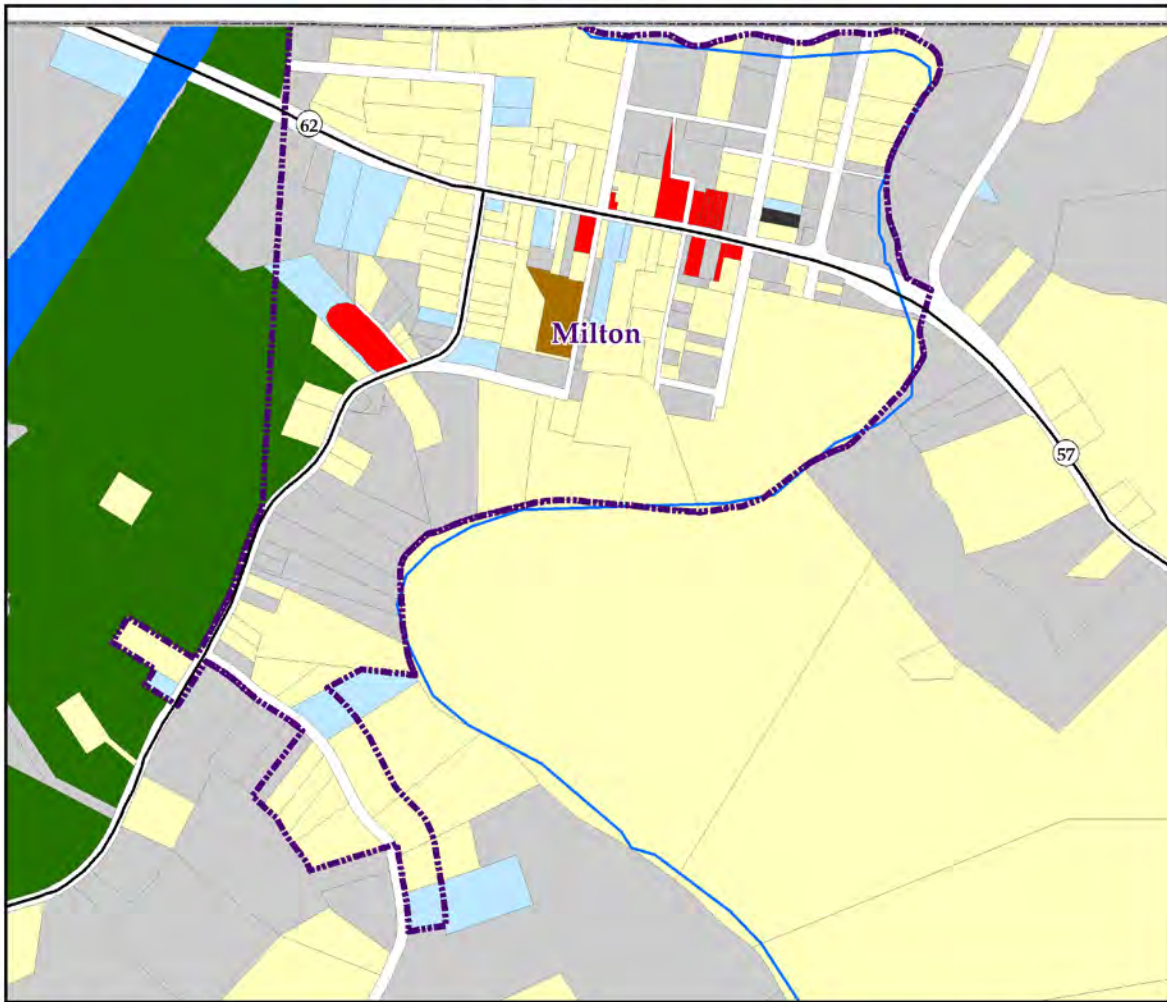
Caswell County



Source: Caswell County Tax Department, 2013

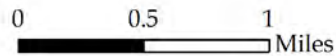
Figure 52: Town of Milton Existing Land Use

Milton Existing Land Use



Land Use

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Single Family | Institutional |
| Multi-family | Recreation |
| Mobile Home Park | Farmland or PUV |
| Commercial | Utility |
| Office | Vacant |
| Industrial | Water |



Caswell County



Source: Caswell County Tax Department, 2013

2.24 Land Development Suitability

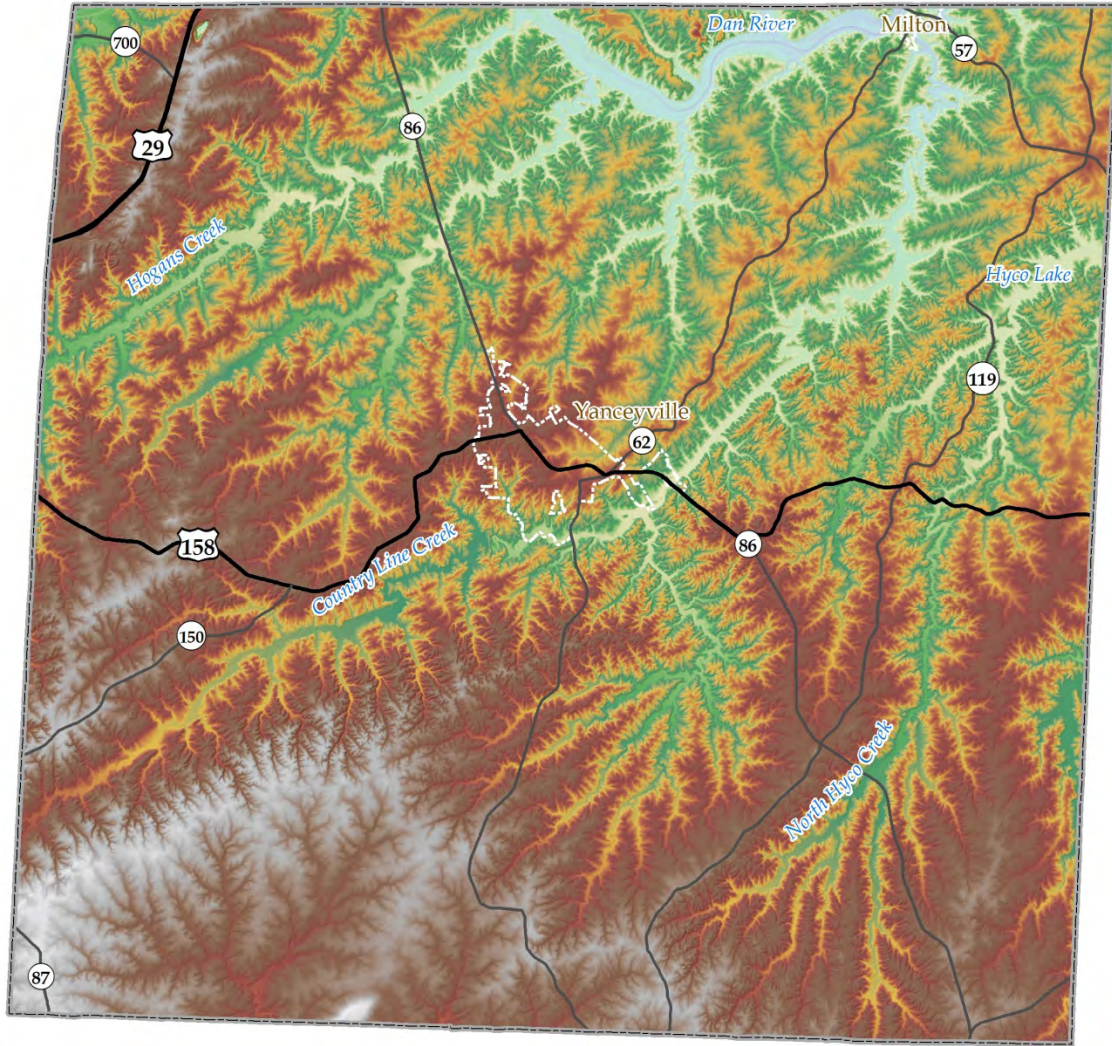
Two key environmental growth factors—steep slopes and flood hazards—were mapped and analyzed to identify physical limitations and regulatory constraints affecting future land development. Each of these factors have a varying degree of negative impact on potential new growth, and often can be mitigated with additional expense and design. For example, building a subdivision in a flood hazard area can be overcome by reserving flood prone lands, grading and filing approved flood areas, building homes above the base flood elevation, and utilizing public sanitary sewers. Results of this analysis were used to determine the potential suitability of vacant land for higher intensity development, and to formulate strategies for future growth.

In general, unfavorable areas are not as conducive to higher intensity development (i.e., higher intensity uses such as dense subdivisions and industrial/commercial developments) as favorable areas. Overall, the figures on the following pages indicate that Caswell County contains several areas that are suitable for development and not severely constrained by environmental factors. Higher intensity development is feasible in select areas such as municipalities, while natural heritage areas are not suitable. The two environmental growth factors are discussed separately in more detail below.

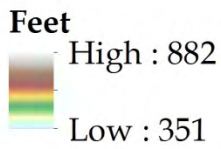
A. Topographic Slope Limitations

Potential future land uses are quite variable in their sensitivity to steep topographic conditions. Structures, such as houses and small commercial and institutional buildings, may have more topographic flexibility because their small footprints require less grading than large industrial buildings, shopping centers, and schools. Another consideration is the land value of the developable sites. For high-value sites such as those designated for industrial or commercial use, the costs of grading typically represent a smaller share of total development costs than on lower value sites. Thus, a developer proposing a project on a commercial site may view it as economically feasible even if steep topography calls for excessive grading. As a “middle ground” estimate for most land uses, a 20% slope (20 feet of fall per 100 horizontal feet) was used as the threshold for steep slope limitations. Steep slopes are widely scattered throughout the County’s jurisdiction, with the exception of the southwestern area.

Figure 53: Caswell County Elevation Profile

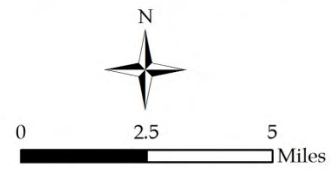


Elevation



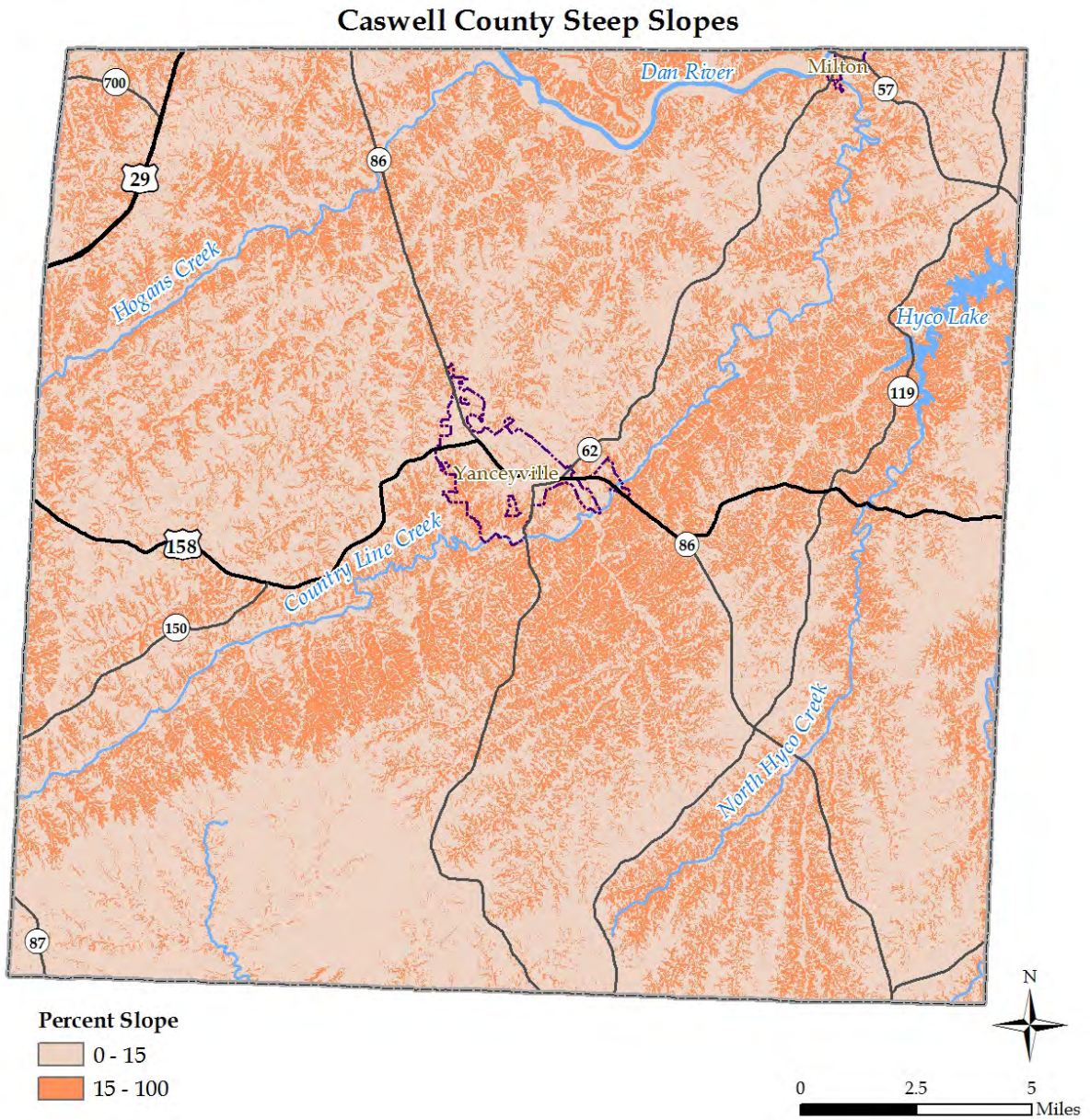
Source: 2007 LiDAR Elevation

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: April 2014

Figure 54: Caswell County Steep Slopes



Source: NC Flood Mapping Program, LiDAR Data, 2007.

B. Flood Hazard Area Limitations

Development suitability is also affected by the location of a floodplain. Areas within the floodplain where the chance of being flooded is one percent or greater in any given year are called special flood hazard areas (SFHAs). For regulatory purposes, SFHAs are divided into zones - the floodway and A zones. The floodway area is the river or creek itself and the area very near the river or creek that carries the flood waters. The A zone is the area that would be inundated during a 100-year flood.

Flood damage prevention regulations require special site planning and construction standards to minimize the threats to personal safety and damage to property caused by flooding (*see Figure 56 - Environmental Features*). SFHAs are designated on the official maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and establish base flood elevations to use in meeting the construction standards specified in the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. For obvious reasons, development is not allowed in an area designated as a floodway. Outside of the floodway, any fully enclosed space in a new residence or mobile home must be situated above the designated base flood elevation. Accessory structures (e.g. sheds, detached garages) may be built within SFHAs if special criteria are met. Non-residential structures are allowed if they are certified as floodproofed or watertight by a professional engineer or architect.

The Flood Damage Prevention regulations in Caswell County require a Flood Development Permit for any development activities proposed within SFHAs. The lowest floor elevation of any new structure or substantially improved existing structure, is required to be a minimum of two feet above the base flood elevation in all SFHAs. In areas where the base flood elevation is not available, the lowest floor elevation (including the basement) is required to be at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade. All encroachments to SFHAs (including fill material or structures) must be located at least twenty feet away from the top of the bank or five times the width of the stream, whichever is greater. The regulations also set out procedures for obtaining a Floodplain Development Permit.

The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 mandate the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of Federal or federally regulated financing for acquisition and/or construction of buildings in SFHAs. These Acts prohibit Federal agency lenders, such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Housing Service, and Government-Sponsored Enterprises for Housing (such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae) from making, guaranteeing, or purchasing a loan secured by real estate or mobile home(s) in a SFHA, unless flood insurance has been purchased and is maintained during the term of the loan..

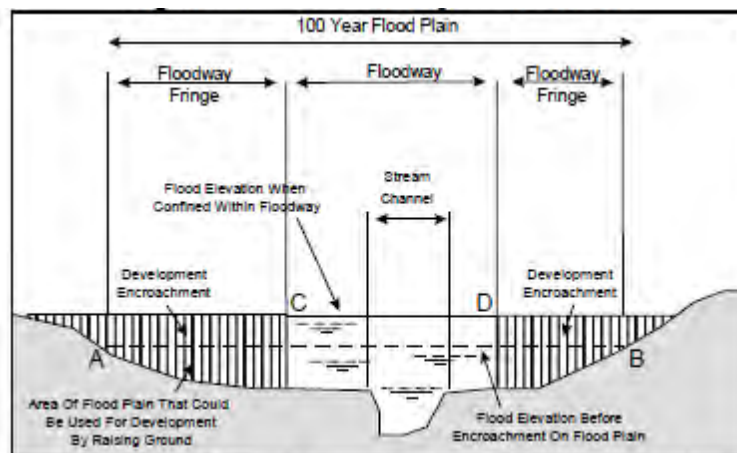
The County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which promotes sound development practices within areas vulnerable to potential 10, 50, 100, and 500-year flood events. A flood event refers to the probability that a flood will occur in any 10, 50, 100, or 500-year period. Each of these events has a 10, 2, 1, and .02 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded during any year respectively. For example, the likelihood of a 10-year flood event

occurring every year is 10%. This does not mean that every 10 years a flood of that magnitude will occur; the actual probability is much higher.

To help protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to minimize losses due to flooding, local jurisdictions may prohibit development within all areas of special flood hazard (100-year flood zones) and unmapped areas subject to periodic flooding within the County jurisdiction. The 100-year floodplain area is divided into a floodway and a floodway fringe. The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain that must be kept free of encroachment so that a 100-year flood can be carried without substantial increase in flood heights. The area between the floodway and the 100-year floodplain boundaries is called the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe encompasses the portion of the floodplain that could be completely obstructed without increasing the water-surface elevation of the 100-year flood more than 1 foot at any point. Minimum federal standards limit such increases to 1 foot, provided hazardous velocities are not produced.

An immediate increase in water-surface elevation of the 100-year flood may not be increased more than 1 foot due to individual obstruction in the floodway fringe. However, each new development affects the whole system in many ways. Development encroachment within floodplains reduces the flood-carrying capacity, increases the flood heights and velocities, and increases flood hazards in areas both up and downstream from the development itself (*see Figure 55 - Floodway Schematic*). Similar effects occur when areas are “reclaimed” from the floodplain by adding fill and increasing elevation. Although individual property rights are an important focus of this plan, caution is given to permitting short-term individual economic gain at the expense of other property owners up or down stream.

Figure 55: Floodway Schematic

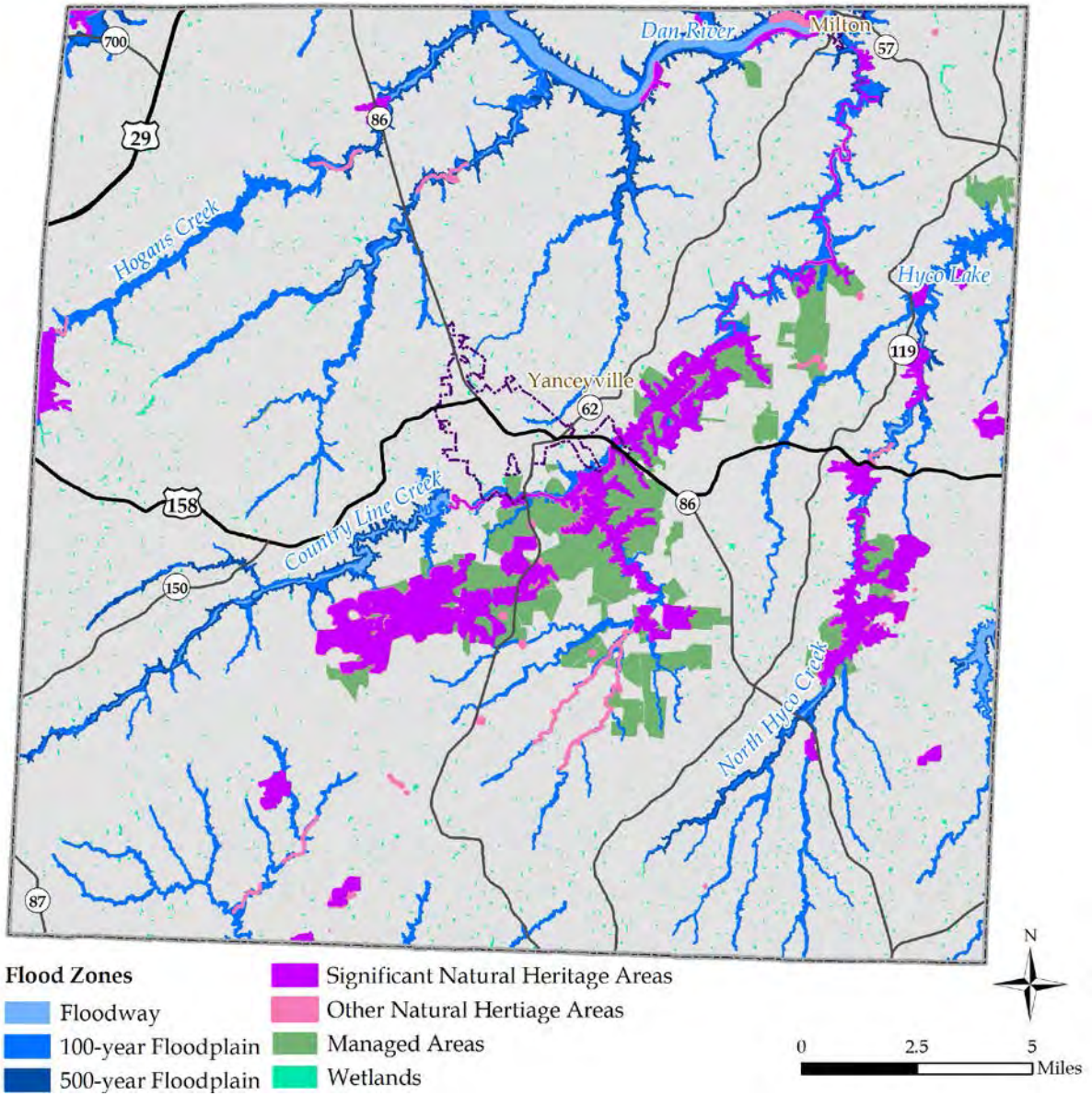


*Line A-B is the flood elevation before encroachment.
Line C-D is the flood elevation after encroachment*

Source: PTRC Data

Figure 56: Caswell County Environmental Features

Caswell County Environmental Features



Source: NC Flood Mapping Program; National Wetlands Inventory, NC Natural Heritage Program

Section 3 Community Input

Introduction

Caswell County, North Carolina has a population of approximately 23,719 people and has experienced limited growth over the last two decades.

As a result, Caswell County finds itself looking for a path forward to provide a higher quality of life for its residents. Specifically, Caswell County would like to develop a plan that protects the agriculture and rural heritage of the community and enhances the community's health and wellness as well as economic development opportunities within the community.

As a result of the County's desire to find a better tomorrow and develop a plan for future action and decisions, Caswell County applied for a grant and received funding from the NC Community Transformation Grant (CTG) Project to create a comprehensive plan. It should be noted that the County Commissioners also provided a portion of the funding for the planning effort in 2013.

A cornerstone of any successful comprehensive plan is public involvement. As a result, the Caswell County Planning Department and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) jointly sponsored three community meetings designed to gather citizen input into the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of the three community meetings was to collect Community Values concerning issues important to the County. This document presents the results of the three community meetings.

3.1 Purpose of Gathering Community Input

The Community Meetings were sponsored in an effort to gather community input that will guide the update of the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, the meetings were designed to:

- Serve as a valuable source of information concerning the community's values, likes, dislikes, and dreams.
- Guide government decisions on future land use regulations, patterns, and needs.
- Allow and encourage citizen input into the planning process.

3.2 Community Meetings Format

The community meetings were jointly hosted by the Caswell County Planning Department and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. The meetings were held at three locations around the County in an effort to encourage citizens from all parts of Caswell County to attend. Additionally, the meetings attempted to gather a broad cross-section of community interests into the planning process. Below is a list of the dates of the three community meetings.

- February 11, 2014 Caswell Senior Center
- February 18, 2014 South Elementary School
- February 25, 2014 North Elementary School

Each meeting began at 6:30pm and concluded at approximately 8:30pm. The agenda for each of the meetings was exactly the same. *(A sample agenda is provided in the Appendix of this document.)* The focus of the Community Meetings themselves consisted of three components:

- An individual exercise to gather general background information on the participants feelings on specific development related topics;
- A small group exercise to identify what efforts should be undertaken to improve economic development, school facilities, and agricultural and rural area preservation in Caswell County, and
- A review of the meeting results and public comment period.

Upon completion of the small group exercise the participants were asked to prioritize the ten most important ideas that were developed during the meeting. These ideas will be critical to developing a successful Comprehensive Plan that reflects the wants and desires of the public.



Image Credit: Christina Walsh

3.3 Community Meetings Results

The following is the compilation of the results of the general information questions asked of all attendees to the three community meetings held in 2014 in Caswell County.

1. How much population growth (over the next 20 years) would you like to see in Caswell County?

-10% (20,700)	0% (23,000)	+5% (24,150)	+10% (25,300)	+20% (27,600)
1 (3%)	2 (6%)	13 (38%)	10 (29%)	8 (24%)
Total Responses: 34				

- *Community Meeting attendees would like to see Caswell County grow slow to moderately over the next 20 years.*

2. Caswell County is in a strong position to attract and influence the type of growth that it wants.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	11 (65%)
No Opinion	2 (12%)
Agree	3 (17%)
Strongly Agree	1 (6%)
Total Responses: 17	

- *65% of the Community Meeting attendees disagreed that Caswell County can attract and influence the growth that it wants.*

3. More parks and recreational opportunities should be available to Caswell County residents.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
No Opinion	0
Agree	11 (35%)
Strongly Agree	20 (65%)
Total Responses: 31	

- *All of the Community Meeting attendees either agreed or strongly agreed that Caswell County needs more parks and recreational opportunities for residents.*

4. More sidewalks, trails, and other physical activity opportunities should be available to Caswell County residents.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	1 (3%)
No Opinion	0
Agree	7 (22%)
Strongly Agree	24 (75%)
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *Almost all (96.8%) of the Community Meeting attendees agreed or strongly agreed that Caswell County residents need more sidewalks, trails and other physical activity opportunities.*

5. Farmland and agricultural areas should be protected from encroaching development.

Strongly Disagree	1 (3%)
Disagree	2 (6%)
No Opinion	1 (3%)
Agree	20 (61%)
Strongly Agree	9 (27%)
<i>Total Responses: 33</i>	

- *87.8% of the residents attending the Community meetings agreed or strongly agreed that farmland and agricultural areas should be protected from new development.*

6. Caswell County should focus on attracting alternative industries that have not been traditionally part of the local employment base.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	2 (6%)
No Opinion	1 (3%)
Agree	12 (38%)
Strongly Agree	17 (53%)
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *Almost all (90.6%) of the residents that attended the three community meetings agreed or strongly agreed that Caswell County should focus on attracting alternative industries.*

7. Caswell County residents have adequate access to healthy foods.

Strongly Disagree	6 (19%)
Disagree	19 (59%)
No Opinion	1 (3%)
Agree	6 (19%)
Strongly Agree	0
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *The majority of Community Meeting attendees disagreed or strongly disagreed that Caswell County residents have adequate access to healthy foods.*

8. Caswell County residents have adequate access to medical services.

Strongly Disagree	5 (16%)
Disagree	15 (47%)
No Opinion	3 (9%)
Agree	7 (22%)
Strongly Agree	2 (6%)
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *62.5% of the Community Meeting attendees disagreed/strongly disagreed that Caswell County residents have adequate access to medical services.*

9. Caswell County residents have adequate access to resources needed to live a healthy lifestyle.

Strongly Disagree	3 (9%)
Disagree	22 (67%)
No Opinion	3 (9%)
Agree	4 (12%)
Strongly Agree	1 (3%)
<i>Total Responses: 33</i>	

- *The majority of Community Meeting attendees disagreed that Caswell County residents have adequate access to resources needed to live a healthy lifestyle.*

10. Caswell County's future is dependent upon attracting new residents.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7 (21%)
No Opinion	9 (27%)
Agree	13 (39%)
Strongly Agree	4 (12%)
<i>Total Responses: 33</i>	

- *Almost 40% of the Community Meeting attendees agreed that Caswell County's future is dependent upon attracting new residents.*

11. Caswell County needs an identifiable image to effectively promote the County.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
No Opinion	0
Agree	9 (28%)
Strongly Agree	23 (72%)
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *All Community Meeting attendees strongly agreed or agreed that Caswell County needs an identifiable image.*

12. Caswell County should encourage tourism development by promoting its cultural and historical resources.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
No Opinion	1 (3.2%)
Agree	6 (19.4%)
Strongly Agree	24 (77.4%)
<i>Total Responses: 31</i>	

- *All but 1 of the Community Meeting attendees thought Caswell County should encourage tourism development through the promotion of local cultural and historical resources.*

13. Caswell County should focus on becoming a bedroom community for surrounding areas.

Strongly Disagree	5 (16.1%)
Disagree	14 (45.2%)
No Opinion	4 (12.9%)
Agree	6 (19.4%)
Strongly Agree	2 (6.4%)
<i>Total Responses: 31</i>	

- *Almost 60% of the participants disagreed or strongly disagreed that Caswell County should focus on becoming a bedroom community for surrounding cities.*

14. Agriculture should be viewed as a viable economic activity.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
No Opinion	0
Agree	9 (28%)
Strongly Agree	23 (72%)
<i>Total Responses: 32</i>	

- *All Community Meeting participants strongly agreed or agreed that agriculture should be viewed as a viable economic activity.*

15. Caswell County should preserve open space.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	1 (4%)
No Opinion	0
Agree	11 (39%)
Strongly Agree	16 (57%)
<i>Total Responses: 28</i>	

- *Caswell County residents attending the Community Meetings felt strongly that open space should be preserved in the County.*

16. Certain land uses (e.g. landfills, heavy industry, etc.) should be regulated in an effort to protect the character of the County.

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
No Opinion	1 (3%)
Agree	7 (23%)
Strongly Agree	23 (74%)
<i>Total Responses: 31</i>	

- *All but 1 of the Community Meeting attendees believed that certain land uses (e.g. landfills, heavy industry, etc.) should be regulated by the County.*

17. Which of these issues is the most important for Caswell County?

<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Health & Wellness</i>	<i>Agriculture & Rural Preservation</i>
19 (51%)	8 (22%)	10 (27%)
<i>Total Responses: 37</i>		

- *Community Meeting participants felt that Economic Development (51.3%) was the most important issue for Caswell County.*

18. How would you improve the quality of life in Caswell County (open/write-in question)?

- Open Jellystone Camp Resort – other campgrounds
- Have more events to get the community together, especially needed if you are new to the community
- Guides to Caswell Co. historical areas and various areas of interest
- Areas a newcomer can get involved in the county
- Provide more access to locally grown foods.
- Use economic development to preserve the agriculture of the County.
- Develop reasons to come to Caswell for the day – farm tour, art tour, trails, activities, etc.
– Promote outside the County – bringing tourism revenue to the County

3.4 Top Ten Ideas

Below is a summary of the results of the small group workshop and prioritization of ideas exercise conducted at both community meetings. Attendees were asked to identify potential ideas that would improve Economic Development, Health and Wellness, and Agriculture and Rural Preservation efforts in Caswell County. Results of this exercise were posted, and participants were asked to identify their top ten ideas by voting with colored dots. The results of those votes are shown below. A complete summary of all ideas generated at the community meetings and the number of votes each idea garnered was developed. *See the Appendix for more information.*

Table 46: “Top Ten” Ideas

Rank	Ideas
1	Promote and develop agri-tourism/ tourism opportunities within the County.
2	Develop walking/bike trails/outdoor recreation opportunities in the towns and throughout the County.
3	Create rules to require buffers and reforestation as part of logging operations.
4	Improve educational/school system to spur economic development.
5	Develop broadband infrastructure for the County.
6	Hire full-time Economic Development staff.
7	Construct Agricultural Center for County.
8	Expand Voluntary Agricultural Districts.
9	Establish growth opportunities for existing farmers.
10	Promote better food/grocery options.

The community meetings generated numerous ideas on how to improve Economic Development, Health and Wellness, and Agriculture and Rural Preservation in Caswell County. Residents cherish the rural spaces and abundant natural resources that can be found in the County and also want the County to provide economic opportunities for future generations. In particular, attendees believed that the Comprehensive Plan should include proactive measures to help spur economic growth, improve the health and wellness of citizens, and protect agriculture and rural preservation.

3.5 Community Meetings Conclusions

Approximately 50 people attended the three community meetings held in Caswell County during February of 2014. Overall, the Community Meetings provide the Caswell County Planning Department and the PTRC with valuable public input into the planning process. The community input collected at the meetings will be synthesized with the existing conditions to provide a foundation for the planning process. In the coming months the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will begin to examine the existing conditions report generated for Caswell County and review the ideas and thoughts generated at the three community meetings.



Image Credit: Christina Walsh

Introduction

The Caswell County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was appointed in the Fall of 2013 to help guide the development of a plan of action for Caswell County. The Steering Committee was appointed to recommend goals and strategies for Caswell County's citizen-based comprehensive planning initiative. The Steering Committee was charged with finding solutions to the issues that most impact the County and develop a plan that can guide future decisions.

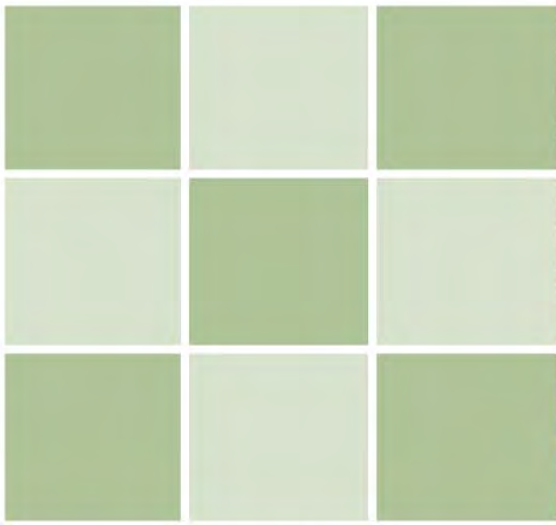
In order to accomplish this monumental task, the Steering Committee held monthly meetings throughout the Fall of 2013 and Spring of 2014 and heard presentations from Piedmont Triad Regional Council staff on topics ranging from demographics, community health, historic and cultural resources, and infrastructure. These monthly meetings were utilized to identify the most pressing issues facing Caswell today and the near future. Additionally, the Steering Committee hosted three Community Meetings at the Caswell County Senior Center, North Elementary School, and South Elementary School in an effort to gather input and ideas from concerned citizens.

Top Issues Identified for Caswell County

1. Economic Development
2. Health & Wellness
3. Agriculture & Rural Preservation

The Steering Committee members devoted their energies to identifying practical and creative approaches to enhancing Caswell County's quality of life over the next twenty years. There was unanimous agreement that the strategies recommended in this Comprehensive Plan represent opportunities for both public and private sector leadership. While the County Commissioners and Planning Board will be the official recipient of this report, Steering Committee members believe that every opportunity should be sought to forge community partnerships to achieve the strategies recommended here. Additionally, the Steering Committee strongly believes that the County's existing regulations and land use planning documents should be followed to provide a blueprint for the future growth and development of the County.

In addition to creating this document the Steering Committee also discussed previous planning efforts that have been completed in Caswell County. The Steering Committee discovered that many of the ideas generated by previous planning efforts (i.e. 21st Century Plan, Farmland Protection Plan, Rural Design Assistance Team, etc.) are fundamentally sound and should be reengaged in order to move the County forward. These previous documents provided some of the foundation for the current planning effort. Turning to past documents provided the Steering Committee with valuable knowledge and a historical perspective on many issues facing Caswell County.



4.1 Economic Development



Introduction

Historically, Caswell County has had a similar experience with its economic evolution as much of the rest of North Carolina. An economy that was originally based largely on agriculture (e.g. tobacco) witnessed an increase in manufacturing related jobs during the last half of the 20th century. Since the early 1990s, the County has witnessed a decline in manufacturing jobs similar to that experienced by North Carolina. In fact, the Piedmont Triad lost 100,000 manufacturing jobs since the early

1990s, while the State as a whole lost 400,000.

Today, some of the job losses in the manufacturing sector have been offset by the move to a service industry economy and a heavier reliance on public sector employment. Caswell County, like many communities, is grappling with the effects of the evolution of the global economy, which has shifted employment from an agricultural and manufacturing based

economy to a service sector and knowledge-based economy. With that said, Caswell County still has a viable agricultural sector that should be nurtured to provide new and exciting economic development opportunities.

However, even with these titanic economic changes Caswell County remains committed to providing its residents quality places of employment. The County believes it is not enough to just provide its citizens with a great place to live and play. The County wants to provide meaningful employment opportunities to its residents that will help retain the County's best and brightest and also recruit knowledgeable people who are looking for a high quality of life in a rural environment. According to Woods and Poole forecasts, Caswell County is projected to add 2,191 people, 627 new homes, and 1,357 employment opportunities by 2040.

Current Conditions

Caswell County's location provides it with a competitive advantage over many other communities. Located in the Northeast part of the Piedmont Triad region of North

Carolina and bordering on the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Consolidated Statistical Area, Caswell County offers proximity to larger urban areas without the inherent costs of those addresses. Almost 4 million residents can be found within an hour's drive of the County. Danville, VA just across the state border also provides important economic development opportunities in close proximity to Caswell County.

Over the last several decades, Caswell County has employed many of the traditional methods to spur, attract and retain employers and jobs. These methods have included developing an industrial park, employing an economic development director and attempting to lure capital to the County through State led recruitment strategies. In the end, these efforts have not had the desired effect on economic development in the County. As a result, this document seeks to redress any of those efforts shortcomings and develop a new strategy for economic development in Caswell County. The following vision, goals, strategies, and policies will provide a roadmap for future County led economic development initiatives.

Economic Development Vision

Caswell County seeks to provide its residents with quality job opportunities that diversify the local economy, train and utilize a more highly skilled labor force, increase per capita income, and add to the overall quality of life of the community.

Goals, Strategies, & Policies

In an effort to realize this Vision, the Comprehensive Plan supports several Economic Development Goals, Strategies and Policies that can help the County grow and prosper. The first goal that will aid in achieving the Economic Development vision is to generate employment opportunities for Caswell County residents. The second goal is to provide the necessary public infrastructure to support the planned growth desired in Caswell County

Goal # 1: Generate employment opportunities for Caswell County residents.

Caswell County should look to enhance its market share of employment in agriculture and agriculture related industries. The County is strategically positioned to provide fresh and local foods to the growing urban populations in nearby communities like Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. As a result, encouraging farming, ranching and horticulture can build upon a solid foundation that already exists in the County. In addition to encouraging traditional farming in the County, Caswell could also look to develop authentic opportunities in ancillary service industries that service farms including: maintenance industries, amalgamation, processing and preparation opportunities, and technology driven companies that have agricultural applications. The following is a list of the most popular strategies that were developed by the Steering Committee related to the goal of generating employment opportunities for Caswell County residents:

Strategies and Policies:

- **Attract non-traditional, alternative agriculture related industries to the County.**

The NC Cooperative Extension is developing a plan that identifies higher value food crops that can be grown in Caswell, Person, and Orange Counties and could result in higher income per acre and an increase in agriculture-related businesses. This goal also may be accomplished by looking to Polk County, NC as a model for economic development in a rural county. Polk County, NC (population 20,000) has a strong Economic Development Commission that recruits traditional and agricultural economic development opportunities. A specific tool that Polk County has at its disposal is a full-time Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator. This position might be an excellent idea for Caswell County as well and help focus economic development efforts within the County. *See Appendix E: Polk County Agriculture Economic Development Director Description for more information.*

- **Construct a multi-purpose agricultural center that serves as a ‘one-stop shop’ for farmers of Caswell County:**

The agricultural center will feature: a cannery and value-added kitchen; a cold storage facility including large commercial walk-in coolers and freezers; an indoor livestock arena and outdoor livestock holding stalls; an incubator farm, a community garden, and NC Cooperative Extension research plots; a tobacco heritage museum and village; a farmers market and community farmers store; office facilities for USDA, Cooperative Extension, and other farming agencies; and meeting rooms for events and training programs. Joey Knight,

III, Caswell County Extension Director, describes the facility's concept as self-sustainable due to its capability of generating high revenues. The center and agricultural economic development could be marketed under a banner of 'Caswell Fresh'.

Additionally, the Family Farm Innovation Fund and the North Carolina Rural Center are examples of potential funding sources. Similar programs exist with Pilot Mountain Pride in Pilot Mountain, NC, the Pittsylvania County Agriculture Complex in Virginia, and Breeze Farm in Orange County, NC as three excellent examples. The Pittsylvania County Agriculture Complex includes offices, a 53,000-square foot livestock arena, a 500-seat banquet and lecture hall, and an onsite farmers market. The facility also houses the USDA's county Farm Service Agency, Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ag Development Office and county Farm Bureau. Finally, a recent report prepared as part of the *Piedmont Together* regional planning effort highlights the need for the development of an agricultural storage and aggregation system for the region. Caswell County could be a major player in the development of such a system for the region.

- **Develop training programs through the Piedmont Community College that focuses on agriculture and agricultural related education and technologies.**

The development of skills oriented learning opportunities within the County is recommended as a way to preserve Caswell County's rural quality of life and provide people with the potential to make a living. By promoting agricultural economic development and educational opportunities, Caswell County can become the foci of a rural renaissance and help build local talent through workforce development programs. Classes based on traditional agricultural practices and new programs focused on the incorporation of technology into agriculture can provide area residents with important knowledge. Programs could focus on hydroponics, strategic agricultural marketing and entrepreneurship, GIS technologies, GPS technologies and soil science to name a few.

- **Continue to market and explore industrial economic development opportunities within Caswell County.**

In addition to developing an innovative agricultural economic development program for Caswell County, the County should use resources to continue to develop the Pelham Industrial Park and look to attract industrial economic development opportunities for the County. The development of shell buildings and investment in public infrastructure (e.g. water, sewer, roads, etc.) are vital components to aid this strategy. Additionally, the active marketing of potential sites within the County should be encouraged and may be accomplished through the hiring of an economic development coordinator. This position may be a part-time hire and/or a shared job responsibility. This person can serve a vital function in marketing, promoting and serving as a point of contact for potential economic development opportunities. Recent changes by the State of North Carolina related to economic development partnerships make this position even more critical.

- **Support and grow the County’s developing agri-tourism and heritage tourism industry.**
See Section 4.3: Agriculture & Rural Preservation for more information.

CASE STUDY	<p>POLK COUNTY, NC AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE</p>
	<p><i>The following is an excerpt from the Polk County EDC:</i></p> <p>“The purpose of the Agricultural Economic Development office is to encourage, support and maintain growing agricultural enterprises in Polk County.</p>
	<p>Objectives: Marketing Polk County’s agricultural products and services by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating market opportunities. Encourage value-added enterprises. Identify trends and support services. Assist in training and scaling up agricultural businesses. • Supporting new farmer enterprises through connection and mentoring opportunities • Encourage expansion of secondary Agricultural businesses such as distribution and marketing, business planning, support business such as dry goods, seeds, implements, equipment, etc. • Maintaining an appropriate agricultural land base to support a viable agricultural economy in Polk County <i>specifically through Farmland Preservation and other conservation programs”</i>

Goal # 2: Provide adequate infrastructure to support the planned employment growth Caswell County desires.

Caswell County realizes that a certain level of infrastructure is necessary to attract, recruit and retain employers and employees. To this end, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to provide adequate public infrastructure through several strategies. The most important, missing infrastructure for employers and residents of Caswell Count is widespread availability of broadband internet service. As a result, the Steering Committee believes it is of the utmost importance that broadband service be developed for Caswell County. Government participation in the development of broadband service may be necessary to meet the goals of this plan and the expectations of the community. Infrastructure may also be people and it is envisioned that in order to build upon the agricultural base of Caswell County additional staff or partnerships will need to be recruited or acquired. The following is a list of the most popular strategies that were developed by the Steering Committee related to the goal of providing adequate infrastructure to planned employment growth:

Strategies and Policies:

- **Develop broadband infrastructure in the County by partnering with regional, state and national entities.**

The NC Broadband.gov project provides technical assistance to underserved communities and might be a major partner in developing Caswell County’s broadband infrastructure.

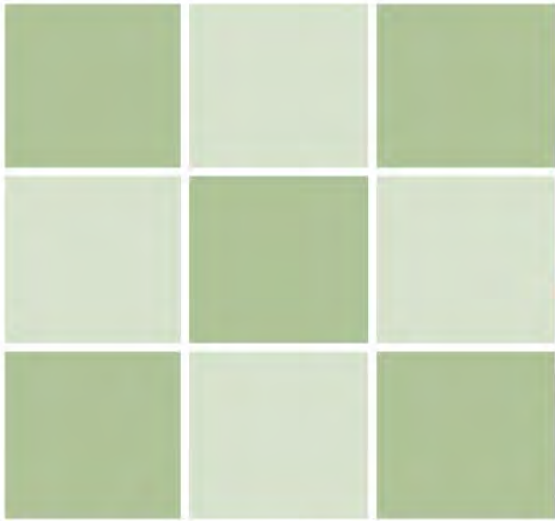
Additional partnerships include the FCC's Broadband Opportunities for Rural America, the USDA's Community Connect Grants and a myriad of foundations that fund rural internet projects. These opportunities should be examined and pursued to help Caswell County residents and businesses.

- **Hire a full time economic developer that specializes in agricultural economic development opportunities.**

As previously mentioned, Polk County, NC employs an agricultural economic development specialist to aid in the recruitment, retention and growth of agricultural economic development opportunities. It is in the best interests of Caswell County to find the funding to hire someone of a similar background to pursue agricultural economic development opportunities. Traditional economic development efforts in Caswell County have not yielded the results desired in past years and a switch in philosophy and economic development target may help.

- **Coordinate County and municipal policies and capital expenditures to focus economic development within or near areas already served by urban services.**

This may be accomplished through the recently reconvened Economic Development Council and regular discussions between elected officials and staff within the County. Caswell County has limited resources and must do everything within its power to use partnerships, collaborations and the sharing of resources to provide the highest level of service and quality of life to its residents. It is imperative that the County government, municipal government, non-profits, and for-profits within the County work together. For example, water and/or sewer projects that are being proposed by a municipality within the County might benefit from County financial participation and help the quality of life of municipal and county residents. Additionally, cost-sharing on projects could open up new opportunities that have been previously unattainable. Finally, a potential first step could be to develop a joint economic development budget for the Economic Development Council by having Caswell County, the Town of Milton and the Town of Yanceyville each donate a sum of money to the Council for use of mutually beneficial economic development projects.



4.2 Health & Wellness



Image Credits (clockwise): Christina Walsh, Candace West and Marcy Williams

Introduction

The environment in which we live, work, and play can have a major impact on our overall quality of life. The physical health of Caswell County's residents is an important indicator of the overall quality of life in the community. Residents must be able to go to school, work, and contribute to civic life. Without a healthy population, the County will face insurmountable obstacles in the future.

An understanding of the health and wellness of a community is of vital importance when developing a comprehensive planning document. Research has now shown the significance of community design, built environment, and public policy to help community members foster more active lifestyles and healthier eating habits.

The odds of a child being overweight or obese are significantly reduced with a

higher walkability score in their community. In addition, access to parks and recreation facilities greatly increases a family's physical activity level and reduces their risk of chronic disease.

Communities where the healthy choice is the easy choice are more attractive to businesses, developers and new residents. In fact, active living research shows that home values increase in communities that provide access to physical activity. As a result, this plan utilized the most recent information regarding the health and wellness of Caswell County's residents in an effort to better comprehend the 'public' health of the community.

Current Conditions

Community Health Assessments

The main issues identified by the Community Health Assessment for Caswell County included: a lack of medical specialties, a lack of recreational opportunities (i.e., adult sport teams, walking trails, greenways), a lack of emergency preparedness, and elevated risk factors associated with heart disease and behavioral health. These issues were combined with the results of an interactive forum conducted at the annual Bright Leaf Hoedown Festival to develop a list of health priorities for 2012-2015 for Caswell County.

Community Health Assessment Priorities 2012-2015

1. Overweight/Obesity
2. Hypertension
3. Mental Health
4. Community Health Educator/
Health Promotion Coordinator

Health Risks

Among North Carolina's adults age 18 and over, 64.9% were overweight in 2010 according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).¹ Rates of chronic disease and obesity are on the rise, not just in adults, but in children as well. In Caswell County, obesity is an especially acute problem for children. Nearly two thirds of adults and a third of children in the CTG Project Region 5 are overweight or obese.

This unfortunate circumstance is leading to high rates of chronic disease and sky rocketing health care costs. Heart Disease and cancer are the two leading cause of death in Caswell County (2006 - 2010). By evaluating a variety of health and wellness factors, steps can be taken to increase the life expectancy of residents and help people lead longer, happier lives.

Health & Wellness Factors

- Healthy foods
- Parks and recreational facilities
- Walking and bicycling
- Medical services
- Environmental quality

The highest priorities identified during the comprehensive planning process included improving access to healthy food, developing additional recreational opportunities, and maintaining a healthy environment.

¹ CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System: Prevalence and Trend Data - Overweight and Obesity, U.S. Obesity Trends, Trends by State 2010. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

Caswell County contains numerous farms, yet many residents indicated that they do not have adequate access to healthy foods. The central and northeastern sections of the County are classified as a food desert due to residents' low income and limited access to supermarkets. Recent efforts to promote local foods include the "Caswell Fresh" program.

Caswell County offers a variety of recreational facilities for all age groups, including county and municipal parks, walking trails, recreation programs, and on-road bicycle routes. The Caswell Senior Center Trail promotes physical activity among older adults with potential trail connections to nearby parks and schools.

Air quality and water quality have significant impacts on overall public health. Caswell County tends to experience 'good' air quality and less than ten percent of

surface waters in the County have reported issues. However, water pollution issues have been identified in several individual water bodies.

Access to health care serves as a primary factor in the health and wellness of any community. Recently, the County has witnessed an increase in medical service providers with several medical professional coming into the community. One of the remaining limitations is the lack of a hospital in Caswell County. Residents must travel to other counties or another state (Virginia) for emergency care. Additionally, transportation options are limited and most residents rely upon private automobiles for medical-related trips. With an aging population this can become a major issue in the future.

See the Section 2: Existing Conditions and the Appendix for more information.



Image Credits (clockwise): Jesse Day, Candace West and Marcy Williams, Christina Walsh

Health & Wellness Vision

Caswell County places great importance on the health and quality of life of its residents. Recognizing that the environment in which residents live, work, and play impacts their health, the County seeks to promote access to healthy foods, improve recreational opportunities, and maintain a healthy environment.

Goals, Strategies, & Policies

In an effort to realize this vision, the Comprehensive Plan supports several Health & Wellness goals, strategies, and policies that can help the County improve public health and quality of life. The first goal that will aid in achieving the Health & Wellness vision is to provide access to healthy food choices. Secondly, the County seeks to promote physical activity through recreational facilities and programs. The final goal is to encourage policies that assure a healthy environment is maintained in Caswell County. Each goal is followed by a list of the most popular strategies and policies that were developed by the Steering Committee.

Goal #1: Promote healthy food choices and expand access to fresh, healthy local foods.

Caswell County should utilize its valuable agricultural resources to provide residents with direct access to fresh, healthy foods. Recent efforts, such as the 'Caswell Fresh' program, serve as starting points for building a food system.

Strategies and Policies:

- **Develop a plan for food access and community-based food systems.**

A successful program begins with a plan and a variety of stakeholders, including a local food council, non-profit organizations, government staff, foundations, and, of course, farmers. Caswell County's plan already has an existing base from which to start. The CTG Project produced the *Caswell County Local Foods Directory* containing a map and list of participating farms. Graduate students from the UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health analyzed fresh, healthy food access within the County and developed the *Caswell County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Access* report. Through a community assessment, a food outlet inventory, and store owner interviews, the students developed recommendations and identified intervention models to increase the accessibility of healthy food options for residents. The American Planning Association's guide to food access planning along with assistance provided through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension are important resources to consult when developing the plan. *See the Appendix for more information.*

- **Promote fresh, healthy local produce and goods in farmers markets and local stores.**

As a part of the food access plan, a feasibility study for farmers markets and cold storage in local stores should be conducted. The study will evaluate potential locations, marketing concepts, and program coordination with the Agricultural Center. Due to the high cost of cold storage facilities, strategies for leasing refrigeration space in local stores should be addressed within the study. This program could reduce storage and delivery costs for farmers while allowing residents to quickly access fresh, healthy local foods. A *Piedmont Together* report by Jennifer Walker entitled, "Planning for a Networked Produce Storage and Aggregation System for the Piedmont Triad Region," provide models for cold storage facilities. In addition to an analysis of farmers' market feasibility and cold storage, this study should also address food distribution, specifically how to best bring local healthy

food to small retail outlets. Only two grocery stores exist in Caswell County and both are located within Yanceyville. The assessment conducted by the UNC students identified "healthy convenience stores" as a suitable model to bring food to those with little access in the rural corners of the county. The Caswell Local Food Council has selected several stores to begin a healthy store pilot project. *See the Appendix for more information.*

Goal #2: Promote active living by building upon existing recreational programs and developing additional walking trails, bicycle routes, and outdoor recreational facilities.

Caswell County contains established parks and recreation programs and facilities that will assist in building more active lifestyles for residents. The construction of additional walking trails, bicycle routes, and other multi-use facilities to connect these existing facilities would provide greater recreational opportunities and serve daily pedestrian and cycling needs. Expanded outdoor recreational offerings along the Dan River heritage corridor would also serve a dual tourism purpose.

Strategies and Policies:

- **Update the Caswell County Parks and Recreation Master Plan.**

Caswell County's Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed several years ago and does not reflect current facility conditions or usage. By updating the plan, the County will have an inventory of all recreational facilities and an assessment of improvement needs. State recreation funding programs, specifically the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the NC Recreational Trails Program, require an updated master plan. During the planning process, the County should also explore funding opportunities from other public and private entities for new equipment and facility expansions. For an example of a small community recreation center master plan, consult the Piedmont Triad Regional Council's *Shoals Community Recreation Center Master Plan (2014)*. Additional efforts to improve bicycle facilities and safety should include an evaluation of paved shoulder width by the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization (RPO) and NCDOT.

- **Encourage shared-use agreements for school and church playgrounds, recreational facilities, etc.**

Often, recreational areas are open for limited hours, preventing children and adults from exercising evenings and weekends. Through joint-use agreements, organizations can develop ways to provide access to facilities and address concerns about safety and liability. *See Section 4.4: Community Infrastructure for more information.*

- **Increase opportunities for physical activity in the school environment and promote active and safe transportation to and from schools, where feasible.**

Caswell County has access to many Safe Routes to School resources through North Carolina Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program. Safe Routes to School programs are comprehensive efforts that look at ways to make walking and bicycling to

school or at school a safer and more appealing activity, thus encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age. As a rural county, Caswell can promote increased physical activity in schools through activities such as walk-at-school programs and integrating bicycling and pedestrian safety skills education into the school day.

- **Promote bicycle routes by distributing maps and other marketing materials in visitor centers and bicycle shops.**

A Caswell County bicycle routes brochure was developed through previous planning efforts and distributed to area bicycle shops. This brochure should be updated and distributed in print and online. The Piedmont Triad RPO can provide assistance with developing future bicycle routes. *See Appendix C: Caswell County Bicycle Brochure for more information.*

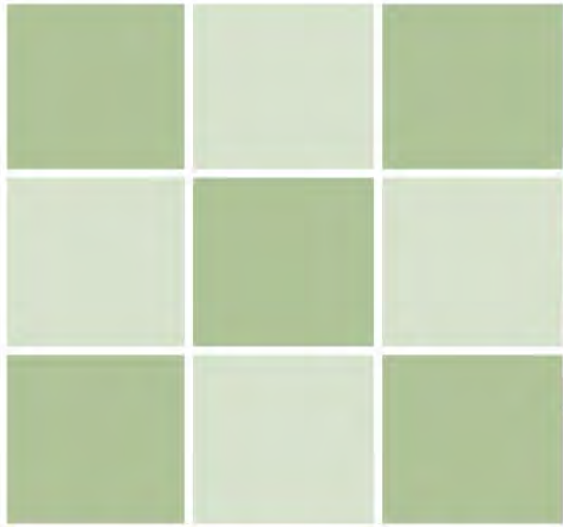
Goal #3: Encourage policies that assure a healthy environment and maintain Caswell County's good air quality.

Caswell County enjoys relatively good air quality and residents have indicated in public meetings that maintaining this status is important.

Strategies and Policies:

- **Assure that future development does not jeopardize air quality by developing regulations for noxious uses.**

During the series of community meetings, nearly all attendees agreed or strongly agreed that certain land uses, such as landfills and heavy industry, should be regulated to prevent environmental damages and health issues. The County's 2003 Land Use Plan contains recommendations to maintain air quality by ensuring that industrial development is compatible with adjoining land uses, new industries do not create pollution issues, and the County participates in regional air quality initiatives. A potential model for the County to follow is Alamance County, which addresses heavy industrial development through a land use ordinance. Four different classes of industries are regulated through the ordinance, ranging from fuel storage to asphalt plants. Standards include minimum lot size, building height, land use spacing, operations setback, stream setback, and landscaping and screening requirements. *See Section 4.5: General Land Use Strategies section and the Appendix for more information.*



4.3 Agriculture & Rural Preservation



Image Credits: Jesse Day

Introduction

Caswell County's motto – *Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future* – demonstrates a commitment to its agricultural and rural heritage, while also suggesting opportunities for innovation.

With the creation of the bright leaf tobacco curing process in 1839, agriculture has been intrinsically linked with the County's identity. Although significant changes have occurred to the industry over the past

century, farming remains a vital part of Caswell County's economy and way of life.

Between 2007 and 2012, the number of farms within the County decreased by 3.4% to a total of 543 farms. Relatedly, the overall amount of farmland decreased by 5.1%. Throughout North Carolina, counties have experienced declines in farmland and farming operations.

Despite these changes, opportunities for innovation and preservation emerge. Transitioning to alternative crops and practices allows farmers to remain productive and relevant. Increasing population in the Piedmont Triad region also presents opportunities for new markets and consumers for Caswell County products. With a greater national focus on locally sourced foods, the County is capable of developing a profitable niche.

The rural landscape is a valued resource, not only for its farmland, but its scenic beauty and serene lifestyle as well. Residents have demonstrated the importance of preserving rural character by participating in the Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program (VAD) and other conservation efforts.



Image Credit: PTRC

Current Conditions

Although farming in Caswell County has changed dramatically over the past century, it remains an active and vital practice. Farmland represents over 35.7% of the total land area within the County. This

proportion mirrors surrounding counties in which farmland comprises 22-44% of total land area.

Woodland	43.8%
Cropland	37.1%
Pasture	12.4%
Other Uses	6.7%

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture 2007

A number of efforts are under way to preserve farmland in Caswell County. As of 2012, the Voluntary Agricultural Districts Program (VAD) had approximately 100 farms and 9,800 acres enrolled. Overall, about 44% of the County participates in a Farmland Preservation Program or a Present-Use Value (PUV) Property Tax Program.

Recently, the Piedmont Land Conservancy developed the *Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan (2013)* as a way to guide future preservation of the rural landscape. Additional planning efforts include the *Caswell County Heritage Trails Plan (2012)* and the Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization's *Regional Bicycle Study (2005)*.

Agriculture & Rural Preservation Vision

Caswell County values its strong agriculture economy and scenic rural landscape. Recognizing the importance of encouraging farming operations and preserving rural character, the County seeks to construct an agricultural center, provide growth opportunities for farmers, and promote agri-tourism within the County.

Goals, Strategies, and Policies

In an effort to realize this vision, the Comprehensive Plan supports several Agriculture & Rural Preservation goals, strategies, and policies that can help the County continue its traditions and preserve its character. The first goal that will aid in achieving the vision is to establish an agricultural center that will serve as a hub for farming activities within the County. Secondly, the County seeks to promote resources and tools that will increase opportunities for farming operations. The final goal is to develop agri-tourism and heritage tourism as means for attracting visitors and marketing local products. Each goal is followed by a list of the most popular strategies and policies that were developed by the Steering Committee.

Goal #1: Construct an agricultural center for Caswell County.

Caswell County should create a hub for agriculture activities by developing an agricultural center that features a variety of processing facilities and event venues. *See Section 4.1: Economic Development for more information.*

Strategies and Policies:

- Evaluate examples of agricultural centers and food processing facilities in other areas, such as Pilot Mountain, NC and Pittsylvania County, VA. Consult the *Piedmont Together* agricultural storage and aggregation system report. *See Appendix A: Resources for more information.*
- Explore funding opportunities through the Family Farm Innovation Fund.
- Create facilities for food processing, cold storage, meeting space, a farmers market, and an arena.
- Market the Agricultural Center and Caswell County products under the ‘Caswell Fresh’ branding program.

Goal #2: Establish growth opportunities for farmers by promoting alternative practices and specialty crops.

In order to remain productive in a changing economy, farmers should explore alternative farming activities and maximize available farmland. Caswell County should encourage growth opportunities by providing necessary resources and staff assistance.

Strategies and Policies:

- **Promote alternative farming operations, such as greenhouses, solar farms, viticulture, and specialty crops.**

In order to expand farming opportunities, Caswell residents need access to training and leadership programs. Courses offered through the NC Cooperative Extension, Piedmont Community College, and other surrounding institutions would provide current and future farmers with knowledge about the variety of available farming options. Additionally,

courses in agriculture technology relating to GPS and other computerized practices would increase farmers' competitiveness in the agriculture industry. Participation in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and other leadership programs will encourage mentorship opportunities and help to recruit new farmers. These activities can be facilitated by the Agriculture Economic Development staff position.

- **Identify farming opportunities for vacant and underutilized land.**

In order to maximize growth opportunities for agriculture, Caswell County should conduct an inventory of current agriculture property and other properties suitable for farming. Updated GIS layers, including soil data, would be useful in evaluating prime farmland. This process should also include identifying areas for mini-farms (less than 50 acres) for individuals interested in starting farms or exploring specialty crops. Vacant and underutilized properties could be advertised for lease through the Agricultural Center.

- **Participate in incubator farm programs**

Throughout the North Carolina, incubator farm projects have assisted beginning farmers by providing training and access to resources. A *Piedmont Together* study entitled, "Developing a Strategic Plan for Regional Farm Incubation," evaluates best practices for developing incubator farms and shares the case study of the Hines Chapel Incubator Farm in Guilford County. These programs help to reduce barriers for entering the agriculture industry and developing independent businesses. For Caswell County, an incubator farm program facilitated by the proposed Agricultural Center would expand opportunities for new farmers.

Goal #3: Promote agri-tourism and heritage tourism opportunities within Caswell County.

Caswell County has the benefit of active, scenic farmland and numerous historic structures that have survived for centuries. By utilizing its proximity to major urban areas, Caswell County offers tourists the opportunity to experience its agricultural and rural heritage.

Strategies and Policies:

- **Promote farms, historical sites, and outdoor recreational amenities as tourist attractions.**

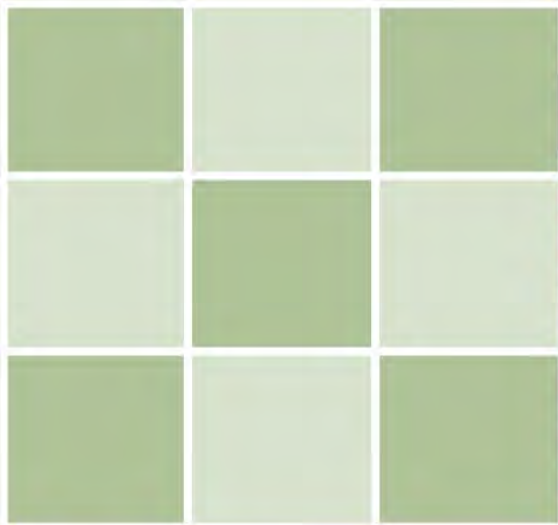
To build an effective tourism program, Caswell County should develop a tourism marketing plan that incorporates farm tours, day and weekend excursions, and festivals that celebrate traditions and local products. The plan can feature attractions such as Yanceyville's Court House Square, Milton's commercial area, the Caswell Gamelands, and outdoor recreational activities relating to the Dan River and heritage trails. In order to accommodate visitors, hotels, restaurants, outfitter companies, and other businesses should be attracted to the County. Current tourism groups and efforts, such as the Caswell Center for Tourism and the proposed campground in the Town of Yanceyville, serve as starting points for the tourism marketing plan.

- **Establish a historic preservation commission and a develop program to preserve significant historic properties.**

A historic preservation commission can work to prioritize the preservation and restoration of key properties as well as identify funding opportunities. Yanceyville and Milton should explore participation in the NC Small Town Main Street program to strengthen businesses, community events, façade improvements, and streetscape design. The County and towns should also consider design criteria for historical districts to encourage compatible development and consistent facades. *See the National Register of Historic Properties in Section 2.15: Cultural Resources for more information.*

- **Develop an open space policy that promotes recreation, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty in order to enhance the County’s economic value.**

An open space policy can encourage new development to locate in compact, targeted growth areas near towns and existing infrastructure. Agricultural and rural lands that have high productivity potential should be protected from encroaching urban/suburban development. The policy can also incorporate alternative subdivision designs that promote clustering and open space conservation. By emphasizing open space, the County can expand awareness about conservation efforts, including farmland preservation efforts (Voluntary Agricultural Districts, Present-Use Value program, etc.). Through the Piedmont Land Conservancy, land can be placed in permanent conservation easement. *See Section 4.5: General Land Use Strategies for more information.*



4.4 Community Infrastructure



Image Credits (Clockwise): Christina Walsh, Jesse Day, Candace West, and Marcy Williams

Introduction

Throughout the planning process many interesting and exciting ideas were generated by citizens, Steering Committee members, and public officials that do not necessarily fit into one of the three previously discussed areas of interest (i.e. Economic Development, Health & Wellness and Agriculture & Rural Preservation). As a result, this section of the plan has been developed to include some of those ideas under the banner of Community Infrastructure.

Community Infrastructure is defined as products, processes and/or events that aid in the development of Caswell County. These ideas do not have to be physically tangible but may still result in a stronger community and provide the necessary platform for the County and its residents to realize previously unattainable goals. In general, these strategies focus on people and building relationships within the County and as a result, will need time, patience and dedication to develop.

Goal #1: Increase levels of communication among governments, officials, and residents and develop partnerships to achieve common goals.

Many of the individuals that attended the Community Workshops mentioned that they wanted to see higher levels of communication in the County between elected officials, government staff and residents. They thought that discussions between municipalities and the County could help unite the County and bring about needed change. At a minimum a greater level of understanding could be reached and some future projects of mutual interest may be developed. Similarly, the development of partnerships should be cultivated within the County and the region. For example, the Piedmont Rural Economic Development Marketing Group is a new partnership that has been created for the rural counties of the Piedmont Triad. At the time that this document was written Caswell County was not a member of that newly formed rural economic development partnership. Additionally, exploring collaborative opportunities across the border in Virginia may also result in the partnerships.

‘Community champions’ are needed to bring the Comprehensive Plan goals to reality. Developing leaders through a Leadership Caswell program, modeled after similar programs in larger cities and counties, will help to encourage efforts. The Center for Creative Leadership is also a resource for expanding leadership skills within the County.

Goal #2: Explore the development of shared-use agreements.

In a small, rural county with limited resources the co-use of facilities may be a method through which greater things can become a reality. For example, many residents spoke about the decline in youth related sports programming and lack of recreational opportunities within the County. One way to provide some of these services is through the use of existing facilities that exist at the County’s schools. Historically, schools were seen as multi-use facilities that were community assets. It has only been in the last several decades that schools have become more one-dimensional facilities that have a limited use. While, issues related to insurance and liability must be overcome, Person and Alamance counties developed a workable solution to the issue and have been able to have multiple occupants utilize school spaces for recreational opportunities and community gathering spaces.

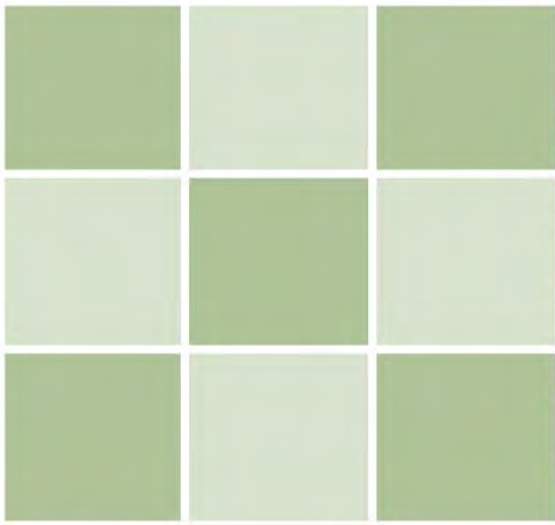
Goal #3: Develop an identifiable image or brand to market Caswell County.

Throughout the planning process individuals often mentioned the need to create an identifiable image for the County. The Steering Committee also believed that the creation of an identifiable image for the County could be a useful endeavor. The image and/or slogan could be generated through a countywide competition that helps generate interest and excitement in the project for the County. The goal of any such competition would be to create something that people from outside the community can identify with as belonging to Caswell County. An image can be a powerful marketing tool and can help to put Caswell County on the map. This item would be of crucial importance for the heritage and agricultural tourism projects that are also recommended in the plan.

Resources exist to fund projects and ideas that have the potential to greatly impact Caswell County. However, an important first step in attempting to achieving funding is making sure Caswell County is doing all that it can to leverage local resources and develop strong partnerships. 'Silo' thinking and limited collaboration cannot and will not result in improved economic, health and or agricultural conditions. As Henry Ford once stated, *"If I asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses"*. Caswell County must stay focused on the future and the next idea not chase after the last idea.

Goal #4: Promote and better utilize the 'Gamelands' located within Caswell County.

Caswell County is fortunate to have over 16,000 acres of Gamelands that represent a combination of significant natural heritage areas, other natural heritage areas, and managed areas. This asset should be leveraged to bring in wildlife related economy activities such as hunting, fishing, birding, etc. and ancillary uses that accompany those primary wildlife activities. This could include overnight accommodations, restaurants and retail businesses. An important first step in achieving this goal should be the development of a Gamelands liaison to work with the State of North Carolina is finding common interests and opportunities for economic development related to the lands.



4.5 General Land Use Strategies



Image Credits (Clockwise): Jesse Day, Christina Walsh

Introduction

Caswell County has witnessed limited land use changes throughout much of its jurisdiction over the past twenty years and is forecast to continue to see limited growth and development pressures. The primary land use changes that have occurred in the County have been forested lands being cleared for timber and limited residential developed scattered throughout the County. These minor individual decisions are gradually generating a land use pattern that, left unmanaged, will eventually overtake the rural landscape, place additional burdens on public services, and erode the quality of life that originally attracted new residents and businesses to Caswell County.

Therefore, the county needs to develop conscious strategies for proactively managing the type of growth that is consistent with the county's overall vision and goals. Stated another way, growth management strategies help to set the "tone" and give general direction in which the

county should begin to head toward in order to mitigate an undesired future state. These strategies need not always rely on heavy-handed government regulation. For example, if protection of open space is a general goal for the county, then several approaches may be used to achieve this goal. One could be regulation through the zoning ordinance to essentially require reservation or dedication of open space as development occurs. An equally effective approach might be to structure a system of incentives that encourage a developer to reserve open space by coupling clustering techniques with density bonuses in the county's development regulations. Another alternative might be to educate landowners concerning the tax benefits of conservation easements. It may be advantageous to "think outside of the box" by assisting small farmers in gaining access to better technology, which would enable them to make a profit and thereby preserve working farms. Finally, the role of the county in extending infrastructure and creating development pressure on vacant land cannot be overlooked.

Land Use Categories

A modified version of the North Carolina Land Classification System was used as the basis for determining Caswell County's growth strategy over the 20 year planning period. The system contains five broad classes of land described below.

- Developed - Lands where existing population density is moderate to high and where there are a variety of land uses that have the necessary public services.
- Transition - Lands where local government plans to accommodate moderate to high density development during the following twenty year period and where necessary public services will likely be provided to accommodate that growth.
- Community - Lands where low to moderate density development is grouped in existing neighborhoods and cross-road community settlements and where it will occur in similar neighborhoods and settlements during the following twenty year period and which may require extensive public services now or in the future.
- Rural - Lands where very low to low density residential uses are integrated into the rural landscape dominated by agricultural and forestry uses and where local governments will provide minimal public services.
- Conservation - Environmentally sensitive lands where very low-intensity residential, open space, recreational or greenway uses are preserved to enhance quality of life and promote recreational and tourism opportunities.

By taking this approach, the county should be able to anticipate and prepare for future development with a reasonable degree of success. The Land Classification Map can serve as a framework for developing a local growth policy while allowing for flexibility at the local level in guiding specific land use decisions (subject to the limitations set forth within each of the five broad classification definitions). For example, commercial development should be permissible within the Developed, Transition, and Community classes but should not be encouraged within Rural or Conservation lands.

The Land Classification System is designed to achieve the following goals:

- Encourage coordination between local land use policies and those of the state or region. By virtue of using a uniform system of classification, plans prepared at various levels of government and by different agencies are more easily understood and integrated with one another.
- Provide a guide to public investment in land. For example, State and local agencies can anticipate the need for early acquisition of lands and easements for schools, recreation areas, transportation, and other public facilities within the Transition class.
- Aid in better coordination of regulatory policies and decisions. Conservation and Rural lands will help to focus the attention of state and local agencies and interests on valuable natural resources. Transition and Community lands will be of concern to those agencies and interests working for high quality development through local land use controls.
- Be broad and flexible enough so that frequent changes in the Land Classification Map are not necessary. The map should be updated periodically in order to compensate for unforeseen changes such as the establishment of large scale public facilities or industries.

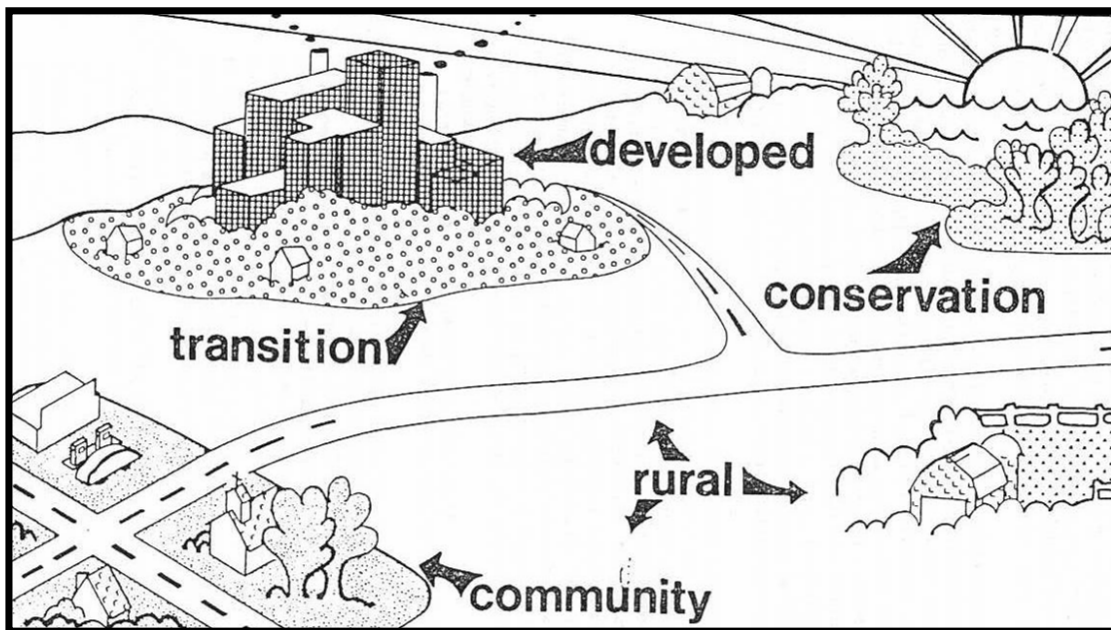


Table 47: Land Classes and Descriptions

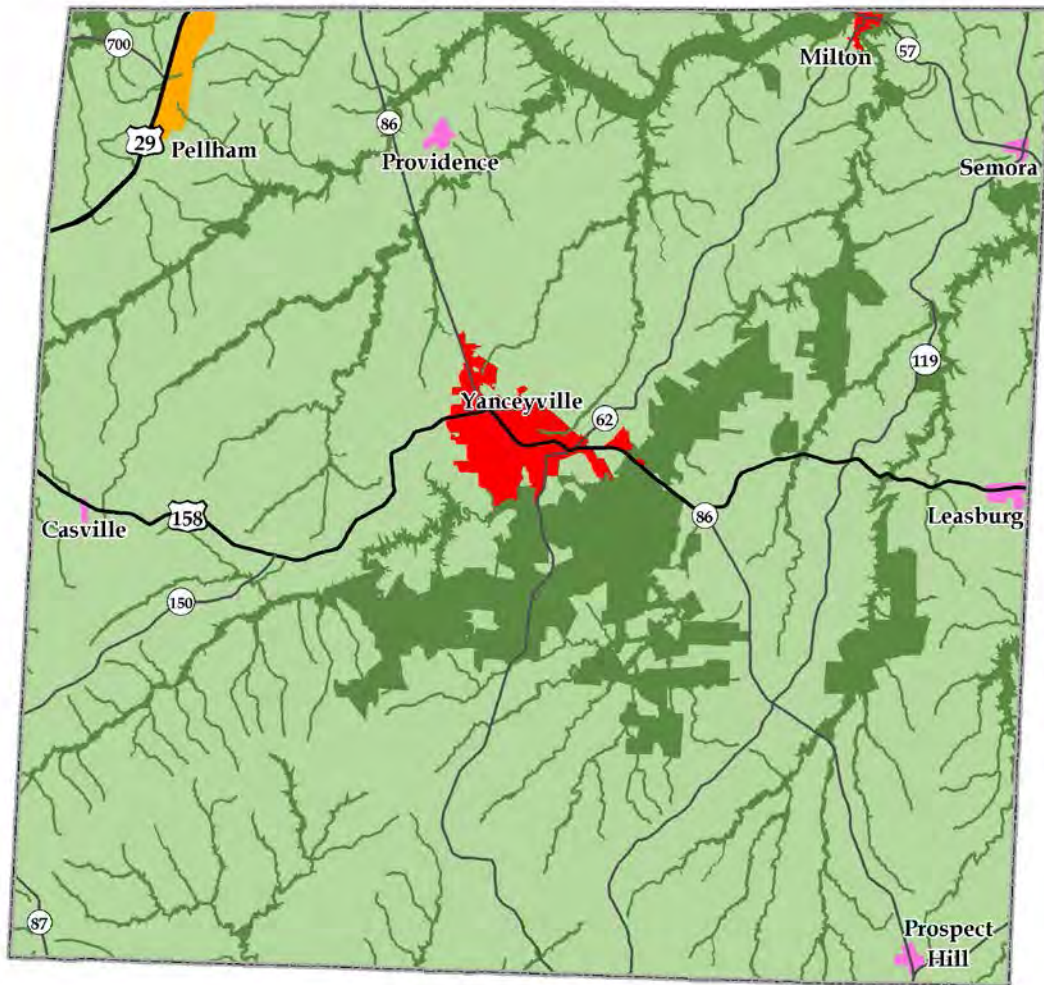
Land Classes	Purposes	Characteristics	Services	Residential Density
Developed	To provide for continued intensive development and redevelopment of existing cities.	Lands currently developed for urban purposes with urban services available.	Typical municipal or public services including water, sewer, police and fire protection, and recreation facilities.	Existing moderate to high density.
Transition	To provide for future intensive urban development on lands that are most likely to be scheduled for provision of necessary public utilities and services.	Lands being developed for urban purposes but which do not yet have usual urban services, lands necessary to accommodate population growth over the next 20 year period, lands which can be readily serviced with usual urban services, lands generally free from severe physical limitations for development.	Typical municipal or public services currently available or to be made available at the time of development or soon thereafter.	Moderate to high density land uses.
Community	To accommodate existing and future community centers within the County that have a mixture of land uses at strategic locations throughout the County (i.e. crossroads communities, natural features, etc).	Lands where low to moderate density development is grouped in existing settlements or will occur in such settlements during the following twenty year period.	Typical municipal or public services are currently not available and will not be provided to these areas in the near future.	Low to moderate density land uses.
Rural	To accommodate existing residential neighborhoods and to balance the need to retain the area's rural character and beauty with the strong demand for continued residential development.	Lands where residential development is grouped in existing neighborhoods and cross-road community settlements and where it will occur in similar neighborhoods and settlements during the following 20 year period, lands.	Primarily well and septic system developments with no anticipation of public water and/or sewer services being provided.	Low to moderate density with a strong emphasis on cluster development to help retain rural character
Conservation Overlay	To preserve the natural, recreational and scenic resources of the county and environmentally sensitive areas to enhance quality of life and promote recreational and tourism opportunities.	Lands primarily located along streams and rivers and within areas containing floodplains, steep slopes, and /or severe soil limitations.	No services and limited access only.	Limited residential development and very low-intensity open space, recreational or greenway uses.

Potential Ordinances

- Heavy Industry Ordinance – *See Section 4.2: Health & Wellness and Alamance County’s Heavy Industrial Development Ordinance.*
- Watershed Ordinance – Caswell County is made up of a patchwork of regulatory areas, which creates challenges for administration and technical review. The County would benefit from a uniform watershed ordinance to simplify these processes. *See Appendix A: Resources for Piedmont Triad Regional Council Water Resources information.*
- Cluster Development Ordinance – The existing Cluster Development Ordinance could be updated to include recommendations from the growth strategies presented in this section.
- Logging Regulations – As discussed by residents in Community Meetings, there is a growing concern about timber harvesting and a possible approach to this issue is developing a logging ordinance. *See Appendix A: Resources for Trees and Local Regulations in North Carolina information.*

Growth Strategy Map

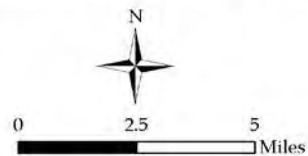
The general growth strategy map was established to provide a broad planning context in which to apply the above outlined land use classifications. The Growth Strategy Map shows the general location of strategic growth areas throughout the county. This map should be utilized to guide growth and development into the appropriate area of the county.



Land Use Classification

- Developed
- Transitional
- Community
- Rural
- Conservation

CASWELL COUNTY



Mapping by: Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Planning Department
Date: April 2014

Section 5 Plan Implementation

5.1 Recommendations for Implementing the Plan

To aid in the effective use of the Comprehensive Plan several actions will need to be taken.

1. Hold workshops for the County Commissioners and Planning Board on how the plan can be used upon adoption. These workshops can review different parts of the plan during scheduled meetings.
2. Implement a “Staff Recommendation” on all planning related items that come before the Planning Board and County Commissioners. The staff recommendation will include an analysis of how the item being considered is viewed by the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Make the necessary changes to the Caswell County Regulations that are recommended in this plan.
4. Inform citizens of the goals and policies established with the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

5.2 How to Use the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan

To aid in the effective use of this document, the following explains for example, how different users can employ the strategies and policies in deciding upon a typical development requests and planning for the future of Caswell County:

As Used by the Developer

The developer or property owner can submit a development request that is consistent with County policy, thereby increasing the chances for approval, and minimizing guess work and time wasted.

As Used by the County Staff

The Caswell County staff reviews development requests, recommends that the request be approved or denied, and prepares a report for the Planning Board. In making their decision and report, the staff reviews relevant planning documents, including plans adopted by the County. Using the adopted policies will facilitate the County staff’s review of the request. The staff will be able to point out those policies that support the request, and those that are in conflict with the request, thereby shaping the overall staff recommendation.

As Used by the Caswell County Planning Board

Prior to the regular meeting, each Planning Board member can make his or her own determination as to the consistency of the proposed request with the County's adopted Comprehensive Plan. As always, the Planning Board should take into account the true intent of the policies, but may choose to give different weight to different policies.

As Used by the General Public

Residents of Caswell County can and should reference specific policy statements when speaking in favor of or in opposition to a development requests and other growth related issues.

As Used by the Caswell County Board of Commissioners

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners can and should reference the Comprehensive Plan when making decision on future funding of County programs (i.e. parks, recreation, schools, etc.), reviewing potential development regulations, determining important community issues, and for guiding the overall development of Caswell County. Over time, a track record of policy interpretation forms a consistent foundation for decision making.

5.3 Revisions & Monitoring

As the Comprehensive Plan is used and development occurs in Caswell County it will be necessary to make revisions to the plan in order to keep it current. A major development, new road, or water and/or sewer extension can drastically change an area of the planning jurisdiction. It is recommended that the County periodically review the Comprehensive Plan to examine the changes that have occurred and to recommend any revisions.

The Caswell County Planning Department Staff will be responsible for bringing the Comprehensive Plan back before the Planning Board once a year. This will provide the Planning Board with an opportunity to discuss how well the plan has been implemented and review any changes that need to be made. It should be noted that Staff, the Planning Board, and the County Commissioners should make minor changes to the plan as necessary. Additionally, County Staff should keep track of successes that have come as a result of the plan and periodically provide elected officials and the public with an update on the value of the plan and its accomplishments.

- A. Resources**
- B. Grant Resources**
- C. Caswell County Bicycling Brochure**
- D. Community Meetings Documents**
- E. Polk County, NC Agriculture Economic Development Director Job Description**
- F. Caswell County Local Foods Directory**
- G. Caswell County Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Access Project**

Appendix A - Resources

For additional planning resources, visit the Caswell County Comprehensive Plan Website:
www.ptrc.org/caswellldp

Economic Development and Agriculture	
Caswell County Local Foods Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Foods Council Coordinator: Marcy Williams, MPH, CHES Health Educator Caswell County Health Department P.O. Box 1238 Yanceyville, NC 27379 (336)-694-4129 mwilliams@caswellnc.us
Center for Creative Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.ccl.org
Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm Incubator Resources Website: http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/whatwedo/foodsystems/incubatorfarmresources2a.html
Feast Down East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.feastdowneast.org
NC Cooperative Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caswell County Cooperative Extension: Joey Knight, III, County Extension Director 126 Court Square Agriculture Building Yanceyville, NC 27379 (336)-694-4158 Agriculture Economic Development: Michael Lanier, Economic Development Agent P.O. Box 8181 Hillsborough, NC 27278 (919)-245-2063 Local Foods: http://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu
NC Downtown Development Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.ncdda.org
NC Small Town Main Street Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.nccommerce.com/rd/main-street/small-town-main-street-program Western NC Small Town Main Street Coordinator: Sherry Adams 31 College Plaza, Suite 107 Asheville, NC 28801 (828)-251-6914 sadams@nccommerce.com

NC State Historic Preservation Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov
Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex, Pittsylvania County, VA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.theodac.com
Piedmont Food & Agriculture Processing Center, Hillsborough, NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://pfap.virb.com
Piedmont Rural Economic Development Marketing Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participating Counties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Davie County: http://www.daviecountyedc.com ○ Davidson County: http://www.co.davidson.nc.us ○ Randolph County: http://www.rcedc.com ○ Rockingham Co.: http://www.ncnorthstar.com ○ Stokes County: http://stokesedc.org ○ Surry County: http://www.surryedp.com ○ Yadkin County: http://www.yadkinedc.com
Piedmont Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.piedmonttogether.org ○ Walker, Jennifer. (2014). Planning for a Networked Produce Storage and Aggregation System for the Piedmont Triad Region. ○ Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc. (2014). Developing a Strategic Plan for Regional Farm Incubation: Hines Chapel Incubator Farm.
Pilot Mountain Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.pilotmountainpride.com
Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hodgson, Kimberley. (2012). American Planning Association Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans. http://www.planning.org/research/foodaccess
Polk County, NC Economic Development Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.polkedc.com
Preservation North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.presnc.org
W.C. Breeze Family Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.orangecountyfarms.org/PLANTatBreeze.asp

General Land Use Strategies	
Alamance County Heavy Industrial Use Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.alamance-nc.com/commissioners/ordinances
Caswell County Unified Development Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.caswellcountyudo.com
Trees and Local Regulations in NC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/ordinance/ordinances.php
Watershed Ordinance Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piedmont Triad Regional Council Water Resources: Cy Stober Water Resources Manager Piedmont Triad Regional Council 1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive Kernersville, NC 27284 (336)-904-0300 cstober@ptrc.org
Health & Wellness	
Caswell County Community Health Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.cchd.caswellnc.us/resources/CHA+2011-Caswell-Finalb.pdf
Caswell County Health Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Educator: Marcy Williams, MPH, CHES Caswell County Health Department P.O. Box 1238 Yanceyville, NC 27379 (336)-694-4129 mwilliams@caswellnc.us
Community Transformation Grant (CTG): Region 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://allin4health.com
CTG Region 5: Planning for Public Health Gap Analysis (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website: http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldpresources
UNC-CH Gillings School of Global Public Health Graduate Student Research <u>Capstone Team:</u> Rebecca Chávez Charla Hodges Casey Horvitz Tiffany Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chávez, R., Hodges, C., Horvitz, C. & Williams, T. (2014). <i>Caswell County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Access Project Deliverables</i>. Unpublished manuscript, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Website: http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldpresources

Parks & Recreation and Transportation	
Let's Go NC! - NCDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Skills Program for Healthy, Active Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/safetyeducation/letsгонc
Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization (PTRPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.ptrc.org/ptrpo ○ PTRPO Coordinator: Jesse Day Senior Regional Planner Piedmont Triad Regional Council 1398 Carrollton Crossing Drive Kernersville, NC 27284 (336)-904-0300 jday@ptrc.org
Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Active Routes to School Region 5 Coordinator: Jennifer Delcourt, MPH Wake County Human Services, Public Health Division 10 Sunnybrook Road, Suite 367C Raleigh, NC 27610 (919)-212-8465 jennifer.delcourt@wakegov.com <i>(Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Durham, Guilford, Orange, Person, Rockingham, and Wake Counties)</i> ○ North Carolina Program Website: http://www.ncdot.gov/programs/safety ○ National Partnership Website: http://saferoutespartnership.org ○ National Center Website: http://www.saferoutesinfo.org
Shared-Use Agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alamance County ○ Person County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldpresources
Shoals Community Recreation Center Master Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.ptrc.org/index.aspx?page=241
Recent and Past Planning Efforts for Caswell County	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caswell County Strategic Plan (1992) ○ Land Use Plan (2003) ○ 21st Century Plan (2005) ○ Heritage Trails Master Plan (2012) ○ Senior Center Trail Plan (2008) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldpresources
Caswell County Farmland Protection Plan (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website: http://www.piedmontconservation.org/caswellfpp

Appendix B - Grant Resources

Economic Development	
FCC Broadband Opportunities for Rural America	Website: http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/index.htm?job=broadband_home
NC Broadband	Website: www.ncbroadband.gov
NC Rural Center	Website: http://www.ncruralcenter.org
USDA Community Connect Grants	Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html
Agriculture	
Family Farm Innovation Fund	Website: www.ncruralcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=96:consortium-major-projects&catid=47&Itemid=179
NC Specialty Crop Grant Program	Website: http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/scgrant/index.htm
USDA Grants and Loans	Website: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS
USDA Rural Development Grants	Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html
USDA Small Farm Funding Resources	Website: http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/small_farm_funding.htm
Parks & Recreation and Health & Wellness	
BlueCross BlueShield of NC Foundation	Website: http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/grants
Danville Regional Foundation	Website: http://www.drfonline.org/index.php
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust	Website: http://www.kbr.org
Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation	Website: http://www.lowes.com/cd_Charitable+and+Educational+Foundation_936258779
NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)	Website: http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php
NC Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	Website: http://www.ncparks.gov/About/trails_RTP.php

BIKE ROUTES

Route 1 : Bright Leaf Loop – 19.6 Miles
This route takes riders past the historic Slide Hill farm and the discovery site of the Bright Leaf tobacco curing process. The route is very long and should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.

Route 2 : Milton Loop – 20.8 miles
This route takes riders through historic Milton. Incorporated in 1796, Milton is one of the oldest towns in Caswell County. Just into Virginia is the Virginia Memorial Parkway (VMP), which is one of the best spots for car and RV sales. Just south of Seneca on Highway 119 is Red House Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1756. General Cornwallis ransacked much of this community after chasing General Nathaniel Greene to the Dan River in February of 1781. Along this route, riders will find many 19th century homes and farm buildings. Overall, this route is fairly flat with only a few hills, many from Milton to VR, the Staeburg Road and Longs Mill Road.

Route 3 : Hyco Lake Loop – 22.0 miles
This route takes riders through historic Leesburg, the original county seat when Caswell County was formed in 1777. Riders will find many 19th century homes in Leesburg. Also along the route riders will pass 1753 The Old Presbyterian Church, founded by Hugo Boden in 1753. The church is a beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture. A pleasant route is generally easy, smooth riding with a few long hills along Griens Church Road, NC Hwy 119 near Hyco Lake and the Osmond Road crossing Hyco Lake.

Route 4 : Cherry Grove Loop – 22.1 miles
This route is a highlight of the best and most productive and beautiful farmland in Caswell County. The route is relatively easy with very few steep hills.

CONNECTORS

The connectors serve as link between the various routes in the county enabling riders to customize their cycling routes for longer distances. By using the connectors, it's possible to circle the entire county.

Baynes Store Connector – 10.7 miles
This connector links the Hyco Lake Loop (Route 3) to the Cherry Grove Loop (Route 4). The connector follows NC 119 to Baynes Store and follows Baynes Road to NC 62. The connector then crosses NC 62 and connects with Union Ridge Road on the Cherry Grove Loop. This connector is very easy with few hills.

Caswell Connector – 10.7 miles
This connector links the Cherry Grove Loop (Route 4) to the Park Springs Loop (Route 7). The route runs from the Cherry Grove Road at Camp Springs along the Camp Springs Road to Ashland and then

BIKE ROUTES

Route 5 : Mizseville Loop – 18.2 miles
This route takes riders past historic Locust Hill. The armies of both the British and General Cornwallis passed by this location during the Battle of the Clouds on September 12, 1781. The Locust Hill is located at the intersection of Wagon Wheel Road, NC 150. This store served as a stage stop, country store and post office and is one of the oldest remaining commercial structures in North Carolina. This route is moderate with a few long hills mainly along Wagon Wheel Road and Stony Creek School Road.

Route 6 : Game Lands Loop – 18.4 miles
On this route riders will experience the old and the new in highway construction. Badgett Sisters Parkway is "old NC 62" and features two (2) one lane bridges built in 1922 over Country Line Creek. This section of the route runs through the Caswell Game Lands with many light turns and steep hills that will make some riders think they're in the mountains. The route also passes by the historic Courthouse in Yanceyville. Badgett Place, the Courthouse was constructed between 1857 and 1861 and is one of the most beautiful Italianate Victorian Courthouses remaining in North Carolina. The Badgett Sisters Parkway is hilly and steep with many sharp curves and should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.

Route 7 : Park Springs Loop – 19.8 miles
This route travels along some of the highest points in the County and offers riders many beautiful views of the county. Along this route, riders will pass many 19th century plantation homes. The route is moderate with a few long hills.

Route 8 : Park Springs Loop – 15.9 miles
The Route features a stop at the Piedmont Triad Visitors Center, one of the best travel and tourism information centers in the state. Except for Park Springs Road section, this route has many long hills over the rough terrain typical of this rather isolated section of northwest Caswell County. Even into the early 20th Century, this was a sparsely populated "frontier" area and it still retains much of that character. This route should be considered difficult for novice cyclists.

follows the Ashland Road to the Park Springs Road US 158 intersection in Caswell County on the Park Springs Road (Route 7) to the Farm Road where it connects to the Park Springs Loop (Route 7). It also connects with the Pelham Loop (Route 6) at Law Road. The route is very easy with few hills.

Park Springs Connector – 2.4 miles
This connector links the Park Springs Loop (Route 7) to the Bright Leaf Loop (Route 1) at the Providence Community. This connector is short, but hilly.

County Home Connector – 4.1 miles
This connector links the Courthouse Square in Yanceyville and the Gamelands Loop (Route 6) to the Bright Leaf Loop (Route 1). The route is very easy with one only hill going up Fretower Road to the County Home Road.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CASWELL COUNTY

Caswell County was established in 1777, and much of its history and way of life is clearly visible as you make your way around the county.

Following the ratification of the United States Constitution of 1776, Caswell County was the first county created during the first session of the new State of North Carolina legislature.

Rich in history, the county retains more than 300 historically significant buildings and sites, the crowning touch being the Old Caswell Courthouse on the square in Yanceyville.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Caswell County Office of Economic Development and Tourism
P.O. Box 98
Yanceyville, NC 27379
www.caswellcountync.gov

NORTH CAROLINA

A better place to be

www.visitnc.com

CASWELL COUNTY BICYCLING

Bike Routes & Connectors



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

CASWELL COUNTY BIKE ROUTES

Caswell County's sparse rural population makes it a wonderful place to bicycle with little traffic congestion and much scenic beauty. Caswell County has more 18th and 19th century dwellings and structures than any other county in the state. The homes range from the Grandeur of 19th century tobacco plantations to early settler log cabins and farm buildings that can be seen along all of the bicycle routes in the county. You'll find that Caswell County automobile drivers will "share the road" with cyclists and usually move over to pass cyclists in the opposite lanes of travel. We hope you will enjoy your cycling adventures in Caswell County and will come back often.

BICYCLE LAWS

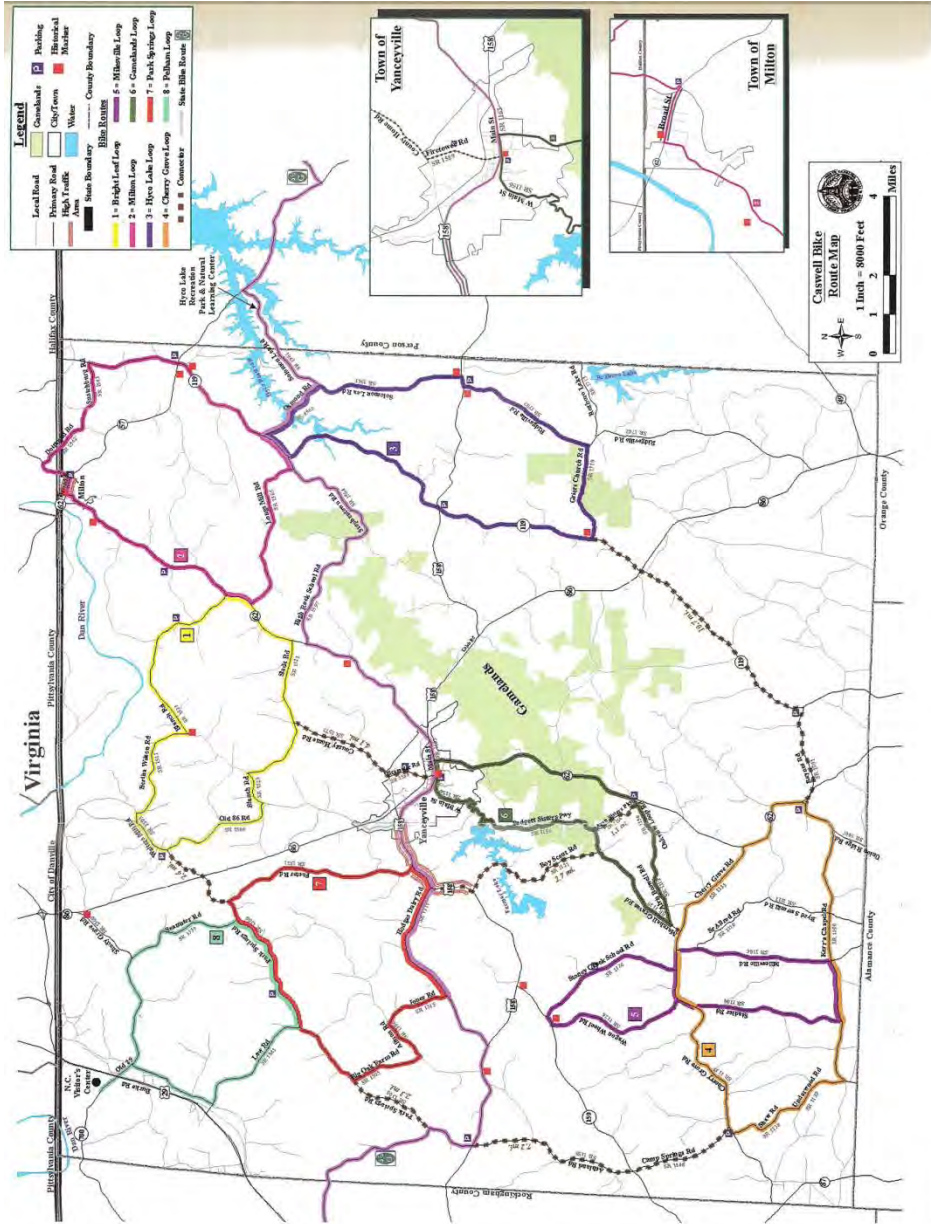
In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a vehicle. Under North Carolina law, bicyclists are required to:

- Ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic
- Obey all traffic signs and signals
- Use hand signals to communicate intended movements
- Equip your bicycle for night riding with a front lamp visible 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet

In addition, cyclists under the age of 16 are required by North Carolina law to wear an approved bicycle helmet.

SAFETY TIPS

- Ride defensively and in a predictable manner
- Wear a bicycle helmet every time you ride your bike
- Avoid riding at night, if possible
- When riding in a group, ride single file
- Wear bright-colored clothes to increase your visibility
- Be courteous to motorists
- Keep traffic flowing by helping motorists pass safely



AGENDA
Community Meetings
Caswell County Comprehensive Plan
February 11, 18, 25, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

- 6:30 **Arrival / Sign-In / Work on Map & Answer General Questions**
- 6:45 **Welcome and Meeting Overview**
- Review Agenda
 - Review History of Planning Process
 - Review Purpose of Community Meeting
 - Introduce Small Group Workshop
- 7:00 **Small Group Workshops (Economic Development, Health & Wellness, and Agricultural & Rural Preservation)**
- Work individually to answer questions
 - Share individual answers with group & record on flip charts
 - Hang flip chart sheets on wall
 - Give each participant 10 dots (for voting)
- 7:30 **Prioritize Ideas & Strategies**
- Vote for "Top 10 Ideas" (using dots)
- 7:50 **BREAK**
- 8:00 **Summarize Results**
- Survey Questions
 - Ideas & Strategies
- 8:15 **Open Discussion**
- 8:25 **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**
- 8:30 **Adjourn**

Small Group Workshop – Focus Issues

1. Economic Development:

What should Caswell County do to improve Economic Development efforts (start/stop/continue)?

2. Health and Wellness:

What should Caswell County do to improve health and wellness in the County (start/stop/continue)?

3. Agricultural/Rural Preservation:

What should Caswell County do to improve agricultural/rural preservation (start/stop/continue)?

Small Group Workshop – INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Introduce yourself**
- 2. Ask others to introduce themselves (quickly)**
- 3. Pass out pencils & ask everyone your issue.**
- 4. Invite everyone to answer the question individually (in writing)**
 - There are no right or wrong answers
 - Everyone's ideas are important and valuable

- 5. Ask each person to share one idea**
 - Write each persons idea on the flip chart
- 6. Review flip charts and ask the group for any new ideas**

- 7. Hand out 10 DOTS to each person (to vote for their top ten issues)**
- 8. Hang flip chart sheets on the wall and ask everyone to vote**

Economic Development: What should Caswell County do to improve Economic Development efforts (start/stop/continue)?

Start	# of Votes
Thinktank Committee to develop alternative revenue options for farmers	4
Agritourism - tours of family farms, vineyards, Sleepy Goat Farm	3
Create an asset inventory - bring together current efforts and create an online map	
Thinking regionally - utilize Danville Regional Foundation	
Annual flower show, antique festival, bike fest	3
Promote daytrips	
County website improvement	
Cultivating entrepreneurs	2
Select a county flower as a promotion concept	3
Ag Center	13
Promote ag technology related jobs	
Economic Development staff position (paid)	13
Funding for economic development program	
Creating infrastructure	6
Broadband infrastructure	14
Student tech training in high school	
Sell and develop county strengths being proactive	2
Explore new and innovative marketing practices	4
Marketing tourism	
Tourism development (trails, history, lodging)	15
Improving education/school system	14
Family sports center (pool, batting cages, b-ball, bowling)	11
Entrepreneurship/land use classes	4
Educational transportation	3
Homes and training for ex-cons	9

Economic Development

Start	# of Votes
Retirement community (*Major category in health and wellness)	1
Diesel training school	2
Develop a greater communication channel to disseminate economic development efforts and opportunities	2
Conduct extensive needs assessment instrument to determine high potential areas	
Assess resources and determine how they are used	
Expand major highway arteries to four lanes (86/62/158)	2
Occupancy tax	
Board of Commissioners need to support economic development	3
Zoning in county	2
Base decisions on facts	
Stop	# of Votes
Underutilizing vacant land	
Territorial mindset -- think outside county lines	
Lack of information about opportunities	
Lack of infrastructure, shell buildings	
Lack of product and economic development program	
Lack of collaboration	
City and County working together poorly	6
Defeating attitudes	6
Ignoring economic plans	8
Development by unempowered committee	3
Status quo	
Infighting	
Hidden agendas	3
Doing the same thing the same way =	2

Economic Development

Continue	# of Votes
New Economic Development Committee	
Caswell Fresh	
Bright Leaf Festival	6
Ag and rural preservation	3
Finding ways to adapt to changes	
Working regionally	
Infrastructure in industrial parks	2
Utilize existing train and roadways	
Increase broadband access	3
Accessible leadership	
Ag Extension	
Solar farm development	1

Health and Wellness: What should Caswell County do to improve health and wellness efforts (start/stop/continue)?

Start	# of Votes
Access to local foods	5
Farmers Market	4
Selling local produce at corner stores	6
Advertisements for local produce in Caswell Messenger	
Publishing recipes in Caswell Messenger	5
Better location and signage for farmers market	
Accept food stamps at local farms	
Better food/grocery choices	11
Access to physical activity - YMCA	
Promoting sports in schools (especially elementary schools)	1
Community centers/joint use agreements in all areas	
Create exercise stations	
Promote bike routes at local bicycle shops	
Install bike lanes	
Coordinate with NCDOT/RPO	
Evaluate rail trail opportunities	
Heritage Master Trail Plan	2
Outdoor recreation opportunities	6
Indoor recreation opportunities	
Revitalize parks and recreation	4
Walking/bike trails through towns and around county-- Farmers Lake, Semora Ruritan Club	11
Retirement communities with amenities and medical services	3
Cluster development with open space preservation	
Workshops on gardening, canning	
Incorporate agriculture in classroom	

Health and Wellness

Start	# of Votes
Community gardens	
Re-education at home about healthy practices	
Network health care facilities in central location	
Education in high school and community for better nutrition	6
EHR Clinics - hospitals	1
Increased support for pre-hospital care	3
Attract additional health care providers and mental health services	3
Housing and support for veterans	
Identify most prevalent needs and determine where resources are being directed	
Establish urgent care facilities	2
Improving access for medical care, outdoor recreation, and options to be active	7
Stop	# of Votes
High obesity, heart disease rates	
Toxins in foods	
Decline of Parks and Recreation Dept.	
Farmers having to leave county to sell produce	
Underutilizing faith-based organizations for community efforts	
Holding back grant monies and requests	6
People being inactive	3
Continue	# of Votes
Caswell Fresh subscription sales	
Existing clinics	1
Expanding programs for seniors and other age groups	7
Developing a plan for local fresh produce	8
Increase health director authority	1
Urgent Care services	3
Safety net organizations	
Farmers market at Cedar Ridge	1
Local food council	

Agricultural and Rural Preservation: What should Caswell County do to improve agricultural and rural area preservation (start/stop/continue)?

Start	# of Votes
Access to local foods	3
Create a farm inventory	
Promote development rights	
Opportunities for younger generations	
Annual flower show, antique festival, bike fest	
Promote historical assets - tobacco barns, museum	
Incorporate agriculture in classroom	
Community gardens	
Select a county flower as a promotion concept	
Vacant land lease opportunities - long-term leases	5
Mentoring programs	
Utilize resources at NCA&T and NC State	
Better location and signage for farmers market	8
Accept food stamps at local farms	
Greenhouse production	5
Ag Center	5
Research collaboration with universities	
Promote ag technology related jobs	
Raising muscadine grapes for sale	
Increase goat meat industry	1
Growth opportunities for existing farmers	11
Agritourism	22
Internships for students on farms	
Promote solar farms	8
Recruiting programs to preserve rural land	10

Agriculture and Rural Preservation

Start	# of Votes
Provide incentive for rural preservation program	
Buffers when loggers are cutting trees and reforestation after logging	15
Expand FFA	1
Agriculture "zones"	10
Determine value of ag industry and determine the potential for growth	2
Establish measures to enhance farmers coalition, strategic alliances, and co-op possibilities	9
Explore ways to use environmental, clean water, erosion control, and proactive	1
Conservation measures to enhance ag/rural preservation	4
Horse trails	5
Bike trails	3
Walking trails	1
Gun range	1
Historical sites	6
County museum (tobacco, plantation, civil war, horses, tractors, seed)	3
Encourage farms and agribusiness	5
Agri-education (4-H)	1
Alternative crops	2
Welcoming visitors	1
Stop	# of Votes
Underutilizing vacant land	
Farmers having to leave county to sell produces	
Trashing the county	
Selling family land due to not having options	
Old school mentality	7
Undervaluing local farms	

**Agriculture and
Rural Preservation**

Continue	# of Votes
Caswell Fresh subscription sales	
Century farms	
Bright Leaf Festival	
Expansion of voluntary agricultural districts	12
Looking for ways to develop farms in the future and use alternative land	3
Tax incentive for land development/use	
FFA	
Provide good quality food	2

Appendix E - Polk County, NC Agriculture Economic Development Director Job Description

Position Description:
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Polk County, North Carolina

The Polk County Agricultural Economic Development Director (AEDD) will design and implement a comprehensive plan for agricultural economic development that promotes the agriculture, horticulture and forest industries, enhances the economic viability of farming, and expands Polk County's agricultural infrastructure. The plan will be supportive of the previously approved countywide Farmland Protection Plan and will be developed with the input and oversight of the county's Agricultural Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board.

Specific AEDD responsibilities:

The AEDD, with the approval of the Agricultural Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board will:

- a) Develop and promote programs to enhance the productivity, economic vitality and sustainability of the county's agriculture industry and businesses (including growers, agritourism and equine- related, in that order of priority).
- b) Counsel farmers and landowners on agricultural marketing and business development issues.
- c) Work with individuals and organizations to enhance the viability of local agriculture through product diversification, direct marketing, promotion of local products, and value-added opportunities by linking with available expertise.
- d) Help agricultural producers achieve greater profitability by identifying new market opportunities, partnerships and practices.
- e) Oversee the management and continuing development of local farmers markets and promotion of county agriculture resources.
- f) Increase the public's understanding of locally grown products as well as agricultural issues and practices through such initiatives as 1) overseeing creation and maintaining editorial responsibility for a new farm-specific web site; 2) presentations and speeches to community groups, agricultural associations, schools, local businesses and the general public; 3) writing and distributing press releases, 4) coordinating farm presence and involvement at area events.
- g) Promote and administer the preservation of farmland by working with other county departments and private conservation/land bank groups on agricultural and/or conservation easements, purchase of development rights programs, soil and water easements, etc.
- h) Conduct market and other relevant research and feasibility studies; develop databases and maintain statistical data.
- i) Work collaboratively with private agencies, other Polk County departments, Economic Development director/commission, Soil and Water Conservation, Cooperative Extension and others to develop a strategy and programs for agricultural-based economic development.
- j) Help establish and facilitate cooperative buyer and seller groups to enable small producers to benefit from bulk purchase and sale efficiencies.
- k) Coordinate networking between agricultural producers, suppliers, government agencies and all agricultural groups.
- l) Seek grants to support the goals and objectives of the agricultural economic development plan; write and review grant applications and administer grants as awarded.
- m) Maintain positive working relationships with other agriculture-related entities on county, state and federal levels, and with any outside consultants/organizations contracted to provide specialized project expertise.
- n) Provide advice, guidance and expertise on agricultural development plans, policies, trends and related agricultural issues, serving as an advisor to the Board of Commissioners (BOC), County manager and others as requested.
- o) Manage office budgets, policies and procedures.

Polk County AEDD Position Description — page 2

Education/Experience/Skills

Education: Master's Degree preferred (Bachelor's Degree considered) in agriculture, marketing, business management, public policy or a closely related field; or equivalent occupational experience, with significant related experience in agriculture and marketing.

Experience: A minimum of three years of related experience in agricultural development, agribusiness or agritourism plus knowledge of local, state and federal policies and programs affecting agriculture are preferred.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Experience and knowledge of the challenges facing agriculture, preferably in environment(s) similar to Polk County.
- Understanding of and ability to manage strategic planning process.
- Ability to plan and manage multiple projects and programs.
- Capacity to link with available expertise and apply expert information to local situations.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully market programs and products.
- Excellent written, verbal and presentation skills (writing sample will be required).
- Demonstrated ability to secure and administer grants and contracts.
- Ability to work effectively with a variety of groups and individuals and establish and maintain networks.
- A commitment and passion for agricultural community economic development.
- An entrepreneurial mentality/spirit.
- Computer skills in word processing, spreadsheets, database management and website maintenance.
- Ability to develop and adhere to departmental and program budgets.

Special Requirements

- Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including some weekend and evening commitments.
- Must have a source of transportation to meet job requirements.

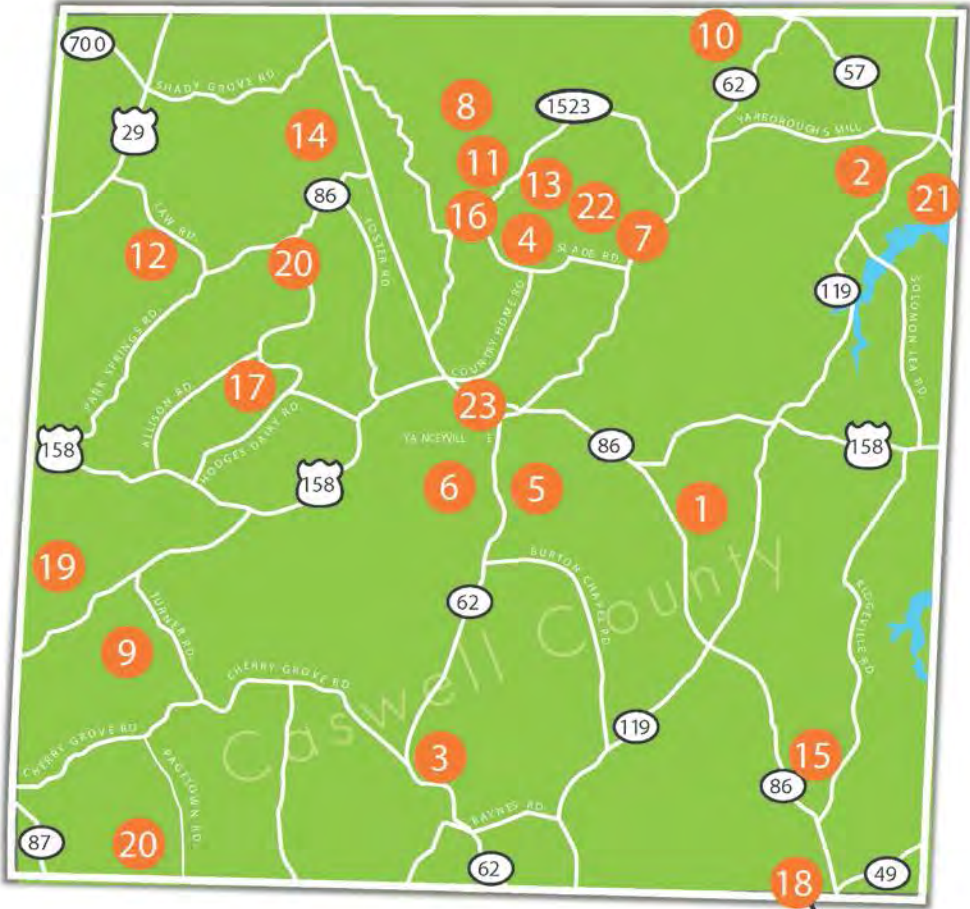
Reporting Relationships

For administration purposes the AEDD position will report to the Polk County Manager. Direction and oversight on plan and program development and implementation will be provided by the Agricultural Advisory/Farmland Preservation Board.

Salary dependent upon experience.



Caswell County Local Foods Directory



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 
Produce | 
Beef/Dairy | 
Eggs/Poultry |
| 
Strawberries | 
Pork | 
Cheese |
| 
Herbs | 
Goat Meat | 
Honey |
| 
Plants | 
Wool, Fleece, Yarn | 
Soap |

- 1**  **Baldwin Family Farms**
 Mac Baldwin
 5341 NC Hwy 86S
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 336-694-4218 / 336-344-BEEF
 www.baldwinfamilyfarms.com
- 2**  **Barker Farms**
 David and Heather Barker
 684 Jack Pointer Road
 Semora, NC 27243
 336-234-9960
- 3**  **Byrd Farm**
 Susanne Hawkins
 9773 NC Hwy 62S
 Burlington, NC 27217
 336-260-9159
 www.byrdfarm.org
- 4**  **Catbriar Farm**
 Graham and Sara Broadwell
 3747 County Home Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-694-9556
 sgbroadwell@gmail.com
- 5**  **Cedar Ridge Farmers' Market**
 Lucas Bernard
 1773 Old Hwy 86N
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 336-694-1814
- 6** **County Outreach Ministry**
 Paul and Alice Robinson
 225 N 3rd Street
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 336-694-4224
 (Surplus food for the needy)
- 7**  **Dahnmar Farms LLC**
 Don Leathers
 7887 Dailey Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-514-5444
- 8**  **George Worsham**
 1208 Talbott Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-694-6756
- 9**  **Hall's Strawberry and Vegetable Farm**
 Thomas Hall
 179 Oakus Page Road
 Reidsville, NC 27320
 336-421-0693
 Pick your own May - August
- 10**  **Hilltop Flock**
 Bertie Jones Jr.
 1036 Riverbend Road
 Milton, NC 27359
 336-234-8735
- 11**  **J&W Produce**
 Penny Crompton
 459 Talbott Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-694-5347
- 12**  **Johnny Dameron**
 5857 Park Springs Road
 Pelham, NC 27311
 434-251-1652
- 13**  **Lil' Country Greenhouse**
 Shelia Duckett
 100 Dailey Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-694-6224
- 14**  **Little Meadows Farm**
 Liese Sadler
 432 Wilson Road
 Providence, NC 27315
 336-388-0295
- 15**  **Lunsford Farm**
 Ronnie and Helen Lunsford
 1378 Ridgeville Road
 Prospect Hill, NC 27314
 336-562-5437
- 16**  **Meadows Edge Farm**
 Phil and Elizabeth Barfield
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-459-3276
 www.meadowsedgefarmnc.com

- 
17 Moon Creek Farm
 Jan Smith
 2943 Hodges Dairy Road
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 336-694-4406

- 
18 Open Door Farm
 Ross and Jillian Mickens
 5220 Eno Cemetery Road
 Cedar Grove, NC 27231
 919-889-1299
www.opendoorfarmnc.com

- 
19 Pryor Farm
 Bernie and Cheryl Pryor
 3406 Ashland Road
 Reidsville, NC 27320
 336-342-1058

- 
20 Sleepygoat Farm
 7215 Allison Road
 Pelham, NC 27311
 336-388-5388
www.sleepygoatfarm.com

- 
21 Twin Oak Farms
 Tammy Carter and Johnny Goggin
 14906 NC Hwy 119N
 Semora, NC 27343
 336-234-7516

- 
22 West Landscaping
 Henry and Michelle West
 683 Dailey Road
 Blanch, NC 27212
 336-694-4987

- 
23 Yanceyville Farm and Flea Market
 Zack and Lisa Taylor
 1142 Main Street
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 336-514-2622



Made possible with funding from the North Carolina Community Transformation Grant Project and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Here in Caswell County, we're blessed with a wide variety of county farm-raised food. Support your community by buying fresh, local products from your farming neighbors.

The farmers listed in this directory are excited to form friendships with community residents and share their delicious food. Give them a call or stop by for a visit and start enjoying all the deliciousness that Caswell has to offer!

The Caswell County Local Foods Council and the Community Transformation Grant Project created this directory with the goal of increasing public awareness of local food suppliers and providing networking opportunities for local food supporters.

Please help spread the word about the importance of supporting your farming neighbors.



Why should I support local farmers?

1. Local food tastes better
2. Local food is better for you
3. Local food is an investment in future farms
4. Local food is safely produced
5. Local food supports local families
6. Local food builds communities
7. Local food preserves open space
8. Local food keeps taxes down
9. Local food benefits the environment
10. Local food preserves genetic diversity

Learn more by visiting
www.allin4health.com



BUY LOCAL! EAT FRESH!

To access the entire report, visit <http://www.ptrc.org/caswellldpresources>.

The Caswell County Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Access Project



2014 UNC Capstone Team

Rebecca Chávez
Charla Hodges
Casey Horvitz
Tiffany Williams

Caswell County Food Outlet Inventory Executive Summary

February 14, 2013 - Charla Hodges, Tiffany Williams, Rebecca Chávez, Casey Horvitz



EBT/SNAP refers to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. WIC refers to the Women, Infants, and Children's Program. Both programs are public programs to assist families in purchasing "healthy" foods

Promotion: How is it advertised?

- One out of 22 stores had parking lot advertisements for fresh produce.
- Seven stores had in-store advertisements, including visual displays of produce near the front entrance.
- All print advertisements were in English only.

Product: What is available?

- Most abundant type of produce available: Canned fruit and vegetables.
 - Top 3 canned fruits are:
 1. Peaches
 2. Fruit Cocktail
 3. Pineapples
 - Beans and tomatoes were the top vegetables
- Second most abundant: fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Eight out of 22 stores had fresh produce (two of these were Wal-Mart Express and Food Lion)
 - Bananas were the most common fresh fruit.
 - Five out of eight stores had near perfect produce; four out of eight stores had fully stocked produce.
 - No store had produce sourced from Caswell County.

Placement: Where is it located?

- Most produce (canned) located in the aisles behind/following processed foods and snacks.
- Second location for produce was near registers (fresh produce)
- Windows had the most potential for produce advertisements, followed by interior walls, and ends of shelves. Next to registers also served as a prime location.

Price: How much is it?

- Average Cost of Canned Produce:
- Average Cost of Fresh Produce
- Average Cost of Frozen Produce:
- 12 stores (out of 22) accept SNAP/EBT benefits, including Wal-Mart Express and Food Lion
 - Nine out of 12 stores advertise this benefit
- Five stores accept WIC benefits, including Wal-Mart Express and Food Lion.

Recommendations

Site Hosts: The Senior Center, Farm and Flea Market, and Caswell Parish's emergency food distribution sites were explicitly identified as potential hosts for the Veggie Van. The importance of selecting sites that can attract families, such as schools, was also discussed.

Local Suppliers: Generating local commerce seems to be as significant a concern as promoting fruit and vegetable consumption. The Veggie Van should collaborate with local farmers to sell their produce in Caswell.

Advertising: Word of mouth was reported to be the most effective method for disseminating information, and will be key for promoting the Veggie Van. Informants also identified the Caswell Messenger and the local radio station.



Partner Agencies

To successfully implement the Veggie Van program, the following partners have been identified based on project needs:



Caswell County CTG Staff



The Community Nutrition Partnership



UNC HB Capstone Team

The UNC HB Capstone Team would like to send a special thank you to the residents of Caswell County who participated in the survey and to the Caswell Local Foods Council.

© October 2013



What Do You Eat?

A Summary of Caswell County's Community Assessment on Barriers and Facilitators to Eating Local Produce



Rebecca Chavez
Charla Hodges
Casey Hovitz
Tiffany Williams



Themes

Access and Availability: Grocery stores appear to be the primary source of produce. More than half also reported growing food in their own garden and using a friends garden to supplement what they don't have. 61% of respondents didn't know where to purchase produce, and mention inconvenient hours of farmers markets or produce stands. 74% said if they had more locations to choose from it would improve consumption. **Cost:** Local food is seen as expensive, and thus serves as a barrier to consumption, as reported by 16%. As such, reasonable price was seen as a facilitator to consumption (57%). Cost is also a factor for local farmers due to the significant investment of time, and resources to build a customer base. **Quality:** Food that has "traveled" shorter distances is believed to taste better. 16% of survey respondents noted higher quality as an incentive for buying locally. **Staying Local:** Small farmers expressed strong sentiments about buying locally grown produce valuing the economic impact of "staying local".



Purpose and Methods

The purpose of this document is to share findings of the UNC Capstone team Community Assessment of Caswell County. These findings provide a summary of the most salient barriers and enabling factors to healthy eating in the county and inform recommendations for addressing them. To assess the perceptions around healthy eating, here defined as increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, the UNC Capstone team reviewed data from the Caswell County Local Foods Community Survey. To supplement these findings, the Team located community stakeholders and asked them a series of questions developed by the evaluation arm of the Community Nutrition Partnership. Informants included farmers, members of the Local Food Council, city employees, staff and users of the Caswell Senior Center and Caswell Parish, along with Farm and Flea Market vendors.

Caswell County Fast Stats

Population: 23,403

Racial Demographics:

- ⇒ White: 64%
- ⇒ African American: 33.8%
- ⇒ Hispanic: 3.3%

Median Income: \$36,927 (compared to \$45,570 statewide)

Percent in Poverty: 21.7% (compared to 15.5% statewide)

Children Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch: 69.44% (compared to 56% statewide)

Sample Health Indicators

Between 2006 and 2010, the leading cause of death in Caswell County was **heart disease**, and Diabetes mellitus was in the top 10 causes of death.

