Moore County
Board of Commissioners

September 17, 2025 | 1:00 PM
Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center
302 S. McNeill Street
Carthage, NC 28327

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Chairman Kurt Cook, Vice Chairman Nick Picerno, Jim Von Canon, John Ritter, Tom Adams

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Cook called the special joint meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners and the Moore County Planning Board to order.

County Manager Wayne Vest offered the invocation. Chairman Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Vest gave a brief overview of the meeting.

LAND USE PLAN UPDATE AND DISCUSSION
The Planning Staff has compiled the changes made during last week's meetings regarding the Land Use Plan, and this meeting will be used to review those changes. This document is hereby made a part of these minutes by attachment as Appendix A.

Land Use Plan/Unified Development Ordinance Director Debra Ensminger began by reviewing **Chapter 7** of the Land Use Plan (LUP). Changes that were made are reflected below:

Goal 1

Recommendation 1.3

Action 1.3.1 – Discussion was had regarding the "Green Growth Toolbox" stated in this action item, and it was decided to remove the "Green Growth Toolbox" from this action item. This action item should read, "Utilize this plan to guide zoning map updates, updates to the Unified Development Ordinance, rezoning decisions, and other policies and procedures that promote conservation of rural lands".

Recommendation 1.4 – It was decided to strike this entire recommendation.

Recommendation 1.6 – It was decided to leave this recommendation as presented.

Action 1.6.1 – It was decided to strike this action.

Recommendation 1.10 – Discussion was had regarding the definition of "undesirable" or "unattractive", and who defines these.
Mr. Hayter offered comments and stated that he was unaware of any adverse or unintended consequences resulting from the current language in the UDO overlays regarding residential use in those districts. He apologized for not being aware of this information.
Chairman Cook, Vice Chairman Picerno, Commissioner Ritter, and Commissioner Adams offered comments.
A discussion was held amongst the group regarding the highway corridor overlay.
Ms. Ensminger suggested that the Board of Commissioners request a review of the highway corridor to identify potential changes that could be made.

Action 1.10.4 - County Attorney Misty Leland suggested this action should read, "Support and promote development in harmony with existing character in conjunction with the LUP that will optimize the use of existing infrastructure," and make this action Recommendation 1.10. The recommendation presented would be deleted.
It was decided to have the Planning Board research the highway corridor and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on their findings.
Ms. Leland stated that having the Planning Board review the highway corridor could delay the completion date of the LUP. She also noted that the LUP could be modified now, submitted to the Planning Board for review, and this would keep the LUP on track for approval, avoiding any delays in the process. If the Board wishes to make any modifications to the highway corridor, the Board can approve text amendments regarding it.

Action 1.10.1 – It was decided to strike this action.
Action 1.10.2 – It was decided to strike this action.
Action 1.10.3 – It was decided to strike this action.
Action 1.10.4 – See action below.
Action 1.10.5 – It was decided to make this action as "Review and ensure the Highway Corridor Overlay Districts include support for all aspects of the Land Use Plan". This action will become 1.10.1.

Goal 2
Commissioner Von Canon offered comment regarding open spaces. Ms. Ensminger stated that a change to open spaces would require an update to the UDO. Discussion followed.

Goal 3
Recommendation 3.2 - Discussion was held regarding this section.
Action 3.2.3 – It was decided to strike this action item.
Action 3.2.9 - It was decided that this action item should read, "Explore opportunities for additional wastewater treatment capacity.

Recommendation 3.3
Action 3.3.2 – It was decided to strike the words "by regulating the adjacent land uses" from this action.

Recommendation 3.4 – It was decided to add the words "and allow" after the word Encourage.

Action 3.4.2 – It was decided to add the words "and allow" after the word Encourage.

Ms. Ensminger stated that at the end of Chapter 7, there are several maps. The staff suggested that these maps be moved to a separate chapter, specifically for maps. It was decided to move forward with this suggestion.

Ms. Ensminger stated that staff will update the document with the changes noted today, and it will go before the Planning Board on October 2, 2025, for review, a call-to-public hearing will be requested of the Board of Commissioners on October 7, 2025, and the public hearing will be held on October 21, 2025.

Commissioner Adams suggested that the items that could not be implemented be forwarded to the legislative delegation to begin conversations with them. This would hopefully draw attention to the concerns with these items.

Mr. Vest offered comments and thanked everyone for their work on the LUP.

WATER AND SEWER UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

After a short break, Mr. Vest provided a brief overview of the water and sewer updates to be presented today, which will include information on existing infrastructure, its connection to the future Land Use Map, and its relationship to the UDO.

Public Works Director Brian Patnode shared a map of Moore County infrastructure with everyone and gave a brief overview.

Mr. Patnode stated the future LUP should be completed with the map and recommendations finalized, then the future LUP can be used as the basis moving forward with the Utilities Master Plan. He said the Utilities Master Plan will take a high-level look and a detailed analysis of the capacities, the supplies, and the demands of zoning districts. He also provided a brief overview of these processes related to water.

Mr. Patnode gave a brief overview of the sewer infrastructure. There is currently a skeleton model that needs to be updated regarding sewer in Moore County. He offered comments on sewer and how this is being tracked currently. Mr. Patnode said the sewer is more challenging to project, but this will be examined in the Utilities Master Plan.

Mr. Patnode stated that the Utilities Master Plan will be utilized for future capital improvement projects.

A discussion was held regarding several projects currently underway in Moore County. The Utilities Master Plan will consolidate all the projects that have been worked on over the years into one.

Mr. Patnode stated that there will be a request for proposals submitted for outside consultant companies to assist with the Utilities Master Plan. This process will take approximately 3-6 months.

Vice Chairman Picerno asked if the project on Hwy 211 at Seven Lakes could be stopped so that sewer would not be extended beyond the business district. The initial request made to the state was for commercial development in Seven Lakes, not residential. Mr. Patnode said he did not think it was too late to investigate this. Mr. Vest stated that the Board of Commissioners could act on this matter during a regular board meeting. It was decided to place this item on the agenda for the October 7, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Mr. Patnode offered comments regarding fire flow. He stated that Moore County relies on the Fire Marshal to review the requirements and calculations for fire flow related to subdivisions and developments, and he provided further comments. He stated that fire flow is examined through the subdivision review board during the process, and he offered several examples. A discussion was held regarding fire flow and flow tests.

Commissioner Von Canon asked how fire flows are tracked as additional houses are added. Mr. Patnode said flow tests and model scenarios are performed yearly, and this information is provided to the Fire Marshall.

Vice Chairman Picerno asked if potential sites for additional water towers are being included in the Utilities Master Plan and if additional well sites are being continually evaluated. Mr. Patnode said they are still actively searching out wells, and he feels an elevated tank is an essential part of this plan.

Mr. Patnode said there are still old water lines in the county that need to be replaced. Discussion followed.

Chairman Cook thanked everyone in attendance and offered comments.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.

Kurt J. Cook

Chairman Kurt J. Cook

COUNTY OF MOORE CORPORATE SEAL NORTH CAROLINA

Jennifer Parks

Clerk to the Board Jennifer Parks

Moore County Land Use Plan



Moore County | North Carolina

Board of Commissioners

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Nick Picerno, Vice Chair

Jim Von Canon

John Ritter

Tom Adams

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John McLaughlin

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Hugh Hinton III

Robert Bortins

Land Use Plan Steering Committee

Scott Brewton – Retirement Community

Amanda Bullock – Realtor

Billy Carter – Farming & Agriculture

Rick Cloutier – Airport

Rich Crotty – Village of Whispering Pines, Planning Board

Elizabeth Futrell – Town of Carthage, Planning Board

Gene Garner – Robbins Community

Joe Garrison, County of Moore Planning Board

Travis Greene, Homebuilders/Developers

Natalie Hawkins, Economic Development

Matt Kitchen, Roads

Stephen Later, Equestrian Community

Tim Locklair, Public Schools

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Grisel Long, Cameron Community

Tom LoSapio, Seven Lakes Community

Jeff Marcus, Natural Resources

Frank McNeill, Pinebluff Community

Kelly Miller, Tourism

Zachary Oldham, Military

Michael Parker, Farming & Agriculture

Brian Patnode (EX-O), Utilities

Janet Peele, Town of Aberdeen Planning Board

Frank Quis (EX-O), Southern Pines Community

Neil Robinette, Homebuilders/Developers

Sandy Stewart, College

Matt Wimberly, Forestry

Process Leaders

Larry Best

Robert Hayter

Facilitator

Bill Zell

Planning Staff

Ruth Pedersen, Planning Director

Debra Ensminger, Land Use Plan/Unified Development Ordinance Director

Danielle Orloff, Senior Planner

Michael English, Senior Planner

Ashley Robinson, Administrative Officer I

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(Reserved page for photographs of Steering Committee Meetings)

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Chapter 1.

Introduction

In recent years, Moore County's Land Use Plan and Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) have become increasingly misaligned-and at times, even in conflict. The misalignment has complicated zoning and land use decisions, making it more challenging to manage growth effectively. A well-crafted Land Use Plan, grounded in clear principles and objectives, removes uncertainty and provides a strong foundation for decision-making.

Moore County stands out for its distinctive character, charm, and high-quality natural and cultural resources. These qualities contribute to its unique identity, making it a highly desirable place to live and visit. Communities that successfully retain their identity while adapting to change tend to have a thoughtful, intentional plan. Without a land use plan specifically designed to protect what makes Moore County special, these defining characteristics are at risk.

While the need for job creation, tax revenue, a diversified economy, and a variety of housing options is legitimate, these goals must be carefully balanced with property rights, conservation efforts, and the provision of essential community services. Sustaining and enhancing Moore County's character requires a proactive, coordinated approach to managing growth.

There is no single solution to the complex challenges that growth presents. Even with the best data and planning tools, some uncertainty is inevitable. However, this updated Land Use Plan aims to balance diverse interests of property owners, economic development, community needs, and environmental stewardship to create a resilient, forward-looking vision to Moore County.

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Moore County Land Use Plan Process

The planning process was inclusive, collaborative, and consensus driven. It began with the formation of a competent Steering Committee composed of a broad cross-section of accomplished and passionate citizens. The Committee was supported by key County departments, including:

- Planning Department
- Information Technology / Geographic Information System Department

- Tax Department
- Public Utilities Department
- Soil and Water Conservation Department

Unlike traditional land use planning efforts, which are often consultant-centric, this approach was notably different. The Committee met monthly for nine months, engaging in in-depth discussions that led to enhanced insights and more meaningful deliberation. The consistent participation of both committee members and County staff was integral to the success of this process.

While not every perspective or position could be fully reflected in the final Goals, Recommendations, or Actions, the discussions and debates demonstrated a shared concern: uncontrolled growth threatens the essential character and quality of life in Moore County. Without well-crafted policies, elected officials and staff lack the tools necessary to manage this challenge effectively.

The Goals, Recommendations, and Actions presented in this Plan reflect a collective commitment to shaping the County's growth in a way that aligns with its values and future aspirations. The Committee believes this Plan provides a strong and balanced foundation for Moore County's future.

This process is not about preserving the status quo or advancing any special interest; it is about embracing change thoughtfully while protecting what makes Moore County unique. It is about preparing for a future that respects the County's character, supports its citizens, and ensures a high quality of life for generations to come.

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Chapter 2.

Goals & Recommendations

The development of goals and recommendations is crucial to the land-use planning process. These form the framework for adding or amending ordinances and regulations that guide the development of the County. Goals are unifying statements of the County's preferred future. At the same time, recommendations provide a means for translating the vision into action and represent a set of guidelines for decision-making for the County on land use matters, including decisions on rezonings, text amendments, priorities, and similar decisions. There are two main sections of recommendations, with the first being the following set of goals and recommendations, which apply to development in general. The second, later in this plan, is the Future Land Map and Land Use Categories, which identify the intended land use pattern across the County's planning jurisdiction.

Goal 1: Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of Moore County.

Moore County has experienced steady growth since the previous update of the 2013 Use Plan. Specifically, the type of growth has included the conversion of agricultural land into residential land and major subdivisions, as well as commercial development and the creation of exempt subdivisions, such as the division of tracts into lots exceeding 10 acres. The goal and subsequent recommendations are designed to preserve the County's character, historical significance, and natural beauty, while allowing rural lifestyles to continue as the County's population grows.

The County's goal is to preserve its unique character, historical significance, and natural beauty for current and future

Recommendation(s)

Clarify the uses allowed in the rural areas of the county.

Create a Rural Agricultural Transition Overlay District on the Future Land Use Map. (FLUM)

Identify locations and create Small Town Overlay Districts on the Future Land Use Map. (FLUM)

Continue the present use value program (farm deferred) for agriculture, forestry, and horticulture and encourage the conservation of farmland as defined in G.S. 160D-921, to preserve and maintain the rural character of Moore County and ensure farming remains a viable part of the local economy.

Continue to encourage agriculture, agri-businesses & forestry throughout Moore County.

Preserve tracts of agricultural land to ensure that farming, agritourism, and cottage industries remain a viable part of the local economy.

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Recommendation(s)

Preserve regional agriculture and farmland as a source of healthy, local fruits and vegetables, and other food crops.

Encourage and support development and land use principles by ensuring Moore County's cultural, economic, and natural resources are considered appropriately.

Preserve and maintain the rural character of Moore County, including historic sites and structures, crossroad communities, and other physical features that reflect the County's heritage.

Support and promote local businesses.

Discourage undesirable or unattractive land uses.

generations. Achieving this will require a balanced approach that includes thoughtful policymaking, active community engagement, and responsible development practices.

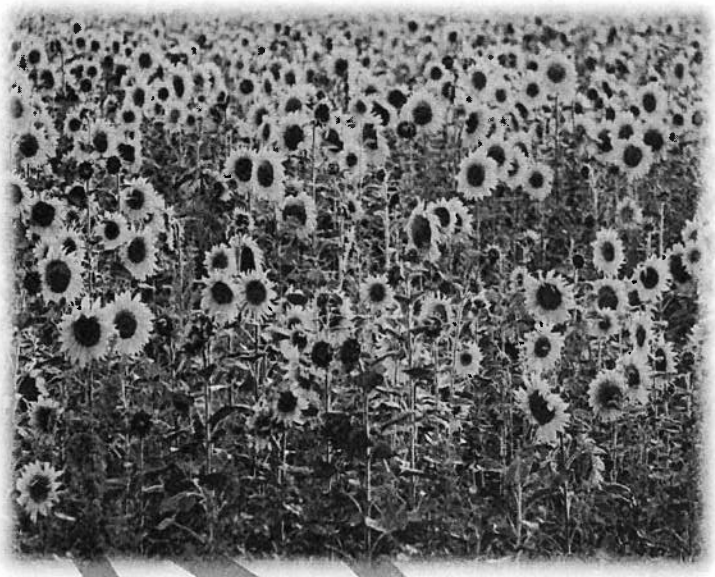


Figure 1.1 Field of Sunflowers, Source: Olde Carthage Farm



Figure 1.2 Strawberry Patch, Source: Older Carthage Farm

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Land uses that substantially and negatively impact military training on Fort Bragg, Camp Mackall, and aviation operations at the Moore County Airport include telecommunication towers and major subdivisions.



Figure 1.3. Telecommunications Tower. Source: Bing

Recommendation(s):

Use reasonable efforts to minimize incompatible land uses that would substantially and negatively impact military training on Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall.

Consider the effects of land uses that would substantially and negatively impact aviation operations at the Moore County Airport.



Figure 1.4. Subdivision Plan | Site Development Plan. Source: Bing

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Goal 2: Conserve Open Space and Protect Vital Resources to Enhance the Health and Wellness of the Community.

The County and its municipalities offer vibrant parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces, providing opportunities and a natural environment for citizens to enjoy. However, the need for interconnectivity of county and municipal resources is vital to meet the demands of outdoor recreation and ensure equitable access to recreational amenities for all residents. As the county's population has grown, the steering committee has expressed concern about the lack of publicly accessible open space and recreational opportunities within Moore County, as well as the disconnect between recreation plans. The development of a master parks, recreation, and open space plan will forecast the future recreational needs of Moore County and provide opportunities for collaboration and maximization of limited resources. Additionally, managing open space will protect the built environment, prevent overdevelopment in flood-prone areas, safeguard ecological assets, preserve rural character, and provide natural buffers.

Recommendation(s)

Support and participate in conservation easement programs that protect public water supply water supply watersheds and important open space areas.

Promote the County's Parks & Recreation programs through collaborative planning efforts between the County and municipalities.

Provide both passive and active recreational opportunities for County residents by protecting natural resources that have recreational, environmental, or aesthetic value.

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Goal 3: Optimize the Uses of Land Within Moore County and Assure Adequate Infrastructure is Available to Support the Desired Growth of the County.

Moore County is a thriving and attractive community, known for its agriculture, forestry, world-class golf courses, exceptional healthcare, equestrian centers, and its proximity to Fayetteville, the world's largest military installation by population.

During public listening sessions, many attendees emphasized that the County's culture and history are central to its "small-town charm," which remains a defining characteristic and a shared community value.

However, continued population growth in rural areas is contributing to the sprawl of development. To manage this, the County should focus on guiding future growth toward the municipalities, where infrastructure already exists or can be more efficiently expanded to support it.

Embracing the small-town model & smart growth strategies, such as identifying key areas for infrastructure investment and aligning growth with existing resources, will help ensure that development supports County policies and coordinates with the Board of Education on school construction and facility improvements.

Recommendation(s)

Maximize accessibility among living, working, and shopping areas.

Assure an adequate quality & quantity of water is available to support the desired growth of the County.

Encourage a functional railway system.

Encourage development in areas where the necessary infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, and schools) is available, planned or most cost-efficiently be provided and extended to serve development.

Coordinate transportation planning to ensure that adequate transportation options are provided to serve existing, developing, and proposed activity centers and densely populated areas.

Provide for orderly development of major transportation routes such that disruption of free flow of traffic on major arteries is minimized.

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Moore County Planning Staff is collaborating with the Town of Southern Pines Planning Staff through a working lunch.

Goal 4: Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation.

Citizen participation is essential to encouraging and managing responsible growth throughout Moore County. Helping residents understand land development processes fosters transparency, builds trust, and promotes informed community engagement.

Every reasonable effort should be made to involve citizens in the development of plans, updates to land use policies, and modifications to ordinances. Meaningful public input ensures that growth aligns with the community's values, needs, and vision.

Recommendation(s)

Promote the implementation of transportation methods to provide alternate methods of transportation where appropriate and feasible.

Require and support collaborative future planning efforts between the county, municipalities, and Board of Education.

Encourage a procedure for managing land use information using Geographic Information System (GIS)to ensure coordinated planning and growth.

Promote and maintain ongoing efforts that involve and inform citizens throughout various planning and permitting processes.



Moore County Staff: Union Pines High School Listening Sessions

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Goal 5: Accommodate for a Variety of Housing Types

Moore County's current housing stock lacks diversity, limiting options for many residents. To support a growing and diverse population, the county needs a broader range of housing types that are financially attainable for individuals and families at varying income levels, life stages, and household sizes.

Expanding housing diversity will help meet the needs of young professionals, working families, seniors, and others who may be priced out of the current market. A more inclusive housing strategy is essential to ensuring Moore County remains a welcoming and livable community for all.



Figure 1.5 Low Income Apartments and Affordable Housing: Southern Pines Apartments: Source: Bing

Recommendation(s)

Properly plan for and accommodate a variety of affordable housing types through lot sizes/infill development & incentives.



Tiny homes are a popular housing option in the unincorporated areas of the County and are very common throughout North Carolina and the United States.

Resource:

Amazon currently offers Tiny House Kits for sale.



20' x 40' Prefab Modular Home 3 Bedroom $9,650.00

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Chapter 3.
Demographic, Income, and Employment Data

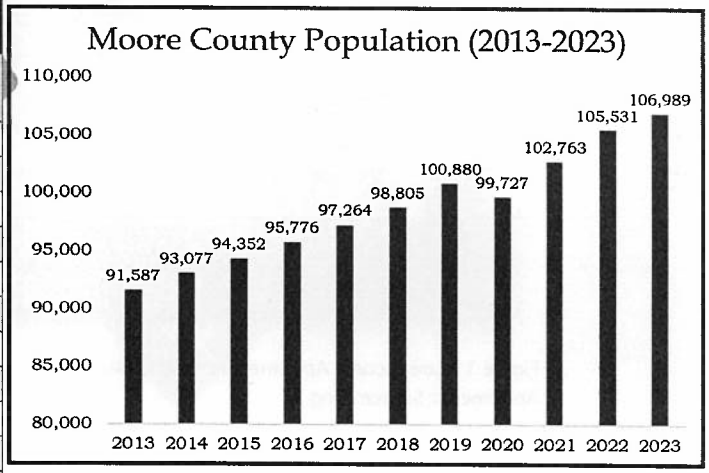
Population and Growth

Although Moore County's population has increased by 155% over the past five decades, the rate of growth has slowed over the last 20 years. Between 2000 and 2010, the population declined by 9%, and from 2010 to 2020, it decreaed by another 5%. However, the trend has since reversed. By 2023, the County's population reached 106,989, marking a 16.8% increase since the adoption of the last Land Use Plan in 2013.

Overall, Moore County's growth has remained steady, despite a slight population dip in 2020, likely influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic-before rebounding to surpass pre-pandemic levels.

Muncipal growth has been significantly stronger than that of rural areas. From 2000 to 2020, the combined popultiaon of Moore County's incorporated municipalities increased by 68.4%, while the unincorporated areas grew by 33.4% during the same period. Among the municipalities, Robbins and Taylortown experienced population declines, while the reaining towns saw substantial growth.

Population Change of Decennial Municipalities & Moore County (2000-2020)			
	2000	2020	% Change from 2000-2020
Aberdeen	3,185	8,516	167.4%
Cameron	150	244	62.7%
Carthage	1,877	2,775	47.8%
Foxfire	491	1,288	162.3%
Pinebluff	1,100	1,385	25.9%
Pinehurst	9,924	17,581	77.2%
Robbins	1,183	1,168	-1.3%
Southern Pines	11,207	15,545	38.7%
Taylortown	814	634	-22.1%
Vass	719	952	32.4%
Whispering Pines	2,057	4,987	142.4%
Municipal Total	32,707	55,075	68.4%
Unincorporated Moore County	42,062	44,652	6.2%
Moore County Total	74,769	99,727	33.4%



Figures 1.6 & 1.7: Population Change of Decennial Municipalities & Moore County (2000-2020: Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020

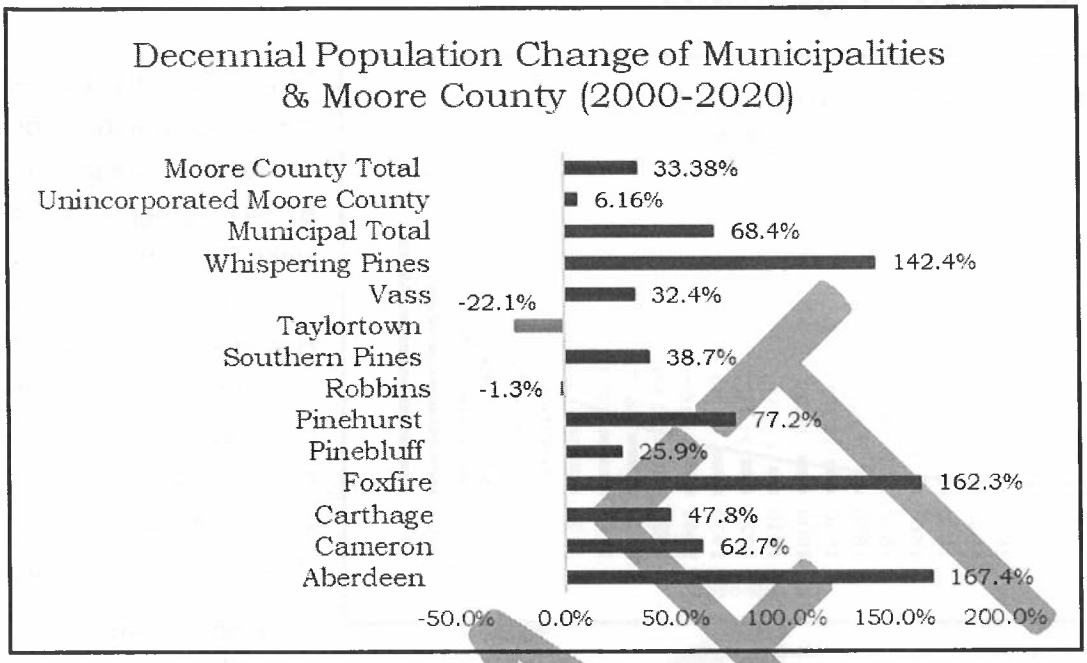


Figure 1.8: Decennial Population Change of Municipalities & Moore County (2000-2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

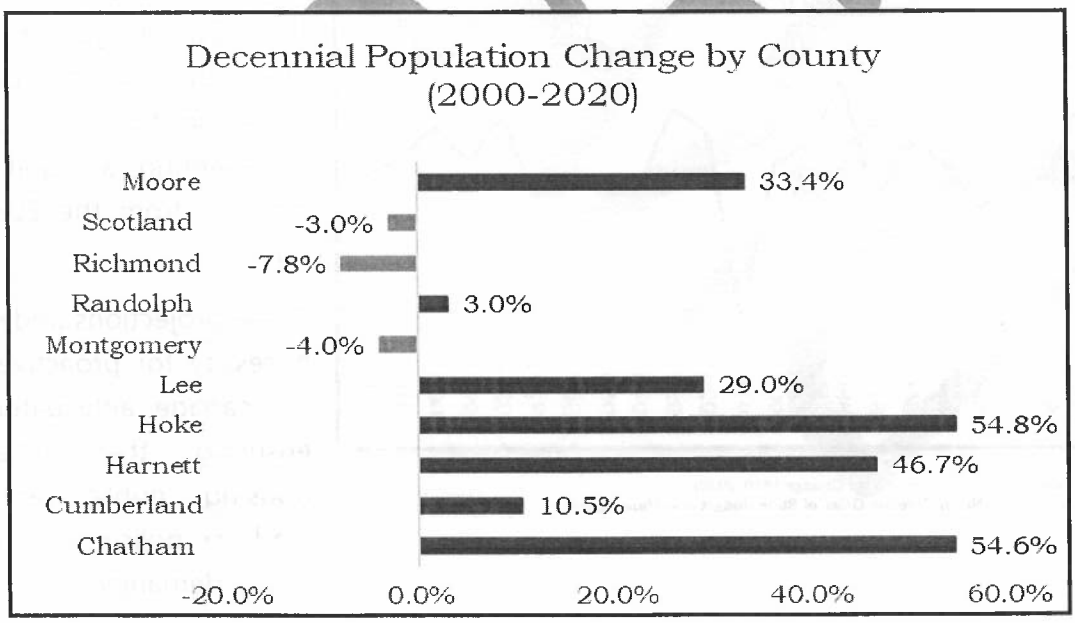


Figure 1.9 Decennial Population Change by County (2000-2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Future Growth Projections

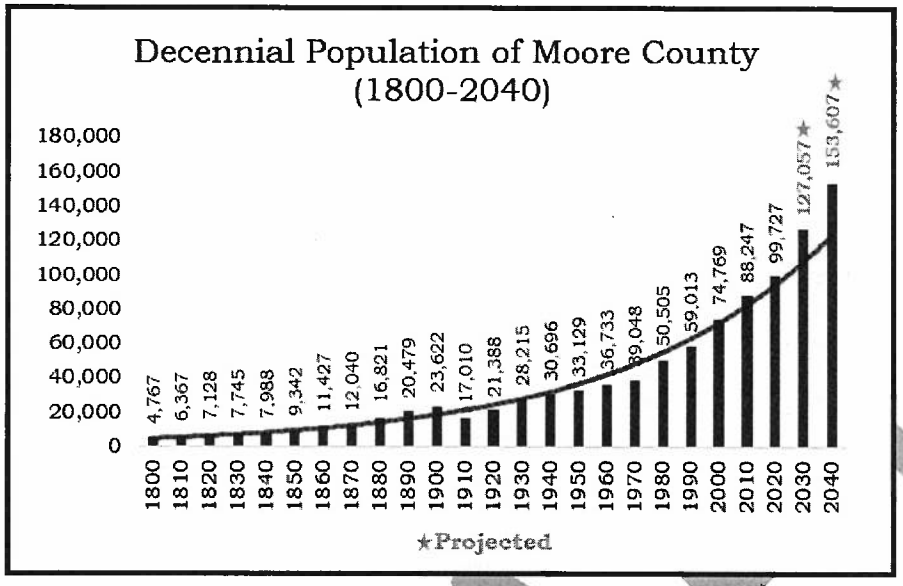


Figure 2.0: Decennial Population of Moore County (1800-2040)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management

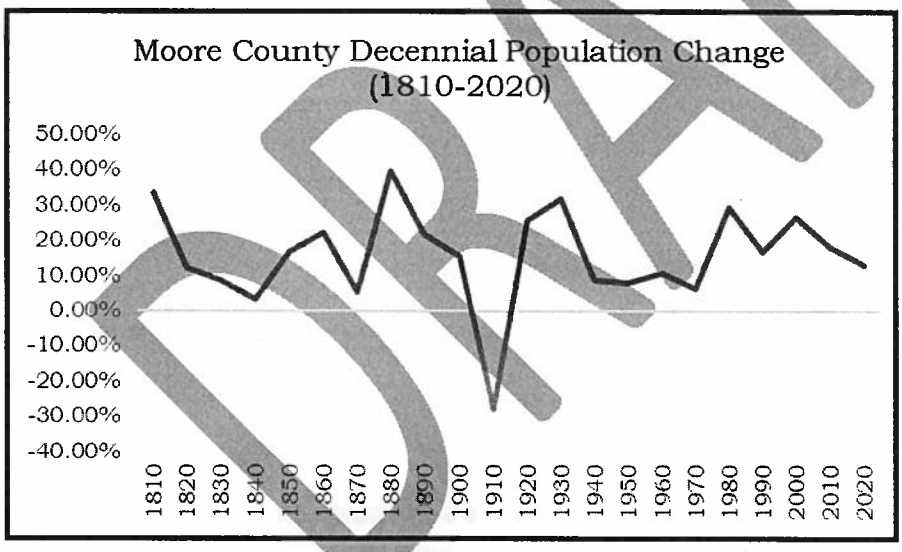


Figure 2.1: Moore County Decennial Population Change 1810-2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management

Moore County has experienced steady population growth over the past 50 years, increasing by 67,941 residents- a 174% increase since 1970. In 2010, the projected population for 2020 was 104,131. However, the 2020 U.S. Census reported a slightly lower population of 99,727, representing a decrease from 2019 and falling 4,404 residents short of the original projection.

Looking ahead, updated projections estimate the County's population will reach 127,057 by 2030, which is 4,182 more th[illegible] the 2023 projection made 2010. By 2040, the population is projected to climb to 153,607, representing a significant 54% increase from the 2020 Census figure.

These projections underscore the necessity for proactive planning to manage anticipated growth, ensuring that infrastructure, housing, public services, and land-use policies evolve to meet future demands.

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Race and Ethnicity

Moore County's racial makeup over the last two decades, has remained relatively consistent. The race of most Moore County residents is White, not identifying as Hispanic or Latino, and made up 76% of the County's population in 2020.

Black residents make up the second-largest racial group in the County. However, between 2000 and 2020, the percentage of black residents had dropped from 15.5% in 2000 to 13% in 2010 and 11% in 2020.

The Hispanic, Asian, and "Other" fractions of the populations have all increased. The Hispanic makeup of the population has increased from 4% in 2000 to 6% in 2010 and rose to 7% in 2020. The Asian population remained the smallest in the County, making up only .5% in 2000 and 1% in 2010 and 2020. The "Other" race categories not identified by the US Census Bureau and people identifying as two or more races. This category made up only 1% of residents in 2000 but grew to 2% in 2010 and climbed to 5% in 2020.

The following charts provide an overview of the racial identities found in each municipality.

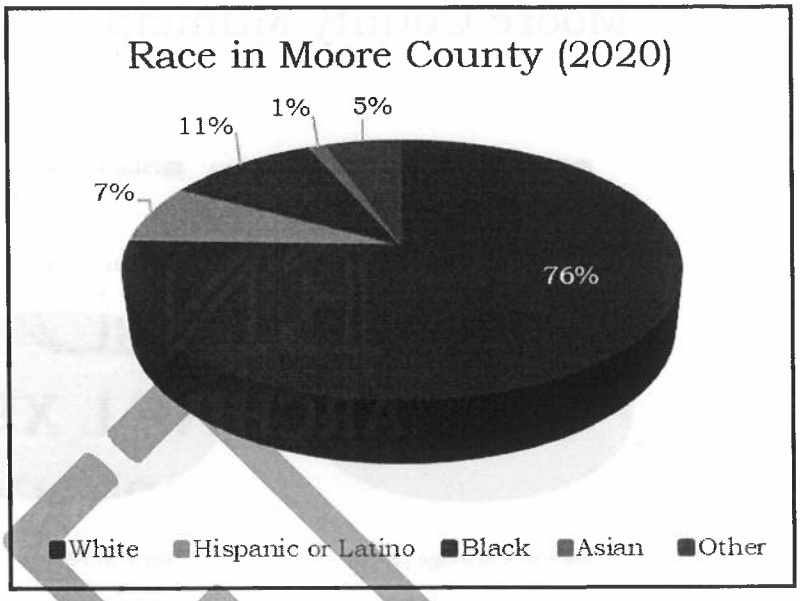


Figure 2.2: Race in Moore County (2020); Source: U.S. Census Bureau

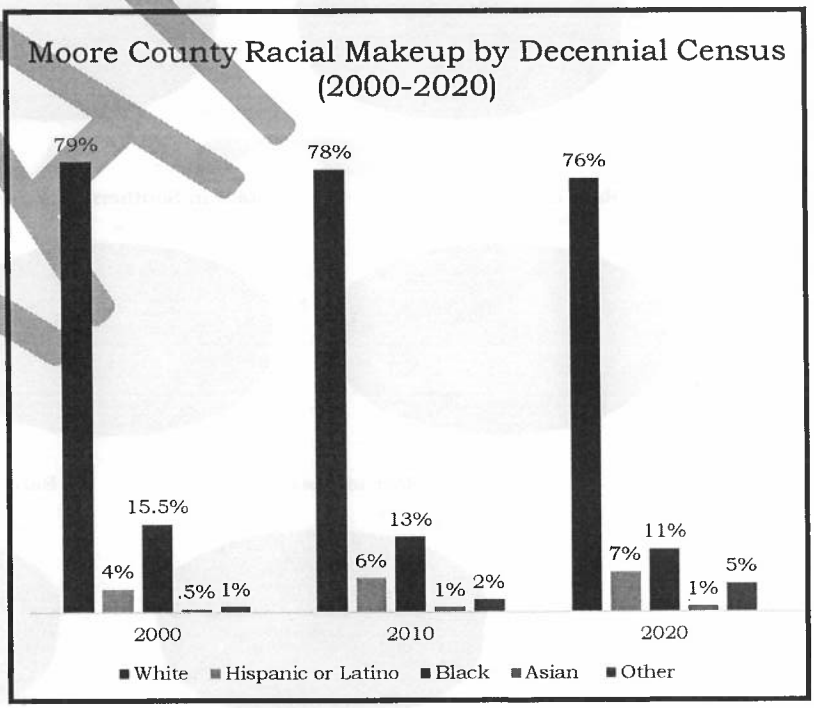


Figure 2.3: Moore County Racial Makeup by Decennial Census
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Moore County Municipal Racial Makeup (2020)

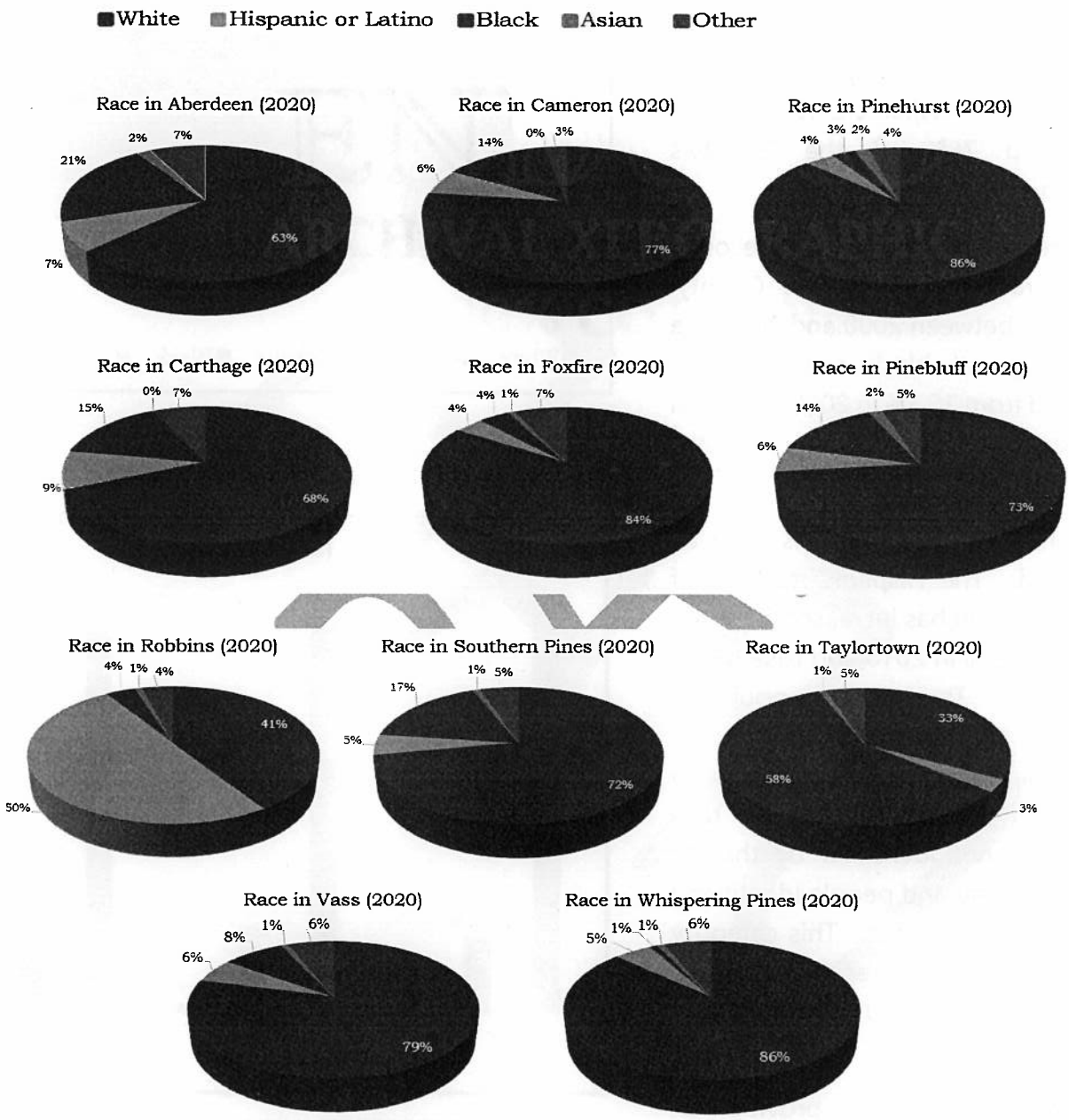


Figure 2.4: Moore County Municipal Racial Makeup (2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Age and Gender

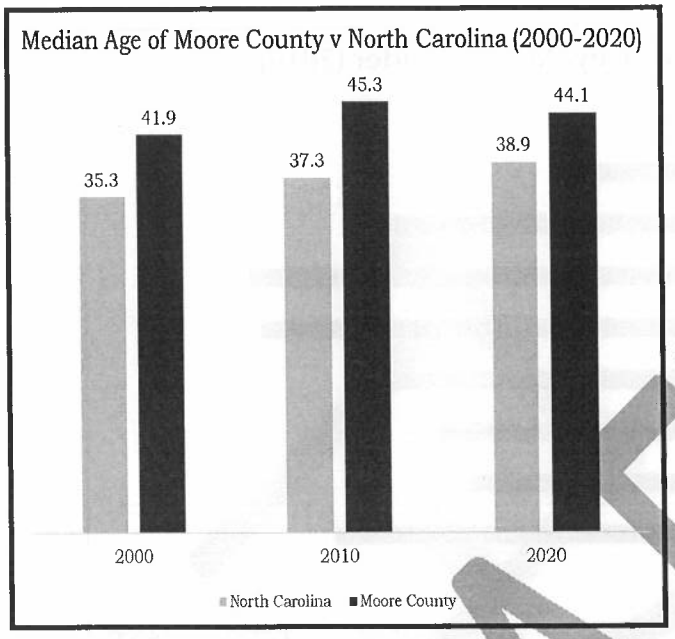


Figure 2.5: Median Age of Moore County v North Carolina (2000-2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

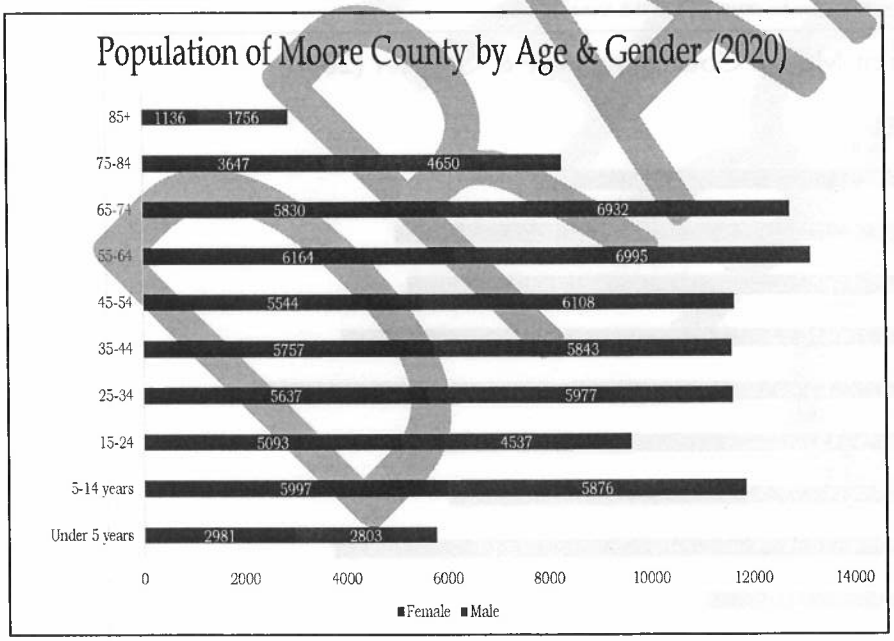


Figure 2.6: Population of Moore County by Age & Gender (2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As of the 2020 Census, the median age in Moore County was 44.1 years, significantly higher than the statewide median age of 38.9 years. This age gap has remained consistent over the past two decades, with Moore County's median age averaging about 18% older than the state's during that time.

Among neighboring counties, Moore County has the second-highest median age, trailing only Chatham County, which reported a median age of 47.3 years in 2020.

An interesting trend emerges when examining the population aged 85 and older. While North Carolina as a whole saw a 17% increase in its population aged 85 and above over the past decade, Moore County experienced a 13% decrease in this age group as a share of its total population.

Elderly Population:

The percentage of Moore County residents aged 55 and above increased by a significant 29.5% between 2000 and 2010. However, the percentage of Moore County residents in this group was 36% in 2010, and this percentage was maintained through 2022, according to the American Community Survey. Moore County is still a retiree destination, and the ability to house this aging population is crucial and must be examined as part of the housing

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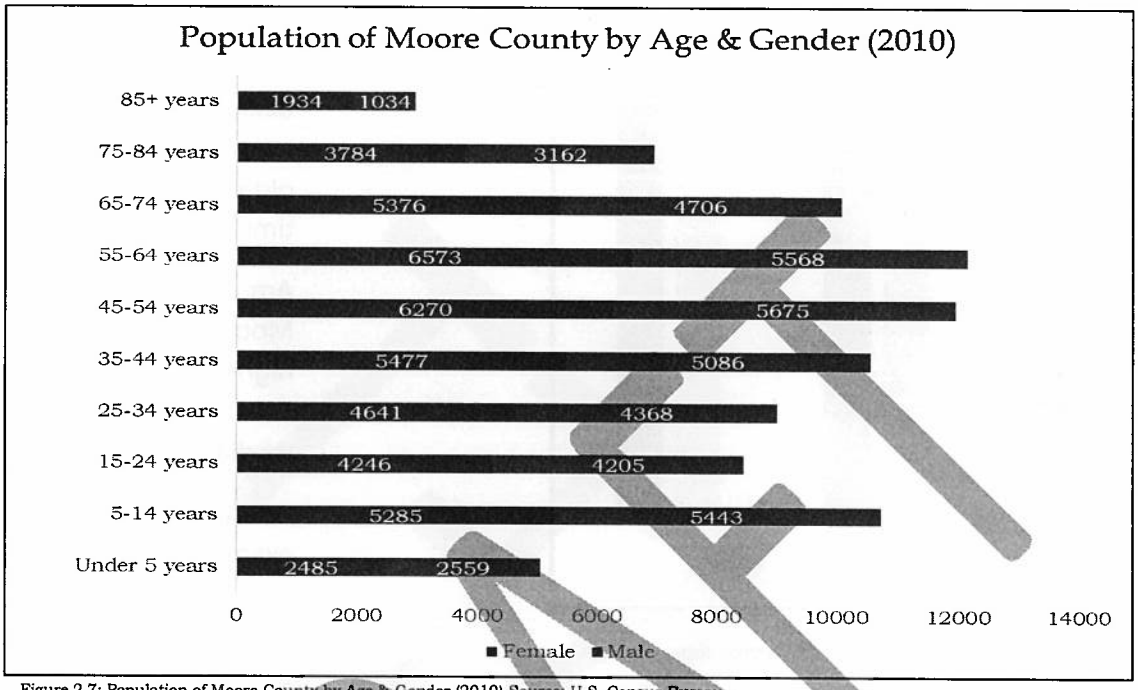


Figure 2.7: Population of Moore County by Age & Gender (2010) Source: U.S. Census Bureau

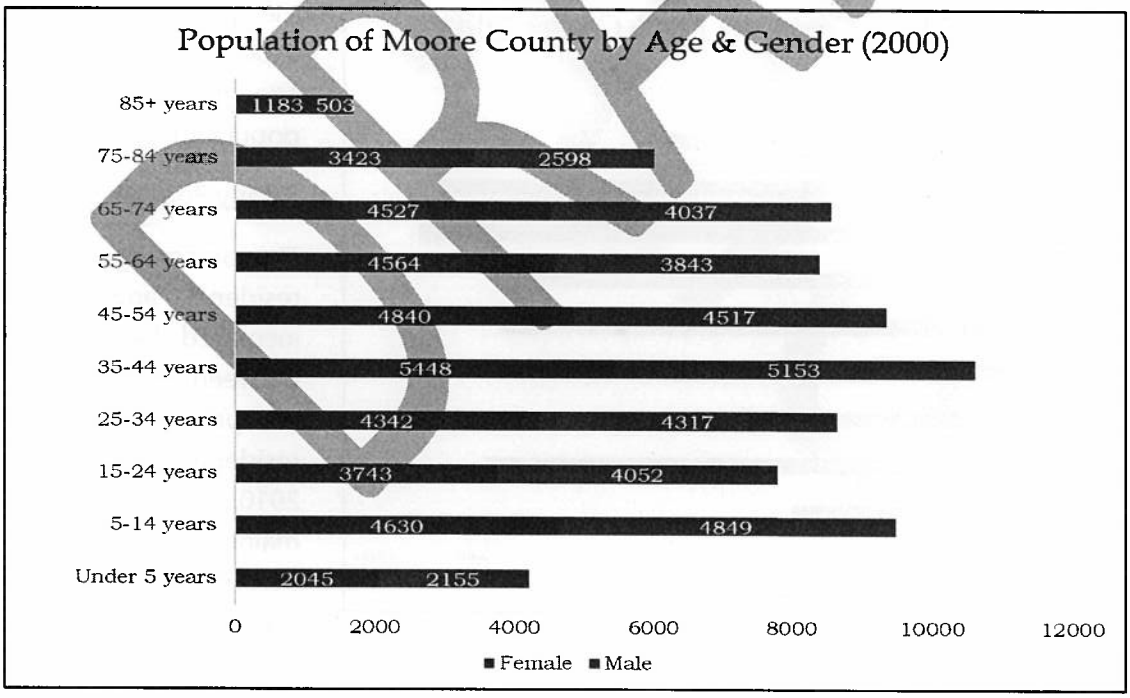


Figure 2.8: Population of Moore County by Age & Gender (2000)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Tax Data

In 2020, Moore County residents collectively paid approximately $56 million in property taxes. The largest share of tax revenue came from unincorporated Moore County, which generated $18,468,800, with an average of $45.10 in tax revenue per acre.

Closely following was the Village of Pinehurst, contributing $18,332,300 in property tax revenue, nearly equal to the unincorporated area, but with a much higher average of $1,665.36 per acre.

In total, Moore County, incorporated municipalities generated a combined $37,805,300, with Pinehurst alone accounting for 48.5% of all municipal property tax revenue.

Notably, municipalities represent only 9% of the County's total land area, yet they produce 67% of the total property tax revenue. This highlights the significant tax-generating capacity of Moore County's towns, particularly Pinehurst, relative to their land area.

Land use decisions affect how much tax revenue a jurisdiction collects. Property taxes, often the largest source of local revenue help fund services to our citizens. Sprawling development can increase infrastructure and service cost per capita, while commercial, industrial or vertically mixed-use development often brings higher net revenue.

The table below Figure 2.9 demonstrating tax district values from each jurisdiction and in Figure 2.10 a map representing the tax values of parcels within the County.

Tax District	Aggregate Taxes Paid	Median Property Taxes	% of Total Moore Co Property Taxes	Total Land Area (square miles)	Total Land Area (acres)	Average Property Tax Per Acre
Aberdeen	$ 3,547,200.00	$ 1,755.00	6%	10.63	6,803.20	$ 521.40
Cameron	$ 177,300.00	$ 924.00	0%	1.2	768.00	$ 230.86
Carthage	$ 872,400.00	$ 1,134.00	2%	6.7	4,288.00	$ 203.45
Foxfire	$ 1,092,000.00	$ 1,964.00	2%	2.9	1,856.00	$ 588.36
Pinebluff	$ 607,400.00	$ 1,182.00	1%	2.39	1,529.60	$ 397.10
Pinehurst	$ 18,332,300.00	$ 2,306.00	33%	17.2	11,008.00	$ 1,665.36
Robbins	$ 230,000.00	$ 807.00	0%	1.3	832.00	$ 276.44
Southern Pines	$ 9,450,600.00	$ 2,263.00	17%	15.6	9,984.00	$ 946.57
Taylortown	$ 523,400.00	$ 1,173.00	1%	1.2	768.00	$ 681.51
Vass	$ 400,400.00	$ 1,174.00	1%	3	1,920.00	$ 208.54
Whispering Pines	$ 2,572,300.00	$ 2,553.00	5%	3.7	2,368.00	$ 1,086.28
Municipal Total	$ 37,805,300.00	$ 1,182.00	67%	65.82	42,124.80	$ 897.46
Moore Co Unincorporated	$ 18,468,800.00	-	33%	639.87	409,516.80	$ 45.10
Moore County Total	$ 56,274,100.00	$ 1,413.00	-	705.69	451,641.60	$ 124.60

Figure 2.9: Moore Co Tax District Values
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

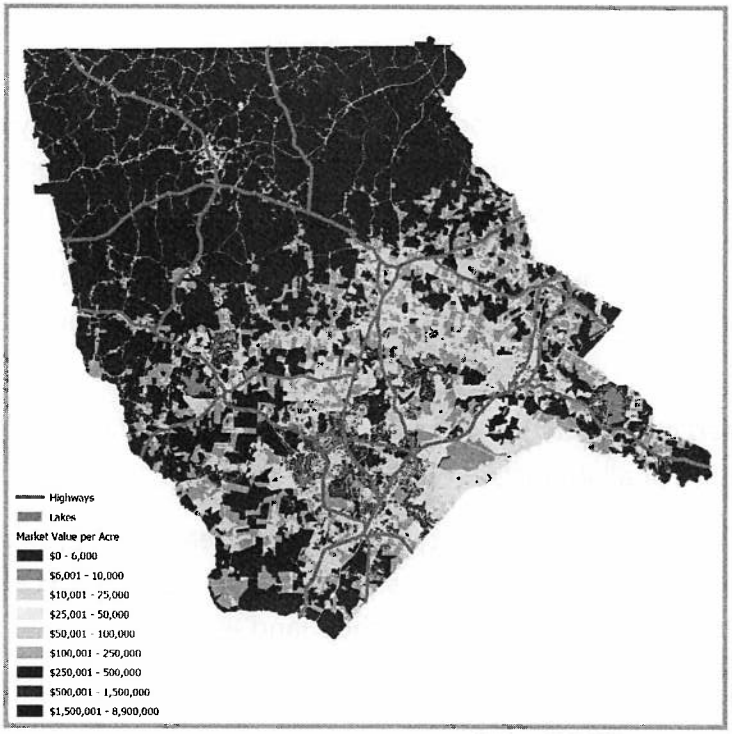


Figure 2.10: Moore County Market Value per Acre: Source: Moore County GIS

Income

The median income of Moore County residents in 2022 was $85,382. Over the last decade, the county's median income has increased by 72%, rising from $49,763 in 2012. This was slightly higher than the state median income in 2012, which was $45,150. However, Moore County has since surpassed the state median income by 27%, as the state median income was $67,481 in 2022. Compared to surrounding counties, Moore has the highest median income, with the next highest being Chatham County, with a median income of $77,906. The group making up the largest percentage of residents fell to $100,000-$149,999 range at 24%. This group is followed by the $75,000 – $99,999 range at 16% and the $50,000 - $74,999 range at 15%. (Figure 2.11)

Of the 44,625 households in Moore County in 2022, 15067 or 34% reported retirement income. Compared to surrounding counties, Moore County ranks second only to Chatham County (35%) in the percentage of households that bring in retirement income. All other surrounding counties reported between 22% and 26%, which is on par with the State's 24.5%

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Moore County Households by Income (2022)	
Less than $10,000	6%
$10,000 to $14,999	3%
$15,000 to $24,999	5%
$25,000 to $34,999	5%
$35,000 to $49,999	9%
$50,000 to $74,999	15%
$75,000 to $99,999	16%
$100,000 to $149,999	24%
$150,000 to $199,999	8%
$200,000+	10%
Median income (dollars)	$ 85,382.00
Mean income (dollars)	$102,593.00

Figure 2.11: Moore County Households by Income (2022)

Percentage of Population Living in Poverty (2022)	
Chatham	9%
Cumberland	16%
Harnett	13%
Hoke	17%
Lee	18%
Montgomery	16%
Richmond	23%
Randolph	15%
Scotland	26%
North Carolina	13%
Moore County	9%

Figure 2.12: Percentage of Population Living in Poverty by County (2022) Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau defines poverty using a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the threshold, the Census considers every individual in the family to be in poverty. In 2022, 9% (9,347) of Moore County's residents lived below the poverty line, with 2,606 (28%) of them being children. There were 5,047 impoverished residents between the ages of 18 and 64, and 2,467 impoverished residents were 65 years or older. 26% of the 4,311 Moore County families with a female head-of-household lived under the poverty line in 2022. 63% of residents living in poverty were female, while 37% were male. Of the 3,074 civilian labor force residents aged 16 or older, were living below the poverty line. 2,479 or 81% were employed in 2022. 28% of those living under the poverty level were under the age of 18. Compared to the general population, 7% of individuals aged 65 and older lived below the poverty level.

Moore County's poverty rate is lower than that of all surrounding counties, except for Chatham County, which has a rate of 9%. Among the surrounding counties, Scotland County has the highest poverty rate at 26%, followed by Richmond County at 23%. The poverty rate of North Carolina is 13%.

According to the Disability Characteristics in the 2022 5–year American Community Survey Estimate, Moore County had a total of 13,760 residents estimated living with a disability. This is approximately double what was identified in the 2010 Census. Of this total, 6847 residents of the disabled population are male, and 6913 are female.

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Of the 9,347 Moore County residents living in poverty, 45% are over the age of 60. The mean retirement income per household in 2022 was $36,570, 57% lower than the median household income. One-third of all Moore County residents aged 65+ reported a household income of less than $45,000 in 2022. One-quarter of the 44,625 households in Moore County are 1-person households. Approximately 42% of all households consist of two people. A detached single-family home is not necessarily required for such small households, especially considering the County's retired and elderly population, who may not be able to maintain a larger home or afford one.

Education and Educational Attainment

Moore County has approximately 15,402 students enrolled in K-12 schools in 2023, according to the 2022 5 Year American Community Survey. Of this total, 83% were enrolled in one of the County's 23 public schools. Additionally, the County had a total population of approximately 5,521 students enrolled in college or graduate school. Since 2010, Moore County has seen an increase in educational attainment levels. According to the 2022 American Community Survey, 24% of the county's residents hold a bachelor's degree, and 16% have a graduate degree or higher. This is compared to 20% and 10%, respectively, in 2010.

Veterans

Moore County has a civilian population of 75,391 residents aged 18 years or older. According to the 2022 5 Year American Community Survey, 12% of these residents were veterans, and 28% of the veteran population was living with a disability. Of the total veteran population, 72% of those between ages 18 and 64 were employed.

Employment

Moore County is home to a diverse and highly qualified workforce. As of 2023, the County's civilian labor force totaled 43,036 workers, with an unemployment rate of 3.4%, slightly below the statewide average of 3.5% according to data from the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The County's economy is supported by a broad mix of industries, with healthcare and public/educational services leading as the top employment sectors. In 2023, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Inc. was identified as Moore County's largest employer.

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Of the top employment industries in Moore County, six are within the healthcare, education, accommodation/food services, governmental services, and medical services sectors, underscoring the county's strong foundation in essential services. Additionally, Moore County has a robust presence in the retail trade and accommodation/food services sectors, contributing to the local economy and offering a wide range of employment opportunities.

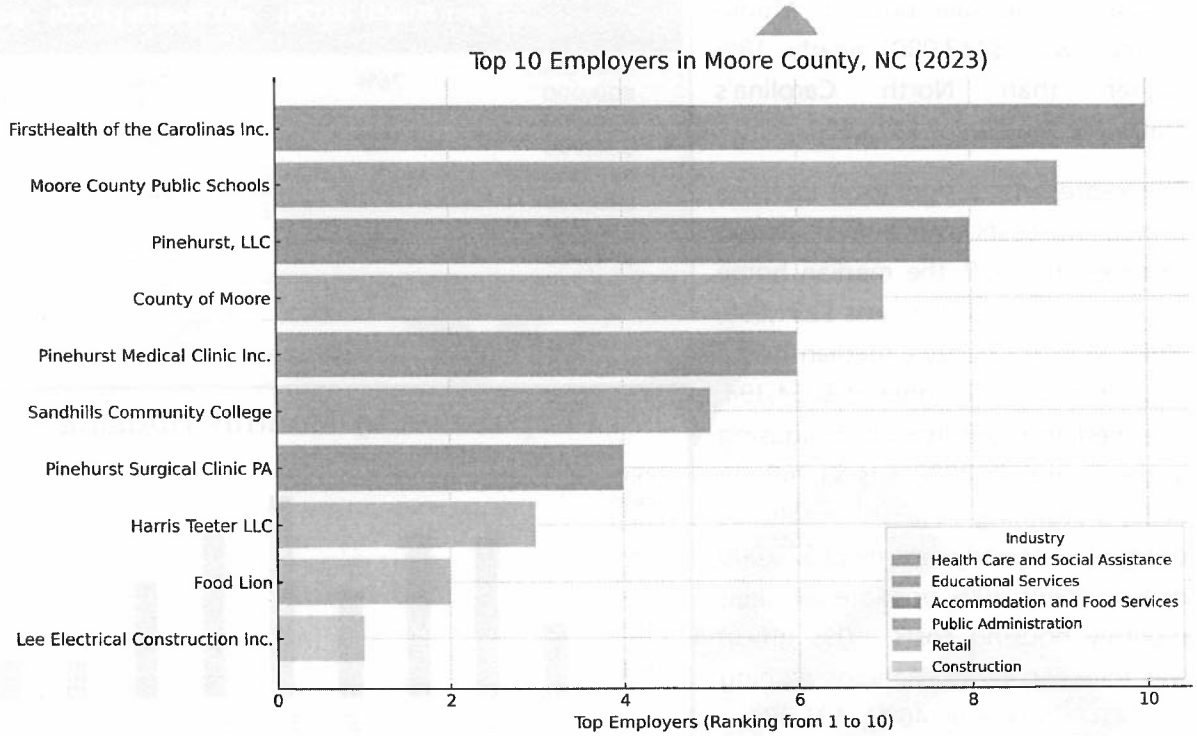


Figure 2.13 Top 10 Employers U.S. Census Bureau

Cost of Housing

The cost of housing in Moore County is comparatively high relative to state averages. As of September 2024, the median home sale price in Moore County was $443,000, nearly 18% higher than North Carolina's statewide median of $375,900.

This represents a significant increase in housing costs over a short period of time. In 2020, the median home value in North Carolina was $251,859, while Moore County's median home value was slightly higher at $254,394. The median monthly cost of housing in the County in 2022 was $1,069. In 2022, a stunning 76% of households bringing in a yearly income of $20,000 or less spent 30% or more on their monthly housing costs. This group was followed by households earning $20,000 - $34,999 (46%), $35,000 – 49,999 (33%), $50,000 – 74,999 (34%), and $75,000 + (5%). Overall, these numbers increased slightly between 2020 and 2022 for all income ranges except for the $50,000 – 74,999 group which saw a 13% increase in the percentage of household spending more than 30% on housing costs within two years. Of the 50,575 occupied housing units reported in Moore County in 2020, 76% were occupied by the owner of the home, while 23% were renter-occupied.

Household Income Range	% of Households Spending 30% or more on Housing per Month (2022)	% of Households Spending 30% or more on Housing per Month (2020)	% of Households Spending 30% or more on Housing per Month (2010)
Less than $20,000	76%	74%	14.1%
$20,000 $34,999	46%	46%	6.2%
$35,000- $49,999	33%	32%	2.4%
$50,000- $74,999	34%	21%	3.2%
$75,000+	5%	4%	2%

Figure 2.14 Population of Moore County by Income Range 2010-2022)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

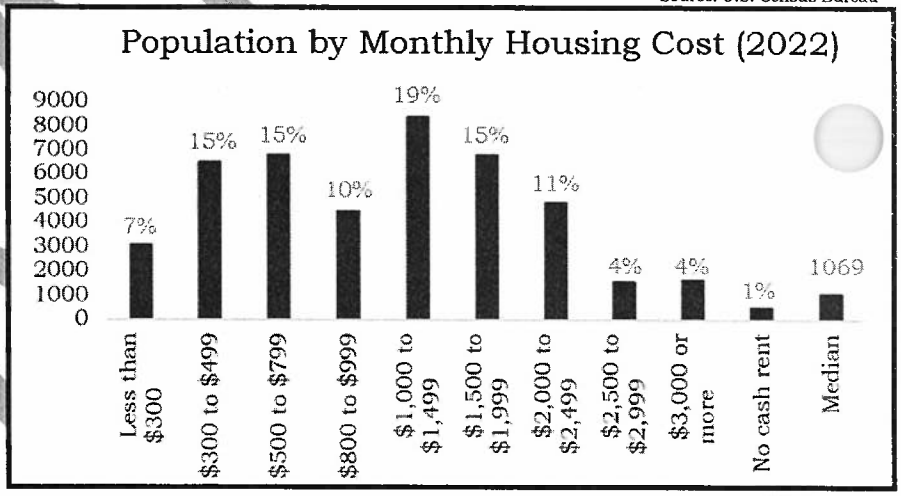


Figure 2.15: Population by Monthly Housing Cost (2022)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Physical Characteristics and Housing Stock

In 2022, 74% of all occupied dwellings units in unincorporated Moore County were single-family residences. Since 2010, this percentage has decreased by 4%, while the percentage of manufactured homes or other homes increased by 2% to 13% in 2022. Apartments, duplexes, and townhomes, respectively, have made up the smallest percentage of occupied housing in Moore County since 2010. Among the municipalities, single-family homes make up 76% of occupied units followed by apartments at 14%; townhomes at 5%; duplexes at 3%; and mobile homes and other types of housing at 2%. Southern Pines has the most diverse housing stock of all municipalities, while Pinebluff has the least diverse stock with single-family homes making up 98% of housing units in the Town.

Moore County municipalities' occupied units account for 35% or 24,324 units of all Moore County housing units, while unincorporated Moore County accounts for 65%. As of 2022, there are 50,305 housing units in unincorporated Moore County. 44,625 units or 89% of units are occupied, while 5680 or 11% are unoccupied. 29% of dwellings units in unincorporated Moore County were constructed between 2000 and 2020. 68% of all dwelling units in Moore County were constructed in the last 40 years between 1980 and 2020.

Year Built	# of Units	% of Housing Makeup
2014 to 2020	2125	5%
2010 to 2013	2606	6%
2000 to 2009	7371	18%
1980 to 1999	15738	39%
1960 to 1979	8049	20%
1940 to 1959	2838	7%
1939 or earlier	1848	5%

Figure 2.16: Moore County Occupied Housing by Year Built (2020)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

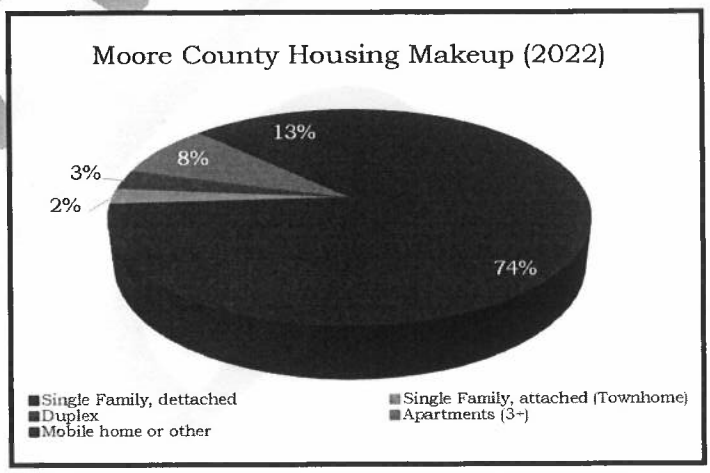


Figure 2.17: Moore County Housing Makeup (2022)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Between 2013, when the previous Land Use Plan was adopted, and 2023, 3,947 single-family residential building permits have been issued by Moore County. During this period, 837 manufactured home permits and 5,081 residential permits for remodels and additions were issued. Only 117 residential demolition permits have been issued. These numbers account for all permits issued for unincorporated Moore County, as well as the municipalities of Cameron, Carthage, Foxfire Village, Robbins, Taylortown, Vass, and Village of Whispering Pines. These permits do not include Aberdeen, the Village of Pinehurst, or Southern Pines.



Figure 2.18 Housing Examples (manufactured home, townhomes, stick-built)

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Housing

Analysis of Affordability & Housing Stock

Housing Stock

From 2000 to 2022, Moore County's average increase in the number of housing units per year was 1263. If maintained, this rate will not adequately accommodate the county's population if future growth projections are accurate. The population is expected to grow to 127,057 by 2030 and 153,607 by 2040. With the current average household size of 2.3, Moore County's housing stock would need to increase by 11,882 units by 2030 and 23,426 units by 2040.

Families with Children

The number of families with children increased by 35.5% between 2012 and 2022, and the number of children aged three and above enrolled in school rose by 47%. Further, a relatively high percentage (28%) of the County's impoverished residents were children. 10% of all Moore County family households lived below the poverty line in 2022. The number of younger families has grown in Moore County, and this growth, coupled with poverty rates among families specifically with children, may speak to a demand for more affordable housing for these groups

Workforce Housing

Moore County's working residents drive an average of 26 minutes to work, and one-third of working residents drive over half an hour to their place of work. 29% of working residents commute to a place of work outside of Moore County; however, according to a report from the NC Department of Commerce, more workers commute into Moore County than out of Moore County, particularly among workers earning more than $1251 per month and workers between the ages of 30 and 54. The neighboring county with the largest number of workers commuting into Moore County is Richmond County, followed closely by Lee and Hoke Counties. According to the American Communities Survey (2022), a shocking 44% of Moore County workers do not live in the County, signaling a need for workforce housing.

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Chapter 4.
Historical & Cultural Assets

History of Moore County

Archaeological findings indicate that Native Americans of the Siouan family inhabited the area that is now Moore County for more than a thousand years. They hunted and camped throughout the region, and in some places, they settled in villages. A well-used Native American trail, which crosses the County, is thought to have first been beaten out by buffalo on their annual migrations from the piedmont to the coastal marshes. This trail, later known as the Yadkin Road, played a crucial role in the early settlement of Moore County.

Between the 1750s and the 1770s, there was an influx of European settlers, particularly Highland Scots, who immigrated to the colonies to escape the harsh economic and political conditions that existed in Scotland at the time. The Highlanders found the production of turpentine made for a more viable financial alternative to large-scale agriculture in the poor soil of the Sandhills. The manufacture of naval stores, a term applied to the resin-based components used in building and maintaining wooden sailing ships, was established as a significant industry of the vast forests of longleaf pine.

The American Revolution curtailed the arrival of settlers to the area and set the stage for bitter conflict. The Highlanders, who had taken an oath of allegiance to the King of England before leaving Scotland, remained loyal to the British throne; settlers in the "clay country' supported independence. Although no major battles were fought in Moore County, the guerrilla warfare between the two factions was bloody. The highlanders paid dearly for their political views after the defeat of the British, facing the scorn of their neighbors, and in some cases, confiscation of their property and exile from the State.

In 1783, shortly after the American Revolution ended, Moore County was established from the territory of Cumberland County. The new Moore County was named for Alfred Moore of Brunswick, a renowned militia colonel during the Revolution and later a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States. The citizens quickly set about establishing their government. As the area recovered from the disruptive effects of the war and began to prosper, some schools were built, and several industries flourished in the

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northern part of the County, including a gun factory in Robbins and a carriage factory in Carthage. The Sandhills area, located further south, remained undeveloped.

The Civil War put an end to all progress, as every able-bodied man went to war. After the war, Moore County had a long struggle to recover. Lumber manufacturers were attracted to the virgin forests that had been established under the naval stores industry of the mid-late 1800s. Entrepreneurs found that land values were so low in this area that they could purchase the land as cheaply as they could purchase the timber.

After cutting the timber, the majority moved south, following the longleaf pine forest as transportation facilities opened it. Little towns sprang up every ten miles or so along these rail lines to serve as shipping points. During 1880, another industry developed in the Sandhills. At that time, several human ailments had no known treatment other than fresh air and mineral water. The area had an abundance of both. Soon, people wishing to improve their health or seeking "refuge from the northern air quality and harsh winters' began to flock to resort towns. Jackson Springs is one such example. The natural spring, accidentally discovered by a hunter named Jackson, became the hub of a thriving cultural community. The mineral water was recognized at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, winning a silver medal for best medicinal water in America. Around this theme, the community's amenities included a hotel, a 9-hole golf course, a large lake dotted with private cottages, and an electric plant illuminating the hotel and annex. A young, talented violinist entertained guests while other recreational opportunities, such as boating, swimming, croquet, tennis, horseback riding, bridge, dancing, and bowling, also drew visitors for the day or an entire summer. Guests arrived by horseback, carriage, or rail, sometimes at the rate of six trains per day. It was something to see as the train exited onto the spur for Jackson Springs, then backed out to proceed further down the line toward Star. The advent of the automobile, allowing travelers a greater variety of vacation locations, began the decline of Jackson Springs.

Hunt clubs became popular following World War II. Before that time, people were generally allowed to hunt in the wild lands of their region. This open invitation was curtailed following the War. In response, owners of adjacent tracts opened their land up to sport and subsistence hunting opportunities.

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Town, Villages, & Communities

Moore County has 11 incorporated municipalities, as well as other villages and communities throughout the County. These areas have developed over the last 300 years as Moore County has evolved into its current form. Below are brief historical backgrounds and descriptions of the cultural assets of each community. (These summaries were obtained for the Convention & Visitors Bureau – www.homeofgolf.com)

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Aberdeen

Aberdeen's humble beginnings date back as early as the 1700s, when Highlanders fled Scotland for the shores of North Carolina and migrated up the Cape Fear River. Initially called Bethesda, the name was changed to Blue's Crossing in the mid-1850s. In honor of Malcolm Blue, a local farmer and civic leader. Soon after, the Civil War brought turmoil and decimation to the area as many of the local men fought and died during the war. The men who survived returned to start new businesses, laying the foundation for the era of prosperity to come.

With the completion of the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad after the Civil War, the improved transportation transformed Aberdeen into the commercial center of Moore County, allowing the tar, pitch, and turpentine industry to blossom. Soon after, farming became a staple of the area, followed by the birth of the resort industry.

Today, Aberdeen celebrates its rich history in the downtown district while also progressing with the development of new businesses, charming shops, restaurants, and hotels.

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Figure 2.19: Town of Aberdeen Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Pinehurst

In 1895, James Walker Tufts had a dream. As a philanthropist and astute businessman, he believed there was a market for developing an affordable health resort for the working class. With the help of the esteemed Landscape Architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City's Central Park, Tufts designed the Village of Pinehurst.

When guests began arriving with golf clubs and invading nearby cow pastures to practice, Tufts decided to incorporate golf into the area's offerings. In 1900, Tufts hired professional golfer Donald Ross to design courses for the new facility. After thoughtful planning, Ross created a design that infused Scottish links golf with the topography of the Sandhills, and the legendary Pinehurst No. 2 was born.

Since that time, Pinehurst No. 2 has been designated a National Landmark and has hosted numerous golf championships, with another scheduled for 2029.

In addition to the legendary golf that can be found at the Village of Pinehurst, it is also home to many charming shops, boutiques, and restaurants.

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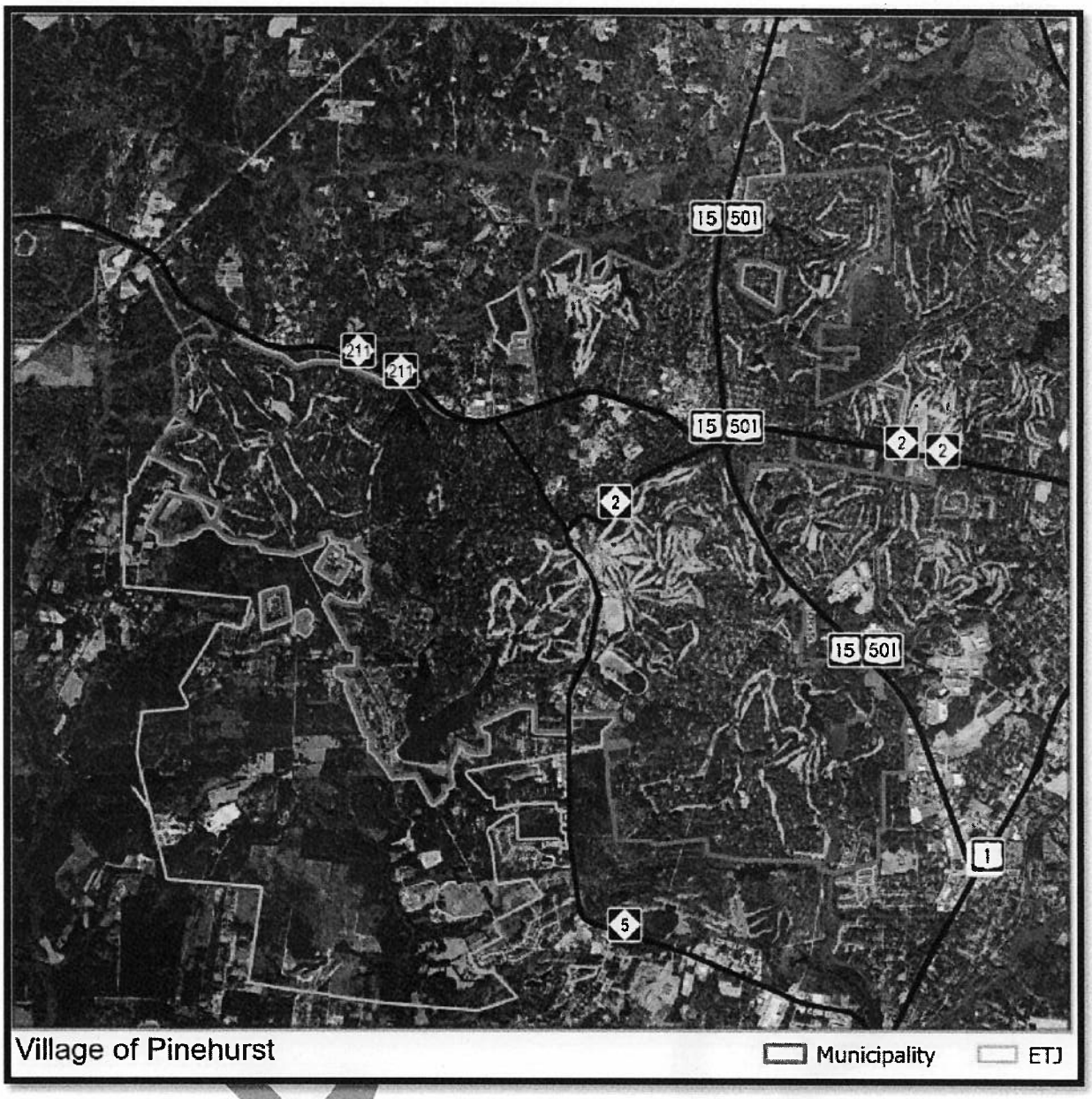


Figure 2.20: Village of Pinehurst Municipal & Exterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County GIS)

Southern Pines

In 1887, the idyllic town of Southern Pines was developed on 675 acres of land purchased by James T. Patrick. Originally designed as a stopover for weary northern travelers heading to and from Florida. Southern Pines was built with railroad tracks running through the center of town. This thoughtful planning, in conjunction with Patrick's vision of turning the area into a health resort, led to Southern Pines becoming a successful and thriving community.

Throughout the decades, James Boyd, an American novelist most famous for his Revolutionary War novel, Drums, which was illustrated by the painter N.C. Wyeth and his family contributed to the growth and prosperity of Southern Pines. In 1903, the Boyd family developed the Weymouth Heights neighborhood, transforming 500 acres into lots for future homes. The Boyd family's most enduring legacy is their vision of an equestrian community in Southern Pines. With over 4,000 acres of riding trails, Southern Pines now hosts the Walthour Moss Foundation, and dozens of nearby horse farms, a must-see for equestrian lovers of all ages. Several Events are put on by the Southern Pines Business Association, including Spring Fest, the Christmas Parade, and First Eve.

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Figure 2.21: Town of Southern Pines Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Cameron

In 1857, the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad came to Cameron, and the Town was at the end of the line for a while. The town was incorporated in 1876 and named for Paul Cameron, a railroad official. Between 1880 and 1890, the Cameron-based Muse Brothers Store was recognized as the largest department store between Richmond and Augusta.

The introduction of the Lucretia Dewberry (a mild blackberry) in 1892 made Cameron the Dewberry Capital of the World." You can still find Dewberry jam and desserts in the local shops.

Today, Cameron is well known for its antique shops. On the first Saturday in May and October, an antiques fair is held, attended by thousands of visitors. The quiet residential town is renowned for its antiques and treasures, appealing to collectors of all kinds.

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Figure 2.22: Town of Cameron Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Carthage

Carthage is the oldest town in Moore County. Incorporated in 1796, it was the site of the first courthouse in the county. Today, the fifth and current courthouse is in downtown Carthage and has been in use since 1922. After the courthouse was established, the rest of the town was not laid out until 1803. The National Historic District of Carthage takes pride in its more than 50 buildings and residences of historical significance, dating back to the pre-Civil War period.

From the 1850s to the 1920s, the town's growth was primarily driven by its booming buggy industry. Alexander Kelly and Thomas Tyson founded the Tyson Jones Buggy Factory in 1855. This primary industry remained the largest factory in Moore County into the 20th century, producing the "Cadillac" of horse-drawn carriages. At its peak in 1890, the factory produced approximately 3,000 vehicles per year. The horse-drawn buggy brought prosperity to Carthage, but the automobile spelled doom for the buggy industry, and the Tyson Jones Buggy Factory produced it last buggy in 1925.

However, the annual Carthage Buggy Festival in May honors the town's heritage of carriage makers and is a great family event.

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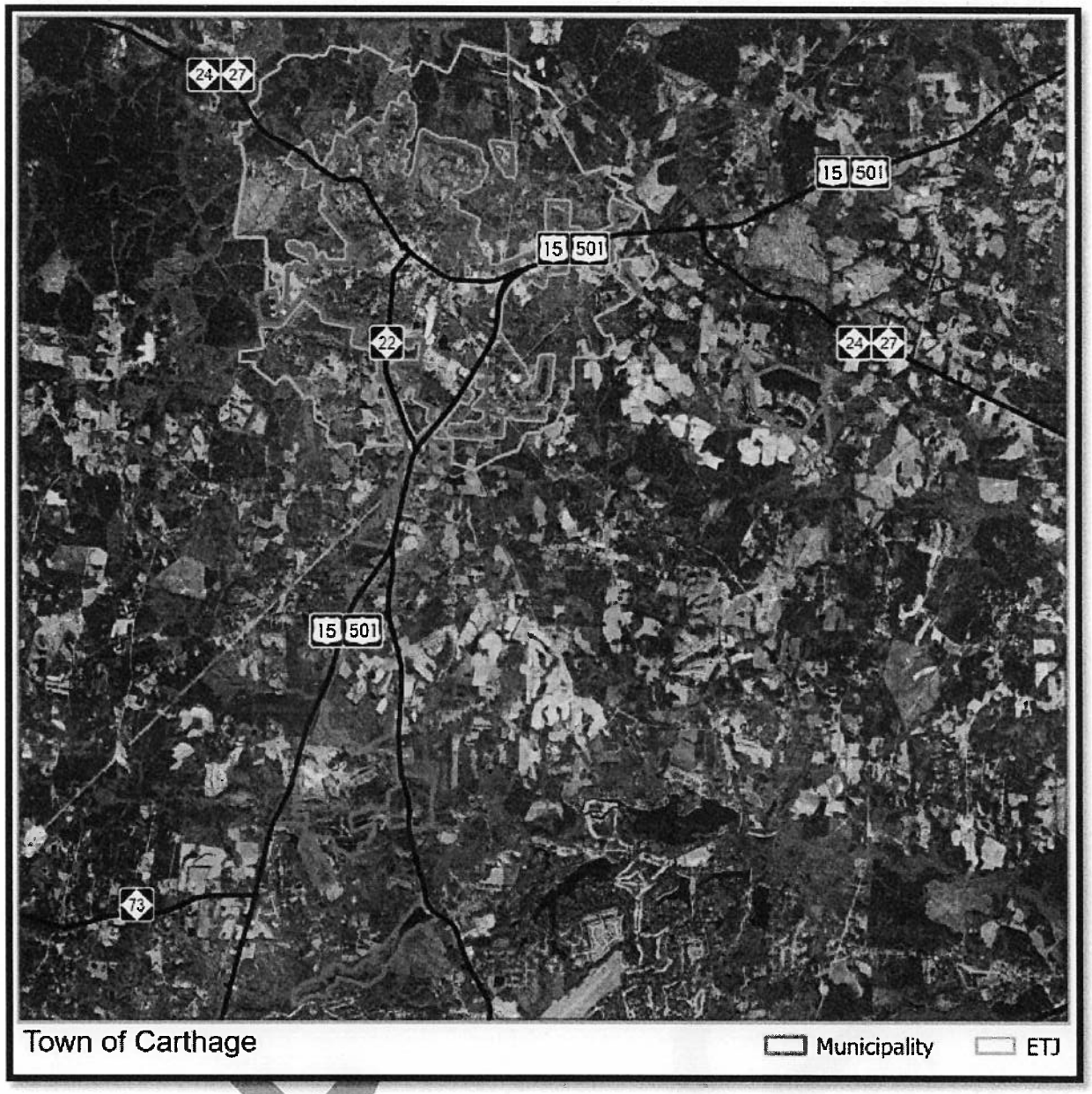


Figure 2.23: Town of Carthage Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Foxfire

The Village of Foxfire is an area about seven miles southwest of Pinehurst and sits on one of Moore County's highest elevations. The early English and Scottish settlers referred to this area as Piney Bottom in the 18th century. Foxfire was reportedly the site of a small battle during the American Revolution, around 1780. Due to the richness of the pine forest, settlers sold timber for construction and turpentine production. Agriculture gained prominence in the 20th century, with crops such as cotton, tobacco, corn, and rye. Peach orchards and vineyards were also plentiful.

In 1977, Foxfire was incorporated. Being a relatively newer town in Moore County, Foxfire maintains its tradition of being a pleasant, scenic, and resort golf community. The golf course community was developed from a 2,200-acre farm that had previously been owned by former professional golfers Roland McKenzie and Dan Tomlinson. It is a growing community with the addition of residential tracts suitable for horse farms.

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Figure 2.24: Foxfire Village Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Pinebluff

The Scottish influence is reflected in the names of the early towns and residents across Moore County. Members of the Peter Blue family from Aberdeen were the original residents of the Pinebluff area. The Blues had great success in the agricultural industry, particularly with tobacco and cattle farming.

James Patrick, founder of Southern Pines, had the idea to duplicate his Southern Pines and bought 772 acres in 1884 for the development of a second resort. This resort became Pinebluff. He named the streets after fruits and nuts, and the avenues after northern cities. Patrick worked for 20 years to attract new residents to Pinebluff, but unfortunately, disastrous fires stunted the town's development.

Dr. John W. Achorn stepped up to assume the leadership responsibilities in Pinebluff. Achorn, along with his wife and her mother, laid the foundation for Pinebluff to become a pleasant residential area. Pinebluff has become home to many retirees and military families from neighboring Ft Bragg and Pope Army Air Base. Pinebluff has a strong recreational program that centers around Pinebluff Lake. The Town has developed a "bedroom community" for working-class and young professional people who work in Fayetteville, Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and surrounding towns and cities.

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Figure 2:25: Town of Pinebluff Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Robbins

The town of Robbins has roots that go back to the American Revolution. Alexander Kennedy, a gunsmith from Philadelphia, built a gun factory on the falls of Bear Creek, near present-day Robbins. The business was booming, given the demand for rifles during the war. Due to the success of his company, many factories were established, and the town became known as Mechanics Hill. A small gold strike sustained the town until the Durham-Charlotte railroad arrived in 1904. It was around this time that John Lenning, a wealthy businessman and railroad builder, laid out the street to the new town. In honor of his contribution, the city was named after his daughter, Elise. The Town was renamed Robbins in 1943.

The Town of Robbins became home to a modern poultry processing plant, a mobile home manufacturing plant, and several textile mills. Ithaca Industries produced ladies' hosiery and, at the height of its operation, employed 1,100 people.

Like other rural towns in the South, Robbins began to suffer loss to its manufacturing base around 1990. The trend escalated throughout the 90s, but the people of this resilient town did not give in. According to the Employment Security Commission, Robbins has lost 1,447 jobs since 1990. The Town has also lost a substantial portion of its water and sewer customer base. The devastating effects caused by losing the manufacturing base left the people of Robbins down but not out. The governing body, Town staff, and community leaders initiated efforts to attract new industries to the area. The steps are paying off, and the Town of Robbins is redefining itself again. Robbins is a town proud of its colorful past and excited about its vibrant future. (Source: Convention & Visitors Bureau and Town of Robbins website)

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Figure 2.26: Town of Robbins Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Taylortown

Incorporated in 1987, the Town of Taylortown played an essential role in the well-being and growth of the Village of Pinehurst and the resort. In 1905, Demus Taylor, a formerly enslaved person, purchased land and founded a town for Pinehurst's African American workforce, many of whom helped to build Pinehurst itself. The town, originally called Old Settlement, was later renamed Taylortown in honor of its founder. The town emerged from the resort's need to find ample housing for its workforce. One of Taylortown's famous residents was Robert "Hard Rock" Robinson, a caddie to world-famous golf course architect Donald Ross. Robinson's reputation as Pinehurst's most knowledgeable caddie is legendary.

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Figure 2:27: Town of Taylortown Municipal Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Vass

Scotsmen settled in Vass and have had many names over the years. Known initially as Bynum, for Joseph Bynum, an early settler, it later became Winder after Major Winder, an officer with the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad. But the name that remains today came from Major William Worrell Vass, a longtime paymaster for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company. Vass was a bustling town, thriving in commerce and agriculture, and served as a railroad center and a publishing hub. Today, it is a town noted for its community involvement and wholesome leadership. As an example, Vass residents Phil and Pasty Keith donated the building that houses the library. The residents of Vass donated books and funds, and the Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation donated state-of-the-art computers.

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Figure 2:28: Town of Vass Municipal & Extraterritorial Limits; (Source: Moore County, GIS)

Whispering Pines

In the late 1700s, Charles Hurd and Nicholas Smith received land grants from the King of England for the area that is now known as Whispering Pines. Many others bought and sold the area's property and lakes throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, but it was a man named A.B. Hardee who realized the land's ultimate potential when he purchased 400 acres in 1959. Hardee developed his tract into a private golf course and residential community. In just ten years, Whispering Pines became the first municipality in North Carolina to be designated as a village. Today, Whispering Pines covers over 2,000 acres, features six lakes, sixteen miles of paved roads, two semi-private golf courses, and an abundance of pristine stands of pines and hardwood.

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Figure 2.29: Village of Whispering Pines Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits: (Source: Moore County, GIS)

The following are other current and historical communities that have influenced the culture of Moore County and shaped the future of small-town model communities.

Eagle Springs

The legend about the naming of Eagle Springs states that the town was named for a pair of eagles that built their nest in a giant pine tree at the mineral springs located west of the Eagle Springs Methodist Church. A baby eagle supposedly fell out of the nest and into the spring. Just south of the Methodist Church was a steam-powered sawmill and a shingle mill. North of the church, the railroad ran east-west. Besides these, tracks were peach packing sheds from which peaches were shipped north. Peach growers included the Page, Bost, and Harrison families. Sand from the Bost Sand Pit was also shipped on railcars. The railroad depot was on Academy Avenue (now Eagle Branch Road) and NC Hwy 211.

The Warner Hardware Store had rooms to rent upstairs. There was a café, and its second story was used for the Masonic Hall. Mrs. Hattie Stutts was the telephone operator, and the "Central Office" was in her home. Other early stores were Wilbern Blake's and, possibly, the oldest of the stores, N.J. Carter's. Eagle Springs High School was also located on Academy Avenue, but it was not an accredited institution. Therefore, students, for at least their senior year, had to attend either Elise Academy in Hemp (now Robbins) or Jackson Springs High School, both of which were accredited high schools. The Eagle Springs Elementary School closed about 1944, and students were bused to West End Elementary. In 1946, Moore County constructed a new elementary building at West End, located on Vineland near NC 211, and a new building on NC 211 East in Eagle Springs. Elementary students in Eagle Springs continued attending school until 1969, when they were relocated to West End. The Eagle Springs Methodist Church was established in 1874, the Eagle Springs Baptist Church in 1901, and the Eagle Springs Presbyterian Church in 1922. The latter was closed and merged with the Bensalem Presbyterian Church in 1976. The Presbyterian Church Cemetery was placed under the care of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina (formerly Fayetteville Presbytery). The Methodist and Baptist churches of Eagle Springs remain active. When NC Hwy 211 was moved away from the old center of town, Eagle Springs, as it used to be, died. (Source: Moore County Small Area "A" Plan)

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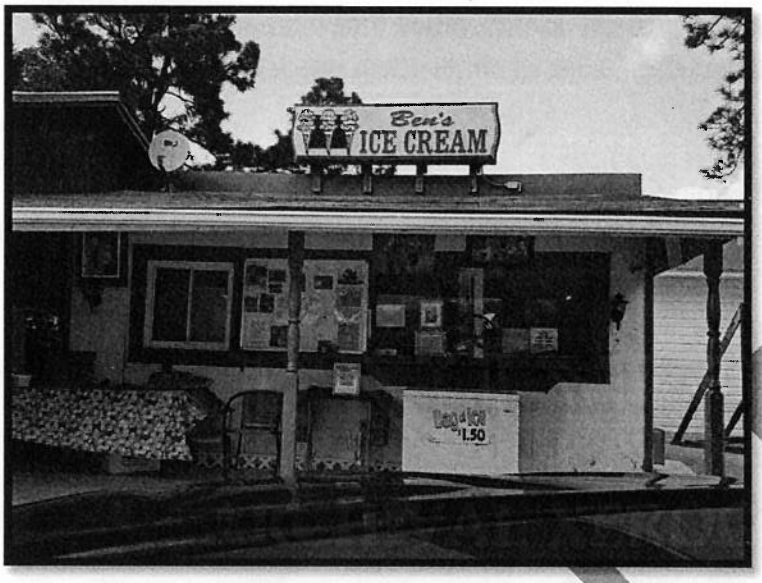


Figure 2.30. Ben's Ice Cream, Eagle Springs, NC. Source: Microsoft Bing



Figure 2.31. Ben Owen Pottery. Source: benowenpottery.com

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Jackson Springs

Jackson Springs is a rural crossroads community that has a rich history dating back to the mid-1700s. The town came about because of the mineral springs and clear, fresh water that has flowed for over two hundred years. In the early twentieth century, Jackson Springs flourished as a highly esteemed retreat, noted for its famous mineral water, which could "cure any ailment". Legend has it that a man named Jackson was hunting one day and shot a deer. He tracked the deer by the trail of blood in the snow to the spring where the deer was found dead. There, he discovered a huge bed of brown rock with a natural bowl or basin and clean water flowing from the rock. Mr. Jackson received a grant for the land, and the place became known as Jackson's Spring. Later, the name was changed to Jackson Springs when someone discovered two different springs were running from the huge brown rock, both containing mineral water.

Many years passed before a group of men decided to build a health resort in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so more people could benefit from the water. Jackson Springs was a very fast-growing and prosperous town for about thirty years. There was a school before the Civil War and for several years after an accredited high school with two dormitories for students, a depot and train which carried passengers and cargo (such as lumber, turpentine, mineral water, and peaches), a bank, drugstore, doctor's office, hotel, hardware store, two general stores, two service stations, post office, three churched, grocery store, cotton gin, chicken hatchery, bowling alley swimming pool, nine-hole golf course and tennis court, barber shop, dance pavilion where an orchestra played nearly every evening during the summer months, and a lake for swimming, boating and fishing. There were large homes where residents lived year-round, and cottages used for summer retreats.

In 1904, members of the Page family attended the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, sometimes called the St. Louis Exposition or the World Fair at St. Louis. They took samples of mineral water with them, and the samples were judged as the second-best medicinal water in America, winning a silver medal. Jackson Springs had a water bottling plant, and the water was shipped by rail to various towns and cities. Many people traveled to Jackson Springs to stay at the hotel and drink the water. With the advent of the automobile, others drove in to fill their jugs and bottles to take home – a practice that continues to this day. In 1921, Jackson Springs became incorporated. The town

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encompassed the land within a one-mile radius of the mineral spring. In 1952, the incorporation of the town was reactivated, and a slate of officers was elected. Edgar Graham was elected mayor. The town received money from North Carolina to pave the streets, and all the streets within a one-mile radius were paved. However, there has been no active municipal government in over sixty years. The hotel burned in the spring of 1932, and it was decided that it would not be profitable to rebuild. Gradually, the other businesses closed as Pinehurst and the surrounding areas began to grow. Few people are still living who can remember Jackson Springs in its heyday, but many of the people residing in Jackson Springs today have connections to the early settlers of the community and their heritage, which is very important to them. (Source: Moore County-Small Area "A" Plan)



Figure 2.32. The Water Bottling Site and Railroad, circa 1900's.
Source: Jackson Springs. Org / History



Figure 2.33. The Jackson Springs Hotel. Source: Jackson Springs. Org / History

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Seven Lakes

Seven Lakes is the largest, unincorporated village in Moore County and is named after its several spring-fed lakes. Planned forty years ago as a summer home and retirement community, it is now the fastest-growing area in Moore County. Seven Lakes residents are a mix of retirees and young professionals with children. There are three separate gated communities – Seven Lakes West, North, and South. Fred Lawrence, a Sanford businessman, developed the original project in 1973. Lake Auman, an 820-acre lake, is found in the Seven Lakes West community.

Seven Lakes offers a range of activities, including boating, fishing, swimming, tennis, pickleball, picnic shelters, playgrounds, water sports, and community centers. Seven Lakes also offers its public stables, providing horseback and equestrian sports for its residents. The gated communities offer golfing opportunities. Seven Lakes combines all the small-town elements of a resort getaway with the comforts of a private gated community.

In the late 1880s, turpentine distillery operator Daniel McDonald petitioned local railroad owner Allison Page to extend rail lines to his property to allow McDonald to ship his products. Page agreed and extended the Aberdeen & Star Railroad 13 miles northwest from Aberdeen to McDonald's land. The western terminal of this line was dubbed West End, and a community with the same name arose around it. All buildings in the community, except the train station and a drug store, were destroyed by fire in 1898.

In the aftermath of the fire, the community rebuilt its economy around agriculture, with a particular emphasis on peach cultivation. In 1927, peach grower J.B. Von Cannon established a factory which eventually became Sandhills Furniture Corporation. The facility was purchased by Stanley Furniture in 1965. In 2002, Stanley Furniture closed its West End plant, resulting in the elimination of 400 jobs. In 2019, the facility was removed to make way for the widening of NC 211 Highway into a four-lane divided boulevard.

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West End

West End is an unincorporated, rural-to-suburban area in northwest Moore County. Tied to agriculture, timber, and residential development, Seven Lakes. The population is approximately 7,000 to 8,000, comprising various household types, primarily single-family homes, along with a mix of traditional rural lots and planned subdivisions. Housing is a combination of older farmhouses, lake community homes, golf community residences, and new construction. Many residents commute to nearby Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, or Fort Bragg. The employment sectors include health care, education, retail, construction, and service industries. Local businesses include small shops, restaurants, agricultural enterprises, landscaping, and building trades. Educational opportunities provided include West End Elementary, West Pine Middle, Pinecrest High School, and Sandhills Community College.

The NC 211 Highway widening project is transforming West End from a rural crossroads into a growth corridor. Residential demand is increasing due to proximity to Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Fort Bragg communities. Commercial growth is beginning along NC 211, with small retail and service developments emerging.

Challenges include balancing growth with the preservation of rural character and open space, managing traffic and infrastructure demands along NC 211, avoiding strip commercial sprawl while supporting needed services, and providing uniform recreation and open space connections with Seven Lakes, Pinehurst, and county parks.

The West End could serve as a model for the Small-Town Land Use option that the Land Use Plan Steering Committee envisions for future growth. West End also serves as a transition zone between the rural northwest and the urbanizing south-central areas.

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Figure 2.34: Land Map Area Seven Lakes & West End: Source: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025

Woodlake

The Woodlake community embodies both the region's natural beauty and the challenges of striking a balance between growth and rural character. Initially developed in the 1970s as a planned residential and recreational community, Woodlake was envisioned as a lake-centered neighborhood offering residents the tranquility of waterfront living combined with access to amenities such as golf, recreation, and community events.

Over time, however, the community faced obstacles tied to changing ownership, financial instability, and infrastructure limitations. The draining of Lake Surf, once the centerpiece of the neighborhood, further reshaped the identity of Woodlake and underscored the importance of planning that preserves community assets, strengthens resilience, and fosters long-term stability.

Today, Woodlake is at a pivotal moment in its story. As Moore County prepares for continued population growth, the future of Woodlake must be considered through the lens of the Small-Town Model, a growth framework that emphasizes compact development, connectivity, and preservation of rural surroundings. By embracing the Small-Town Model, Woodlake could transform its challenges into a foundation for renewal.

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Cultural Activities

Agriculture

Agricultural lands are a defining component of Moore County's rural landscape, shaped by its diverse soil types, moderate climate, and long-standing farming traditions. According to the 2022 ASDA Census of Agriculture, Moore County is home to 802 farms spanning 106,258 acres (approximately 166 square miles). This reflects a 9% increase in the number of farms, a 19% increase in total farmland, and a 9% increase in average farm size since 2017.

Farm Size Distribution (2022):

- 1 to 9 acres: 75 farms (9%)
- 10 to 49 acres: 365 farms (46%)
- 50 to 179 acres: 250 farms (31%)
- 180 to 499 acres: 56 farms (7%)
- 500 to 999 acres: 32 farms (4%)
- 1,000 + acres: 24 farms (3%)

Top Crops by Acreage:

- Forage (hay/haylage): 7,930 acres
- Soybeans (for beans):4,844 acres
- Corn (for grain): 3,157 acres
- Wheat (for grain): 2,203 acres
- Tobacco: 1,542 acres



Figure 2.35. Moore County's Agricultural Heritage Photo Contest.
Source: thepilot.com

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Forestry

Forestry is a vital component of Moore County's landscape, economy, and environmental health. With over 65% of the county's land area forested, these woodlands support rare ecosystems, such as the longleaf pine forest, and serve as natural buffers for streams, lakes, and aquifers. Forest also provides critical wildlife habitat, improves air quality, and contributes to the county's rural identity.

According to the 2022 Forestry Contributions Report, Moore County contains approximately:

- 286,501 acres of privately owned timberland
- 19,803 acres of publicly owned timberland

Forestry provided landowners with an estimated $17.4 million in stumpage harvest value and generated a total economic impact of approximately $222 million in industry output. The sector supports 700 jobs with a total payroll of around $40 million.

Why Forestry Matters to Moore County:

- Maintains Moore County's rural and cultural character
- Supports endangered ecosystems such as longleaf pine habitats
- Protect water quality through natural filtration systems
- Supports biodiversity and wildlife
- Contributes significantly to the local economy and employment

Forestry in Moore County is more than just an economic asset; it is a cornerstone of the county's identity and sustainability. Land use for forestry helps preserve the rural character and prevent sprawling developments.

Equestrian

Moore County is widely recognized as one of the premier equestrian destinations in the southeastern United States. Rooted in the sandy soils and rolling landscapes of the Sandhills, the county's equestrian heritage has shaped its identity, economy, and land use patterns for over a century.

The Southern Pines "Horse Country" emerged in the early 1900s as riders discovered the region's longleaf pine forests, mild climate, and well-drained soils provided ideal conditions for year-round training and riding. Today, the area continues to thrive as a nationally known hub for equestrian sport and recreation.

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Central to this tradition is the Walthour-Moss Foundation, a 4,000-acre preserve dedicated to equestrian use and conservation of the land. This open space provides miles of trails for foxhunting, carriage driving, and recreational riding, ensuring that equestrian traditions remain tied to the county's natural character.

Equestrian activities in Moore County are diverse, ranging from fox hunting with the historic Moore County Hounds to Olympic-level events, western riding, and local trail clubs. The county's landscape supports a vibrant network of private farms, training facilities, and riding schools, making horses a central part of both the economy and community culture.

This equestrian lifestyle influences land preservation and planning decisions throughout the county. Large-lot residential developments, conservation easements, and rural zoning patterns help maintain open space for horse farms and trails, balancing growth with the protection of a unique cultural and economic asset.



Figure 2.36 Source: Surface678.com

Though Horse County is commonly used to refer to this area of the county, it also extends to parts of Foxfire, Vass, Camerson, and the Harness Track in Pinehurst. The Pinehurst Harness Track was constructed in 1915, with the Pinehurst Jockey Club being formed in 1916 by Leonard Tufts, son of Pinehurst founder James Walker Tufts. Due to the growing popularity of horse and equestrian activities, many equestrian communities

have developed across Moore County, including communities such as The Meadows, The Fields, Morganwood, McLendon Hills, Grande Pines, and Pelham Farms.

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Pottery

The pottery industry is a vital cultural and economic driver in Moore County, centered in the renowned Seagrove area, often referred to as the "Pottery Capital of the United States." With over 80 working potters at any one time, with around 50 shops, studios, and galleries open to the public. Some are ninth-generation potters, while others have relocated from across the United States.



Figure 2.37: Source: thelocalpalate.com

Several potteries are located along NC Hwy 705 or its side roads, prompting the state to designate NC Hwy 705 as the official "NC Pottery Highway." This area is unique in that its ceramic history began with the abundant and diverse natural clay deposits found in the vicinity.

Military Training

Fort Bragg (formerly Fort Liberty from 2023-2025) is a U.S. military installation located in North Carolina. It ranks among the largest military bases in the world, with a population of more than 52,000 military personnel. [2]

Covering more than 251 Square miles, Fort Bragg is home to the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps. It serves as the headquareters[2] of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, which oversees the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) and the 75th Ranger Regiment. Additionally, it hosts the 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army Forces Command, U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Womack Army Medical Center. Fort Bragg also operates two airfields: Pope Field, where the U.S. Air Force stations global airlift and special operations units, as well as the Air Force Combat Control School, and Simmons Army Airfield, which supports Army Aviation Units for airborne and special operations missions.

The installation was initially named after Confederate general Braxton Bragg. In 2023, the U. S. Department of Defense renamed the installation to "Fort Liberty" due to controversy surrounding memorials to Confederate leaders. In February 2025, the name of the installation was changed back to "Fort Bragg", in honor of World War II paratrooper Roland L. Bragg. (source: Wikipedia)

Fort Bragg Regional Land Use Advisory Commission

The Fort Bragg Regional Land Use Advisory Commission was established in 1991 as an informal group comprising local governments, Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, and various state and federal agencies that collaborated to promote compatible growth and the conservation of critical environmental resources surrounding the installations. After a brief hiatus in the late 1990s, the Commission was reformed as a voluntary association focused on preparing a new Joint Land Use Study for the region. In 2005, the original group of local governments formally established RLUAC as a statutory intergovernmental cooperation agency and hired the first Executive Director to administer the organization. Over the years, the organization has grown and expanded its partnerships and mission, including holding a formal agreement with the Fort Bragg Garrison to provide statutory reviews for land use and development proposals within 5 miles of the installation.

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Cases are reviewed to determine where the proposed activity is within an area identified as being either critical or important to protect in the Fort Bragg Compatible Use Rating System, and if so, where the nature of the proposal is compatible with the military training or operational impacts in the area. (source: rluac.com)



Figure 2.38: Source: 82ndairbornedivisionmuseum.com

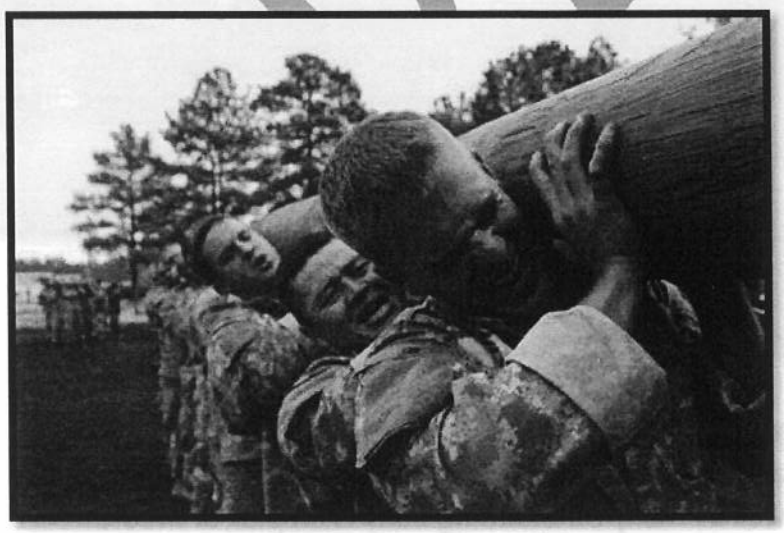


Figure 2.39: Source: public affaris-sme.com

Historical Structures, Places, & Districts

The history of Moore County has shaped its communities and culture through historical landmarks, providing insight into how the county developed into what it is today. Below is a summary of historical buildings that can be found throughout the area. This is not an exhaustive list, but depicts some of the locations where Moore County's rich history developed.

Shaw House

The Historic Shaw House is located on its original foundation at the crossing of the famed Revolutionary Pee Dee and Morganton Roads at the southern entrance to Southern Pines. The Pee Dee Road was an ancient Native American Trail and ran between Cheraw, South Carolina, and its northern settlements. In contrast, Morganton Road ran from the market town of Fayetteville, North Carolina, to the Cape Fear River.



Figure 2.40: Source: Shaw House -Updated May 2025 -110 Morganton Rd., Southern Pines – Yelp

The Shaw House is typical of antebellum houses, which were modeled after the cabins of the early Sandhills settlers. It is less elaborate than the seacoast plantations and has the charm and sturdy simplicity that was characteristic of the Scottish families who settled in this region. Fine details highlight the interior on two hand-carved fireplace mantels of unusual beauty, as well as many outstanding early examples of Moore County pottery and "plain-style" pine furniture. A wing was added to the house in the mid-1800s, and a kitchen was added sometime in the 1920s.

Charles C. Shaw, a first-generation Scottish settler, acquired 2,500 acres and built the house around 1820. The date of 1842 on the chimney is thought to have been the year that the front porch and two attached "travelers' rooms" were added. One of his 12 children, Charles Washington Shaw, inherited the property and lived in the house, becoming the first mayor of Southern Pines in 1887. The house remained in the Shaw family until it was acquired in 1946 by the newly formed Moore County Historical Association in a grassroots effort to ensure its preservation.



Figure 2.41. Shaw House Heritage Fair – Home of Golf



Figure 2.42. The Old Shaw Homestead, Southern Pines, NC, Postcard.
Source: cardcow.com

Garner House

The Garner House, now on the Shaw House grounds, was initially located on the property of Mrs. Melvin Garner, off State Road 1456 north of Robbin. John Garner purchased the land in 1764, and his son, Lewis, was born on the property. The Garner House was purchased by the Moore County Historical Association in 1986. Family members believe Lewis built the house early in the 19th century, but John may have built it in the 1700s.



Figure 2.43: Source: Moore County Historical Association

The house is unaltered and intact and is one of the finest examples of the typical rural homes of early Moore County that remain today. It is distinguished by wide heart-pine paneling with fine quality moldings at the windows and doors. A corner stairway with winders leads to the second floor, which features exposed log construction and a fireplace with handmade brick. The large pine logs forming the structure are 13 to 16 inches wide and are hewn 7 to 8 inches thick. The house measures 20 by 24 feet and has an attached 8-by-24 front porch. The stone and brick chimney opens to a fireplace on each floor.

The first-floor features original pegged mantels with early blue paint. Much of the furniture is original to the house, including the two painted cupboards and the scrub-top table. The painted sash is also original, and some of the original glass remains on the front of the building. The house had a separate kitchen, which was too deteriorated to move.

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Bryant House

James Bryant acquired McLendon Place from his father, Michael, early in the 19th century, with the McClendon Cabin already in place. Bryant later built the manor house there about 1820. James Bryant's great-granddaughter, Flossie Bryant Davis, and her children donated the house, along with 3.4 acres, to the Moore County Historical Association in 1969. Restoration of the structure in the early 1970s included straightening the chimneys and replacing the shake roof. Special features include two fine, handmade mantels, hewn heart pine girders, and sills.

Furnishings for the house were acquired by the Moore County Historical Association by Mrs. Ernest Ives, Mrs. John Labouisse, and the Davis family. The Bryant House and the McLendon Cabin were opened to the public in May 1976. Mrs. Davis was born and grew up in the house, where she raised her family of six boys and seven girls.



Figure 2.44: Source: Moore County Historical Association

McLendon Cabin



Figure 2:45 Source: Moore County Historical Association

When Joel McLendon came to Moore County in 1758 to claim his grant of 200 acres, he selected a slope overlooking Buck Creek as the perfect site for his home. Although a simple one-room structure, it was built with the typical integrity of the early settlers, and the quality of construction has preserved it for over 200 years. A little farther downstream he built and operated a grist mill on Buck Creek, which became known as McLendon's Creek, just as the road below his cabin came to be called Joel's Road.

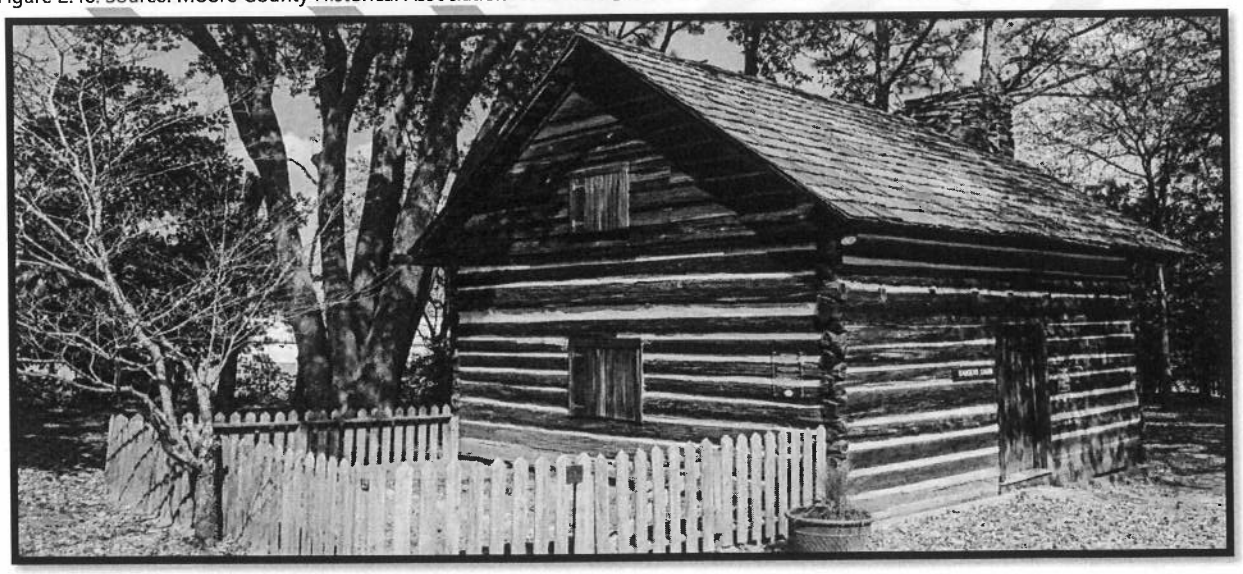
In 1787, McLendon sold his property to Robert Graham, whose daughter married Michael Bryant, and their son, James, succeeded to the land. When James Bryant constructed his larger house, he built it adjoining the McLendon Cabin, where the two houses sit today. The McLendon Cabin is the oldest house in Moore County, still standing in its original location. The circa 1760 structure is typical of the log dwellings built by the earlier settlers of the region. The house was restored in 1970 by the Moore County Historical Association under the leadership of Mrs. Ernest Ives.

Sanders Cabin

The Britt Sanders Cabin was relocated to its present site on the Shaw House grounds in Southern Pines from its original location in rural northwestern Moore County in 1952. It was in a state of advanced deterioration with damaged logs, a crumbled roof, and a fallen chimney. It took love and determination to raise the money to move it and restore it. The cabin sat on Morgan Land, and Britt Sanders, born in 1831, married into the Morgan family. It is of typical Scottish German construction, featuring hewn logs and half-dove-tailed notches, which produce a solid and durable dwelling. There were no windows in the original cabin, and the floor was red clay. The sleeping loft upstairs is typical; the main floor provides space for living, sleeping, cooking, washing, and weaving. Notables are the sand hearth for cooking, the cruise land hanging by the fireplace, and the antique candle molds. The old trammel by the fireplace is designed to hang inside the chimney on the iron pole, which was inserted during construction.

The loom was essential for a family, as everything had to be handmade, and cloth was a highly valued commodity. The beautiful chimney, constructed from native river rock, is protected from the elements by a wide overhang. The chimney was initially made of a mixture of mud, clay, and hair and had to be replaced yearly. Yards in the early Sandhills were swept clean as a daily chore, both to keep down fires and as a matter of neatness. The entire family worked together, and the children's "recreational" activities primarily consisted of learning skills. It was a hard existence by our standards, but it was by no means a drab one. The family provided stability and was a cohesive factor in the lives of the early settlers.

Figure 2.46: Source: Moore County Historical Association



Moore County Courthouse

In the early days of our history, Scottish immigrants trudged their way up the Cape Fear Valley, reaching the Moore County area in the mid-1780s. These settlers found the perfect location for a new town on a high hill. They established their community and named it Fagansville after an early pioneer, Richardson Fagin. Moore County's first courthouse was built on Killets Creek in 1785.

Moore County was created by dividing Cumberland County on July 4, 1784. Since there was no incorporated town in the new county to serve as the county seat or locate the official courthouse, in 1796, a committee of the legislature selected a site in the center of the new county. The name given to the new courthouse site was Carthage, which was finally confirmed by the General Assembly in 1818. The remainder of the town was not laid out until 1803.

In 1814, the courthouse was relocated to its present location at the intersection of the main avenue in Carthage. Carthage is situated on a high, commanding ridge, and the courthouse site marks the highest elevation in that part of the county, with an altitude of almost 600 feet. The 1814 courthouse was made of wood and was called The Red House. In 1837, the floor of the Red House collapsed, necessitating the construction of a third courthouse, which was built of brick. In 1889, the third courthouse burned, destroying many valuable papers and documentation of the county's early history. Within a year, the fourth courthouse was constructed. The fourth courthouse was replaced in 1922 with the large building that stands in the center of the town today. Moore County's sixth county courthouse and government building were erected across the street, leaving the historic courthouse standing in the middle of the circle.



Figure 2.47: Moore County Historic Courthouse: Source: uscourthouse.org

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Malcolm Blue House & Farm

Malcolm McMillan Blue's father, John Campbell Blue, emigrated from Scotland with his parents, Duncan and Margaret Campbell Blue, about 1768, and settled near present-day Lakeview, North Carolina. Their home was located where the Lakeview Cemetery is today. Duncan Blue acquired large tracts of land that were divided among his sons upon his death in 1814. Malcolm Blue's father, John, owned 838 acres of land and settled on Shaddock's Creek about two miles from his father's home. Malcolm McMillan Blue was born on November 27, 1802, as the eldest of six sons and five daughters. Malcolm emulated his father and purchased vast tracts of land.



Figure 2.48: Malcom Blue House / Farm: Source:

In 1821, at the age of 19, Malcolm bought property belonging to John Blue in Cumberland County and soon after bought land east of the Devil's Gut and north of Old Bethesda Church. Here, near Pee Dee Road, he built the farmhouse circa 1825. After building a home and establishing a farmstead, Malcolm married Isabella Patterson in October 1833, who died five months later in March 1834. In 1843, Malcolm married Flora Ray of the Rays' Mill family and had seven children, four girls and three boys. His son, John Calvin, served in the Confederate army and later became a doctor serving the Carthage and Cameron communities. His son Malcolm James became the first postmaster of Blue's Crossing and built the first house overlooking what would become downtown Aberdeen. His son Neill A. Blue inherited the farmhouse upon Malcolm's death in 1875 and raised his seven children on the farm as well.

Malcolm Blue owned large tracts of land, entered the turpentine and lumber industry, and became very wealthy. He owned approximately 8,000 acres of land, including the present-day Pinehurst Racetrack and the western boundary of Fort Bragg. The 1860 census records his land valued at $5,000 with naval stores (9,000 gallons of turpentine and 600 barrels of rosin) valued at $3,000. He also enslaved seven people and owned

livestock, including swine, sheep, milk cows, and other cattle. Two hundred acres of his farm were cleared for farming wheat, rye, corn, peas, beans, and sweet potatoes.

House in the Horseshoe

Philip Alston, the original owner of the House in the Horseshoe, led a life surrounded by controversy and later mystery. Alston's attempts at political advancement plunged him into a bitter rivalry that marred his reputation.

Although born to wealthy parents, John and Elizabeth Chancy Alston of Halifax County, Philip did not receive a large inheritance. Alston's wealth increased considerably after he married Temperance Smith, who owned a large tract of land near the Roanoke River. In 1772, Alston and his wife moved to Moore County after purchasing a large plot of land on either side of the Deep River's bend. In 1777, Alston's plantation included 6,936 acres. Alston served as lieutenant colonel to a local Whig militia before the General Assembly promoted him to full colonel during the American Revolution.

On July 29, 1781, Alston's unit was camped at his plantation when Colonel David Fanning and his band of Loyalists attacked the Whigs. Alston surrendered to Fanning after both sides suffered multiple casualties and his home burned down. Alston was later held captive as a prisoner of war by Loyalist troops during a skirmish in Briar Creek, Georgia, but was released before the war's end. Alston pursued a career in politics after the Revolutionary War ended. First serving as a Justice at the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Alston later became the Moore County clerk of court. Alston was then elected to the State Senate, where his career troubles began. Accused of murdering Loyalist Thomas Taylor during the Revolutionary War, Alston was eventually pardoned by Governor Richard Caswell. However, political rivals of Alston refused to ignore the murder allegations.

George Glascock, the newly elected Moore County Clerk of Court, joined Henry Lightfoot, the County Solicitor, and John Cox, a member of the House of Commons, in contesting Alston's election. These men opposed Alston for various reasons, ranging from his alleged murder of Taylor to his disbelief in God. Additionally, Glascock testified that Alston had claimed that he would instigate a riot if he lost the Senate race to Lightfoot. The political maneuvering worked, and Moore County was required to elect another Senator. Alston then accepted a job as a justice of the peace, but Glascock had

him removed from that seat as well. But Glascock would not interfere with Alston's political career much longer.

In August 1787, Alston hosted a party at the House in Horseshoe and was sure to stay close to his guests throughout the night. The party proved to be an excellent alibi-that night, one of Alston's slaves named "Dave" murdered George Glascock. Alston bailed Dave out before the trial, and Dave later fled. Alston sold the House in the Horseshoe in 1790. Then in 1791, after fleeing Wilmington jail, Alston was shot from his bedroom window of his Georgia hideout. Some speculate that Alston's former slave, Dave, murdered him.



Figure 2.49 Source: tripadvisor.com

Moore Public Outdoor Recreation, Greenways & Open Space

Moore County offers a variety of public lands for rest, recreation, and physical fitness. Significant outdoor activities include pickleball, hiking, biking, horseback riding, boating, bird and other wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, trapping, and nature photography. Popular outdoor sports include golf, soccer, baseball, and softball, among others. There are minimal overnight camping opportunities currently available in Moore County.

Inclusive of State-owned parkland, such as Weymouth Woods, Moore County has approximately 1,690 acres of public land available for parks and recreation space. This figure includes all State as well as municipal parks. The Walthour Moss Foundation, located in the eastern portion of the County between U.S. Highway #1 and the County's eastern boundary adjacent to Fort Bragg, includes approximately 4,000 additional acres of private land open to equestrians for bird watching and hiking.

Proximity to parks, greenways, and natural areas tends to increase the value of residential properties. Studies show that homes near protected open spaces can see value premiums of 5% to 20% contributing to higher property tax revenues.

Preserving open space helps avoid costly infrastructure expansion. Undeveloped lands typically cost less in public services (roads, utilities, schools) compared to residential or commercial development.

Open space preservation maintains the viability of Moore County's farms and forests. These lands contribute to the economy through crop sales, timber production, and local supply chains, while also supporting conservation practices.

Natural open spaces provide flood mitigation, water filtration, carbon storage, and cooling effects-saving money in stormwater management, utility costs, and health impacts related to heat and pollution.

(Action 2.2.1: Develop a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan that emphasizes interconnectivity of county and municipal resources and provides uniformity.)

Moore County / Municipalities Parks and Recreation

One of the largest active parks in Moore County is the Moore County Sports Complex. The sports complex features four baseball/softball fields, two playgrounds, a picnic shelter, a splash pad, a concession stand, a field house, and a new 21,000-square-foot indoor recreation facility. The new indoor facility opened in March of 2021. The facility features a gymnasium with two high school-sized courts, four volleyball courts, and four pickleball courts.

The Moore County Parks and Recreation Department has the benefit of utilizing Moore County's School system's gyms and ballfield facilities for many of their parks and recreation programs. This is a significant relationship as it helps the department meet consistent population growth.

Many surrounding municipalities opened new facilities recently.

- Aberdeen Parks & Recreation – Ransdell Sports Complex, 32 acres, 6 lighted soccer fields opened in 2021.
- The Town of Carthage – Nancy Kiser Park renovation to include the resurfacing of the tennis courts and the addition of new pickleball court lines and netting, Spring 2025.
- Southern Pines Parks & Recreation in 2020 acquired 157 acres known as the Whitehall property for walking and biking trails.
- Southern Pines Parks & Recreation in December 2024 opened the County's first Skatepark.
- The Village of Pinehurst opened the Canon Park Community Center in January 2020. The 18,500-square-foot facility features a full-size gym and classrooms for hosting a variety of activities.
- The Village of Pinehurst opened the County's first synthetic turf field at Cannon Park in March 2023 and opened the second at Rassie Wicker Park in March 2025.

(Recommendation 2.2: Promote the county's Park and Recreation programs through collaborative planning efforts between the County and municipalities)

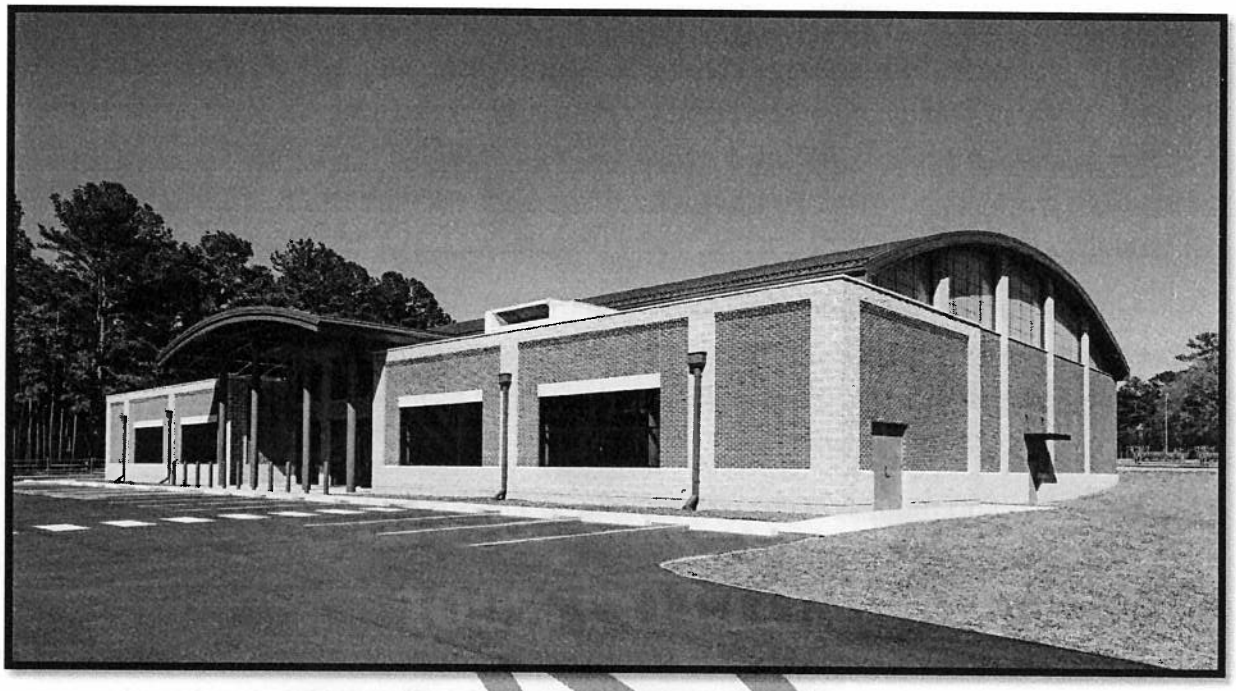


Figure 2.50: Moore County Sports Complex Source: cplteam.com

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Figure 2.51: Moore County Sports Complex Source: cplteam.com

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Figure 2.52: Hillcrest Park Splash Pad: Source: Sandhillssential.com

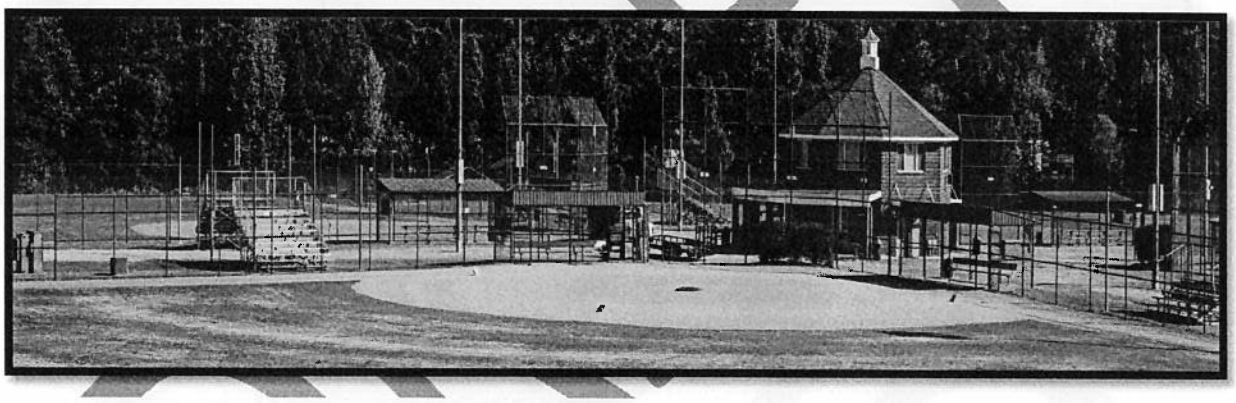


Figure 2.53: Parks & Facilities/ Moore County: Source: moorecountync.gov



Figure 2.54: Hillcrest Park Playground (ADA accessible playground)
Source: moorecountync.gov

Educational System

(23) public schools currently serve Moore County, (3) Charter Schools, (13) private schools, and a community college. The Moore County public school system is made up of (13) elementary schools, (5) middle schools, (4) high schools, and (1) alternative school. Excluding Sandhills Community College, Moore County had 16,534 students enrolled in public, private, or charter schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

Public Schools

As of the 2024-25 school year, the total enrollment for the Moore County school district was 12,931. According to the Moore County schools website, the schools currently employ over 1,701 employees, of whom 42.25% hold a master's degree or higher. The Moore County school system is predominantly white, at 62%, while other reported races include African American (15%), Hispanic (15%), Asian (1%), American Indian (1%), and two or more (6%).

The Moore County School System is divided into three areas, with one high school in each district. Within each area, smaller districts are divided among elementary and middle schools, based on specific demographic criteria. Overall, the MCS runs a total of 79 buses, transporting 6,602 students 10,948 miles per day throughout these areas.

In addition to physical school locations, MCS includes Connect Virtual Academy, a standalone school offering a virtual learning option, as well as a "Blend Ed" program for homeschool students.

Enrollment has fluctuated over the past decade, with counts at nearly 12,900 in the 2013-14 school year. MCS saw a significant decrease in enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic, with around 12,300 students enrolled for the 2020-21 school year. However, enrollment has increased since then, with numbers climbing to over 12,900 by the 2022-23 school year. (source: Moore County Schools – Schools Report Record Enrollment)

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School Capacities

Public school locations in Moore County are divided into three areas, as shown below:

Area 1

Union Pines High (9-12) – Cameron
Community Learning Center at Pinckney (6-12) – Carthage
Crains Creek Middle (6-8) – Carthage
New Century Middle (6-8) - Cameron
Cameron Elementary (K-5) - Cameron
Carthage Elementary (K-5) - Carthage
McDeeds Creek Elementary (K-5) - Southern Pines
Sandhills Farm Life Elementary (K-5) - Carthage
Vass-Lakeview Elementary (K-5) – Vass

Area 2

North Moore High (9-12) - Robbins
Elise Middle (6-8) - Robbins
Highfalls Elementary (K-8) - Highfalls
Robbins Elementary (K-5) - Robbins
Westmoore Elementary (K-8) – Seagrove

Area 3

Pinecrest High (9-12) - Southern Pines
Connect Academy (K-12) - West End
Southern Middle (6-8) - Aberdeen
West Pine Middle (6-8) - West End
Aberdeen Elementary (K-5) - Aberdeen
Pinehurst Elementary (K-5) - Pinehurst
Southern Pines Elementary (K-5) - Southern Pines
West End Elementary (K-5) - West End
West Pine Elementary (K-5) - West End

Several new elementary schools have been constructed in the last six years to alleviate over-capacities across the district. McDeeds Creek Elementary opened in 2019 to serve Vass and Whispering Pines, alleviating the need for modular units at Vass-Lakeview and

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Sandhills Farm Life. Aberdeen Elementary School opened in 2020 at its new location, off NC 5 Hwy, to replace the old Aberdeen Elementary School (grades 3-5) and Aberdeen Primary School (grades K-2), providing additional capacity in Area 3. In 2021, Southern Pines Elementary School opened, which replaced the aging and deteriorating Southern Pines Primary School (grades K-2) and Southern Pines Elementary School (grades 3-5). At the same time, a new Pinehurst Elementary School facility was constructed on the site of the prior campus on Dundee Rd. The new facility opened for students in August 2021.

First 20-Days of Enrollment				
	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Total
2023-2024	5603	2594	4431	12628
2024-2025	5619	2637	4476	12732
% change	+0.3%	+1.7%	+1.0%	+0.8%

Figure 2.55: Source: Moore County Schools, 2024-25 Student Enrollment by School and Grade

Most schools currently operating at or above capacity are at the middle and high school levels. As of the 2024-2025 school year, (1) middle school and (2) high schools are at or above 100% capacity. Given the projected future growth within the county, it will be essential to expand the capacities at these locations.

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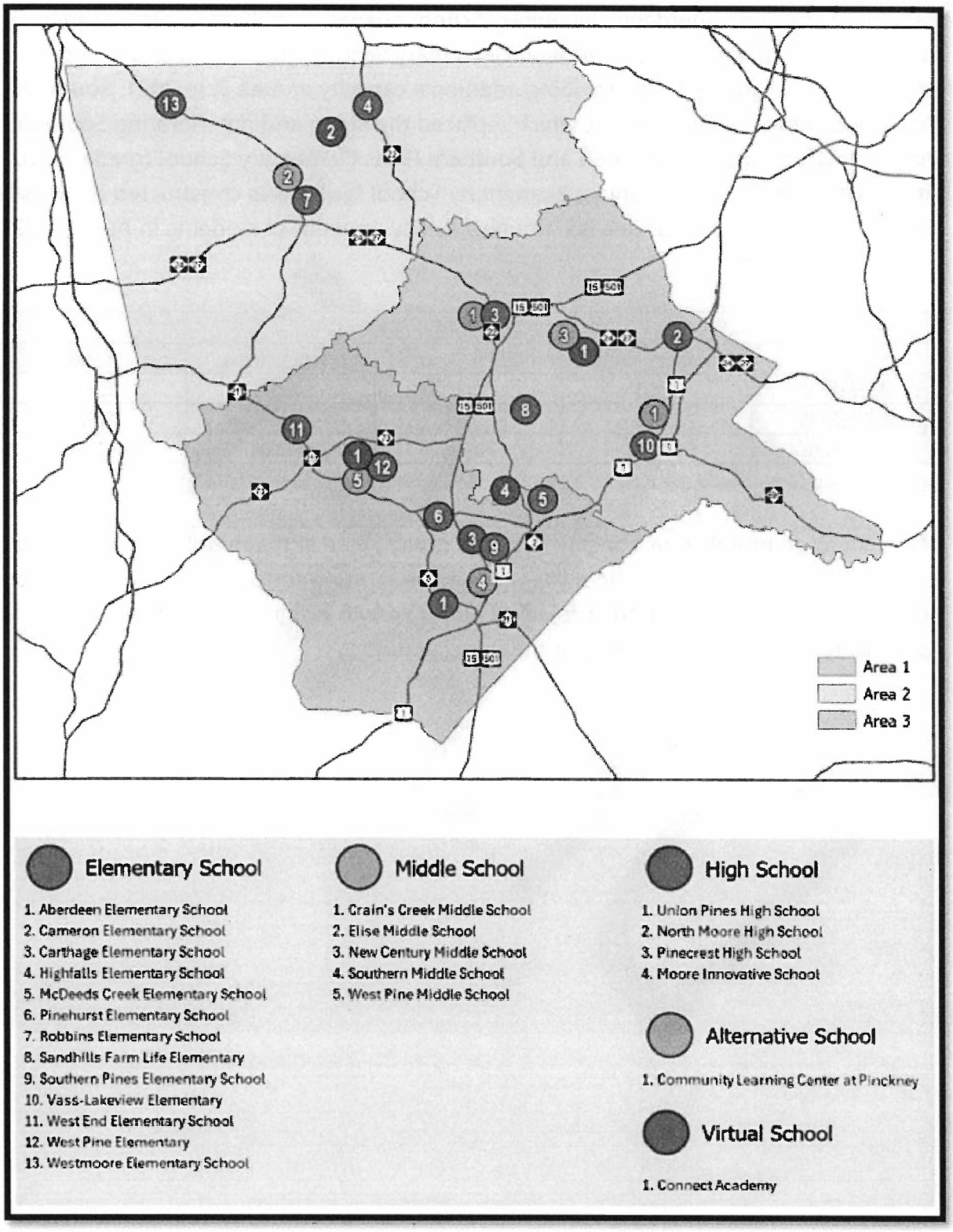


Figure 2.56: Moore County Public Schools: Source: Moore County Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 2025

Charter & Private Schools

Moore County offers a variety of educational options, including several private and charter schools. Moore County has three public charter schools: The Academy of Moore, STARS Charter, and Moore Montessori Community School, which collectively serve a total of 1,599 students.

There are many private schools located in Moore County. The North Carolina Statistical Summary for Private Schools for the 2024-2025 academic year reported 13 private schools in Moore County, with an enrollment of 1,970 students. (Source: NC*DOA 2024-2025)

Home School Students

As of 2024-2025, Moore County had 1,477 home schools registered with the North Carolina Department of Non-Public Education. According to the North Carolina Home School Statistical Summary, 2024-2025, 2,534 students were enrolled in a home school in Moore County, equating to 1.71 students per home school. Currently, there are 101,880 home schools throughout North Carolina, with over 165,243 students enrolled. (Source NC*DOA 2024-2025)

Sandhills Community College

Sandhills Community College (SCC) is a public two-year institution in the North Carolina Community College System. Established in 1963, it serves Moore and Hoke counties, playing a vital role in the region's higher education, workforce training, and economic development.

Sandhills Community College offers a wide range of associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. The college is known for its robust continuing education divisions, providing adult education, job skills training, and personal enrichment courses. It also supports local industry through customized training and workforce development programs.

The college is situated on a scenic 240-acre campus featuring modern instructional buildings, a state-of-the-art nursing education center, and the Hoke Center in Raeford, providing expanded access.

Sandhills Community College is a cornerstone of the local economy and education system, producing a skilled workforce and lifelong learners. It works closely with Moore County Schools and local businesses to align programs with regional needs.

Future Needs

As Moore County continues to grow, it is critical to plan, budget, and implement new educational facilities to accommodate the increasing student population. Population growth remains the primary driver for the development of new schools; however, a deeper understanding of growth patterns, including where and how the county is expanding, is essential for effective long-term planning, particularly in small town site/school locations.

New schools should be considered essential public infrastructure, serving communities based on measurable demand. When that demand exceeds capacity, existing schools become overcrowded, which can strain not only the educational environment but also related infrastructure systems, including transportation networks, water, and sewer systems.

The location and siting of school facilities play a critical role in shaping community growth. School placement influences:

1. The cost and feasibility of school construction and long-term maintenance.
2. Transportation needs and expenses, such as bus routes and travel times,
3. The quality of surrounding development, including residential growth patterns,
4. Student safety and accessibility.

Strategic school siting must be coordinated with land use, utility planning, and transportation infrastructure to ensure that new educational investments support sustainable and balanced growth throughout the county.

Chapter 5.
Quality of Life

Moore County is widely recognized for its exceptional quality of life, blending natural beauty, rich cultural experiences, and a strong sense of community. Nestled in the heart of North Carolina's Sandhills region, the county offers an ideal balance of rural charm and modern amenities.

Natural Beauty & Recreation

The landscape is defined by lush long-leaf pine forests, rolling hills, and pristine golf courses. Moore County is a world-renowned golf destination, featuring nearly 40 golf courses within a 15-mile radius. These premier facilities attract over 1 million visitors annually, bolstering the local economy and tourism industry. Pinehurst No.2, a centerpiece of the region, was named the first anchor site for the U.S. Open Championship, with events scheduled in 2024, 2029, 2025, 2041, and 2047.

Education & Healthcare

Education is a principle of Moore County's livability. The Moore County School System provides public education, while Sandhills Community College offers accessible higher education and workforce development programs.

Healthcare services are anchored by FirstHealth of the Carolinas, a leading provider in the region. Facilities such as Moore Regional Hospital, the Reid Heart Center, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center deliver state-of-the-art medical care, ensuring a high standard of living for all residents.

Agritourism

Moore County offers a unique blend of rural charm and modern experiences, attracting visitors eager to explore the region's rich cultural heritage. Known for its rolling farmland and equestrian culture, the Sandhills area provides diverse agritourism opportunities that cater to families, food enthusiasts, and nature lovers alike. From pick-your-own farms to vineyard tours, the area showcases its agricultural roots while supporting local businesses and fostering sustainable practices. **(Action 1.3.4: Allow agritourism and cottage industries (such as small family farms, small home-based**

businesses, potteries, etc.) that are consistent with and enhance the County's heritage.)

One of the standard attractions in Moore County is its network of working farms that welcome visitors to experience life in the countryside. Farms like Kalawi Farm in Eagle Springs are known for their seasonal offering, such as peach picking in the summer and fresh produce markets. Many farms also host seasonal events, such as corn mazes and pumpkin patches, offering family-friendly activities that celebrate the rhythms of farm life. Additionally, farms provide ideal locations for celebrations and special events.



Figure 2.57: Source: home of golf/agritourism

Equestrian

Another agritourism activity in Moore County is Equestrian. Numerous equestrian facilities provide riding lessons, trail rides, and opportunities to witness horse shows and competitions. Moore County has a reputation as the hub for horse enthusiasts.

Moore County's agritourism opportunities blend education, recreation, and a celebration of local culture; visitors to Moore County can engage themselves in a vibrant community that recognizes its agricultural traditions.

Tourism

Tourism has long been a key part of Moore County's identity and economy. Today, North Carolina's tourism industry ranks as the second-largest economic sector, generating $36.7 billion statewide. In 2023, Moore County achieved a record-breaking $805.1 million in visitor spending, a 7.4% increase over the previous year, solidifying its position as the 10th highest tourism economy in North Carolina, the county's highest-ever ranking.

This data comes from an annual report commissioned by Visit North Carolina, part of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), and prepared by Tourism Economics in partnership with U. S. Travel Association.

Golf as a Premier Destination

Moore County is internationally renowned for golf tourism, anchored by the Pinehurst area, which hosts prestigious tournaments year-round. A hallmark event is the U.S. Kids World Golf Championship, which brings together youth golfers aged 5-12 from around the globe. This event, the world's largest junior golf tournament, highlights Moore County as a nurturing ground for the next generation of golf talent.

Beyond the Greens: Festivals & Cultural Attractions

While golf remains the cornerstone of the local tourism economy, Moore County offers a rich array of festivals, historical attractions, and cultural events that draw visitors throughout the year. Notable events include:

- Malcolm Blue Farm Festival
- Carthage Buggy Festival
- Robbins Farmers Day Festival
- Cameron Antiques Festival
- House in the Horseshoe Living History Events

Additionally, Moore County boasts a thriving community theater scene, art exhibits, lectures, and concerts that contribute to its year-round tourism industry. These unique cultural assets not only enhance the visitor experience but also strengthen Moore County's identity as a destination rich in heritage, arts, and recreation.

Infrastructure

Providing public facilities and services for the safety, health, and welfare of its citizens is a primary function of local government. Public roads, water, and sewer systems, schools, community colleges, libraries, parks and recreational sites, and public buildings are all facilities that the government may provide.

Transportation Infrastructure in Moore County

North Carolina has long been known as the "Good Roads State". The North Carolina Highway System comprises a vast network of Interstate, U.S., and state highways, managed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. North Carolina has the second-largest state-maintained highway network in the United States, as either municipalities or the state maintain the roads in the state. Since counties do not maintain roads, there is no such thing as a county road within the state. As of 2023, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains 80,483 miles of roadway.

Road infrastructure is critical to the county's economy, as roads connect the area to employment centers, hospitals, universities, tourist destinations, and distribution points such as water ports and airports that move both goods and people.

Since 2013, Moore County has undergone significant improvements to its transportation infrastructure, including road widening and bridge projects. Notably, NC Highway 211 is being expanded from two to four lanes from West End/Seven Lakes to Holly Grove School Road, improving access for residents, regional freight movement, and visitors.

Current and future transportation planning emphasizes key corridors such as U.S. Highway 1, NC Highway 15-501, and NC Highway 211 for improvements. These improvements are expected to influence future development patterns. Coordinated land use and transportation planning is essential to ensure community safety and accessibility, while also preserving Moore County's natural and cultural assets.

Moore County benefits from its proximity to major interstate systems (I-73/74 to the west and I-95 to the east), although non traverse the County. U.S. Highway 1 serves as a strategic north-south corridor, linking the region to Raleigh, the state capital, and RDU International Airport.

Additional key routes include:

- NC Highway 24/27, providing critical east-west connectivity between Charlotte and Jacksonville through Fayetteville.

- NC Highway 705 (Potter Highway), linking pottery communities such as Eagle Springs, Robbins, Seagrove, Westmore, and Jugtown.

Most highways in Moore County are maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). As infrastructure continues to expand, a balanced approach to development and mobility will be vital to enhancing the quality of life across the County.

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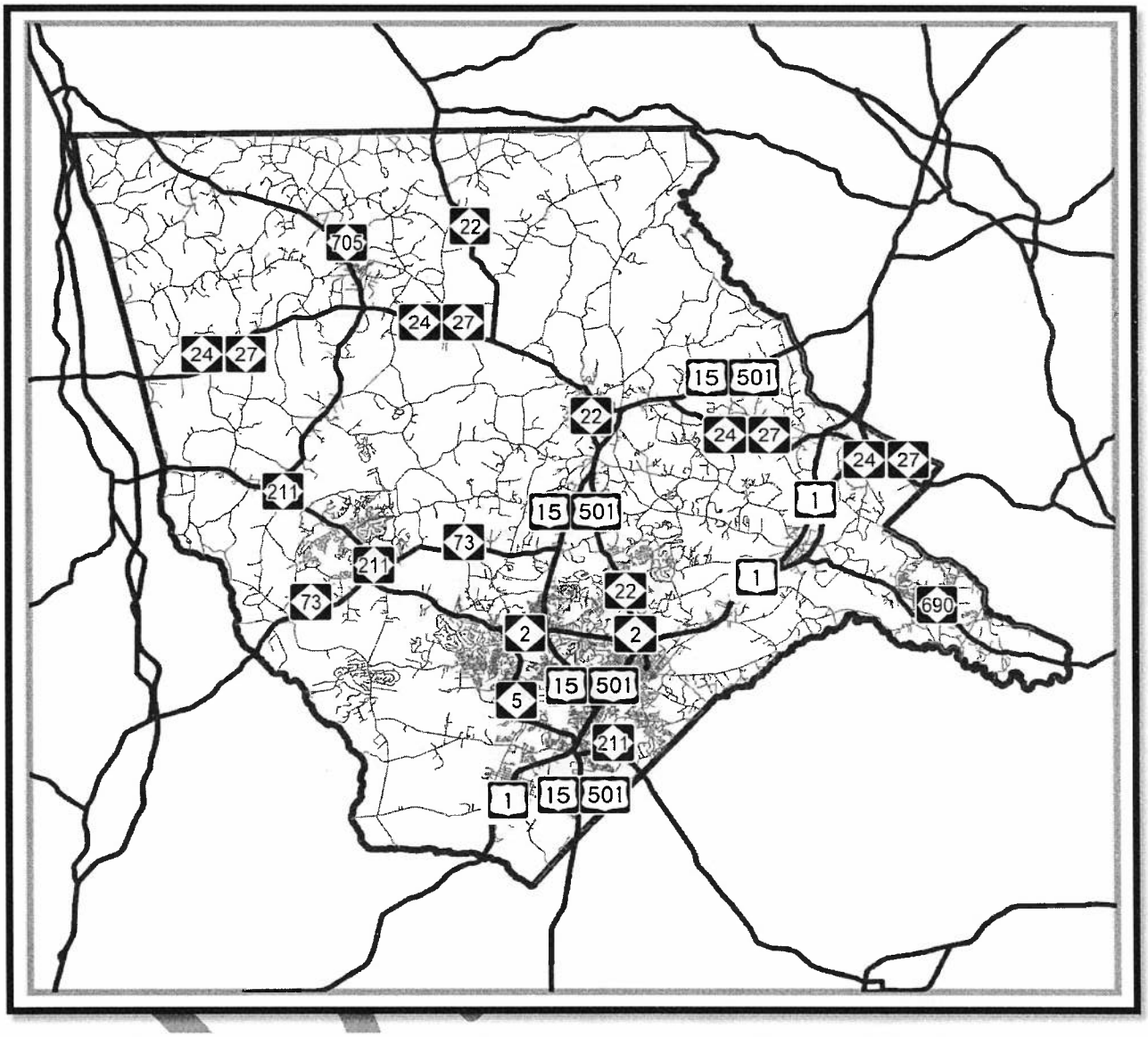


Figure 2.58: Moore County Roads: Source: Moore County Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 2025

Water Systems

A safe and reliable drinking water supply is important for every community, especially one experiencing significant growth like Moore County has over the last decade since the 2013 Land Use Plan update. The North Carolina DEQ Division of Water Resources, Local Water Supply Planning branch (LWSP), publishes an assessment of each system's current and future water supply needs. According to data from 2024 reports, there are now almost 80,000 people served in Moore County by public water systems, an increase of 38% since the last land use plan. There has not been a County-wide study done on water resources since the Cape Fear River Basin Sub-Regional Water Supply Plan was completed in 2011. Comparing that study to the Local Water Supply Planning Branch data, the average daily demand increased from 7.1 million gallons per day (MGD) to 10.3 MGD. These numbers support the physical growth seen across the County in terms of demand and usage; however, it is unclear how much more water will be available to support future growth in the County.

Moore County Public Utilities (MCPU) commissioned a study by LKC Engineering in 2024 to evaluate current water supplies and future alternatives. The four main systems owned and operated by the County were included in this study – Pinehurst / Seven Lakes, which was recently merged into one water system in 2022, East Moore Water District, the Town of Vass, and Hyland Hills, both of which are supplied with water by East Moore Water District. It is a recommendation of the Steering Committee to expand the recent water supply study for all systems in the County and produce a Master Utilities Plan that creates guidelines and recommendations for all water and sewer customers. There are 16 different publicly owned water systems in the County, as seen in Figure 2.57.

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System Name	# of Water Connections	Est. Service Population	2024 Avg. Daily Demand (MGD)	2024 Max. Daily Demand (MGD)	Total Supply (MGD)	Total Water Available (MGD)	Water Source
MCPU – Pinehurst/Seven Lakes	14,339	26,830	3,470	4,638	5,734	2,334	Wells/East Moore/Southern Pines/Aberdeen
East Moore Water District	3,475	7,829	0.554	0.831	3.000	3.000	Harnett County
MCPU-Vass	709	1,424	0.123	0.185	0.200	-	East Moore
MCPU-Hyland Hills	153	345	0.022	0.032	0.050	-	East Moore
MCPU-Addor	47	99	0.005	0.009	0.045	-	Southern Pines
MCPU-Robbins/West Moore	43	80	0.007	0.012	0.050	0.050	Robbins/Montgomery County
MCPU-High Falls	16	32	0.003	0.027	0.025	0.025	TriRiver
Town of Southern Pines	11,594	15,500	4.000	6.435	8.000	8.000	Drowning Creek
Town of Aberdeen	5,016	12,241	0.939	3.052	4.712	4.712	Wells
Town of Carthage	1,500	3,609	0.304	0.608	1.000	1.000	Nicks Creek
Village of Whispering Pines	1,731	4,154	0.302	0.495	0.600	-	Southern Pines
Town of Pinebluff	990	2,771	0.137	0.349	0.590	-	Southern Pines
Town of Robbins	648	1,579	0.236	0.236	0.250	0.250	Montgomery County
Foxfire Village	639	1,408	0.122	0.233	0.206	0.206	Wells
Town of Taylortown	1,054	1,436	0.077	0.208	0.187	0.187	Wells
Town of Cameron	202	490	0.043	0.050	0.083	0.083	Wells
Totals	42,156	79,827	10,344	17,400	24,732	19,847	

Figure 2.59: Moore County Publicly Owned Water Systems: Source: Moore County Public Utilities, 2025

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Throughout its history, Moore County residents were primarily served by groundwater extracted from wells. By way of geography and hydrology, Moore County is trisected by three river subbasins – the Lumber River (Drowning Creek) to the south, the Upper Cape Fear (Little River) to the east, and the Cape Fear (Deep River) to the north. These three subbasins intersect in the middle of the Seven Lakes Business District. This feature translates to one important fact about the County and its water supply, or lack thereof: there are no major rivers or bodies of water in the County, only streams, tributaries, and headwaters. That is why the area has relied upon groundwater wells for so long and continues to do so today.

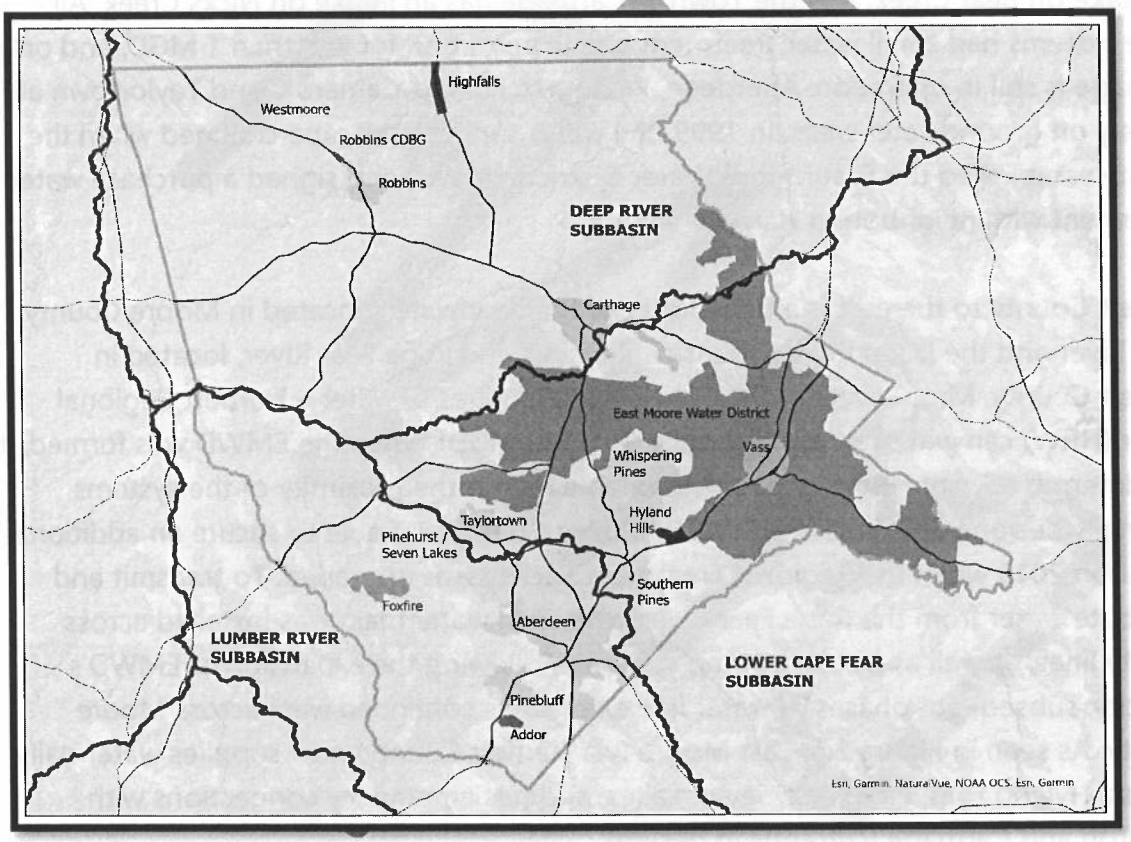


Figure 2.60: Moore County Water System: Source: Moore County Public Utilities, 2025

In 1986, the Town of Southern Pines made the change from groundwater wells to surface water by installing an intake on Drowning Creek along the southern border of the County, one of the few significant water supplies available. They constructed a water treatment plant nearby that can produce 8 MGD. They can withdraw up to 14 MGD from the Creek if the stream maintains 56 cfs at the monitoring station on US1. Over the years, however, the base flow in Drowning Creek appears to be dropping according to data collected by the USGS. In a 2002 drought, the creek nearly ran dry, and Southern Pines built a 140-million-gallon reservoir in response to provide off-stream storage for such events.

The Town of Vass once had a raw water intake on Littler River, the Town of Robbins had an intake on Bear Creek, and the Town of Carthage has an intake on Nicks Creek. All these systems had small water treatment plants permitted for less than 1 MGD, and only Carthage is still in operation. Aberdeen, Pinehurst, Foxfire, Cameron, and Taylortown all still rely on groundwater wells. In 1999, the water supply landscape changed when the County established the East Moore Water District (EMWD) and signed a purchase water agreement with neighboring Harnett County.

Harnett County to the east is a beneficiary of the headwaters located in Moore County. Little River and the Deep River subbasins flow into the Cape Fear River, located in Harnett County. Major rivers can supply large quantities of water – Harnett Regional Water (HRW) can withdraw and produce up to 42 MGD! When the EMWD was formed, it was determined that HRW was the most viable due to the proximity of the systems. Originally designed to purchase 2 MGD, Moore County was able to secure an additional 1 MGD in 2013 when the Regional Treatment Facility was upgraded. To transmit and distribute water from the Cape Fear River, a 16-inch water main was installed across County lines, as well as booster pump stations. Following the expansion of EMWD's capacity, subsequent phases of water line extensions continued west across Moore County. As seen in Figure 3.5, East Moore (via Harnett County) now supplies water daily to Vass, Hyland Hills, Pinehurst/Seven Lakes, and has emergency connections with Cameron and Carthage (currently in design).

The introduction of water from the Cape Fear River via Harnett County also helps to satisfy State regulations in place, known as the Inter-basin Transfer (IBT) rules. This law was established in 1993 by the NC Environmental Management Commission to regulate the withdrawal and conveyance of surface water across basins. A certificate is required if more than 2 MGD is transferred between basin boundaries. Since Moore County is

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home to 3 subbasins, this may require action in the future, especially since the regional wastewater plant is in the Lumber River Basin – see next section on Sewer Systems.

The result of the 2024 Water Supply Study by LKC is that the County water systems would exceed their available water supply over the next 10 years. This same conclusion was made in the 2013 Land Use plan and the 2008 McGill Study, where maximum daily demands eventually exceeded water supplies available to the County. One thing is clear: water is an essential but finite resource, especially in Moore County, where it is found in limited supplies. All towns, municipalities, government officials, and utilities should take extra care and effort when determining long-term planning and achievable, sustainable growth. Because the County owns and operates systems within municipal boundaries, such as Pinehurst and Vass, extra attention and collaboration should be given when developing plans.

Sewer Systems

When the 2013 Land Use Plan was published, the County was also completing an upgrade to the Water Pollution Control Plant in Addor, located at the southern end of the County. This increased the wastewater treatment capacity from 6.67 MGD to 10 MGD.

There is also a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility in Robbins, which currently averages 216,000 gallons per day, with a permitted capacity of 1.3 MGD.

There are 3 privately-owned wastewater treatment facilities in the County now: Woodlake County Club WWTP, Crystal Lake WWTP, and Windfall Lake WWTP serving the North Gate subdivision in Lobelia.

Outside of the municipalities, much of the County is still served by private septic systems. The figure below shows parcels that are located within 300 feet of public water lines and/or sewer lines.

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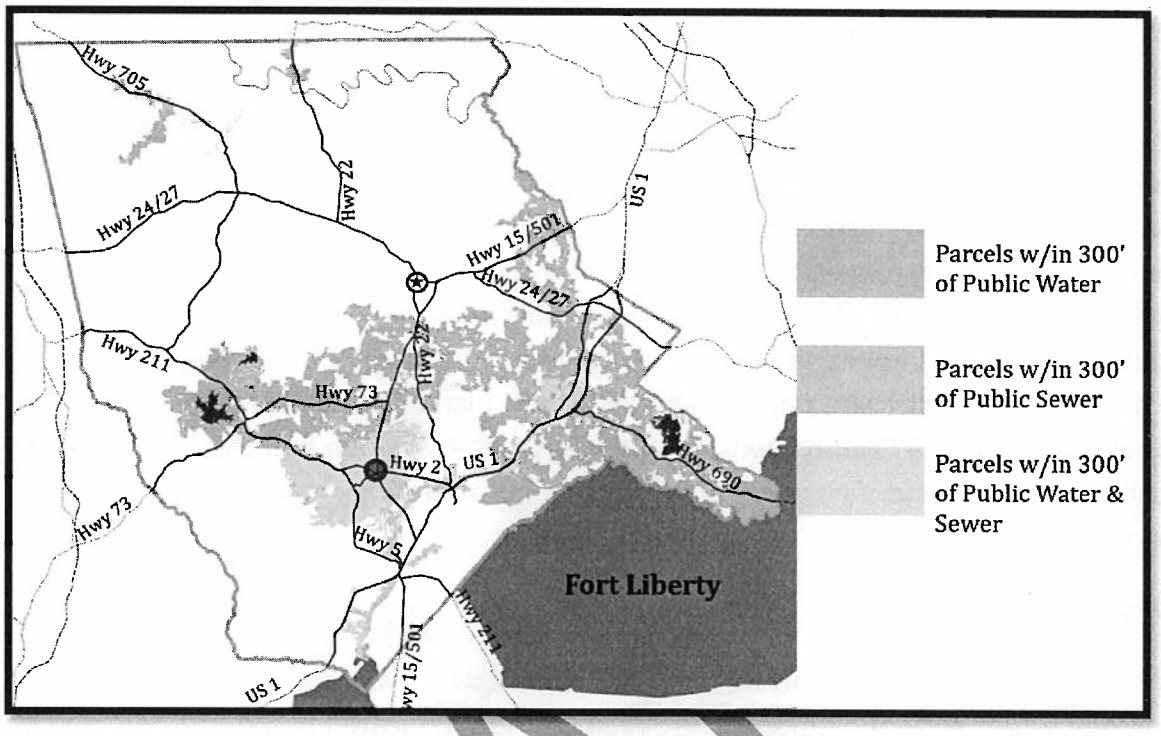


Figure 2.61: Public Sewer Infrastructure: Source: Moore County Public Utilities, 2025

As seen in Figure 2.65, public sewer infrastructure is only available in 7 municipalities: Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Carthage, Vass, Robbins, and Taylortown. When the WPCP was designed and built in Addor in the 1970s, it was a joint venture to collect sewage from the three towns along Aberdeen Creek: Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Aberdeen. The gravity collection piping that was installed was sized for the future build-out of a 10 MGD plant, which was smart planning. However, with growth experienced over the last 50 years and the addition of Carthage, Vass, and other developments to the system, it is recommended that the capacity of the wastewater plant and its interceptor lines be evaluated. The County is updating a hydraulic sewer model that can be used for future studies.

The presence of public sewer plays an important role in land use planning. Where most lots require acreage for septic tanks, fields, and repair areas, connection to a public sewer main eliminates those requirements. Which means lots can be smaller and density can be higher. This is why growth is directed towards municipalities, because if they have the infrastructure, they can serve more densely developed areas, such as townhomes and multifamily dwellings. Several communities in the County have experienced growth despite not having a public sewer system, such as the Village of

Whispering Pines and Seven Lakes. People have migrated to these areas to pursue a lifestyle – living on a lake. But because they only have private septic systems, business and commercial amenities have been limited. This is why the County recently sought funding for a sewer extension project to the Seven Lakes Business District.

Currently under design and in conjunction with the NCDOT Hwy 211 Widening Project, a sewer lift station and force main will be able to serve the business district in Seven Lakes, then pump the wastewater down to Pinehurst. This will enable more commercial development in a highly residential area that currently has limited access to quality services. It will allow for more growth along the Hwy 211 corridor, so this should be taken into consideration for future land use planning.

When the Seven Lakes Sewer Project was being conceptualized, the Robbins WWTP was evaluated as an option. However, due to the distance of pumping required, sending flows to Pinehurst would be more cost-effective and better aligned with future growth corridors. The Addor WPCP currently has capacity for these flows, but another factor that could impact future planning efforts is its location.

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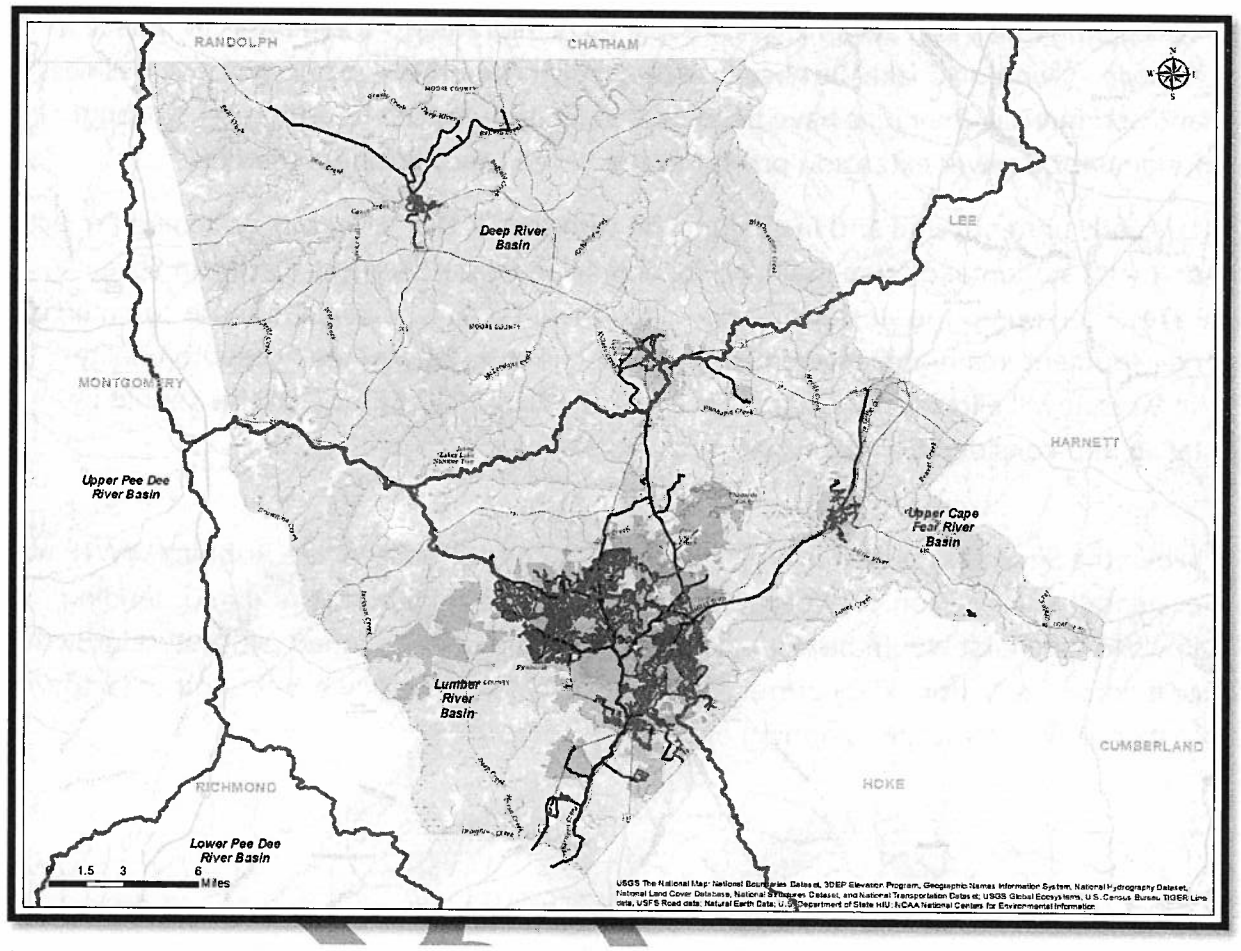


Figure 2.62: Moore County River Basins: Source: Moore County Public Utilities, 2025

The effluent of the plant discharges into Aberdeen Creek, which flows into Drowning Creek in the Lumber River Basin. With the Southern Pines intake and water treatment plant located just upstream, all Southern Pines water/wastewater is returned to the same subbasin, except for a small number of Southern Pines customers with septic tanks. Aberdeen and Pinehurst primarily use groundwater, which is excluded from Interbasin Transfer rules. However, Carthage and Vass and the northern part of Pinehurst--and potentially Seven Lakes-- use water from the Upper Cape Fear River basin (via Harnett Co.) and discharge into the Lumber. All these transfers would be considered across basin lines, so any future growth in these areas will need to be monitored as flows begin to increase towards that 2 MGD threshold.

Utilities will play a vital role in the future of Moore County. Water is becoming a more precious resource. Wastewater will be a driving force or a limiting factor in development

density. All towns and communities, along with the County, should continue efforts to protect these resources and provide quality services.

Rail

Moore County has an extensive rail network, comprising a combination of main freight lines and short lines, which supports our economy with easy access to the distribution of goods and supplies. Moore County is part of the largest rail network in the Eastern United States, with CSX Transportation (CSXT) rail lines, a Class-1 rail carrier, running north to Raleigh, NC and south to Columbian, S.C. Businesses are served by short lines: Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway (ACWR)- the largest privately held short line in NC that connects to both CSX and Norfolk Southern rail networks (dual service) with service from Charlotte to Raleigh throughout Pinehurst. Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Company (A & R) – a short line headquartered in Moore County that provides freight service between Aberdeen and Fayetteville. Also, the Town of Southern Pines has a passenger rail station (Amtrak) located in its downtown area.

The Rail Division of NCDOT is working to develop the S-Line to grow freight and passenger rail services in North Carolina.
(Source: Moore County Economic Development Partnership)
(Recommendation 3.3: Encourage a functional railway system)

Airport

Moore County is located within a two-hour drive of three international airports:

- Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is a 1-hour drive north on US Highway 1
- Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO) is a 1.5-hour drive northeast on I-73/I-74
- Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT) is a 2-hour drive west on US Highway 74.
- Moore County Airport, located just ten minutes from Pinehurst and Southern Pines, is the "Gateway to the Home of American Golf." With a 6,500-foot runway, this regional airport can accommodate cooperate jets and aircraft sizes up to Boeing 737. Ground transportation is available through Hertz Rental Car and other private transportation companies.

(Source: Moore County Economic Development Partnership)

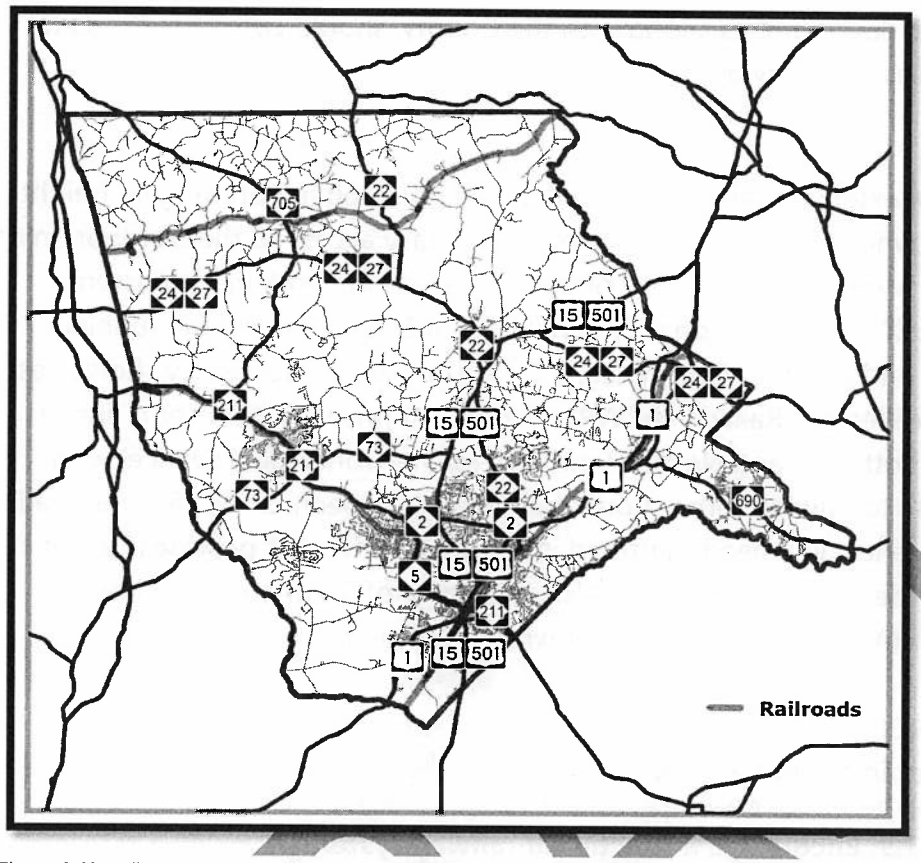


Figure 2.63: Railroads in Moore County: (Source: Moore County Geographic Information Technology, 2025

Energy

In addition to water and sewer infrastructure, the ability to create and distribute energy/power to homes and businesses is a critical piece of a community's infrastructure. Site and facility planning consultants often rank energy availability as one of the top factors for selecting a site for any project. Moore County has extensive and typically adequate service coverage for electric energy; however, natural gas is not as widely available. Additionally, in the field of energy and energy production, the concept of domestically and/or locally producing and consuming energy has emerged as a new movement.

Moore County, being a rural community with a relatively dense urbanized core of energy consumers, stands to benefit from the local energy movement. Various forms of local energy production, including shale gas/or renewable gas, and renewable energy from solar and biomass, offer opportunities for the community.

Broadband

Broadband is a high-speed internet access that is always on, with download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a necessity, like other infrastructures, for conducting business in a global economy.

The southern portion of Moore County has greater access to broadband than other parts of the county, and several carriers provide services, including Spectrum, Brightspeed, Windstream, T-Mobile, Verizon, and Conterra Networks.

Efforts are currently underway to expand broadband further throughout the county. To date, the state has awarded $8 million to carriers in two Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants. The grants will help fund over $13 million in project costs to extend high-speed internet access to over 5,000 Moore County households and small businesses that currently lack broadband connectivity. The County of Moore is investing $780,000 in these two projects.

Extending broadband can stimulate economic growth by providing entrepreneurs, farmers, and home-based business owners with expanded commerce opportunities, offering telework options, and making both residential and commercial development more viable. (Source: Moore County, NC Economic Task Force Report, December 2023)

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Chapter 6.
Natural Resources and Environment

Natural Resources

Water is the most precious natural resource in Moore County, including numerous streams, rivers, lakes, floodplains, wetlands, and watersheds, which must be protected and managed while considering development.

Ensure Best Management Practices (BMP's) are followed to reduce runoff and establish a third-party stormwater and erosion control engineering firm to ensure compliance with State and local requirements.

Moore County's natural resources are derived from two distinct ecosystems. The northern portion of the County falls into an area known for its hilly terrain, clay soils, and mixed hardwood and pine forests, a typical North Carolina piedmont-like condition. While on the southern end of the county, the landscape is made up of rolling sandhills that were once coastal sand deposits along the Atlantic Ocean. The North Carolina Sandhills, and specifically Moore County, boast an impressive diversity of plants and animals.

Regional Geology, Soils & Topographical Relief

A region's landforms, drainage patterns, and soils are the result of an interaction between the underlying geology and climate. Moore County is located along the boundary between three distinct geologic basins. This condition is unique in that a few other North Carolina counties fall within three distinctly different geologic regions.

The Carolina Slate Belt in the northwest portion of the county consists mainly of rocks deposited initially on or near the earth's surface by volcanic eruption and sedimentation. **(NC Geological Survey 1985)** The Triassic Basin in the northeast is believed to have formed during the rifting that accompanied the breakup of Pangea and the opening of the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 200-190 million years ago, and contains mostly sedimentary rocks. **(Olsen et al. 1991; Rogers 2006)** This area of the County has recently been the focus of a study on shale gas production through the method known as hydraulic fracturing.

The Coastal Plain in the southern portion of the County is a region of broad, relatively flat terraces of primarily unconsolidated sediments and carbonate rocks. These materials, ranging in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary, were deposited in shallow seas by rivers draining the Blue Ridge Piedmont provinces. **(Rogers 1999)**

The County has distinctly different soil types in the north when compared to those in the south. In the northern portion of the county, the Carolina Slate Belt and the Triassic Basin underlay the soils of the Southern Piedmont, which are primarily composed of bedrock consisting of slate and sedimentary rock. The topography of this area is characterized by flat land to gently rolling hills and valleys with elevations ranging from 158 feet to 600 feet above sea level. Much of the land use in this area of the county is related to agriculture, primarily forestry, poultry, and livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) identified much of the soils in the northern portion of Moore County as Prime Farmland Soils based on their crop capability, and the low limitations for non-irrigated soils.

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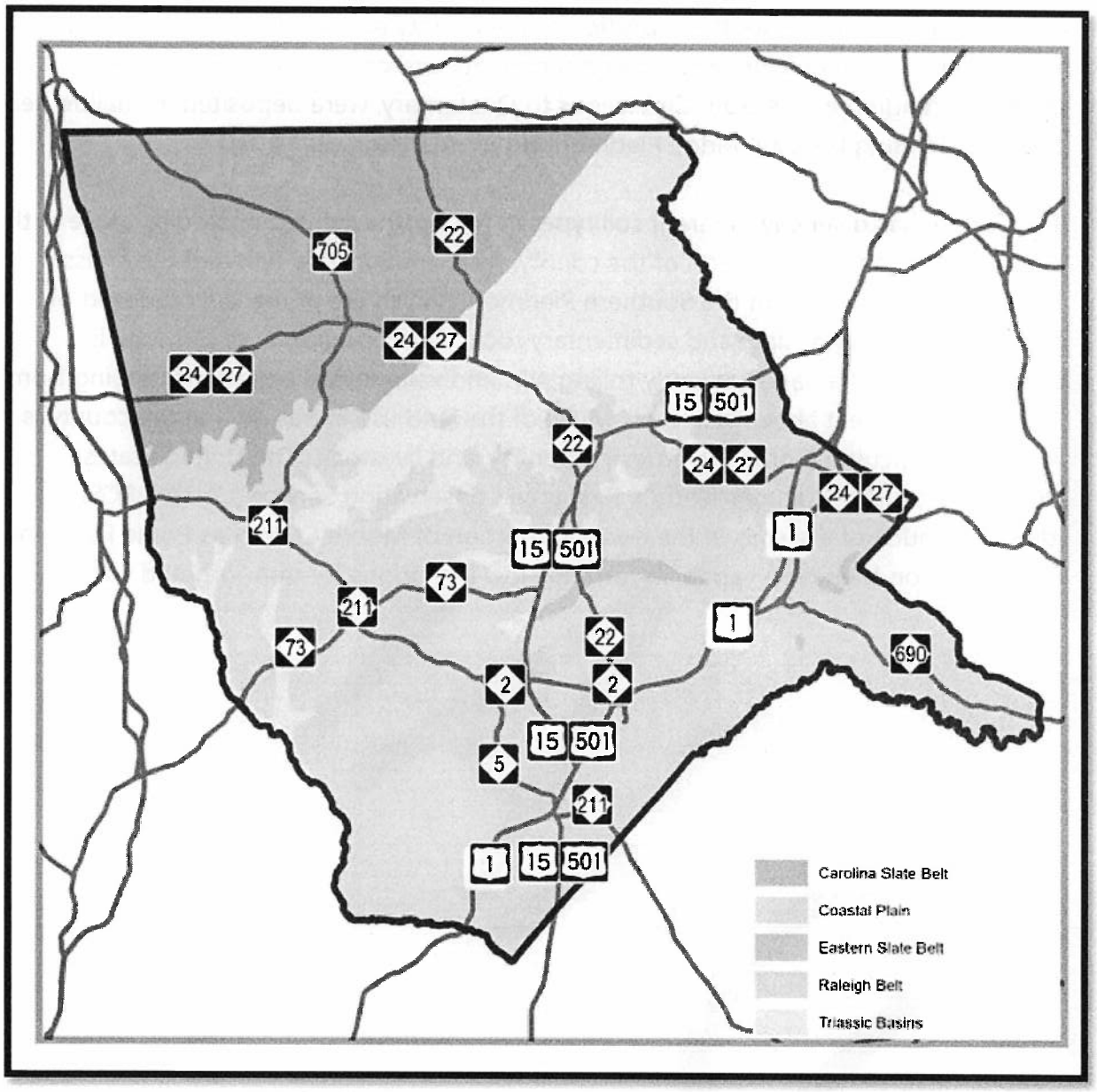


Figure 2.64: Geology of Moore County: Source: Land Use Plan Data 2013

Soils

The soils in the southern portion of the County associated with the Coastal Plain geology are known as the Carolina and Georgia Sandhills, underlain by unconsolidated sandy and clayey sediments. The topography of this area is characterized by gently rolling, well-rounded hills and long, low ridges, with an elevation difference of only a few hundred feet between hills and valleys. Elevations range from 300 to 720 feet above sea level. The current land uses in the southern portion of the County include small, urbanized municipalities centered around golfing resorts, as well as commercial and industrial development.

Generally, soil in the southern portion of the County functions well as an absorption field for septic systems and presents few problems for construction. However, soil in the north, particularly in the northeast portion of the County, tends to function poorly as an absorption field, as it has a high shrink-swell potential. Large lot sizes for residential and other types of development are therefore necessary in these areas since not served by municipal sewer.

Soil Types

Five soil associations occur within Moore County and its surrounding area. These, and their associated uses and limitations, are discussed below.

Candar-Ailey-Vaucluse Soils

Occurring primarily in the southern areas of the County, these nearly level to moderately steep, deep, somewhat excessively drained and well drained soils that are sandy throughout or having loamy subsoil is brittle, on uplands. The major limitations in the Candor and Ailey soils are drought, the leaching of plant nutrients, and wind and water erosion. The major hazard of Vaucluse soils is erosion. Most of the major soils in this soil association are used for both woodland and urban development.

Fuquay-Ailey- Dothan Soils

Occurring in the eastern part of the County along the Lee County boundary, these soils are nearly level to strongly sloping, deep, well-drained soils having loamy subsoil that is brittle in the lower part, on uplands. The major limitations in all these soil types include drought and the leaching of plant nutrients. Most of the major soils in this soil association are used for tobacco and some timber production, while other small areas have been developed for urban uses.

Mooshaunee-Hallison-Mayodan-Pinkston Soils

Located in the central part of the County, these soils have a relief that ranges from gently rolling to steep, are moderately deep, and are moderately well-drained to excessively drained, with a loamy or clay subsoil on the uplands. The wetness and the depth to soft bedrock are the major limitations in areas of the Mooshaunee and Hallison soils. The slope and the depth to hard bedrock are the major limitations in the areas of Pinkston soils. Most of the major soils in this soil association are used for agriculture and timber production. There is little significant urban development, except for scattered single-family dwellings.

Nason-Georgeville-Golden Soils

Located in the northwestern part of the County, these soils are characterized by their gently sloping to steep relief, ranging from deep to shallow, and from well-drained to excessively drained. They have a clay or loamy subsoil on uplands. Surface runoff and the hazard of erosion are the major management concerns, while overgrazing is a major concern in managing pasture. The clay subsoil is the major limitation affecting urban uses on the Nason and Georgeville soils, while the slope and depth to bedrock are the major limitations for Goldston soils.

Bibb Soils

Occurring in the broad floodplains along Drowning Creek in the southern portion of the County, these soils are characterized by nearly level, deep, poorly drained soils that are loamy throughout, on floodplains. The wetness and frequent flooding of these soils are the major limitations. Very little agricultural production, urban development, or recreational uses are present in these areas; rather, much of this land is used for woodland. However, it is not extensively timbered because of the wetness and flooding, which can adversely affect logging roads and skid trails.

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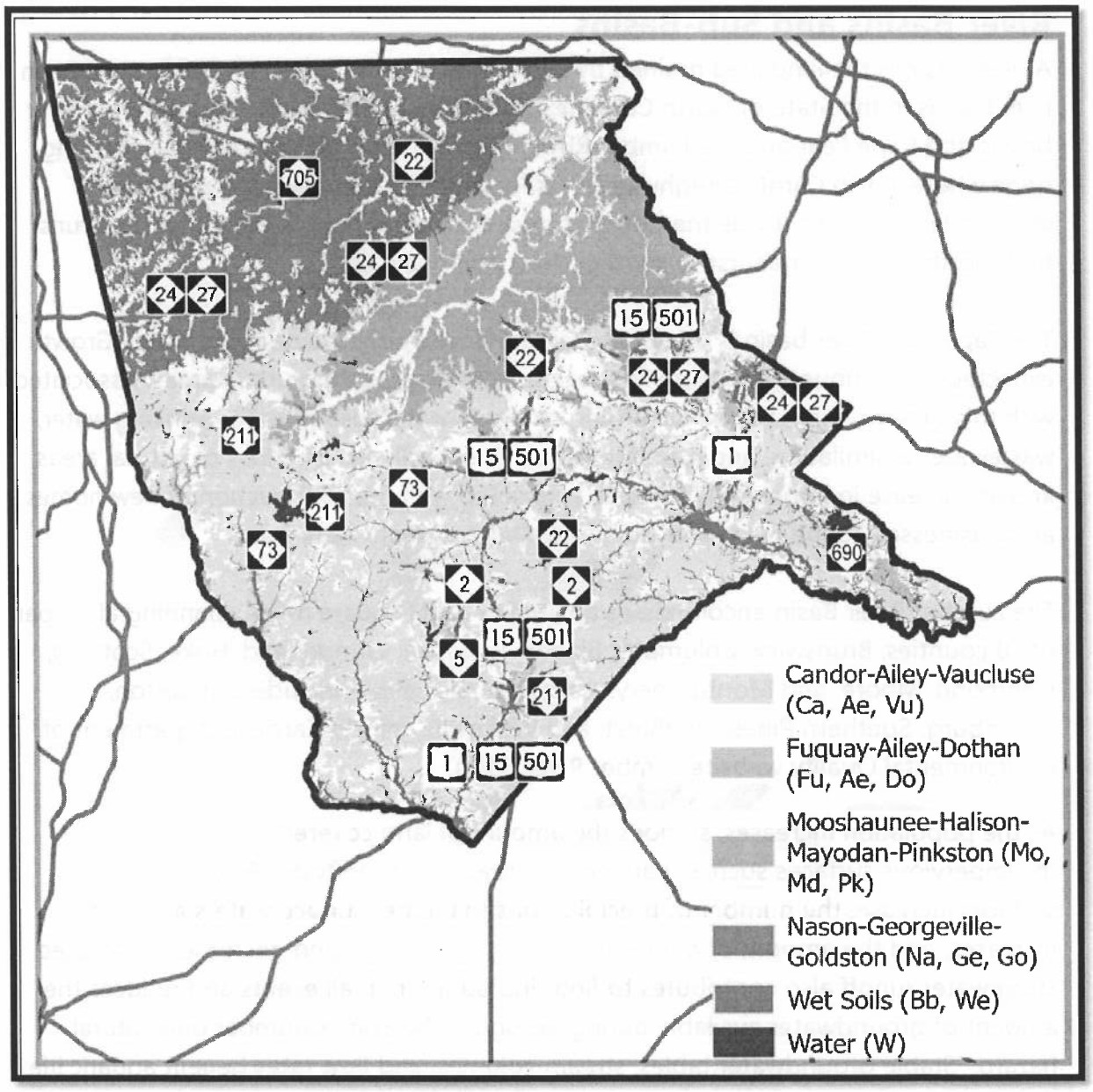


Figure 2.65: Moore County Soils: Source USDA, 2025

River Basins and Sub-Basins

A river basin is the land area drained by a river and its tributaries. There are seventeen river basins in the State of North Carolina; Moore County lies within two different river basins, the Cape Fear and the Lumber River. The divide occurs very close to the long ridge where North Carolina Highway 211 is located. Furthermore, the river basins dividing lines tend to divide the County's area of densest population in half as it runs from northwestern Pinehurst to southeastern Aberdeen.

The Cape Fear River basin is one of the fastest-developing basins in the state. Growth is expected to continue, particularly in areas surrounding existing urban areas. Associated with this growth, there will be increasing strain on water resources for drinking water, wastewater assimilation, and runoff impacts. There will also be a loss of natural areas and an increase in impervious surfaces associated with the construction of new homes and businesses. (Cape Fear River Basinwide Water Quality Plan, 2005)

The Lumber River Basin encompasses an area of 3,343 square miles, spanning all or part of 10 counties: Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke, Scotland, Richmond, Moore, and Montgomery. Larger municipalities include Lumberton, Laurinburg, Southern Pines, Pinehurst, and Whiteville. (North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality website Lumber River Basin)

As the population increases, so does the amount of land covered by impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roads, and rooftops. As impervious surfaces increase, the number of precipitations that enter surface waters as runoff increases, and the amount of rainfall infiltrating into the ground decreases. Increased stormwater runoff also contributes to flooding during rainfall events and reduces the amount of groundwater available during droughts, the State's number one natural hazard. Stable groundwater tables, stream volumes, and flow rates benefit aquatic life by minimizing the physical and chemical properties of their required habitats. Minimizing flows that cause erosion of stream channels and banks also decreases the likelihood of flooding. **To allow growth to occur while maintaining water quality, a comprehensive stormwater program may be necessary to clean and slow runoff in the future. (Action 3.2.11: Ensure Stormwater Control Measures (SCM) are followed to reduce runoff and establish a third-party stormwater and erosion control engineering firm to ensure compliance with State and local requirements.)**

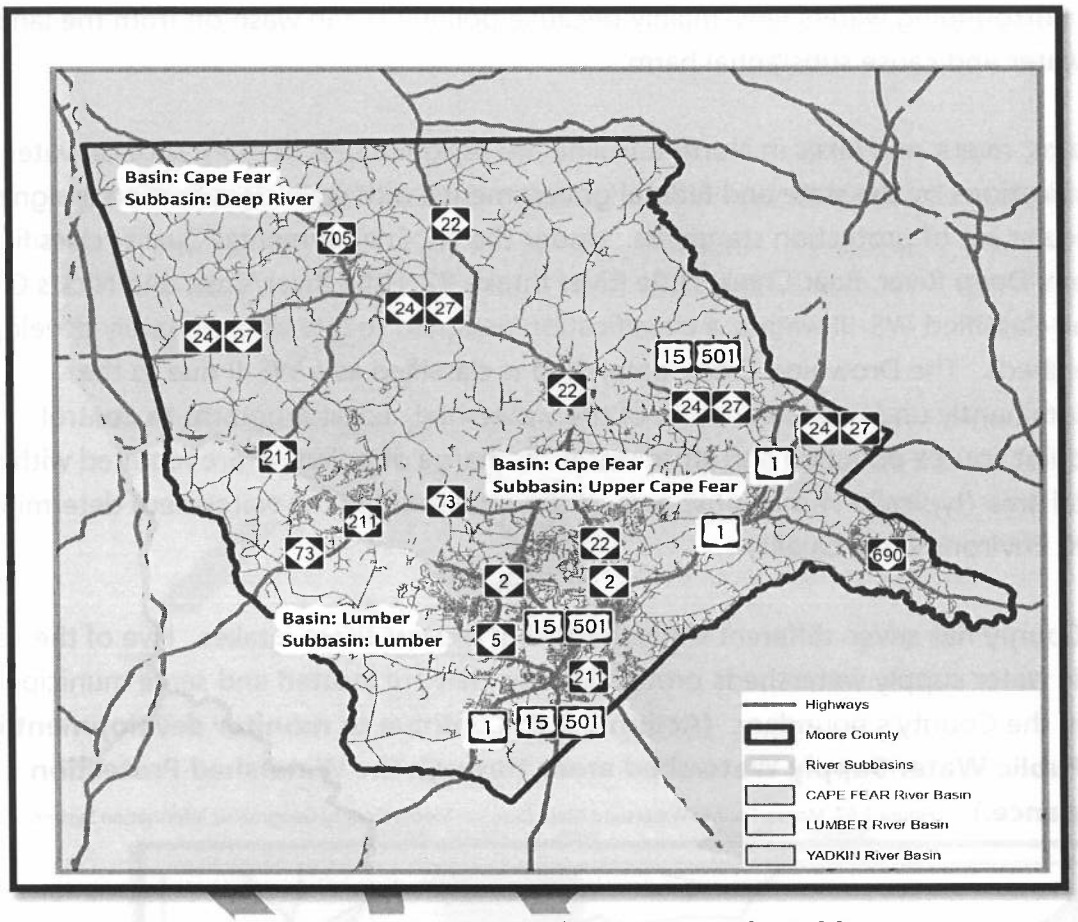


Figure 2.66 Moore County River Basins: (Source: Moore County GIS)

Public Water Supply Watersheds

A watershed is the land area that drains to a stream, lake, or river, and affects the water quality in the water body that surrounds. Healthy watersheds not only help protect water quality but also provide greater benefits than degraded watersheds to the people and wildlife that live there.

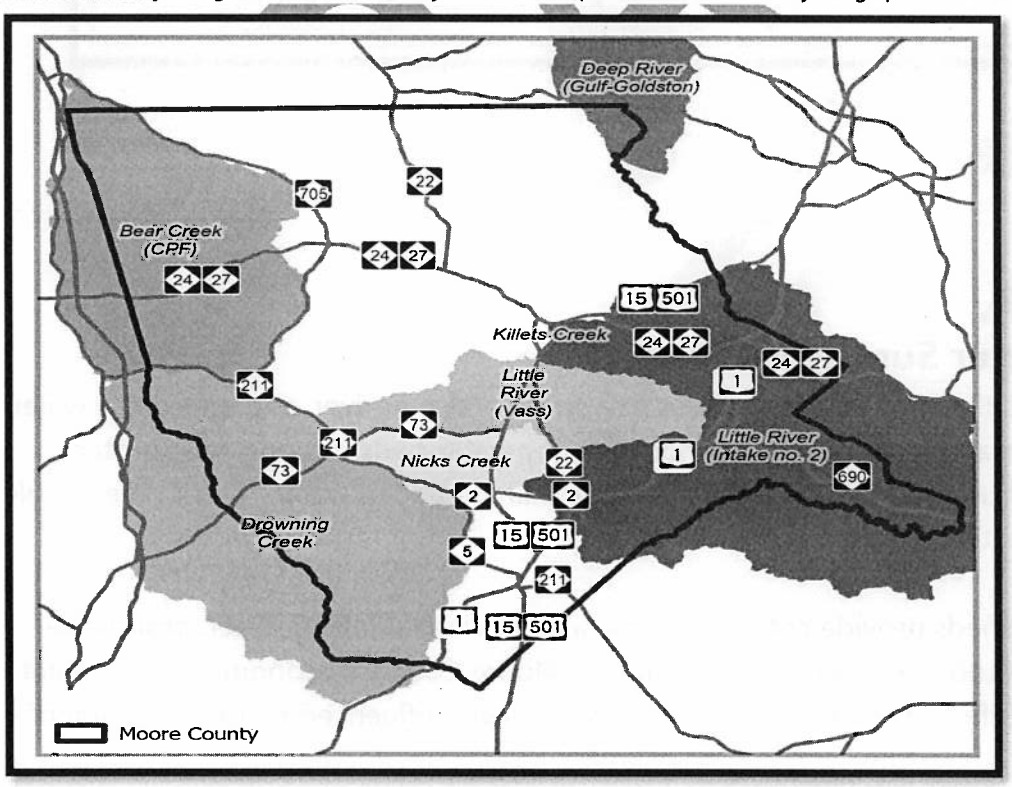
Healthy watersheds provide critical services, such as clean drinking water, productive fisheries, and outdoor recreation, that support Moore County's economy, environment, and quality of life. The health of clean waters is heavily influenced by the condition of

their surrounding watersheds, mainly because pollutants can wash off from the land to the water and cause substantial harm.

Streams, rivers, and lakes in North Carolina are assigned one or more surface water classifications by the state and federal governments, with each classification assigned a particular set of protection standards. Under the NC Environmental Quality classification system, Deep River, Bear Creek, Little River Intake #2, Little River/Vass, and Nick's Creek are all classified WS-III waters, a classification assigned to low to moderately developed watersheds. The Drowning Creek watershed is classified as a WS-II due to the predominantly undeveloped nature of the watershed. Local programs to control nonpoint source pollution and stormwater discharge of pollution are required within a critical area (typically ½ mile upstream of the intake within the watershed) determined by NC Environmental Quality.

The County has seven different watersheds that protect these intakes. Five of the seven public water supply watersheds protect intakes that are located and serve municipalities within the County's boundary. **(Action 3.2.8: Continue to monitor development in the Public Water Supply Watershed areas through the Watershed Protection Ordinance.)**

Figure 2.67: Moore County Watershed Map: (Source: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025)



Lakes, Rivers, Streams & Dams

In the Sandhills region, access to a water source is often a prized possession for a farmer or even a golf course owner. A water source on an agricultural property typically increases crop yield, particularly in terms of the grazing capacity per acre for livestock. Accordingly, agricultural property that is clear, relatively flat, and close to a water source, such as a lake, pond, river, or stream, that can be used for irrigation, is often some of the most valuable. For this reason, the natural environmental area along the waterbodies is often one of the most diverse. It provides habitat corridors for many of the species identified in the State's Wildlife Action Plan. Thus, the conversation-wise use of Moore County's waterways and associated riparian areas will yield multiple important benefits to the County and should be a high priority in land use policy and decisions.

However, the development industry also finds these water bodies appealing due to their focal point and marketability for residences and amenity areas. Moore County is home to several resort-style communities whose homes and amenities are built around either one large or several smaller man-made lakes. The lakes were manmade by damming up the stream with an earthen dam. The Lake Auman dam in Seven Lakes West is one of the largest earthen dams on the East Coast. Development of homes adjacent to many Moore County water bodies that utilize a private septic sewerage disposal system, however, experience a much higher rate of failure, and/or shorter lifespan than lots that have a septic system on higher and drier ground. In the future, it may be necessary for the County to study the feasibility and cost to serve areas with a high rate of septic system failure with a public sewer system. This may be necessary to keep these areas of the county and their associated tax base viable.

Floodplains & Wetlands

Floodplains are the low, relatively flat-lying areas adjacent to streams that are subject to flooding during periods of intense rainfall. Associated with floodplains are often riverine wetlands, which function as storage areas for flood waters, slowing runoff and thereby lessening flood levels downstream. These wetlands also serve as areas of sediment deposition and other material carried by floodwaters, and they are valuable wildlife habitats for a variety of high-priority species.

Land development within the 100-year floodplains is common but requires necessary documentation. Moore County currently has a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

that regulates development within floodplains and floodways, These flood prone areas are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life, property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures of flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare. The Flood Damage Ordinance requires homes or other elements to be constructed at or above the base flood elevation of the existing floodplain. However, no development is allowed within the regulatory floodway unless, through hydraulic analysis, it is demonstrated that the floodwaters would not rise by one foot. Protective measures decrease the number of structures or other elements that may cause damage downstream.



Figure 2.68: (Source Sandhills Sentinel.com (Little River)

This photograph illustrates the downstream impacts of previous storms.

Flooding problems resulting from surface water runoff generally increase as areas become more urbanized. Greater population density generally increases the number of impervious areas, e.g., pavement and buildings. This reduction in the amount of natural ground that can absorb rainfall results in an increase in the amount of surface runoff generated. Uncontrolled, this runoff may be channeled to areas that cause flooding of structures and roadways. (**FEMA)** The floodplains along Drowning Creek, Little River, and Deep River exhibit the most frequent flooding in Moore County; however, floodgates along these drainage courses, when adjusted promptly, allow floodwaters to be managed in these flood-prone areas.

In recent years, Moore County has experienced several storms that have caused flooding. Moore County should take measures to minimize threats to property and life from flooding, including limiting development in floodplains and extending hazard avoidance considerations to the 500-year floodplain. Avoiding considerations of the 500-year floodplain means that a project or facility is not required to be built or designed to withstand a flood with a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. However, utilizing floodplain data to plan future land uses can reduce and/or mitigate flood hazards, while also helping to conserve valuable wildlife habitats.

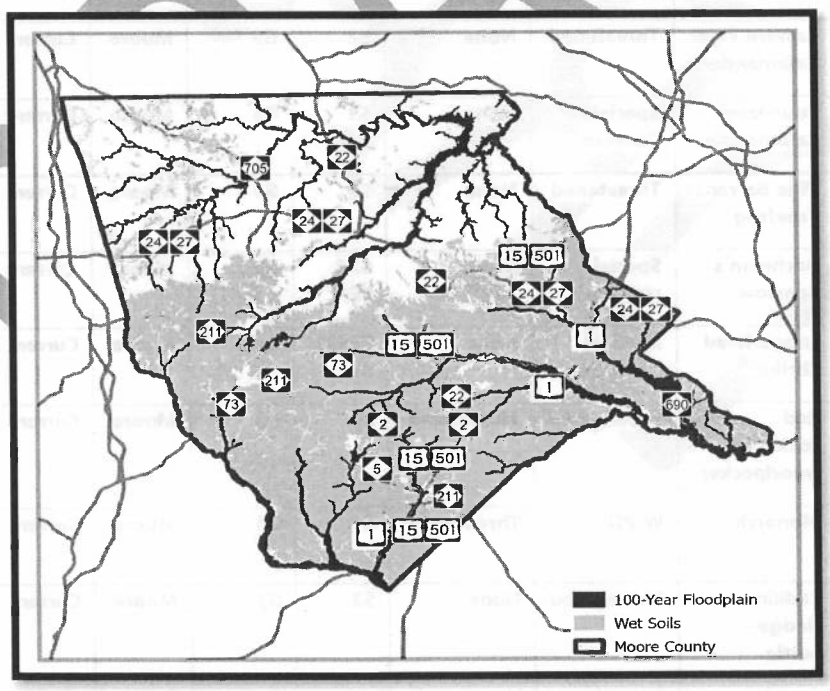


Figure 2.69: Moore County Floodplain Map: Source: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025

Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species

In the United States, wildlife is a 'public trust' resource, meaning it is not owned by individuals. Wildlife belongs to everyone, and there is a collective responsibility for the wise stewardship and utilization of wildlife resources. Plants and animals threatened with extinction are protected under federal and state endangered species legislation. This guardianship is not limited to the protection of the species against direct physical harm but also includes the protection of the habitat critical to the species' survival. Penalties for knowingly violating these regulations can be severe, including fines up to $12,000 per violation in cases involving federally endangered species.

The state of North Carolina maintains countywide inventories of rare, threatened, and endangered species. It should be noted that species included on the state list may be rare or threatened with extinction within the state but may not be threatened in other parts of their range. Below is a list of the rare, threatened, and endangered species of Moore County. **(Source: NC Natural Heritage Program)**

Scientific Name	Common Name	NC Status	Federal Status	State Rank	Global Rank	County	County Status
Ambystoma tigrinum	Eastern Tiger Salamander	Threatened	None	S2	G5	Moore	Current
Hemidactylus scutatum	Four-toed Salamander	Special Concern	None	S3	G5	Moore	Current
HylHa andersonii	Pine Barrens Treefrog	Threatened	None	S2	G4	Moore	Current
Peucaea aestivalis	Bachman's Sparrow	Special concern	None	S3B, S2N	G3	Moore	Current
Lanius ludoviciarnus	Loggerhead Shrike	Special concern	None	S2S3B, S3N	G4	Moore	Current
Dryobates borealis	Red-cockaded woodpecker	Endangered	Threatened	S2	G3	Moore	Current
Danaus Plexippus	Monarch	W-PD	Threatened	S4	G4	Moore	Current
Alasmidonta varicose	Yadkin Hedge-nettle	Endangered	None	S3	G3	Moore	Current
SagSittunio vaughanianus	Carolina Creekshell	Endangered	None	S3	G2G3	Moore	Current

Strophitus undulatus	Creeper	Threatened	None	S3	G5	Moore	Current
Venustaconcha constricta	Notched rainbow	Threatened	None	S3	G3	Moore	Current
Elliptio roanokensis	Roanoke Slabshell	Special Concern	None	S3	G3	Moore	Current
Toxolasma pullus	Savannah Lilliput	Endangered	None	S2	G2	Moore	Current
Alasmidonta undulata	Triangle Floater	Threatened	None	S3	G4	Moore	Current
Lampsilis cariosa	Yellow Lampmussel	Endangered	None	S3	G3, G4	Moore	Current
Notropis mekistocholas	Cape Fear Shiner	Endangered	None	S1	G1	Moore	Current
Etheostoma collis	Carolina darter	Special Concern	None	S3	G3	Moore	Current
Moxostoma sp.3	Carolina Redhorse	Threatened	None	S2	G1, G2, Q	Moore	Current
Etheostoma marieae	Pinewoods darter	Special concern	None	S2	G3	Moore	Current
Semotilus lumbee	Sandhills Chub	Special concern	None	S2	G3G4	Moore	Current
Cyprinella leptocheilus	Siouan Thinlip Sub	Special concern	None	S2	G2	Moore	Current
Corynorhinus rafinesquil macrotis	Eastern Big - eared Bat	Special concern	None	S3	G3G4T3	Moore	Current
Moxostoma sp.3	Southeastern bat	Special concern	None	S2	G4	Moore	Current
Condylura cristata pop.1	Star-nosed Mole – Coastal Plain Population	Special concern	None	S2	G5, T2, Q	Moore	Current
Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored	Endangered	Endangered proposed	S3	G3, G4	Moore	Current
Sistrurus miliarius miliarius	Carolina Pygmy Rattlesnake	Special concern	None	S2	G5, T4, T5	Moore	Current
Coluber flagellum	Star-nosed mole – Coastal Plain Population	Special concern	None	S2	G5, T2, Q	Moore	Current
Pituophis melanoleucus	Northern Pinesnake	Threatened	None	S2	G4, T4	Moore	Current

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Heterodon simus	**Southern hognose snake**	**Threatened**	**None**	**S1, S2**	**G2**	**Moore**	**Current**
Crotalus horridus	**Timber rattlesnake**	**Special concern**	**None**	**S3**	**G4**	**Moore**	**Current**
Rhynchospora crinipes	Alabama Beaksedge	Threatened	**None**	**S1**	**G3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Lindera subcoriacea	**Bog Spicebush**	**Special concern**	**None**	**S2**	**G3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Trifolium flexum	**Buffalo clover**	**Threatened**	**None**	**S1, S2**	**G3, G4**	**Moore**	**Current**
Acmispon Helleri	**Carolina Birdfoot-trefoil**	**Threatened**	**None**	**S3**	**G5, T3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Tridens chapmanii	**Chapman's Redtop**	**Threatened**	**None**	**S2**	**G5, T3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Euphorbia mercurialina	**Cumberland Spurge**	**Special concern-vulnerable**	**None**	**S2**	**G4**	**Moore**	**Current**
Ambystoma tigrinum	**Georgia Indigo-bush**	**Endangered**	**None**	**S1, S2**	**G1**	**Moore**	**Current**
Ludwigia sphaerocarpa	**Globe-fruit Seedbox**	**Endangered**	**None**	**S1**	**G4**	**Moore**	**Current**
Xyris scabrifolia	**Harper's Yellow-eyed-grass**	**Special concern-vulnerable**	**None**	**S2, S3**	**G3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Carex tenax	**James's Sedge**	**Special concern – vulnerable**	**None**	**S2**	**G5**	**Moore**	**Current**
Rhus michauxii	**Michaux's Sumac**	**Endangered**	**Endangered**	**S2**	**G2, G3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Paspalum dissectum	**Mudbank Crown Grass**	**Endangered**	**None**	**S2**	**G4**	**Moore**	**Current**
Sclerolepis uniflora	**One-flower Hardscale**	**Threatened**	**None**	**S1**	**G3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Hypericum fasciculatum	**Peelbark St. John's-wort**	**Endangered**	**None**	**S1**	**G5**	**Moore**	**Current**
Stylisma pickeringii car. Pickeringii	**Pickering's Dawnflower**	**Special concern-vulnerable**	**None**	**S3**	**G4, T3**	**Moore**	**Current**
Eleocharis robbinsii	**Robbins' Spikerush**	**Special concern-vulnerable**	**None**	**S2, S3**	**G4**	**Moore**	**Current**

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Crocanthemum rosmarinifolium	Rosemary Sunrose	Threatened	None	S2	G4	Moore	Current
Lilium pyrophilum	Sandhills Lily	Endangered	None	S2	G2, G3	Moore	Current
Astragalus michauxii	Sandhills Milk-vetch	Special concern – vulnerable	None	S3	G3	Moore	Current
Pyxdanthera barbulata var. brevifolia	Sandhills Pyxie-moss	Threatened	None	S2	G3	Moore	Current
Ruellia ciliosa	Sandhills Wild-petunia	Threatened	None	S2	G5,T3, T5	Moore	Current
Eriocaulon acquaticum	Seven-angled Pipewort	Special concern-vulnerable	None	S2	G5	Moore	Current
Thalictrum macrostylum	Small-leaved Meadowrue	Special concern-vulnerable	None	S3	G3, G4	Moore	Current
Anemone berlandieri	Southern Anemone	Endangered	None	S1, S2	G4, G5	Moore	Current
Rhynchospora macra	Southern White Beaksedge	Threatened	None	S1	G3, G4	Moore	Current
Solidago verna	Spring-flowering Goldenrod	Threatened	None	S2	G2	Moore	Current
Sagittaria macrocarpa	Streamhead Sagittaria	Threatened	None	S1, S2	G2	Moore	Current
Rudbeckia heliopsidis	Sun-facing Coneflower	Endangered	None	S1	G2	Moore	Current
Utricularia geminiscapa	Two-flowered Bladderwort	Special concern-vulnerable	None	S1	G4, G5	Moore	Current
Eleocharis vivipara	Viviparous Spikerush	Threatened	None	S2	G5	Moore	Current
Stylisma acquatica	Water Dawnflower	Endangered	None	S1, S2	G4	Moore	Current
Carex tenax	Wire Sedge	Endangered	None	S1	G4	Moore	Current
Stachys matthewsii	Yadkin Hedge-nettle	Endangered	None	S1	G1	Moore	Current

Figure 2.70: Moore County Threatened and Endangered Species (Source: NC Heritage Program)

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Three Rivers Land Trust

Three Rivers Land Trust works with private landowners and public agencies to conserve the most important natural, scenic, agricultural, and historic places in a 15-county region of the Piedmont and Sandhills of North Carolina.

Since 1995, the Land Trust has worked to offer reasonable and attractive options to landowners who want to conserve their land and keep them undeveloped in perpetuity. Our mission is to work thoughtfully and selectively with property owners to conserve natural areas, rural landscapes, family farms, scenic rivers, and historic places within North Carolina's central Piedmont and Sandhills. **(Source: trlt.org)**

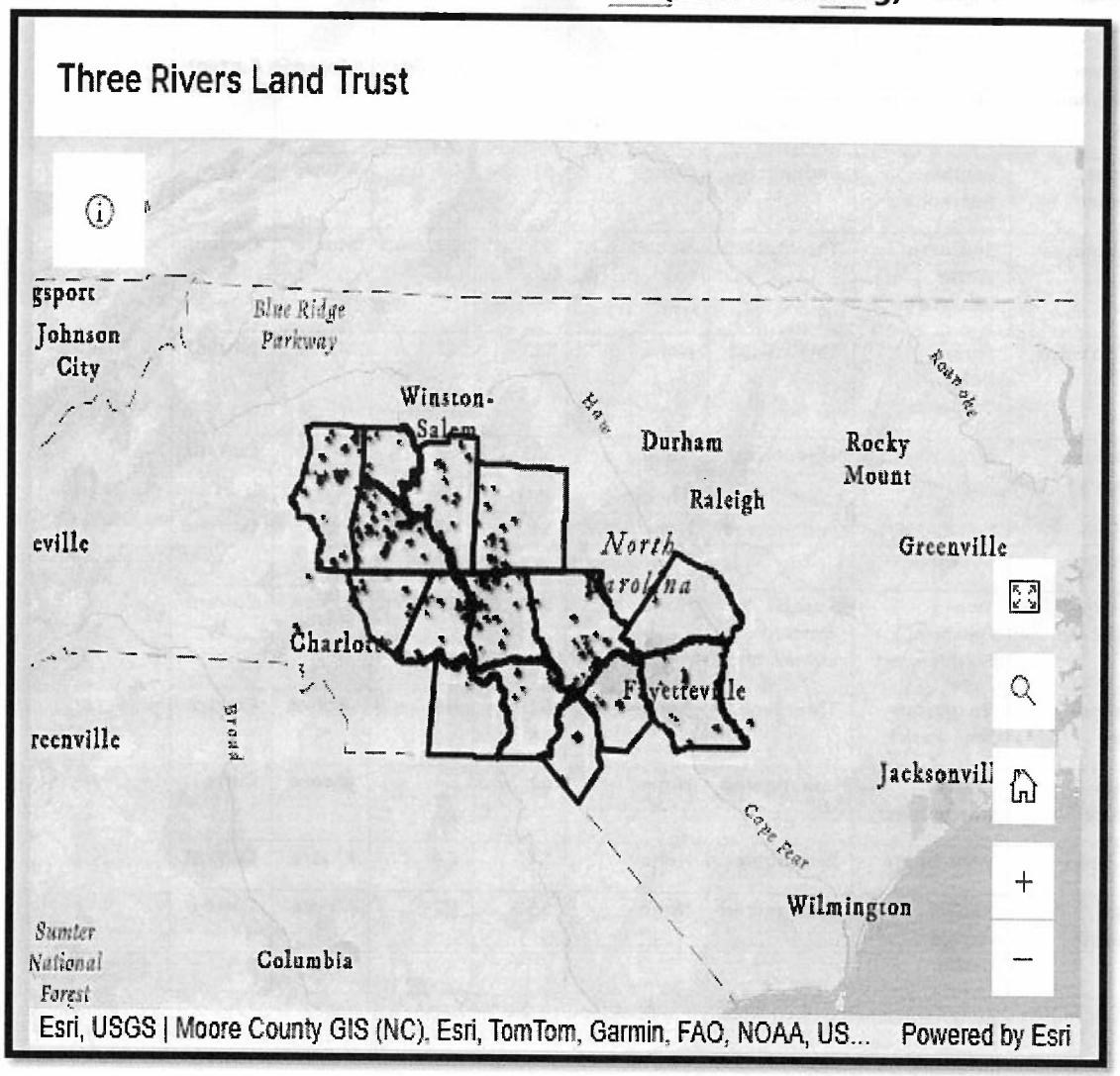


Figure 2.71 Three Rivers Land Trust Region

Walthour-Moss Foundation

Imagine a woodland where time has stood still and where nature is protected and will never fall victim to bulldozers and concrete. Imagine a place where the environment is preserved and serves as a sanctuary for wildlife and a haven for human enjoyment. Such a paradise exists today.

The Walthour-Moss Foundation was established upon the death of William O. "Pappy" Moss to ensure the preservation of the open land that he and Virginia Walthour Moss so treasured. The Foundation is in the Sandhills of North Carolina, one mile from the Town of Southern Pines. It occupies over 4,000 acres, virtually unspoiled by progress and development.

The Foundation was initially known for its equestrian use, which continues to attract world-class riders and drivers to its sandy lands and trails. However, the implementation of proper silva culture and ecological practices has made the Walthour-Moss Foundation a true environmental preserve. The almost extinct red-cockaded woodpecker is making a strong comeback on these protected lands. Their habitats are tagged for study monitoring by naturalists. The land is also home to many other varieties of birds, deer, raccoons, opossums, red and grey foxes, and rare fox squirrels.

The importance of the Walthour-Moss Foundation cannot be overstated, and its existence becomes increasingly critical every year. As acre after acre if unspoiled land becomes covered with homes, shopping centers, factories, and roads, there is less and less land which is so desperately needed for natural purposes. For example, in the spring of 2005, the North Carolina Department of Transportation transferred 180 acres of environmentally sensitive land north of Aiken Road to the care of the Walthour-Moss Foundation. In transferring this land to the Foundation's care, the North Carolina Department of Transportation found the Foundation to be "good stewards of the environment and the appropriate entity to care for this special piece of property." **(Source: walthour-moss.org)**

Chapter 7.
Our Future

Since the adoption of the 2013 Land Use Plan, Moore County has experienced steady and continued growth. This growth has included the conversion of agricultural land into residential developments, the creation of major subdivisions, increasing commercial development, and the subdivision of large tracts into minor subdivisions (four or less lots). These evolving land use patterns have led to inconsistencies between the Land Use Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

Recognizing these challenges, the Land Use Plan Steering Committee was tasked with updating the Land Use Plan to align it with the Unified Development Ordinance, ensuring both documents work in harmony. The overarching goal is to manage growth effectively, protect natural resources, and enhance the quality of life for all Moore County residents.

The Committee spent considerable time discussing what makes Moore County special. The consensus was that our rural landscape and our small towns define who we are. It was determined that without direct guidance, the two primary character identifiers would be lost to the sprawl of growth.

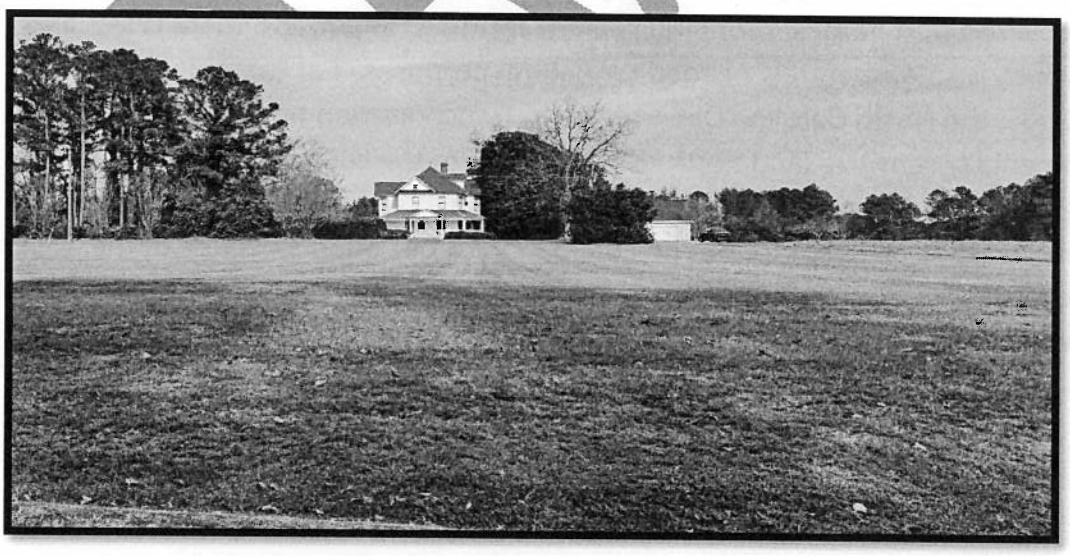


Figure 2.72: Need Information & Source from Larry Best

Like many places in our region, we would succumb to suburban sprawl. Not only would this change our character and sense of place, but this pattern of sprawl often does not prove to be economically sustainable, as the cost of providing services exceeds the taxes produced.

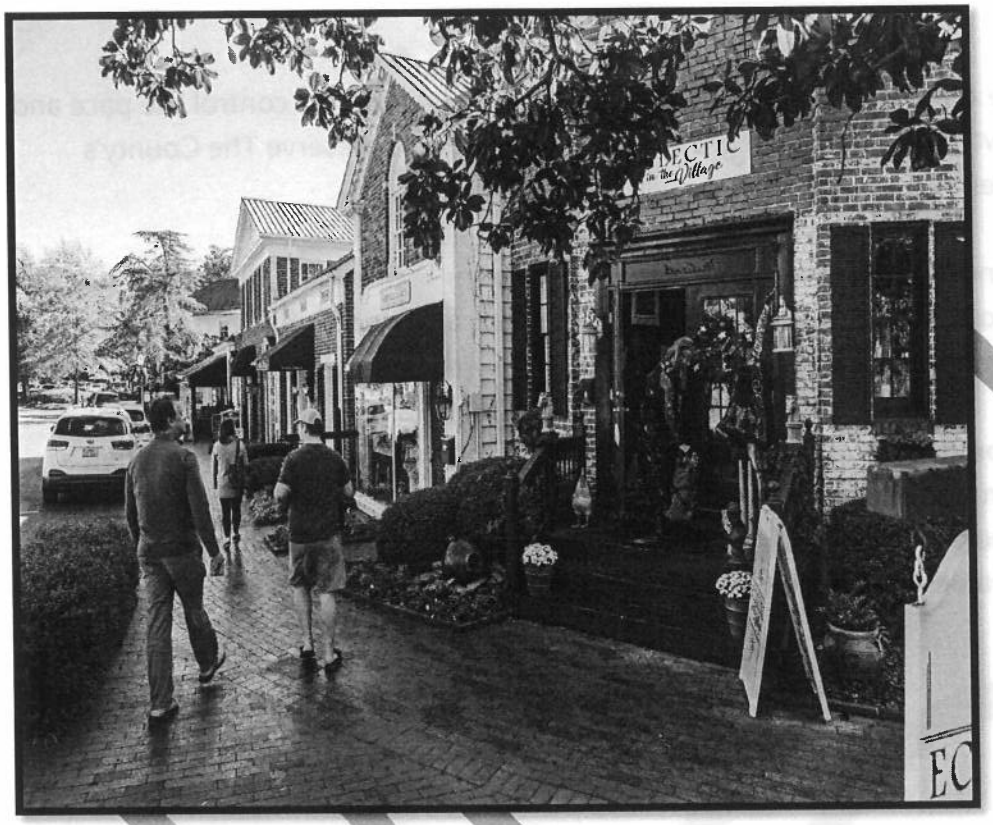


Figure 2.73: Downtown Pinehurst: Source Need from Larry Best

As noted, our municipalities generate more than 65% of the county's tax revenue. If the area of other large unincorporated communities, such as Seven Lakes and West End, is added, this number exceeds 80%.

This suggests that the committee agreed we need to find vehicles to create growth models that support our treasured small town and rural landscape, or it would be lost to growth.

The Committee reached a strong consensus: future planning must control the pace and pattern of growth, identify where growth should occur, and preserve The County's unique character and quality of life.

This process is not about yielding to special interests or maintaining the status quo. Instead, it is about adapting to a changing world with a balanced, forward-thinking approach that reflects the priorities and vision of Moore County's residents.

The Goals, Recommendations, and Actions outlined in this updated plan represent a shared commitment to guiding growth thoughtfully and sustainably. This plan lays a strong foundation for Moore County's future – one that embraces change without sacrificing the values that define the community.

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Goal 1: Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of the County of Moore

Recommendation 1.1

Through the updated Unified Development Ordinance, clarify the uses allowed in Rural Agricultural – RA zoning districts of the county.

~~*Action 1.1.1:* Identify locations and create an Agricultural Transition Overlay District (ATO). The Agricultural Transition area is intended to avoid premature subdivision areas within the ATO District not contiguous to RA-20, RA-40, RA-USB Zoning Districts, or the growing towns and villages. The ultimate development of the area involves the extension of urban services consistent with the county's Master Utilities Plan and possible annexation. It anticipates that most of the rural transition areas will not be annexed and developed at urban densities during the next 10 years. However, many of areas will be served with public water and sanitary sewer within the next 20 years and the rural transition district is needed to prevent leapfrog development and premature annexations. *~~
(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382)

Action 1.1.1: Do not allow major subdivisions in the Rural Agricultural zoned properties.

Recommendation 1.2

Emulate and support the Small-Town Development Model. **(Voluntary at request of property owner)**

Action 1.2.1: Create small town development option as an option in the Unified Development Ordinance.

Action 1.2.2: The small-town model should encourage future growth patterns that reflect the traditional characteristics of its Small Towns, which it has proven to provide a high quality of life and efficient land use.

Recommendation 1.3

Continue the present use value program (farm deferred) for agriculture, forestry, and horticulture, and encourage the conservation of farmland as defined in G.S. 106-581.1 and forestland as defined in G.S. 160-D-921, to preserve and maintain the rural character of Moore County and ensure farming remains a

viable part of the local economy.

Action 1.3.1: Utilize this plan ~~existing policies, such as the Green Growth Toolbox~~ to guide zoning map updates, updates to the Unified Development Ordinance, rezoning decisions, and other policies and procedures that promote conservation of rural lands. **(Updated 9-17-2025 Work Session)**

Action 1.3.2: Continue to utilize the voluntary agricultural district program. (VAD)

Action 1.3.3: Notify property owners of the voluntary agricultural district and its implications upon the purchasing and selling of property.

Action 1.3.4: ~~Promote~~ **(Allow)**agritourism, agriculture, agri-businesses, and cottage industries (such as small family farms, small home-based businesses, potteries, etc.) that are consistent with and enhance the County's heritage. **(Updated 9-17-2025 Work session)**

Action 1.3.5: Develop an open space conservation plan and policy that should be approved by the appropriate boards.

~~**Recommendation 1.4**~~

~~Continue to encourage (allow) agriculture and agri-business throughout Moore County.~~ (Removed 9.17.25 Work Session)

~~*Action 1.4.1:* Continue current support of operating environments for agriculture.~~

~~*Action 1.4.2:* Continue to support and promote the present use value program for agriculture, forestry, horticulture, and promote the qualified non-profit conservation organizations and wildlife conservation.~~

~~*Action 1.4.3:* Continue to offer opportunities for future generations of farmers through the support of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension.~~

~~*Action 1.4.4:* Continue to promote select cut forest management and the utilization of forest management Best Practices (BMPs) for harvesting of timber products on all forest lands in Moore County~~.

Recommendation 1.4

Preserve tracts of agricultural land to ensure that farming, agritourism, and cottage industries remain a viable part of the local economy.

~~***Action 1.5.1:* Do not allow major subdivisions in the Rural Agricultural zoned properties. (Moved to Action 1.1.1)~~

Recommendation 1.5

Preserve regional agriculture and farmland as a source of healthy, local fruits and vegetables, and other food crops.

~~*Action 1.6.1:* Continue the development of local food processing, wholesale and distribution facilities to connect local agriculture to markets such as retailers, restaurants, schools, hospitals, and other institutions.~~

~~*Action 1.6.1:* Utilize economic development to attract and retain local food processing, wholesale, and distribution firms.~~ **(9.17.25 Work Session)**

Recommendation 1.6

~~Encourage and support development and~~ **Develop** land use principles by ensuring

Moore County's cultural, economic, and natural resources are equally considered.

~~*Action 1.7.1:* Working with the Moore County Geographic Information System department, identify, map, and preserve the County's historical, natural, and cultural assets utilizing all available conservation data.~~ (Combined with 1.8.1)

Action 1.6.1: ~~Support~~ **Allow** new developments that utilize existing or Planned infrastructure that preserves open space and important historical, Natural and cultural features.

Recommendation 1.7

Preserve and maintain the rural character of Moore County, including historic sites and structures, crossroad communities, and other physical features that reflect the County's heritage.

Action 1.7.1: **Working with the Moore County Geographic Information System department,** maintain an inventory of historic sites and structures, and other physical landmarks that define or convey Moore County heritage, **and share the inventory on the Moore County website. (9.17.25 Work Session)**

Action 1.7.2: Develop land use policies that encourage the conservation and maintenance of significant crossroad communities, historic sites and structures, and other physical landmarks.

Action 1.7.3: Coordinate with existing historic preservation organizations

and land trusts to promote conservation of the County's rural culture and features.

Recommendation 1.8

~~Support and promote~~ **Allow** local businesses.

Action 1.8.1: ~~Encourage~~ **Allow** emerging markets that utilize local agricultural and manufactured products and enhance tourism and the service sectors.

Action 1.8.2: ~~Ensure~~ **Adopt** land use policies allow a wide variety of home occupations.

Action 1.8.3: Implement land use policies that allow for "commercial and light industrial home occupations" with some reasonable conditions.

Recommendation 1.9 (9.17.25 Work Session)

~~Discourage undesirable or unattractive land uses~~, **Support and promote development in harmony with existing character or in conjunction with the Land Use Plan that will optimize the use of existing infrastructure. (9.17.25 Work Session)**

~~*Action 1.10.1:* **Expand** and enforce Highway Corridor Overlay Districts and Related reasonable regulations that maintain the appearance of major highways and gateways.~~ (Removed 9.17.25 Work Session)

~~*Action 1.10.2:* Control signage along major highway corridors.~~ **(Removed 9.17.25 Work Session)**

~~*Action 1.10.3:* Select appropriate locations for industrial development and Zone them accordingly using such factors as soil suitability, proximity to water and sewer, rail, and highways~~. (Removed 9.17.25 Work Session)

~~*Action 1.10.4:* **Support** and **promote** development in harmony with existing character that will optimize the use of existing infrastructure~~.

Action 1.9.1: Review and ensure the Highway Corridor Overlay Districts include support for all aspects of the Land Use Plan. ~~and maintain a high standard of community appearance along highways and gateways.~~

Recommendation 1.10

Minimize and avoid incompatible land uses that would negatively impact the military training on Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall.

~~*Action 1.11.1:* Partner with the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission~~

~~to identify areas that are Critical to Conserve and Important to Conserve to protect training lands and military aviation flight paths.~~

~~*Action 1.11.2:* Encourage coordination towards the purchase by the United States Army and conservation organizations of easements to limit incompatible land uses that would substantially and negatively impact military training in Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. *~~

(Military Overlay District – Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))

~~**Recommendation 1.12 Removed 9.11.25 Work Session)**~~

~~Consider the effects of land uses that would substantially and negatively impact aviation operations at the Moore County Airport.~~

~~*Action 1.12.1:* Encourage coordination towards the purchase by the Moore County Airport Authority of easements to limit land uses that would substantially and negatively impact aviation operations.~~

GOAL 2: Conserve Open Space and Protect Vital Natural Resources to Enhance the Health and Wellness of the Community.

Recommendation 2.1

Support and participate in conservation easement programs that protect the public water supply, watersheds, and important open space areas.

Action 2.1.1: Encourage conservation easements through qualified non-profit conservation organizations, or other land trusts, promotion by private organizations of conservation tools to property owners.

Action 2.1.2: Promote the use of existing and proposed utility rights-of-way for public open space and greenway access.

~~*Action 2.1.3:* Implement zoning policies that require vegetation or forested buffers for new subdivisions and to prevent clear-cutting in advance of development, which severely impacts stormwater run-off to neighboring areas. **(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382)**~~

~~*Action 2.1.4:* Promote sustainable development by encouraging the preservation of existing trees in major developments to maintain natural ecosystems, enhance community aesthetics, and support environmental resilience. **(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382)**~~

~~*Action 2.1.5:* Implement zoning policies under which conservation~~

~~subdivisions guarantee at least 40% open space in development parcel, 10% of which is for trails, greenways, and active recreation.~~ ~~**(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382)**~~

Recommendation 2.2

Promote the county's Park and Recreation programs through collaborative planning efforts between the County and municipalities.

Action 2.2.1: Develop a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan that emphasizes the interconnectivity of county and municipal resources and provides uniformity.

Action 2.2.2: Utilize available natural resources conservation data in making planning decisions.

~~*Action 2.2.3:* Require new developments to provide open space and neighborhood parks that are interconnected via an off-road pedestrian and bicycle network.~~ ~~**(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))**~~

~~*Action 2.2.4:* Enhance community recreation by requiring developers to make a financial contribution to the County for recreation in place of of providing parks and recreation within the development.~~ ~~**(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))**~~

Recommendation 2.3

Provide both passive and active recreational opportunities for County residents by protecting natural resources that have recreational, environmental, or aesthetic value.

Action 2.3.1: Preserve natural resources, sensitive environmental areas, and scenic features of the landscape that have recreational, environmental, or aesthetic value.

Action 2.3.2: Encourage the location of recreational facilities close to to residential areas and transportation nodes to increase public awareness and accessibility to these facilities, consistent with the Moore County Master Park Plan.

Goal 3. Optimize the Uses of Land Within the County of Moore and Assure Adequate Infrastructure is Available to Support the Desired Growth of the County.

Recommendation 3.1

Maximize accessibility among living, working, and shopping areas.

Action 3.1.1: Adopt policies that encourage the development of small towns and mixed land uses, as appropriate, to provide easy access, reduce travel time, and improve convenience among uses surrounding the County's established towns and villages.

Action 3.1.2: Encourage non-residential development to locate near major transportation routes and areas served by adequate water, sewer, natural gas, broadband, and electric power.

~~*Action 3.1.3:* Implement zoning policies that (a) Major subdivisions are allowed in the Agricultural Transition Overlay District (ATO). Major subdivisions are also allowed by right in the RA-40, RA-20, and RA-USB zoning districts. (b) Major subdivisions are only allowed in these districts served by public water services adequate for fire protection and domestic use. (c) Any major subdivision located within one mile of a publicly owned and operated sanitary sewer system is required to connect to the system, provided it has an adequate capacity.~~ **~~Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))~~**

~~*Action 3.1.4:* Select appropriate locations for business parks and zone them for industrial development.~~

~~*Action 3.1.5:* Identify lands suitable to accommodate the expansion and growth of commercial and industrial development that provides jobs and tax base.~~

~~*Action 3.1.6:* Identify and designate Economic Development Districts to support job creation for residents.~~

Recommendation 3.2

Assure an adequate supply of drinking water is available and environmentally

Sound wastewater collection and treatment is provided to support the desired growth of the County.

Action 3.2.1: Develop a Master Utilities Plan or long-range water and wastewater plan for the County, exploring both conventional and alternative systems that are consistent with the Moore County Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Action 3.2.2: Explore both groundwater and surface water sources for future water supply.

~~*Action 3.2.3:* Support the development of water and wastewater Infrastructure. within municipal areas, agriculture transition areas, and small-town locations.~~ **(Removed 9.17.25 Work Session)**

Action 3.2.4: Support and facilitate interlocal agreements between water systems both within and outside of Moore County to provide more redundant sources of water to prevent loss of quality and quantity to citizens, businesses, and industry.

Action 3.2.5: Explore, in conjunction with municipalities, the consolidation of County and municipal water and wastewater systems as appropriate and necessary.

Action 3.2.6:. Prioritize infrastructure where possible that increases the utilization of existing systems and connections, which results in more strategic development.

Action 3.2.7: Encourage the County Commissioners to conduct a review of the Utilities Master Plan every five years to maintain consistency with the Land Use Plan.

Action 3.2.8: Continue to monitor development in Public Water Supply Watershed areas through the Watershed Protection Ordinance.

Action 3.2.9: Explore opportunities for ~~a new regional~~ **additional wastewater treatment capacity.** ~~treatment plant~~ **(Added 9.17.25 Work Session)**

Action 3.2.10: Ensure Stormwater Control Measures (SCM) are followed to reduce the runoff and establish a third-party stormwater and erosion control engineering firm to ensure compliance with State and local requirements. **(Utilize Public Utilities Engineers to review development proposals for compliance and monitor after project completion in perpetuity.)**

Action 3.2.11: ~~Limit~~ **Manage** impervious surfaces and develop riparian

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buffers to assist in stormwater management. ~~Utilize buffer width recommendations provided by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

~~*Action 3.2.13* At the developers' expense, extend water & wastewater facilities to planned Economic Districts, in Small Town overlay districts, and lands zoned as suitable to accommodate the expansion and growth of commercial and industrial uses. **(Cannot require)**~~

Action 3.2.12: Proactively explore opportunities to upgrade water & wastewater system capacities when systems are installed and extended to new school sites or when State roadway projects are being completed.

Action 3.2.13: Explore special ~~tax~~ districts to facilitate and capitalize infrastructure extensions into high-value areas for development.

~~*Action 3.2.16:* Assure adequate water & wastewater systems are available to meet existing and desired residents and business needs that are otherwise compatible with this Land Use Plan.~~

~~*Action 3.2.17:* Develop a committee of representatives from the county agencies and various entities to create a school site guideline manual for future school facility needs based upon growth projections, and existing and planned infrastructure, and areas best suited for residential and non-residential development to complement and support future schools.~~

Recommendation 3.3

Encourage a functional railway system.

Action 3.3.1: Encourage new commercial and industrial uses to locate along existing railway systems and encourage non-rail dependent land uses to locate away from existing railway systems.

Action 3.3.2: Support safe railway/roadway intersections throughout the County. ~~by regulating the adjacent land uses.~~ **(9.17.25 Work Session)**

Recommendation 3.4

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Encourage and allow development in areas where the necessary infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, and schools) are available, planned, or most cost-efficiently be provided and extended to serve development. **(9.17.25 Work Session)**

Action 3.4.1: Direct intensive land uses to areas that have existing or planned infrastructure.

Action 3.4.2: **Encourage and allow** mixed-use developments along Existing and planned infrastructure to reduce transportation needs. **(9.17.25 Work Session)**

Action 3.4.3: Utilize existing public rights-of-way for utility purposes in an effort to reduce the need for new rights-of-way and easements in the future.

Action 3.4.4: Plan for the development of alternative energy systems that minimize the adverse impacts ~~of~~ **on** agricultural lands and public water supply watersheds.

Recommendation 3.5

Coordinate transportation planning to ensure that adequate transportation options are provided to serve existing, developing, and proposed activity centers and densely populated areas.

Action 3.5.1: Continue to coordinate and monitor driveway issues, especially along strategic highway corridors.

Action 3.5.2: Utilize existing highway corridors to solve transportation needs in the future, where applicable.

Action 3.5.3: Maintain a high level of involvement in the bi-annual preparation of the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program. (TIP)

Action 3.5.4: Continue involvement with the Central Pines Rural Planning Organization (CPRPO), the Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), and the Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMPO).

Action 3.5.5: Collaborate with the Moore County Board of Education concerning areas designated for expanded growth to facilitate coordination of school expansion and construction projects.

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Recommendation 3.6

Provide for the orderly development of major transportation routes such that disruption of the free flow of traffic on major arteries is minimized.

Action 3.6.1: Minimize commercial strip development characterized by numerous driveway access points and disconnected land uses.

Action 3.6.2: Protect traffic carrying capacities and promote public safety, by adopting an access management plan to limit access along major and minor thoroughfares.

Action 3.6.3: For non-residential development uses, utilize the front entrance for access along major thoroughfares to minimize the numerous driveways, access points, and disconnected land uses.

Recommendation 3.7

Promote the implementation of transportation methods to provide for alternate methods of transportation where appropriate and feasible.

~~*Action 3.7.1:* Implement a policy to allow the construction of biking and pedestrian paths as part of any new improvement along State or privately maintained roadways.~~ **~~(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))~~**

~~*Action 3.7.2:* Require sidewalks or pedestrian paths within residential development.~~ **~~(Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))~~**

Recommendation 3.8

Require and support collaborative future planning efforts between the County, municipalities, and Board of Education, and the health care community.

Action 3.8.1: Monitor planning activities of local municipalities and adjacent counties to ensure that planning and growth are coordinated between jurisdictions.

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Recommendation 3.9

Ensure coordinated planning and growth through collaboration and utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

~~*Action 3.9.1:* Establish a countywide commission to study the impact of growth and to develop a mutually agreeable growth scenario for the County that ensures that all local governments are working toward a coordinated growth pattern that enhances the living environment for all County citizens.~~

~~*Action 3.9.2:* Implement collaboration and inter-governmental agreements of water and sewer providers to develop policies for extending new public facilities in a cost-efficient manner to serve areas identified in the future land use map. (FLUM)~~ ~~**(Master utilities plan)**~~

Action 3.9.3: Use the ~~adopted 2014~~ **current** UDO as the reference document to update and revise the UDO needed to implement and fulfill this Comprehensive Land Use Plan. (CLUP)

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Goal 4: Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation

Recommendation 4.1

Promote and maintain ongoing efforts that involve and inform citizens throughout various planning and permitting processes.

Action 4.1.1: Continue to support and implement easy-to-understand guidelines to incorporate throughout governmental departments.

~~*Action 4.1.2:* Utilize various forms of media that establish two-way citizens' communication and encourage participation in planning efforts. This includes, but is not limited to, social media postings with information and polls for participants to take, also keeping the Moore County website up to date with trending items. Establish a policy that outlines the promotion of public hearings and opportunities for citizens to provide input.~~

Goal 5: Accommodate a Variety of Housing Types

Recommendation 5.1

Properly plan for and accommodate a variety of ~~affordable~~ housing types.

~~*Action 5.1.1:* Develop a Countywide Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan that addresses existing and future options, needs, and opportunities.~~

~~*Action 5.1.2:* Allow mobile homes (built before 1976) and manufactured homes (constructed after 1976) that are more affordable in the Rural Agricultural Zoning District (RA). **(Required by GS need reference)**~~

~~*Action 5.1.3:* Develop areas suitable for mobile homes and manufactured homes in the County. **(Allowed in all residential zoning districts except Gated Community Seven Lakes (GC-SL) & Gated Community Woodlake (GC-WL).)**~~

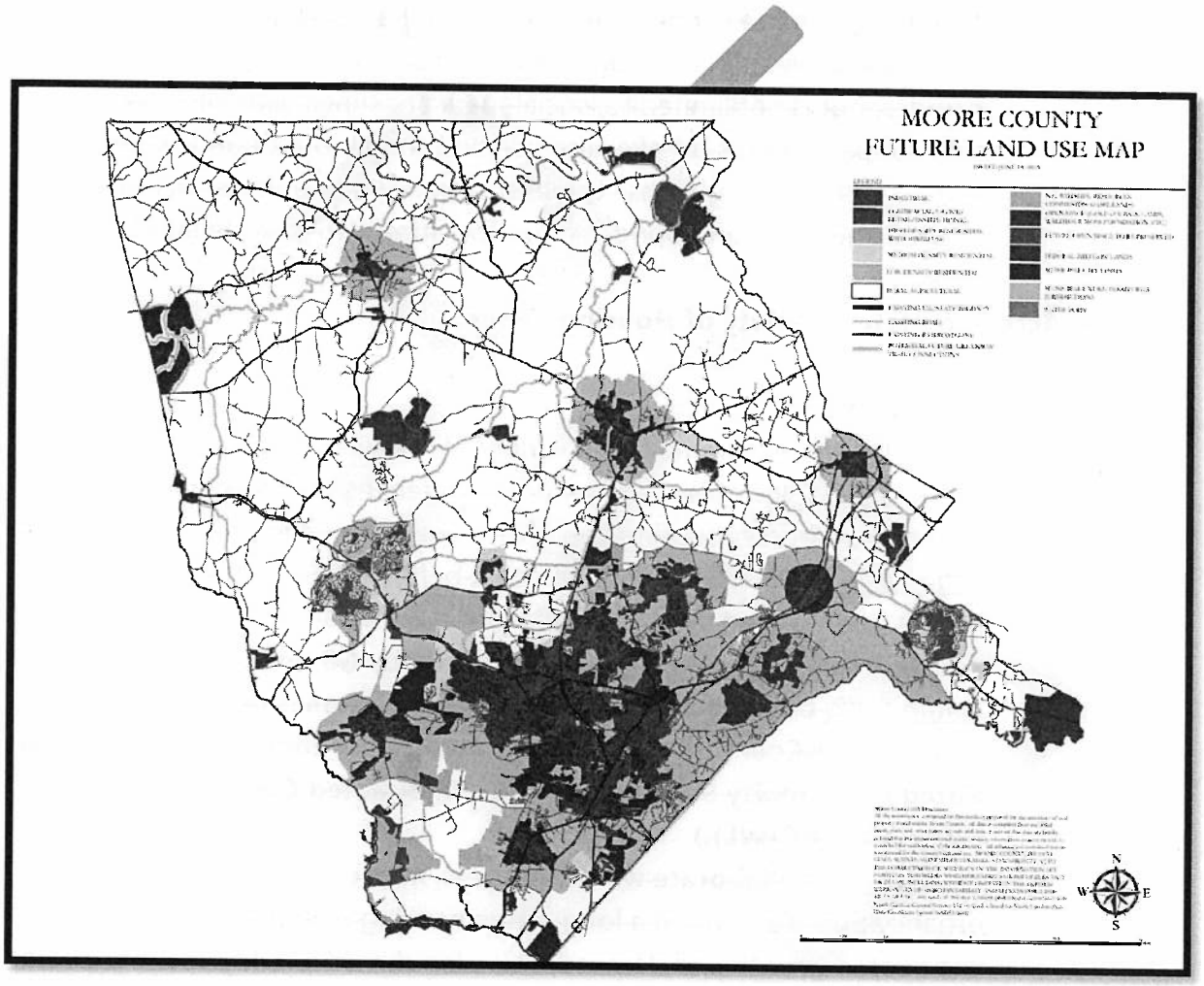
~~*Action 5.1.4:* **Collaborate** with employers, municipalities, and other organizations to develop a long-range housing plan that can meet anticipated growth and demand. This plan should identify and implement strategies to meet workforce housing needs, including reflection on the future land use plans at the County and municipal levels.~~

~~*Action 5.1.5:* Support development incentives and inclusionary practices to stimulate the production of housing options for all income levels.~~

~~*Action 5.1.6:* Support the location of a variety of housing types near employment and job centers.~~

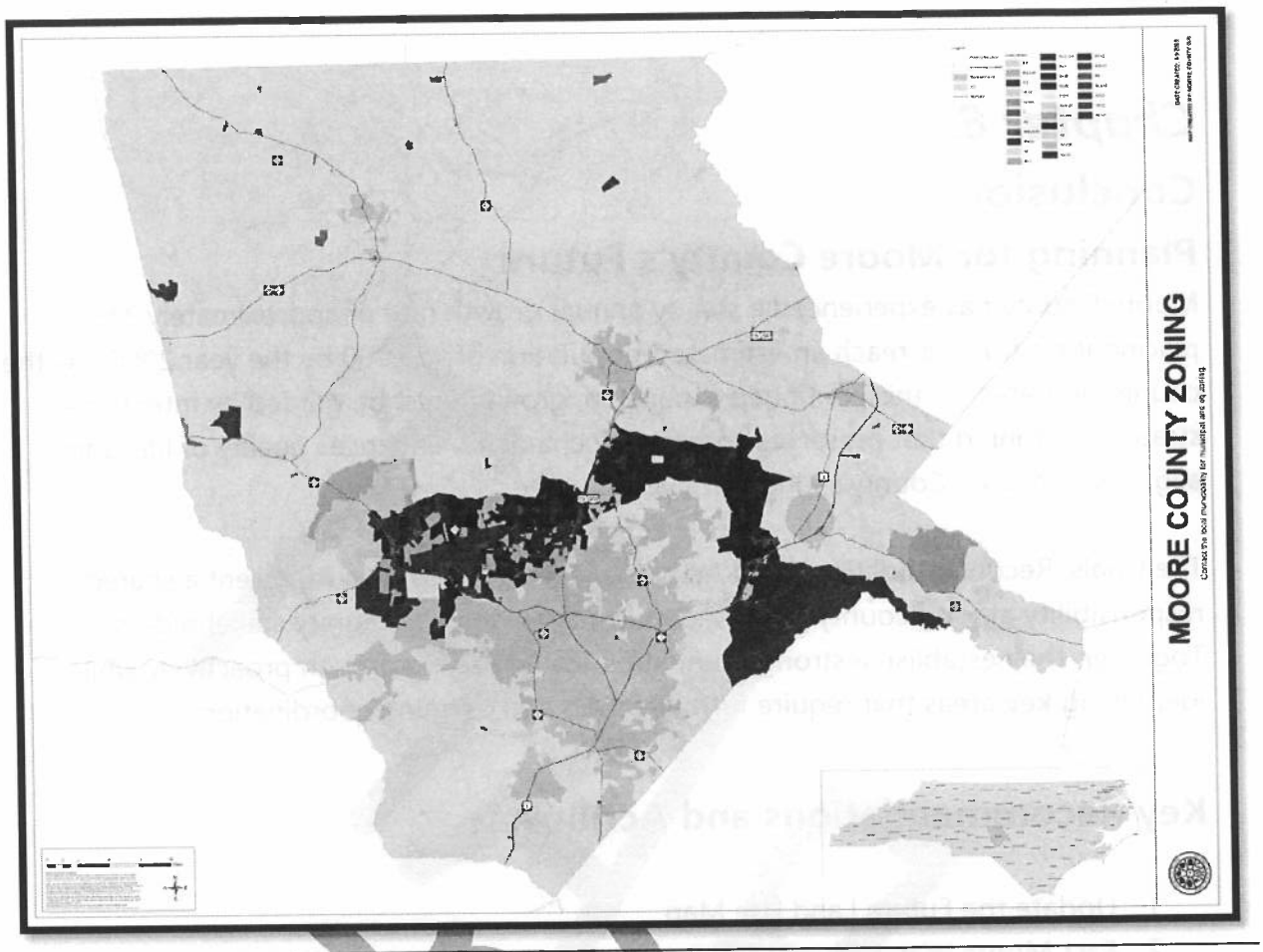
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~~*Action 5.1.7:* Encourage the development of new housing units in desired areas by streamlining the entitlement processes and reducing de-incentivizing policies or practices where appropriate.~~



~~Figure 2.74: 2013 Future Land Use Map: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025~~

(Move to Maps Chapter)



~~Figure 2.75: Moore County Zoning Map. Source: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025~~

(Move to Maps Chapter)

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Chapter 8.
Conclusion
Planning for Moore County's Future

Moore County has experienced a steady annual growth rate of approximately 2%, placing it on track to reach an estimated population of 170,000 by the year 2050. As the county prepares for this continued expansion, growth must be guided by intentional, strategic planning that preserves community character, enhances quality of life, and aligns with Moore County's long-term vision.

The Goals, Recommendations, and Actions outlined in this plan represent a shared responsibility among county leaders, departments, and community stakeholders. Together, they establish a strong foundation for managing growth proactively while identifying key areas that require further action and ongoing coordination.

Key Recommendations and Actions:

1. Update the Future Land Use Map
2. ~~East Moore Water District Service~~
    - ~~Evaluate the feasibility of utilizing the East Moore Water District to serve major subdivisions.~~
3. ~~Agriculture Transition Overlay District **(Goal 1, Action 1.1.2)**~~
    - ~~Create an Agriculture Transition Overlay District with supporting updates to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to address evolving land use needs.~~
4. Small-Town Model Overlay District **(Goal 1, Recommendation 1.2**
    - Establish a Voluntary Small-Town Model Overlay District with supporting updates to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to preserve the character and scale of Moore County's small towns. The locations of such districts must meet the location and dimensional standards established and described in the Unified Development Ordinance and support of Moore County policy. Moore County is adopting a policy of directing growth to areas in the county where the provision of water and sanitary

sewer may be provided in an efficient and cost aware manner. This policy will guide where development is desired and supported. Conversely, in rural areas utilities will not be provided and development will not be supported. **(Downzoning Disclaimer)**

5. ~~Rural Agricultural Zoning Preservation **(Recommendation 1.5, Action 1.5.1)**~~
   - ~~Do not allow major subdivisions in Rural Agricultural (RA) zoned properties.~~
6. ~~Highway Corridor Overlay Expansion **(Recommendation 1.10. Action 1.10.1, 1.10.5)**~~
   - ~~Expand and enforce Highway Corridor Overlay Districts to improve visual and functional quality development along major corridors.~~
7. ~~Military Training Overlay District **(Recommendation 1.11)**~~
   - ~~Create a Military Training Overlay District with Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) standards to protect areas designated as "Critical to Conserve" to protect training lands and military aviation flight paths.~~
8. ~~Enhanced Open Space and Buffers **(Goal 2, Action 2.1.3, Action 2.1.4, Action 2.1.5)**~~
   - ~~Require vegetated or forested buffers for all new major subdivisions.~~
   - ~~Encourage preservation of existing trees in major developments to maintain natural ecosystems, enhance community aesthetics, and support environmental resilience.~~
   - ~~Conservation subdivisions guarantee at least 40% to open space of the development parcel, 10% of which is for trails, greenways, and active recreation.~~
9. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan **(Recommendation 2.2, Actions 2.2.1,2.2.3, 2.2.4)**
   - ~~Develop a countywide Master Plan to promote interconnectivity and uniformity among county and municipal recreational resources.~~
   - ~~Require new developments to provide open space and neighborhood parks that are interconnected via an off-road pedestrian and bicycle network.~~
   - ~~Enhance community recreation by requiring developers of major subdivisions to make a financial contribution to the County for recreation in lieu of providing parks and recreation within the development.~~
10. Assure an adequate supply of drinking water is available and environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment is provided to support the desired

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growth of the County. **(Goal 3, Recommendation 3.2, Action 3.2.6, Action 3.2.10, Action 3.2.11**

- Develop a Master Utilities Plan that evaluates both conventional and alternative utility systems in alignment with land use plan goals.
- Ensure Stormwater Control Measures (SCM's) are followed to reduce runoff and establish a third-party stormwater and erosion control engineering firm to ensure compliance with State and local requirements.
- Assure adequate water & wastewater systems are available to meet existing and desired resident and business needs that are otherwise compatible with this Land Use Plan.

11. Promote and maintain ongoing efforts that involve and inform citizens throughout various permitting processes. **(Goal 4, Recommendation 4.1)**
12. ~~Develop a Countywide Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan. **(Goal 5, Action 5.1.1)**~~

By adopting and implementing these recommendations, Moore County will be better positioned to manage growth thoughtfully, protect its natural resources, and preserve the quality of life that makes it a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

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Chapter 9.
Land Use Categories

Rural Agricultural

Intended to preserve and protect areas of Moore County that are presently predominantly in agriculture and rural lifestyle uses and which are not needed to accommodate the county's growth over the next 20 years. This district is designed to protect agricultural and rural lifestyle lands, allowing only low-density residential development and isolated commercial uses. This area shall be the last priority for rezonings, residential major subdivisions, and planned developments to accommodate future growth. Rural Agricultural designation also ensures the continuation of the rural character of these areas of the county.

Residential and Agricultural (RA-20) and RA-40 Districts

Districts in which the principal use of the land is for single-family dwellings, duplexes, and major subdivisions. These districts are in proximity to the adjacent towns and infrastructure. (ex. roads & water)

Residential and Agricultural (RA-2) and (RA-5) Districts

Districts in which the principal use of the land is for low-density residential and agricultural purposes, and to discourage any use which would generate traffic on minor streets other than normal traffic to serve the residences and farms on those streets.

Rural Agricultural Urban Service Boundary (RA-USB) District

A district was established to identify areas where urban services (sewer and water) could be provided over the next 10-15 years. Although the creation of this district implies no guarantee of services, it acknowledges areas undergoing growth pressures and affords slightly more protection from intrusive uses.

Rural Equestrian (RE) District

A district created to acknowledge what has become known as "Horse Country". Horse farms, agritourism (trail rides, riding lessons, horse shows), and horse cottages for visitors.

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Gated Community Seven Lakes (GC-SL) and Woodlake (GC-WL) District

A district to reflect existing unincorporated gated communities. Primarily governed by restrictive covenants, district regulations are designed to reflect deeded covenant restrictions.

Public and Conservation (P-C) District

A district in which the primary use of the land is reserved for flood control, future thoroughfare rights-of-way, public recreation, community facility sites, forest, and other similar open spaces, which will encourage the continued use of land for conservation purposes.

Neighborhood Business (B-1) District

A district to provide for the development of commercial and service uses that serve the community's commercial needs, are accessible by residents from surrounding neighborhoods, and are of such a nature to minimize conflicts with surrounding residential areas.

Highway Commercial B-2 District

A district to provide for the development of commercial and service centers that serve community, countywide, or regional commercial needs, are accessible by residents from surrounding neighborhoods, and are configured to minimize conflicts with surrounding residential areas.

Village Business (VB) District

A district created to acknowledge the developed business area surrounding the Gated Community of Seven Lakes zoning district.

Industrial (I) District

A district providing public and private uses of a production, warehousing, distribution, and industrial-related services nature, and may include indoor recreation uses.

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Planned Development Conditional Zoning District

A planned development conditional zoning district is a negotiated zoning district that may or may not be consistent with an existing conventional zoning district. A planned development district application may propose a unique range of allowable uses, unique dimensional requirements, or other deviations and reductions from otherwise generally applicable standards in the Unified Development Ordinance. A planned development conditional district requires the approval of a planned development master plan.

Multi-Family Conditional Zoning District

A multi-family conditional zoning district is a zoning district that allows for the establishment of a variety of uses, including single-family attached housing, subject to dimensional requirements of the zoning district and other applicable requirements.

~~**Agriculture Transition Overlay District (Unable to implement due to Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382))**~~

~~A district intended to discourage premature subdivision and development in areas that are not contiguous to Residential and Agricultural 20 (RA-20) and Residential and Agricultural 40 (RA-40), Rural Agricultural Urban Service Boundary (RA-USB) zoning districts, or existing towns and villages. Future development in these areas is expected to occur with the planned extension of urban services in accordance with the County's Master Utilities and may include annexation. While most rural transition areas are not anticipated to be annexed or developed at urban densities within the next 10 years, many are expected to have access to public water and sanitary sewer within the next 20 years. This district helps prevent leapfrog development.~~

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Small-Town Model Overlay District

A voluntary, property-owner-initiated development option intended to create desirable, compact, and connected communities that reflect the historic character and scale of Moore County's existing small towns. This district is designed to optimize land use for growth, reduce sprawl, and support efficient public infrastructure and services while preserving the county's rural identity.

Key Characteristics:

- **Compact and Connected Form:** Development is organized around a primary town area of approximately one square mile with a walkable, mixed-use downtown core and interconnected street networks.
- **Mix of Uses:** Provides for residential, retail, office, civic, manufacturing, and open space uses in balanced proportions to meet daily needs within the community.
- **Variety of Housing:** Includes multiple housing types and densities to promote affordability and choice while reinforcing town character.
- **Defined Edges:** Surrounded by a transition zone of approximately three square miles that maintains rural character through agriculture, equestrian uses, golf courses, parks, estate residential, or open space. This buffer prevents sprawl and strengthens town identity.
- **Infrastructure Alignment:** Districts are supported only in areas consistent with the Moore County Master Utility Plan, where public water and sewer are available.
- **Locational Standards:**
    - Minimum four-mile separation from another Small-Town District (unless historic precedent supports closer spacing).
    - Must be adjacent to a major arterial roadway, but downtown areas must be set back at least 1/3 mile to avoid strip development.
    - Must conform to the County's Master Open Space Plan.

Benefits:

- Provides a framework for managing growth in ways that strengthen Moore County's historic character and quality of life.
- Creates authentic, livable places with a strong sense of community.
- Supports cost-effective extension of utilities and public services.
- Preserves rural landscapes and environmentally important areas through defined town edges.
- Encourages long-term, organic growth that is sustainable and adds to the county's identity.

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Moore County Future Land Use Map:

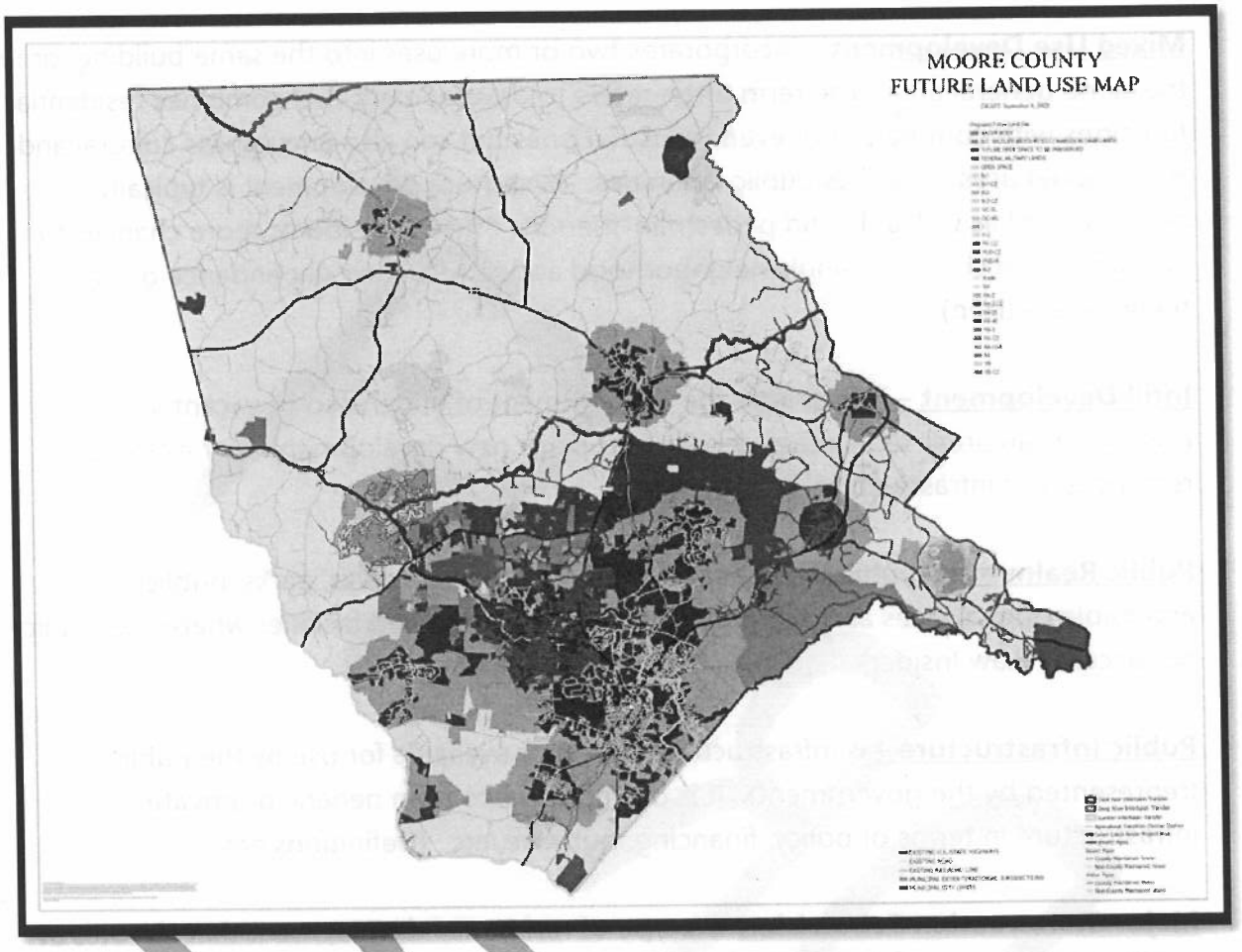


Figure 2.74 Moore County Future Land Use Map: Source: Moore County Geographic Information System, 2025

Chapter 10.
Glossary of Definitions

Mixed Use Development – incorporates two or more uses into the same building, or in the same general area. The term often refers to development that combines residential functions with commercial or even industrial ones but can also encompass cultural and institutional uses as well as public amenities. Mixed-use development is typically characterized as walkable and pedestrian-friendly, offering residents more chances to live, work, and shop in a single neighborhood and reduce their dependence on car travel. (Planetizen)

Infill Development – Encourages the development of underused or vacant land in existing urban areas to increase density and place new development near existing resources and infrastructure. (Planetizen)

Public Realm – any publicly owned streets, pathways, sidewalks, parks, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities where the public has access. (Law Insider)

Public Infrastructure – is infrastructure owned or available for use by the public (represented by the government). It is distinguishable from generic or private infrastructure in terms of policy, financing, purpose, etc. (Definitions.net)

Major Conservation Subdivision – A type of residential development that devotes at least half of its potentially buildable land area to undivided, permanently protected open space. This approach contrasts with conventional subdivisions, which typically allocate nearly all buildable land to individual lots and streets. Conservation subdivisions, also known as cluster developments, aim to maintain a significant portion of the site as common open space while minimizing individual lot sizes. They help preserve natural, scenic, historic, and agricultural areas by directing development away from these significant spaces. (American Planning Association)

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Physical Landmark – An object that marks the boundary of land or serves as a reference point for navigation. It can be a natural feature, such as mountain, or river, or a man-made structure, like a building or monument. Landmarks are often easily recognizable and can hold cultural, historical, or navigational significance, helping people find their way in unfamiliar areas. (Merriam Webster)

Historical site – is an official location where pieces of political, military, cultural, or social history have been preserved due to their cultural heritage value. Historic sites are usually protected by law, and many have been recognized with official historic status. A historic site may be any building, landscape, site, or structure that is local, regional, national, or global significance. Usually this also means the site must be at least 50 years or older.[1]

[1]FAQ-Landmark Society Archived from the original on 3 November 2021. Retrieved 15 August 2020.

Home Occupation, Level 1 – Any business, occupation, or activity undertaken for gain that is incidental and secondary to the use of the single-family dwelling. (Moore County Unified Development Ordinance)

Home Occupation, Level 2 – Any business, occupation, or activity undertaken for gain that is incidental and secondary to the use of the single-family dwelling. Level 2 Home Occupations are of a more intensive nature due to the types of uses operated. (Moore County Unified Development Ordinance)

The following uses are those that have been determined to be suitable as a Level 2 Home Occupation:

- Animal Shelters
- Kennels, Overnight
- Pet Day Care, Grooming, Obedience Training
- Small Appliance Repair Shop (may include outdoor storage)
- Trade Contractor Office and Workshop (may include outdoor storage)
- Feed and Seed Sales
- Florist
- Garden Center
- Taxi Service
- Vehicle, Auto Parts, Tires, Farm Equipment, Boat, RV – Sales, Rental, Service

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- Child Care Facility (for accessory buildings only)
- Recreation, Low Impact Outdoor
- Commissary Kitchen

Low Density – Density 2 (two) dwellings per acre, rural residential or agricultural with larger lot sizes, allowing single-family detached and farming activities.

Crossroad Communities – Communities that have historical presence, such as Eagle Springs, Jackson Springs, and Glendon.



Intensive Land Uses – Activities or developments that, by their nature, scale, or operation, generate a high level of demand on land, infrastructure, and public services, and may create significant external impacts on surrounding properties or the natural environment. Characteristics of intensive land uses include, but not limited to, high building or population density, substantial traffic generation, elevated infrastructure or utility consumption, and the potential for adverse effects such as noise vibration, color, light, or stormwater runoff.

Examples of intensive land uses include manufacturing and industrial facilities, large-scale commercial centers, high-density residential developments, concentrated animal operations, mining or quarrying activities, and solid waste management or treatment facilities.

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Chapter 11.
Land Use Plan Maps

Chapter 11 identifies the maps included within the Moore County Land Use Plan for further clarity and visuality.

The maps included in this chapter include the following:

- Figure 2:10 Moore County Market Value per acre (Page 24)
- Figure 2.19 Town of Aberdeen Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 36)
- Figure 2.20 Village of Pinehurst Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 38)
- Figure 2.21 Town of Southern Pines Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 40)
- Figure 2.22 Town of Cameron Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 42)
- Figure 2.23 Town of Carthage Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 44)
- Figure 2.24 Foxfire Village Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 46)
- Figure 2.25 Town of Pinebluff Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Limits (Page 48)
- Figure 2.26 Town of Robbins Municipal & Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (Page 50)
- Figure 2.27 Town of Taylortown Municipal Limits (Page 52)
- Figure 2.28 Town of Vass Municipal & Extraterritorial Limits (Page 54)
- Figure 2.29 Village of Whispering Pines Municipal & Extraterritorial Limits (Page 56)
- Figure 2.34 Land Area Map Seven Lakes & West End (Page 64)
- Figure 2.56 Moore County Public Schools (Page 90)
- Figure 2.58 Moore County Roads (Page 98)
- Figure 2.60 Moore County Water System (Page 101)
- Figure 2.61 Public Sewer Infrastructure (Page 104)

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- Figure 2.62 Moore County River Basins (Page 106)
- Figure 2.63 Railroads in Moore County (Page 109)
- Figure 2.64 Geology of Moore County (Page 113)
- Figure 2.65 Moore County Soils (Page 116)
- Figure 2.66 Moore County River Basins (Page 118)
- Figure 2.67 Moore County Watershed Map (Page 119)
- Figure 2.69 Moore County Floodplain Map (Page 122)
- Figure 2.71 Three Rivers Land Trust Region (Page 127)
- 2013 Moore County Future Land Use Map
- 2025 Moore County Zoning Map
- 2025 Moore County Future Land Use Map

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Chapter 12
The Small-Town Model Overlay District

Small Town Model Overlay District

A development pattern intended to cause the development of desirable places to live that optimize land use for the county's growth. The small-town model will reduce sprawl by the mix of uses allowed, town-like densities, and the efficient provision of public infrastructure and services. The establishment of a small-town district is a



(Figure 2.75: Distance from Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Aberdeen): Source: Need from Larry Best

voluntary action of the property owner. The locational requirements for establishing this district are as follows: the district must be a minimum of four miles from the boundary of another established district. This provides a suitable area to create a small established district. This provides a suitable town with its defined sense of identity. The small town's separation allows for the necessary edge to protect against sprawl.



(Figure 2.76: Cary, North Carolina):Source Need from Larry Best

Variation to the requirement may be granted if historical development suggests otherwise, such as the distance between West End and Seven Lakes, for example. The district must be adjacent to a major transportation arterial roadway. The downtown area must be a minimum of 1/3 mile from this arterial roadway to prevent strip commercial development. Exceptions to this may be considered if historic town/village form would suggest an appropriate pattern exists that should be recognized. This district must conform to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. **(Action 2.2.1: Develop a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan that emphasizes interconnectivity of county and municipal resources and provides uniformity.)**

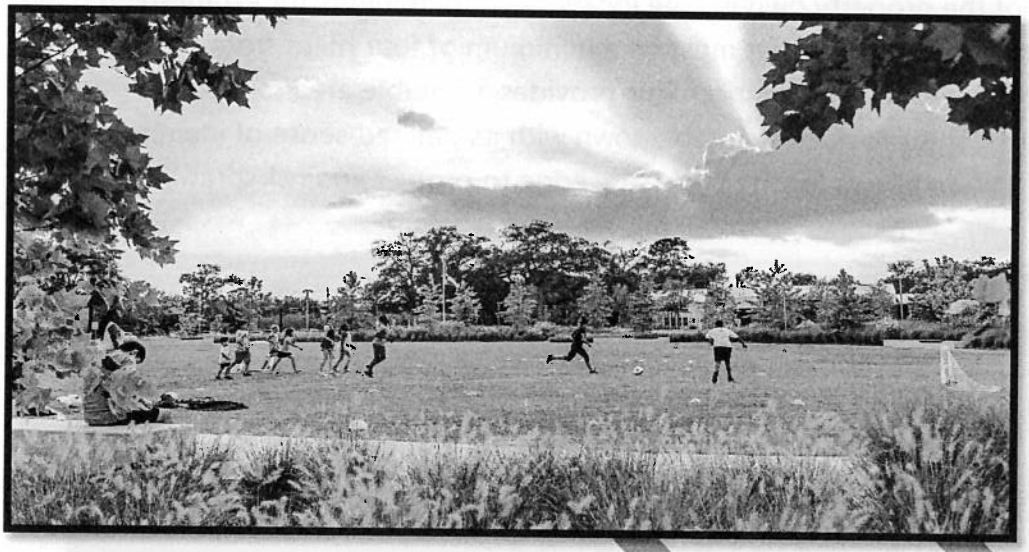


Figure 2.77: Example of open space: Source need from Larry Best?

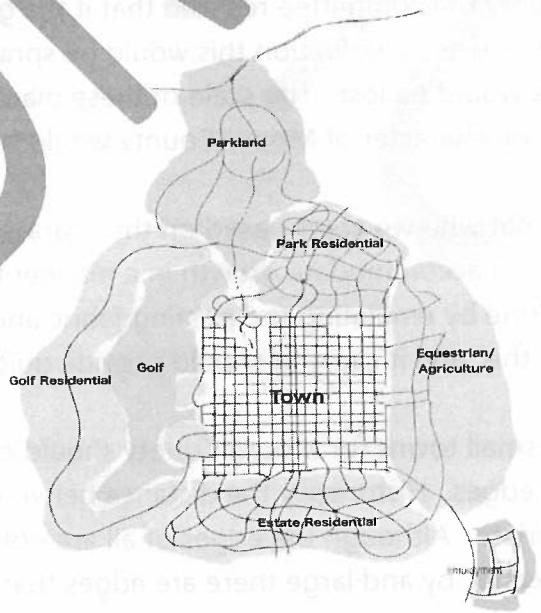
The benefits include:

- Guide to future development for the County's growth.
- Strategically located in recognition of the County's history and heritage.
- Support sound factors of consideration for utility infrastructure extensions.
- Form, location, and design allow for long-term organic growth.
- Allow multiple types and densities of residential and commercial uses.
- Creation of additional municipalities in the County.
- Describes the approximate size of the small town and may vary by up to 20% based upon location.
- The primary town is defined to be approximately one square mile or 640 acres. This area is denser in character and provides a mix of land uses to meet day-to-day needs. The uses in this area and the percentage of land use are as follows:
    - Residential – 55%
    - Retail – 5%
    - Office – 15%
    - Open Space – 15%
    - Manufacturing – 5%
    - Civic – 5%

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- The street layout is defined as a variety of blocks that are interconnected, providing a sense of connectivity and community.
- There is no minimum lot size in the primary town area.
- The edge of the town is a minimum of 3 square miles or 1920 acres with a width of ½ mile minimum. This area is less dense and provides the edge to the rural landscape. This area is less dense and provides the edge to the rural landscape. Development in this area may be clustered to preserve usable open space while maintaining the aggregate density of one unit per two acres.
- The street layout is connected but is more informal in design.
- The Rural Edge is defined as located along all edges of the primary town. It is approximately three-square miles in area. (1920 acres) in total which would calculate this transition of town would extend about one half mile mile area from the town proper edge.
- The uses in this area and percentage of land uses are as follows:
    - Residential – 70%
    - Retail – 2%
    - Open Space – 15%
    - Civic – 5%
- The minimum lot size shall be 2 acres.

This edge of town will not only protect against sprawl but will appropriately add to the identity of the small town and Moore County.



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These appropriate uses include agriculture, equestrian, golf, parkland, and estate residential. Others may be considered and determined to be appropriate. The illustration shows how they could form edges to the town. The minimum dimension for each of these edges will be defined in the Unified Development Ordinance. Any combination of these uses would be appropriate. If clustered in the residential area the density credit would be allowed for the total area amounting to the same overall density. This would create additional open space and reduce infrastructure costs. If land is donated to the county for the use as open space or park the density of the donated land may be doubled and applied to adjacent land as an incentive.

If parkland is dedicated, the density of the dedicated land may be added to adjacent properties in accordance with the requirements of the Unified Development Ordinance.

Meaningful growth adds to the character of a place by creating real places. These new places build upon the fabric and character of the environment. They are specific to the setting in which they occur.

Growth can most often, when a careful guidance plan does not exist, lead to sprawl. This often does not add to sense of place but in reality destroys it.

Growth plans then must be carefully considered and managed accordingly to result in meaningful appropriate character and creation of place. To protect the existing small towns of Moore County the committee realized that if the growth just added to the edges of the existing towns by definition this would be sprawl and the uniqueness of these existing places would be lost. The scale of these places is paramount to their identity. Also, the rural character of Moore County would be lost to sprawl.

This led to the idea that who we are is based on the character and scale of these existing towns. And if we are to accommodate growth in a manner that is additive to our identity it will best done by emulating the existing fabric and scale of our town. Our history is defined by this, and it can and should provide guidance for our future.

The creation of new small towns for Moore County should ensure that they are separate entities with distinct edges. Historically the distance between these is four to six miles, which seems appropriate. Although the edges of all are not perfect with the allowance of linear strip commercial, by and large there are edges that define towns. Carthage

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quickly becomes rural at its edges. This should be protected. This identity is reflected in Robbins and Cameron. Foxfire Village recently adopted zoning to protect its edge.

Vass, through annexation, has begun to grow in a manner reflecting sprawl. However, it's downtown is seeing revitalization efforts that will likely lead to more opportunities in building historic fabric.

Pinehurst has most of its edges defined by golf communities which is additive to its identity. Additionally, Pinehurst has used zoning as a vehicle to protect the character of its historic village.



Figure 2.79 Rural Edge / Equine Riding Trail: Source: Need from Larry Best

Southern Pines has golf as an edge. Additionally, it has a nationally identified horse county and the Walthour Moss Foundation, which is an important part of its identity. The Weymouth State Park provides another edge. This, with the Walthour Moss Foundation, creates important natural habitats as well as recreational opportunities.

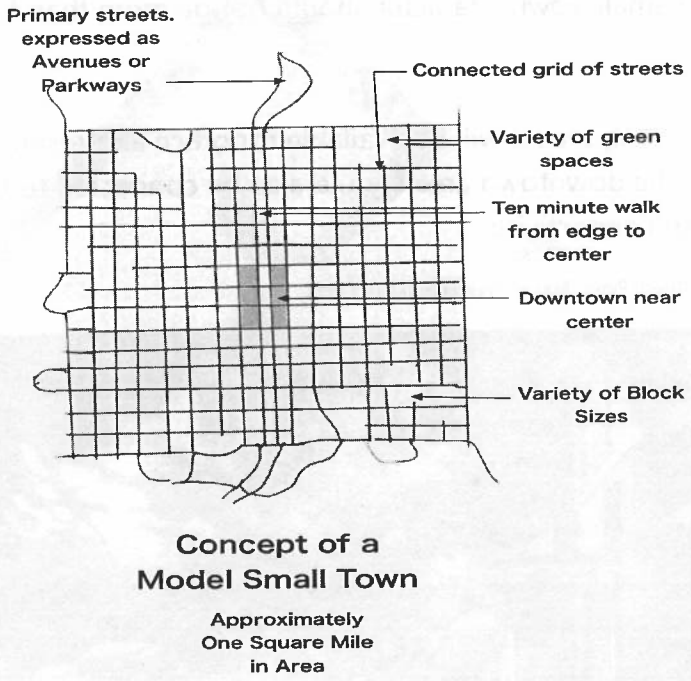
The presence of Fort Bragg also forms an edge and protects from sprawl. These reflect the importance of edge of town to its identity.

These are all edges with unique character that creates the identity of Moore County. As such, they are appropriate edges for the new Small Towns to assure they do not contribute to sprawl and are in fact additive to our unique identity.

As the opportunity for a new Small Town is brought forward the importance of the town fabric should be coupled with the importance of the creation of an edge. This can be as simple as protected rural lands along the edge of by use of an historical character edge consistent with Moore County.

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Figure 2.80: Concept of Model Small Town: Source: Need from Larry Best



The attributes of the Small Town provide a connected street network of blocks. This connectivity builds a sense of community. They do more than move cars but help build a place where people know their neighbors. They encourage walkability and chance encounters which add to sense of belonging. They become community rather than just houses. It contributes to the creation of public places such as neighborhood parks which are easily accessible. Connected streets create real place that have residents who identify and care about their appearance and safety.

A Small Town would include an identified downtown. It should be centrally located to provide easy accessibility from the areas of the town. This would at an area of one square mile provide for an approximated walk of ten minutes from the town edge. The one square mile is meant as a guideline and areas smaller could be considered if the plan allows for the appropriate mix of uses and scale of community.

Downtown should be a minimum one-third mile from the arterial road. This would protect from strip commercial development and maintain area for the Corridor Overlay District. This may be varied if local site-specific historic character exists. The scale of the building to maintain the Small-Town character should not be more than forty-five feet to the cornice.

Additionally with this building area it will be available for office and residential uses that will enliven downtown. The downtown area should also be connected to the open space to allow pedestrian connectivity.

Figure 2.81: Downtown Southern Pines: Source Need From Larry Best





Figure 2.82: Green Space / Open Space: Source: Need from Larry Best

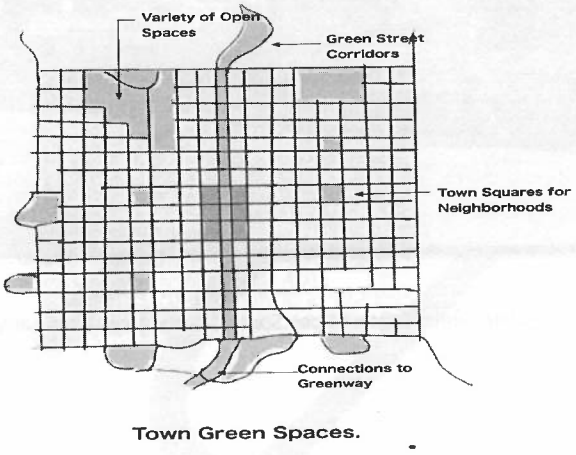


Figure 2.83: Town Green Spaces: Source: Need from Larry Best

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To create a viable and vital downtown, it is suggested that more dense residential uses be in proximity. These could either be flats or townhouses, but they must front the street and reinforces the build to line. The streetscape shall be developed in accordance with the UDO requirements for the district.



Figure 2.84: Green Space / Open Space: Source: Need from Larry Best

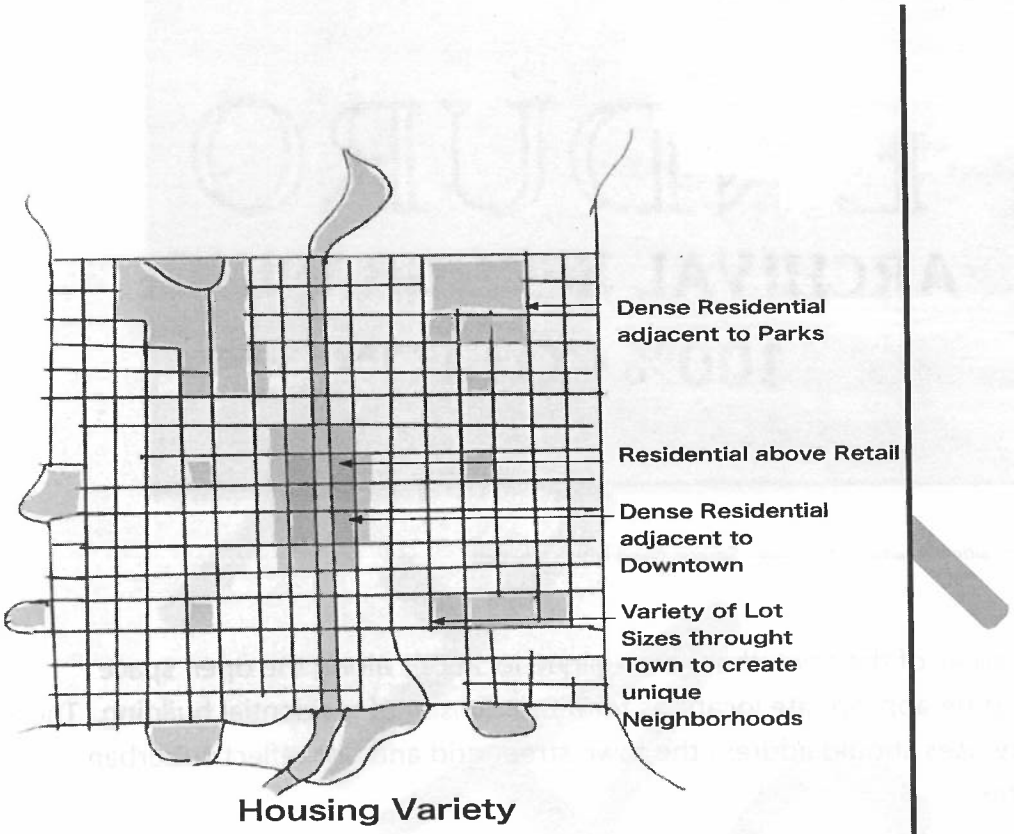


Figure 2.85: Housing Variety: Source: Need from Larry Best



Figure 2.86: Dense Residential adjacent to parks: Source: Need From Larry Best

Additionally, areas of the town that have unique locations along the open space network would be appropriate locations for more density of residential building. These higher density uses should address the town street grid and not reflect suburban apartment sites.

A feature of the town proper although the streetscape and design of the public realm will be defined by the UDO, the size of the lots is not defined. This will allow for areas with different costs providing for the opportunity for affordable housing.

The Public Realm in the town property will be defined in the UDO. This will include street, sidewalks, street trees, street lighting and neighborhood open space requirements. These elements will ensure the variety of housing offered exists in a context that will build town character and identity

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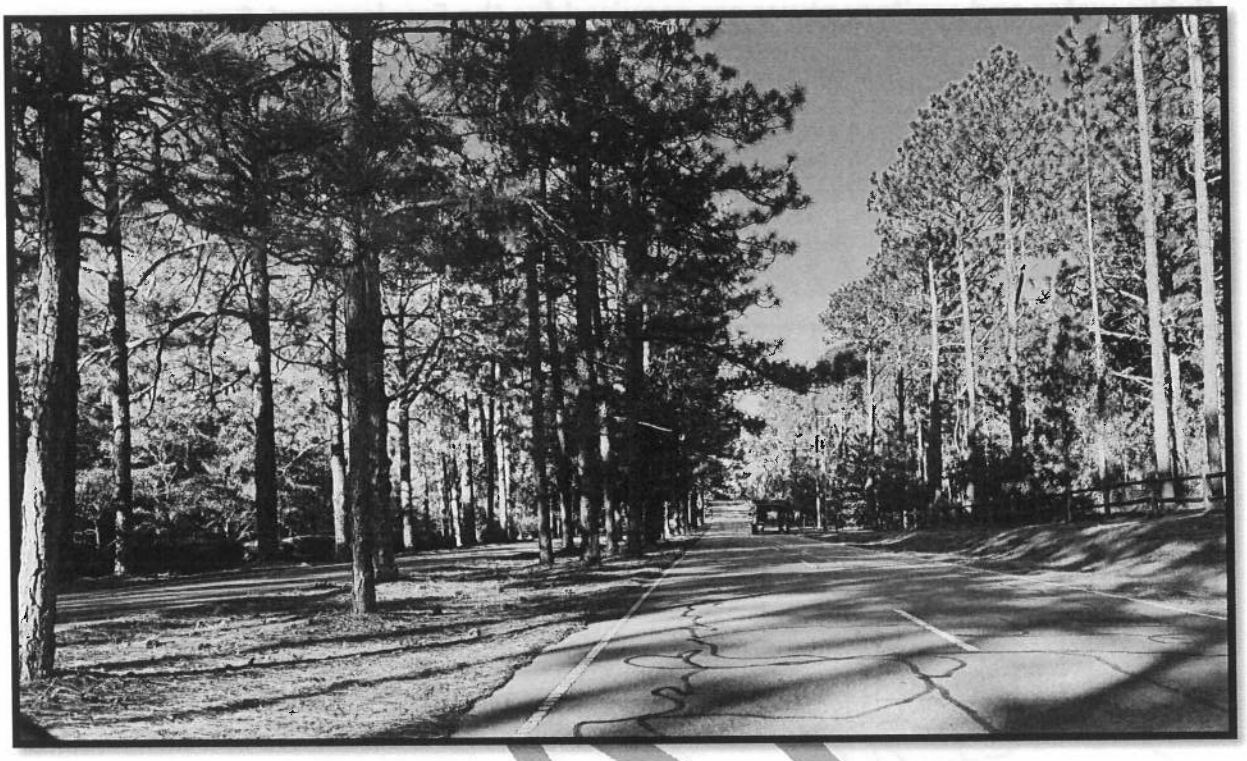


Figure 2.87 Employment adjacent to arterial road Source: Need from Larry Best

Employment Area

Adjacent to the town transition area an area should be identified for the employment area. It should be adjacent to the existing arterial road. The Corridor Overlay District setbacks should be followed presenting a green edge to the employment area. Internal roadways should be developed providing internal access to all development.

The lot area may be as required for the intended use. The streetscape requirements will be defined in the UDO to provide a sense of order and character to the area.

Public water and sanitary sewer are required for the Employment Area

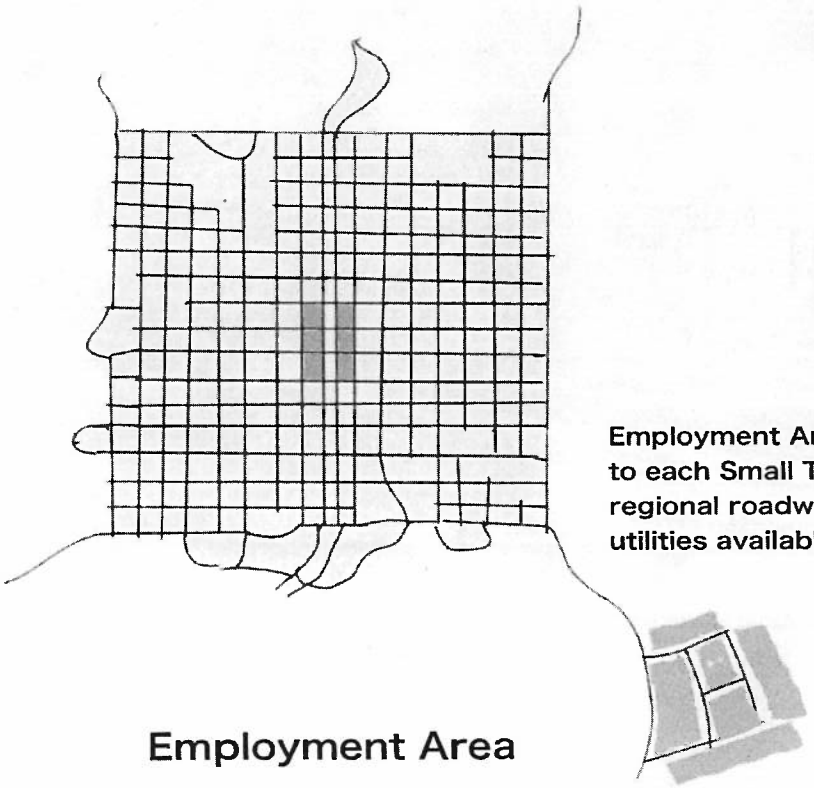


Figure 2.88: Public Water and sanitary sewer required for the employment area: Source: Need from Larry Best

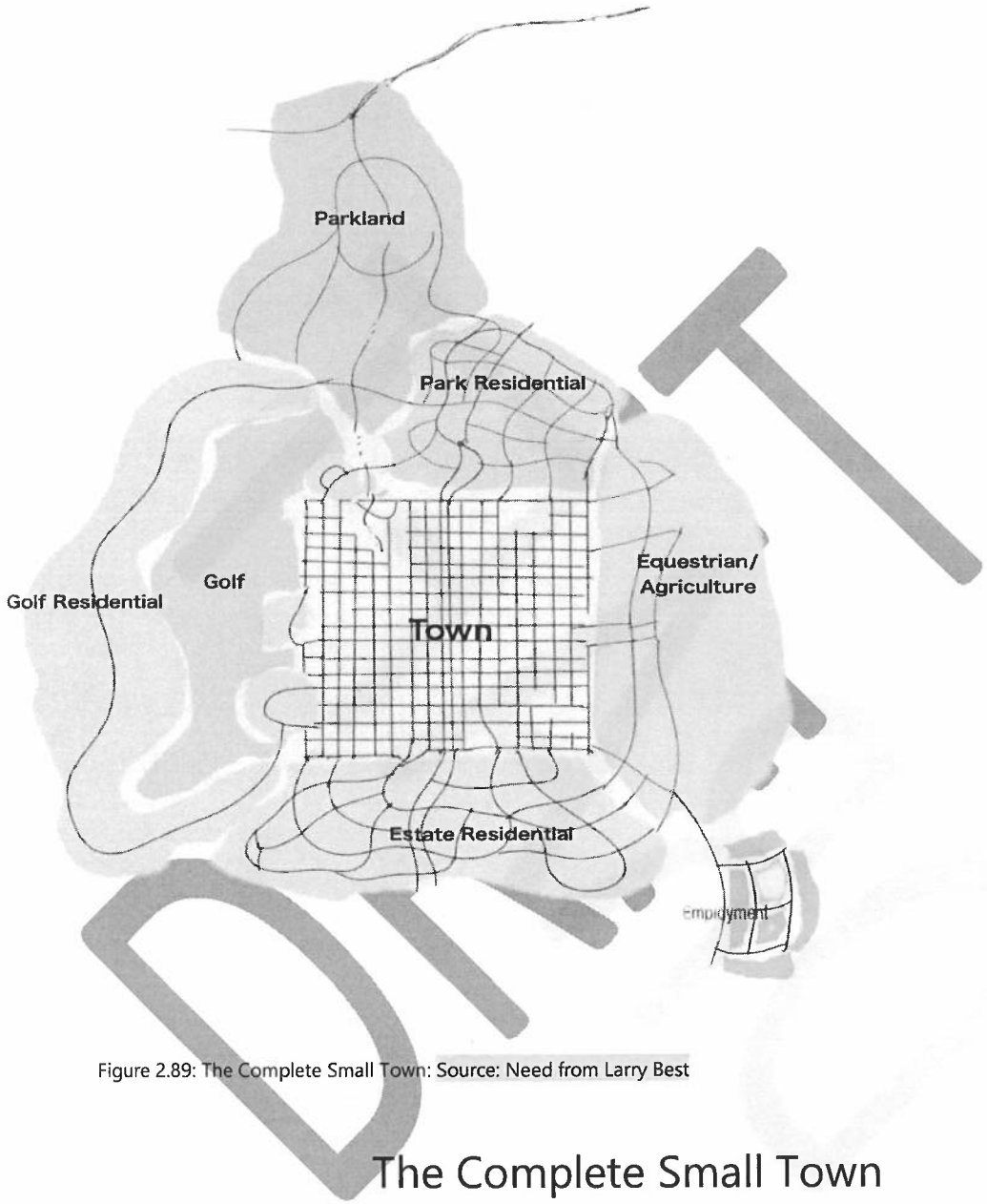


Figure 2.89: The Complete Small Town: Source: Need from Larry Best

The Complete Small Town

The Complete Small-Town Model creates a thoughtful way of growth for Moore County. It expresses our unique character of small towns and the use landscapes that define us. Whether rural lands preserved for agriculture or equestrian uses, a golf community, estate residential or preserved open space as parkland. Preserved these edges enhance the small-town sense of place. It creates a "real place" that is counter to growth by sprawl. It creates a real sense of community. And its orderly form provides for the efficient and sustainable provision of public services.

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