



DRAFT



2020 Land Use Plan

Moore County, North Carolina



Photo Credits: Sandhills Photography Club, Carolina Forestry Inc.

2020 Moore County Land Use Plan

IN THIS PLAN

OVERVIEW | BACKGROUND | TOWNS & COMMUNITIES |
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES | POPULATION PROJECTIONS |
GROWTH PATTERNS | RESIDENTIAL GROWTH |
AFFORDABLE HOUSING | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT |
TOURISM | MILITARY | EDUCATION | UTILITIES |
AGRICULTURE | PRESERVING OUR LAND |
CORRIDOR PROTECTION | CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS |
GROWTH AREAS | GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS MAP |
GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICIES

OVERVIEW

The Moore County Land Use Plan serves as a comprehensive long-range guide for policy decisions concerning the overall growth management of Moore County. Accordingly, this plan offers data and information about current and projected conditions in Moore County and sets forth a series of policy guidelines and growth management area map to define areas of the County where urbanization is not intended to expand within the 2030 year planning horizon. The 2020 update builds on discussions and initiatives that have taken place previously with a focus on how to accommodate new growth while also addressing quality of life issues such as the preservation of our heritage assets in an increasingly fragile rural environment.

At the heart of the Land Use Plan are five goals, described in greater detail in the Growth Management Policies Chapter, which were identified through civic engagement. These five goals are the Plan's policies. All policies respond to and fulfill one or more of the Plan's goals. Policies provide general guidance for decision-makers and help direct the County towards achieving the guiding goals.

Land Use Plan Goals:

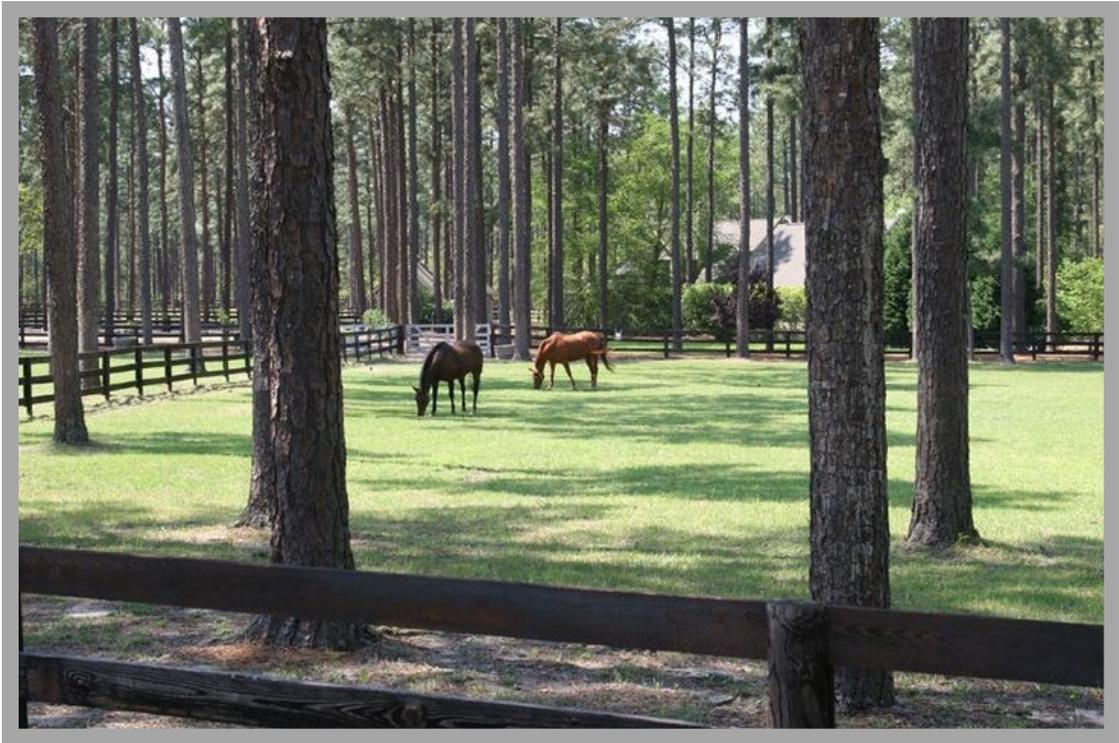
1. Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of the County of Moore (inclusive of areas around municipalities).
2. Enhance the Union of the Built and Natural Environments to Improve Citizen Health through the Use of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities.
3. Optimize the Uses of Land Within the County of Moore.
4. Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation.
5. Accommodate a Variety of Housing Types.

Moore County is experiencing rapid growth in what were once rural areas. Major residential subdivision growth in the traditionally rural areas of the County have spurred concerns among county residents about how this growth pattern, if not addressed, will have lasting impacts on these rural areas of the County. As a response to these concerns, Moore County, in 2019, required major residential subdivisions go through a public hearing process and limited where subdivisions can be located. As a result, in 2020, Moore County created Growth Management Areas to provide guidance to citizens, developers, elected officials, development boards, and staff, as decisions are made on rezonings and growth related issues. The Moore County Land Use Plan includes broad policy statements that will, when combined with designated Growth Management Areas (Primary, Secondary, and Rural Growth) form an overall growth management strategy for Moore County.

The Moore County Land Use Plan is not a detailed, lot by lot, site specific land use plan as reflected by zoning maps. Instead, the Plan prepares broad policy statements that will, when combined with designated Growth Management Areas, form an overall growth management philosophy for Moore County. The Plan provides options to land owners and developers that will still accomplish growth management objectives.

Although adopted by the Board of Commissioners as an official public document, the Land Use Plan is not a development ordinance and does not carry the force of law. However, the Land Use Plan serves as a long-range guide for public policy decisions concerning the overall growth and development of the Moore County community. The Growth Management Areas Map is incorporated as part of the document and provides a vision for the county’s future growth. Many policies describe desired development outcomes, and consistency with these policies will be a factor in the review of discretionary development applications, such as rezoning petitions. The Plan will bring more predictability to the zoning and development review and approval process for developers, property owners, and concerned citizens alike.

The Land Use Plan is also a resource for those who seek general information on how Moore County may change over the next ten to twenty years. The intent of this Plan is to make it easy to read and accessible to all. Key issues are described with data to make the purpose of policies more apparent. Graphics, maps, photos, and charts have been used to illustrate major points and improve the legibility of the text. Text boxes are used to present background information or highlight issues.



BACKGROUND

The first Moore County Land Use Plan was adopted on March 15, 1999 and included the following goals:

1. Preserve and protect the County's rural agricultural nature.
2. Protect property rights.
3. Protect the environment, open space, and recreation.
4. Address development concerns with respect to economic development and transportation.
5. Encourage information and citizen participation.
6. Address housing.
7. Preserve the County's heritage.

In 2013, a Land Use Steering Committee was formed to update the 1999 Land Use Plan. The Committee provided insight on land use optimization and how it effects Moore County holistically and formed the following guiding principles:

1. Ensure the highest respect and consideration for public and private land ownership and property rights.
2. Ensure our County's culture, health, economy, and natural resources are considered equally.
3. Recognize that all the County's towns, villages, communities, and rural areas are unique and valued places.
4. Development policies should result in optimization of public services and infrastructure.

It was the committee's intent to guide the development of policies that will lead to the growth, progress, and economic well-being of Moore County based on the principles above. To that end, the committee identified five goals that should guide the processes and development of policy for land use in Moore County. These five goals are:

1. Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of the County of Moore (inclusive of areas around municipalities).
2. Enhance the Union of the Built and Natural Environments to Improve Citizen Health through the Use of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities.
3. Optimize the Uses of Land Within the County of Moore.
4. Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation.
5. Accommodate a Variety of Housing Types.

While the action steps may change, the guiding principles for the development of this plan should exhibit little change and should be the foundation upon which future Planning Boards, County Commissioners, and other policy makers build. To accomplish these goals, several recommendations for policy action were developed by the Committee.

We are indebted to the work of those involved in the 1999 and the 2013 updates. As Moore County has evolved over the past several years, the necessity for a 2020 update has been recognized as a means to encourage quality and sustainable growth, to accommodate new growth while preserving the heritage and natural resources of Moore County, to keep providing a high level of public services while keeping taxes at a reasonable rate, and to maintain a healthy balance between economic viability and livability by recognizing the direct connection between development and our county's quality of life.

Evaluate / Update

Periodically this Plan should be evaluated of the effectiveness in implementing the goals and policies. This plan is an evolving document. As new circumstances arise, as accomplishments are realized, and as objectives are achieved, amendments to the plan should be made.

TOWNS & COMMUNITIES

Moore County has 11 incorporated municipalities, as well other villages and communities throughout the County. These areas have developed over the last 300 years, as Moore County has grown to what it is today. Below are brief historical backgrounds and descriptions of cultural assets of each community.

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. Originally called Bethesda, in the mid-1850's the name was changed to Blue's Crossing, in honor of Malcolm Blue. Soon after, the Civil War brought turmoil and decimation to the area as many of the local men fought and died in battle. The men that survived returned to the area and started new businesses, laying the foundation for the era of prosperity to come.

With the completion of the Raleigh & 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 has embraced the history found in the downtown district, but has also progressed with the development of new businesses, charming shops, restaurants and hotels.

Carthage. Carthage is the oldest town in Moore County, NC. It was incorporated in 1796 and serves as the county seat. Activities in Carthage have always revolved around the courthouse and still do today with the fifth and current courthouse still in use since 1922. The town itself was not laid out until 1803. The National Historic District of Carthage is proud of its more than 50 buildings and residences of historical significance dating back to the pre- Civil War period . From 1850's to 1920's, the town's growth was due to its successful buggy industry. Alexander Kelly and Thomas Tyson founded the Tyson Jones Buggy Factory in 1855. This major 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 turned out approximately 3000 vehicles per year. The horse drawn buggy brought prosperity to Carthage, but the automobile spelled doom for the buggy industry. However, the annual Buggy Festival of Carthage honors the town's heritage of carriage makers and is a great family-friendly event.

Cameron. In 1857 the Raleigh & Augusta Railroad came to Cameron and was the end of the line for a while. The town was incorporated in 1876 and named for Paul Cameron, a railroad official. From 1880 to 1890, the Cameron-based, Muse Brothers Store was known 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." Today, Cameron is well known for its antique shops and on the first Saturday in May and October, an antiques fair is held and attended by thousands of visitors. The quiet residential town offers lots of antiques and treasures for every kind of collector.



Foxfire. The Village of Foxfire is an area about seven miles southwest of Pinehurst. The early English and Scottish settlers called this area Piney Bottom in the early 18th century. Foxfire was said to have been the site of a small battle during the American Revolution around 1780. Due to the richness of the pine forest, settlers sold the timber for construction and turpentine production. Agriculture came to prominence in the 20th century featuring cotton, tobacco, corn and rye. Peach orchards and vineyards were also plentiful.

In 1977, Foxfire was incorporated and sits on one of Moore County's highest elevations. 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 an old 2,200 acre farm under the partnership of Roland McKenzie and Dan Tomlinson. It is a growing community with the addition of residential tracts suitable for horse farms.

Pinebluff The Scottish influence is reflected in the names of the early towns and residents. Members of the Peter Blue family from Aberdeen were the original residents of Pinebluff. The Blues had great success in the agricultural industry with tobacco and raising cattle. John Patrick had the idea to duplicate his Southern Pines and bought 772 acres in 1884. His plan was to turn the area into a second resort. He named streets after fruits and nuts, and the avenues after northern cities. Patrick worked for 20 years at attracting new residents to Pinebluff. Unfortunately disastrous fires stunted the development of Pinebluff. Dr. John W. Achorn, stepped up to assume the responsibilities of leadership in Pinebluff. Achorn along with his wife and her mother laid the foundation for Pinebluff to become a very pleasant residential area. Pinebluff has become home to many retirees and military families from neighboring Ft. Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. Pinebluff has a strong recreational program that centers around Pinebluff Lake. A “bedroom community,” has developed in recent years for working class and young professional people who work in Fayetteville, Pinehurst, Southern Pines and surrounding towns and cities.

Pinehurst. In 1895, James Walker Tufts had a dream. As a philanthropist and a shrewd businessman, he felt there was a market for the development of an affordable health resort for the working class. With the help of the esteemed landscape designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City’s Central Park, it took just seven months to create the Village of Pinehurst. When guests began arriving with golf clubs and invading nearby cow pastures to practice, Tufts made the decision to incorporate golf into the area’s offerings. Shortly afterwards in 1900, Tufts hired Donald Ross to design courses for the new facility. After thoughtful planning and the creation of a Ross design that infused Scottish links golf with the topography of the Sandhills, the legendary Pinehurst No. 2 was born. Since that time, Pinehurst No. 2 has been designated as a National Landmark and hosted numerous golf championships, including three US Open Golf Championships, with another set for 2024.



Southern Pines. In 1887, the idyllic town of Southern Pines was developed on 675 acres of land. Originally designed as a stopover for weary northern travelers heading to and from Florida, Southern Pines was built with the railroad running right through the center of town. This thoughtful planning, in conjunction with Patrick’s vision of turning the area into a health resort, allowed Southern Pines to become a successful and thriving community. Through the decades, James Boyd and his family contributed to the growth and prosperity of Southern Pines. In 1903, the Boyd family built Weymouth Heights and developed 500 acres into lots for future homes. But perhaps the Boyd family’s most enduring legacy is their vision of a thriving equestrian community in Southern Pines. With over 4,000 acres of riding trails, Southern Pines now offers the Walthour-Moss Foundation, and hundreds of nearby horse farms.

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 very successful given the demand for rifles during the war. Due to the success of his business, many factories were established and the town became known as Mechanics Hill. There was a small gold strike that kept the town going until the Durham-Charlotte railroad came through in 1904. It was around this time that John Lenning, a wealthy businessman and railroad builder, laid out the streets to a new town nearby. In honor of his contribution the town was named after his daughter, Elise.

The community grew and once again the name was changed to Hemp as more textile manufacturing came to the area in the early 1900’s. In 1930, a Russian immigrant, Karl Robbins purchased the Pinehurst Silk Mills in order to improve its operations and make it state-of-the-art. Many of the residents were employed by the mill which was a blessing during the Depression years. The citizens of Hemp honored Robbins in 1943 by renaming the town after him. It was recognition well deserved for a many that had done so much for the town. Today Robbins is a quaint town about halfway between Pinehurst and Seagrove. With the economic shifts in the last decades, the town is beginning to focus on outdoor recreational activities for tourists and promotes hometown businesses and potteries that reflect the small town hospitality that has carried it through many changes and challenges.

Taylorstown. Incorporated in 1987, the Town of Taylorstown has played an important role in the well-being and growth of the Village and resort. The town emerged as the resorts need to find ample housing for its growing workforce. One of Taylorstown's famous residents was Robert "Hard Rock" Robinson, a caddie to world famous golf course architect Donald Ross, whose reputation as Pinehurst's most knowledgeable caddie is legendary.

Vass. Vass was settled by Scotsmen and has had many names over the years. Originally known as Bynum, for Joseph Bynum, an early settler, it later became Winder after Major Winder, an officer with the Raleigh & Augusta Railroad. But the name that remains today came from Major William Worrell Vass, another railroad official. Major Vass was a longtime paymaster for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company. Vass was a bustling town for commerce and agriculture, a railroad center and even a publishing center. 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 (a Veterans Memorial). Books and funds were donated from the residents of Vass and the Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation donated state of the art computers.

Whispering Pines. Back in the late 1700s, Charles Hurd and Nicholas Smith received land grants from the king of England, and the area we now call Whispering Pines was born. Many others bought and sold the area's properties and lakes throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, but it was 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, and 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 semiprivate golf courses and an abundance of pristine stands of pines and hardwoods.

The following are other current and historical communities that have influenced the culture of Moore County:

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 huge 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 was the railroad running east and west. Beside these tracks were peach packing sheds from which peaches were shipped to the north. Peach growers were the Page, the Bost and the Harrison families. Sand from the Bost Sand Pit was also shipped on rail cars. 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. The Eagle Springs High School was also on Academy Avenue but it was not an accredited high school. Therefore, students, for at least their senior year, had to go either to Elise Academy in Hemp (now Robbins) or to Jackson Springs High School, both of which were accredited high schools. The Eagle Springs Elementary School was closed about 1944 and students were bused to West End Elementary. In 1946 Moore County built a new elementary building at West End, at Vineland on NC 211, and a new building on NC 211 East in Eagle Springs. The elementary students again went to school in Eagle Springs until 1969 when they were sent to West End. The Eagle Springs Methodist Church was established in 1874; the Eagle Springs Baptist Church was established in 1901; the Eagle Springs Presbyterian Church was established in 1922 and was closed and joined with 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 are still active churches. When NC HWY 211 was moved away from the old center of town, Eagle Springs, as it used to be, died.

Jackson Springs. Jackson Springs is a rural crossroads community that has a very rich history dating back to the mid 1700's. The town came about because of the mineral springs and the clear fresh water which has flowed without stopping 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 he found the deer dead. There he discovered a huge bed of brown rock with a natural bowl or basin in it 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 there are actually two different springs 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 1800's and early 1900's 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), bank, drug-store, doctor's office, hotel, hardware store, two general stores, two service stations, post

office, three churches, grocery store, cotton gin, chicken hatchery, bowling alley, swimming pool, ninehole golf course and tennis court, barber shop, dance pavilion where an orchestra played nearly every evening during the summer months, and a large lake for swimming, boating and fishing existed. 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 the mineral water with them. It was judged the second best medicinal water in America, winning a silver medal. Jackson Springs had a water bottling plant and the water was shipped out 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 encompassed the land within a one mile radius of the mineral spring. In 1952, the incorporation of the town was re-activated 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. There has been no active municipal government in over fifty 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 surrounding areas began to grow and thrive. Few people are still living who can remember Jackson Springs in its heyday, but many of the people residing within Jackson Springs today have connections to the early settlers of the community and their heritage, which is very important to them.

Seven Lakes. Seven Lakes is the largest, unincorporated village in Moore County. Planned thirty years ago as a summer home and retirement community, it now has a well-balanced mix of retirees and young professionals with children. There are three separate gated communities – Seven Lakes West, North, and South, which is named after its seven spring-fed lakes. 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 wide range of activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, tennis, picnic shelters, play grounds, water sports and community centers. Seven Lakes offers its own public stables, providing horseback and equestrian sports for its residents. Both gated communities offer golfing opportunities, including Beacon Ridge Golf Course and a members-owned Seven Lakes Country Club, which are both rated four-star. While remaining an affordable place to live, Seven Lakes combines all the small town elements of a resort getaway with the comforts of a private gated community.



West End. In 1890, between Aberdeen and Carthage, traveling through the woodlands would bring you to Daniel McDonalds turpentine distillery. To help with the transportation of timber and naval stores from the fields to the commercial areas, McDonald cleared a path for a railway from Southern Pines to his turpentine distillery. Soon a nontraditional railway was constructed. It had wooden rails on huge cross ties and mule drawn cars were pulled along these ways, fetching timber from both sides of the tracts. The Aberdeen and Asheboro Railroad was completed along the McDonald right of way, in 1890. At the most western end, a town sprung up called West End.

Sadly, the Great Fire of 1898 destroyed all thirteen buildings in the downtown area of West End except for the railroad depot and the drugstore. In later years, the Sandhills Furniture Corporation mill was built and enjoyed many years of success. In 1965, Sandhills Furniture Corporation was sold to Stanley Furniture Company. Stanley Furniture Company was the largest employer in Moore County before it closed its doors in early 2000. Many other communities within the County have played valuable roles in shaping Moore County, including, but not limited to Eastwood, Highfalls, Glendon, Westmoore, Haw Branch, Lakeview, Parkwood, and Woodlake.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Golf & Resorts. Moore County has historically enjoyed notoriety for its golfing community and culture, with Pinehurst being considered the Home of American Golf. This attraction remains a substantial tourism draw to the area, with developing golf course communities, restaurants, and hotels. Golf courses have changed the landscape of Moore County over the past 100 years, since the first golf course was constructed at the Pinehurst Resort, completed by Donald Ross. According to Moore County GIS, all the golf courses combined utilize 7,420 acres of land, equating to 11.59 square miles, which makes up approximately 1.5 percent of the County’s land area.

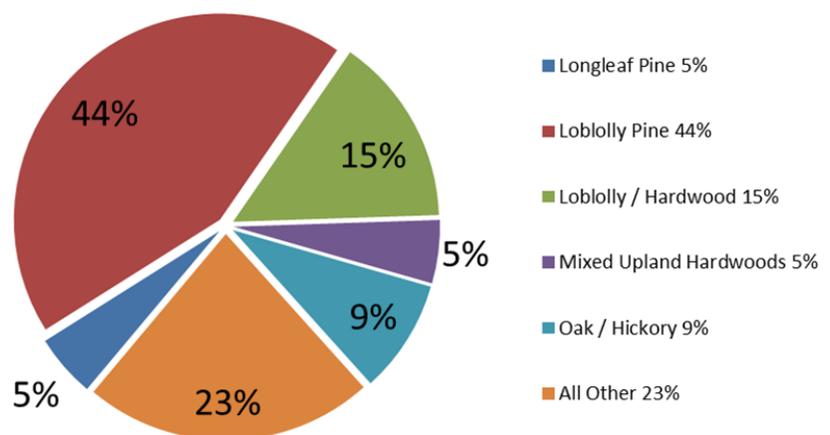
Pinehurst No. 2 will be home to the U.S. Open for the fourth time in 25 years when the national championship returns to Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in 2024. The area has attracted people, not only throughout the United States, but from around the world.

Farming and Agriculture. Moore County’s agricultural lands are an essential element of the county’s rural landscape, making up more than three quarters of the land base with croplands, pastures, and forests. The majority of the county’s 733 farms are small, family-run operations; similarly, most of the forest tracts are held by families, yet these small entities combine to produce substantial quantities of agricultural and timber products. These 733 farms manage nearly 90,000 acres of farmland to produce an array of crop and livestock products for local, national and export markets. Farming in Moore County is primarily done on a small scale, but over 150 poultry farms combine to make Moore County one of the top twenty producers of broiler chickens in North Carolina. Farmers and other families manage 304,076 acres of timberland and has a total income of almost \$49 million. The forest sector in Moore County, including forestry, logging, and forest product industries, has a total economic contribution of approximately \$178.9 million in industry output to the county’s economy, supporting about 853 jobs with a payroll of about \$33.1 million (NC State College of Natural Resources). Moore County is one of North Carolina’s top ten producers of saw logs according to the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station. Moore County is also ranked eighth in North Carolina in income of timber harvested and delivered to mills in 2017 (NC State College of Natural Resources).

Tobacco (both conventional and organic) continues to be a large part of the agricultural economy and agricultural economy of Moore County. Tobacco produced in the Sandhills is in demand in the global market. Agriculture is important because the pastures, crop fields, and forests that cover 85 percent of the county define the rural landscape, support hard working families, and has continuously provided numerous economic, environmental and social benefits to Moore County, contributing greatly to the identity and pride of the area.

In August of 2012 the Moore County Board of Commissioners adopted the Moore County Working Lands Protection Plan which is a long-range plan developed to help perpetuate and even stimulate the agricultural economy of the County. The Plan covers in detail the state of agriculture in the County, as well as its challenges and opportunities. Included in the Plan are several proposed policies intended to help overcome industry challenges and to take advantage of opportunities that are identified.

Forestry. Privately-owned forestland comprises 304,076 acres, or 67 percent of the county’s land area, most of which is owned by individuals, not timber companies. The greatest concentrations of forests are found in the northern half of the county and along the western edge of the southern half. Twenty-five different forest types are found throughout the county, the figure displays the proportions of the most common types.



Loblolly is the primary tree grown for timber in the county because it has a relatively short rotation period of 30 to 40 years. However, while longleaf pines may have a slower start in life and require higher stand management costs up front, the high value of the longleaf pine straw and their higher saw timber values can often offset their upfront costs when considering the full life cycle benefits of the longleaf. Longleaf pines account for only five percent of total forestland. Hardwoods grow much slower, taking 60 to 90 years to reach maturity. It is estimated that 74 percent of the private forests in the county are being managed for commercial production. Non-industrial forest owners generally sell their timber to a buyer who works for a wood processing mill, wood suppliers, loggers or timber brokers. In 2016, \$12.6 million was paid to private landowners in the county for timber that had a value of \$22.9 million at wood processing mills.

Timber is a commodity that can be managed, harvested and possibly most important conserved for generations to come if proper reforestation efforts are implemented as part of a land owner's timber management plans. Moore County is the leader in the state for reforestation efforts with an average of 1,500 to 2,500 acres of timberland reforested each year. In 2010, a little over 1,000 acres were reforested but this amount is lower than in previous years due to the downturn in the economy. There are numerous cost share programs that can be used by landowners to offset the costs of reforestation. The programs offer assistance for tree planting and other forest management activities such as prescribed burns. Along with reforestation tax credits, there are many incentives for landowners to keep and maintain their woodland properties.



The longleaf pine, North Carolina's state tree, once covered nearly 90 million acres of coastal plains in the southeastern United States. Today the forests cover only about three million acres. The forests, which burned frequently, were home to a wide variety of plant and animal species such as bobwhite quail, fox, turkey, deer, wildflowers and legumes. The longleaf pine tree is highly resistant to pine beetles, ice, and fire, and historically provided construction lumber, tar, and pitch for buildings and ships; and a resin used to refine turpentine. The Sandhills region is one of the last remaining strongholds of longleaf pine in the country and several organizations, including Fort Bragg, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sandhills Area Land Trust, and Sandhills Ecological Institute, are working to restore and protect this vanishing ecosystem.

An underlying goal of these organizations is to protect the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered bird that lives predominantly in longleaf pine forests. These two species are important issues for Fort Bragg. In 1992, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion resulted in significant training restrictions on the Fort as part of the requirements to recover the red-cockaded woodpecker. In order to meet recovery requirements for the woodpecker, Fort Bragg has been working with stakeholders to preserve and restore longleaf pine forests and manage critical habitat on private lands outside Fort Bragg. More than 12,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat have been preserved in Cumberland, Hoke, and Moore counties through the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership.

Equestrian. Horses have been a popular pastime for many citizens of Moore County. Each year, several events are focused around the equestrian community, including the "Blessing of the Hounds" and "Stoneybrook Steeplechase." The southeast portion of Moore County mostly located along or off of Youngs Road is considered 'Horse Country' and is currently zoned for rural equestrian. This area includes the Walthour-Moss Foundation, which occupies over 4000 acres dedicated to horse trail riding and other equestrian activities. The foundation is also a wildlife refuge for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, deer, raccoons, fox squirrels and red and grey fox. North Carolina State University Equine Research Facility is located in this area, which is a branch of the NC State University's Veterinary College. Though Horse Country is commonly used to refer to this area of the county, it also extends to parts of Foxfire, Vass, Cameron, 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 the growing popularity of horse and equestrian activities, many equestrian communities have sprung up across Moore County, especially on the fringes of Horse Country, such as The Meadows, The Fields, Morganwood, McLendon Hills, Grande Pines and Pelham Farms.

Pottery. The northwest area of Moore County is part of “Pottery Country,” a nationally recognized cluster of artisans and handcrafted pottery. The Town of Seagrove, which is located in Randolph County, is the center of “Pottery Country”. This area has been home to potters since the late 1700s. The pottery community is ran by nearly one hundred area pottery shops by potters who grew up in pottery families, inspired locals who learned the trade in area community colleges , and potters from other states attracted to the area. 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 the ceramic history of the area began with the abundant and diverse natural clay deposits found in the vicinity. Native Americans were first to discover this resource and used it for both functional and ceremonial objects. These ancient pieces are among the most important remaining artifacts of early civilization. Since that time, immigrant potters, mostly English and Germans, discovered the area in the latter half of the 18th century recognizing the value of the local clay. Over the years, popularity of the area has grown and is currently home to over 100 local potters.



Military Training. Since approximately 1918 the area now known as Fort Bragg has been a training ground for the U.S. military. Since then the base has been a highly recognized military training venue for the U.S. Army, home to the 18 Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division, and U.S. Army Special Operations Command, U.S. Joint Special Operations Command, (and previously the U.S. Air Force – Pope Air Force Base). Camp Mackall partially located in the southern portion of Moore County also serves as a training ground for the U.S. military. Today, Fort Bragg is the largest U.S. military installation in terms of population with approximately 53,700 military personnel and another 14,000 civilians who work on post.

With the amount of special operations and training conducted at Fort Bragg, noise has become a land use planning issue. This is due to the presence of artillery and small arms fire high-noise areas, aircraft accidental potential zones, and military aircraft low-level training areas. Most of Fort Bragg’s high noise areas are contained within its boundaries. However, relatively small areas, just outside the installation boundaries experience average noise levels, at times in excess of 62 decibels, which is mostly generated by artillery fire. These military live-fire exercises are often conducted late at night and due to the startled effect caused by blast noise and vibrations; this can disrupt citizen’s sleep patterns and in the past have led to the registration of numerous complaints.

In addition to artillery fire, military aircraft accident potential zones (APZ’s), which extend from Camp Mackall into Moore, Richmond, and Scotland Counties and from Pope Army Airfield into Cumberland and Harnett Counties, have a much

higher noise level. APZ’s are statistically the location where the highest number and percentage of aircraft accidents occur, which may lead to loss of life and property, thus becomes a concern in land use planning.



In terms of effected area, a significantly larger off-base impact than noise and accident potential is the military aircraft training routes and special use airspace. Moore County, as well as Harnett and Hoke Counties, contain military special use airspace, which regularly experiences low-level flights from military helicopters and C-130 cargo planes, as pilots practice nap-of-the-earth radar evasion tactics.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The County's total population, including the municipalities, has more than doubled over the last fifty years, from 36,733 to 88,247 (US Census Bureau). Moore County's estimated population in July 2018 was 99,390 (NC Budget & Management).

1990-2000

Moore County's population in 1990 was 59,000. The County grew by 15,768 people (26.7%) and had a total population of 74,768 in 2000. (US Census Bureau)

2000-2010

Moore County grew by 13,479 people (18%) and had a total population of 88,247 in 2010. (US Census Bureau)

2010-2020 Estimates

Moore County is projected to grow by 14,703 people (16.6%) and have a total population of 102,950 by 2020. (NC Budget & Management)

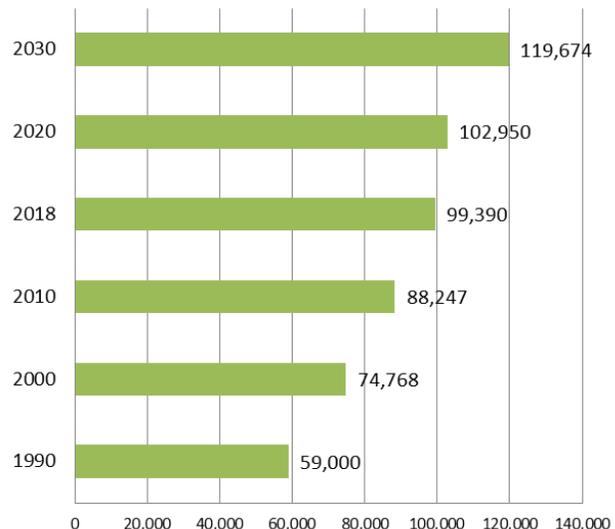
2020-2030 Estimates

Moore County is expected to grow by 16,724 people (16.2%) and have a total population of 119,674 by 2030. (NC Budget & Management)

Jurisdiction	1990	2000	2010	2018 Estimate
Aberdeen	2,700	3,400	6,350	7,859
Cameron	215	151	285	361
Carthage	976	1,871	2,205	2,415
Foxfire	334	474	902	1,096
Pinebluff	876	1,109	1,337	1,513
Pinehurst	5,103	9,706	13,124	17,100
Robbins	970	1,195	1,097	1,165
Southern Pines	9,129	10,918	12,334	14,224
Taylortown	543	845	722	757
Vass	670	750	720	799
Whispering Pines	1,243	2,090	2,928	3,520
Unincorporated	36,241	42,259	46,243	48,581
Total	59,000	74,768	88,247	99,390



Moore County
Population Estimates

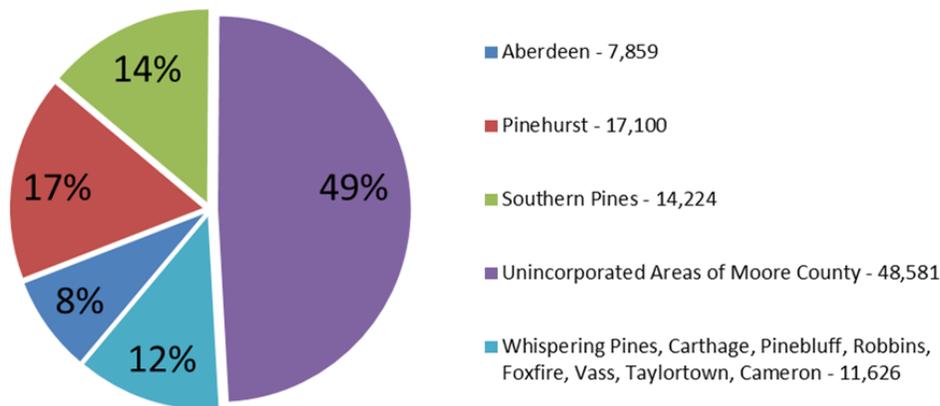


GROWTH PATTERNS

As the County grows a projected 16.2% between 2020 and 2030, new development will be located predominately in the south-central portions of the county. The highest concentration of people are located in the municipalities of Pinehurst, Aberdeen, and Southern Pines. Of the total current population living in Moore County, approximately 39% of all residents live within one of these three municipalities.

Moore County also has two unincorporated communities (Seven Lakes and Woodlake). Growth is anticipated to continue in these areas, as well as areas just outside the boundaries of the incorporated municipalities. This growth outlook is enabled by proximity to existing infrastructure such as major roads and utilities and potential annexations. Conversely, limited availability of water and sewer, coupled with poor soils, are factors denoting the northern parts of Moore County as low growth areas.

2018 Population Estimates



A predominant pattern of development in Moore County over the past 10 years can best be defined as rural sprawl. This type of development is unchecked, residential growth occurring far from higher density areas and generally consuming more land and resources needed to create a livable county. Dispersed development patterns create a higher tax burden on the county than more compact patterns that can make more efficient use of existing infrastructure. In addition, sprawling development patterns can increase conflicts with agricultural uses typically found in rural settings.

Economic development and related residential growth is essential to maintaining the quality of life enjoyed by Moore County residents. In strict terms of land development, public costs of growth include schools (increasing student populations require additional classroom space and entire schools); public safety such as fire, police, and emergency medical services; general administration such as tax collection, public records, planning and inspections; social services; health services; solid waste, and many other services either voluntarily provided by local government, or mandated by the state government as necessary for the local governments to provide.

Population growth brings both costs and benefits. Growth, if not well planned, can lead to overburdening the available revenue sources, so that as unrestricted development occurs, existing funding is inadequate and may cause a reduction of the level and quality of service over time. The County encourages new development to locate near existing communities and near areas that are planned for services such as a water and sewer.

Moore County's eleven municipalities make up only 9.4% of the land area in the tax district, but account for 66.99% of the County's total tax value at \$9,267,332,024. The rest of Moore County (90.6% of the tax district) accounts for 33.01% of the total tax value at \$4,564,660,542 (Moore County Tax Department).

Moore County realizes that growth can have significant impacts on agriculture, community character, quality of life, and the tax base and tax burden. This plan seeks to achieve well-planned growth patterns that are fiscally, socially, and environmentally responsible.

How Can Our Current Growth Trends Affect Moore County?

- Traffic congestion
- Service costs of new residential development can exceed tax revenue generated
- Loss of open space and farmland
- Loss of natural heritage assets
- Difficulty in anticipating schools, classroom space and utility infrastructure

The Moore County Land Use Plan outlines growth management policies that build sustainable development principles by reshaping residential and rural development patterns with the intent to strengthen our local economy, create jobs, and protect our environment and rural resources.

The Moore County Land Use Plan is a strategic approach to development planning as it does not end with a few specific zoning ordinance revisions. The policies outlined in the Plan should provide the County Planning Board, Board of County Commissioners, school boards, municipalities and other interested entities with some level of predictability in the growth patterns that occur in Moore County. The Plan is also intended to provide landowners, homebuilders, land developers, and other real estate interests with some level of confidence in determining where to pursue various development opportunities.

Who Uses the Land Use Policies?

To aid in the effective use of this plan, the following examples explain how different users can employ the policies in deciding upon a typical rezoning request:

Landowners. To determine development potential of lands owned and the possible impact of surrounding property.

Developers. A developer or property owner can petition for a rezoning request that is consistent with County policy, thereby increasing the chances of rezoning approval and minimizing guess work and wasted time.

Planning Department Staff. The Moore County Planning Staff will review the rezoning request considering the adopted Land Use Plan and advise which policies support the rezoning or conflict with the rezoning.

Planning Board. Prior to a regular meeting of the Planning Board, members can make their own determination as to the consistency of the rezoning request with the Land Use Plan. At the meeting, the entire Board will review and decide upon the petition, using the Plan as a foundation for recommending approval or denial. The Board may choose to give different weight to different policies, and where policies appear to conflict, the Board will decide which policy should be followed.

Board of County Commissioners. In its legislative authority to rezone property, the Board of County Commissioners has the final decision on whether a rezoning request is consistent with the Land Use Plan. Over time, a record of policy interpretations will form a foundation for consistent decision making throughout the land use planning process.

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

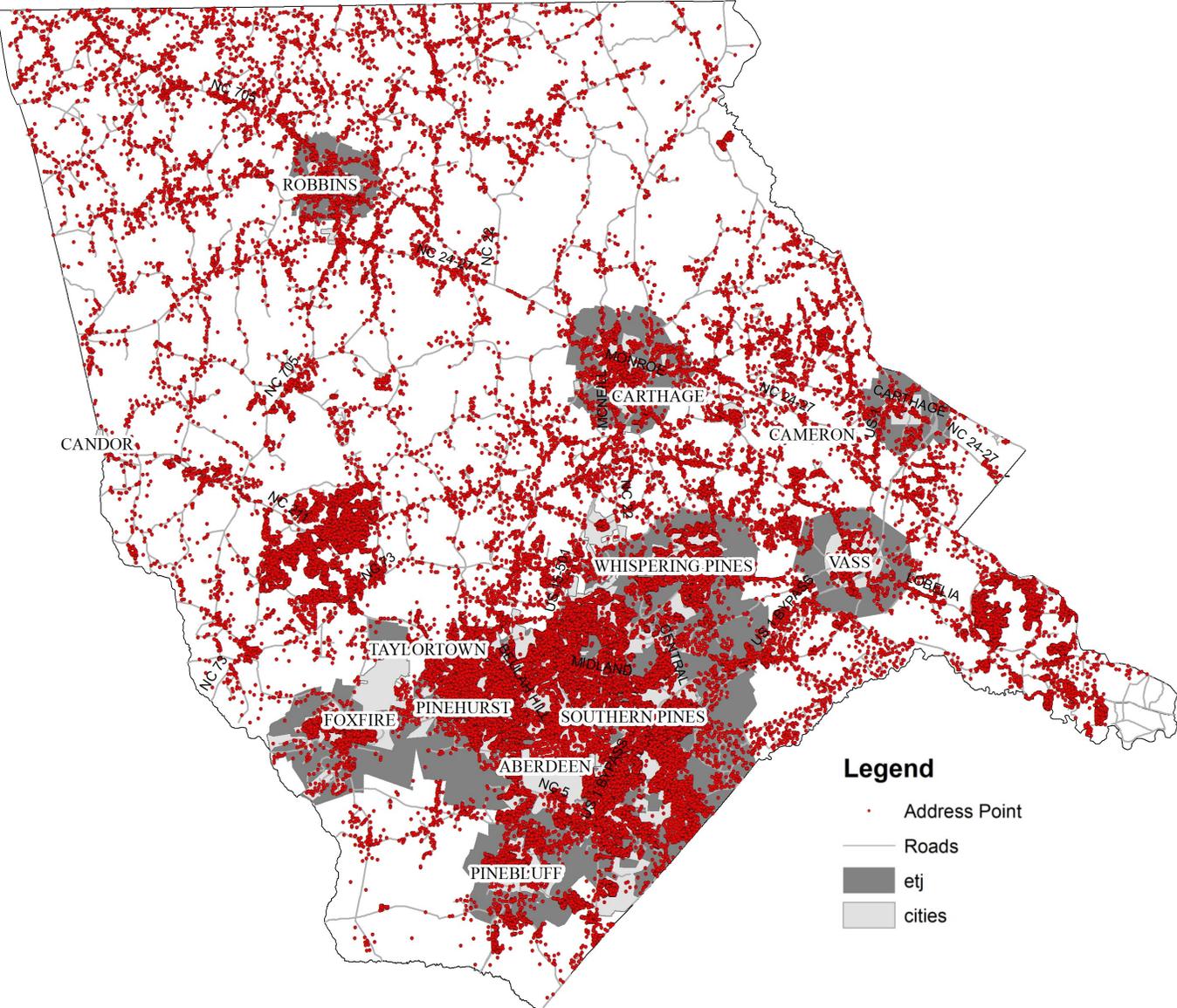
Moore County is expected to grow by 16,724 people from 2020 to 2030 (NC Budget & Management). As the population of Moore County continues to grow, the issue of residential development patterns has resulted in a closer examination of the effects of intense development on our rural quality of life. **The traditional concerns expressed have been about loss of farmland, open space, and increased traffic congestion.**

If the average Moore County household size of 2.33 persons per household (2010 US Census Bureau) remains unchanged, an estimated 7,177 additional dwelling units will be needed to meet housing needs by 2030. If half of the new housing units are developed within a municipality or extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) that would leave 3,588 homes (and 8,360 people) to locate within unincorporated areas of the County.

If public sewer is not available, new dwelling units, on average, requires 1/2 an acre of land per unit which adds up to approximately 1,800 acres. New roads and open space account to approximately 40% of a new subdivision for an additional 720 acres totaling to approximately 2,500 acres (or 4 square miles). For comparison, the Town of Vass is 3 square miles.

The Moore County Land Use Plan seeks to outline growth management areas and policies that outline sustainable development principles by reshaping residential growth patterns to strengthen our local economy, enhance our rural communities, and protect the environment. The Land Use Plan is intended to guide growth in an organized, efficient, and sustainable manner by encouraging where growth should be supported and restraining rural sprawl.

Address Point Map



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There were 46,613 housing units in Moore County as of 2018. The majority of housing is single family detached (70%). Mobile homes are the second most prevalent housing type (15%) and serve as the primary type of affordable housing in many parts of the County (US Census Bureau ACS Data). As land prices rise, especially in the southeast part of the County, many mobile homes parks may be redeveloped, which will further exacerbate the affordable housing issue in that part of the County.

Traditional measures of housing affordability ignore transportation costs. Typically a household's second-largest expenditure, transportation costs are largely a function of the characteristics of the household's neighborhood. Factoring in both housing and transportation costs provides a more comprehensive way of thinking about the cost of housing and true affordability. Moore's residents spend 24.4 minutes commuting each way compared to 21 minutes for Cumberland County (US Census Bureau ACS Data).



32,604

SINGLE FAMILY UNITS



2,011

TOWNHOMES



5,033

APARTMENTS



6,965

MOBILE HOMES

The median home value in Moore County is \$227,000. For comparison, the median home value in Cumberland County is \$113,900 and Fayetteville is \$111,400. Moore County home values have gone up 4.6% over the past year and Zillow predicts they will rise 3.0% within the next year. The median price of homes currently listed in Moore County is \$306,499 while the median price of homes that sold is \$196,700. For comparison, the median price of homes currently listed in Cumberland County is \$160,900 while the median price of homes that sold is \$123,400. The median rent price in Moore County is \$1,450, which is the same as the Pinehurst-Southern Pines median of \$1,450. The median rent price in Cumberland County is \$950, which is lower than the Fayetteville Metro median of \$975 (Zillow).

An income of approximately \$63,000 is necessary for a mortgage of the average new home to be considered affordable (30% of monthly income). Moore County's median household income in 2017 was \$54,468 (US Census Bureau). Police officers, teachers, social workers and other professionals have incomes significantly below this threshold and need access to more affordable for-sale and rental housing. Moore County ranks just behind Chatham County for percentage of population below poverty level at 10.7% for surrounding counties. The average poverty level for all surrounding counties is 17.86%. North Carolina as a whole has 14% of its total population below the poverty line.

Assuring the option of affordable housing within a community creates opportunity for citizens to establish a safe and stable living environment for the various age segments identified above. It is important as a community that affordable housing options are available to people at different stages of their life cycle, people with different needs, and different incomes. Additionally, economic developers find it necessary to have affordable housing options available to attract and retain young professionals to our community. Stable and affordable housing that meets the needs of the identified segments of the population from above creates the opportunity for a stronger community of engaged citizens. Second to housing costs for these segments of the population described above is the cost of transportation. So, from a land use planning perspective, it is important to consider that affordable housing options exist within neighborhoods that are in close proximity to public services, schools, places of employment, as well as goods and services.

A more in-depth countywide analysis should be conducted to determine how new affordable housing options could be incorporated into the community, as well as a comprehensive study of the County's demographics to identify trends and support assertions in regards to this need.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Moore County is uniquely located within the heart of North Carolina and is easily accessible from all parts of the state. Healthcare, Tourism/Hospitality, and Retail are our three largest private industry sections currently employing 66.3% of our workforce. Manufacturing is also a consistently solid industry sector, and our defense & military industry is growing. Moore County is an attractive and convenient location for military contractors and suppliers, not only because the Fort Bragg Army installation, Pope Army Airfield, and the Camp Mackall training facility are our neighbors, but also because our workforce is enhanced by the large number of separated and retired military who have settled here to enjoy the exceptional lifestyle.

Moore County currently has a labor force of 40,623.

The health services industries make up 34% of employment within the county. The leisure and hospitality industry makes up the second most employed industry at 19%, which supports the strong presence of golf in the area. First Health of the Carolinas, Inc. is the largest employer in the county with over 3,000 total employees, which is approximately 8% of the total labor force.

	Employer Name	Industry Description	Employment Level
1	First Health of the Carolinas, Inc.	Hospital & Affiliated Entities	3,000+
2	Moore County Schools	Public Education	1,800
3	Pinehurst LLC	Hotel & Resort	1,000 +
4	County of Moore	Governmental	500-999
5	Sandhills Community College	Education	500-999
6	St. Joseph of the Pines & Affiliates	Senior Living & Health Services	500-999
7	Pinehurst Medical Clinic, Inc.	Health Services- Medical Center	250-499
8	Burford's Tree Service LLC	Professional & Business Services	250-499
9	Lee Electrical Construction	Construction	250-499
10	Burford's Tree Service LLC	Professional & Business Services	250-499

A key principle of policies outlined in the Land Use Plan is to encourage continued economic development in a way that is compatible with the quality of life and environmental concerns of county residents. Sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, and rural quality of life must be pursued together as mutually supporting growth management goals. As our economy continues to change, the characteristics of rural industry and commerce are also evolving. With proactive County Growth Management Policies, there could be opportunities for rural industry and commerce to be located within Rural Growth Areas without causing unacceptable disturbance to the rural community.

The basic zoning standards currently utilized in Moore County emphasize the separation of land uses that are normally deemed to be “incompatible.” However, in a large rural area such as Moore County, the unintended consequences of this system have been the segregation of residential areas from convenient rural shopping and have increased the dependence and travel distances required by automobile. The policies outlined by this Land Use Plan envision the mixing of compatible land uses (such as rural neighborhood retail and service establishments within general residential areas) with the goal of reducing automobile travel distances and promoting better livability in the rural communities.

The unique economic challenges faced by large counties in the 21st Century include the necessity to enhance rural economic development; rural employment opportunities; and the County’s tax base, by accommodating industrial/commercial activities that require proximity to rural resources. **Individual rezoning decisions will depend on the scale of the development and the nature of the site and its location. In Rural Growth Areas, rezoning requests necessary to sustain a rural economy shall be weighed with the need to protect the area through the use of site specific and conditional zoning.**

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor and Economic Analysis Division

TOURISM

Tourism is our 2nd largest private industry sector. According to Visit North Carolina, Moore County is ranked 11th out of North Carolina's 100 counties in total travel expenditures for 2018. Domestic tourism revenues for Moore County in 2018 totaled \$520.69 million, up 6.0% from 2017. More than 6,000 jobs were directly attributable to travel and tourism. According to the Convention and Visitors Bureau 2017 Strategic Plan, visitors spend \$1.28 million per day in Moore County. This includes hotels/lodging, food, recreation, retail purchases, transportation, and other miscellaneous expenses. Tourism also generates \$38 million in taxes annually.

Though golf is the driving force behind tourism, there are several other attractions that draw people into Moore County. Visitors from all over the country and the world visit Moore County yearly, not only to experience the charm found in the historical areas of the community, but also to enjoy the agricultural and pastoral land uses, straddling the division of the Sandhills and piedmont regions of the state. Festivals are held throughout the year that attracts thousands of visitors from outside Moore County and the state. The northwest area of Moore County is part of "Pottery Country," a nationally recognized cluster of artisans and handcrafted pottery. Horses have been a popular pastime for many citizens of Moore County. The southeast portion of Moore County mostly located along or off of Youngs Road is considered 'Horse Country' and is currently zoned for rural equestrian.

As Moore County continues to grow, it will also be critical to protect and enhance the quality of life that is found in the area, which is highly recognized in the tourism industry. Moore County should ensure its destination is more appealing so people will stay longer, receive value for the money they spend during each visit, and leave feeling they have experienced a unique area that has preserved its unique character.

Tourism continues to play a vital role in the County's economy, including job creation. Tourists that visit spend money that helps our local businesses. The quality of life, through golf, horse country, and/or recreation, makes Moore County a very desirable retirement location. The county benefits greatly from having such a high retirement population, with retirees with various backgrounds and education, which contribute to organizations and provide mentorships to the younger generation. It will be crucial for planners to respond and plan for this ever growing population. As people continue to age, their ability to be mobile often diminishes, making it more difficult for the aged to access goods, services and social opportunities.



MILITARY

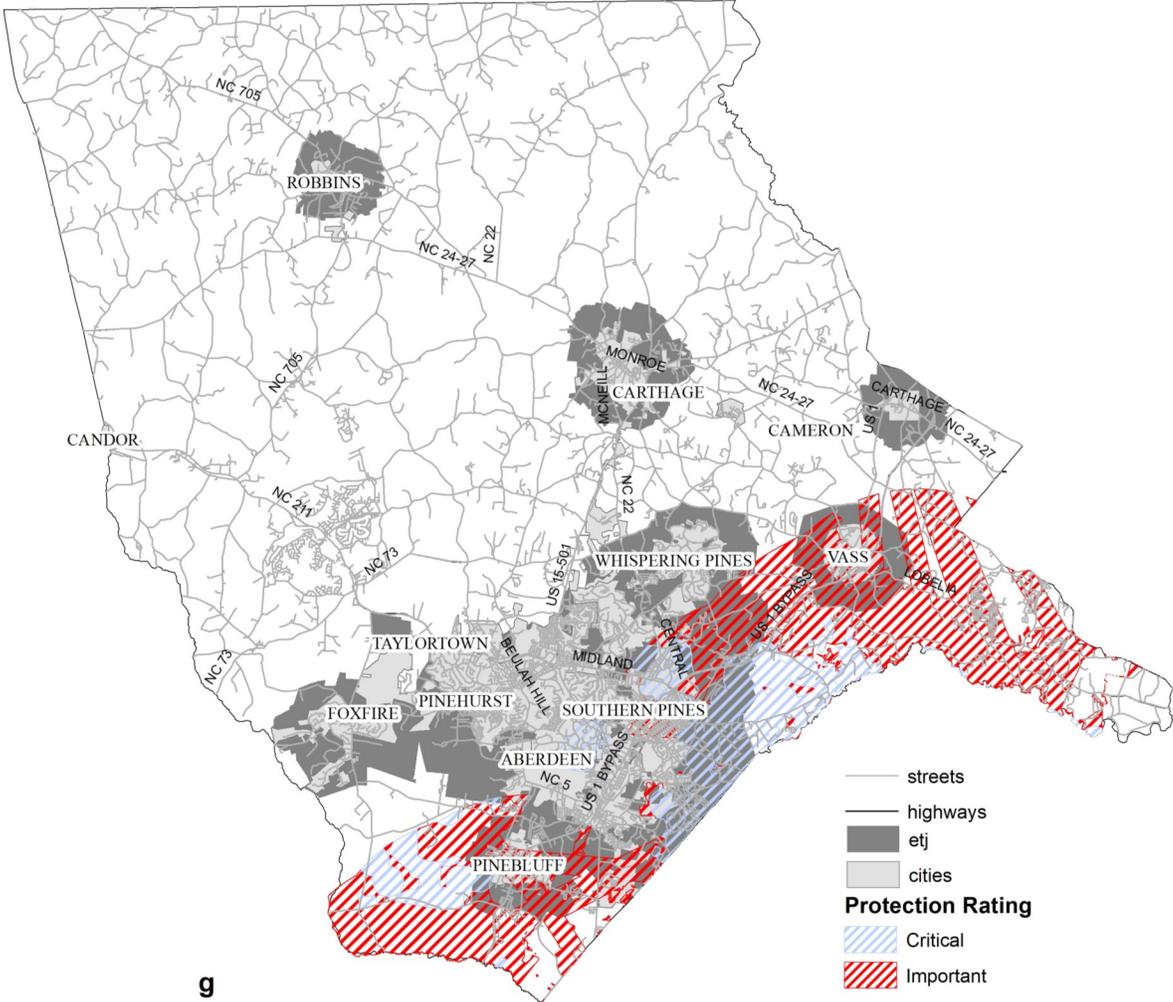
The industry sector of Defense, Homeland Security and Military Support is emerging regionally, and as a result, it is growing in Moore County. Our adjacent proximity to Fort Bragg, Pope Field, and Camp Mackall and the labor pool of separated and retired military who have settled here make Moore County an excellent, convenient location for defense-related companies. Many local companies have already been successful at winning military contracts. In 2018, 1,446 U.S. Defense Contracts totaling \$605,255,010 were awarded to companies in Moore County. Compared to 2017, the number of contracts awarded and the total dollar value both have almost tripled (governmentcontractswon.com).

Fort Bragg has been a major economic influence in the past decade. It is the largest military installation in the state with nearly 57,000 active duty military employed on base. Each year, billions of dollars are contributed to the local economy from military payrolls and other spending. Many military families choose to live in southeastern Moore County due to the exceptional quality of life the area provides.

Since 2006, the Fort Bragg region has seen an increase of military and civilian personnel and their families spurred by Fort Bragg’s growth from the Base Realignment and Closure. With the influx of newcomers from around the country, schools, transportation networks, infrastructure and workforce needs have grown.

In 2018, the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) developed an update to the 2008 Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The study was limited to the land contained within five miles of the military boundaries – an area that includes the off-base military impacts (noise and accident potential, and low-level flight patterns). Impacts to the installation largely stem from the fact that as military families locate to the area, they want to be within a 20-30 minute commute to Fort Bragg, which is located within the five mile area around the installation. The JLUS can be utilized as a resource for civilian communities abutting the installation to properly balance land uses and the development demands on the land within five miles of military property so that Fort Bragg’s training mission is protected, the Longleaf Ecosystem is preserved, and the health and safety of the civilian population living near the installation(s) is assured.

Fort Bragg Protection Rating Map



EDUCATION

Development has an impact on the desirable tax base, quality of life and the environment if not properly planned and managed. Future growth should be focused around existing and planned infrastructure, as well as schools. Growth in Moore County has put a strain on the school system to provide adequate public education services. When considering where new and what types of development should occur it is important to consider what community facilities are within the vicinity. It is critical to consider whether school capacity in the area can handle more residential construction.

Excluding Sandhills Community College, Moore County had over 12,835 students enrolled within one of the 24 public schools in 2019, which is roughly 13% of the total population. As of 2017, 4 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 2 high schools are at 100% capacity. With the amount of future growth projected within the county, it is essential to alleviate the capacities at these locations.

As the county continues to grow it is critical to plan for, budget, and implement new facilities to serve the growing student population. The County must closely collaborate with the Moore County Board of Education to plan for the facility needs of the County schools in the future. Accordingly, schools will need to be located in coordination with Moore County Schools' Master Facilities Plan which assesses the current and future needs, feasibility, and prioritization of potential school locations.

Moore County Schools Out-of-Capacity Table

1. Building capacities supplied by MCS, 1/30/2017.
2. Month-2 ADM supplied by NC DPI, Pre-K not included.
3. Forecast based on Limited Land Use Study data collected fall 2013, updated fall 2015.

Area I

Capacities	Month-2 2016-17	Forecasted Month-2 ADM										
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	
Cameron Elementary	400	256	257	247	239	228	236	248	253	259	264	269
Vass-Lakeview Elementary	600	635	643	633	620	644	652	677	690	706	720	732
Crain's Creek Middle	680	383	381	406	436	431	414	370	375	381	407	418
Carthage Elementary	440	361	342	336	330	335	329	346	353	360	368	374
Sandhills Farm Life Elementary	550	689	696	682	656	646	635	642	655	670	684	695
New Century Middle	700	605	605	646	651	653	650	594	570	547	572	587
Union Pines High	1250	1350	1387	1324	1334	1331	1345	1434	1429	1429	1352	1293
Totals	4620	4279	4311	4279	4266	4268	4261	4311	4325	4352	4367	4367

Area II

Highfalls Elem (K-8)	350	266	270	262	256	252	252	253	258	270	272	277
Westmoore Elem (K-8)	400	312	298	284	275	264	257	257	258	268	278	285
Robbins Elementary	600	447	432	411	400	393	374	378	386	395	403	409
Elise Middle	270	207	219	234	231	221	223	214	206	182	183	188
North Moore High	800	574	552	535	522	547	562	554	538	516	483	467
Totals	2420	1806	1771	1726	1685	1677	1668	1657	1647	1631	1620	1627

Area III

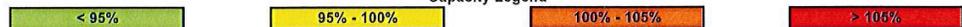
Aberdeen Prim (K-2)	330	298	317	363	403	413	423	431	438	445	453	460
Aberdeen Elem (3-5)	440	309	318	297	295	307	353	396	406	418	427	434
Southern Pines Prim (K-2)	400	339	326	336	337	344	353	360	365	371	378	384
Southern Pines Elem (3-5)	590	364	347	309	292	278	287	289	297	305	312	317
Southern Middle	700	659	684	666	653	641	586	569	574	631	677	695
Pinehurst Elementary	400	527	537	540	509	526	528	546	556	568	580	589
West End Elementary	500	467	470	487	504	500	530	535	546	558	569	579
West Pine Elementary	600	597	614	630	674	672	669	643	657	672	686	698
West Pine Middle	700	818	826	804	796	809	833	880	876	887	870	893
Pinecrest High	1650	2163	2132	2116	2127	2176	2230	2230	2290	2239	2274	2326
Totals	6310	6541	6571	6547	6592	6665	6793	6879	7005	7096	7226	7376

Special/Alternative

The Community Learning Center @ Pinckney		54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
--	--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

System Total (excl. Spec/Alt)	13350	12626	12653	12552	12543	12611	12722	12848	12976	13079	13213	13370
--------------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Capacity Legend



Operations Research and Education Laboratory
Institute for Transportation Research and Education
North Carolina State University

UTILITIES

Water. As of 2011, public water service is available to approximately 57,605 of the County's 88,247 residents by the Moore County Public Utilities Department, East Moore Water District, and nine (9) additional municipalities that operate water distribution systems, most of which are in the southern portion of the County, and the Town of Robbins (Cape Fear River Basin Sub-Regional Water Supply Plan, Moore County).

Three of the largest water systems of the Moore County Public Utilities (MCPU) systems are the MCPU-Pinehurst, MCPU-Seven Lakes, and the East Moore Water District. MCPU-Pinehurst serves the second highest population in the County behind only the Town of Southern Pines. However, the MCPU-Seven Lakes system has the 3rd highest number of users of all systems in the County, including the East Moore Water District.

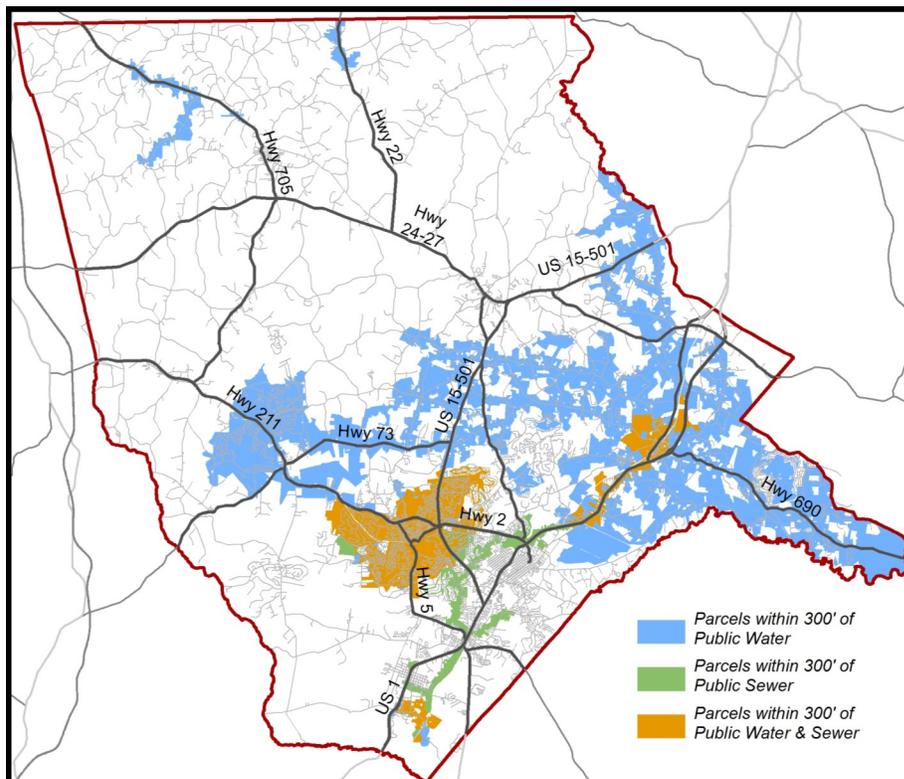
Moore County experienced two major droughts, one in 2000 and another in 2007. According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council, as of December 11, 2012, the region was still in a state of moderate drought. To overcome some of the challenges of persistent drought the water systems in the County have added additional capacity as well as additional public water lines to their systems. Specifically, Moore County Public Utilities received funding from USDA-Rural Development to establish the East Moore Water District. This system, as its name implies, serves the eastern portion of the County primarily east of U.S. Highway 15-501, south of N.C. Highway 24/27 and north of the Little River. The water source was established by connecting to the Harnett County water system that uses water from the Cape Fear River. **The intent of the system is to supply water to rural residents to improve their quality of life; the system was not designed to promote growth or support large subdivisions in the District.**

Other than road access to a property, virtually no other piece of public infrastructure increases the development potential and value of land than access to public water and sewer. Decisions regarding growth and proposed land uses should consider the adequacy of drinking water resources for the next 30 years. Where extensions of lines occur greatly affect how development takes place throughout the county, and therefore should be planned carefully.

During the 2013 Land Use Plan Steering Committee's meetings several discussions focused around encouraging development in areas that had existing infrastructure and the ability to support it which can be achieved by increasing capacities, maintenance, or additional service in and close to existing infrastructure. Additionally, it was discussed that extending water and sewer services, to areas not currently served in the rural parts of the County, would significantly increase the chances for low-density development which could consume prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive land, also increasing the need for additional public services such as: traffic/transportation, schools, and public safety listed as endangered species.

Sewer. In 2010, approximately 36,831 (or 42%) of the County's 88,247 citizens were served by a publicly-owned wastewater collection system (Cape Fear River Basin Sub-Regional Water Supply Plan, Moore County). The Moore County Water Pollution Control Facility is the primary wastewater treatment facility in Moore County, serving Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Carthage, Aberdeen, and Vass.

During the 2013 Land Use Plan update process the option of establishing a new water pollution control facility that would discharge into the Cape Fear River basin (Upper Cape Fear River sub-basin) was discussed and recommended for further study. A plant in this sub-basin would not require an IBT for new development that would be supplied water from the Upper Cape Fear River sub-basin.



AGRICULTURE

Moore County relies heavily on its agricultural farmland. Farming and the continued existence of farmland remain important components of the Moore County economy. According to the NC Commerce - Labor & Economic Analysis Division, Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing made up 60% of the total employment in Moore County in 2018. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture (2017) agriculture and agri-businesses generate \$150 million in Moore County. Over 733 farms produce an array of crop and livestock products for local, national and export markets.

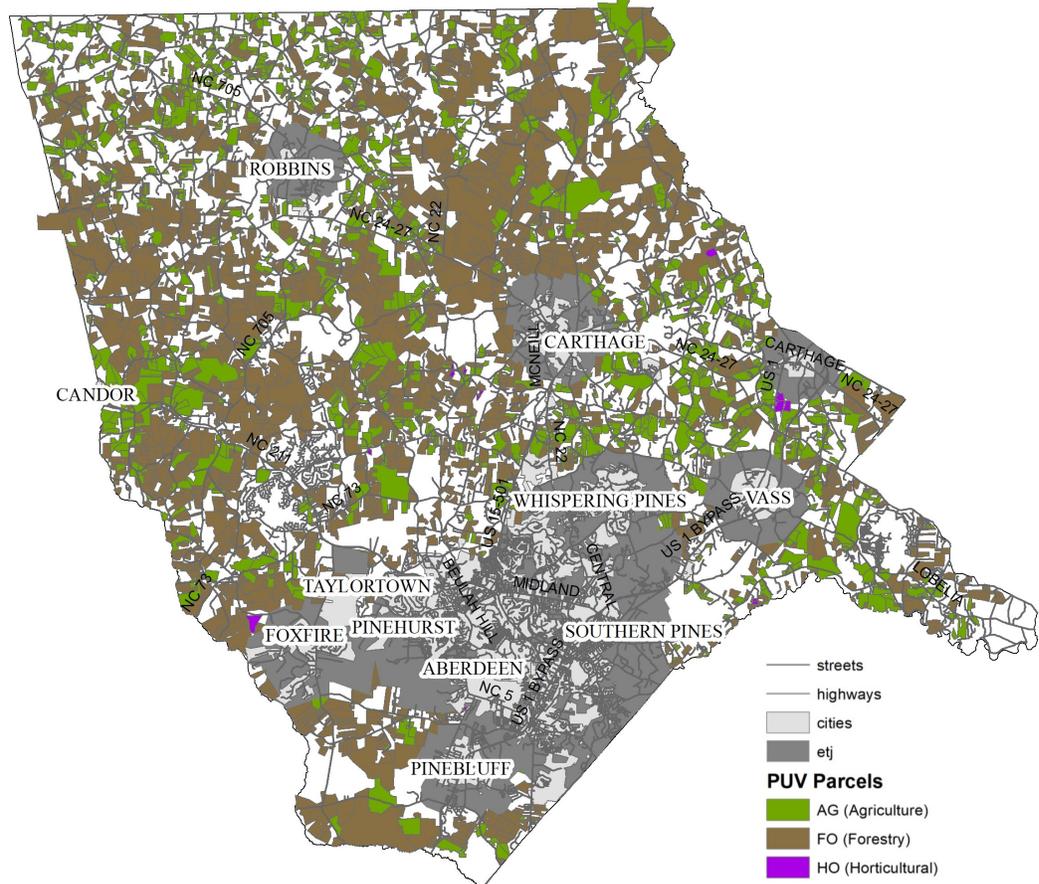
Farm land accounts for over 90,000 acres of land in Moore County, with an average farm size of about 100 acres. Reversing recent and regional trends, Moore County actually added fifteen farms in the five year interval since the last census of agriculture (2012 to 2017). There are 301 “New and Beginning” farmers according to the USDA Census. A significant number of these are operated by veterans: 187 farmers have military service.

Tobacco continues to be a significant crop in Moore County. 2,036 acres were grown on 21 farms in 2017. In 2002, prior to the 2004 tobacco buyout, there were 1401 acres grown on 51 farms. Since 2018, trade conflicts with China have reduced tobacco acreage, and acreage has declined. Industrial hemp has replaced tobacco, and eighteen farms were licensed to grow an expected 1,300 acres in 2019. Fruits and vegetables, sold principally to individuals and local intermediate markets, have been increasing. Moore County raised 490 acres of vegetables in 2017, up from 164 acres, and had 227 acres in orchards (down from 262 in 2012). Berries (principally strawberries and blueberries) increased to 52 acres in 2017 versus 37 in 2012 (Moore County Cooperative Extension).

Moore County’s history and culture is bound to the legacy of an agricultural economy. That role is slowly being threatened by the sprawling effects of low-to moderate-density residential development. Moore County’s sprawl problem is tied to rural sprawl wherein agriculture farmland is increasingly interspersed by single-family residential subdivisions as well as limited commercial development. On many terms agriculture is as incompatible with residential development as industrial activity such as a foundry or a mill. Farms produce noises, smells, dust, and other potentially unpleasant effect as a normal course of their operations.

Over the past three decades, Moore County has experienced the conversion of substantial amounts of agricultural land into residential and commercial development, which impacts the ambiance and heritage of Moore County. Historical evidence of a community’s efforts to preserve its heritage often conveys to visitors and prospective businesses a sense of priorities, pride and a high quality of life. Managing growth within the more developed areas of Moore County leads to preservation of farmland and forestry, and ensures a stronger tax base. In focusing on land use optimization, all planning efforts should be made between the county and municipalities to help guide future growth, where public services and infrastructure are least costly to provide or expand. To minimize conflicts with farmland, standards should be required to minimize potential conflicts between existing agricultural uses and new residential developments.

Present Use Value Program Map



PRESERVING OUR LAND

Forests and farmlands provide timber and food for nearby residents and contribute to the region's economy. Undeveloped lands north of Fort Bragg are critical to training operations. The Sandhills supports one of the best remaining examples of the rare and diverse longleaf pine ecosystems which supports the only population of red-cockaded woodpeckers that has met its recovery goal. Rivers and floodplain forests serve as habitat corridors and offer recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, nature photography, bird watching, boating, hunting, and fishing to name a few.

Moore County's natural resources stem from two distinctly different 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 once was coastal sand deposits along the Atlantic Ocean. The North Carolina Sandhills, and specifically Moore County, boasts an impressive diversity of plants and animals, supporting up to 40% of the state's biodiversity. It is home to five federally endangered species and forty-one species of federal concern. Some species such as the Sandhills Chub, a fish, and the St. Francis Satyr, a butterfly, occur nowhere else in the world. Many of these animals live in habitats that occur within the longleaf pine ecosystem, a nationally and internationally recognized rare and valuable natural system. Outside of the Sandhills region but within the county borders, there are an additional five federally endangered species. For example, the endangered Cape Fear Shiner, which only occurs in the upper Cape Fear River Basin, resides in some of the brown-water stream systems in northern Moore, Lee, and Harnett counties.

A county's natural and wildlife heritage can be conserved through enhanced land use planning and by encouraging conservation subdivisions in sensitive habitats and wildlife travel corridors. Conservation subdivisions cost less to build and maintain and homes near natural areas sell for up to 20 to 36 percent more. Over the past three decades, Moore County has experienced the conversion of substantial amounts of agricultural land into residential and commercial development, which impacts the ambiance and heritage of Moore County.

An emerging point of consensus in Moore County is that we need to move toward becoming a sustainable community. What that means is that we must seek to develop a community that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Residential development does not sprawl all over the countryside but, rather, is clustered in areas well suited for development.

Most of the remaining natural, agricultural, historic, and open land resources in Moore County exist thanks to the stewardship of private land owners. Safeguarding Moore County's rural and natural land resources is primarily private landowner's responsibility. Although managed privately, much of this rural open space is valued by the public for its contribution to community interests, enjoyment of natural landscapes, and diverse native ecosystems and wildlife, outdoor recreation, water quality, control of soil erosion, productive farms, forests, and other scenic and aesthetic attributes.

Moore County has a strong tradition of private property rights and responsibility. Many landowners take pride in managing and protecting their properties. Today, there are several options for a landowner who desires to preserve property that contains significant conservation, scenic, historic, or open space value. Private Land Trusts are non-profit organizations dedicated to conserving and protecting natural resources. They can identify and protect the places that make our rural communities special: our farms, historic landscapes, stream corridors, and other natural heritage assets. A growing number of local land trusts use voluntary methods to assist landowners in achieving their long-term conservation and financial goals.

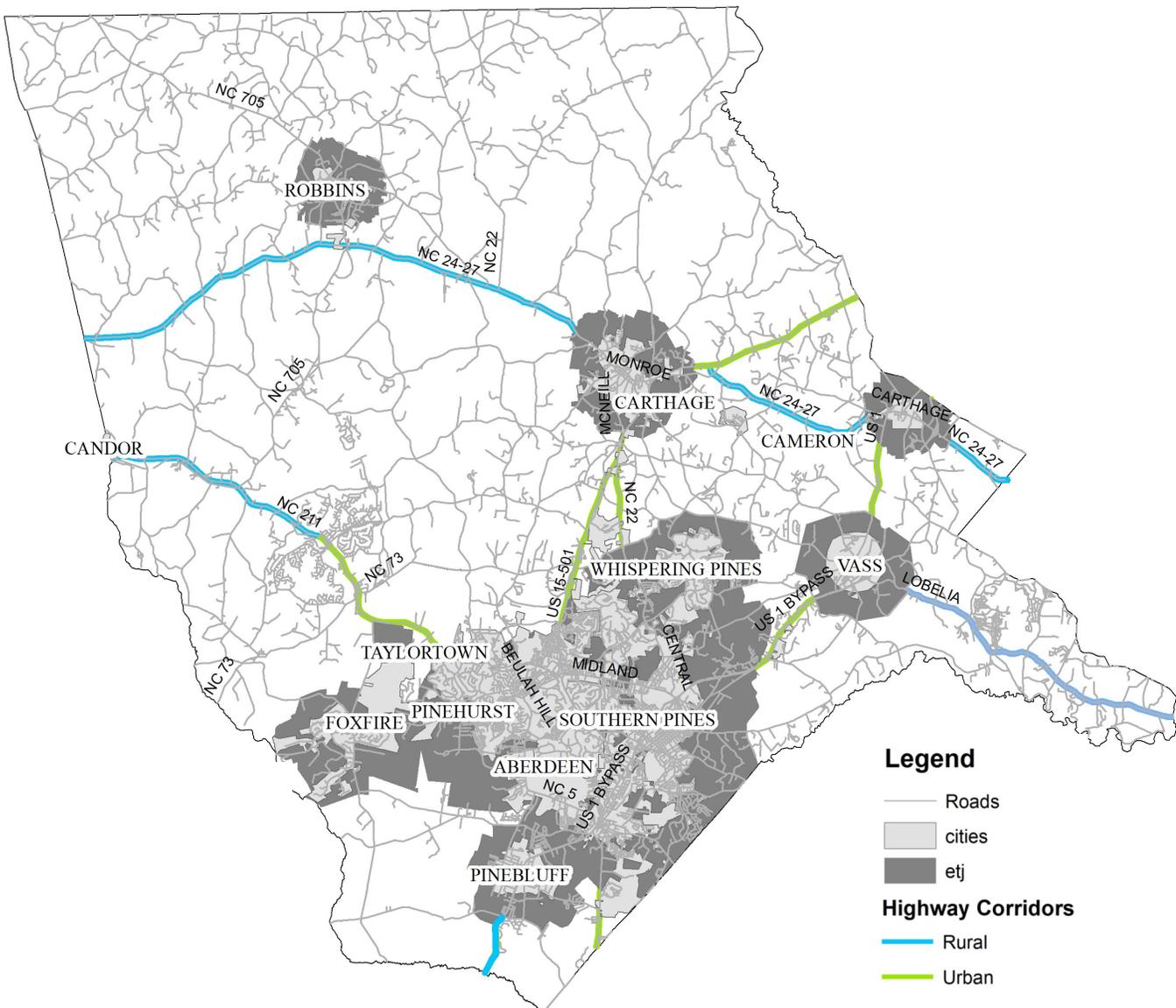
CORRIDOR PROTECTION

Public perception of Moore County's rural quality of life is often based largely on what can be seen from an automobile. A line of tall shade trees or a stone wall alongside a road may have as much or more significance to the appearance of a rural area as might woodlands or open fields somewhat farther away from the traveler's eye. This is not to suggest that woods or open fields are insignificant, but rather to point out that a number of fairly common or typical roadside features often taken for granted do indeed play a critical role in shaping the mental images of the places in which we live and work. "The view from the road" is more than a phrase because, for most of us, it comprises virtually everything we know about the natural and human-made features of our community.

Because roadside land is so easy and relatively inexpensive to develop, it is often the first to be converted to residential, commercial or industrial. The design of new development should contribute to the overall visual quality of the corridor, improving aesthetics, and encouraging higher levels of investment.

It is also important that new development or redevelopment near the towns be of high-quality and in keeping with the character of the towns. Moore County can be proactive in encouraging high-quality future development through its development standards contained in the Unified Development Ordinance. Clearly articulating the desired vision for an area targeted for development can include minimum standards for setbacks, landscape buffers, parking locations, signage, and lighting. This effort is intended to provide more consistency in the visual appearance of the main corridors where the jurisdictional boundaries meet.

Proposed Highway Corridor Overlay District Map



CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS

Conservation subdivisions allows the same overall amount of residences that is already permitted by the zoning district; however, the key difference is that this technique requires the new residences to be located only on a portion of the parcel. The remaining open space is permanently protected by recorded plats.

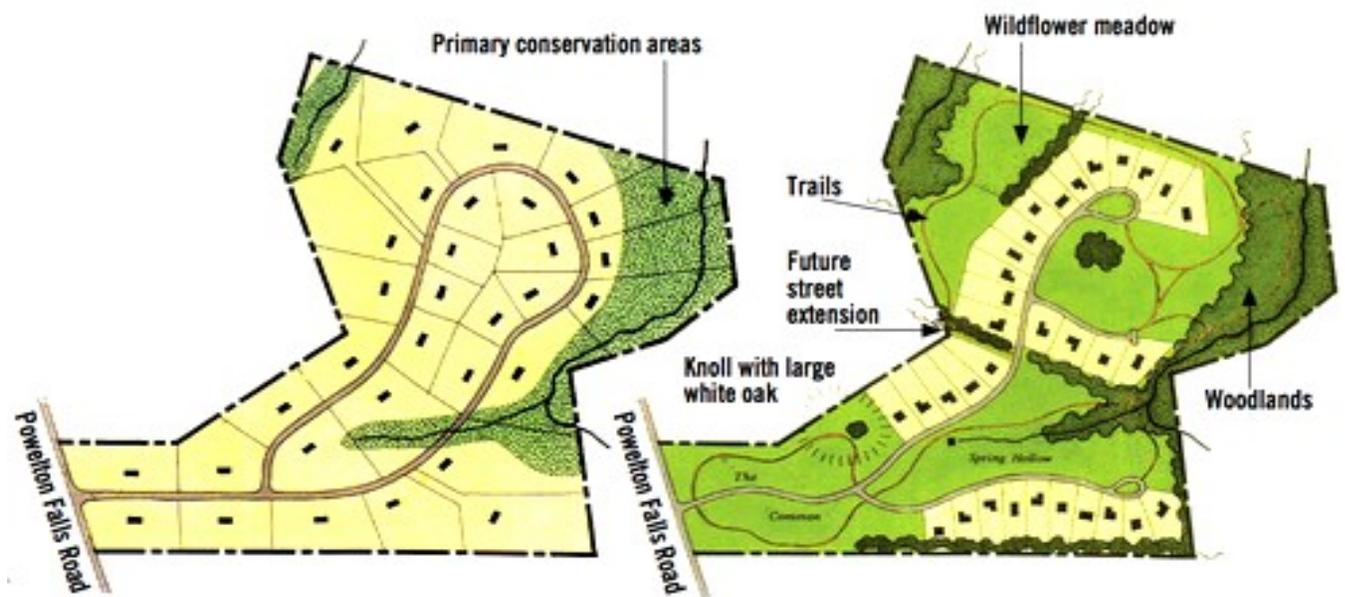
Homeowners are willing to pay a premium to live in close proximity to protected open space. As a result open space adds to the overall value of a community's housing stock. In Moore County one only needs to look to communities near Horse Country, Pinehurst Resort, Seven Lakes, Woodlake, and others that have been built around protected open space to identify the higher property values near these natural resources. The increased wealth is then captured by citizens through higher sale values of homes near these protected open spaces, thus either generating an increase in government revenues via larger property tax collections, or providing an opportunity to decrease the tax rate for the county due to higher valuation, and lastly this increase in value is reflected in increased transfer taxes at time of sale.

Protected open space also provides value in the form of naturally occurring environmental processes. Whereas, if these lands were to be developed, a community could be forced to replicate vital and costly services, such as flood control and air pollution mitigation through alternative methods. Usage of protected public open space generates a value via the consumer benefit that residents enjoy by engaging in recreation and exercise free or at below-market rates instead of turning to private markets for the same activities.

The Moore County Land Use Plan and related zoning regulations incorporates a system of density bonuses as rewards for meeting growth management and community goals. For instance, if density bonuses are earned by providing extra open space them more residences can be approved.

Conservation Subdivision design can also be an effective way to set aside land for not just open space, but also "Future Development" for when public water and sewer are available at the site. This can be done to accommodate the higher densities in the Primary and Secondary Growth Areas, thereby alleviating development pressures on Rural Growth Areas. In Primary and Secondary Growth Areas a development may build a first phase to the density that can be supported on well and septic tank fields, then years later, when public water and sewer are available to the site, develop the remainder of the site, which has clearly been noted on the subdivision plat as "Future Development Phase" and convert all or property of the subdivision to public utilities.

Conservation Subdivision Example



PRIMARY GROWTH AREA

Primary Growth Areas are located adjacent to municipal limits or regulatory areas where growth is encouraged over the next 10 to 20 years. It includes areas that are likely to have access to urban infrastructure services within the foreseeable future. The Primary Growth Area is of predominately mixed uses that will include residential, commercial and industrial development. Higher density development levels can be anticipated in this area. The Conservation Subdivision design is encouraged to protect sensitive natural areas and promote recreational opportunities.

SECONDARY GROWTH AREA

Secondary Growth Areas are areas where infrastructure and services necessary for development may or may not be in place, but could be provided in the next 10 to 20 years if cost effective. Secondary Growth Areas have already experienced some level of development and are areas where additional growth and development may be encouraged in the future, but on a lower priority basis than in primary growth areas. Transitional residential development in limited instances within this area with major subdivisions scattered between agricultural and commercial land use patterns. The Conservation Subdivision design is encouraged to protect sensitive natural areas and promote recreational opportunities.

RURAL GROWTH AREA

Rural Growth Areas are characterized by traditional agricultural operations, pasture land, forestry, rural lot residential subdivisions (minor subdivisions), and scattered non-farm residences on large tracts of land. The main purpose of the Rural Growth Area is to protect farmland as well as woodland areas and open space from rural sprawl. Major subdivisions and utility infrastructure are strongly discouraged. Rural Growth Areas contain scenic, historic, and other natural heritage assets that contribute to the unique characteristics of the land. Rural Growth Areas also provide agriculture, forestry, and other uses that require large open farm land and forest areas for necessary production of food and fiber. Since these operations require unique operating hours and practices that may produce noise, odors, slow-moving vehicles, etc. they should be located in relatively isolated and undeveloped areas. Other land uses such as energy generating plants and industrial/business development requiring proximity to rural resources may be appropriate if sited in a manner that minimizes their negative effect on surrounding land uses or natural resources. In Rural Growth Areas, rezoning requests for industrial/business development will depend upon the scale of the development, and the specific nature of the site and its location. Sustainable rural economic growth, environmental protection, and rural quality of life shall be pursued together as mutually supporting growth management goals.

MILITARY CORRIDOR BUFFER

Critical and important to conserve lands as identified by the Fort Bragg Joint Land Use Study within 5 miles of the base so that Fort Bragg's training mission is protected, the Longleaf Ecosystem is preserved, and the health and safety of the civilian population living near the installation is assured.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The Land Use Plan Steering Committee identified 5 goals and 24 recommendations in 2013 that should guide the processes and development of policy for land use in Moore County. As growth continues, new and revised policies need to be established to continue to achieve a vision that protects the existing land use pattern, maintains the quality of life and preserves the County's historical, natural and cultural character. These together provide guidance for local decision-making by the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners. Some of the following action steps will be new, while others established in the previous land use plan have been revised to continue the vision of Moore County.

Goal 1. Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of the County of Moore (inclusive of areas around municipalities)

Recommendation 1.1: Encourage the conservation of farmland for farming and forestland for forestry.

- Action 1.1.1 Future growth in Moore County should be focused in already developed areas and directed to the county's existing towns and other established population centers.
- Action 1.1.2 Utilize existing policies, such as the Working Lands Protection Plan and the Green Growth Toolbox to guide conservation of rural lands.
- Action 1.1.2 Strengthen and expand the voluntary agricultural district (VAD) program.
- Action 1.1.3 Notify property owners of the Voluntary Agricultural District and its implications upon purchasing and selling of property.
- Action 1.1.4 Promote agri-tourism and cottage industries (such as small family farms and potteries) to enhance the County's heritage.
- Action 1.1.5 Continue the present use value program (farm deferred) for agriculture, forestry, and horticulture
- Action 1.1.6 Develop an Open Space Conservation Plan and Policy
- Action 1.1.7 Promote planning tools including conservation development, conservation easements, transfer of development rights and purchase of development rights to preserve lands that deemed valuable to the community as rural, scenic, or natural lands.

Recommendation 1.2: Continue to encourage agriculture and agri-businesses throughout Moore County.

- Action 1.2.1 Protect agriculture, agri-business, and tourism as an essential element of Moore County's future in terms of culture, economy, and land use.
- Action 1.2.2 Support operating environments for agriculture.
- Action 1.2.3 Support the development and accessibility to local and adjacent markets for agricultural products.
- Action 1.2.4 Offer opportunities for future generations of farmers through the support of educational programs.
- Action 1.2.5 Promote select cut forest management and the utilization of forest management Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the harvesting of timber products on all forest lands in Moore County.
- Action 1.2.6 Encourage streamlining of regulations for farm labor (H2A).

Recommendation 1.3: Preserve large tracts of prime agricultural land in the Rural Growth Area to ensure that farming remains a viable part of the local economy.

- Action 1.3.1 Map and compare the locations of prime farmland, forest land and high value natural resource areas to coordinate with future development and infrastructure areas.
- Action 1.3.2 Develop an agricultural preservation program to maintain areas most suitable for conservation easements, voluntary agricultural districts, and fee simple purchase.
- Action 1.3.3 Through the use of voluntary agricultural districts, discourage the extension of sewer infrastructure into identified prime agricultural areas.

- Recommendation 1.4:** Preserve regional agriculture and farmland as a source of healthy, local fruits and vegetables, and other food crops.
- Action 1.4.1 Support 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 1.4.2 Work with Moore County Partners in Progress to utilize economic development incentives to attract and retain local food processing, wholesale, and distribution firms.
- Recommendation 1.5:** Encourage and support development and land use principles by ensuring Moore County’s cultural, economical, and natural resources are considered appropriately.
- Action 1.5.1 Identify, map and preserve the County’s historical, natural, and cultural assets utilizing all available conservation data.
- Action 1.5.2 Support new developments that utilize existing or implement planned infrastructure that most economically preserves open space and important historical, natural and cultural features.
- Action 1.5.3 Project long term infrastructure capital needs by infrastructure category.
- Action 1.5.4 Utilize the Wildlife Resources Commission in initial development reviews as an advisory member of the Project Review Team to inform conservation efforts.
- Action 1.5.5 Work with conservation agencies to develop partnerships to assist with land conservation efforts and to protect endangered species habitats.
- Action 1.5.6 Create a green infrastructure plan to consider which areas should be selected for conservation, in order to provide such ecosystem services as wildlife habitat, recreation areas, stormwater treatment, aesthetic values, improved community health, and a sustainable economy.
- Recommendation 1.6:** 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 1.6.1 Maintain an inventory of significant crossroad communities, historic sites and structures, and other physical landmarks that defines or conveys Moore County’s heritage.
- Action 1.6.2 Develop land use policies that encourage the conservation and maintenance of significant crossroad communities, historic sites and structures, and other physical landmarks.
- Action 1.6.3 Coordinate with existing historic preservation organizations and land trusts to promote the conservation of the County’s rural culture and features.
- Action 1.6.4 Continue to support regulations for industrial swine operations through zoning as authorized by the State Legislature.
- Action 1.6.5 Improve the long-term viability of sensitive long-leaf pine ecosystems by reducing the number of homes near Smoke Awareness Areas.
- Action 1.6.6 Continue the recovery of the Red-Cockaded Woodpeck (and the longleaf pine ecosystem) which is critical to maintaining training operations on Fort Bragg.
- Action 1.6.7 Protect Moore County’s unique natural and cultural resources. Concentrate on building re-use.
- Recommendation 1.7:** Support and promote local businesses.
- Action 1.7.1 Encourage and support programs such as Moore Forward that helps young business professionals and entrepreneurs.
- Action 1.7.2 Support emerging markets that utilize local agricultural and manufactured products, and enhance tourism and the service sectors.

- Action 1.7.3 Ensure land use policies allow a wide variety of home occupations.
- Action 1.7.4 Implement land use policies that allow for “commercial and light industrial home occupations” with some reasonable conditions endorsed by the community.
- Action 1.7.5 Provide for sites in Rural Growth Areas where rural commercial activity can locate, with the goal of increasing economic activity; job creation; and the tax base of Moore County.
- Action 1.7.6 Individual rezoning decisions with Rural Growth Areas will depend upon the scale of the development, and the specific nature of the site and its location weighed against impacts to adjoining rural land uses.
- Recommendation 1.8:** Discourage undesirable or unattractive land uses, especially within high visibility areas.
- Action 1.8.1 Continue to monitor and enforce existing sign regulations for all classes and types of outdoor signs and advertising.
- Action 1.8.2 Continue to enforce the existing ordinance regulating junkyards and junked motor vehicles.
- Action 1.8.3 The County recognizes that value of corridors as an entryway to Moore County and communities can influence the perception of individuals or firms considering residence or investment in the County.
- Action 1.8.3 Improve the appearance and quality of development along major gateways through appropriate regulations (such as the Highway Corridor Overlay District), including land use, traffic movement, access, environment, heritage assets, signage, landscaping, and other factors that may affect visual quality and aesthetics.
- Action 1.8.4 Establish and maintain building design and landscaping regulations at gateways to the Towns to keep in visual character and appearance of the Towns.
- Action 1.8.5 Identify commercial nodes for development at major crossroads.
- Action 1.8.6 Encourage major developments to locate in existing municipalities wishing to host it.
- Action 1.8.7 Control signage along major highway corridors.
- Action 1.8.8 Select appropriate locations for industrial development and zone them as such (using factors such as soil suitability, proximity to water and sewer, rail and highways).
- Action 1.8.9 Support and promote infill development that will optimize the use of existing infrastructure.

GOAL 2: Enhance the Union of the Built and Natural Environments to Improve Citizen Health through the Use of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities

- Recommendation 2.1:** Support and participate in conservation easement programs that protect public water supply watersheds and important open space areas.
- Action 2.1.1 Encourage the use of programs, such as Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) to provide 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 vegetated or forested buffers for new subdivision development (rather than allow clear cutting in advance of subdivision development).
- Action 2.1.4 Strengthen policies that encourages the conservation of high value natural resources within new developments.
- Recommendation 2.2:** Promote the health and welfare of the County through collaborative planning efforts between the County and municipalities.
- Action 2.2.1 Develop a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan that emphasizes 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 Encourage new developments to provide open space and neighborhood parks that are interconnected via an off-road pedestrian and bicycle network, where possible.
- Action 2.2.4 Develop a multi-jurisdictional bicycle and pedestrian plan for the county.
- Action 2.2.5 Coordinate and support recreational/health related planning efforts through programs, such as Making Moore Connections and Complete Streets.
- Action 2.2.6 Explore and preserve ways to expand healthcare facilities that serve Moore County and the Sandhills region.
- 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 residential areas and transportation nodes to increase public awareness and accessibility to these facilities.
- Action 2.3.3 Develop strategies for active and passive recreation in new residential developments.

GOAL 3: Optimize the Uses of Land Within the County of Moore

- Recommendation 3.1:** Maximize accessibility among living, working, and shopping areas.
- Action 3.1.1 Adopt policies that encourage development of 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 Reduce impacts on military operations by conserving land near Fort Bragg within the Military Corridor Buffer.
- Recommendation 3.2:** Assure an adequate quality & quantity of water is available to support the desired growth of the County.
- Action 3.2.1 Prioritize infrastructure extensions that increase the utilization of existing systems and connections which result in more uniform distribution.
- Action 3.2.2 Coordinate with Moore County Public Utilities to ensure adequate water and sewer infrastructure capacity exists to meet the needs of the community and any projected development patterns shown on the Growth Maps.
- Action 3.2.3 Explore both ground water and surface water sources for future water needs.
- Action 3.2.4 Support the development of water and centralized sewer infrastructure within municipal areas and rural commercial areas.
- Action 3.2.5 Support and facilitate cooperative ventures between water providers both within and outside of Moore County to create redundancy of water supply and access in order to prevent loss of water quality and quantity to its citizens, businesses and industry.
- Action 3.2.6 Ensure Best Management Practices (BMPs) are followed to reduce runoff.
- Action 3.2.7 The County should promote linkage between stormwater management, clean drinking water, flood control, pollution control and erosion.
- Action 3.2.8 Implement rules for post-construction stormwater plan requirements.

- Action 3.2.9 Continue to monitor development densities and encourage the limitation of impervious surfaces in Public Water Supply Watershed areas through the Watershed Protection Ordinance.
- Action 3.2.10 Explore opportunities for a new wastewater treatment plant in the Cape Fear River Basin to serve Northern Moore County.
- Action 3.2.11 Develop policies and incentives to promote water conservation including improvements to infrastructure to eliminate leaks, and install low flow devices, implement water purchase rates that reward minimization of water use and inform public on benefits of water conservation.
- Action 3.2.12 Buffer riparian areas, floodplains and wetlands from development and promote the use of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) for development near these natural features.
- Action 3.2.13 The County should ensure long-term, high-quality water supply resources within Moore County by recognizing water resource and infrastructure management as a comprehensive effort, encompassing both surface water and ground water, addressing both quality and quantity.

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 focus non-rail dependent land uses away from existing railway systems.
- Action 3.3.2 Support safe railway/roadway intersections throughout the county.

Recommendation 3.4: Encourage 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.

- Action 3.4.1 Direct intensive land uses to areas that have existing or planned infrastructure.
- Action 3.4.2 Encourage mixed-use developments along existing and planned infrastructure to reduce transportation needs.
- 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 to prime agricultural lands and public water supply watersheds.
- Action 3.4.5 Take necessary steps to protect the Western Connector Corridor so that development is not approved in the proposed location.
- Action 3.4.6 Factors to be considered in major subdivision approval in Primary and Secondary Growth Areas should include access to major thoroughfares, the availability of public services, and community compatibility.
- Action 3.4.7 Residential subdivisions should, in order to promote efficiencies in the delivery of urban services, be encouraged to develop in a fashion which minimizes “leap frog” development (i.e. leaving large vacant areas between developments).

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 Coordinate with the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure adequate transportation system improvements are made in a timely manner to meet the needs of the community and any projected development patterns shown on the Growth Maps.
- Action 3.5.2 Continue to coordinate and monitor driveway issues, especially along strategic highway corridors.
- Action 3.5.3 Utilize existing highway corridors to solve transportation needs in the future, where applicable.

- Action 3.5.4 Maintain a high level of involvement in the bi-annual preparation of the NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Action 3.5.5 Continue to monitor and enforce the airport overlay zone which places height restrictions on structures to ensure unobstructed flight paths for the Moore County Airport.
- Action 3.5.6 Continue involvement with the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) to ensure transportation coordination efforts continue throughout the County and region.
- Recommendation 3.6:** Provide for the orderly development of major transportation routes such that disruption of 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 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, require use of frontage roads for access along major thoroughfares to minimize numerous driveway access points and disconnected 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: Work with NCDOT to implement a “complete streets” policy to allow construction of biking and pedestrian paths as part of any new improvement along State maintained roadways.
- Action 3.7.2: Require sidewalks or pedestrian paths where residential development is within walking distance (up to 1/2 mile) of schools, parks, and other public facilities.
- Recommendation 3.8:** Encourage and support collaborative future planning efforts between the County, municipalities, and Board of Education.
- Action 3.8.1 Develop a committee made up of representatives from county agencies and various entities to create a school sites guideline manual for future school facility needs based upon growth and existing and planned infrastructure.
- Recommendation 3.9:** Establish a procedure for managing land use information to ensure coordinated planning and growth.
- Action 3.9.1 Monitor planning activities of local municipalities and adjacent counties to ensure that planning and growth is coordinated between jurisdictions.
- Recommendation 3.7:** Promote the implementation of transportation methods to provide for alternate methods of transportation where appropriate and feasible.
- Action 3.7.1 Work with NCDOT to implement a “complete streets” policy to allow construction of biking and pedestrian paths as part of any new improvement along State maintained roadways.
- Action 3.7.2 Require sidewalks or pedestrian paths where residential development is within walking distance (up to 1/2 mile) of schools, parks, and other public facilities.
- Recommendation 3.8:** Encourage and support collaborative future planning efforts between the County, municipalities, and Board of Election.
- Action 3.8.1 Develop a committee made up of representatives from county agencies and various entities to create a school sites guideline manual for future school facility needs based upon growth and existing and planned infrastructure.

Action 3.8.2 Continue to support the efforts of the Tri-Cities work group to create standards for corridors into Towns.

Recommendation 3.9: Establish a procedure for managing land use information to ensure coordinated planning and growth.

Action 3.9.1 Monitor planning activities of local municipalities and adjacent counties to ensure that planning and growth is coordinated between jurisdictions.

Action 3.9.2 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 3.9.3 Develop growth scenarios for specific areas of the County (including small municipalities) that have been lagging in economic development.

Action 3.9.4 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 on the future land use map.

Goal 4. Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation

Recommendation 4.1: Promote efforts to involve and inform citizens of 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 to help communicate and encourage participation in planning efforts.

Action 4.1.3 Continue the Land Use Steering Committee's involvement in providing information to citizens and receiving input from citizens as the Land Use Plan is implemented.

GOAL 5: Accommodate for 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 a broader range of housing types, including attached and multi-family housing in the Primary and Secondary Growth Areas in and around employment centers.