



**GREAT STATE OF  
WILKES**  
**OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN**

A 15-Year Outdoor Action Plan  
for Wilkes County, NC

**SUMMER**  
**2022**





**GREAT STATE OF  
WILKES**  
OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN

**PRODUCED FOR:**

The Great State of Wilkes  
Outdoor Economy Workgroup  
A Health Foundation Initiative

**PRODUCED BY:**

**DESTINATION  
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PLANNING | ENGINEERING | COMMUNICATIONS

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# 1

## **BACKGROUND & PURPOSE**

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan provides a blueprint that guides the development of Wilkes County's capital infrastructure to encourage active living and economic development. The primary objective of The Plan is to create and promote an outdoor economy that will help improve the health of residents, create jobs, and position Wilkes as a multi-faceted tourist destination. This chapter summarizes the foundation and intent of this important work and provides insight into The Plan's purpose, goals, processes, and overall organization. The chapter is organized into the following sections.

### **1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **1.2 PROJECT GOALS**

### **1.3 PLANNING PROCESS**

### **1.4 PLAN ORGANIZATION**



## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan is the result of the dedicated and collaborative efforts of the Outdoor Economy Workgroup. The Health Foundation, Inc., a place-based philanthropic organization, first convened the collaborative as a working group of its Healthy Wilkes Action Team. The Healthy Wilkes Action Team is a cohort of Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas, a Duke Endowment-funded program designed to help communities improve healthy eating, active living, and chronic disease.

Recognizing that upward economic opportunity and health are inextricably linked, the workgroup formalized its purposes and combined financial resources. Connecting assets that support outdoor recreation through capital infrastructure development can improve healthy lifestyles for our residents while attracting visitors, newcomers, and businesses.

The purpose of The Plan is to cast a 15-year vision for how the Outdoor Economy Workgroup and our partner organizations can prioritize efforts to enhance the natural and built environments. We envision a Wilkes County where everyone is healthy, safe, and able to thrive.

*“We’ve got to take advantage of this natural beauty we have in our area. At this point in time we have a choice to make, to invest in our outdoor economy, in our downtowns, and create that sense of place where people want to come and live.” – Jeff Cox, Wilkes Community College*



## 1.2 PROJECT GOALS

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan represents months of intensive planning led by the Workgroup. As expressed by stakeholders throughout the planning process, this planning effort is critical to uniting Wilkes County around a common purpose and deliberate strategies for investing in capital infrastructure development. This cooperative planning effort will help ensure committed stewardship of capital spending on material assets and favorably position the County and Towns to leverage local funding to win federal, state, and private grant dollars.

The Plan and its goals stem from the leadership of the Workgroup and their understanding of the value of strategic planning and a unified vision. The Workgroup and its partners recognize the importance of the County expanding access to its assets, particularly to improve the overall quality of life, and to sustain and grow the tourism industry in Wilkes County. With effective leadership and an unwavering execution of this plan's initiatives, it is certain that residents and visitors from throughout the region, state, and country will come to know the Great State of Wilkes as synonymous with outdoor action!

From the onset, the Workgroup established six primary goals, including:

1. Identify and evaluate assets
2. Engage partners
3. Analyze and fill gaps
4. Value unity
5. Offer visual recommendations
6. Provide strategies



### IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE ASSETS

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan identifies the County's existing outdoor recreation assets and evaluates their current condition and ability to provide a quality outdoor experience.



### ENGAGE PARTNERS

The Plan engages government and community leaders to help identify public capital infrastructure needs and projects that will enhance quality of life and promote the outdoor economy.



### ANALYZE AND FILL GAPS

The Plan analyzes asset gaps and proposes new and compelling outdoor infrastructure projects to encourage healthy living and promote the outdoor economy.



### VALUE UNITY

The Plan values projects that support a variety of community goals, including improving quality of life to retain young adults and attract a skilled workforce, inspiring new small business growth and investment, improving and protecting environmental quality, and encouraging active lifestyles to support public health.



### OFFER VISUAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Plan offers recommendations through compelling renderings, site master plans, 3-D illustrations, and other graphics to more effectively demonstrate project recommendations, generate community interest, and inspire a unified and coherent vision for future projects.



### PROVIDE STRATEGIES

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan provides the Workgroup and its partners with clear strategies and a prioritization schedule for leveraging local funding with federal, state, and private grant dollars to realize the 15-year vision.

## 1.3 PLANNING PROCESS

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan represents the culmination of several months of analysis, planning, graphic development, and dozens of meetings and site visits. The planning process involved five major phases, including:

- 1) Direction Setting & Project Launch
- 2) Research & Analysis
- 3) Public Engagement
- 4) Vision & Plan Framework
- 5) Final Plan Preparation



### **PHASE 1: DIRECTION SETTING & PROJECT LAUNCH** June - August 2021

The consultant team hosted a direction setting meeting with The Plan Workgroup to discuss the purpose of the project, project goals, and the planning process. Meetings were conducted with staff representing Wilkes County and the Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro to explore project opportunities.



### **PHASE 2: RESEARCH & ANALYSIS** June - November 2021

The consultant team conducted site visits and an extensive field analysis to understand key opportunities and constraints, develop an inventory of existing tourism assets, and review previous planning efforts that might have implications on the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan.



### **PHASE 3: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**August - October 2021**

The consultant team produced a video that included interviews with local leaders and informed the public about The Plan. A project website was created to share The Plan purpose, goals, and process with stakeholders and community members. Stakeholder groups and community partners were engaged in the planning process through personal interviews. Community members provided input through a community survey accessed through the project website.



### **PHASE 4: VISION & PLAN FRAMEWORK**

**November 2021 - May 2022**

The consultant team created The Plan framework that featured preliminary recommendations for improving and expanding the County's outdoor recreation assets. The Workgroup and consultant team also sought input from local government staff, elected officials, and community members during three public presentations of The Plan's recommendations.



### **PHASE 5: FINAL PLAN PREPARATION**

**March - June 2022**

The consultant team compiled the final plan document to incorporate community input, develop a prioritization schedule, and provide implementation recommendations.

## 1.4 PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan is organized into five major chapters as outlined below.

- 1) Background & Purpose
- 2) Discovery & Analysis
- 3) Public Engagement & Emerging Themes
- 4) Recommendations
- 5) Implementation



### **CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND & PURPOSE**

The current chapter, which outlines the plan's purpose, goals, process, and organization.



### **CHAPTER 2: DISCOVERY & ANALYSIS**

A snapshot of the County's regional setting, demographic trends, and previous planning efforts are presented here. The chapter also includes an inventory and analysis of the tourism assets found throughout the County which are organized into five major asset types, each interrelated and directly connected to the outdoor economy of Wilkes County.



### CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EMERGING THEMES

The tools used for public engagement during the planning process are described in this chapter, as are the diverse partner organizations and stakeholders that provided input for the plan. The chapter culminates with the results of a community survey and identifies emerging themes that “set the stage” for subsequent infrastructure recommendations.



### CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is organized according to five Focus Areas as identified through the planning process:

- 1) Wayfinding and Signage
- 2) State/National Trails
- 3) State/Federal Lands
- 4) Municipal Lands
- 5) “The Boros”

Each Focus Area includes specific Projects and Action Steps. This chapter is supported by custom illustrations and design schematics.



### CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter provides a comprehensive matrix of all infrastructure recommendations, prioritization, and implementation strategies, and lists key grant funding opportunities.





# 2

## **DISCOVERY & ANALYSIS**

This chapter examines regional context, demographics, and relevant past planning efforts in the County. It also provides a health and active living recreation-centric asset inventory based on existing resources, and in some cases, planned facilities. This chapter is organized into the following sections.

### **2.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT**

### **2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS**

### **2.3 PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS**

### **2.4 ASSET INVENTORY**



## 2.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

This section examines the County's local geography, primary transportation corridors, and natural resources.

### THE GREAT STATE OF WILKES

Wilkes County once stretched as far west as Tennessee, but since its formation on April 20, 1778, has experienced numerous boundary adjustments. These adjustments have resulted in the creation of several smaller adjacent counties including Ashe, Caldwell, Alexander, and Watauga. Currently the County is bounded by eight others, a distinction shared with only two other counties in the state, Chatham and Harnett. Caldwell and Watauga Counties are on the western boundaries and Yadkin and Surry Counties are to the east. Ashe and Alleghany Counties form the northern border while Alexander and Iredell Counties are located along the southern boundary.

### GEOGRAPHY

Wilkes County is located in both the Mountain and Piedmont regions of Western North Carolina and has a total area of 757 square miles. The County's diverse topography ranges from the Blue Ridge Mountains along its northern border through the centrally located

Yadkin River Valley to the Brushy Mountains along its southern boundary. The Eastern Continental Divide runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge escarpment and includes Tomkins Knob which at 4,079 feet is the County's highest point and serves as the corner boundary between Wilkes, Watauga, and Ashe Counties. The Brushy Mountains signify the transition zone between the Mountain and Piedmont regions and rise to their maximum height of 2,680 feet at Pores Knob.

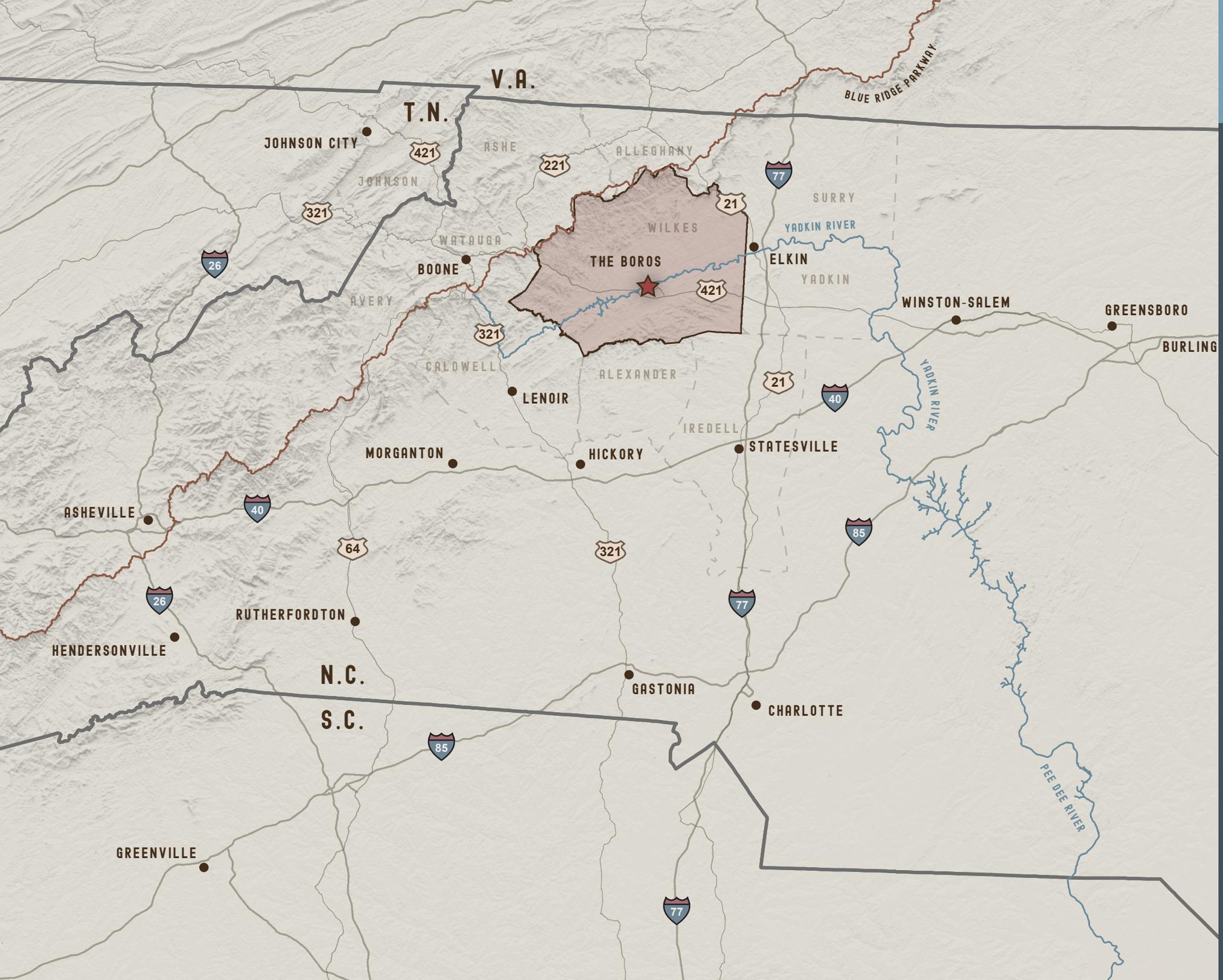
### TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

US Highway 421 bisects Wilkes County and is the major east-west transportation thoroughfare and provides easy access from the County's urban core to both Boone and Winston-Salem, as well as Interstate 77. State Highways 16, 18, 115, and 268 are primary routes providing local access and connections to surrounding areas including West Jefferson, Lenoir, Elkin, Newton-Conover, Hickory, and Statesville. Charlotte and Greensboro are within an easy hour and a half drive.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

Approximately 68 percent (325,000 acres) of the county was forested in 2014, largely on private land and within public land holdings (20,000 acres), including the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Thurmond Chatham Game Lands, Stone Mountain State Park, Rendezvous Mountain State Forest, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Numerous creeks and streams, including the Reddies River, Roaring River, and Mulberry Creek contribute to the Yadkin River, whose source is in neighboring Watauga County. The Yadkin flows easterly across the entire County through the Yadkin Valley feeding W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, and in due course providing the drinking water for much of the County. It then continues east and south and along its way collects runoff from the nearby urban areas of Winston-Salem, Statesville, Lexington, and Salisbury before ultimately reaching the Atlantic Ocean near Georgetown, SC as the Pee Dee River.



## 2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section explores population, income, and employment data for Wilkes County residents as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau and NC Department of Commerce.

### POPULATION

According to the latest decennial census, in 2020 Wilkes County was home to an estimated 65,969 residents. The County population has declined by 3,371, or 4.9 percent, since 2010. During this same time period, there has been substantial growth in the Hispanic population, as this segment of the population reportedly increased by 882 residents, or 23.4 percent. The Towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro have also seen positive population growth since 2010, increasing by 137 (3%) and 274 (8%) residents respectively. In total population, Wilkes County now ranks 40 out of 100 North Carolina counties and 114 out of 543 United States Micropolitan Statistical areas.

Of the people living in the County in 2019, 73 percent were classified as rural and 27 percent as urban. However, it is estimated that 50 percent of the population resides within five miles of the urban core of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro.

Approximately 25 percent of children in Wilkes County currently live in poverty, and Wilkes ranks 74 out of 100 North Carolina Counties in health outcomes. Poverty is considered a root cause of substance abuse, food insecurity, adverse childhood experiences, and other contributors to poor health.

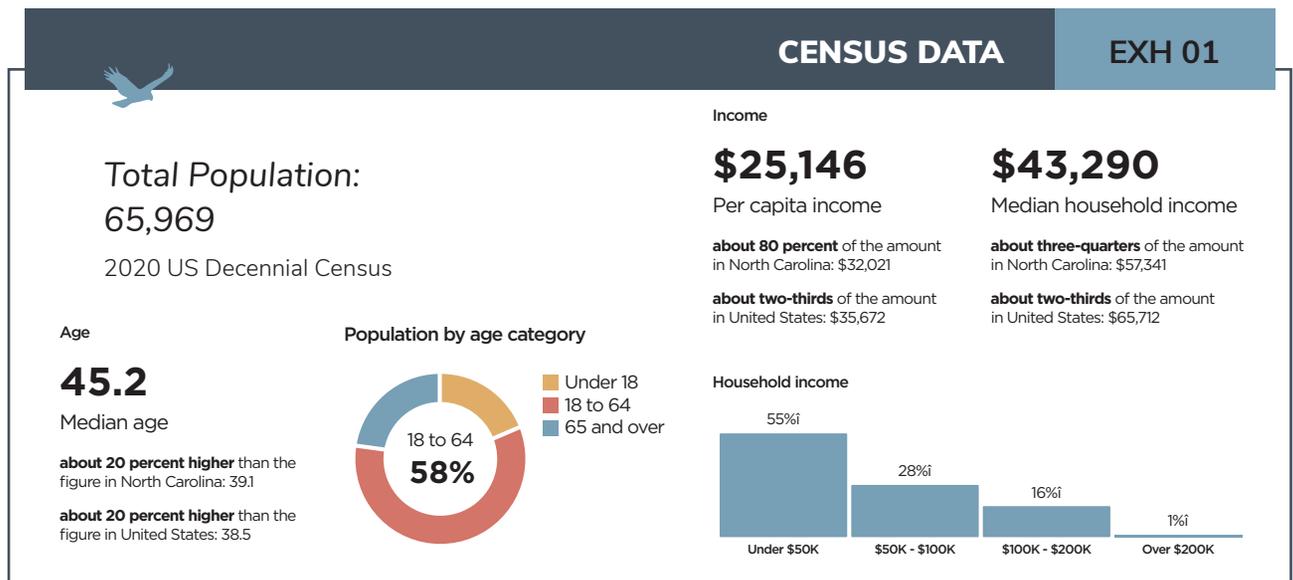
### INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Fifty-eight percent of the Wilkes County population is considered working age, or between the ages of 18-64. The median age in the County is 45. The per capita income in 2019 was \$25,146 while the median annual household income at the time was \$43,290. County residents earn less compared with both the North Carolina average income (\$32,081) and median household income (\$57,341). The County performs lower in comparison with the 2019 national per capita income (\$35,672), and the national median household income was somewhat higher (\$65,712) than in Wilkes County. With an average unemployment rate of 4.7% in 2021, and only 3.8% in May of 2022, the largest employment sectors in the County include manufacturing, retail trade, health care, and education.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Labor and Economic Analysis estimates that most of the 24,305 workers living in the County in 2018 had an average commute time of 25 minutes. Most

of these workers travel alone by car or truck (85%). Residents who work outside the County travel mainly to nearby North Carolina counties, primarily Forsyth, Surry, Iredell, and Mecklenburg, but also to adjacent states, mainly Virginia. The Division of Labor reports that in 2018 more than 13,300 residents left the County for their primary jobs while approximately 9,000 people traveled into the county to work, resulting in an estimated net loss of 4,300 daily commuters.

The Department of Commerce has used these and other statistics to rank Wilkes County in the first tier, meaning it is considered to be one of the 40 most distressed counties in the state. This tier ranking indicates to what degree a community may need state assistance related to economic incentives, public infrastructure, and downtown development programs.





Residents and visitors exploring a business in North Wilkesboro.

2 HR  
PARKING  
8:00 A.M.  
TO  
6:00 P.M.

2 HR  
PARKING  
8:00 A.M.  
TO  
6:00 P.M.

BISTRO

Troy Ridge  
TRADITIONS  
Gifts - Clothing - Jewelry

PANDORA

SALE



## UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

EXH 02

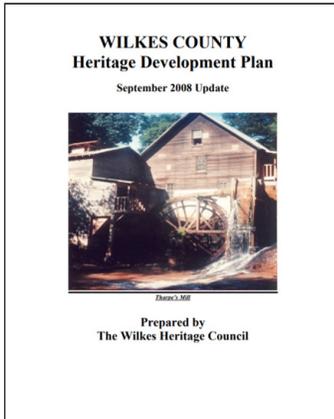


It is widely accepted that the availability of park and recreation resources with easy and safe access encourages increased levels of physical activity. Barriers to outdoor recreation and park access often exist in neighborhoods with low-income and minority populations. This is one of several factors that affects the ability of underserved populations to meet recommended levels of physical activity. Underserved communities include groups that historically have had limited access to outdoor recreation opportunities and face barriers to participation because of income, physical access, or social discrimination. The Plan makes a clear commitment to support inclusiveness and recognizes the importance of offering outdoor recreation opportunities to all individuals.



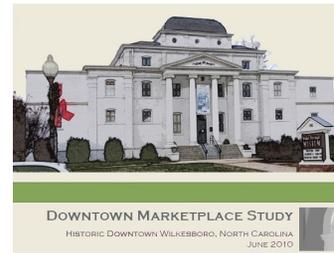






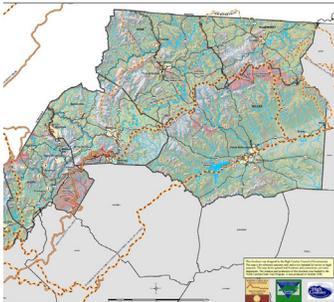
### Wilkes County Heritage Development Plan (2008)

The Wilkes County Heritage Development Plan was compiled in 2008 in conjunction with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership. It includes a summary chart which identifies and describes 24 heritage tourism projects in the County which at the time would require funding of approximately \$5,500,000 to implement. Some of these projects have been completed or are currently in progress. Projects of special relevance include: recreation development in Downtown Wilkesboro, the Yadkin River Greenway and Heritage Corridor, a Civil War Interpretive Trail at Fort Hamby, Historic Main Street Communities, and W. Kerr Scott Reservoir amenities. This plan also includes an extensive asset inventory of the County's natural, historic and cultural resources.



### Historic Downtown Wilkesboro Marketplace Study (2010)

The North Carolina Department of Commerce prepared this plan using the four points of the Main Street Approach which focuses on Organization, Promotion, Economic Vitality, and Design. This study provides Wilkesboro's leaders with a framework for downtown revitalization based on this approach. Several relevant points are made regarding active living, especially as related to the downtown built environment and walkability. The study recommended that the Town develop a Downtown Master Plan to address deficiencies.



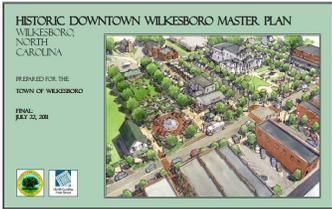
### High Country Regional Trail Plan (2008)

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, State Trails Program, in cooperation with the High Country Council of Governments developed this plan to identify trails in the region that may be included in the growing statewide trail network. This plan expands on the success of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail project and identifies 389 miles of proposed trails in the seven-county region. The plan identifies three local trails necessary to connect important regional assets such as significant natural areas, public lands, and local communities. These trails include the Jefferson Turnpike, Yadkin River Greenway, and the Southern Wilkes Spur.



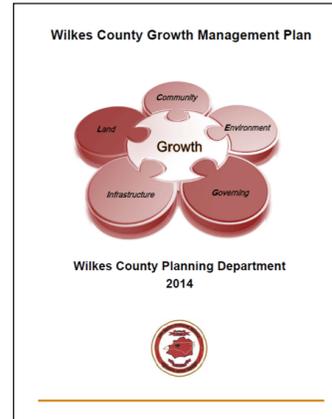
### Town of North Wilkesboro Downtown Streetscape Master Plan (2010)

The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a framework and vision for Downtown North Wilkesboro. It specifically recognizes the importance of the Yadkin River Greenway as a popular attraction featuring biking, jogging, and walking trails which follow the Yadkin River and Reddies River for several miles between the towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. B Street Park is specifically mentioned for renovations. Improvements to downtown parking, landscaping, and wayfinding signage are all major components of this plan.



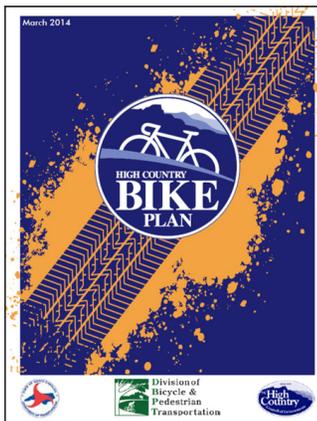
### Historic Downtown Wilkesboro Master Plan (2011)

A thorough analysis of the Town’s existing conditions, including streetscapes and public spaces, is incorporated into this Downtown Master Plan. The plan supports a proposal for a new park and event venue on Main Street. Since adopting the plan, this public space has been successfully established as the Community Commons. Linkages to the Yadkin River Greenway and Cub Creek Park from downtown are also leading recommendations from the plan.



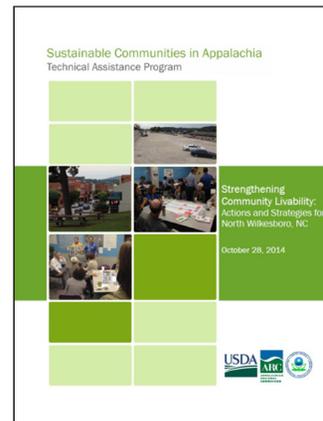
### Wilkes County Growth Management Plan (2014)

The Wilkes County Growth Management Plan was completed in 2014 by the Wilkes County Planning Department. The purpose of the Growth Management Plan is to provide a guide for the development of policies that accommodate new development while preserving the natural heritage of the County. The plan addresses the recommendations from the High Country Regional Bike Plan and recognizes the contributions of the Yadkin Valley Greenway Council and the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Partnership to promote multi-use trails. A quality-of-life objective identified in this plan is for the County to increase recreational opportunities in underserved areas.



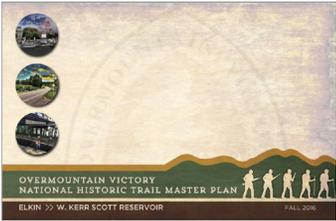
### High Country Regional Bike Plan (2014)

In collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the High Country Council of Governments prepared this plan to increase safety, mobility, and recognition of cycling in the High Country region. The plan places a strong emphasis on traffic safety and the economic benefits of active transportation. Various improvements to the region’s road network in Wilkes County are suggested to improve cycling conditions. The plan also recommends extensions to the Yadkin River Greenway.



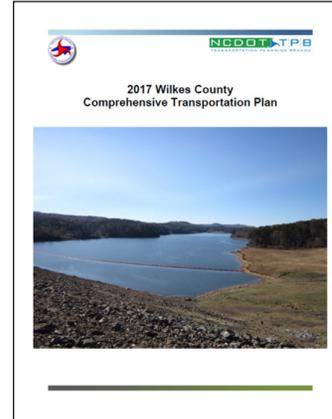
### Strengthening Community Livability: Actions and Strategies for North Wilkesboro (2014)

This program was conducted through a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The program is intended to support community planning in small towns and cities throughout the Appalachian region. During the planning process, it was discovered that building a more walkable downtown was a top priority and resulted in a design to improve the streetscape and pedestrian infrastructure in the downtown area. The Town also indicated a desire to obtain the former railroad right of way and convert it to a rail trail with a connection to the Yadkin River Greenway.



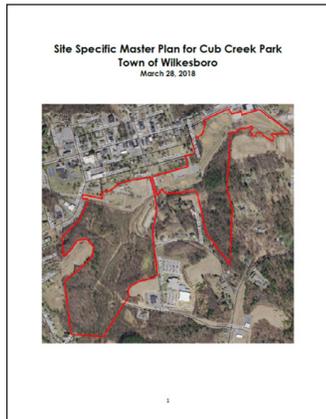
### Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan: Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir (2016)

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan: Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir was prepared in 2016 as part of the ongoing efforts of the National Park Service (NPS) to develop regional trail plans aimed to expand and connect Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) segments throughout Virginia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. The plan's study area examines 28 miles along the trail corridor from the Eastern Terminus in Elkin to an existing certified section of the trail near Wilkesboro. Partnerships between local governments and local advocacy groups (Elkin Valley Trails Association, Yadkin River Greenway Council, and Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Partnership) are emphasized.



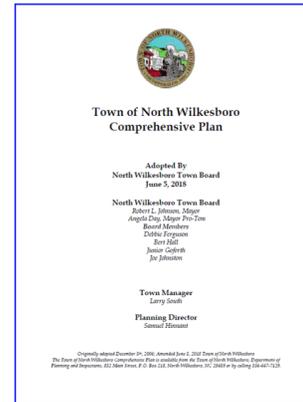
### Wilkes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2017)

The Wilkes County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is a multi-modal plan that examines the County's long-range transportation needs. This CTP includes bicycle and pedestrian improvements and maps of the existing facilities and recommendations. Construction of a multi-use path and bridge connecting the existing greenways on the east and west banks of the Reddies River is recommended north of the existing US 421 Business/D Street bridge.



### Town of Wilkesboro Site Specific Master Plan for Cub Creek Park (2018)

The Master Plan for Cub Creek Park provides a detailed description of the site and setting of the Town's premier outdoor recreation asset. The plan demonstrates the need to connect the park with the Community Commons on Main Street and establish a link with the Yadkin River Greenway at the Tyson Trailhead via either West or Bridge Street. It also includes the results from a community survey and a series of site maps consisting of aerial views, contours, floodplains, soil types, existing facilities, and recommended facilities.



### Town of North Wilkesboro Comprehensive Plan (2018)

The purposes of this plan are primarily to establish the legal foundation for zoning and land-use regulations and to guide future land-use decisions. This comprehensive plan addresses parks and outdoor recreation from an adequate facilities perspective as provided by the National Park and Recreation Association. Recommendations include developing a Park and Recreation Master Plan and converting the Southern Railway right of way downtown into a greenway and park. The plan also shows the Yadkin River Greenway to be an important piece of the Town's recreational infrastructure.

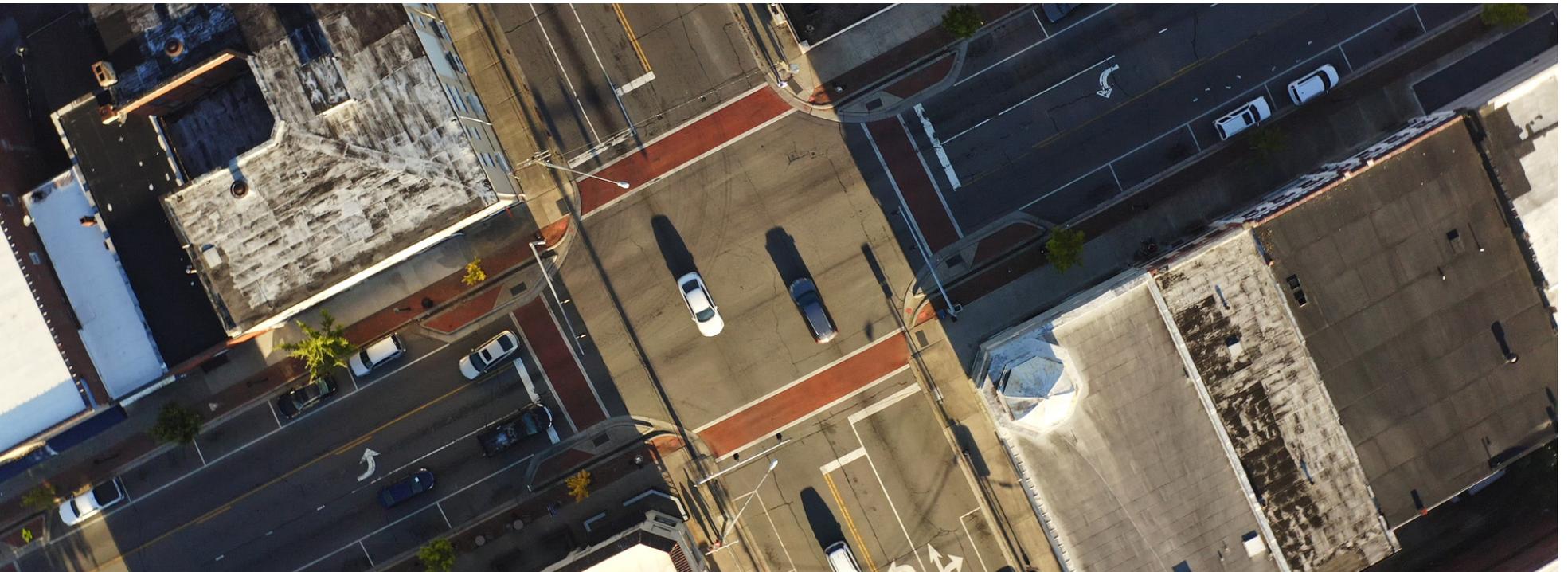
## 2.4 ASSET INVENTORY

This section provides an overview of existing Wilkes County outdoor assets, including:

- 1) Natural Resources
- 2) Outdoor Recreation and Managed Areas
- 3) Historic and Cultural Resources
- 4) Agriculture
- 5) Main Street Communities

### WILKES COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS	<b>43 MILES</b>
HIKING TRAILS	<b>137 MILES</b>
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS	<b>13 MILES</b>
YADKIN RIVER	<b>40 MILES</b>
YADKIN RIVER STATE TRAIL (W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Dam to Elkin)	<b>28 MILES</b>
TROUT STREAMS	<b>163 MILES</b>
TOTAL LAND AREA	<b>757 SQ MILES</b>
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSERVED LAND	<b>20,000 ACRES</b>
WINERIES AND VINEYARDS	<b>10</b>
BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	<b>45 MILES</b>
ELEVATION RANGE	<b>900-4,000 FT ABOVE SEA LEVEL</b>





## ASSET TYPES



### Natural Resources

Wilkes County's varied landscapes provide mountain peaks and valleys, rivers, lakes, and waterfalls that offer many opportunities for outdoor recreation.



### Outdoor Recreation & Managed Areas

The County contains significant acreage of conserved lands and a number of public parks which provide numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation and active living.



### Historic & Cultural Resources

Wilkes County features a number of area museums, historic sites, and community facilities that showcase the performing arts.



### Agriculture

Agribusiness is Wilkes County's top industry, and the County is also a leader in agritourism, welcoming visitors to its many farms.



### Main Streets

Wilkes County's historic downtowns provide local food, shopping, and public events for both community members and tourists.

# COUNTY ASSET INVENTORY KEY



## NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1** Brushy Mountains
- 2** Carter Falls
- 3** Cedar Rock
- 4** Combs Knob
- 5** Moravian Falls
- 6** Mulberry Creek
- 7** Pores Knob
- 8** Roaring River
- 9** Stone Mountain
- 10** Stone Mountain Falls
- 11** Tompkins Knob
- 12** Wells Knob
- 13** Widows Creek Falls
- 14** Wolf Rock



## OUTDOOR RECREATION & MANAGED AREAS

- 15** Blue Ridge Parkway
- 16** Doughton Park
- 17** Kerr Scott Game Land
- 18** Mountains-to-Sea State Trail
- 19** Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest
- 20** Rendezvous Mountain Game Land
- 21** Ronda Memorial Park
- 22** Stone Mountain State Park
- 23** Thurmond Chatham Game Land



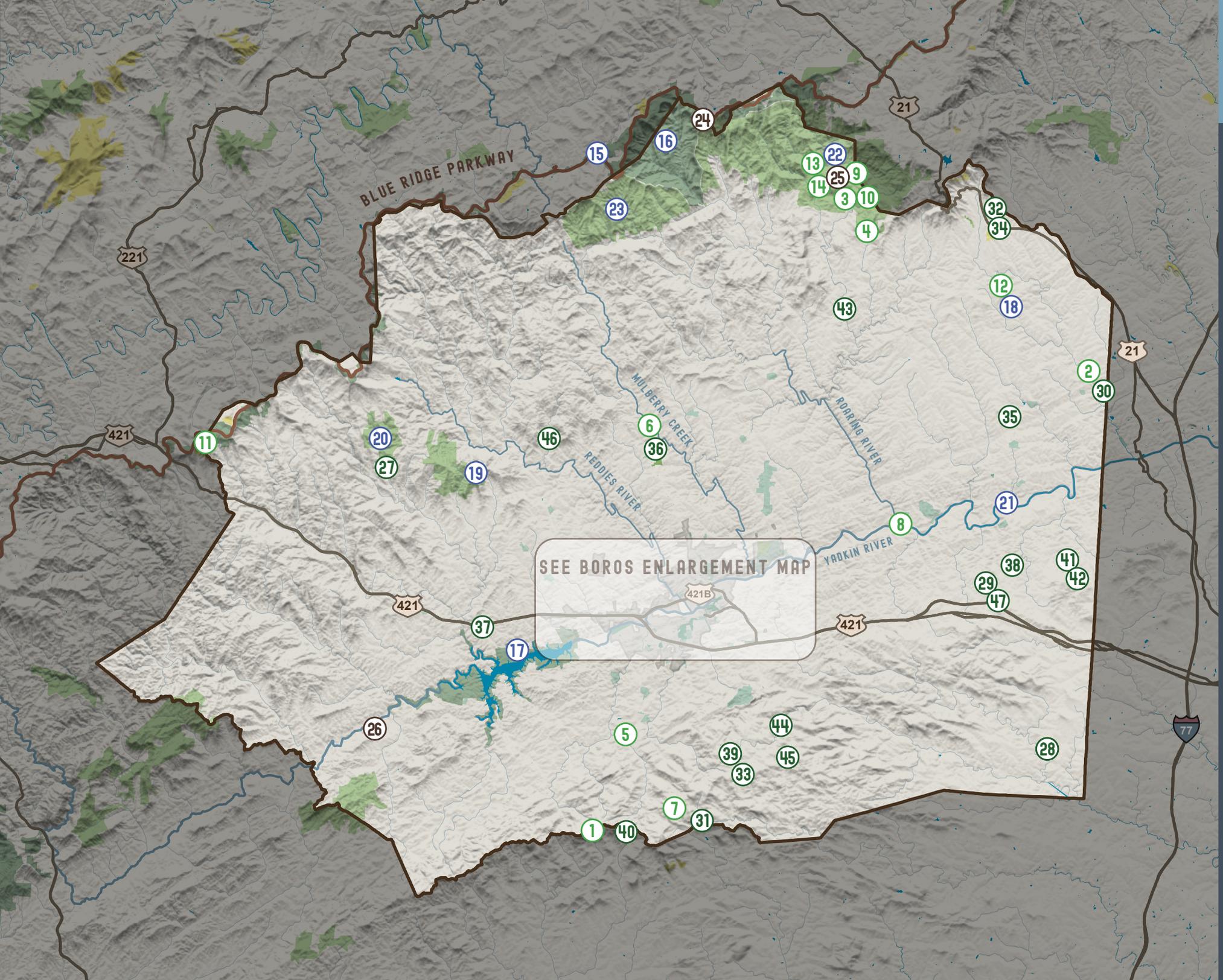
## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- 24** Brinegar Cabin
- 25** Hutchinson Homestead
- 26** Whippoorwill Academy



## AGRICULTURE

- 27** Benny Parsons Rendezvous Ridge Winery
- 28** Blake Farms
- 29** Eden Oaks Vineyard
- 30** Elkin Creek Vineyards and Winery
- 31** Hareapple Farm
- 32** Jones Von Drehle Vineyards and Winery
- 33** Lowell Hendren Orchards
- 34** McRitchie Winery and Ciderworks
- 35** MenaRick Vineyard and Winery
- 36** Miller Bee Farm and Supply
- 37** Moffit-Toolan Family Farm
- 38** New Castle Farm
- 39** Parker's Orchard
- 40** Perry Lowe Orchards
- 41** Piccione Vineyards
- 42** Raffaldini Vineyards and Winery
- 43** Roaring River Vineyards
- 44** Stardust Cellars
- 45** Tevepough Orchards
- 46** Tumbling Shoals Farm
- 47** Windy Gap Vineyards



# BOROS ASSET INVENTORY KEY



## OUTDOOR RECREATION & MANAGED AREAS

- 1** Cub Creek Park
- 2** Heritage Square Splash Pad
- 3** Highland Park
- 4** Main Street Park
- 5** Memorial Park
- 6** Overmountain Victory National Historic & State Trail
- 7** Rivers Edge Park
- 8** Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course
- 9** School Street Park
- 10** Smoot Park
- 11** VFW Campground
- 12** W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir Recreation Area
- 13** Westwood Park
- 14** Wilkes Community College Gardens
- 15** Wilkes Community Commons and Pavilion
- 16** Woodlawn Park and Community Center
- 17** Yadkin River Greenway
- 18** Yadkin River State Trail



## NATURAL RESOURCES

- 19** Owens Knob
- 20** Reddies River
- 21** Yadkin River



## AGRICULTURE

- 22** Yadkin Valley Marketplace



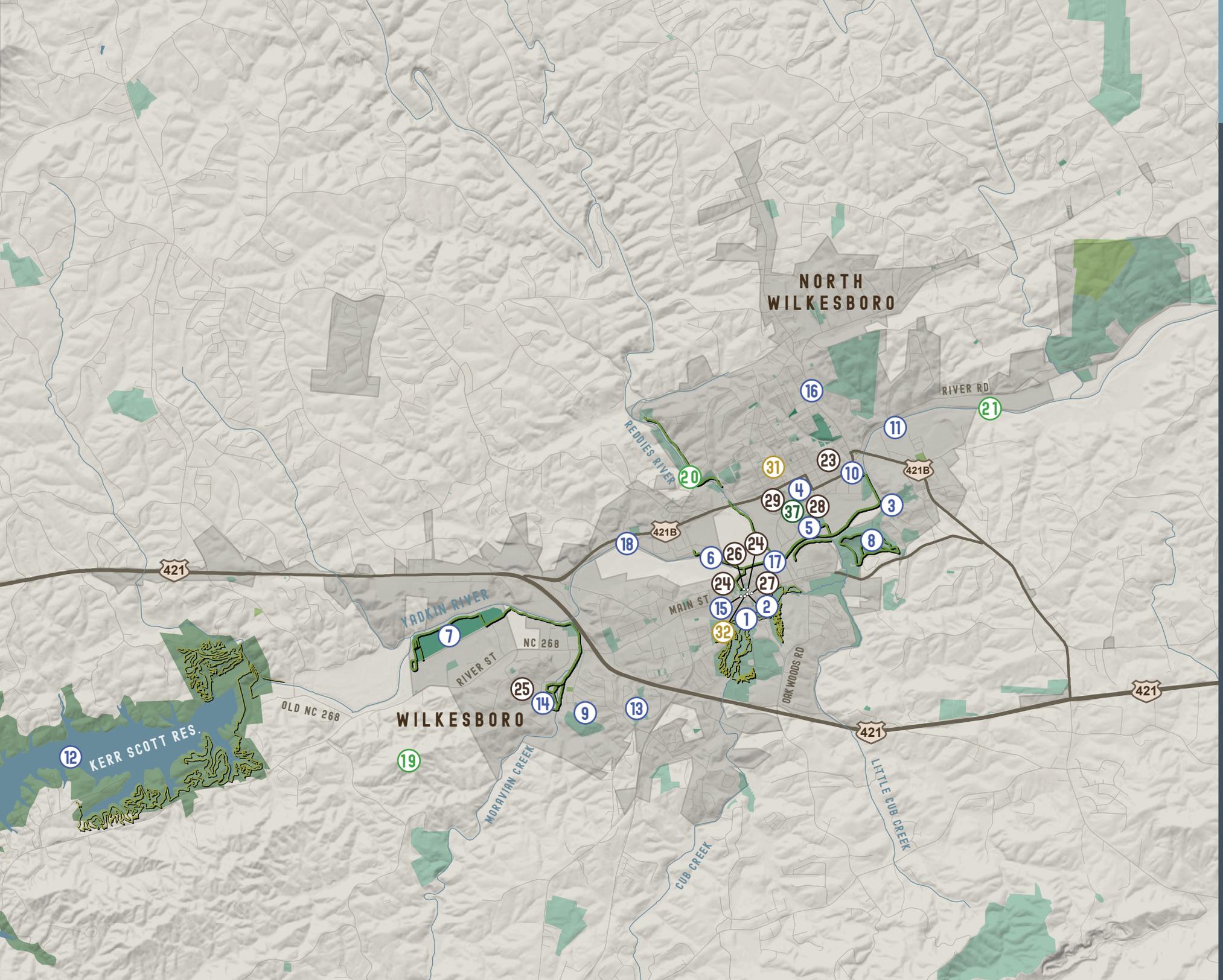
## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- 23** Benton Hall Community Arts Center
- 24** Frescoes at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 25** John A. Walker Center
- 26** Robert Cleveland Log Home
- 27** Smithey Hotel
- 28** Stone Center for the Performing Arts
- 29** Wilkes Art Gallery
- 30** Wilkes Heritage Museum



## MAINSTREET COMMUNITIES

- 31** North Wilkesboro
- 32** Wilkesboro





## NATURAL RESOURCES

Wilkes County is fortunate to have abundant natural resources which provide vast potential for the enhancement and development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

### NATURAL RESOURCE ASSETS

**BRUSHY MOUNTAINS**  
CARTER FALLS  
CEDAR ROCK  
COMBS KNOB  
MORAVIAN FALLS  
MULBERRY CREEK  
OWENS KNOB  
PORES KNOB  
REDDIES RIVER  
ROARING RIVER  
STONE MOUNTAIN  
STONE MOUNTAIN FALLS  
TOMPKINS KNOB  
WELLS KNOB  
WIDOWS CREEK FALLS  
WOLF ROCK  
YADKIN RIVER

### EXH 03

## BRUSHY MOUNTAINS



The Brushy Mountains are a unique and isolated range of the Blue Ridge that stretches for 45 miles and forms Yadkin Valley's southern wall. This range also divides the Yadkin and Catawba River basins and contains numerous headwaters of these two important systems. The highest point in the range is found in Wilkes County at Pores Knob (2,680 feet), a designated NC Natural Heritage Area. The largest area of protected land in the Brushy Mountains is the YMCA's Camp Harrison (725 acres). The Brushy Mountains are known for their abundant orchards and vineyards and a combined heritage of moonshining and stock-car racing.

### CARTER FALLS

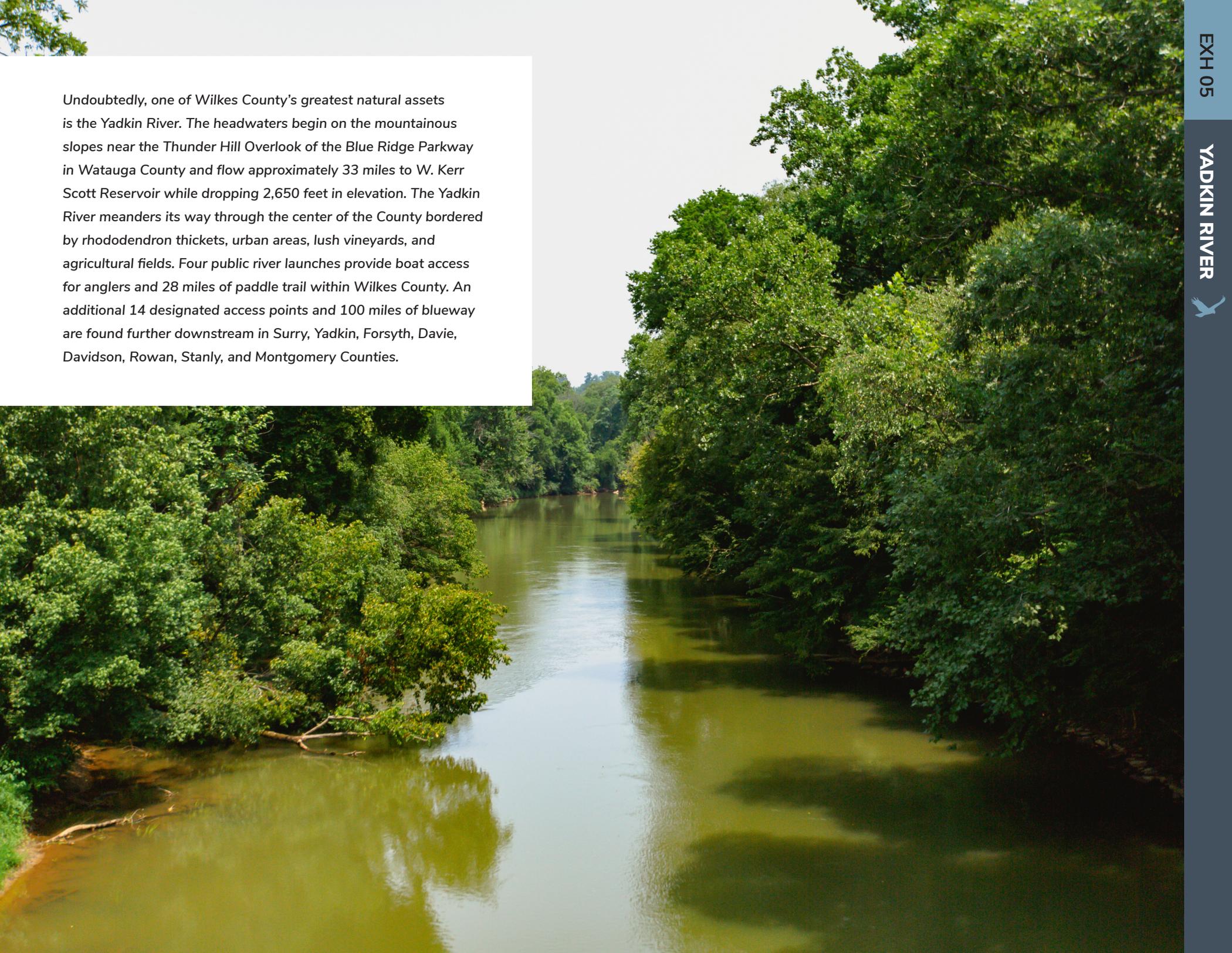
### EXH 04



Carter Falls features a 60-foot series of cascades on a publicly owned and managed site located in eastern Wilkes County on Big Elkin Creek. Remnants of a hydroelectric station used by the Town of Elkin can be found at the bottom of the falls. Hikers can access this popular natural resource via a trailhead and segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.



Undoubtedly, one of Wilkes County's greatest natural assets is the Yadkin River. The headwaters begin on the mountainous slopes near the Thunder Hill Overlook of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Watauga County and flow approximately 33 miles to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir while dropping 2,650 feet in elevation. The Yadkin River meanders its way through the center of the County bordered by rhododendron thickets, urban areas, lush vineyards, and agricultural fields. Four public river launches provide boat access for anglers and 28 miles of paddle trail within Wilkes County. An additional 14 designated access points and 100 miles of blueway are found further downstream in Surry, Yadkin, Forsyth, Davie, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, and Montgomery Counties.





## OUTDOOR RECREATION & MANAGED AREAS

The County contains a significant number of conserved lands and managed areas, which provide outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities for residents and visitors. All Wilkes County School playgrounds are open to community members outside of school hours. Parks, public lands, multiple-use trails, and paddle accesses offer a variety of recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities. The Mountains-to-Sea, Overmountain Victory National Historic, and Yadkin River State Trails traverse the County east to west creating a developing regional trail network for outdoor adventurers who live in and visit the area.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION & MANAGED AREA ASSETS

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	RONDA MEMORIAL PARK
CUB CREEK PARK	SCHOOL STREET PARK
DOUGHTON PARK	SMOOT PARK
E.B. JEFFRESS PARK AND THE CASCADES	STONE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
HERITAGE SQUARE SPLASH PAD	THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LANDS
HIGHLAND PARK	VFW CAMPGROUND
MAIN STREET PARK	WESTWOOD PARK
MEMORIAL PARK	WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE GARDENS
MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA STATE TRAIL	WILKESBORO COMMUNITY COMMONS AND PAVILION
RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST	WOODLAWN PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER
RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN GAME LAND	YADKIN RIVER GREENWAY
RIVERS EDGE PARK	YADKIN RIVER STATE TRAIL
ROLLING PINES DISC GOLF COURSE	



### BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

EXH 06

The Blue Ridge Parkway follows the Blue Ridge escarpment for approximately 40 miles along the County's northern boundaries with Ashe and Alleghany. The Parkway may be accessed at several points in the County using either back-roads or major thoroughfares and offers sightseeing opportunities at numerous scenic overlooks and points of interest, including Tomkins Knob, E.B. Jeffress Park and The Cascades, and Doughton Park.



This area of the County is exceptional for an exposed granite dome which towers 600 feet above the surrounding landscape. In 1974 the mountain was designated as a National Natural Landmark because of its unique geology. This landmark is central to Stone Mountain State Park, which includes 14,350 acres, primarily in Wilkes County. Bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway to the north and the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands to the west, this park features 18 miles of hiking trails, 20 miles of designated trout streams, exceptional rock-climbing, camping, picnicking, horseback riding, and more.



## DOUGHTON PARK

EXH 08



At 7,000 acres, Doughton Park is the largest recreation area on the Blue Ridge Parkway. In addition to its more than 30 miles of hiking trails, backcountry camping, picnicking, and fly-fishing opportunities, the area contains a restaurant, park store, visitor information station, and a developed campground. The park is named after Robert L. Doughton, North Carolina's longest-serving US Congressman (1911-1953), who in the 1930s was crucial to the passage of the Social Security Act, the establishment of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the formation of the Northwestern Bank in North Wilkesboro.



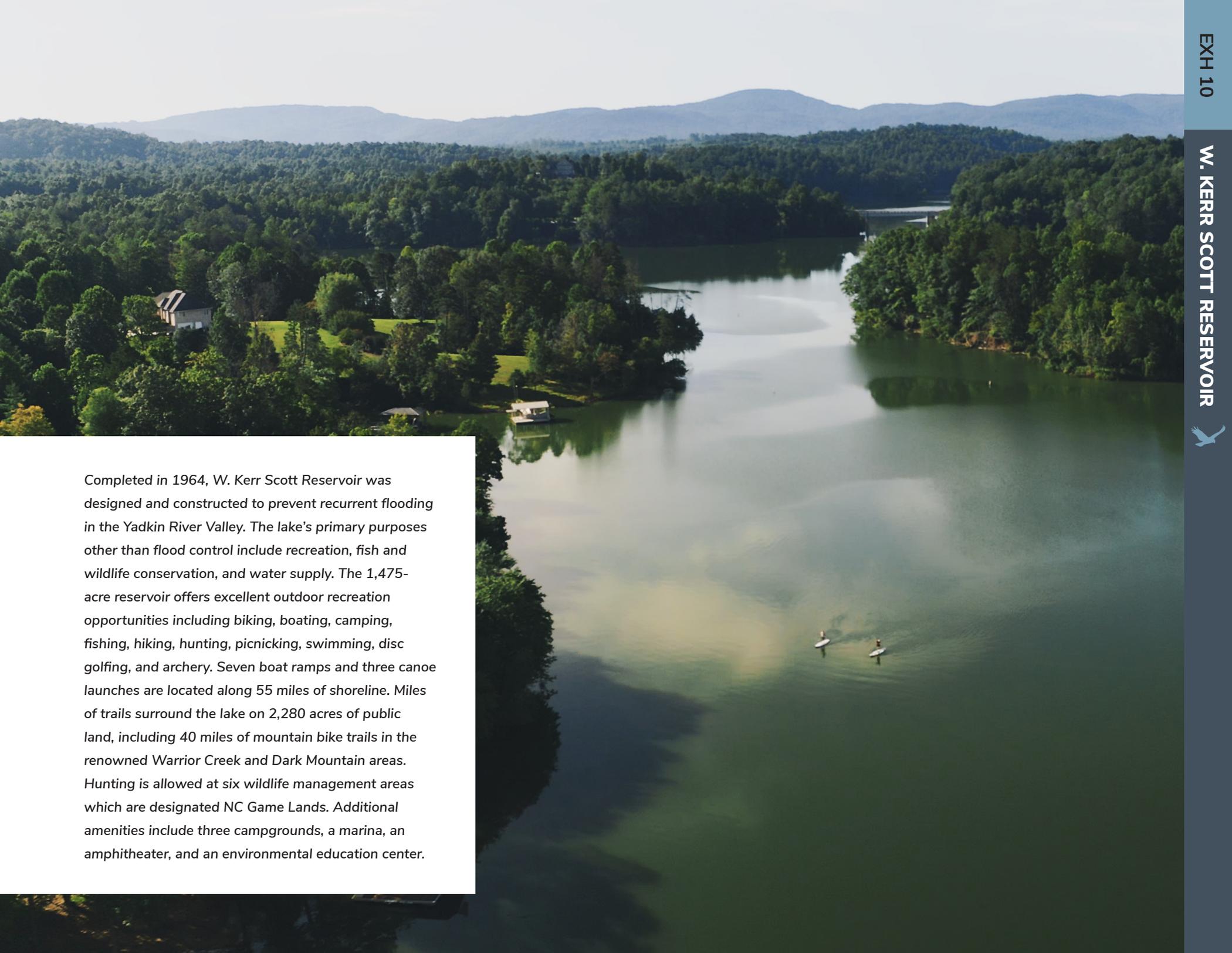
Photo by others

## YADKIN RIVER GREENWAY

EXH 09



Since 1994 the Yadkin River Greenway Council has had the vision of developing a riverside greenway that connects valuable community resources, neighborhoods, and institutions in Wilkes County. The Yadkin River Greenway currently has a combined eight miles of trail segments that offer transportation, recreation, and exercise opportunities to the community. The greenway helps protect and preserve the County's wildlife, vegetation, and waterways while promoting active lifestyles and economic development. The Council, along with volunteers, landowners, and local governments, has plans to establish an additional nine miles of trail network to extend the greenway experience and enhance this essential community asset.



Completed in 1964, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir was designed and constructed to prevent recurrent flooding in the Yadkin River Valley. The lake's primary purposes other than flood control include recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and water supply. The 1,475-acre reservoir offers excellent outdoor recreation opportunities including biking, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, swimming, disc golfing, and archery. Seven boat ramps and three canoe launches are located along 55 miles of shoreline. Miles of trails surround the lake on 2,280 acres of public land, including 40 miles of mountain bike trails in the renowned Warrior Creek and Dark Mountain areas. Hunting is allowed at six wildlife management areas which are designated NC Game Lands. Additional amenities include three campgrounds, a marina, an amphitheater, and an environmental education center.





## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Wilkes County is steeped in Southern Appalachian culture. The past is honored at a number of area museums and historical sites while the essence of local culture is proudly displayed throughout the County, often in the form of mountain food, music, arts and crafts, and many other diverse community pastimes and traditions.

### HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSETS

BENTON HALL COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER  
BRINEGAR CABIN  
FRESCOS OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HUTCHINSON HOMESTEAD  
JOHN A. WALKER COMMUNITY CENTER  
OLD WILKES JAIL MUSEUM  
ROBERT CLEVELAND LOG HOME  
SMITHEY HOTEL  
STONE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
WHIPPOORWILL ACADEMY  
WILKES ART GALLERY  
WILKES HERITAGE MUSEUM



The old Wilkes County Courthouse was constructed in 1902. The courthouse now houses the Wilkes Heritage Museum and tells stories of early settlement, military history, industry, agriculture, medicine, communication, education, entertainment, and transportation through a collection of artifacts and images.



The Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor (YVHC) Partnership is a regional tourism and economic development collaboration between Caldwell, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties. The YVHC Partnership encourages place-based economic development by promoting agritourism, heritage tourism, and outdoor recreation activities. A major component of this program includes a comprehensive informational map/brochure and a regional wayfinding program that prominently features Wilkes County destinations.

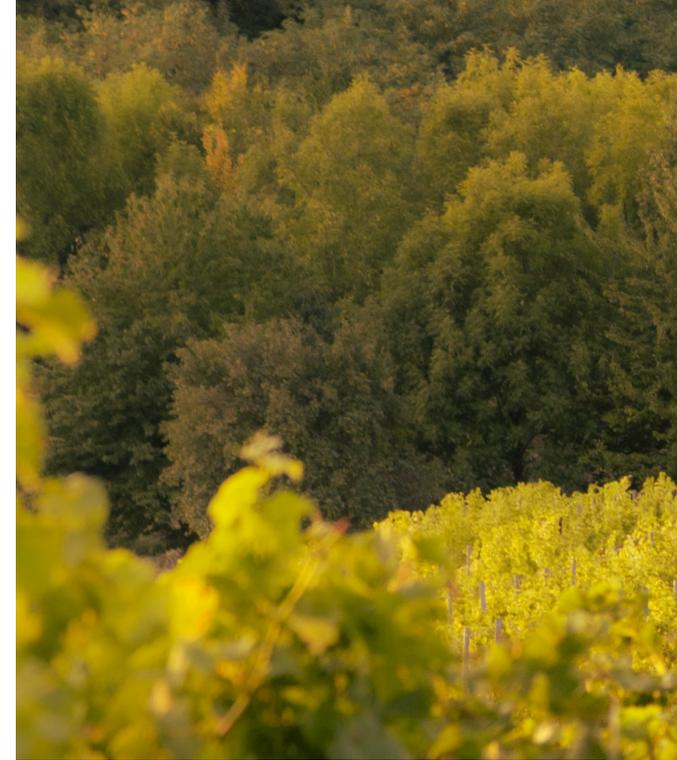






## **AGRICULTURE**

Wilkes County contains a variety of local food, craft beverage, and agritourism destinations. Farmers' markets and farm-to-table restaurants, craft breweries, craft distilleries, vineyards and working farms open to the public, deliver exceptional visitor experiences. Many pastoral settings with B&B's, eateries, and roadside fruit and vegetable markets can be found scattered throughout the County.



### **AGRICULTURE RELATED ASSETS**

**BENNY PARSONS RENDEZVOUS RIDGE  
WINE AND MUSEUM  
BLAKE FARMS  
EDEN OAKS VINEYARD  
ELKIN CREEK VINEYARDS AND WINERY  
HAREAPPLE FARM  
JONES VON DREHLE VINEYARDS AND  
WINERY  
LOWELL HENDREN ORCHARDS  
MCRITCHIE WINERY AND CIDERWORKS  
MENARICK VINEYARD AND WINERY  
MILLER BEE FARM AND SUPPLY**

**MOFFIT-TOOLAN FAMILY FARM  
NEW CASTLE FARM  
PARKER'S ORCHARD  
PERRY LOWE ORCHARDS  
PICCIONE VINEYARDS  
RAFFALDINI VINEYARDS AND WINERY  
ROARING RIVER VINEYARDS  
STARDUST CELLARS  
TEVEPAUGH ORCHARDS  
TUMBLING SHOALS FARM  
WINDY GAP VINEYARDS  
YADKIN VALLEY MARKETPLACE**

The Yadkin River Valley's exceptional combination of climate, topography, and soils makes the basin ideal for the cultivation of high-quality wine grapes. The territory is home to the Yadkin Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA), a federally recognized wine region which encompasses all of Wilkes County and over one million acres in northwestern North Carolina. The Swan Creek AVA is another distinct wine producing region in the valley known for its outstanding vineyards. The Swan Creek Wine Trail offers excursions to several family-owned wineries within the County and the Yadkin Valley Wine Festival is held annually in nearby Elkin.





## MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES

Wilkes County's Historic Downtowns are significant community and tourism assets for the area and offer opportunities to capitalize on the interaction of small-town heritage with both tourist interests and community health priorities.

## ASSETS OF MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES

TOWN OF WILKESBORO  
TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO

## WILKESBORO

EXH 14

Laid out along the south bank of the Yadkin River in the late 18th Century, the Town of Wilkesboro has been tempered by history. This county seat is known for its unique past and small-town charm. Rooted in mountain culture and a fierce sense of individuality, downtown Wilkesboro is being revitalized around the 37-acre Wilkesboro Historic District and the early foundations of its 69 contributing properties. Wilkesboro is home to numerous events at its Community Commons and Pavilion and the world-famous MerleFest held annually at nearby Wilkes Community College, typically attracts 75,000 or more visitors to the area. Cub Creek Park is the Town's signature downtown-adjacent recreational facility and offers athletic facilities, hiking trails, mountain biking, fishing, and more.



Incorporated in 1891, largely resulting from the arrival of the railroad, North Wilkesboro grew around its new train depot and flourished as the County's center of industry and commerce for decades. Due to the town's location, which provided access to the region's natural and cultural resources, it was dubbed the "Key to the Blue Ridge." North Wilkesboro hosts numerous downtown events throughout the year which bring together visitors and residents in celebration of the town's heritage and entrepreneurial spirit. Today, the primary revitalization goal for downtown North Wilkesboro is that it once again becomes an economic driver and a hotbed for the arts, tourism, and historic preservation. The Downtown Main Street Historic District includes 29 contributing properties and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



ELK CREEK OPRY



PLEASE RECYCLE  
BOTTLES  
& CANS IN THE  
RECYCLING BINS  
FOR RECYCLING  
THANK YOU



# 3

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EMERGING THEMES**

This chapter discusses the tools used for public engagement, the key stakeholders and organizations involved in the planning process, and analyzes key results from an online survey designed to gather ideas from the community regarding active living, outdoor recreation, and tourism in the area. It culminates with key emerging themes that guide recommendations. This chapter is organized into the following sections.

### **3.1 TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT**

### **3.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

### **3.3 COMMUNITY SURVEY**

### **3.4 EMERGING THEMES**



# 3.1 TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT

This section outlines the tools used to inform the public about the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan.

A project fact sheet with talking points about The Plan concept was developed for stakeholders and community members (See Appendix 01, page 108). Information presented on the fact sheet included: 1) the role and function of the Workgroup; 2) description of The Plan's purpose; 3) outline of the planning process; and 4) goals to achieve realization of The Plan.

A Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan project webpage was created for the project at wilkesoutdooractionplan.com. The project webpage consists of the project fact sheet, a link to an online community survey, and an embedded three-minute promotional video narrated by community leaders and featuring the County's outdoor recreation and tourism highlights. The project video explained the purpose and desired outcomes of the project and the planning process.

## FACT SHEET



### PLAN PURPOSE

*To create a community-led vision and 15-year roadmap to ensure strategic decision-making to grow the outdoor economy and encourage active living.*

*The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan is being led by the Outdoor Economy Workgroup, which includes representatives from the Health Foundation, Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, Wilkes Economic Development Corporation, Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority, Wilkes Health Department, Yadkin River Greenway Council and the County of Wilkes. The group is focusing on the planning and development of outdoor recreation infrastructure projects such as trails, greenways, destination-quality parks, attractive downtowns, and the creation of multi-use public spaces suitable for major events and festivals. These projects contribute significantly to the quality of life for local residents, help grow small businesses, and attract visitors.*

“ELEVATING QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ECONOMY THROUGH THE OUTDOORS”

### PLAN GOALS

**ASSETS.** Identify the County's existing outdoor recreation assets and evaluate their current condition and ability to provide for a quality experience.

**PARTNERS.** Engage government and community leaders to identify public capital infrastructure projects currently being planned and developed that will enhance quality of life.

**GAPS.** Identify new, compelling outdoor infrastructure projects to promote the outdoor economy.

**UNITY.** When possible, identify projects that support a variety of community goals, including improving quality of life to retain young adults and attract a skilled workforce, inspiring new small business growth and investment, improving and protecting environmental quality, and encouraging active lifestyles to support public health.

**VISUAL.** Create a plan that generates interest and casts an inspiring vision by creating compelling renderings, site master plans, 3-D illustrations, and other graphics to effectively communicate recommendations.

**STRATEGY.** Provide the Wilkes Outdoor Economy Workgroup and its partners with clear strategies and a prioritization schedule for implementing the 15-year action plan.

Stay informed and take the community survey at:  
[WWW.WILKESOUTDOORACTIONPLAN.COM](http://WWW.WILKESOUTDOORACTIONPLAN.COM)

### THE PLANNING PROCESS

**1) Research and Preliminary Analysis**  
The consultant team will conduct a direction-setting meeting with the Wilkes Outdoor Economy Workgroup to discuss key opportunities and constraints, develop a database of all existing outdoor recreation assets, and conduct an extensive field analysis to assess the County's assets.

**2) Stakeholder and Public Engagement**  
Conduct a series of interviews and focus groups meetings with civic leaders, public health representatives, and outdoor-related businesses. Disseminate an online survey to be advertised on social media that encourages citizens to share their ideas and help establish the overall project direction.

**3) Plan Development**  
With guidance from the steering committee, stakeholders, and citizens, the consultant team will create a plan framework that features preliminary recommendations for improving and expanding the County's outdoor recreation-related assets. The consultant team will then conduct another round of public engagement.

**4) Final Plan Development**  
The final 15-year outdoor action plan will feature all recommendations, a phasing schedule, an estimate of probable cost, and an outline of grant funding sources. Copies of the plan will be available for the public to view on municipal and county websites.

**CONTACT**

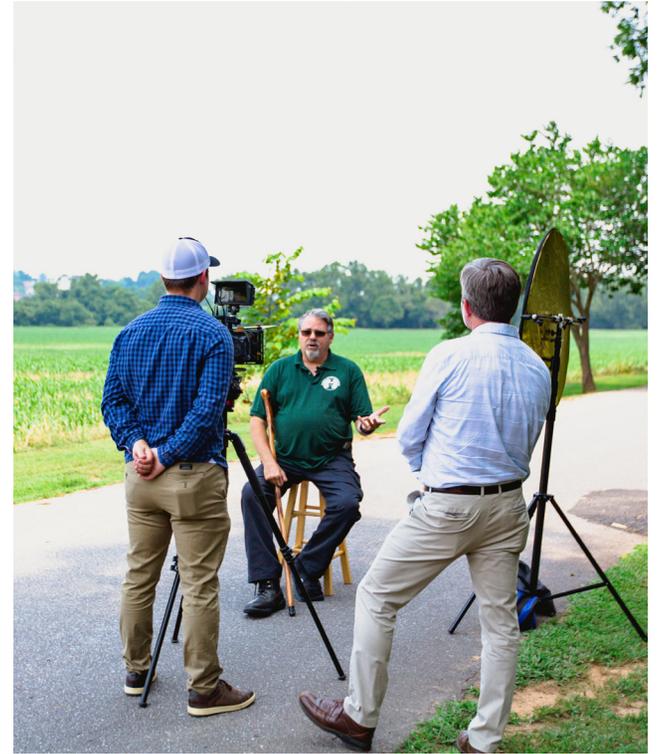
<p><b>Jenn Wages, MSW</b> Program Director The Health Foundation 338-838-1948 <a href="mailto:jenn@healthylwilkes.org">jenn@healthylwilkes.org</a></p>	<p><b>Eric Woolridge, AICP</b> President Destination by Design Planning 828-718-1009 <a href="mailto:eric@dbdplanning.com">eric@dbdplanning.com</a></p>
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50 — PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EMERGING THEMES

WILKES OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN



The consultant team conducted interviews, meetings, and public input sessions to gather ideas and propose recommendations for the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan.



**CAROLINE WHITSON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILKES YMCA



## 3.2 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

This section introduces the government and quasi-government agencies, and community, business, and non-profit organizations that provided input into The Plan.

Workgroup member organizations have the common goal of harnessing the County's outdoor recreation assets to help realize community health and economic goals while defining Wilkes County as a premier destination for outdoor adventure. The roles and responsibilities of members of the Workgroup include fulfilling individual project responsibilities and collaborating with the other organizations on joint projects.

The consultant team engaged additional stakeholders through a series of interviews that resulted in a broad list of community needs, desires, opportunities, and constraints. Together with the Workgroup, these stakeholders established the foundation for the cooperative vision and recommendations found within The Plan.

### GOVERNMENT/QUASI-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
WILKESBORO  
NORTH WILKESBORO  
WILKES COUNTY  
WILKES COUNTY SCHOOLS  
WILKES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
WILKES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
WILKES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
WILKES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NC AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION  
NC DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
NC FOREST SERVICE

### COMMUNITY/BUSINESSES/NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

YADKIN VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR  
PARTNERS  
YADKIN RIVER GREENWAY COUNCIL  
YMCA  
ELKIN VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION  
NWNC MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE/  
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN CYCLISTS  
MINISTERIOS EMMANUEL

LINCOLN HEIGHTS  
THANKFUL BAPTIST CHURCH  
WILKES COUNTY DISC GOLF CLUB  
HIVE FITNESS  
STARDUST CELLARS  
GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY  
ADVOCATES  
SAMARITAN'S PURSE

## IN THEIR WORDS ...

The consultant team reached out to community stakeholders and the public to discuss priorities, underutilized assets, and the biggest challenges to recreation and active living. These answers provided insight and input on goals and recommendations.

*“The top outdoor priorities now are probably the Yadkin and Reddies River. They are not as accessible, or safe, as they should be for visitors. The waterways are underutilized and need to be marketed and promoted more.”*

*“Extremely important. The assets are there, but some need an upgrade. Leaders need to invest in maintaining the resources. Wilkes is unique and has a lot to offer that other locations do not. If you want heads in beds, invest in Outdoor Recreation.”*

*“The community needs to coalesce around projects and be more progressive thinking. There needs to be political will to make substantial investments.”*

*“Outdoor recreation, dining, shopping, events and so forth benefit residents and benefit tourism. Many of us who have retired to Wilkes County or own vacation homes in the county want the access to dining, shopping, events and outdoor activities nearby rather than traveling to other counties.”*

*“We should be focusing on connecting the existing bicycle/pedestrian facilities to expand the network and make connections to homes. This will build a sustainable system for residents and businesses that will ultimately attract tourists and people looking to relocate to a good community.”*

*“Need more outdoor venues/event space/public space. Need to identify opportunities for affordable housing that pulls people into the downtown areas.”*



## 3.3 COMMUNITY SURVEY

This section summarizes the results of the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan Community Survey.

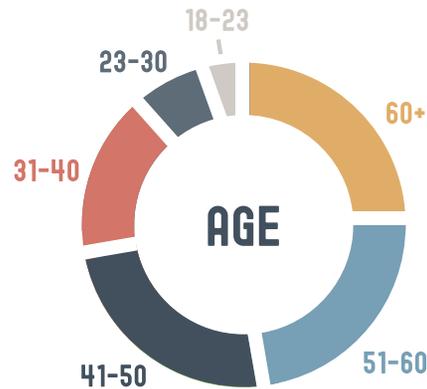
The Workgroup conducted the survey to gather input on which outdoor recreation assets residents feel are most important and how future projects should be prioritized.

The survey received 510 total responses.

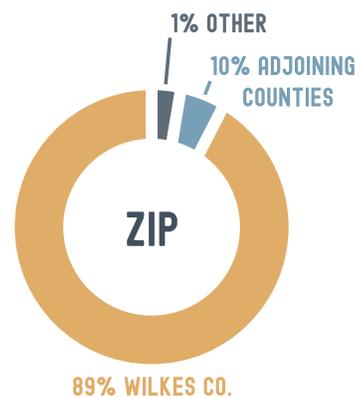
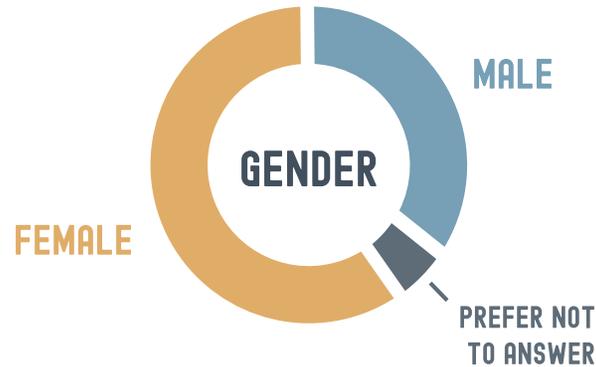
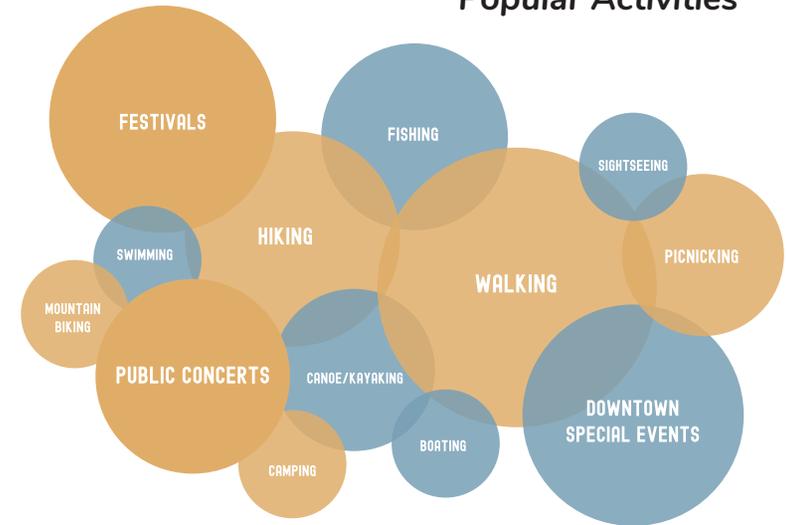
# 510

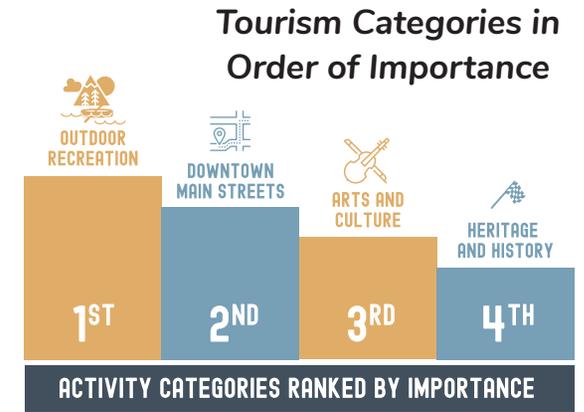
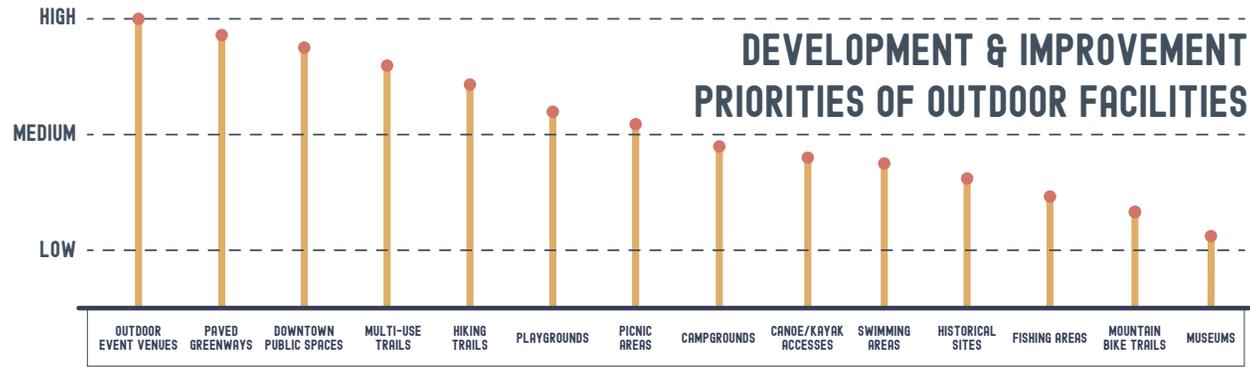
## Total Responses

### Respondent Demographics

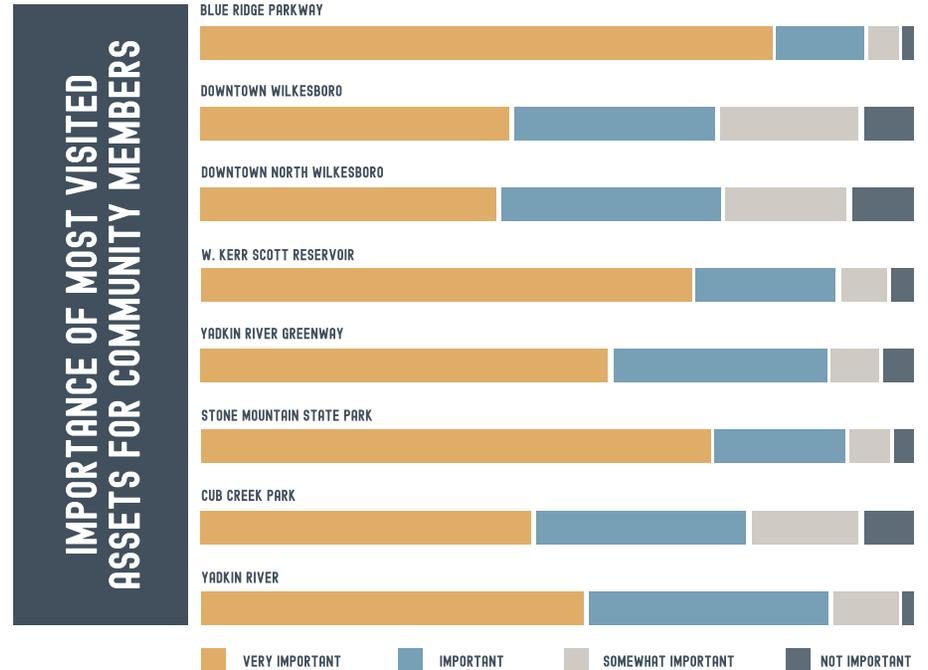
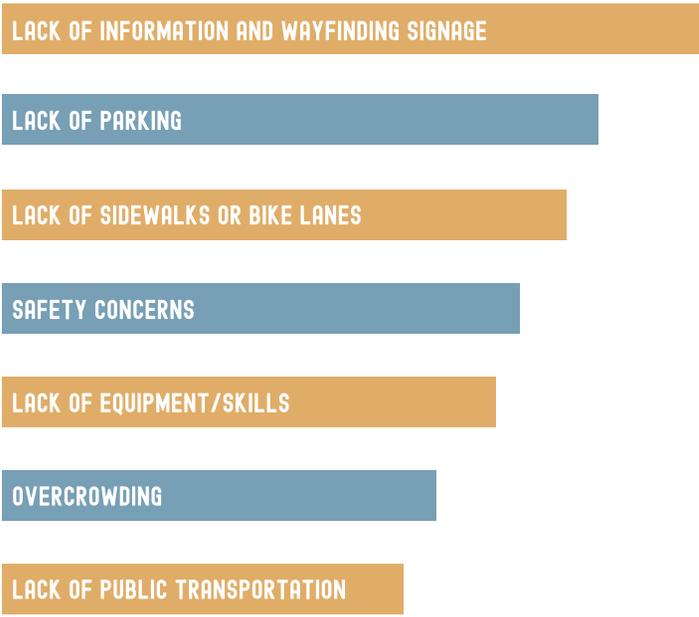


### Popular Activities





## CHALLENGES TO ACCESSING EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSETS



## 3.4 EMERGING THEMES

The research and analysis phase of the planning process revealed emerging themes that provide the framework and rationale for the recommendations in the next chapter.

These principles will help to effectively steward funding dollars to enhance quality of life, promote active living, and spur economic growth.

The five emerging themes include:

- 1) Connectivity
- 2) Accessibility, Safety, and Destination-Quality
- 3) Awareness
- 4) Housing
- 5) Culture and Nature



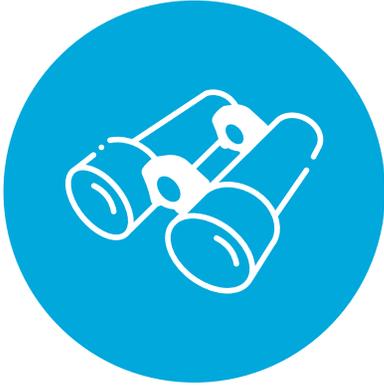
### 1. CONNECTIVITY

Invest in capital infrastructure that increases access and connectivity between residential neighborhoods, community assets, downtowns, and the Yadkin River to strengthen the connections between neighborhoods, the towns, and the river.



### 2. ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY, AND DESTINATION-QUALITY

Promote equitable and safe access for residents and tourists of all ages, abilities, and socioeconomic status to destination-quality assets that enhance quality of life and encourage tourism.



### **3. AWARENESS**

Increase public awareness and knowledge of opportunities to visit and experience local community assets, regional outdoor recreation assets, and an extensive variety of natural resources.



### **4. HOUSING**

Encourage the development of a variety of housing types at a range of price points that meet the needs of households and residents of all incomes and ages and incorporate active living opportunities with green space, public parks, and trails.



### **5. CULTURE AND NATURE**

Promote cultural and nature-based activities to residents and visitors to take advantage of the expansive inventory of assets found in the County.





# 4

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter serves as the heart of the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan and is organized according to five Focus Areas as identified through the planning process: 1) Wayfinding and Signage, 2) State/National Trails, 3) State/Federal Lands, 4) Municipal Lands, and 5) "The Boros". Each Focus Area includes specific Projects and Action Steps.

- A. WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE**
- B. STATE/NATIONAL TRAILS**
- C. STATE/FEDERAL LANDS**
- D. MUNICIPAL LANDS**
- E. BOROS**



## A. WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE

The wayfinding and signage focus area priorities include increasing public awareness and unifying branding and information for the variety of assets found within Wilkes County.

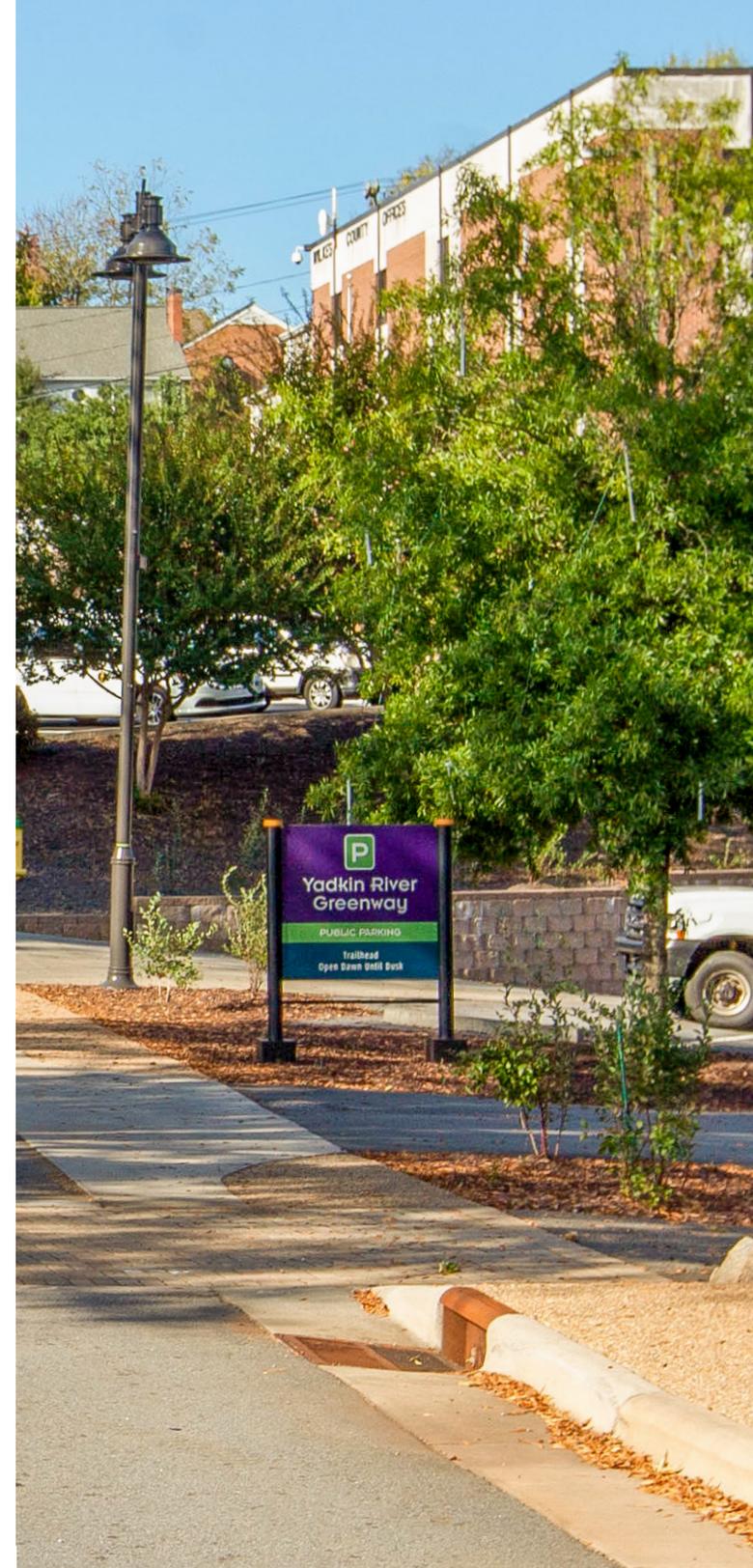
### Wayfinding and signage development goals include:

- 1) Increasing public awareness and providing efficient wayfinding for the assets located within Wilkes County and the Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro.
- 2) Unifying local and regional assets to encourage residents and visitors to visually and mentally connect these assets and promote existing and planned active living infrastructure as it is developed.

The wayfinding and signage focus area includes two distinct projects.

### A1) VEHICULAR WAYFINDING

### A2) TRAILS, GREENWAYS, AND PADDLE TRAIL SIGNAGE



## PROJECT A1: VEHICULAR WAYFINDING

As part of the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Partnership, a tourism and economic development collaboration among four counties in northwestern North Carolina, Wilkes County participated in the development of an extensive wayfinding program for the region. Components of the program include new gateway and wayfinding vehicular signage at multiple locations, information kiosks, and municipal banners. "Entering the Yadkin Valley" gateway signs are located along US Highway 421 at the Wilkes-Watauga and Wilkes-Yadkin County lines. Smaller wayfinding signs that direct motorists to cultural, recreational, agribusiness, and heritage sites of interest have also been placed along roads, and information kiosks are located at some facilities within the County and municipalities.

The new brand created during the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan planning process should be incorporated into current efforts to create and implement gateway signage that is specific to the County and its municipalities.

### ACTION ITEMS

**A1.1** - Continue to implement the regional wayfinding program outlined in the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Plan (2013) in collaboration with NCDOT.

**A1.2** - Design and implement County and municipal gateway signage with the new Great State of Wilkes brand.

## YADKIN VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP

EXH 17

The Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Partnership brought stakeholders in Wilkes, Yadkin, Caldwell, and Alleghany Counties together to collaborate on an extensive wayfinding and branding program for the Valley, which spans a 129-mile corridor. The effort included extensive gateway and wayfinding signage, website, smart phone applications, and printed brochures.



## PROJECT A2: TRAILS, GREENWAYS, AND PADDLE TRAIL SIGNAGE

A variety of signage is utilized for existing natural and recreational assets throughout the County.

A unified signage package will allow residents and visitors to visually and mentally connect the natural and recreational assets found within Wilkes County and encourage visitors to seek out additional opportunities when they visit.

### ACTION ITEMS

**A2.1** - Design and implement a “unified” signage package for recreation areas, trail systems, and other community assets.



Stand-up paddleboarders enjoying W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.



# GREAT STATE OF WILKES

A separate branding effort was conducted while the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan planning process was underway. A new brand strategy was developed to repurpose the historical Great State of Wilkes name and reorient it for today by building upon storylines around adventure, the outdoors, and mountain heritage. The new Great State of Wilkes logo and visual identity should be incorporated into future County marketing efforts including gateway and directional signage.



## B. STATE AND NATIONAL TRAILS

The state and national trails focus area priorities include developing the Yadkin River State Trail, Mountains-to-Sea State Trail, and Overmountain Victory National Historic and State Trail and associated outdoor recreation infrastructure.

### State and national trails development goals include:

- 1) Implementation of trail alignments found in existing regional trail plans specific to state and national trails.
- 2) Creating infrastructure that supports recreational opportunities and state and nationally recognized trail assets throughout the County.
- 3) Providing connectivity within the river district and to outlying communities in the County.

The state and national trails focus area includes three distinct projects.

### B1) YADKIN RIVER STATE TRAIL

### B2) MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA STATE TRAIL

### B3) OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC AND STATE TRAIL

A community park is proposed at the existing Roaring River Boat Access to provide formal paddle access that will accommodate commercial river use, walking loop, playground, picnic shelter, and bathroom. The park will also serve trail users on the Overmountain Victory National Historic and Yadkin River State Trails.





**LEGEND**

← → OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC & STATE TRAIL

--- FLOODWAY

--- FLOODPLAIN

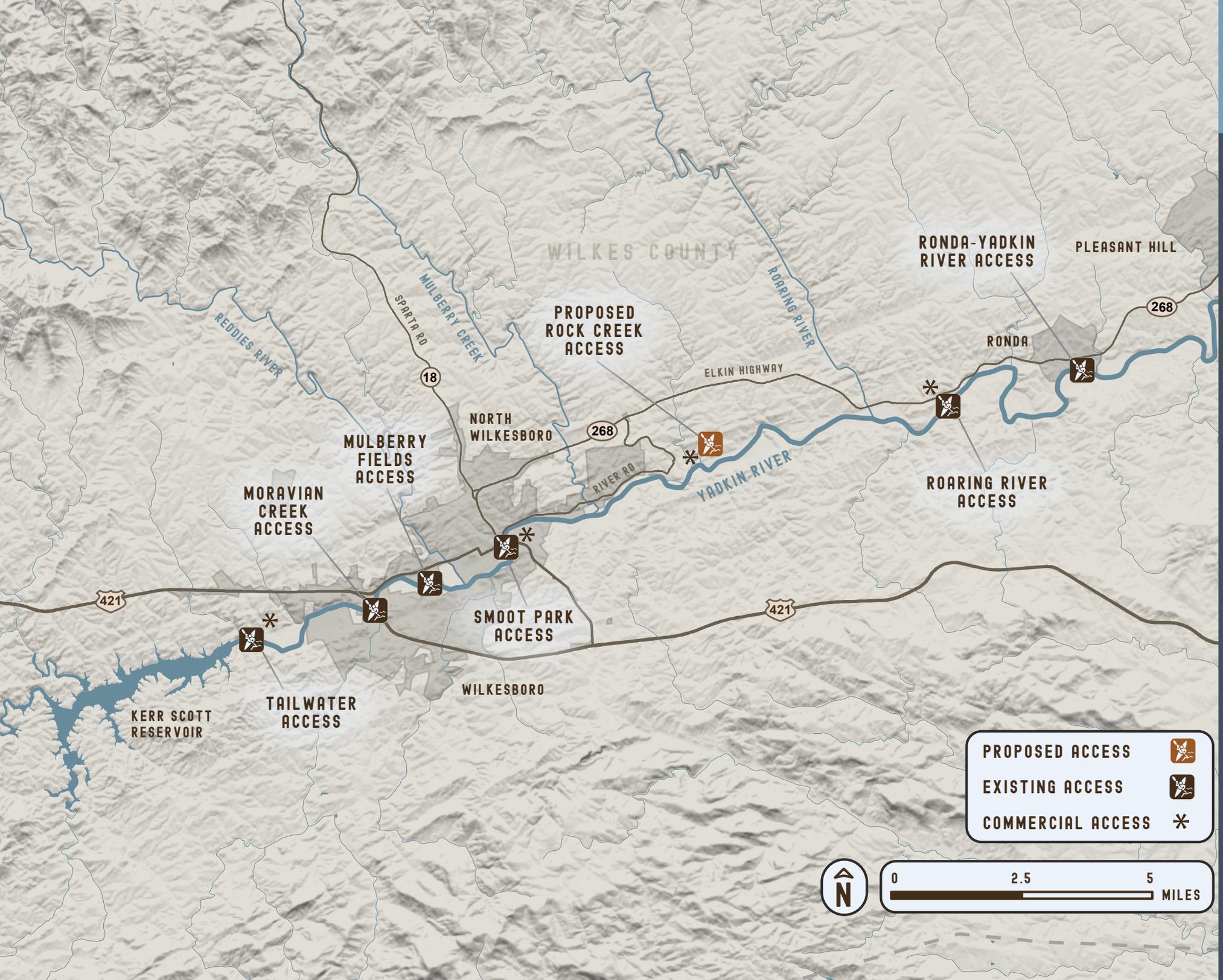
## PROJECT B1: YADKIN RIVER STATE TRAIL

The Yadkin River State Trail extends for 130 miles through Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Forsyth, Davie, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, and Montgomery Counties. Approximately 25 miles of the paddle trail are located within Wilkes County.

A seven access paddle trail system will create one of the most accessible, safe, and compelling paddle trails in North Carolina. Four commercial standard accesses will offer the opportunity for local businesses to lead trips for all ages and abilities along the length of the river. Self-supported accesses within Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro will allow paddlers and tubers to enjoy shorter trips on their own (See Map 04, page right).

### ACTION ITEMS

- B1.1** - Improve two existing accesses located at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir dam and Smoot Park to accommodate commercial use by expanding existing drop-off and parking areas to allow for trailers.
- B1.2** - Improve the existing Roaring River access by developing a community park with paved access road and parking, formal paddle access that will accommodate commercial use, and additional park amenities to include a walking loop, playground, and picnic shelters (see Exhibit 19, page 65).
- B1.3** - Explore land acquisition and access development opportunities along River Road to create a new access area between Smoot Park and the Roaring River access that will accommodate commercial use.
- B1.4** - Improve three existing accesses located at Moravian Creek, Mulberry Fields, and Ronda Memorial Park with signage, minor access improvements, and maintenance.
- B1.5** - Explore additional self-supported access opportunities along the Yadkin River Greenway within the River District to provide opportunities for shorter paddle and tubing trips.
- B1.6** - Develop a custom brand and signage package for the Yadkin River Paddle Trail.
- B1.7** - Continue maintenance and debris clearing of the paddle trail corridor through interlocal agreements.



PROPOSED ACCESS	
EXISTING ACCESS	
COMMERCIAL ACCESS	



## PROJECT B2: MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA STATE TRAIL

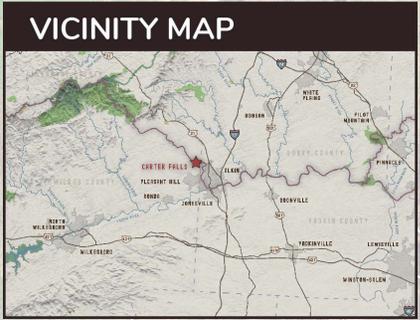
The Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) runs east and west along and within the northern boundary of Wilkes County. The existing trail enters the County from the west near Tomkins Knob Overlook and roughly parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway for 45 miles until it turns southeast near the Air Bellows Overlook and enters Stone Mountain State Park. After leaving the park, it continues 13.5 miles through rural northeastern Wilkes County on its way to Elkin in neighboring Surry County. Approximately 2.5 miles of the trail from Stone Mountain State Park to the Surry County boundary is constructed and 11 miles are planned.

### ACTION ITEMS

**B2.1** - Implement the Mountains to Sea State Trail: Stone Mtn. to Pilot Mtn. Subsection Master Plan.

**B2.2** - Implement the Carter Falls site master plan featuring trailhead improvements (see Exhibit 20, page 69).





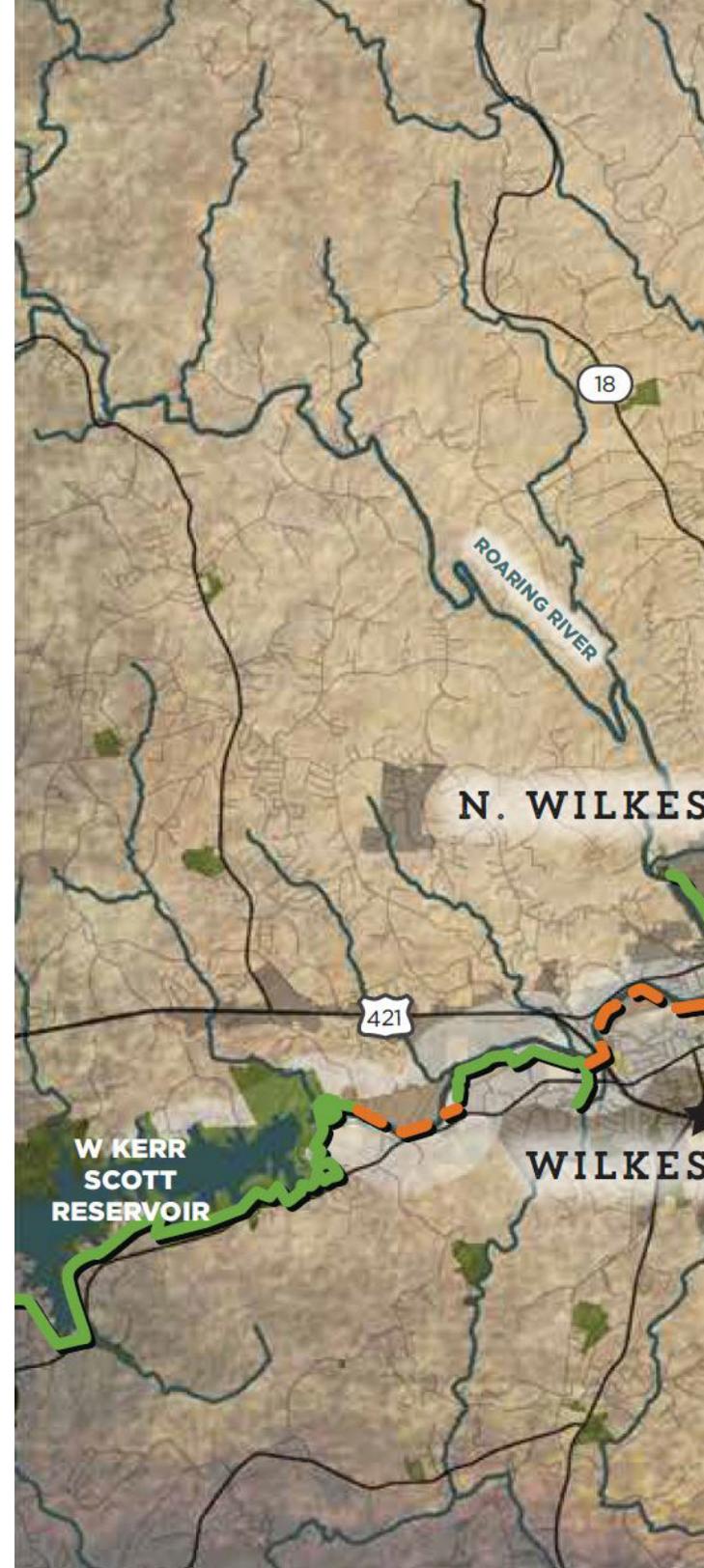
The Carter Falls Trailhead master plan was produced for the Elkin Valley Trails Association in 2021. This design includes a bevy of new enhancements to the trail itself (benches, overlooks, stream crossings, etc.) and new trailhead features such as signage, an information kiosk, picnic shelter, and restrooms. In the interest of public safety, upgrades are proposed for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail crosswalk at Pleasant Ridge Road.

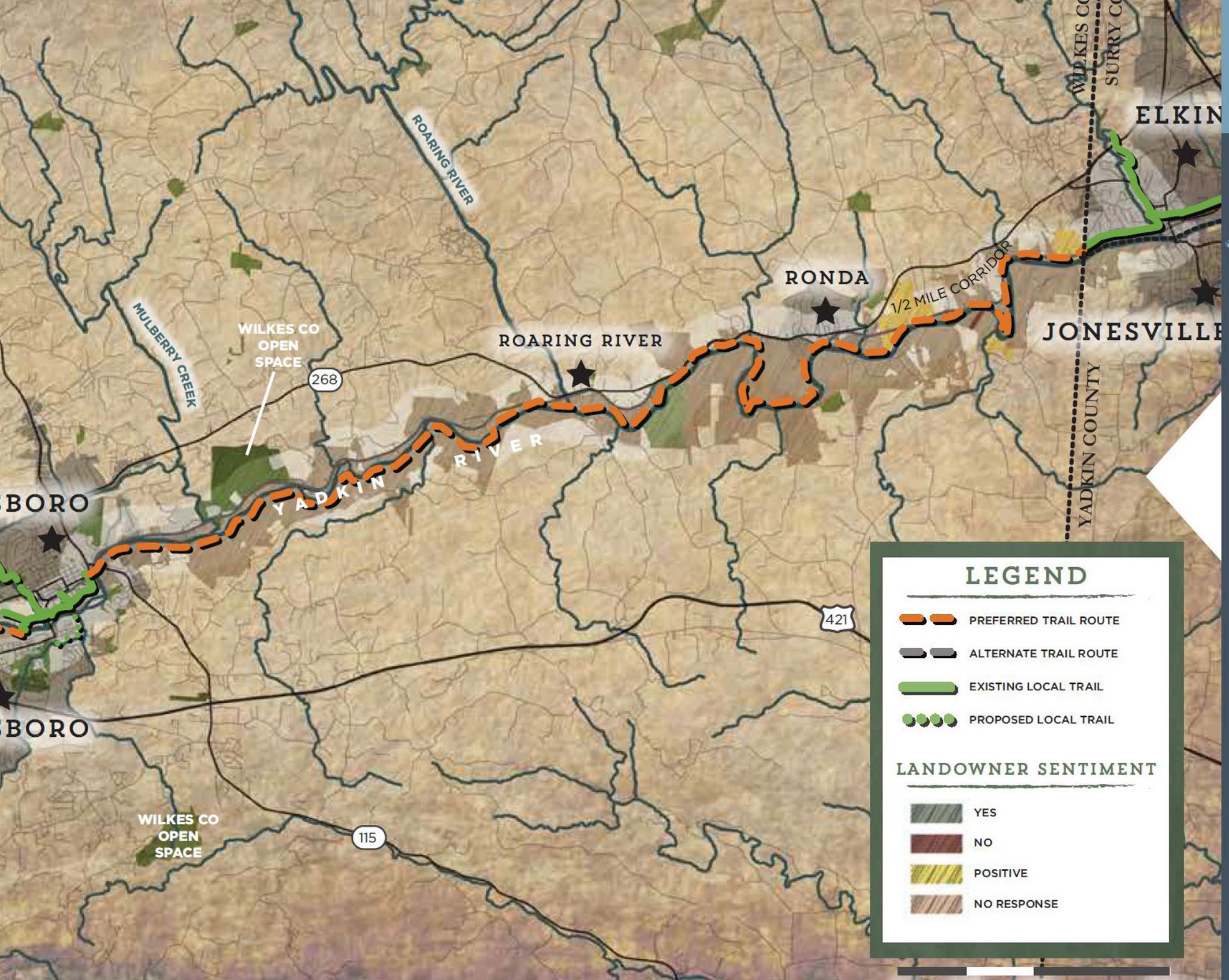
## PROJECT B3: OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC AND STATE TRAIL

The Overmountain Victory National Historic and State Trail (OVNHT) runs east and west through the central portion of the County following the Yadkin River. The trail follows existing sections of the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir trail system and the Yadkin River Greenway for approximately 14 miles. An additional 24 miles is planned with a majority of that in the eastern half of the County.

### ACTION ITEMS

**B3.1** - Implement the OVNHT: Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Master Plan (See Map 05, page right).





## C. STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

Focus area priorities of state and federal lands include increasing outdoor recreation infrastructure on existing public lands and developing relationships and coordinating partnerships with land managers and local non-profits.

### State and federal lands development goals include:

- 1) Developing additional outdoor recreation infrastructure to promote the use of existing state and federally managed lands.
- 2) Promote community partnerships between land managers, local governments, and non-profits to assist with infrastructure development and maintenance.

The state and federal lands focus area includes two distinct projects.

### C1) RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST

### C2) W. KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR AND DAM

#### PROJECT C1: RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST

Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest is located in western Wilkes County northwest of the Towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. The State of NC transferred management of this 3,316-acre property to the NC Division of Parks and Recreation and NC Wildlife Resources Commission in the spring of 2022. The Forest currently has six miles of hiking trails with educational signage, a large picnic shelter, picnic tables with grills, restrooms, an amphitheater, and a group campsite.

The topography of this public land will allow additional trail development that fills a gap not currently served by existing trails in Wilkes County. A downhill mountain bike trail will provide a more advanced experience for riders already coming to the County for beginner and intermediate-level mountain bike experiences.

#### ACTION ITEMS

**C1.1** - Partner with NC State Parks and Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance to explore the development of downhill mountain biking trails.



Northwest NC MTB Alliance is a chapter of Southern Offroad Bicycling Association (SORBA) that promotes land access, trail preservation, and new trail development on federal, state, and local lands in the region. They operate in the geographic area of Northwest NC's mountains and foothills, including the communities of Boone, Hickory, Lenoir, Marion, Morganton, and Wilkesboro. As a subordinate chapter of SORBA, the Alliance is a non-profit organization.



## PROJECT C2: W. KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR AND DAM

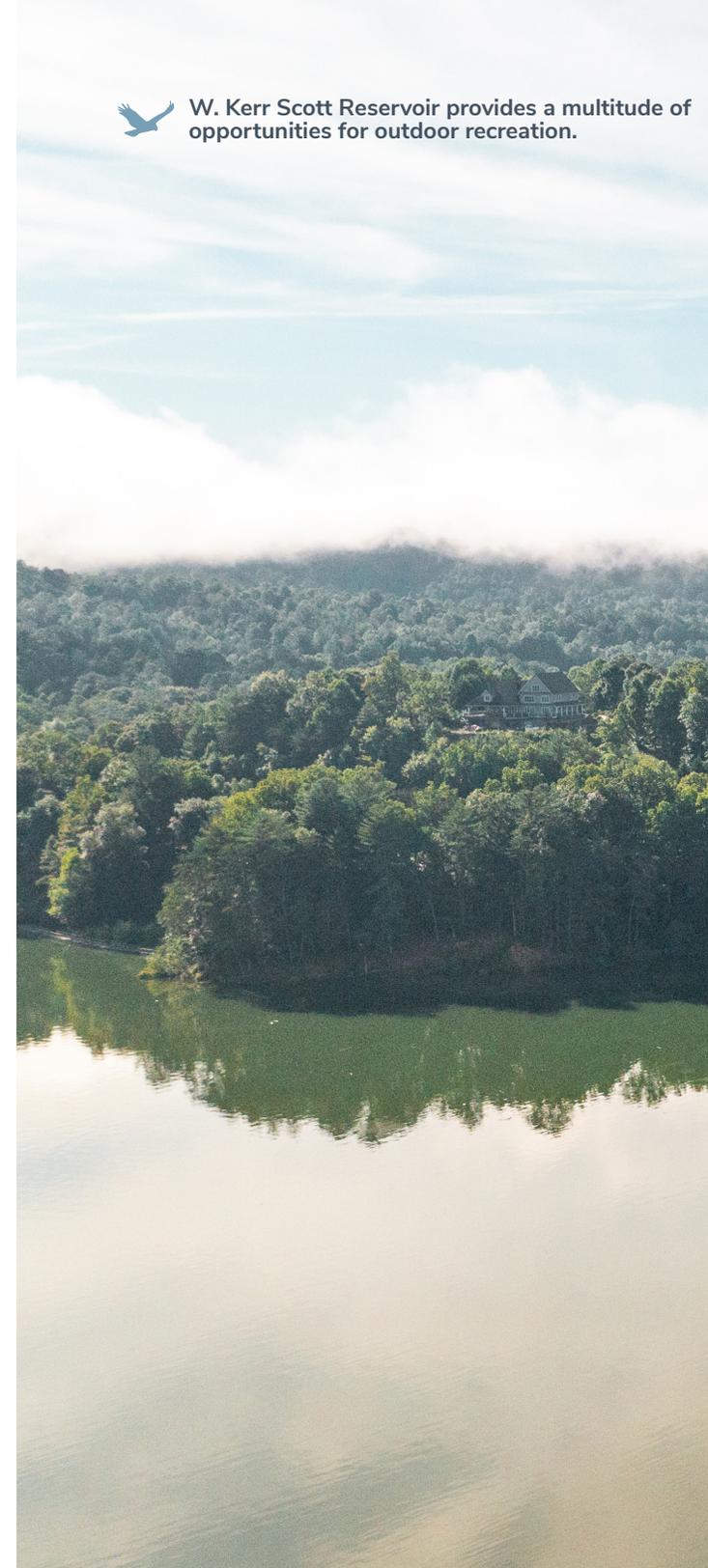
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir is located in central Wilkes County southwest of the Town of Wilkesboro with immediate access to the south side of the lake from NC 268. The 1,475-acre reservoir is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and features recreation and wildlife management areas on the northeast and southern borders of the lake. Camping, boating, hunting, fishing, and over 40+ miles of hiking and mountain biking trails are popular attractions at the reservoir.

### ACTION ITEMS

- C2.1** - *Work with land managers to plan for additional parking and accesses to support paddlesports.*
- C2.2** - *Work with local trail partners to maintain and improve the existing trail system.*
- C2.3** - *Develop trailhead kiosks with trail information and High-quality mapping.*



W. Kerr Scott Reservoir provides a multitude of opportunities for outdoor recreation.





## D. MUNICIPAL LANDS

The municipal lands focus area priorities include development of large, underutilized parcels of land that were originally acquired and managed for other uses. A variety of options exist for these parcels depending on the recreational opportunities and level of management the municipalities want to provide.

### Municipal lands development goals include:

- 1) Developing active living and outdoor recreation opportunities that don't currently exist in Wilkes County.
- 2) Creating opportunities for private and public partnerships to enable management of more active recreation opportunities.

The municipal lands focus area includes two distinct projects.

### D1) WILKESBORO WATERSHED

### D2) NORTH WILKESBORO INDUSTRIAL PARK

## PROJECT D1: WILKESBORO WATERSHED

The Wilkesboro Watershed is located in central Wilkes County, southeast of the Town of Wilkesboro with access from Brushy Mountain Road. The approximately 300-acre parcel is owned by Wilkesboro and has moderate topography. A firing range and small reservoir are located on the property. A significant portion of the parcel is undisturbed and was formerly used as a water supply watershed.

The Town of Wilkesboro can create a family-friendly wilderness experience with beginner and family-friendly mountain biking, hiking, and non-motorized watercraft opportunities. A more active management approach could include entering into a public-private partnership and offering glamping or short-term lodging; summer camp, retreat, and special event facilities; and zip lines.

### ACTION ITEMS

**D1.1** - Develop a comprehensive master plan for the property that addresses passive and active management facilities, opportunities, and strategies.

**D1.2** - Explore public-private partnership opportunities to implement master plan recommendations.



## PROJECT D2: NORTH WILKESBORO INDUSTRIAL PARK

The North Wilkesboro Industrial Park site is located in central Wilkes County, east of the Town of North Wilkesboro with access from River Road. The approximately 380-acre parcel is owned by the Town of North Wilkesboro and adjoins approximately 120 acres of state-owned land. The property has rolling topography with a number of drainages and small streams. An existing gravel access road bisects the property, but it is not connected due to a large drainage that will require a significant bridge.

The Town of North Wilkesboro can offer active recreational opportunities that require limited management like archery, shooting sports, and trails to serve equestrians, beginner mountain biking, and/or all-terrain vehicles. More intensive management would allow the Town to offer opportunities with glamping or short-term lodging; campground, summer camp, retreat, and special event facilities; zip lines; paintball; and spartan/obstacle courses.



### ACTION ITEMS

**D2.1** - *Develop a comprehensive master plan for the property that addresses passive and active management facilities, opportunities, and strategies.*

**D2.2** - *Explore public-private partnership opportunities to implement master plan recommendations.*

## E. THE BOROS

The Boros focus area is defined by the town limits of both Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro and the Yadkin River that flows and often serves as a common boundary between them. The Towns can take advantage of this shared natural asset to unify the community, strengthen partnerships, and create a “river district” that connects the towns to the river and the river to the towns. The River District will incorporate portions of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro that offer opportunities for greenway and trail connections, parks, and residential/commercial property redevelopment. The Boros focus area priorities address connectivity, housing, green infrastructure, and redevelopment.

### The Boros infrastructure development goals include:

- 1) Reducing barriers by increasing connectivity between neighborhoods, commerce, and community and natural assets with sidewalks, greenways, and trails.
- 2) Developing relationships and coordinating partnerships between local governments, developers, and non-profits to develop housing and commercial development opportunities.
- 3) Creating a place for all that will unite the Towns of North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro and place a focus on utilizing the Reddies and Yadkin Rivers for active living and recreation.

The Boros focus area includes two distinct projects.

### E1) GREENWAY AND TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

### E2) RIVER DISTRICT





The Boros focus area presents opportunities for green infrastructure, housing, and mixed-use development.



## PROJECT E1: GREENWAY AND TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

Greenway and trail connectivity within the Boros will take advantage of previous successes of the Yadkin River Greenway to provide a pedestrian and bicycling greenway and trail network that connects neighborhoods, commerce, and natural assets within the Boros. This project outlines 11 trail segments to improve connectivity within the Boros. (See Map 06, Page Right).

### E1.1 Hoopers Branch to Euclid

*Approximate Distance: 1.7 miles*

Trail 1.1 extends from the northern end of the existing Yadkin River Greenway - Jefferson Turnpike east along Hoopers Branch to the north end of Euclid Avenue near Mast Park. This route provides connectivity between the Yadkin River Greenway along the Reddies River and public housing located at Skyview Village.

### E1.2 Euclid to Smoot Park

*Approximate Distance: 0.9 miles*

Trail 1.2 extends from Euclid Avenue near Mast Street Park south to Smoot Park. This will provide connectivity and access from public housing located at Skyview Village to the existing Yadkin River Greenway at Smoot Park.

### E1.3 Rolling Pines to Highland Hills

*Approximate Distance: 0.3 miles*

Trail 1.3 connects Rolling Pines Park in Wilkesboro to Highland Hills Park in North Wilkesboro along the Yadkin River. A natural surface path would provide a low impact and low maintenance connection for these two passive parks.

### E1.4 Cub Creek to Rolling Pines

*Approximate Distance: 0.8 miles*

Trail 1.4 extends the existing Cub Creek Greenway to Rolling Pines Park.

### E1.5 Cub Creek to Little Cub Creek Connector

*Approximate Distance: 1.8 miles*

Trail 1.5 extends from the planned Trail 1.4 along Little Cub Creek south and west to the Wilkes County Courthouse and southern end of the Cub Creek Park mountain bike trail system.

### E1.6 Cub Creek to Wilkes Community College

*Approximate Distance: 3.4 miles*

Trail 1.6 extends from Cub Creek Park underneath US 421 to Woodfield Oaks Apartments, Westwood Park, Wilkesboro Elementary School, with a spur connector to the Moravian Creek Greenway and Wilkes Community College.

### E1.7 Cub Creek to US 421 Commercial Corridor

*Approximate Distance: 4.2 miles*

Trail 1.7 is an urban connector that connects downtown Wilkesboro to the US 421 Business corridor via Woodland Boulevard and Curtis Bridge Road.

### E1.8 W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Connector

*Approximate Distance: 1.5 miles*

Trail 1.8 extends from the existing Yadkin River Greenway behind the Wilkes Family YMCA to the Tailwater Access below the dam at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. A gravel trail would represent a transition from the paved trails within the Town of Wilkesboro to the less developed W. Kerr Scott Reservoir trail system.

### E1.9 Millers Creek Greenway

*Approximate Distance: 1.5 miles*

Trail 1.9 extends from the existing Yadkin River Greenway behind the Wilkes Family YMCA to US 421 along Millers Creek. The west fork of this trail section follows the riparian corridor and the east fork connects to the US 421 commercial corridor

### E1.10 Moravian Creek to Millers Creek

*Approximate Distance: 1.6 miles*

Trail 1.10 extends along the north side of the Yadkin River between the planned Millers Creek Greenway to the US 421 bridge over the Yadkin River. A natural surface path would provide a more primitive experience opposite of the asphalt Yadkin River Greenway at Rivers Edge.

### E1.11 Moravian Creek to Mulberry Fields

*Approximate Distance: 1.6 miles*

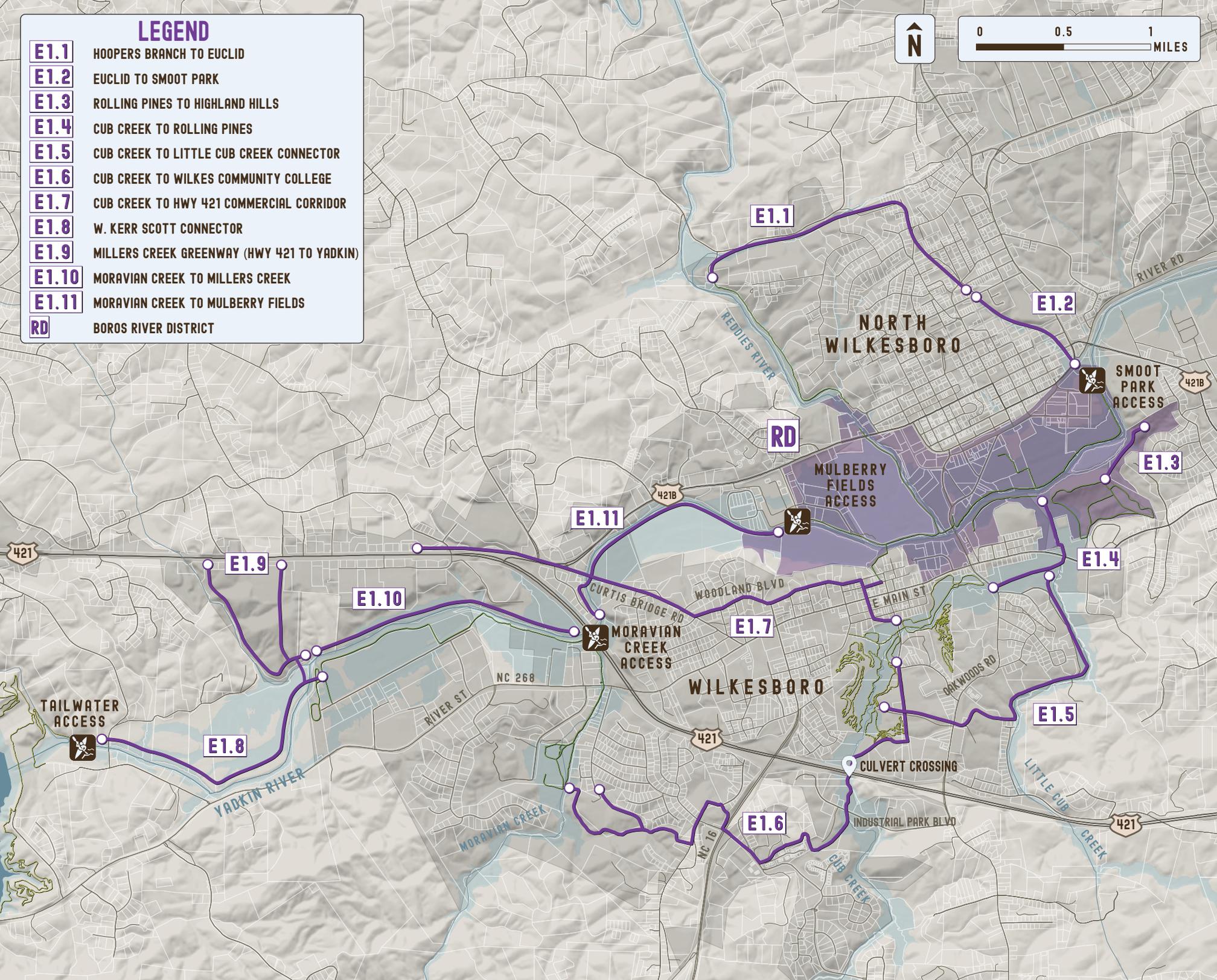
Trail 1.11 extends from the existing Moravian Creek Access along the south side of the Yadkin River to the existing Mulberry Fields Access and downtown Wilkesboro Connector.

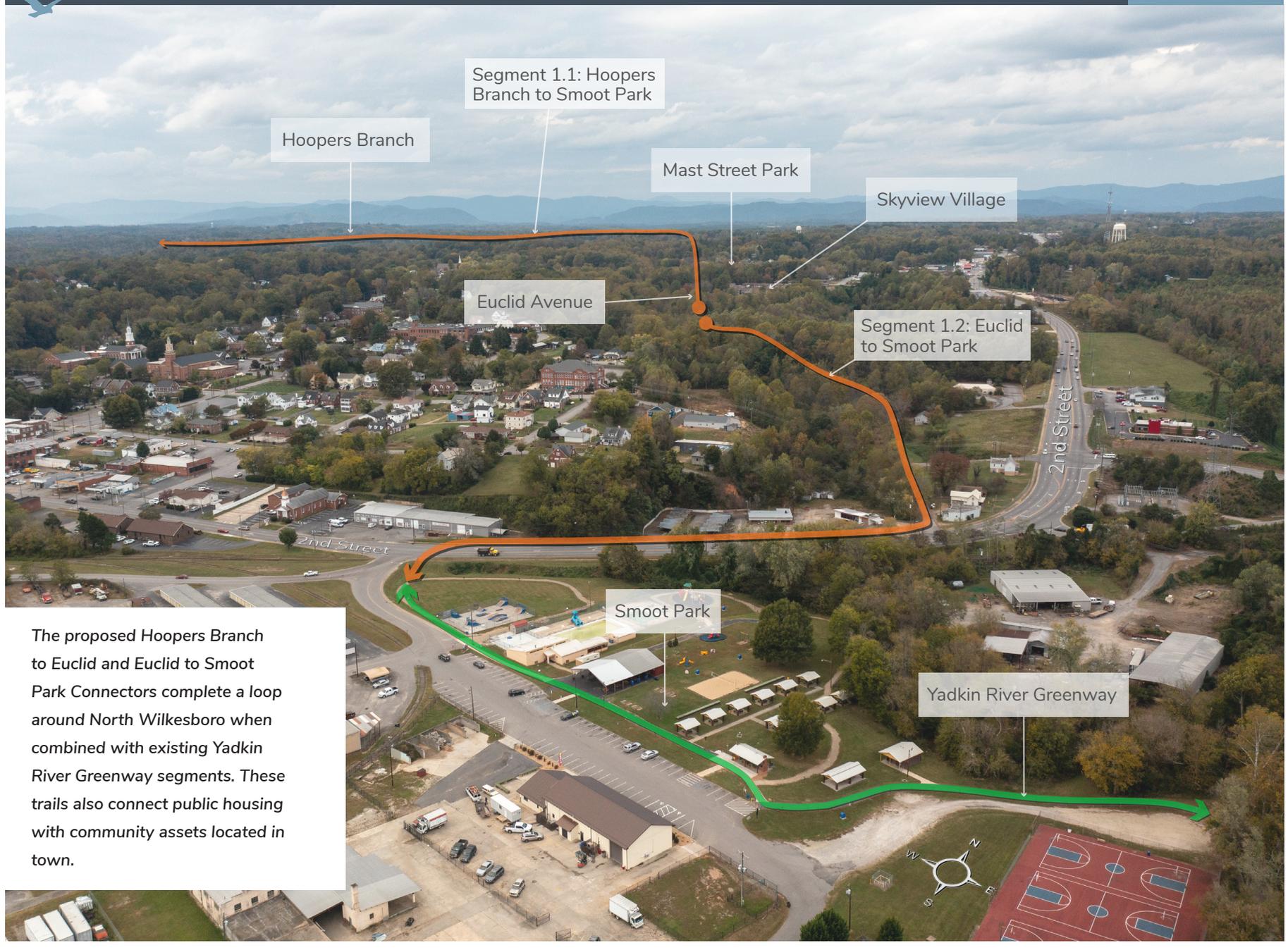
## ACTION ITEMS

**E.1 - Seek trail easements, develop construction documents, secure permitting, and locate funding sources to implement connections.**

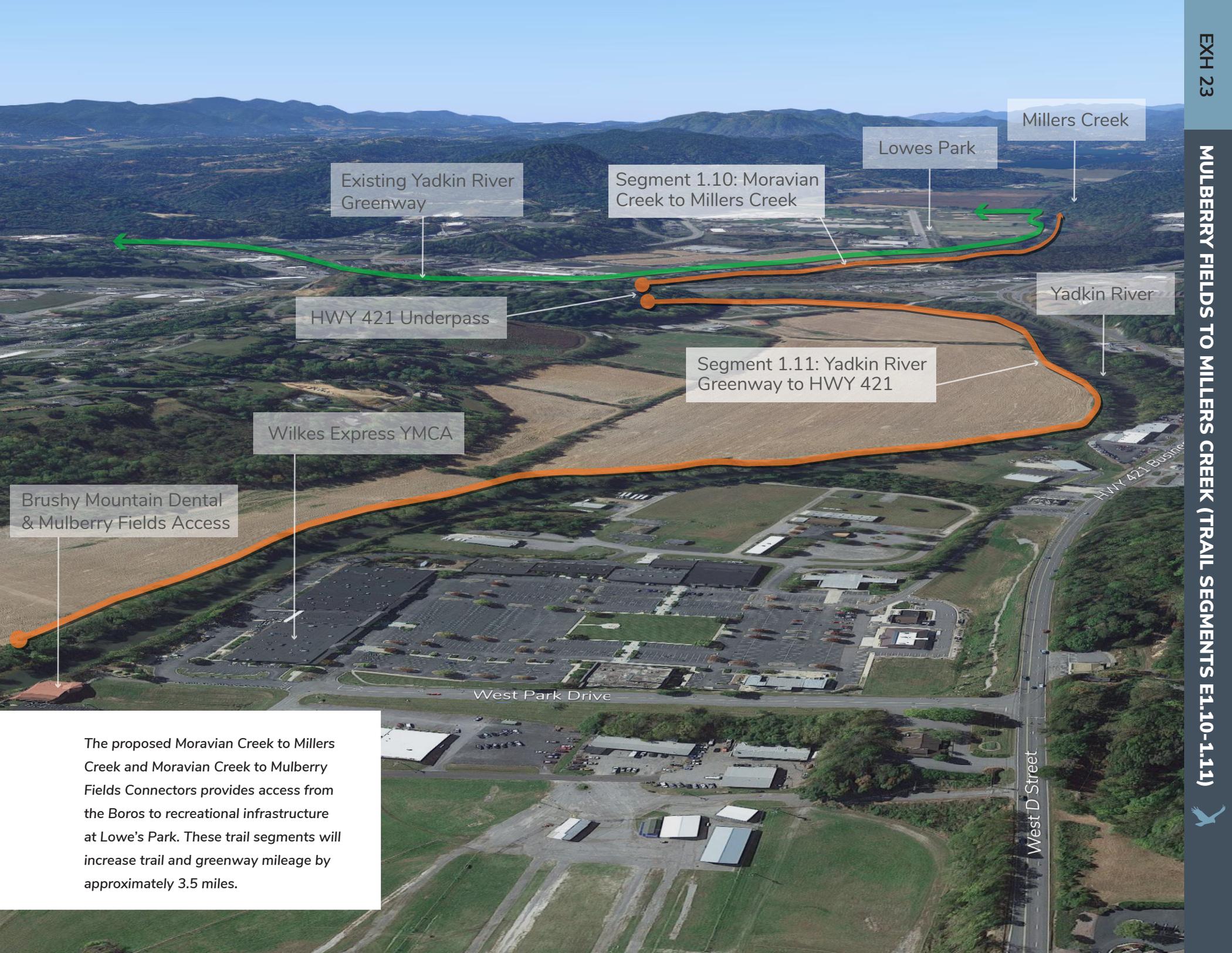
# LEGEND

- E1.1** HOOPERS BRANCH TO EUCLID
- E1.2** EUCLID TO SMOOT PARK
- E1.3** ROLLING PINES TO HIGHLAND HILLS
- E1.4** CUB CREEK TO ROLLING PINES
- E1.5** CUB CREEK TO LITTLE CUB CREEK CONNECTOR
- E1.6** CUB CREEK TO WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- E1.7** CUB CREEK TO HWY 421 COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR
- E1.8** W. KERR SCOTT CONNECTOR
- E1.9** MILLERS CREEK GREENWAY (HWY 421 TO YADKIN)
- E1.10** MORAVIAN CREEK TO MILLERS CREEK
- E1.11** MORAVIAN CREEK TO MULBERRY FIELDS
- RD** BOROS RIVER DISTRICT





The proposed Hoopers Branch to Euclid and Euclid to Smoot Park Connectors complete a loop around North Wilkesboro when combined with existing Yadkin River Greenway segments. These trails also connect public housing with community assets located in town.



Existing Yadkin River Greenway

Segment 1.10: Moravian Creek to Millers Creek

Lowes Park

Millers Creek

Yadkin River

HWY 421 Underpass

Segment 1.11: Yadkin River Greenway to HWY 421

Wilkes Express YMCA

Brushy Mountain Dental & Mulberry Fields Access

West Park Drive

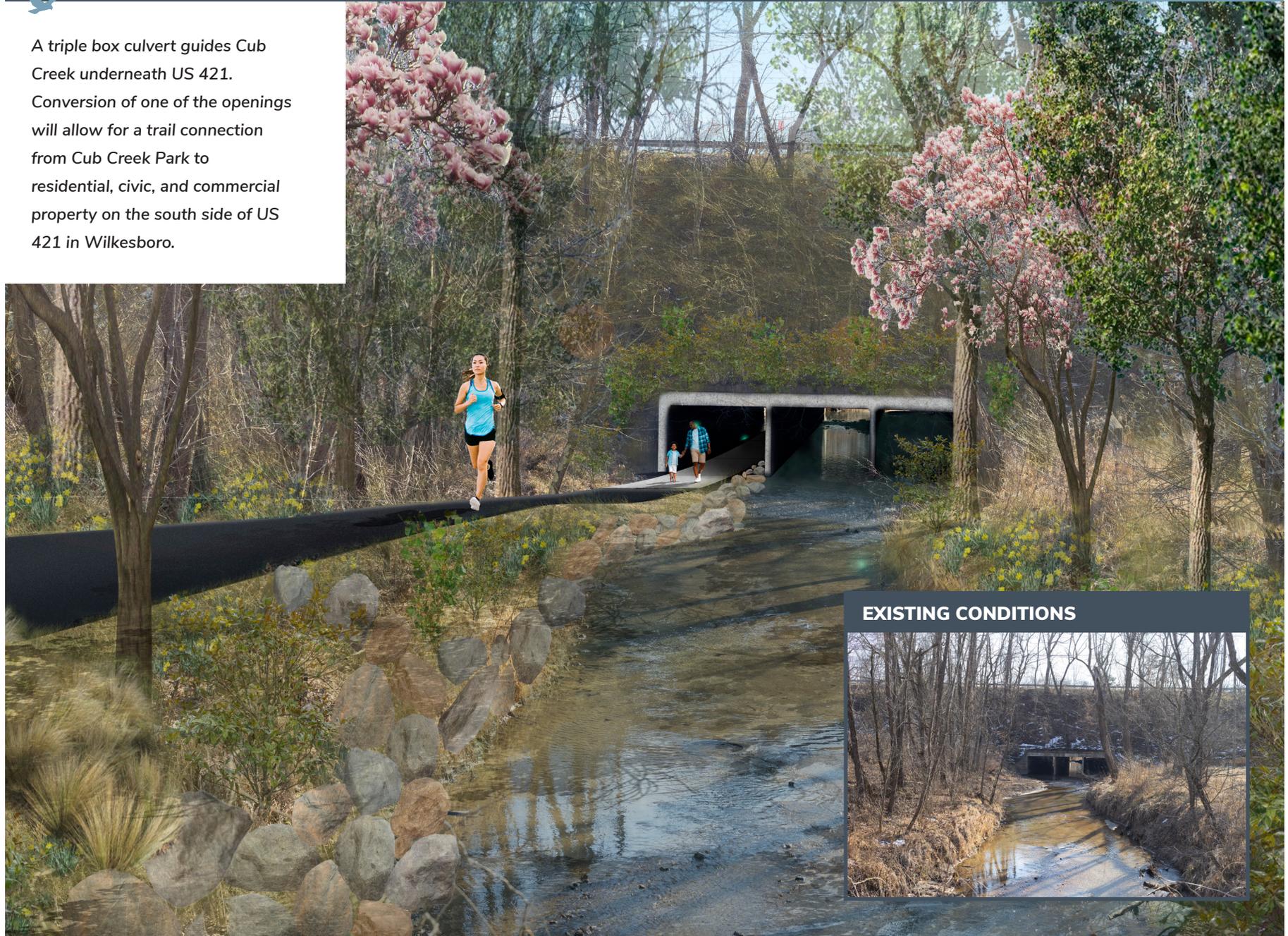
West D Street

HWY 421 Business

The proposed Moravian Creek to Millers Creek and Moravian Creek to Mulberry Fields Connectors provides access from the Boros to recreational infrastructure at Lowe's Park. These trail segments will increase trail and greenway mileage by approximately 3.5 miles.

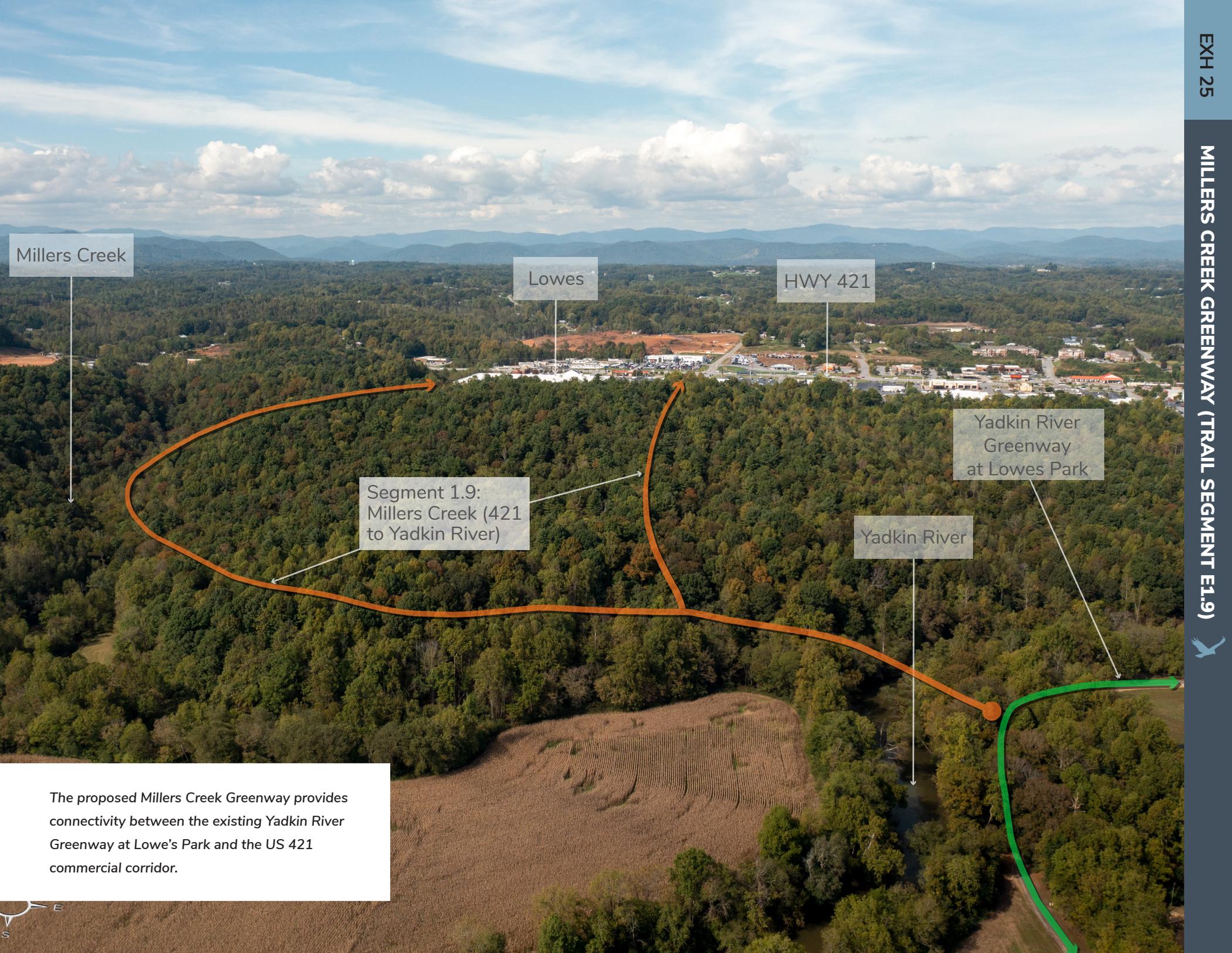


A triple box culvert guides Cub Creek underneath US 421. Conversion of one of the openings will allow for a trail connection from Cub Creek Park to residential, civic, and commercial property on the south side of US 421 in Wilkesboro.



**EXISTING CONDITIONS**





Millers Creek

Lowes

HWY 421

Yadkin River  
Greenway  
at Lowes Park

Yadkin River

Segment 1.9:  
Millers Creek (421  
to Yadkin River)

The proposed Millers Creek Greenway provides connectivity between the existing Yadkin River Greenway at Lowe's Park and the US 421 commercial corridor.



## PROJECT E2: BOROS RIVER DISTRICT

The creation of the Boros River District is a recommendation that was uniquely derived from the year-long process of engaging community residents and developing the Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan. Central to the River District Study Area (See map, page right) is the confluence of the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers. The District includes approximately .9 miles of the Reddies River (extending upstream to the Reddies River Dam) and approximately 2.4 miles of the Yadkin River, which provides for two public river accesses (Mulberry Fields and Smoot Park).

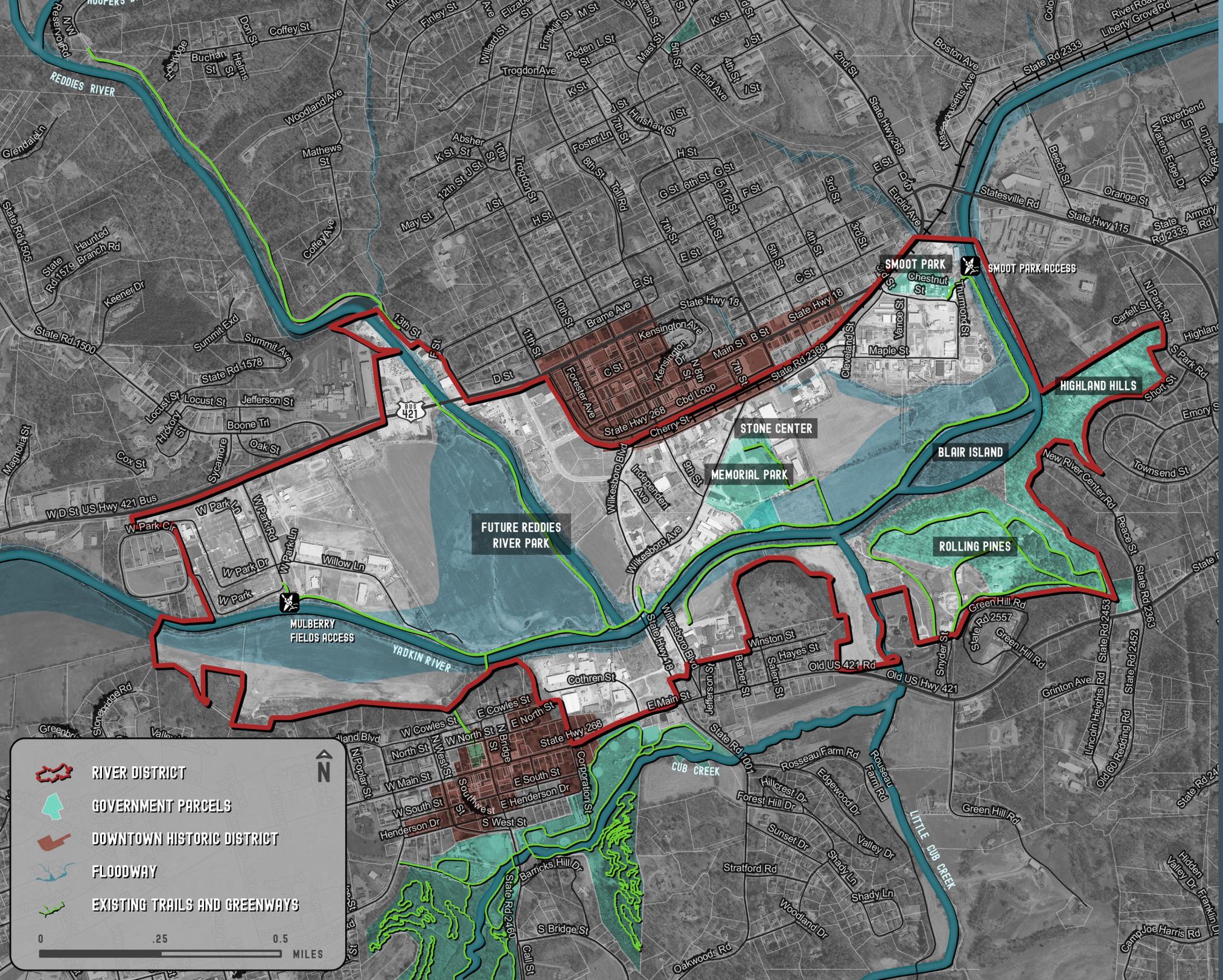
The District extends from West Park Health Complex (home to The Health Foundation, Inc.) east to Smoot Park. The southern and northern borders feature the Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro Downtown Historic Districts, respectively. Some other major features within the District include approximately four miles of the Yadkin River Greenway, the Stone Performing Arts Center, Memorial Park, Blair Island, Highlands Hills Park, and Rolling Pines Park. The District includes a mix of predominantly commercial and light industrial uses with limited residential.

The subsequent pages highlight key proposed features within the River District followed by key recommendations for implementation.

## THE BOROS RIVER DISTRICT VISION

- ✓ CONNECT THE TOWNS TO THE RIVER AND THE RIVER TO THE TOWNS
- ✓ PROVIDE A PLACE FOR ALL
- ✓ FURTHER UNITE THE TWO BOROS
- ✓ PROVIDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE + HOUSING + COMMERCE





**LEGEND**

-  RIVER DISTRICT
-  GOVERNMENT PARCELS
-  DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  FLOODWAY
-  EXISTING TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

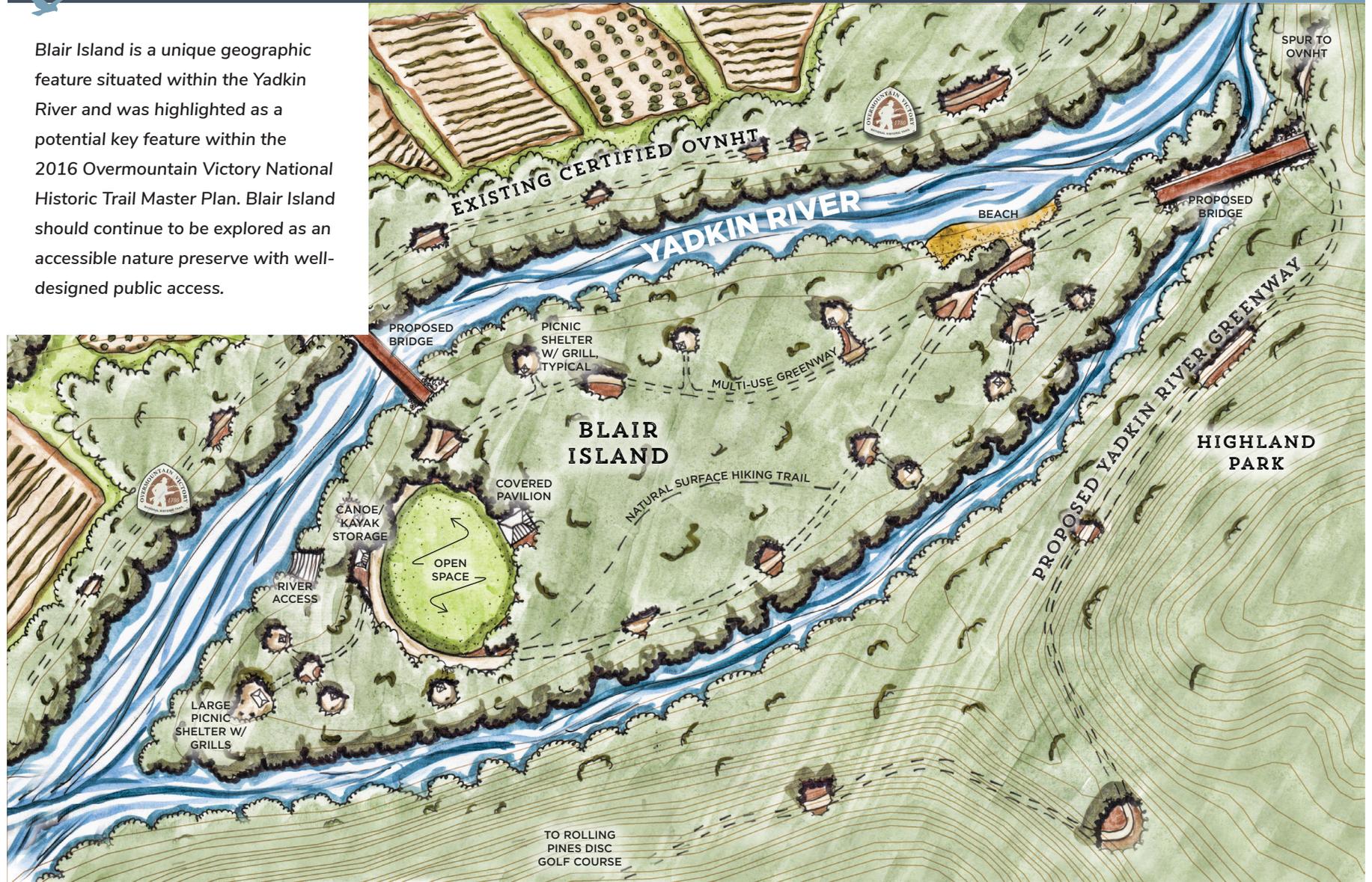
**SCALE**

0 .25 .5 MILES

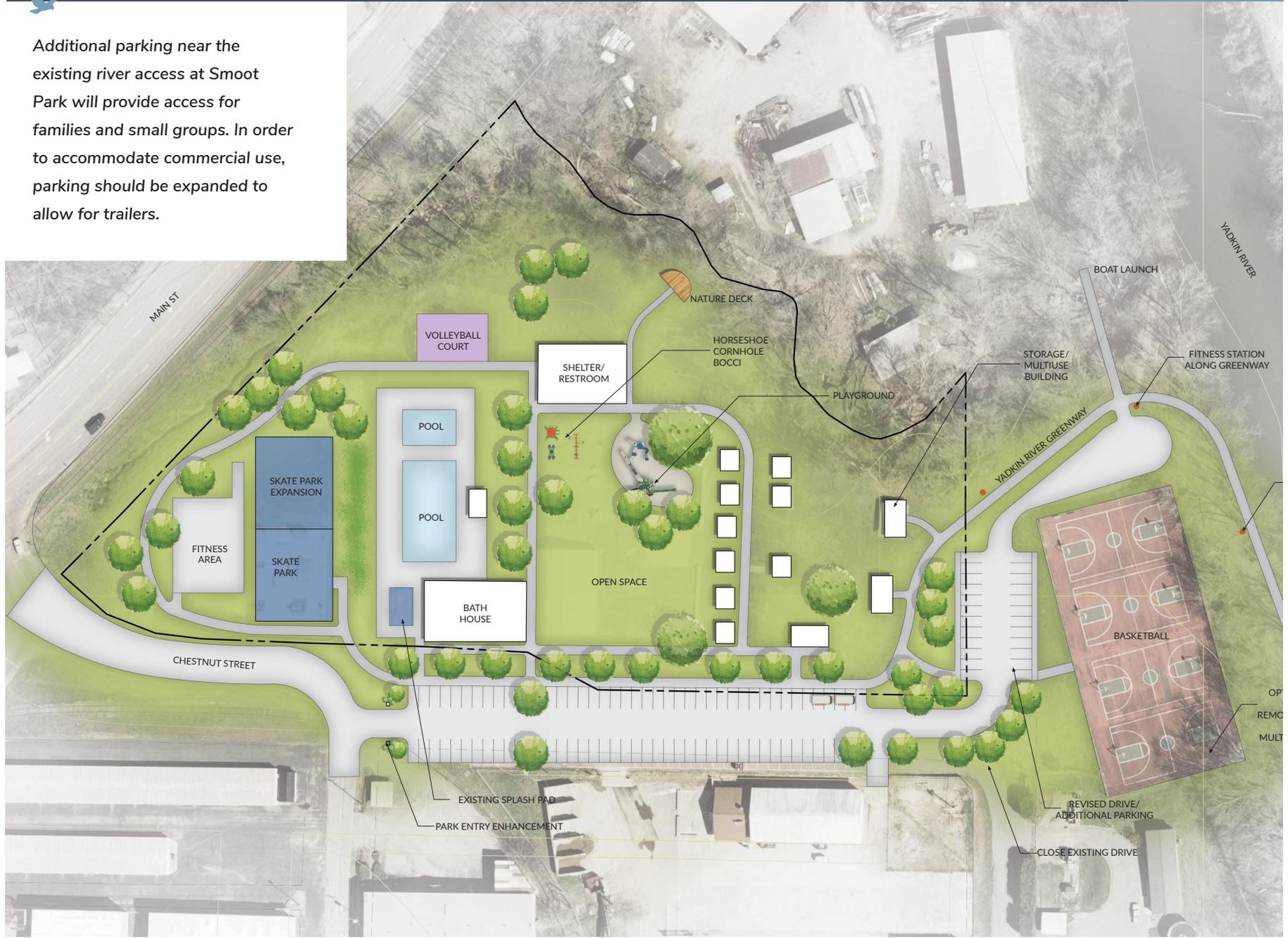
**ORIENTATION**

↑ N

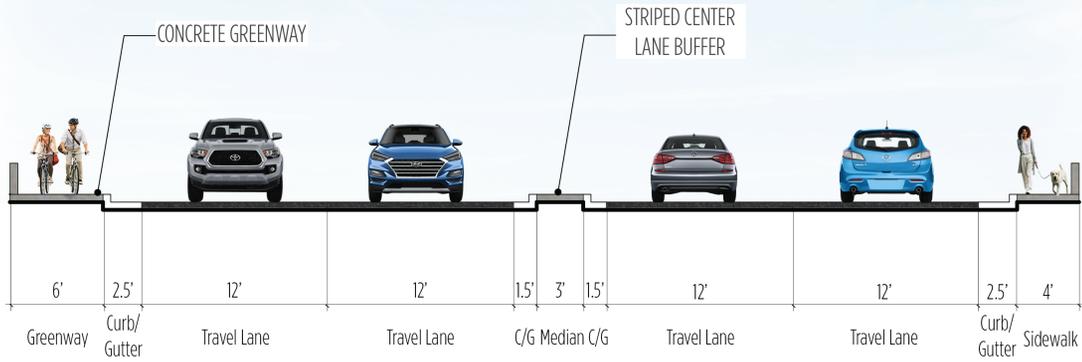
Blair Island is a unique geographic feature situated within the Yadkin River and was highlighted as a potential key feature within the 2016 Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Master Plan. Blair Island should continue to be explored as an accessible nature preserve with well-designed public access.



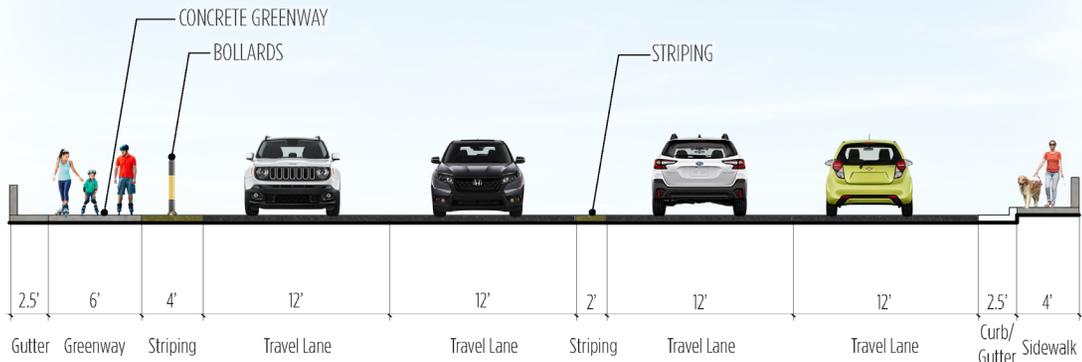
Additional parking near the existing river access at Smoot Park will provide access for families and small groups. In order to accommodate commercial use, parking should be expanded to allow for trailers.



### Proposed Cross-section #1

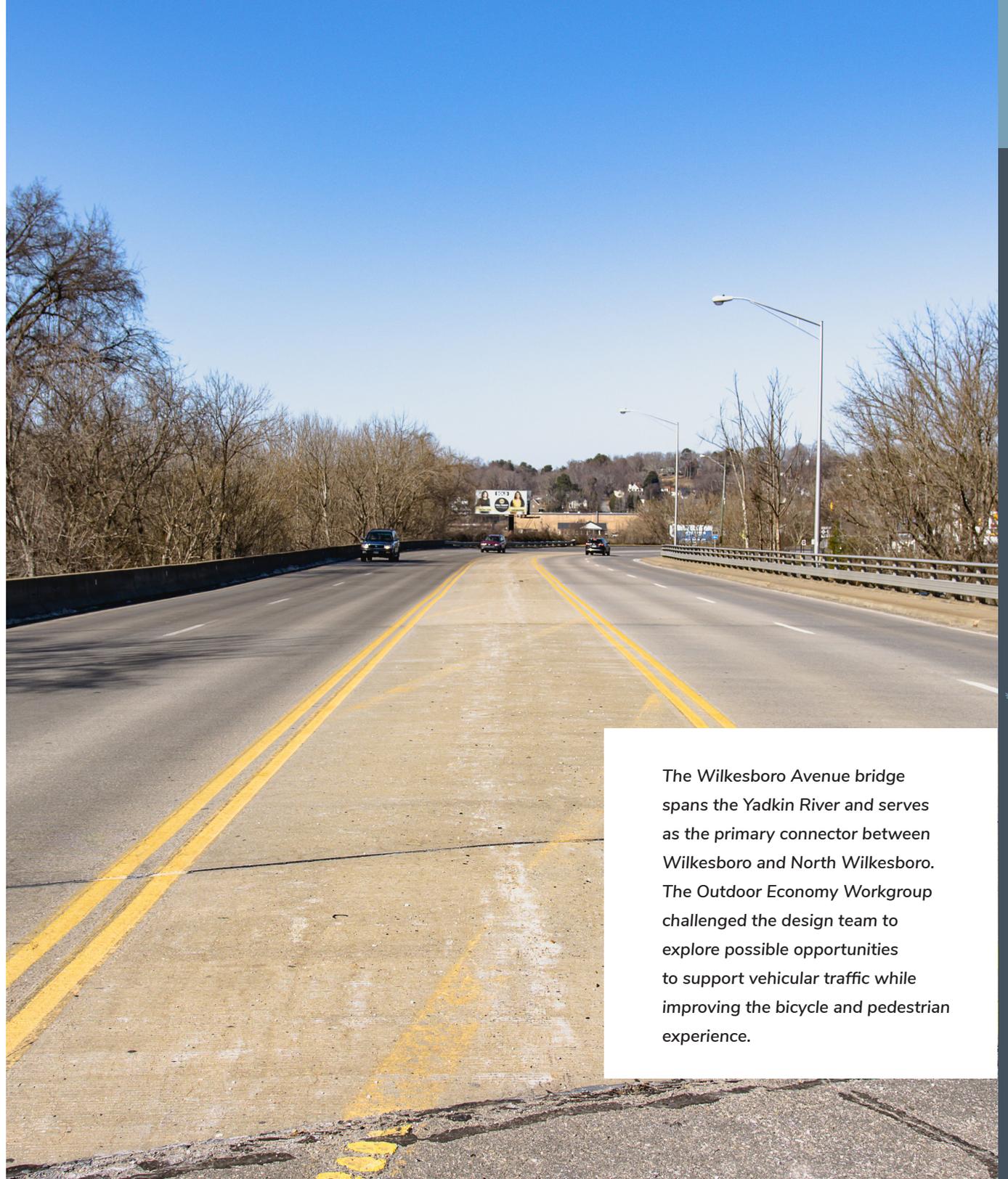


### Proposed Cross-section #2



### Proposed Cross-section #3





The Wilkesboro Avenue bridge spans the Yadkin River and serves as the primary connector between Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. The Outdoor Economy Workgroup challenged the design team to explore possible opportunities to support vehicular traffic while improving the bicycle and pedestrian experience.



**EXH 29**

**INDEPENDENCE AVENUE  
PROPOSED ROAD CROSS-SECTION**

As currently designed, the Independence Avenue corridor is situated for suburban, rather than urban, development. The streetscape and building orientation along this road and throughout the River District should provide for a sense of place aimed at predominantly accommodating the pedestrian user.

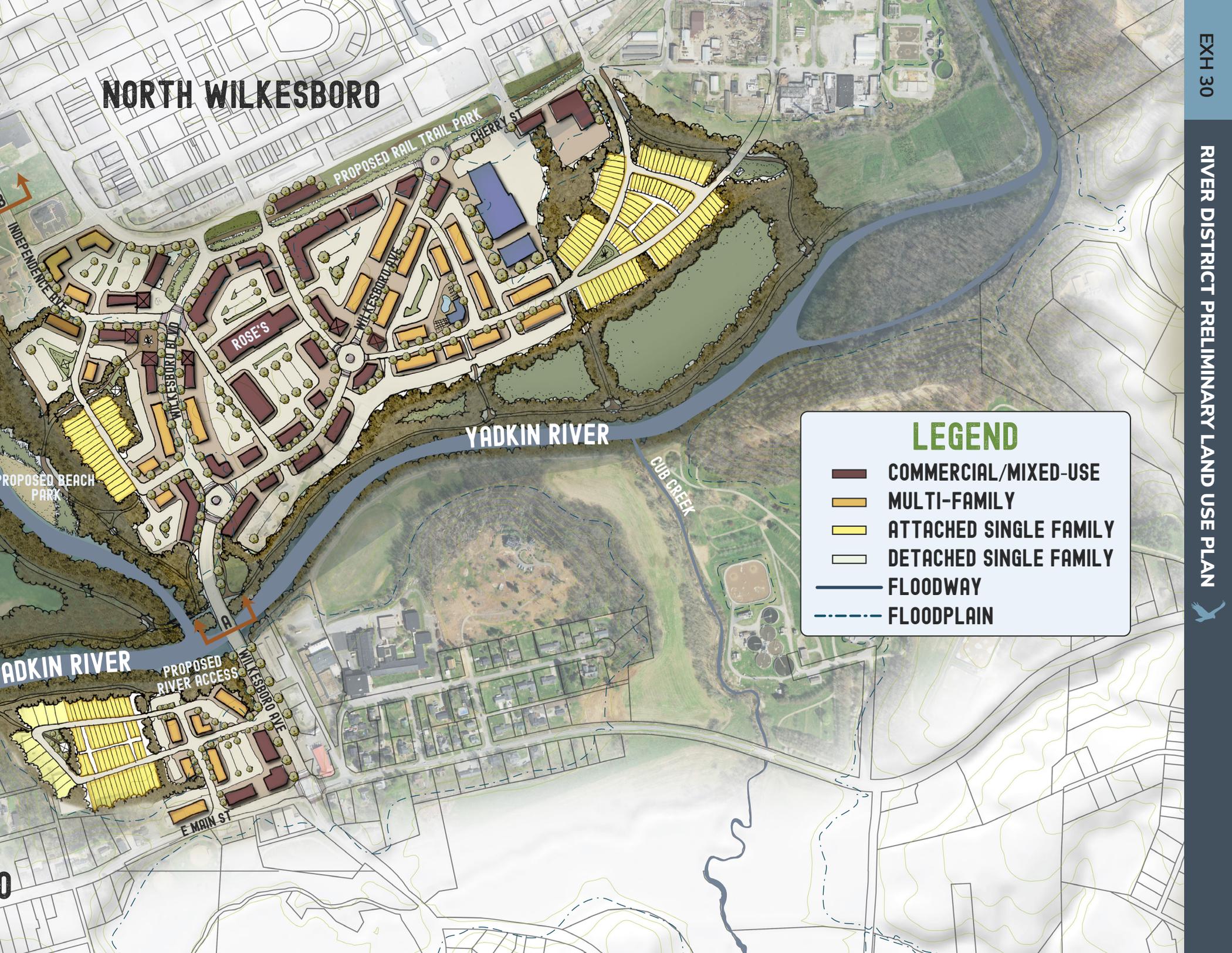
**EXISTING CONDITIONS**



A conceptual land use plan was developed for portions of the River District to illustrate how a variety of mixed uses and housing types coalesce to create a compelling built and natural environment.



# NORTH WILKESBORO



## LEGEND

-  **COMMERCIAL/MIXED-USE**
-  **MULTI-FAMILY**
-  **ATTACHED SINGLE FAMILY**
-  **DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY**
-  **FLOODWAY**
-  **FLOODPLAIN**



## ACTION ITEMS

**E2.1 - DETAILED URBAN MASTER PLANNING.** Detailed urban planning will provide for the application of design guidelines at the “parcel level.” These detailed plans should be developed in coordination with private partners when possible.

**E2.2 - REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND DESIGN GUIDELINES.** Develop a regulatory/ zoning framework to the extent desired by North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro. An optional form-based overlay could allow for increased density when meeting urban form and design guideline standards. Meet with NCDOT early in the process to share the River District vision and establish ownership within the design process. Develop custom streetscape design guidelines for the River District, including features such as:

- Pedestrian and bicycle mobility standards
- Paving materials and patterns
- Street lighting (w/ banners/ hanging baskets)
- Subsurface tree root barrier design for street trees
- Site furnishings, including bike racks, trash receptacles, benches, bollards, and tree grates
- Canopy tree species and spacing with alternative for power line vertical obstruction

**E2.3 - RIVER DISTRICT BRANDING.** Develop a custom visual identity and brand for the Boros River District. This brand should be developed in the same “spirit” as the new Great State of Wilkes brand.

**E2.4 - REDDIES RIVER PARK MASTER PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION.** The River District’s anchor feature is the realignment of the Reddies River to its original location, which impacts a considerable floodway area to the west of the River. In coordination with private property owners, citizens, and community stakeholders, the future Reddies River Park should be master planned to identify all future public park facilities and communicate to potential grant funding partners.



A perspective rendering was developed for portions of the River District to illustrate how a variety of mixed uses and housing types coalesce to create a compelling built and natural environment. In addition, the desired building orientation supports a traditional urban, rather than suburban, form with parking located along the side and rear of all structures. On-street parking and a minimum of 60 percent fenestration (glass and openings) along the street-level is desirable.

**WILKESBORO**

**PROPOSED RAIL TRAIL PARK**

**SMOOT PARK**

**MEMORIAL PARK**

**ROSE'S**

**WILKESBORO BLVD.**

**PARK**

**WILKESBORO AVE.**

**REDDIES RIVER**

**PROPOSED RIVER ACCESS**

**YADKIN RIVER**

**WILKESBORO**



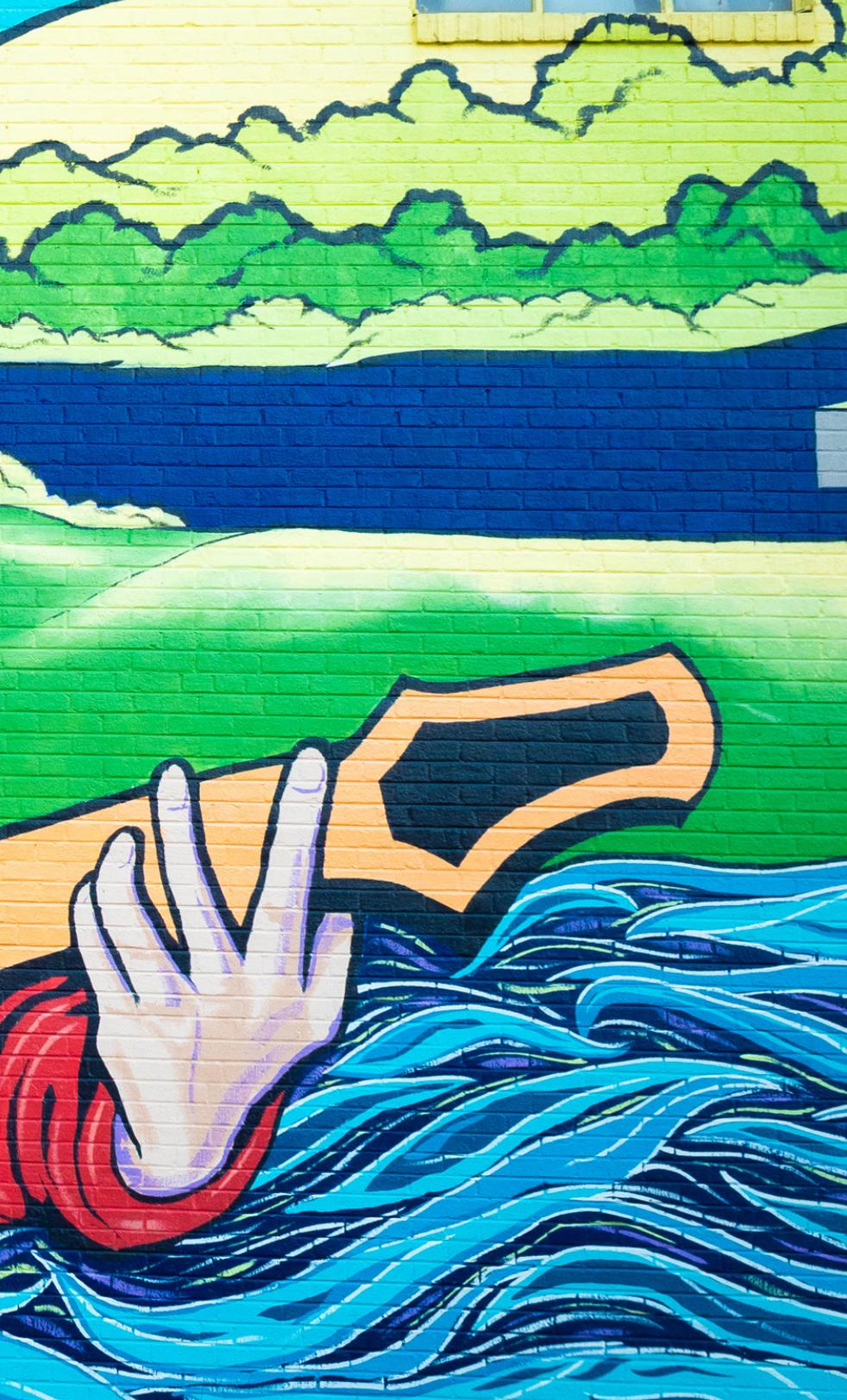


*Where the*

**Wilkesboro, NC**

*Mountains*

*Begin!*



# 5

## IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter presents general recommendations for implementation, a summary implementation matrix and key grant funding organizations. This chapter is organized into the following sections:

### 5.1 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

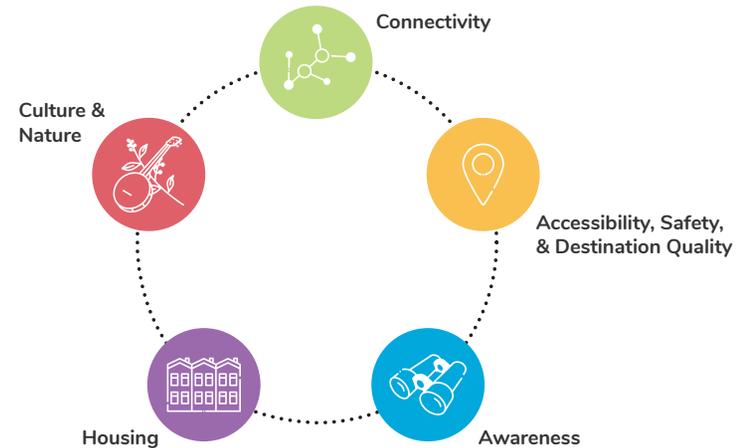
### 5.2 IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

### 5.3 KEY GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



## 5.1 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan provides a guide for outdoor infrastructure development to create and promote an outdoor economy that will help improve the health of residents, create jobs, and position Wilkes as a multi-faceted tourist destination. The Outdoor Economy Workgroup will continue to work with their partner organizations to prioritize efforts to enhance both the natural and built environments and encourage active, healthy lifestyles and tourism development (see exhibit 31, page right).



### LEADERSHIP AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Outdoor Economy Workgroup should continue to provide leadership for plan implementation and expand its reach by including additional private and non-profit partners. A public relations and communications strategy should promote the workgroup's story and celebrate successes and accomplishments.

In order to fully realize the Boros River District, the workgroup should facilitate the E2. Boros River District strategic action items (see page 94). In addition, the group should undertake two additional initiatives:

1. Capital Campaign. Upon completion of the Reddies River Park Master Plan, conduct a capital campaign to secure private/corporate funding to augment state and federal grants.
2. Consultant Management. The Workgroup should hire and provide accountability with a project consultant to facilitate the acquisition, grant procurement, design, and engineering of Reddies River Park.

### ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

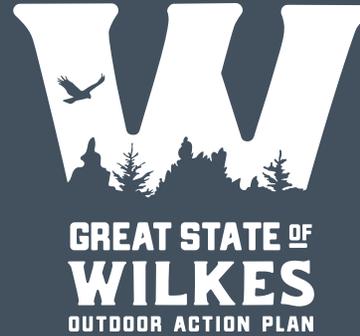
The workgroup should also provide quality assurance for projects and organizational support to its partners including The Health Foundation, Wilkes Economic Development Corporation, County and municipalities, local non-profits, and state/federal land managers. The Health Foundation will focus on convening and facilitating workgroup meetings, marketing, and organizing a capital campaign for plan implementation. The Wilkes EDC will continue to facilitate and support the creation of new outdoor economy jobs and capital investment in the County through the retention and expansion of existing businesses and the recruitment of new businesses. The County and municipalities will concentrate their efforts on the Yadkin River Paddle Trail, the Boros trail connectors, municipal lands, and wayfinding and signage. The Yadkin River Greenway Council, Elkin Valley Trails Association, and Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance will continue to create and maintain partnerships to develop and maintain recreation assets on public lands.

### TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

The Outdoor Economy Workgroup should advocate and support the creation of a Wilkes County Tourism Development Authority. The single entity, countywide TDA can collect a six percent occupancy tax revenue on short term lodging such as hotels, B&Bs, and vacation home rentals to market the County and improve its tourism-related capital infrastructure. Up to one-third of these revenues can be used to enhance the built environment.

### IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The implementation matrix (see pages 100-102) provides a summary of the focus areas, projects, and action steps presented in Chapter 4: Recommendations. Each project includes a lead partner, and each action step has been assigned a priority of high, medium, or low. Each priority level is determined by the following implementation timeline: high (0-2 years), medium (3-5 years), and low (6+ years).



**WILKES OUTDOOR ECONOMY WORKGROUP**

**RIVER DISTRICT**

- Design Guidelines
- Branding
- Master Planning
- Reddies River Park
- Roaring River Park
- Consultant Oversight

**ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT & QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**THE HEALTH FOUNDATION**

- Workgroup Meeting Facilitation
- Marketing
- Capital Campaigns

**YADKIN RIVER GREENWAY COUNCIL**

- Yadkin River Greenway/ OVNHT

**ELKIN VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

- Mountains-to-Sea Trail

**WILKES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

- Job creation and business recruitment

**COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES**

- Watershed Property
- Industrial Park
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Yadkin River Paddle Trail
- Boros Trail Connectors

**NORTHWEST NC MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE**

- W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Trail System

## 5.2 IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

	PRIORITY			LEAD PARTNER
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	
<b>A. WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE FOCUS AREA</b>				
<b>PROJECT A1: VEHICULAR WAYFINDING</b>				Local Government
A1.1 Continue to implement the regional wayfinding program outlined in the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor Plan (2013) in collaboration with NCDOT.		Medium		
A1.2 Design and implement County and municipal gateway signage with the new Great State of Wilkes brand.			High	
<b>PROJECT A2: TRAILS, GREENWAYS, AND PADDLE TRAIL SIGNAGE</b>				
A2.1 Design and implement a “unified” signage package for recreation areas, trail systems, and other community assets.		Medium		
<b>B. STATE AND NATIONAL TRAILS FOCUS AREA</b>				
<b>PROJECT B1: YADKIN RIVER STATE TRAIL</b>				Local Government
B1.1 Improve two existing accesses located at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir dam and Smoot Park to accommodate commercial use by expanding existing drop-off and parking areas to allow for trailers.			High	
B1.2 Improve the existing Roaring River access by developing a community park with paved access road and parking, formal paddle access that will accommodate commercial use, and additional park amenities to include a walking loop, playground, and picnic shelters.			High	
B1.3 Explore land acquisition and access development opportunities along River Road to create a new access area between Smoot Park and the Roaring River access that will accommodate commercial use.		Medium		
B1.4 Improve three existing accesses located at Moravian Creek, Mulberry Fields, and Ronda Memorial Park with signage, minor access improvements, and maintenance.		Medium		
B1.5 Explore additional self-supported access opportunities along the Yadkin River Greenway within the River District to provide opportunities for shorter paddle and tubing trips.		Medium		
B1.6 Develop a custom brand and signage package for the Yadkin River Paddle Trail.			High	
B1.7 Continue maintenance and debris clearing of the paddle trail corridor through interlocal agreements.			High	

**IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX CONTINUED**

	PRIORITY			LEAD PARTNER
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	
<b>PROJECT B2: MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA STATE TRAIL</b>				Elkin Valley Trails Association
B2.1 Implement the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail: Stone Mtn. to Pilot Mtn. Subsection Master Plan.	Blue			
B2.2 Implement the Carter Falls site master plan featuring trailhead improvements.		Orange		
<b>PROJECT B3: OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NATIONAL HISTORIC AND STATE TRAIL</b>				Local Government
B3.1 Implement the OVNHT: Elkin to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Master Plan.			Red	
<b>C. STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS FOCUS AREA</b>				
<b>PROJECT C1: RENDEZVOUS MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST</b>				NC Parks and NWNCMBA
C1.1 Partner with NC State Parks and Northwest North Carolina Mountain Bike Alliance to explore the development of downhill mountain biking trails.	Blue			
<b>PROJECT C2: W. KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR AND DAM</b>				Army Corps and NWNCMBA
C2.1 Work with land managers to plan for additional parking and accesses to support paddlesports.		Orange		
C2.2 Work with local trail partners to maintain and improve the existing trail system.			Red	
C2.3 Develop trailhead kiosks with trail information and high-quality mapping.		Orange		
<b>D. MUNICIPAL LANDS FOCUS AREA</b>				
<b>PROJECT D1: WILKESBORO WATERSHED</b>				Town of Wilkesboro
D1.1 Develop a comprehensive master plan for the property that addresses passive and active management facilities, opportunities, and strategies.			Red	
D1.2 Explore public-private partnership opportunities to implement master plan recommendations.		Orange		
<b>PROJECT D2: NORTH WILKESBORO INDUSTRIAL PARK</b>				Town of North Wilkesboro Wilkes EDC
D2.1 Develop a comprehensive master plan for the property that addresses passive and active management facilities, opportunities, and strategies.			Red	
D2.2 Explore public-private partnership opportunities to implement master plan recommendations.		Orange		

**IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX CONTINUED**

	PRIORITY			LEAD PARTNER
	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	
<b>E. THE BOROS FOCUS AREA</b>				
<b>PROJECT E1: GREENWAY AND TRAIL CONNECTIVITY</b>				<b>Local Government &amp; Yadkin River Greenway Council</b>
E1.1 Hoopers Branch to Euclid		Medium		
E1.2 Euclid to Smoot Park			High	
E1.3 Rolling Pines to Highland Hills		Medium		
E1.4 Cub Creek to Rolling Pines			High	
E1.5 Cub Creek to Little Cub Creek Connector		Medium		
E1.6 Cub Creek to Wilkes Community College		Medium		
E1.7 Cub Creek to US 421 Commercial Corridor			High	
E1.8 W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Connector		Medium		
E1.9 Millers Creek Greenway		Medium		
E1.10 Moravian Creek to Millers Creek	Low			
E1.11 Moravian Creek to Mulberry Fields		Medium		
<b>PROJECT E2: BOROS RIVER DISTRICT</b>				<b>Outdoor Economy Workgroup</b>
E2.1 Detailed Urban Master Planning			High	
E2.2 Regulatory Framework and Design Guidelines			High	
E2.3 River District Branding			High	
E2.4 Reddies River Park Master Plan and Implementation			High	

## 5.3 KEY GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC)

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal economic development agency focusing on the Appalachian region that partners with states and local communities to make grants supporting a broad range of economic development categories. Investment priorities include projects related to community infrastructure, regional culture and tourism, and building businesses and workforce ecosystems.

### THE HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Health Foundation, Inc. supports programs and services that improve the health and well-being of the citizens in Wilkes County. Support is generally limited to non-profit organizations with tax exempt status or governmental entities.

### HERRING FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Herring Family Foundation, based in Wilkes County, seeks to fund resources that are broadly accessible to members of the community, and that enable individuals to learn, grow, and provide richer and healthier lives for themselves and their families.

### LOWE'S HOMETOWN GRANTS

The Lowe's Hometown Grants Program supports community projects that involve making physical improvements or enhancements. Projects must be sponsored by a nonprofit or government entity and must fall into at least one of the following categories: community resources/space; safe affordable housing; cultural preservation; area revitalization; and/or skilled trades education initiatives.

### NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (REDD), FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS – INFRASTRUCTURE

REDD administers federal CDBG funds for local governments to use for various types of public infrastructure improvements, including those that protect water resources. Funding is awarded based on the potential for projects to attract or retain businesses, create jobs, and drive economic development.

### NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (REDD), RURAL TRANSFORMATION GRANT FUND

REDD provides local governments with grants to fund projects in rural areas that promote downtown revitalization and support long-term economic growth

and prosperity. Public improvements and streetscape projects are eligible for financial assistance under this new recovery program associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic impacts.

### NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (REDD), STATE RURAL GRANTS - INFRASTRUCTURE

REDD provides state grants to local governments to assist with publicly owned infrastructure projects. Projects must be associated with job creation and be in the state's most economically distressed areas according to the Commerce Department's tier ranking system.

### THE NORTH CAROLINA LAND AND WATER FUND

The NC Land and Water Fund supports local government projects that improve water quality, sustain ecological diversity, and protect natural resources. Grant funds may be used to acquire lands, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and manage stormwater runoff. Public access to trails, greenways and open space is a priority for the Land and Water Fund.

### **NC PARKS & RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF)**

PARTF provides grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation projects that serve the general public. Grant funds can be used to acquire land, protect natural resources, renovate existing parks, and build new parks or other recreational facilities.

### **NC WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The NC Division of Water Resources issues grants to fund local development projects for the purposes of stream restoration, water-based recreation, and engineering studies. Water-based recreation projects may include: greenways, trails, and boardwalks; paddle accesses and fishing docks; and land acquisition for recreation sites by local governments.

### **POWELL BILL FUNDS**

The NC State Street-Aid program (Powell Bill) provides proceeds from gas taxes directly to municipalities based on their population and the mileage of public streets within the community not included in the state highway system. Funds allocated to cities and towns under the provisions of the Powell Bill may be used for the planning, construction, and maintenance of bikeways, greenways, and sidewalks.

### **RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)**

The Recreational Trails Program is a federal grant program designed to help states develop recreational trails. The North Carolina Trails Program administers the program and provides funds to support trail-related projects in local communities including land acquisition, trail construction, trail maintenance, and safety and education programs.

### **T-MOBILE HOMETOWN GRANTS**

T-Mobile has partnered with Smart Growth America and Main Street America, to help build stronger and more prosperous small towns and rural communities. With the Hometown Grant program, the company is investing in communities by awarding grants of up to \$50,000 for qualifying projects. The T-Mobile Hometown Grants program will help fund projects that build or renovate public spaces.

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Rural Development program offers grants and loans to help develop or improve essential public services and facilities in rural communities. Funds may be used to construct, expand, or develop community-based initiatives that improve the quality of life and assist in the economic development and sustainability of rural areas.

### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)**

The EDA provides financial assistance to communities experiencing economic distress and invests in planning and infrastructure construction projects designed to leverage existing assets and build economic development capacity. EDA supports local innovation that leads to long-term economic prosperity and encourages the implementation of creative development strategies best suited to local business conditions and needs.

### **WILKES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

The Wilkes Community Foundation supports the local community by making grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies for programmatic and capital needs. Projects that offer specific community benefits are eligible, including those with an emphasis on the arts, culture, and natural resources.

### **WILKES MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION**

The mission of the Wilkes Medical Center Foundation awards grants to qualifying organizations that provide quality health care and health-related services and health prevention activities. The Foundation has a special interest in providing financial support for community health and wellness programs aligned with the community health needs assessment.



PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AGENCY	OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS	MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED	MAXIMUM AMOUNT	DEADLINE
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grants	Regional culture and tourism	\$1,000,000	30%	TBD
The Health Foundation	Programs and services that improve the health and well-being of the citizens in Wilkes County	Varies	Varies	Varies
Herring Family Foundation	Resources that are broadly accessible to members of the community, enabling individuals to learn, grow, and provide richer and healthier lives for themselves and their families	Varies	Varies	Varies
Lowe's Hometown Grants	Community projects that involve making physical improvements or enhancements	Varies	N/A	Spring
NC Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division (REDD) Rural Transformation Grant Fund	Public Improvements and Streetscapes	\$950,000	N/A	Fall
NC Land and Water Fund	Land acquisition and Renovation/replacement of outdoor recreational facilities	Varies	Varies	Early February
NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF)	All types of parks, trails, and recreation facilities	\$500,000	50%	Early May
NC Water Resources Development Grant Program	River access areas and greenways along streams.	Varies	50%	December/June
Powell Bill Funds	Sidewalks, greenways, bike lanes	Fixed appropriation	N/A	Annual submittals
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	All types of trails, greenways, and paddle access areas	\$100,000	25%	Early August
T-Mobile Hometown Grants	Community and public spaces	\$50,000	N/A	Rolling
USDA Rural Development	Infrastructure, community facilities	Varies	Varies	Rolling
Wilkes Medical Center Foundation	Support for community health and wellness programs aligned with the community health needs assessment	Varies	Varies	Varies





# A

## APPENDIX

**A.1 WILKES OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN FACT SHEET**

**A.2 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

**A.3 COMMUNITY MEETING COMMENT CARDS**

**A.4 SHPO LETTER OF CONCURRENCE**

**A.5 PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**



## FACT SHEET



## PLAN PURPOSE

To create a community-led vision and 15-year roadmap to ensure strategic decision-making to grow the outdoor economy and encourage active living.

The Great State of Wilkes Outdoor Action Plan is being led by the Outdoor Economy Workgroup, which includes representatives from the Health Foundation, Towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, Wilkes Economic Development Corporation, Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority, Wilkes Health Department, Yadkin River Greenway Council and the County of Wilkes. The group is focusing on the planning and development of outdoor recreation infrastructure projects such as trails, greenways, destination-quality parks, attractive downtowns, and the creation of multi-use public spaces suitable for major events and festivals. These projects contribute significantly to the quality of life for local residents, help grow small businesses, and attract visitors.

“ ELEVATING QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ECONOMY THROUGH THE OUTDOORS ”

## PLAN GOALS



**ASSETS.** Identify the County's existing outdoor recreation assets and evaluate their current condition and ability to provide for a quality experience.



**PARTNERS.** Engage government and community leaders to identify public capital infrastructure projects currently being planned and developed that will enhance quality of life.



**GAPS.** Identify new, compelling outdoor infrastructure projects to promote the outdoor economy.



**UNITY.** When possible, identify projects that support a variety of community goals, including improving quality of life to retain young adults and attract a skilled workforce, inspiring new small business growth and investment, improving and protecting environmental quality, and encouraging active lifestyles to support public health.



**VISUAL.** Create a plan that generates interest and casts an inspiring vision by creating compelling renderings, site master plans, 3-D illustrations, and other graphics to effectively communicate recommendations.



**STRATEGY.** Provide the Wilkes Outdoor Economy Workgroup and its partners with clear strategies and a prioritization schedule for implementing the 15-year action plan.

Stay informed and take the community survey at:

[www.WILKESOUTDOORACTIONPLAN.COM](http://www.WILKESOUTDOORACTIONPLAN.COM)

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

## 1) Research and Preliminary Analysis

The consultant team will conduct a direction-setting meeting with the Wilkes Outdoor Economy Workgroup to discuss key opportunities and constraints, develop a database of all existing outdoor recreation assets, and conduct an extensive field analysis to assess the County's assets.

## 2) Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Conduct a series of interviews and focus groups meetings with civic leaders, public health representatives, and outdoor-related businesses. Disseminate an online survey to be advertised on social media that encourages citizens to share their ideas and help establish the overall project direction.

## 3) Plan Development

With guidance from the steering committee, stakeholders, and citizens, the consultant team will create a plan framework that features preliminary recommendations for improving and expanding the County's outdoor recreation-related assets. The consultant team will then conduct another round of public engagement.

## 4) Final Plan Development

The final 15-year outdoor action plan will feature all recommendations, a phasing schedule, an estimate of probable cost, and an outline of grant funding sources. Copies of the plan will be available for the public to view on municipal and county websites.

## CONTACT

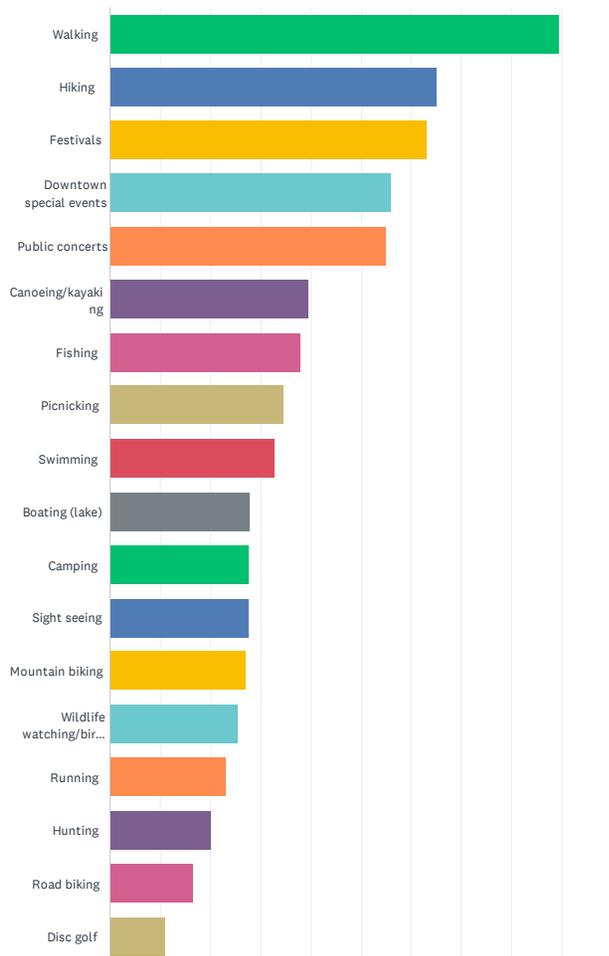
**Jenn Wages, MSW**  
Program Director  
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336-838-1949  
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**Eric Woolridge, AICP**  
President  
Destination by Design Planning  
828-719.1109  
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Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

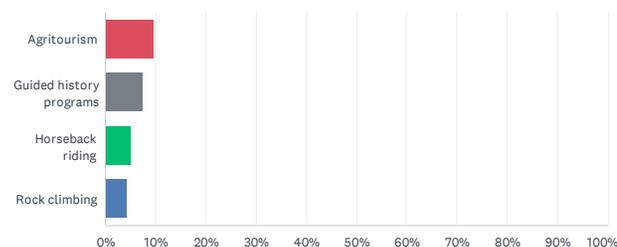
Q1 Which activities have you or your family participated in within the last year in Wilkes County?

Answered: 504 Skipped: 6



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Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	89.29%	450
Hiking	65.08%	328
Festivals	63.10%	318
Downtown special events	55.95%	282
Public concerts	54.96%	277
Canoeing/kayaking	39.48%	199
Fishing	37.90%	191
Picnicking	34.52%	174
Swimming	32.74%	165
Boating (lake)	27.98%	141
Camping	27.78%	140
Sight seeing	27.78%	140
Mountain biking	26.98%	136
Wildlife watching/birding	25.40%	128
Running	23.02%	116
Hunting	20.04%	101
Road biking	16.67%	84
Disc golf	11.11%	56
Agritourism	9.52%	48
Guided history programs	7.54%	38
Horseback riding	5.16%	26
Rock climbing	4.37%	22
Total Respondents: 504		
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE

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Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

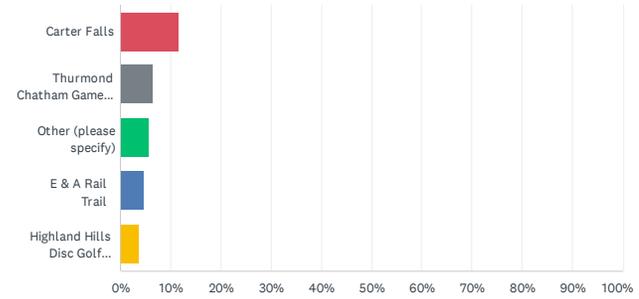
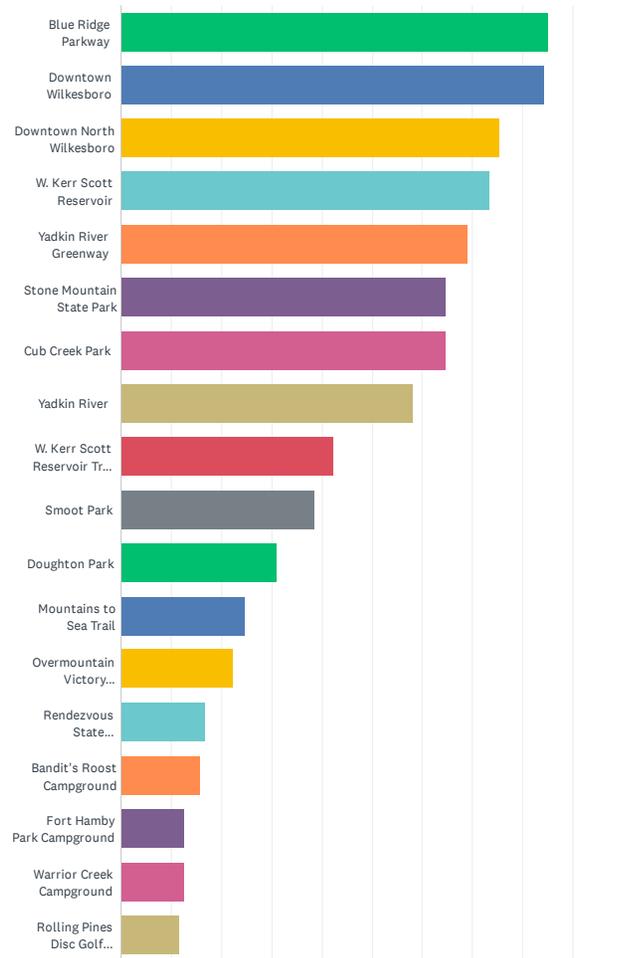
1	none	10/29/2021 3:00 PM
2	Foraging!	10/29/2021 9:55 AM
3	dog park	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
4	Golf	10/18/2021 10:44 AM
5	Searching for wildflowers	10/18/2021 9:09 AM
6	Car show	10/15/2021 3:10 PM
7	Boating. Please make our boat ramps big and nice like lake hickory or Norman	10/15/2021 1:25 PM
8	Playground	10/15/2021 9:49 AM
9	Wineries	10/13/2021 8:43 PM
10	Pickleball	10/13/2021 11:12 AM
11	Paddle Boarding	10/12/2021 10:38 AM
12	Tai chi or yoga outdoors	10/12/2021 10:21 AM
13	Tubing	10/11/2021 6:01 PM
14	Outdoor Tai Chi practice at Community Commons stage	10/11/2021 1:01 PM
15	Pickleball	10/11/2021 12:15 PM
16	Golfing	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
17	Outdoor drinking	10/10/2021 5:04 PM
18	Pickleball	10/10/2021 1:50 PM
19	Geocaching, inline skating, Blue Ridge Parkway, outdoor dining, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, swimming at the pool, volleyball, etc.	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
20	Shopping, food trucks	10/9/2021 10:00 PM
21	Pickleball	10/9/2021 8:52 PM
22	Shopping	10/9/2021 7:15 PM
23	Bring back the tasking River regata	10/9/2021 5:52 PM
24	Skateboarding park	10/9/2021 7:53 AM
25	Pickle ball	10/8/2021 8:56 PM
26	Outdoor theatre	10/8/2021 8:50 PM
27	None. They're is nothing in the East end of Wilkes County.	10/8/2021 5:32 PM
28	We need North Wilkesboro Speedway back! Would be a great place to host outdoor concerts and festivals!	10/7/2021 5:59 PM
29	Wilkes Comic Convention	10/7/2021 4:36 PM
30	Would normally do more but isolated due to covid.	10/6/2021 7:24 PM
31	Riding side by sides	10/6/2021 10:39 AM
32	Softball	10/6/2021 8:22 AM
33	Golf	10/6/2021 8:19 AM
34	College campus activities	10/2/2021 10:02 PM
35	Golf, Faithfest, ultimate frisbee	10/1/2021 2:27 PM
36	Ultimate Frisbee Golf Faith Fest	10/1/2021 2:26 PM
37	Faith Fest Ultimate frisbee Golf	10/1/2021 2:20 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

38	Ultimate Frisbee	10/1/2021 5:56 AM
39	Watching the unique Wilkes citizenry run around with no masks on!	9/30/2021 6:50 PM
40	Whitewater kayaking. It wouldn't take much to build a few waves on the yadkin	9/29/2021 8:10 PM
41	Paddle boarding	9/29/2021 1:26 PM
42	Paddle boarding	9/29/2021 1:22 PM
43	Gravel cycling and motorcycling	9/29/2021 8:45 AM
44	limiting Bill boards on our highways is needed to prevent visual pollution the driving through the area. Already, driving from North Wilkesboro to Boone looks "ugly" commercial.	9/29/2021 6:34 AM
45	Specifically 'River' swimming, tubing, kayak, camping, pickniking. Not lake.	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
46	Pickleball	9/28/2021 3:46 PM
47	Baseball	9/28/2021 11:55 AM

### Q2 Which outdoor recreation assets in Wilkes County have you or your family visited within the last year?

Answered: 510 Skipped: 0



Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Blue Ridge Parkway	85.10%	434
Downtown Wilkesboro	84.12%	429
Downtown North Wilkesboro	75.29%	384
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir	73.33%	374
Yadkin River Greenway	69.02%	352
Stone Mountain State Park	64.71%	330
Cub Creek Park	64.71%	330
Yadkin River	58.24%	297
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Trail System	42.16%	215
Smoot Park	38.63%	197
Doughton Park	30.98%	158
Mountains to Sea Trail	24.71%	126
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail	22.35%	114
Rendezvous State Educational Forest	16.86%	86
Bandit's Roost Campground	15.88%	81
Fort Hamby Park Campground	12.55%	64
Warrior Creek Campground	12.55%	64
Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course	11.57%	59
Carter Falls	11.57%	59
Thurmond Chatham Game Land	6.47%	33
Other (please specify)	5.69%	29
E & A Rail Trail	4.71%	24
Highland Hills Disc Golf Course	3.53%	18
Total Respondents: 510		

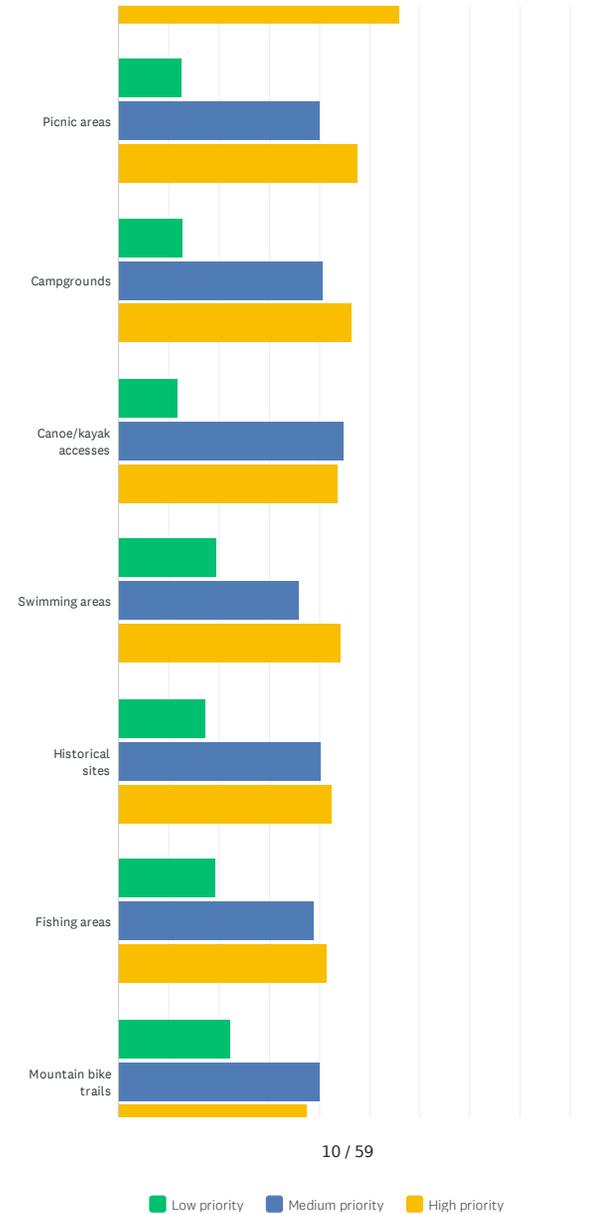
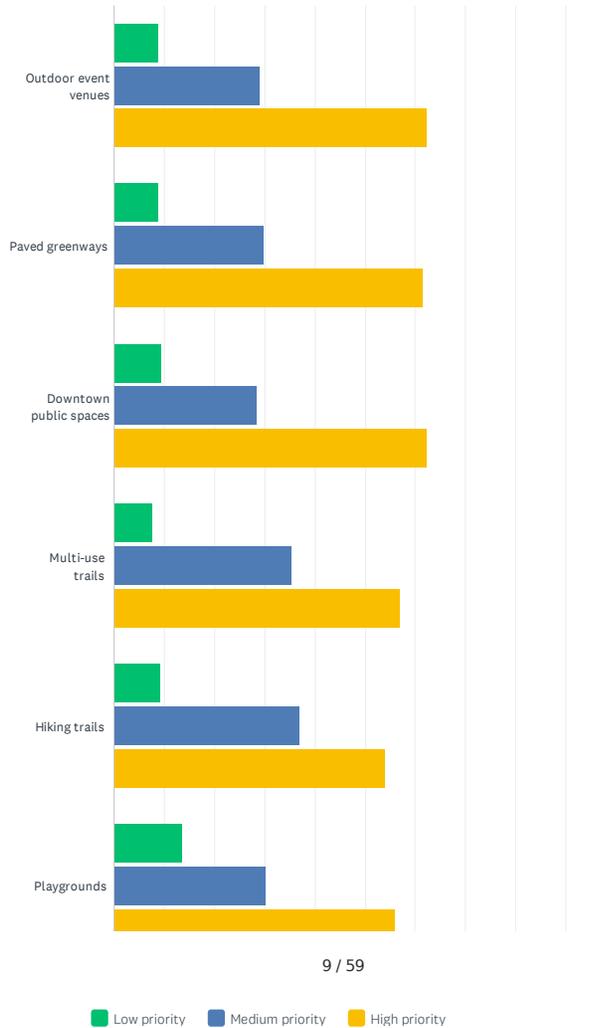
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Reddies river	10/24/2021 7:51 AM
2	dog park	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
3	Oakwoods Country Club, Rock Creek Golf Course	10/18/2021 10:44 AM
4	Does Blue Ridge Parkway even run through Wilkes??	10/17/2021 12:59 AM
5	Skate park	10/13/2021 9:51 PM
6	HERITAGE MUSEUM	10/13/2021 8:35 PM
7	WCC	10/12/2021 2:56 PM
8	Hidden Oaks Dog Park	10/12/2021 12:07 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

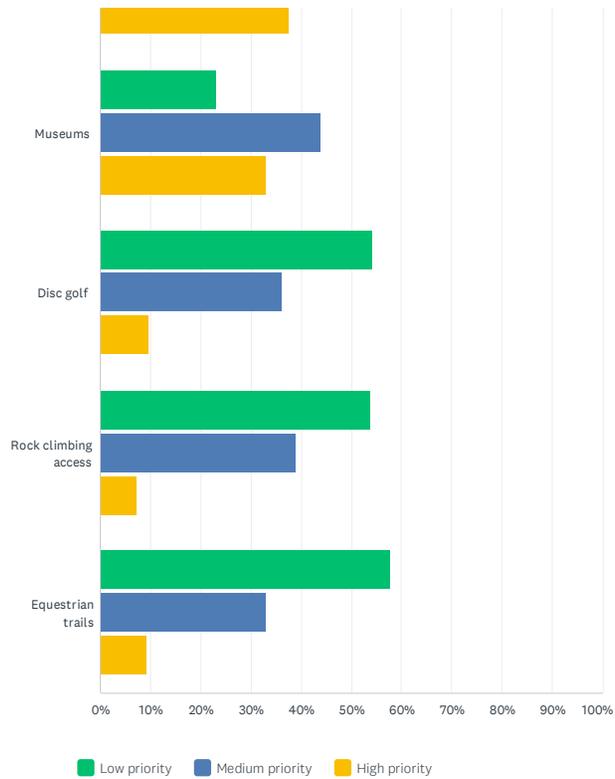
9	Rivers Edge Park	10/12/2021 12:00 PM
10	Wilkes Communication pavilluon	10/12/2021 10:21 AM
11	Rivers edge	10/12/2021 8:01 AM
12	2	10/12/2021 7:08 AM
13	Walkways at Wilkes Community College	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
14	Art Sculptures in Ferguson, Wilkesboro Splash Pad, Blood Creek Overlook, Rivers Edge Park	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
15	Downtown Wilkesboro Splash Pad	10/10/2021 5:04 PM
16	Lowes Park at River's Edge, etc.	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
17	Area wineries	10/9/2021 8:52 PM
18	None	10/8/2021 5:32 PM
19	Roaring River	10/8/2021 5:09 PM
20	Smoot Park needs a dress code! Seriously! Not a fan of this place.	10/8/2021 12:46 PM
21	Whippoorwill	10/6/2021 10:39 AM
22	Wilkes Community College campus/gardens	10/2/2021 10:02 PM
23	River Edge	10/1/2021 2:26 PM
24	Golf FaithFest Ultimate Frisbee River's Edge	10/1/2021 2:20 PM
25	Wilkes Community College Campus and Trails River's Edge FaithFest	10/1/2021 5:56 AM
26	None	9/30/2021 6:50 PM
27	Warrior Creek Nature Conservancy	9/28/2021 10:44 PM
28	Roaring River.	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
29	Baseball fields	9/28/2021 11:55 AM

Q3 How should the Outdoor Economy Workgroup prioritize development and improvement of the following outdoor recreation facilities in Wilkes County ?

Answered: 508 Skipped: 2



Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	LOW PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	HIGH PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Outdoor event venues	8.64% 42	29.01% 141	62.35% 303	486	2.54
Paved greenways	8.72% 43	29.82% 147	61.46% 303	493	2.53
Downtown public spaces	9.35% 46	28.46% 140	62.20% 306	492	2.53
Multi-use trails	7.71% 38	35.29% 174	57.00% 281	493	2.49
Hiking trails	9.11% 45	36.84% 182	54.05% 267	494	2.45
Playgrounds	13.74% 68	30.30% 150	55.96% 277	495	2.42
Picnic areas	12.47% 61	40.08% 196	47.44% 232	489	2.35
Campgrounds	12.70% 62	40.78% 199	46.52% 227	488	2.34
Canoe/kayak accesses	11.68% 57	44.67% 218	43.65% 213	488	2.32
Swimming areas	19.55% 95	36.01% 175	44.44% 216	486	2.25
Historical sites	17.22% 83	40.25% 194	42.53% 205	482	2.25
Fishing areas	19.42% 94	39.05% 189	41.53% 201	484	2.22
Mountain bike trails	22.43% 109	40.12% 195	37.45% 182	486	2.15
Museums	23.03% 111	43.98% 212	32.99% 159	482	2.10
Disc golf	54.07% 259	36.33% 174	9.60% 46	479	1.56
Rock climbing access	53.80% 255	39.03% 185	7.17% 34	474	1.53
Equestrian trails	57.73% 269	33.05% 154	9.23% 43	466	1.52

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Improve and clean up Boat Ramp Access to W. Kerr Scott	10/28/2021 8:27 AM
2	Historical trails... Outdoor eating space	10/27/2021 3:21 PM
3	Public Art	10/27/2021 9:20 AM
4	dog park - high priority	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
5	Unless you want to have anything in wilkesboro then you have to go before the board and do lots of explaining why you want to do it in public spaces in the town to wilkesboro they want it to be like a hallmark card but lets get real it's downtown wilkesboro not much there so relax and bring things in and revenue will follow	10/18/2021 1:10 PM
6	We need to have the two long greenway sections connected. We need connections to the greenway from neighborhoods. The local governments' focus should be on doing things to	10/18/2021 9:09 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

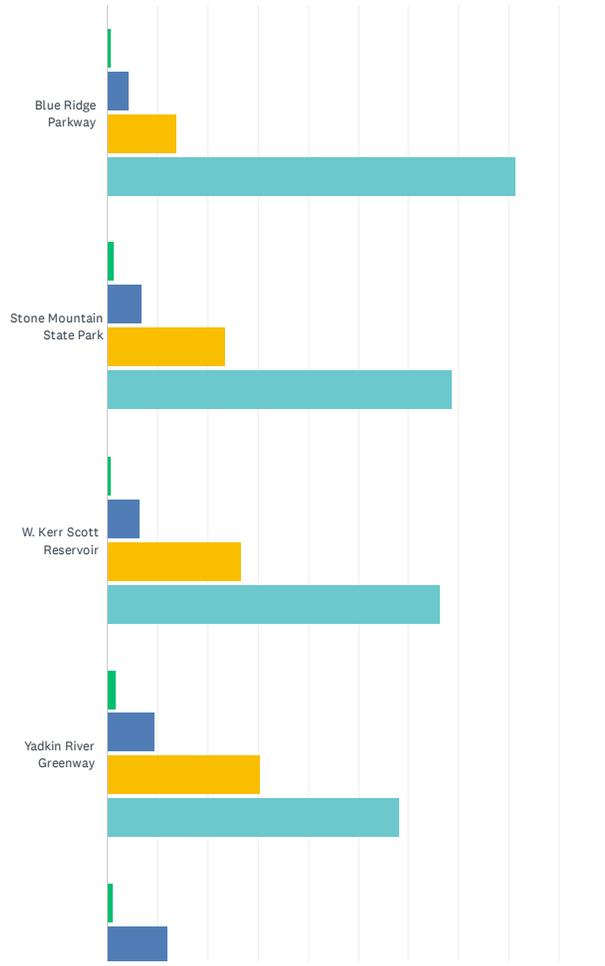
	benefit the people who live here, not on downtown and special events to draw visitors.	
7	Access to many waterfalls in the county on private property	10/16/2021 6:14 PM
8	Need greenway on eastern side of Wilkes. Also, a dog park is needed in this area . This area has been overlooked for years.	10/15/2021 7:10 PM
9	Allow a day after closing the Heritage Square Splash Pad for dogs to enjoy each year.	10/15/2021 3:10 PM
10	We need more for the younger children to do. We have parks and playgrounds but not much for the smaller children (ages 1-4). A lot of the playground areas have steps that are too high for smaller children and open areas that are high up that can cause the smaller to fall from higher areas. Also, if Smoot Park could get picnic tables closer towards the large playground so people can have parties and cookouts and still be able to watch their children on the large playground. I also think our County could use an indoor play area similar to that of hickory dickory dock. I understand we are getting the new place called "The Block" but I don't feel like the activities included will be something the smaller children can take part in. If we could get an indoor jungle gym/soft play area for the little ones that would be amazing. During winter, there's really not much to do for the kids, younger and older.	10/15/2021 9:49 AM
11	We could really use a public access archery range near town so the hunting/archery community could gather/associate and young children could be introduced to the sport. It doesn't require a tremendous amount of space or funds to be setup.	10/15/2021 8:43 AM
12	Hwy 268 along Kerr Scott Lake shoulder enhancement for road biking	10/12/2021 5:46 PM
13	The main priority should be petitioning the County Board Of Commissioners to pass a resolution to allow liquor by the drink sales throughout the county. This would open up multiple business opportunities for the county and bring younger people back to Wilkes. This in turn would shore up the aging workforce currently in the county.	10/12/2021 2:42 PM
14	Areas for outdoor socializing that can be easily accessed by handicapped or elderly persons with limited mobility	10/12/2021 1:49 PM
15	Would love to see a place to scuba dive. Closest place is lake Norman quarry.	10/12/2021 8:01 AM
16	Picnic area along side Yadkin River with space for music and food trucks	10/11/2021 9:56 PM
17	More outdoor concerts.	10/11/2021 6:33 PM
18	Fit Trail and Food Forest Concept	10/11/2021 1:01 PM
19	24 hour access, with abundant lighting, shading, security, and concessions, encouraging student activity, artists, impromptu musicians, pet parks, self-guided nature discovery, electronic promotion via website and formatted for cellphone reception.	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
20	Parks and Recreation-High Priority	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
21	We have the foundation to many of these. How do we ensure we promote these spaces? Evolve these spaces? What do folks do after they have hiked, kayaked, biked, etc...? What happens if it rains? Museums, art, food, music, etc...	10/11/2021 3:06 AM
22	Down town better restaurants and outdoor seating	10/11/2021 12:45 AM
23	Wheelchair accessible trails and activities	10/10/2021 9:56 PM
24	Public bathroom facilities like you see in Mt Airy and Elkin.	10/10/2021 10:21 AM
25	Outdoor gyms with chin-up bars, parallel bars, and more options like a muscle beach (High priority), Soccer fields (Medium priority), bocce ball / petanque court (High priority), croquet field (Low priority), River's Edge BMX track (Medium priority), River's Edge skate park (Medium Priority), Outdoor youth / rec center (High priority), Paintball / airsoft field (High priority), Archery range (High priority), Riverside restaurant on Yadkin at Curtis Bridge (High priority)	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
26	Incentivize businesses to beautify and plant more landscaping	10/9/2021 10:00 PM
27	A park for the Eastern end of Wilkes with playground, walking trails, and swimming pool.	10/8/2021 5:32 PM
28	It would be great to finally build that lake at Stone Mountain State Park	10/8/2021 5:45 AM
29	Convention Center or Events Center	10/7/2021 4:36 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

30	Hard to say as we've kept out of many, higher traffic, public spaces in the past yr.	10/7/2021 8:22 AM
31	Focus on the spaces that encourage tourism. This golf brings in a lot more than equestrian events at the moment.	10/6/2021 1:11 PM
32	Cleanup Yadkin River by bank cleaning and stabilization. Dredge the River so you won't bottom out as much. Create more put in / take out points .	10/6/2021 1:05 PM
33	SIDEWALKS near schools, churches, community centers, shops, and residential areas in the county. People should be able to walk to a neighborhood store or to school or to church without being hit by a car or forced into ditches, etc.	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
34	Drive in movie in Westpark	9/30/2021 6:50 PM
35	More trails in North Wilkesboro	9/30/2021 9:38 AM
36	Paddle boarding locations, entry points should be a priority as there is missed opportunity. Also, wellness events, i.e. yoga, biking, etc. As well as hiking and biking protocol education.	9/29/2021 1:26 PM
37	pickleball and tennis courts	9/29/2021 8:21 AM
38	Outdoor event venues are rich and deserve proper upkeep. Cultivate what we have in this category; nothing new needed.	9/28/2021 10:27 PM
39	It would be nice for investments to made in outdoor spaces in downtown north wilkesboro similar to wilkesboro area.	9/28/2021 10:26 PM
40	River access, parking, maps, cleanup -high priority.	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
41	Baseball fields	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
42	Better publication of senior activities. I have no idea where many of the museums are except the old courthouse. It would be nice if people would be encouraged to wear masks so I can attend functions again.	9/27/2021 4:52 PM

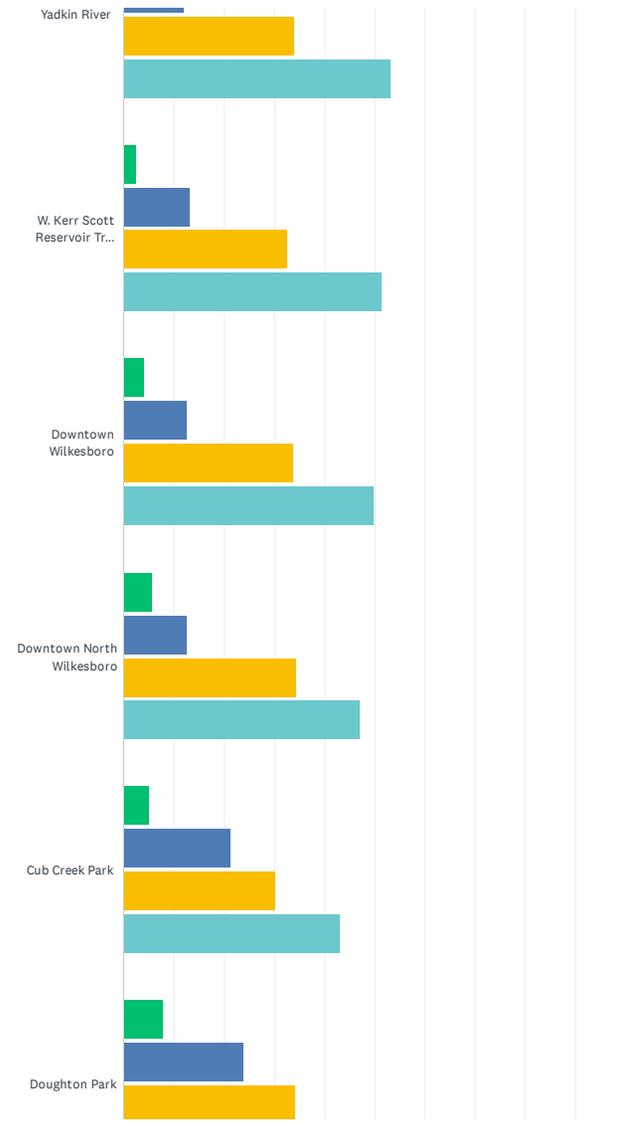
### Q4 How important are the following outdoor recreation assets to residents and visitors of Wilkes County?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 1



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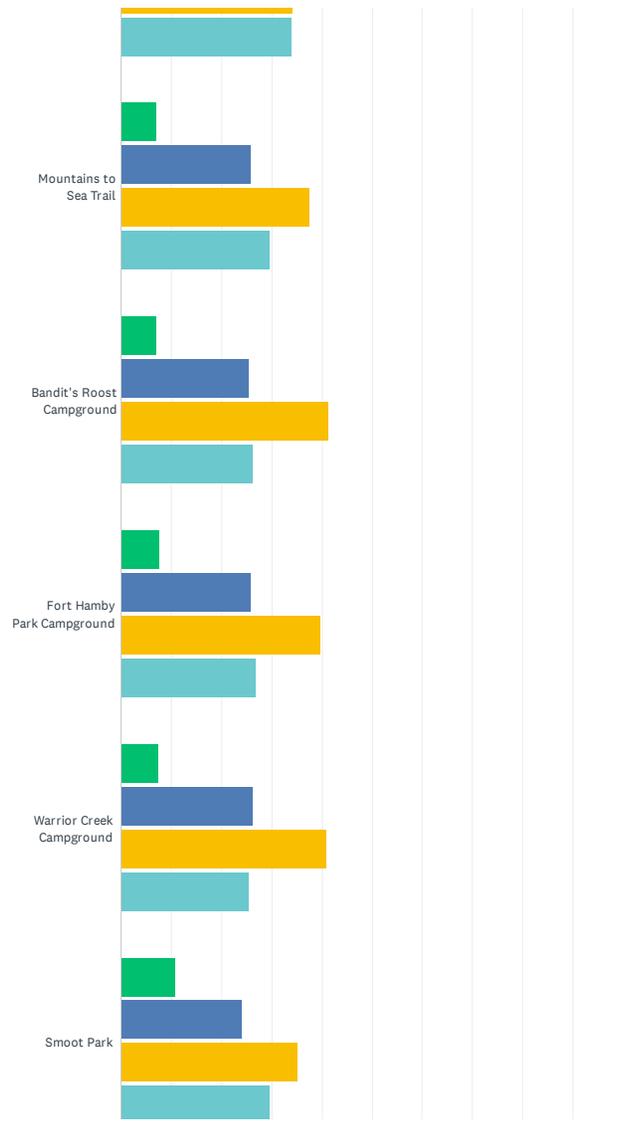
Not important Somewhat important Important Very important



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Not important Somewhat important Important Very important

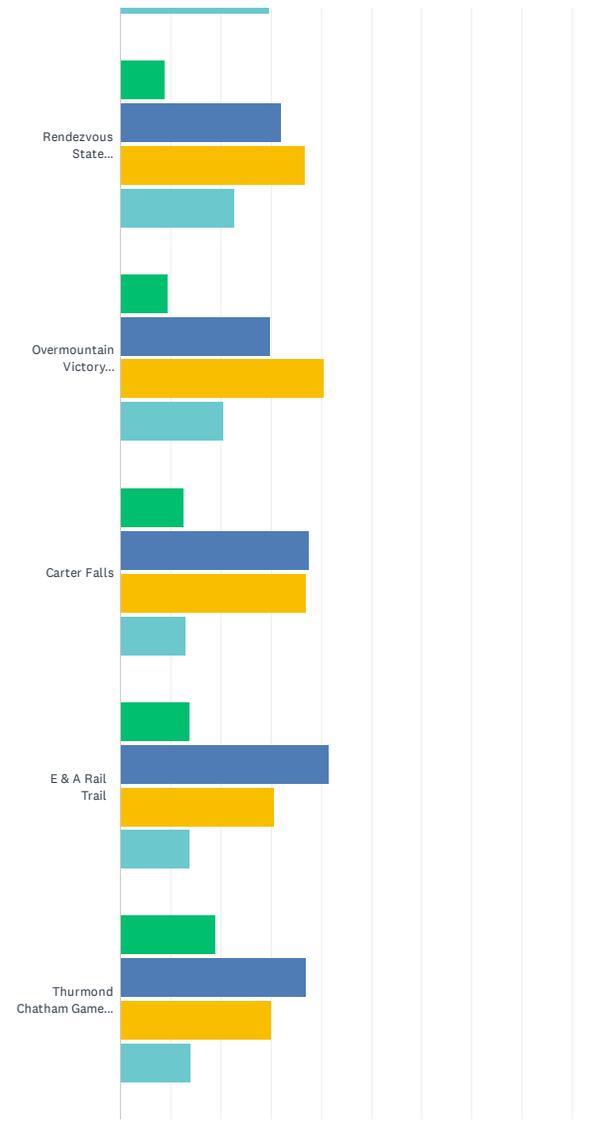
Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



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Not important Somewhat important Important Very important

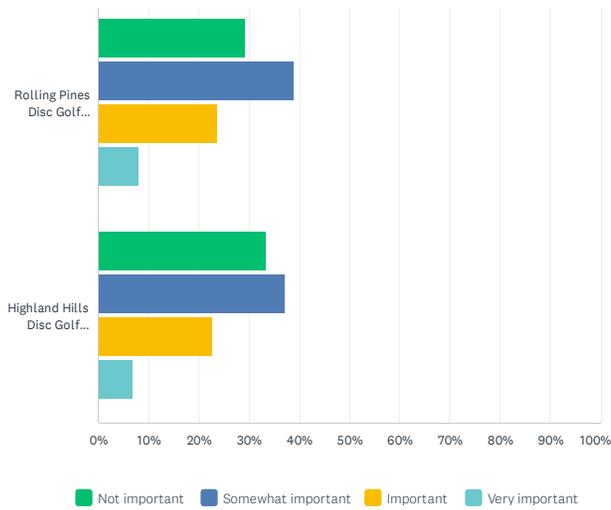
Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



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Not important Somewhat important Important Very important

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	IMPORANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Blue Ridge Parkway	0.59% 3	4.35% 22	13.83% 70	81.23% 411	506	3.76
Stone Mountain State Park	1.19% 6	6.76% 34	23.46% 118	68.59% 345	503	3.59
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir	0.60% 3	6.37% 32	26.69% 134	66.33% 333	502	3.59
Yadkin River Greenway	1.78% 9	9.47% 48	30.57% 155	58.19% 295	507	3.45
Yadkin River	1.00% 5	12.02% 60	33.87% 169	53.11% 265	499	3.39
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Trail System	2.62% 13	13.31% 66	32.66% 162	51.41% 255	496	3.33
Downtown Wilkesboro	4.02% 20	12.47% 62	33.60% 167	49.90% 248	497	3.29
Downtown North Wilkesboro	5.80% 29	12.60% 63	34.40% 172	47.20% 236	500	3.23
Cub Creek Park	5.19% 26	21.36% 107	30.34% 152	43.11% 216	501	3.11
Doughton Park	7.93% 39	23.98% 118	34.15% 168	33.94% 167	492	2.94
Mountains to Sea Trail	7.14% 35	25.71% 126	37.55% 184	29.59% 145	490	2.90
Bandit's Roost Campground	7.14% 35	25.31% 124	41.43% 203	26.12% 128	490	2.87
Fort Hamby Park Campground	7.61% 37	25.72% 125	39.71% 193	26.95% 131	486	2.86
Warrior Creek Campground	7.57% 37	26.18% 128	40.90% 200	25.36% 124	489	2.84
Smoot Park	10.98% 54	24.19% 119	35.16% 173	29.67% 146	492	2.84
Rendezvous State Educational Forest	8.79% 43	31.90% 156	36.61% 179	22.70% 111	489	2.73
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail	9.28% 45	29.90% 145	40.41% 196	20.41% 99	485	2.72
Carter Falls	12.63% 60	37.47% 178	36.84% 175	13.05% 62	475	2.50
E & A Rail Trail	13.86% 65	41.58% 195	30.70% 144	13.86% 65	469	2.45
Thurmond Chatham Game Land	19.08% 91	36.90% 176	29.98% 143	14.05% 67	477	2.39
Rolling Pines Disc Golf Course	29.13% 141	39.05% 189	23.76% 115	8.06% 39	484	2.11
Highland Hills Disc Golf Course	33.40% 161	37.14% 179	22.61% 109	6.85% 33	482	2.03
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)				DATE	

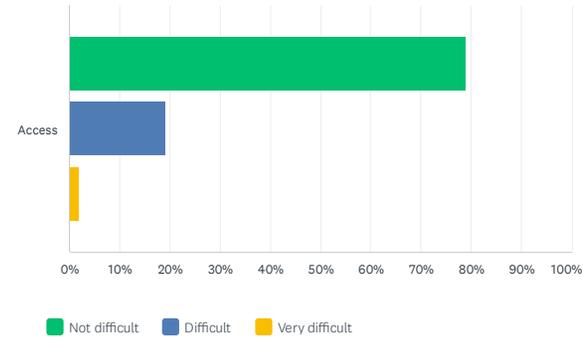
Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

1	dog park	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
2	Golf Courses are not referenced again.	10/19/2021 10:44 AM
3	I've never heard of the ones marked as not important.	10/13/2021 3:10 PM
4	Tyson has ruined the town of Wilkesboro. Tyson at its present location should be closed and bulldozed and a park should be built there.	10/13/2021 10:58 AM
5	I did not know that the E & A Rail Trail existed. I did some research on it and I love it. Can't wait to check it out.	10/13/2021 9:38 AM
6	Hwy 268 along Kerr Scott Lake road shoulder enhancement for road biking	10/12/2021 5:46 PM
7	Emphasis should be on Wilkes' gateway to the Blue Ridge seamless transition from city to country attractions, with a broad range of family activities making longer car drives worth the trip. More characters and stories for TV's "North Carolina Weekend".	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
8	It would be nice to have a public golf course or even a Par 3 course.	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
9	Lowes Park at River's Edge (Very important), Cub Creek trail system (Very important), etc.	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
10	Let's extend the time of farmer's markets. They're not open long enough	10/9/2021 10:00 PM
11	Whippoorwill Academy high priority	10/9/2021 8:23 PM
12	Smoot Park is often overcrowded.	10/8/2021 12:46 PM
13	Smoot Park is in desperate need of an update	10/6/2021 1:11 PM
14	Wilkes Community College campus offers excellent walking area, gardens, and playground.	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
15	Rendezvous Educational Park has great potential. Talking trees need to be repaired.	9/29/2021 6:34 AM
16	How do we refine the visitor experience?	9/28/2021 10:27 PM
17	Although Rendezvous Mountain is currently not much used, it has lots of potential and should be looked at for developing into a real asset. Smoot Park could really use some upgrading to make it more attractive to visitors.	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
18	Rendezvous needs an overhaul. Wasted asset right now. Should look into other recreation opportunities at other state owned property/Game Lands also (hiking and biking trails)	9/28/2021 11:44 AM
19	I have no idea where some of the parks & trails listed in this survey are located. I live in Boomer w/all my kids grown. It would be nice to know where these places are especially when family visits.	9/27/2021 4:52 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

Q5 How difficult is it to access existing outdoor recreation assets in Wilkes County?

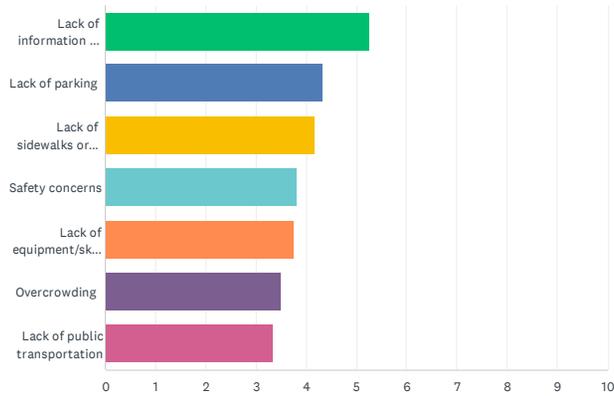
Answered: 493 Skipped: 17



	NOT DIFFICULT	DIFFICULT	VERY DIFFICULT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Access	78.90% 389	19.27% 95	1.83% 9	493	1.23

### Q6 Please rank the following challenges to accessing existing outdoor recreation assets in Wilkes County?

Answered: 485 Skipped: 25

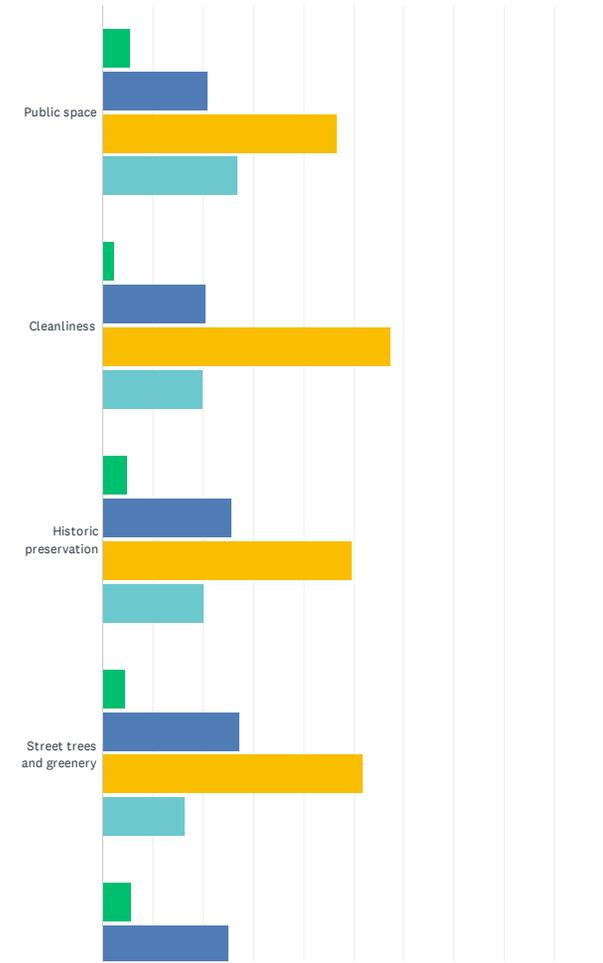


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Lack of information and wayfinding signage	38.46% 165	18.18% 78	16.08% 69	6.76% 29	8.39% 36	3.26% 14	8.86% 38	429	5.26
Lack of parking	9.98% 42	21.62% 91	20.43% 86	16.39% 69	10.45% 44	12.83% 54	8.31% 35	421	4.33
Lack of sidewalks or bike lanes	19.57% 91	16.77% 78	12.47% 58	10.97% 51	11.61% 54	10.11% 47	18.49% 86	465	4.17
Safety concerns	8.94% 38	12.00% 51	12.94% 55	19.06% 81	20.94% 89	17.18% 73	8.94% 38	425	3.82
Lack of equipment/skills	4.61% 20	11.75% 51	14.52% 63	24.42% 106	21.66% 94	14.98% 65	8.06% 35	434	3.76
Overcrowding	8.94% 37	10.87% 45	14.49% 60	10.63% 44	15.94% 66	19.32% 80	19.81% 82	414	3.49
Lack of public transportation	12.90% 57	8.37% 37	8.82% 39	13.35% 59	10.86% 48	19.00% 84	26.70% 118	442	3.35

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### Q7 How would you rate the quality of the following items in Downtown Wilkesboro?

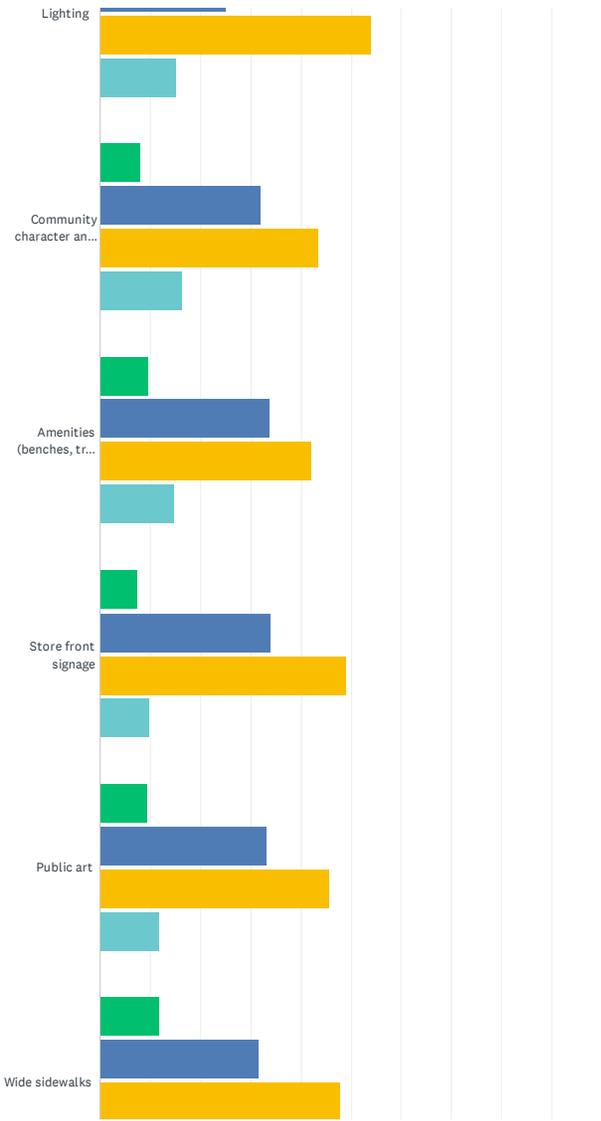
Answered: 505 Skipped: 5



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Legend: Poor (Green), Fair (Blue), Good (Yellow), Excellent (Teal)

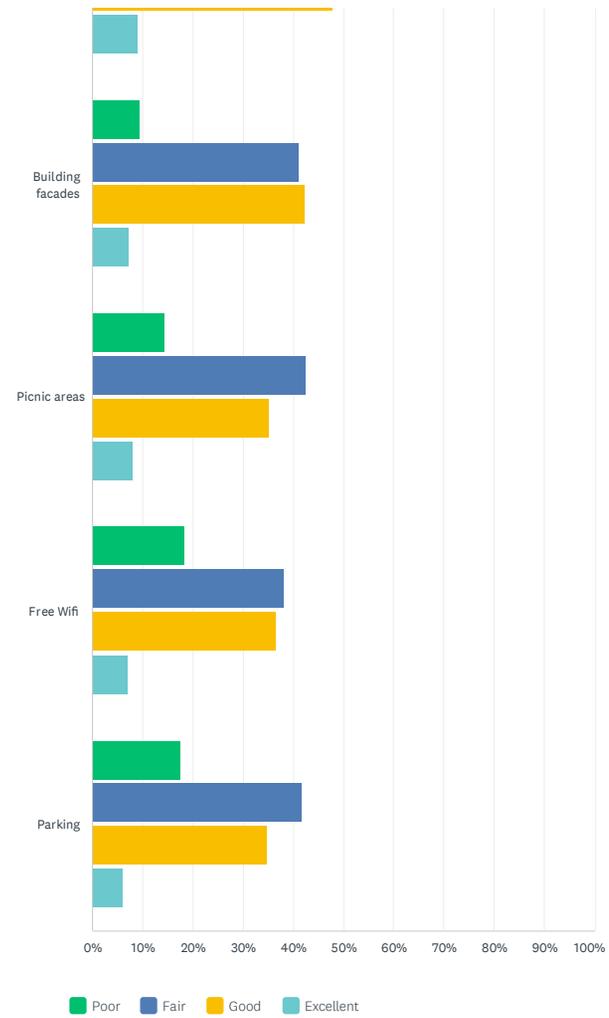
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■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Excellent

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



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■ Poor ■ Fair ■ Good ■ Excellent

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Public space	5.60% 28	21.00% 105	46.60% 233	26.80% 134	500	2.95
Cleanliness	2.40% 12	20.44% 102	57.31% 286	19.84% 99	499	2.95
Historic preservation	4.84% 24	25.60% 127	49.60% 246	19.96% 99	496	2.85
Street trees and greenery	4.37% 22	27.24% 137	51.89% 261	16.50% 83	503	2.81
Lighting	5.79% 29	25.15% 126	53.89% 270	15.17% 76	501	2.78
Community character and unique identity	8.00% 40	32.00% 160	43.60% 218	16.40% 82	500	2.68
Amenities (benches, trash cans, bike racks)	9.60% 48	33.60% 168	42.00% 210	14.80% 74	500	2.62
Store front signage	7.37% 37	33.86% 170	49.00% 246	9.76% 49	502	2.61
Public art	9.40% 47	33.20% 166	45.60% 228	11.80% 59	500	2.60
Wide sidewalks	11.82% 59	31.46% 157	47.70% 238	9.02% 45	499	2.54
Building facades	9.48% 47	41.13% 204	42.14% 209	7.26% 36	496	2.47
Picnic areas	14.29% 71	42.45% 211	35.21% 175	8.05% 40	497	2.37
Free Wifi	18.28% 87	38.24% 182	36.55% 174	6.93% 33	476	2.32
Parking	17.56% 88	41.72% 209	34.73% 174	5.99% 30	501	2.29

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Cub Creek is always very clean, they do a great job of upkeep. Barely ANY stores in downtown and the 4 way stops are a nightmare - not that the town cares.	10/29/2021 3:09 PM
2	MANY More Street lights needed especially all along 421, Curtis Bridge Road, Hwy 268 and at Ballfields and parks entrance exits such as the old airport site	10/28/2021 8:27 AM
3	More outdoor eating places	10/27/2021 3:21 PM
4	Free Wifi is the least important part of downtown	10/27/2021 9:20 AM
5	Need handicap access to Carter falls	10/26/2021 11:20 AM
6	Need better signage to find the downtown	10/25/2021 9:03 PM
7	Wilkesboro needs a full new board get rid of the overstuffed wanna be political ones get folk in there who want a change	10/18/2021 1:10 PM
8	Sidewalk condition is fair to poor. ADA compliance is very poor even for sidewalk that was recently constructed. Too much focus is on entertainment for the wealthy and for visitors and not enough on the people who walk to their jobs and services. Outdoor dining interferes with the use of sidewalks, especially for people in wheelchairs. Town crews do an excellent job of caring for streets and sidewalks within their budget constraints.	10/18/2021 9:09 AM
9	Sidewalk needed from downtown intersection to Cub Creek	10/17/2021 7:54 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

10	I've lived here a year and I feel like I traveled back in time. Im from a small town in Tennessee, but it has so much more to offer.	10/17/2021 12:59 AM
11	Dow to town Wilkesboro has come a long way. Still need more restaurants, more shops and more visual appeal.	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
12	There is a horrible smell coming from the river near Brushy Mt . Dental. I walk the greenway there every day and the smell has been there for a month.	10/13/2021 9:51 PM
13	More variety for activities for all ages needed. More partnerships with organizations would be beneficial to everyone in the community!	10/13/2021 4:41 PM
14	Wilkesboro has been ruined by Tyson. Something should be done to relocate the entire Tyson facility.	10/13/2021 10:58 AM
15	They do an excellent job maintaining the facilities.	10/13/2021 8:34 AM
16	The restoration of the buildings and the facades have improved tremendously in the past few years thanks to a few businesses and their owners. A lot of thanks to them but some buildings really need work which make all that has been done be incomplete.	10/12/2021 5:09 PM
17	Parking with wheelchair accessible access to sidewalks and event areas when events are planned	10/12/2021 1:49 PM
18	More outdoor public fitness classes Yoga , tai chi, stretching, senior fitness	10/12/2021 10:21 AM
19	Since local developers have put there time and money into downtown it is 1000% better. More partnerships between developers, businesses and city will help this. The city needs to work hard to continue this.	10/11/2021 9:39 PM
20	In comparison to downtown West Jefferson, or Blowing Rock, for example, Wilkesboro lacks the continuous, contagious excitement of irresistible sights, sounds, spaces, aromas, and giddy atmosphere that makes you want to spend time and money.	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
21	We were new to the area and it has been difficult to identify what type of businesses are in buildings. We search for upcoming events, but don't hear about them until they are already over.	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
22	These vary greatly. Parking and outdoor space in Wilkesboro is great. NO large trucks should be allowed through town... noisy and distracting from Pavilion area. Access points to kayak are challenging.	10/11/2021 3:06 AM
23	Keep going on upgrades	10/11/2021 12:45 AM
24	Wilkesboro needs to clean up Henderson drive!! What a poor eyesight entering to a beautiful park!!!! Work on side streets and clean them up !	10/10/2021 10:17 PM
25	Public restroom facilities like you see in Elkin and Mt Airy	10/10/2021 10:21 AM
26	Fruiting plants (Good - but want more), Activities (Good - but want more)	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
27	Need incentives to beautify the town and have better business hours	10/9/2021 10:00 PM
28	The county's main towns are in need of REVIVAL... and it can be accomplished WITHOUT sacrificing the hometown feel. Finding a balance is possible with careful planning and boundaries.	10/9/2021 1:53 AM
29	Side walks need repair	10/8/2021 11:16 PM
30	Oh, if we could only have underground utilities! Those power lines are such an eyesore!	10/8/2021 12:46 PM
31	The 4 way stops on Main Street are terrible and clog the area at peak times. Needs to go back to traffic lights.	10/7/2021 5:59 PM
32	I have not been there in the last year to rate.	10/6/2021 7:24 PM
33	The downtown area needs a mix of traditional and modern art right now everything is modern. I would have given the historical category a better rating if they hadn't torn down the stone building and replaced it with a concrete slab. Vacant storefronts need better appeal and the purple light in front of the Heritage Museum needs to be changed	10/6/2021 1:11 PM
34	Continue the downtown revitalization and tie it into North Wilkesboro by closing the outside	10/6/2021 1:05 PM

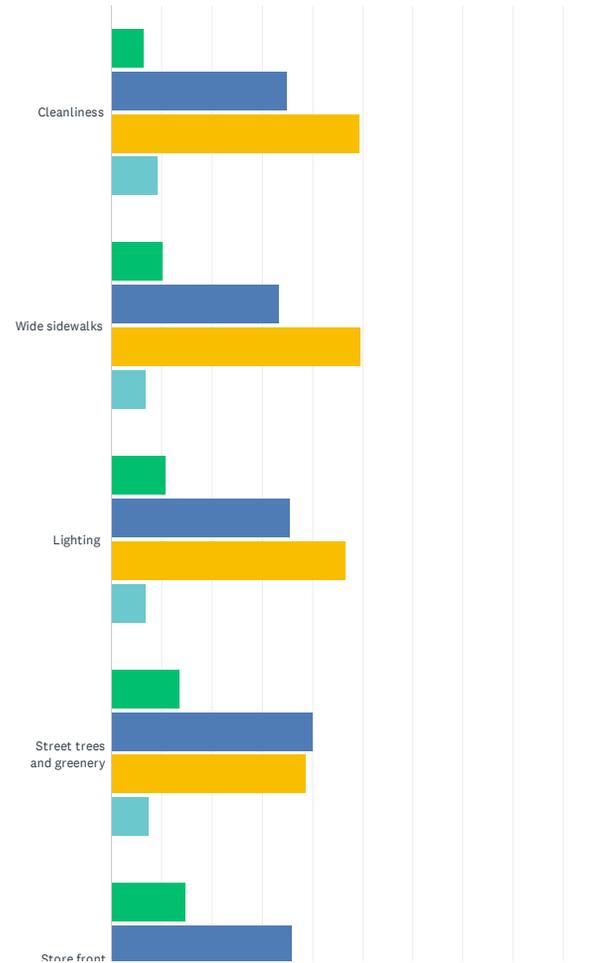
Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	lanes of Wilkesboro Blvd. Bridge and create walking / biking lanes.	
35	Dining-Extremely poor. I think one of the things that's holding our town back is the poor quality of the dining. I've lived in a lot of places, and I've never experienced anything this bad. I'd like to eat out once and a while, but there's nowhere decent to go. We have a lot of empty downtown space, so if we could incentivize good restaurant owners and chefs from elsewhere, it would make our town infinitely more appealing to tourists and to locals.	10/6/2021 12:13 PM
36	Whole town looks rundown and parking is terrible. The stop signs that have been installed are a nightmare backing traffic up from Tyson on one end to Brushy Mtn Rd on the other end. All the rundown drug houses just off Main Street through out town also adds to the feeling of a rundown town.	10/6/2021 10:09 AM
37	Public charging stations for electronic devices, which would encourage more people to spend time outside while using devices.	10/2/2021 10:02 PM
38	The 4-way stops are actually hazards for pedestrians. I have seen several close calls as drivers are too busy trying to figure out who goes next and fail to notice pedestrians when it's finally their turn to go.	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
39	Building upkeep and extravagant rent prevent small businesses from being successful. Lack of interesting businesses results in low foot traffic	9/29/2021 1:26 PM
40	Night Lighting at Rivers Edge (old airport) needs LED update...very dark	9/29/2021 12:24 PM
41	Need dedicated bike lanes on streets	9/29/2021 8:45 AM
42	Number of landlords instead of one main entity and they do a poor job at some of their locations.	9/29/2021 8:21 AM
43	Bring back the farmers market on Friday nights. It's ridiculous it was discontinued because the YMCA cannot handle it because when it the weather is inclement they cancel. We do not like going to the one on Saturday morning in North Wilkesboro	9/28/2021 10:44 PM
44	On the right path.	9/28/2021 10:27 PM
45	If wifi...don't know about. Lack of signage.	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
46	Restaurant options - poor	9/28/2021 2:54 PM
47	Baseball fields need more attention	9/28/2021 11:55 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

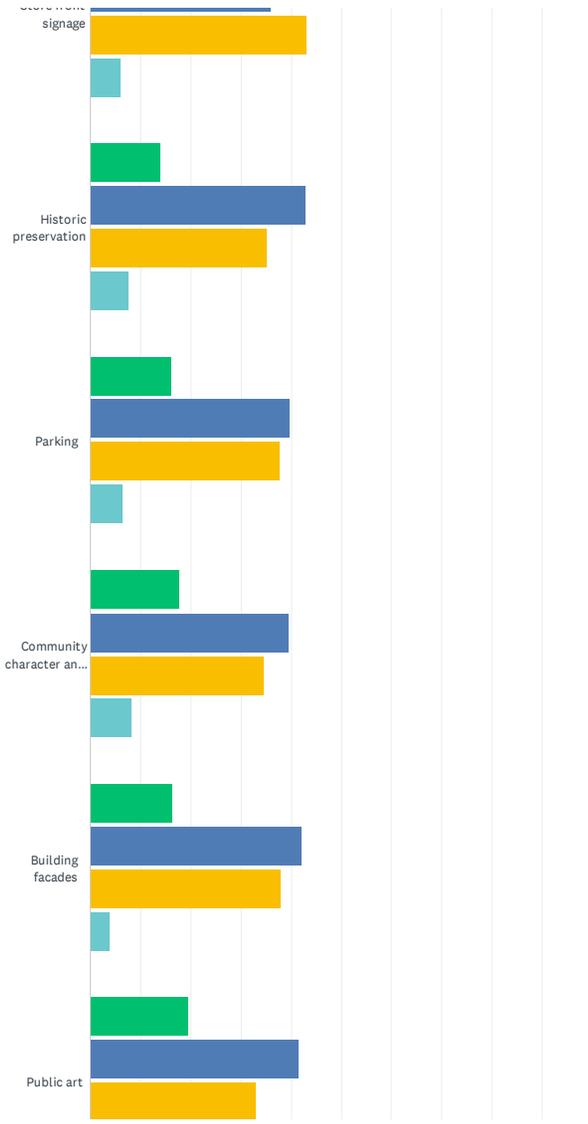
Q8 How would you rate the quality of the following items in Downtown North Wilkesboro?

Answered: 499 Skipped: 11



Legend: Poor (Green), Fair (Blue), Good (Yellow), Excellent (Light Blue)

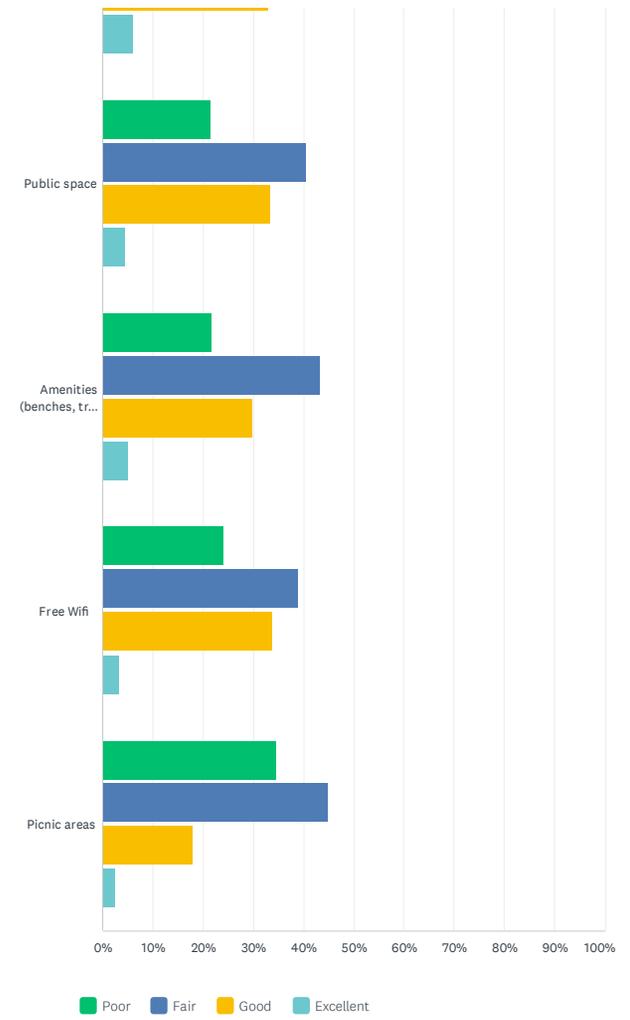
Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



31 / 59

Poor Fair Good Excellent

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey



32 / 59

Poor Fair Good Excellent

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCELLENT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Cleanliness	6.45% 32	34.88% 173	49.40% 245	9.27% 46	496	2.61
Wide sidewalks	10.20% 50	33.47% 164	49.59% 243	6.73% 33	490	2.53
Lighting	10.91% 54	35.56% 176	46.67% 231	6.87% 34	495	2.49
Street trees and greenery	13.65% 68	40.16% 200	38.76% 193	7.43% 37	498	2.40
Store front signage	14.78% 73	36.03% 178	43.12% 213	6.07% 30	494	2.40
Historic preservation	14.11% 69	42.94% 210	35.17% 172	7.77% 38	489	2.37
Parking	16.29% 80	39.71% 195	37.68% 185	6.31% 31	491	2.34
Community character and unique identity	17.76% 87	39.39% 193	34.49% 169	8.37% 41	490	2.33
Building facades	16.40% 81	41.90% 207	37.85% 187	3.85% 19	494	2.29
Public art	19.55% 96	41.55% 204	32.99% 162	5.91% 29	491	2.25
Public space	21.57% 107	40.52% 201	33.47% 166	4.44% 22	496	2.21
Amenities (benches, trash cans, bike racks)	21.75% 107	43.29% 213	29.88% 147	5.08% 25	492	2.18
Free Wifi	24.03% 111	38.96% 180	33.77% 156	3.25% 15	462	2.16
Picnic areas	34.62% 170	44.81% 220	17.92% 88	2.65% 13	491	1.89

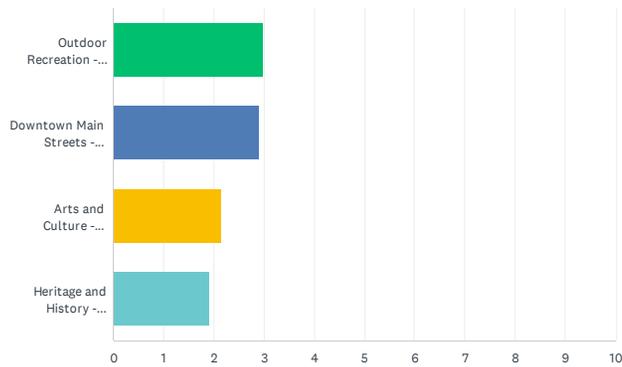
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	North Wilkesboro has a better downtown feel vs. Wilkesboro. It's too bad they just don't join forces	10/29/2021 3:09 PM
2	More of everything	10/27/2021 3:21 PM
3	I am not aware of a picnic area	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
4	Awesome town government easy to work with	10/18/2021 1:10 PM
5	Sidewalks in North Wilkesboro are better. Again, the Town crews do an excellent job. I would love to see the alleyway at the Police Department improved as it could be a great asset to connect Main Street to additional parking. A plaza at the intersection of Main Street and 7th Street would be good for aesthetics, for traffic calming, and for ADA improvements. CBD Loop between D Street and Wilkesboro Boulevard should be restriped to include bicycle lanes. Main Street between 6th Street and Chestnut Street should be restriped to include bicycle lanes. When the D Street Bridge over the Reddies River is replaced, it should include multiuse paths on both sides. The NC 268 Bypass is needed to enhance the lives of people living north of downtown. This would give them a safe place to be outdoors in their own neighborhood and to walk/bike to downtown and other destinations. It would also make adding bicycle lanes to D Street from downtown to Curtis Bridge Road possible.	10/18/2021 9:09 AM
6	Building owners should be expected to keep their vacant buildings looking somewhat nice or be fined. They look terrible. North Wilkesboro is also really lacking identity. It has so much potential for bring businesses in but needs tidying up	10/17/2021 7:54 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

7	Downtown North Wilkesboro needs more work. Look to West Jefferson, even Elkin is much more appealing than NW	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
8	We prefer North Wilkesboro to Wilkesboro because of the awful Tyson situation. I do not go to Wilkesboro unless I absolutely have to. I drive around it every day.	10/13/2021 10:58 AM
9	not sure about free wifi	10/13/2021 8:34 AM
10	N Wilkesboro should do what Wilkesboro has done and get private developers to help move things along.	10/11/2021 9:39 PM
11	North Wilkesboro needs to be much broader and progressive in every aspect: physical spaces, restaurants, pubs, shopping, entertainment, recreation, education, environmental and political awareness. It needs a 24 hour watering hole more than ever.	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
12	So much potential is there but not being utilized.	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
13	Market area is very nice. Shoot park is well kept. Still need more of the security front for the Greenway area.	10/11/2021 3:06 AM
14	The business that have updated or maintained their store fronts look great. Unfortunately, many buildings appear empty.	10/10/2021 7:02 PM
15	Public restrooms like Elkin and Mt Airy have. Maintain them to be clean and safe like they do.	10/10/2021 10:21 AM
16	Activities (Poor)	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
17	I have not been there in the last year.	10/6/2021 7:24 PM
18	Connect to Wilkesboro	10/6/2021 1:05 PM
19	North Wilkesboro looks almost like a ghost town. Th older buildings need to be cleaned up. Old signs taken down. Doesn't help that manure is spread around the greenway. Or that the Bradford Pear trees smell like a toilet.	10/6/2021 10:20 AM
20	The town is possibly worse than Wilkesboro there is no reason to go downtown all there is are empty buildings and professional offices for the most part. The buildings except for Talias look horrible parking is just as bad as a wilkesboro. Same issue with rundown drug houses however most of them are more than 1 street off of the main town area. Both Wilkesboro North Wilkesboro need to look at West Jefferson as the model for what they should be.	10/6/2021 10:09 AM
21	Need good restaurants and make the farmers market/rail station area more appealing, comfortable as a place to meet and visit or take a break	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
22	Wilkesboro has worked so hard to get where they are and that makes me proud. I live in the town of North Wilkesboro and it's suffering. It's sad to drive through downtown on a Saturday evening and the town be completely dead.	9/29/2021 2:34 PM
23	Expensive rent and poor building management is a roadblock to businesses. Could be a great walking area with the right focus on bringing on restaurants and shopping.	9/29/2021 1:26 PM
24	Need dedicated bike lanes that make sense on where they go	9/29/2021 8:45 AM
25	It has a long way to go to catch up with Wilkesboro or even Ashe County	9/28/2021 10:44 PM
26	Not sure if DTNW has free wifi. Well thought out public common/space needed for Main Street.	9/28/2021 10:27 PM
27	Don't think wifi is available.	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
28	Restaurant options-poor	9/28/2021 2:54 PM
29	I don't know anything about the wi-fi availability.	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
30	It would be nice if the area where the oldTaco Bell sink hole once existed could become a small park/picnic area.	9/27/2021 4:52 PM

Q9 Rank the following activity categories in order of importance (1-4):

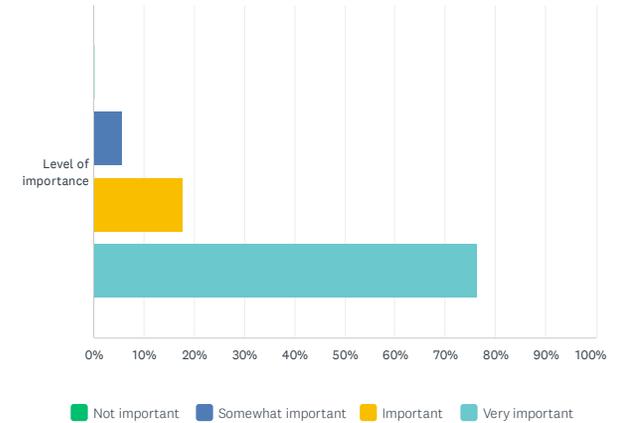
Answered: 502 Skipped: 8



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Outdoor Recreation - trails, parks, and watersports	45.97% 228	24.19% 120	11.49% 57	18.35% 91	496	2.98
Downtown Main Streets - dining and shopping	33.90% 159	34.12% 160	19.40% 91	12.58% 59	469	2.89
Arts and Culture - events and museums	11.49% 54	22.98% 108	35.11% 165	30.43% 143	470	2.16
Heritage and History - historic sites and educational programs	7.13% 34	17.61% 84	34.38% 164	40.88% 195	477	1.91

Q10 How important do you feel outdoor recreation and tourism are to the future of Wilkes County?

Answered: 507 Skipped: 3



	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Level of importance	0.20% 1	5.72% 29	17.75% 90	76.33% 387	507	4.47

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Need more things for younger generations	10/18/2021 1:10 PM
2	Again, we should be focusing on connecting the existing bicycle/pedestrian facilities to expand the network and make connections to homes. This will build a sustainable system for residents and businesses that will ultimately attract tourists and people looking to relocate to a good community.	10/18/2021 9:09 AM
3	We need to advertise our world class Mt Bike trails and top ranked DG course to the surrounding areas.	10/17/2021 7:54 AM
4	Just returned from 4 day trip to Abington/Damascus Virg areal hike and ride Creeper Trail. They have great restaurants, shops, arts and walking the small downtown is so appealing.	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
5	It should be noted that too much attention is not necessarily a good thing.	10/15/2021 7:45 PM
6	Smoot park swimming and skate park need a full upgrade and moved away from the smell of sewer.	10/13/2021 9:51 PM
7	The restaurants and new stores in Wilkesboro have really turned it around. We appreciate what a few who have done so much for the town have done. We frequent the owners of the brewery and restaurant because of what they have done and appreciate them.	10/12/2021 5:09 PM
8	Exciting to see some of the work already being done, such as the work at Cub Creek and	10/12/2021 1:49 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

	Melody Square. Anxious to see what else is in store. Please don't forget our seniors too! They need something to attract them to gather together sometimes, that is handicapped accessible and easy to get to.	
9	I think it would be good for the towns to stock the trout streams in Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro City limits every Thursday like Gatlinburg, TN does and sell multi-day fishing license to attract tourists.	10/12/2021 8:34 AM
10	Younger people come to an area that has lots of outdoor activities available	10/12/2021 7:25 AM
11	The disc golf, canoeing and off road biking in Wilkesboro is VERY POORLY promoted. Even locals don't know it is there let alone visitors. What huge assets. Put that together with Wilkesboro's revitalization it could bring large number of visitors. Thank goodness Wilkesboro looks so much better these past few years. It was dying.	10/11/2021 9:39 PM
12	Wilkes tourism can be vastly expanded by promoting its natural features and the vitality of its population. Above all, and to facilitate that growth, its people must become much better educated and more politically astute.	10/11/2021 12:14 PM
13	We need to offer our youth a reason to want to stay in Wilkes County.	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
14	This town has a ton of natural resources. It's a shame we aren't using them better.	10/11/2021 12:03 AM
15	The problem with promoting tourism is we are only 30 minutes drive from real tourist destinations such as parkway, Blowing Rock, Boone, West Jefferson, etc.....	10/10/2021 7:25 AM
16	Gateway to the mountains, dining & regional foods highlights, museums, festivals, concerts, boating, hiking, bicycling, camping, fishing, historical sightseeing, church events, tours, etc	10/9/2021 2:37 AM
17	Outdoor recreation, dining, shopping, events and so forth benefit residents and benefit tourism. Many of us who have retired to Wilkes county or own vacation homes in the county want the access to dining, shopping, events and outdoor activities nearby rather than traveling to other counties.	10/9/2021 1:53 AM
18	I'm not sure how many people make it a point to come to Wilkesboro or to North Wilkesboro specifically to get away for a day or two. There are lots of live music events that are held, but something for those with varied interests would be good. I think we really need to bring back the Apple Festival.	10/8/2021 12:46 PM
19	need to bring in more of the arts and make our downtown area walkable. Ice cream shops, sandwich shops, and better less outdated stores	10/7/2021 11:27 AM
20	Rendezvous Mountain needs help and leadership.	10/7/2021 11:00 AM
21	But not for improving the properties of citizens and businesses in the name of "tourism". We have the tourism authority for bringing people here, not for helping locals with signs and marketing. Give people outdoor opportunity to enjoy with family...	10/7/2021 1:49 AM
22	And I believe it needs to look diverse in the offerings to attract many different people.	10/6/2021 7:24 PM
23	Question number nine was a bit ridiculous since they are all of equal importance particularly to tourism	10/6/2021 1:11 PM
24	It's how we separate ourselves from the larger cities.	10/6/2021 1:05 PM
25	Outdoor recreation is great and we are well situated for it to be a central focus. Just keep in mind all age groups. Wilkesboro's splash pad is a great example of how badly good children's play areas are needed. A "rest stop" on the N Wilkesboro section of the Greenway would be a help for both children and seniors.	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
26	Sure isn't going to be industry. Too much subsidy for those too lazy to work... the rest of us don't have time for "amenities"	9/30/2021 6:50 PM
27	Tourism is the driving force behind all future growth in Wilkes. Outdoor recreation has the most potential for increasing tourism dollars. Tourism directly puts millions into the economy annum as well as bring great attention to the area for future prospective businesses.	9/28/2021 10:45 PM
28	Well with the Corp of Engineers not opening anything until so late in closing so early how can you do tourism. And then Wilkesboro a North Wilkesboro a aren't really open during the weekends. I've had company here he would've preferred to go into one of the towns than one of the big box restaurants on 421	9/28/2021 10:44 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

29	We need to do more in this area!!	9/28/2021 2:54 PM
30	Wilkes County is a beautiful place and I re-located here for the outdoor opportunities.	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
31	Extremely important. The assets are there, but some need an upgrade. Leaders need to invest in maintaining the resources. Wilkes is unique and has a lot to offer that other locations do not. If you want heads in beds, invest in Outdoor Recreation.	9/28/2021 11:44 AM
32	Having things of a good/fun nature for our young people to do here in Wilkes might keep them from moving away.	9/27/2021 4:52 PM
33	Batting cage would be excellent for our youth/young adult population. Need for additional historical events/information for the minority populations	9/23/2021 8:28 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

Q11 What is your zip code?

Answered: 502 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	28697	10/29/2021 4:54 PM
2	28659	10/29/2021 3:58 PM
3	28697	10/29/2021 3:56 PM
4	28651	10/29/2021 3:09 PM
5	28659	10/29/2021 3:05 PM
6	28651	10/29/2021 3:00 PM
7	28635	10/29/2021 2:47 PM
8	28624	10/29/2021 2:44 PM
9	28659	10/29/2021 2:42 PM
10	28635	10/29/2021 2:37 PM
11	28659	10/29/2021 2:33 PM
12	28659	10/29/2021 2:29 PM
13	28651	10/29/2021 11:56 AM
14	28659	10/29/2021 9:55 AM
15	28683	10/28/2021 10:44 PM
16	28659	10/28/2021 4:29 PM
17	28651	10/28/2021 4:24 PM
18	28697	10/28/2021 9:36 AM
19	28665	10/28/2021 8:59 AM
20	28697	10/28/2021 8:27 AM
21	28621	10/28/2021 5:34 AM
22	28676	10/27/2021 7:54 PM
23	28659	10/27/2021 4:50 PM
24	28659	10/27/2021 3:21 PM
25	28621	10/27/2021 10:38 AM
26	28634	10/27/2021 9:20 AM
27	28659	10/26/2021 10:04 PM
28	28618	10/26/2021 4:38 PM
29	28676	10/26/2021 11:20 AM
30	28621	10/26/2021 8:28 AM
31	28659	10/26/2021 1:27 AM
32	28694	10/25/2021 9:03 PM
33	28697	10/25/2021 1:17 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

34	28697	10/24/2021 9:50 PM
35	28624	10/24/2021 6:44 PM
36	28697	10/24/2021 9:36 AM
37	28659	10/24/2021 8:05 AM
38	28659	10/24/2021 7:51 AM
39	28654	10/23/2021 4:35 PM
40	28659	10/23/2021 6:55 AM
41	28651	10/23/2021 6:30 AM
42	28697	10/22/2021 10:47 PM
43	28607	10/22/2021 10:54 AM
44	28659	10/22/2021 7:08 AM
45	28669	10/21/2021 8:25 PM
46	28659	10/21/2021 7:27 PM
47	28685	10/21/2021 3:57 PM
48	28659	10/19/2021 11:42 AM
49	28659	10/19/2021 11:27 AM
50	28654	10/18/2021 8:42 PM
51	28697	10/18/2021 1:10 PM
52	28659	10/18/2021 12:07 PM
53	28635	10/18/2021 10:44 AM
54	28697	10/18/2021 9:09 AM
55	28669	10/17/2021 8:21 PM
56	28635	10/17/2021 6:43 PM
57	28697	10/17/2021 6:13 PM
58	28621	10/17/2021 1:54 PM
59	28659	10/17/2021 1:18 PM
60	28635	10/17/2021 1:05 PM
61	28651	10/17/2021 10:40 AM
62	28659	10/17/2021 7:54 AM
63	28659	10/17/2021 12:59 AM
64	28659	10/16/2021 10:30 PM
65	28697	10/16/2021 10:27 PM
66	28689	10/16/2021 9:16 PM
67	28697	10/16/2021 8:06 PM
68	28672	10/16/2021 6:14 PM
69	28697	10/16/2021 2:59 PM
70	28659	10/16/2021 10:12 AM
71	28685	10/16/2021 9:32 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

72	28635	10/16/2021 8:17 AM
73	28697	10/16/2021 7:50 AM
74	28659	10/16/2021 6:46 AM
75	28659	10/15/2021 10:27 PM
76	28685	10/15/2021 7:45 PM
77	28659	10/15/2021 7:10 PM
78	28676	10/15/2021 6:27 PM
79	28659	10/15/2021 3:37 PM
80	28659	10/15/2021 3:10 PM
81	28651	10/15/2021 1:25 PM
82	28659	10/15/2021 9:49 AM
83	28659	10/15/2021 9:28 AM
84	28659	10/15/2021 8:43 AM
85	28665	10/15/2021 4:17 AM
86	28651	10/14/2021 10:24 PM
87	28669	10/14/2021 10:15 PM
88	28621	10/14/2021 8:51 PM
89	28607	10/14/2021 7:58 PM
90	28697	10/14/2021 7:16 PM
91	28659	10/14/2021 5:00 PM
92	28697	10/14/2021 4:56 PM
93	28685	10/14/2021 3:31 PM
94	28651	10/14/2021 3:03 PM
95	28624	10/14/2021 2:59 PM
96	28697	10/14/2021 2:43 PM
97	28651	10/14/2021 2:36 PM
98	28659	10/14/2021 11:29 AM
99	28642	10/14/2021 9:25 AM
100	28697	10/14/2021 8:56 AM
101	28694	10/14/2021 8:50 AM
102	28689	10/13/2021 10:09 PM
103	28659	10/13/2021 9:51 PM
104	28685	10/13/2021 8:43 PM
105	28659	10/13/2021 8:37 PM
106	28606	10/13/2021 8:35 PM
107	28659	10/13/2021 8:29 PM
108	28659	10/13/2021 7:52 PM
109	28685	10/13/2021 5:51 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

110	28635	10/13/2021 5:43 PM
111	28659	10/13/2021 5:32 PM
112	28697	10/13/2021 4:41 PM
113	28697	10/13/2021 3:15 PM
114	28697	10/13/2021 3:10 PM
115	28697	10/13/2021 1:30 PM
116	28659	10/13/2021 1:13 PM
117	28651	10/13/2021 12:45 PM
118	28621	10/13/2021 11:46 AM
119	28697	10/13/2021 11:14 AM
120	28654	10/13/2021 11:12 AM
121	28697	10/13/2021 10:58 AM
122	28659	10/13/2021 10:32 AM
123	28624	10/13/2021 10:16 AM
124	28659	10/13/2021 10:09 AM
125	28697	10/13/2021 9:44 AM
126	28697	10/13/2021 9:38 AM
127	28697	10/13/2021 9:31 AM
128	28697	10/13/2021 9:27 AM
129	28697	10/13/2021 9:21 AM
130	28659	10/13/2021 9:04 AM
131	28697	10/13/2021 9:04 AM
132	28697	10/13/2021 8:34 AM
133	28697	10/13/2021 8:28 AM
134	28694	10/13/2021 7:53 AM
135	28659	10/13/2021 7:47 AM
136	28659	10/12/2021 11:14 PM
137	28659	10/12/2021 11:03 PM
138	27292	10/12/2021 10:59 PM
139	28669	10/12/2021 10:23 PM
140	28624	10/12/2021 10:17 PM
141	28651	10/12/2021 10:00 PM
142	28640	10/12/2021 9:46 PM
143	28659	10/12/2021 9:37 PM
144	28659	10/12/2021 8:51 PM
145	28635	10/12/2021 8:10 PM
146	28659	10/12/2021 8:01 PM
147	28659	10/12/2021 7:51 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

148	28659	10/12/2021 7:41 PM
149	28683	10/12/2021 7:18 PM
150	28608	10/12/2021 6:27 PM
151	28635	10/12/2021 6:13 PM
152	28659	10/12/2021 6:02 PM
153	28697	10/12/2021 5:57 PM
154	28654	10/12/2021 5:46 PM
155	28697	10/12/2021 5:09 PM
156	28697	10/12/2021 5:02 PM
157	28606	10/12/2021 4:49 PM
158	28697	10/12/2021 4:34 PM
159	28669	10/12/2021 4:11 PM
160	28665	10/12/2021 3:57 PM
161	28697	10/12/2021 3:26 PM
162	28659	10/12/2021 3:23 PM
163	28607	10/12/2021 3:00 PM
164	28659	10/12/2021 2:58 PM
165	28654	10/12/2021 2:56 PM
166	28659	10/12/2021 2:46 PM
167	28697	10/12/2021 2:42 PM
168	28654	10/12/2021 2:36 PM
169	28659	10/12/2021 2:31 PM
170	28659	10/12/2021 2:31 PM
171	28659	10/12/2021 2:02 PM
172	28659	10/12/2021 1:49 PM
173	28665	10/12/2021 1:48 PM
174	28605	10/12/2021 1:44 PM
175	28697	10/12/2021 1:24 PM
176	28659	10/12/2021 1:08 PM
177	28659	10/12/2021 1:06 PM
178	29659	10/12/2021 12:41 PM
179	28659	10/12/2021 12:33 PM
180	28659	10/12/2021 12:29 PM
181	28659	10/12/2021 12:10 PM
182	28697	10/12/2021 12:07 PM
183	28659	10/12/2021 12:00 PM
184	28654	10/12/2021 11:46 AM
185	28651	10/12/2021 11:41 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

186	28621	10/12/2021 11:27 AM
187	28651	10/12/2021 11:20 AM
188	28697	10/12/2021 11:17 AM
189	28654	10/12/2021 11:14 AM
190	28697	10/12/2021 10:38 AM
191	28635	10/12/2021 10:36 AM
192	28659	10/12/2021 10:21 AM
193	28651	10/12/2021 9:28 AM
194	28635	10/12/2021 8:51 AM
195	28659	10/12/2021 8:34 AM
196	28659	10/12/2021 8:01 AM
197	28651	10/12/2021 7:25 AM
198	28654	10/12/2021 7:08 AM
199	28635	10/12/2021 2:58 AM
200	28669	10/12/2021 12:09 AM
201	28697	10/11/2021 10:46 PM
202	28669	10/11/2021 10:25 PM
203	28651	10/11/2021 10:06 PM
204	28697	10/11/2021 9:56 PM
205	28654	10/11/2021 9:39 PM
206	28697	10/11/2021 9:35 PM
207	28697	10/11/2021 9:01 PM
208	28651	10/11/2021 8:57 PM
209	28697	10/11/2021 7:52 PM
210	28659	10/11/2021 7:46 PM
211	28659	10/11/2021 7:12 PM
212	28659	10/11/2021 7:06 PM
213	28685	10/11/2021 6:33 PM
214	28697	10/11/2021 6:29 PM
215	28659	10/11/2021 6:01 PM
216	28697	10/11/2021 5:49 PM
217	28654	10/11/2021 5:43 PM
218	27020	10/11/2021 5:20 PM
219	28697	10/11/2021 1:31 PM
220	28697	10/11/2021 1:01 PM
221	28665	10/11/2021 12:34 PM
222	28697	10/11/2021 12:15 PM
223	28659	10/11/2021 12:14 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

224	28697	10/11/2021 10:02 AM
225	27603	10/11/2021 9:28 AM
226	28697	10/11/2021 8:15 AM
227	28659	10/11/2021 7:29 AM
228	28659	10/11/2021 7:14 AM
229	28659	10/11/2021 7:06 AM
230	28697	10/11/2021 7:01 AM
231	28697	10/11/2021 6:46 AM
232	28659	10/11/2021 4:15 AM
233	28697	10/11/2021 3:06 AM
234	28697	10/11/2021 12:48 AM
235	28697	10/11/2021 12:45 AM
236	28621	10/11/2021 12:22 AM
237	28697	10/11/2021 12:03 AM
238	27020	10/10/2021 10:42 PM
239	28659	10/10/2021 10:17 PM
240	28697	10/10/2021 10:11 PM
241	28659	10/10/2021 9:56 PM
242	28651	10/10/2021 9:54 PM
243	28659	10/10/2021 9:49 PM
244	28651	10/10/2021 9:28 PM
245	28676	10/10/2021 8:30 PM
246	28659	10/10/2021 7:02 PM
247	28621	10/10/2021 6:35 PM
248	28697	10/10/2021 5:44 PM
249	28689	10/10/2021 5:04 PM
250	28669	10/10/2021 4:26 PM
251	28659	10/10/2021 1:50 PM
252	28697	10/10/2021 1:38 PM
253	28659	10/10/2021 1:15 PM
254	28659	10/10/2021 10:21 AM
255	28697	10/10/2021 9:11 AM
256	28606	10/10/2021 9:02 AM
257	28697	10/10/2021 8:52 AM
258	28697	10/10/2021 8:20 AM
259	28665	10/10/2021 7:25 AM
260	28659	10/9/2021 11:35 PM
261	28697	10/9/2021 10:59 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

262	28654	10/9/2021 10:00 PM
263	28659	10/9/2021 8:57 PM
264	28697	10/9/2021 8:52 PM
265	28697	10/9/2021 8:23 PM
266	28697	10/9/2021 7:57 PM
267	28697	10/9/2021 7:40 PM
268	28694	10/9/2021 7:15 PM
269	28659	10/9/2021 5:52 PM
270	28624	10/9/2021 5:43 PM
271	28659	10/9/2021 5:09 PM
272	28659	10/9/2021 4:28 PM
273	28694	10/9/2021 1:04 PM
274	28697	10/9/2021 12:07 PM
275	28659	10/9/2021 9:51 AM
276	28697	10/9/2021 9:19 AM
277	28606	10/9/2021 7:53 AM
278	28669	10/9/2021 7:03 AM
279	28659	10/9/2021 2:37 AM
280	28606	10/9/2021 1:53 AM
281	28697	10/8/2021 11:16 PM
282	28697	10/8/2021 10:40 PM
283	28698	10/8/2021 10:01 PM
284	28651	10/8/2021 9:30 PM
285	28654	10/8/2021 9:29 PM
286	28654	10/8/2021 8:56 PM
287	28651	10/8/2021 8:50 PM
288	28651	10/8/2021 8:45 PM
289	28659	10/8/2021 8:00 PM
290	28670	10/8/2021 6:29 PM
291	28697	10/8/2021 6:22 PM
292	28606	10/8/2021 6:09 PM
293	28621	10/8/2021 5:32 PM
294	28659	10/8/2021 5:09 PM
295	28669	10/8/2021 4:36 PM
296	28697	10/8/2021 2:11 PM
297	28697	10/8/2021 1:59 PM
298	28606	10/8/2021 12:46 PM
299	28697	10/8/2021 12:45 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

300	28697	10/8/2021 12:18 PM
301	28697	10/8/2021 11:57 AM
302	28621	10/8/2021 11:20 AM
303	28659	10/8/2021 10:23 AM
304	28697	10/8/2021 10:08 AM
305	28659	10/8/2021 9:46 AM
306	28659	10/8/2021 9:12 AM
307	28651	10/8/2021 8:59 AM
308	28665	10/8/2021 8:28 AM
309	28606	10/8/2021 8:23 AM
310	28670	10/8/2021 7:53 AM
311	28697	10/8/2021 7:13 AM
312	28697	10/8/2021 6:53 AM
313	28624	10/8/2021 6:35 AM
314	28635	10/8/2021 5:45 AM
315	28676	10/7/2021 9:11 PM
316	28654	10/7/2021 9:01 PM
317	28676	10/7/2021 8:40 PM
318	28697	10/7/2021 8:27 PM
319	28659	10/7/2021 8:04 PM
320	28697	10/7/2021 7:51 PM
321	28697	10/7/2021 7:46 PM
322	28649	10/7/2021 6:54 PM
323	28697	10/7/2021 6:41 PM
324	28697	10/7/2021 6:15 PM
325	28654	10/7/2021 5:59 PM
326	28654	10/7/2021 5:41 PM
327	28697	10/7/2021 5:37 PM
328	28635	10/7/2021 5:37 PM
329	28654	10/7/2021 5:29 PM
330	28697	10/7/2021 5:22 PM
331	28697	10/7/2021 4:49 PM
332	28659	10/7/2021 4:39 PM
333	28651	10/7/2021 4:36 PM
334	28659	10/7/2021 4:30 PM
335	28659	10/7/2021 4:18 PM
336	28676	10/7/2021 2:59 PM
337	28659	10/7/2021 11:27 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

338	28697	10/7/2021 11:23 AM
339	28659	10/7/2021 11:00 AM
340	28697	10/7/2021 9:42 AM
341	28651	10/7/2021 8:32 AM
342	28624	10/7/2021 8:22 AM
343	28665	10/7/2021 7:56 AM
344	28651	10/7/2021 7:49 AM
345	28659	10/7/2021 6:22 AM
346	28651	10/7/2021 4:57 AM
347	28659	10/7/2021 1:49 AM
348	28681	10/6/2021 10:28 PM
349	28659	10/6/2021 9:45 PM
350	28621 wilkes county	10/6/2021 7:24 PM
351	28697	10/6/2021 6:29 PM
352	28659	10/6/2021 3:53 PM
353	28606	10/6/2021 3:46 PM
354	28665	10/6/2021 2:09 PM
355	28665	10/6/2021 1:54 PM
356	28697	10/6/2021 1:11 PM
357	28659	10/6/2021 1:05 PM
358	28651	10/6/2021 12:54 PM
359	28624	10/6/2021 12:39 PM
360	28697	10/6/2021 12:30 PM
361	28697	10/6/2021 12:21 PM
362	28697	10/6/2021 12:13 PM
363	28649	10/6/2021 11:52 AM
364	28624	10/6/2021 11:45 AM
365	28659	10/6/2021 11:26 AM
366	28697	10/6/2021 11:23 AM
367	28659	10/6/2021 11:16 AM
368	28697	10/6/2021 10:43 AM
369	28651	10/6/2021 10:39 AM
370	28624	10/6/2021 10:28 AM
371	28651	10/6/2021 10:20 AM
372	28606	10/6/2021 10:15 AM
373	28697	10/6/2021 10:09 AM
374	28697	10/6/2021 10:08 AM
375	28606	10/6/2021 9:49 AM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

376	28697	10/6/2021 9:47 AM
377	28659	10/6/2021 9:39 AM
378	28697	10/6/2021 8:50 AM
379	28621	10/6/2021 8:22 AM
380	28669	10/6/2021 8:19 AM
381	28635	10/6/2021 7:49 AM
382	28640	10/6/2021 7:27 AM
383	28659	10/6/2021 7:02 AM
384	28694	10/6/2021 5:30 AM
385	28651	10/6/2021 5:14 AM
386	28606	10/5/2021 11:30 PM
387	28697	10/5/2021 9:43 PM
388	28665	10/5/2021 3:28 PM
389	28659	10/5/2021 11:46 AM
390	28697	10/5/2021 11:02 AM
391	28659	10/5/2021 6:40 AM
392	28697	10/4/2021 9:51 AM
393	28659	10/3/2021 9:09 PM
394	28697	10/3/2021 5:30 PM
395	28697	10/3/2021 7:57 AM
396	28697	10/3/2021 7:15 AM
397	28697	10/2/2021 11:22 PM
398	28697	10/2/2021 10:02 PM
399	28681	10/2/2021 10:02 PM
400	28669	10/2/2021 4:09 PM
401	28659	10/2/2021 3:11 PM
402	28697	10/2/2021 12:18 PM
403	28697	10/2/2021 8:31 AM
404	28670	10/2/2021 8:15 AM
405	28659	10/2/2021 3:00 AM
406	28697	10/2/2021 2:58 AM
407	28697	10/1/2021 8:58 PM
408	28685	10/1/2021 8:33 PM
409	28659	10/1/2021 3:43 PM
410	28665	10/1/2021 3:20 PM
411	28697	10/1/2021 2:27 PM
412	28697	10/1/2021 2:26 PM
413	28697	10/1/2021 2:20 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

414	28659	10/1/2021 11:09 AM
415	28635	10/1/2021 10:46 AM
416	28659	10/1/2021 8:43 AM
417	28697	10/1/2021 8:14 AM
418	28697	10/1/2021 5:56 AM
419	28651	9/30/2021 8:41 PM
420	28651	9/30/2021 8:07 PM
421	28606	9/30/2021 7:10 PM
422	28654	9/30/2021 6:50 PM
423	28659	9/30/2021 9:38 AM
424	28697	9/30/2021 9:09 AM
425	28651	9/30/2021 7:35 AM
426	28659	9/29/2021 11:16 PM
427	28645	9/29/2021 10:14 PM
428	28626	9/29/2021 9:51 PM
429	28659	9/29/2021 8:34 PM
430	28659	9/29/2021 8:10 PM
431	28659	9/29/2021 2:34 PM
432	28670	9/29/2021 2:17 PM
433	28654	9/29/2021 2:05 PM
434	28697	9/29/2021 1:26 PM
435	28697	9/29/2021 1:22 PM
436	28697	9/29/2021 12:34 PM
437	28697	9/29/2021 12:24 PM
438	28651	9/29/2021 10:41 AM
439	28659	9/29/2021 9:48 AM
440	28659	9/29/2021 9:47 AM
441	28697	9/29/2021 8:49 AM
442	28659	9/29/2021 8:45 AM
443	28697	9/29/2021 8:45 AM
444	28659	9/29/2021 8:35 AM
445	28654	9/29/2021 8:21 AM
446	28659	9/29/2021 8:10 AM
447	28665	9/29/2021 6:34 AM
448	28697	9/29/2021 6:06 AM
449	28697	9/28/2021 11:28 PM
450	28665	9/28/2021 11:01 PM
451	28659	9/28/2021 10:45 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

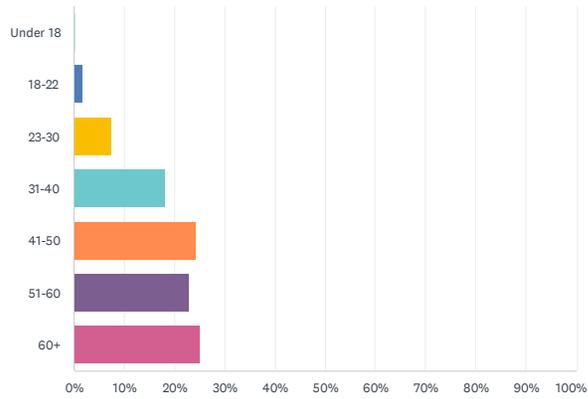
452	28606	9/28/2021 10:44 PM
453	28659	9/28/2021 10:27 PM
454	28697	9/28/2021 10:26 PM
455	28659	9/28/2021 10:21 PM
456	28654	9/28/2021 10:15 PM
457	28654	9/28/2021 10:03 PM
458	28697	9/28/2021 9:50 PM
459	28697	9/28/2021 9:36 PM
460	28697	9/28/2021 9:36 PM
461	28697	9/28/2021 9:20 PM
462	28659	9/28/2021 9:14 PM
463	28697	9/28/2021 9:08 PM
464	28654	9/28/2021 8:50 PM
465	28606	9/28/2021 8:49 PM
466	28606	9/28/2021 8:40 PM
467	28697	9/28/2021 8:32 PM
468	28697	9/28/2021 8:14 PM
469	28697	9/28/2021 8:13 PM
470	28659	9/28/2021 7:50 PM
471	28711	9/28/2021 7:02 PM
472	28654	9/28/2021 6:39 PM
473	28697	9/28/2021 6:25 PM
474	28659	9/28/2021 6:10 PM
475	28697	9/28/2021 6:08 PM
476	28659	9/28/2021 5:51 PM
477	28697	9/28/2021 5:43 PM
478	28697	9/28/2021 5:35 PM
479	28635	9/28/2021 5:34 PM
480	28687	9/28/2021 5:25 PM
481	28659	9/28/2021 5:17 PM
482	28669	9/28/2021 5:17 PM
483	28659	9/28/2021 5:04 PM
484	28651	9/28/2021 4:34 PM
485	28651	9/28/2021 3:59 PM
486	28659	9/28/2021 3:46 PM
487	28659	9/28/2021 2:54 PM
488	28651	9/28/2021 2:49 PM
489	28659	9/28/2021 1:38 PM

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

490	28683	9/28/2021 1:18 PM
491	28659	9/28/2021 1:10 PM
492	28697	9/28/2021 12:32 PM
493	28697	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
494	28697	9/28/2021 11:55 AM
495	28697	9/28/2021 11:44 AM
496	28607	9/28/2021 11:44 AM
497	27106	9/28/2021 9:27 AM
498	28659	9/27/2021 7:23 PM
499	28606	9/27/2021 4:52 PM
500	28569	9/23/2021 1:13 PM
501	28697	9/23/2021 8:28 AM
502	28697	9/7/2021 3:43 PM

### Q12 What is your age?

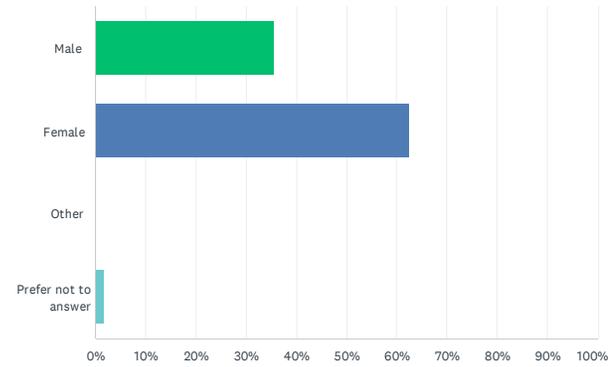
Answered: 507 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.20%	1
18-22	1.78%	9
23-30	7.50%	38
31-40	18.15%	92
41-50	24.26%	123
51-60	22.88%	116
60+	25.25%	128
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>507</b>

### Q13 What is your gender?

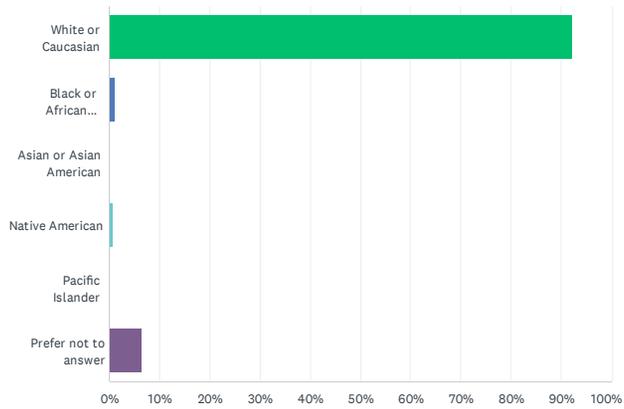
Answered: 507 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	35.70%	181
Female	62.52%	317
Other	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	1.78%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>507</b>

Q14 Please specify your race.

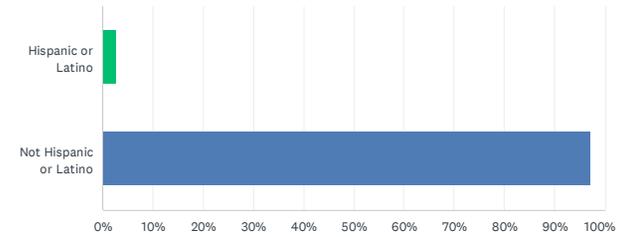
Answered: 506 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	92.09%	466
Black or African American	0.99%	5
Asian or Asian American	0.00%	0
Native American	0.59%	3
Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	6.32%	32
TOTAL		506

Q15 Please specify your ethnicity.

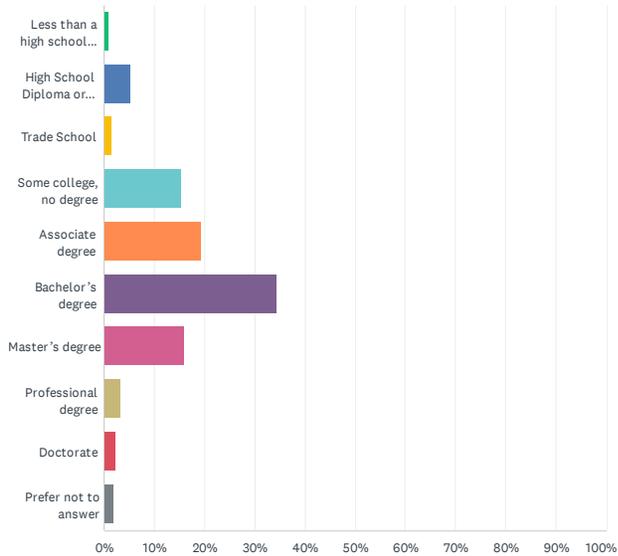
Answered: 498 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic or Latino	2.81%	14
Not Hispanic or Latino	97.19%	484
TOTAL		498

Q16 What is the highest level of school or degree you have completed? (If you're currently enrolled in school please indicate the highest level of education you have completed.)

Answered: 505 Skipped: 5

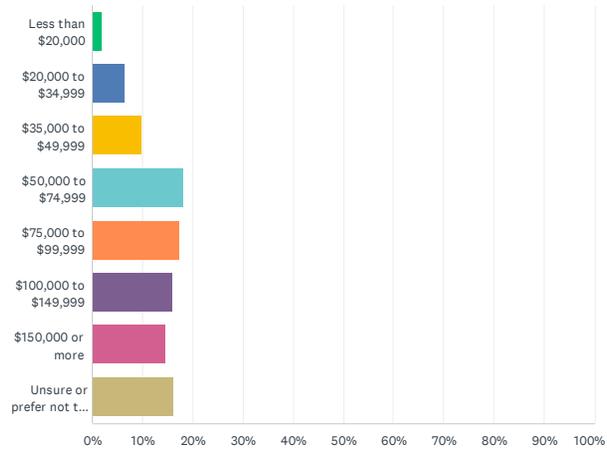


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than a high school diploma	0.79%	4
High School Diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED)	5.35%	27
Trade School	1.39%	7
Some college, no degree	15.25%	77
Associate degree	19.41%	98
Bachelor's degree	34.26%	173
Master's degree	16.04%	81
Professional degree	3.17%	16
Doctorate	2.38%	12
Prefer not to answer	1.98%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>505</b>

Wilkes County Outdoor Recreation Activity and Facility Survey

Q17 What is your total household income?

Answered: 505 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$20,000	1.98%	10
\$20,000 to \$34,999	6.34%	32
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9.70%	49
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.02%	91
\$75,000 to \$99,999	17.23%	87
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16.04%	81
\$150,000 or more	14.46%	73
Unsure or prefer not to answer	16.24%	82
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>505</b>



**GREAT STATE OF WILKES OUTDOOR  
ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM  
Stone Center for the Performing Arts  
613 Cherry St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Your comments are greatly appreciated:

Make sure the river is safe.  
I want rescue Squad to sign off  
and encourage use. Lot of 'scared'  
folks out here, in regards to the  
river.

CHILDRENS MUSEUM  
Bike Garden  
Pump Track

No to urban soccer. Please no.

ALL  
YES.

ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

I think most "nice" towns  
have signage that's unified  
across the towns.

River needs signage.

&





### GREAT STATE OF WILKES OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM  
Stone Center for the Performing Arts  
613 Cherry St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Your comments are greatly appreciated:

Positive - All in!

? - Are we losing ball fields/tennis courts at Memorial Park. Don't have a problem with that just a little detail in presentation about what we are gaining in that area.

More detail on job creation

 **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



### GREAT STATE OF WILKES OUTDOOR ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM  
Stone Center for the Performing Arts  
613 Cherry St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Your comments are greatly appreciated:

Love the beach park!

 **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Love it  
Complete  
away  
inspired



**GREAT STATE OF WILKES OUTDOOR  
ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM  
Stone Center for the Performing Arts  
613 Cherry St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Your comments are greatly appreciated:

al y blown  
end

dove the ideas!  
Very partial to Stone ideas.  
Pushed for Childrens  
Museum - great Asset  
to Wilkes - federal  
Bldg w. Wilkes great  
opportunity  
River District is great idea  
too

 **ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**GREAT STATE OF WILKES OUTDOOR  
ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 4:00 PM  
Stone Center for the Performing Arts  
613 Cherry St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Your comments are greatly appreciated:

Positive but I would  
love to see a  
strategic plan for  
small business  
growth.

 **ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

June 9, 2022

Shawn Patch  
New South Associates  
1006 Yanceyville Street  
Greensboro, NC 27405

[spatch@newsouthassoc.com](mailto:spatch@newsouthassoc.com)

Re: Phase I Archaeological Survey, 18-Acre Tract, Proposed Boat Ramp and Park Draft Report,  
Wilkes County, GS 21-2505

Dear Mr. Patch:

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 2022, transmitting the draft archaeological survey report for the above-referenced project. We have reviewed the report offer the following comments:

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) conducted a systematic Phase I archaeological survey ahead of construction of a boat ramp and river front park along the Yadkin River. As a result of the survey, two new archaeological sites were recorded (31WK298 and 31WK299). Site 31WK298 consists of a low-density scatter of undiagnostic lithics found on the surface of vehicle ruts along the access road and within the plow zone of the agricultural field. No intact cultural deposits were recorded below the disturbed levels. Based on the lack of diagnostic characteristics and integrity, NSA concludes that the site is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and no further archaeological investigation is recommended ahead of construction. Based on the information provided, we concur with this assessment and recommendation.

Site 31WK299 consists of an isolated precontact lithic flake, also recovered from the plow zone. Due to the isolated nature of the find and the disturbed context, the site cannot be conclusively associated with 31WK124, a nearby archaeological site recorded previously. Given its limited potential to yield new information about the history of the area, NSA recommends site 31WK299 be considered not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No further work is recommended prior to construction. Based on the information provided, we concur with this assessment and recommendation.

The survey report meets the Office of State Archaeology's [Archaeological Investigation Standards and Guidelines for Background Research, Field Methodologies, Technical Reports, and Curation](#) and those of the Secretary of the Interior.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Location: 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601 Mailing Address: 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617 Telephone/Fax: (919) 807-6570/807-6599

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

  
for Ramona Bartos, Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Sara Sherman, NCWRC

[sara.sherman@ncwildlife.org](mailto:sara.sherman@ncwildlife.org)



# PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 18-ACRE TRACT, PROPOSED BOAT RAMP AND PARK

Wilkes County, North Carolina



NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

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**Phase I Archaeological Survey, 18-Acre Tract, Proposed  
Boat Ramp and Park**

Wilkes County, North Carolina

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Report submitted to:

---

The Health Foundation • 1902 West Park Drive • N. Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28659

Report prepared by:

---

New South Associates • 6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue • Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083  
1006 Yanceyville Street • Greensboro, North Carolina 27405

  
Shawn Patch – Principal Investigator

Samantha Taylor– Archaeologist and Author  
Jenna Tran – Historian and Co-Author

April 14, 2022 • Draft Report  
New South Associates Technical Report #4306

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey of a proposed boat ramp and park development on 18 acres of a 24-acre lot along the Yadkin River, north of Roaring River, Wilkes County, North Carolina. The purpose of the survey was to identify archaeological resources within the proposed project area and to evaluate their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The work adhered to the policies established by the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. The project included background research, pedestrian survey, fieldwork, artifact analysis, and NRHP eligibility recommendations.

Two new archaeological sites, 31WK298 and 31WK299, were identified during the survey. The current survey determined that both Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299 are ephemeral Precontact artifact scatters that have been disturbed by agricultural activities in the 18-acre tract. As a result, many of the artifacts associated with these sites were recovered from the surface. Because of the ephemeral nature of the sites and lack of integrity, NSA recommends that Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

No further work is recommended within the project area.

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# I. INTRODUCTION

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed boat ramp and park development on 18 acres of a 24-acre lot along the Yadkin River, north of Roaring River, Wilkes County, North Carolina. The Health Foundation is working with other local groups to develop this project. The work adhered to the policies established by the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) comprises 18 acres of a 24-acre lot, with the central 6.8 acres of the property excluded from any development. The proposed project would involve the construction of park amenities, a walking trail, road improvements, and boating access (Figure 1). The purpose of the survey was to identify archaeological resources within the proposed project area and to evaluate their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

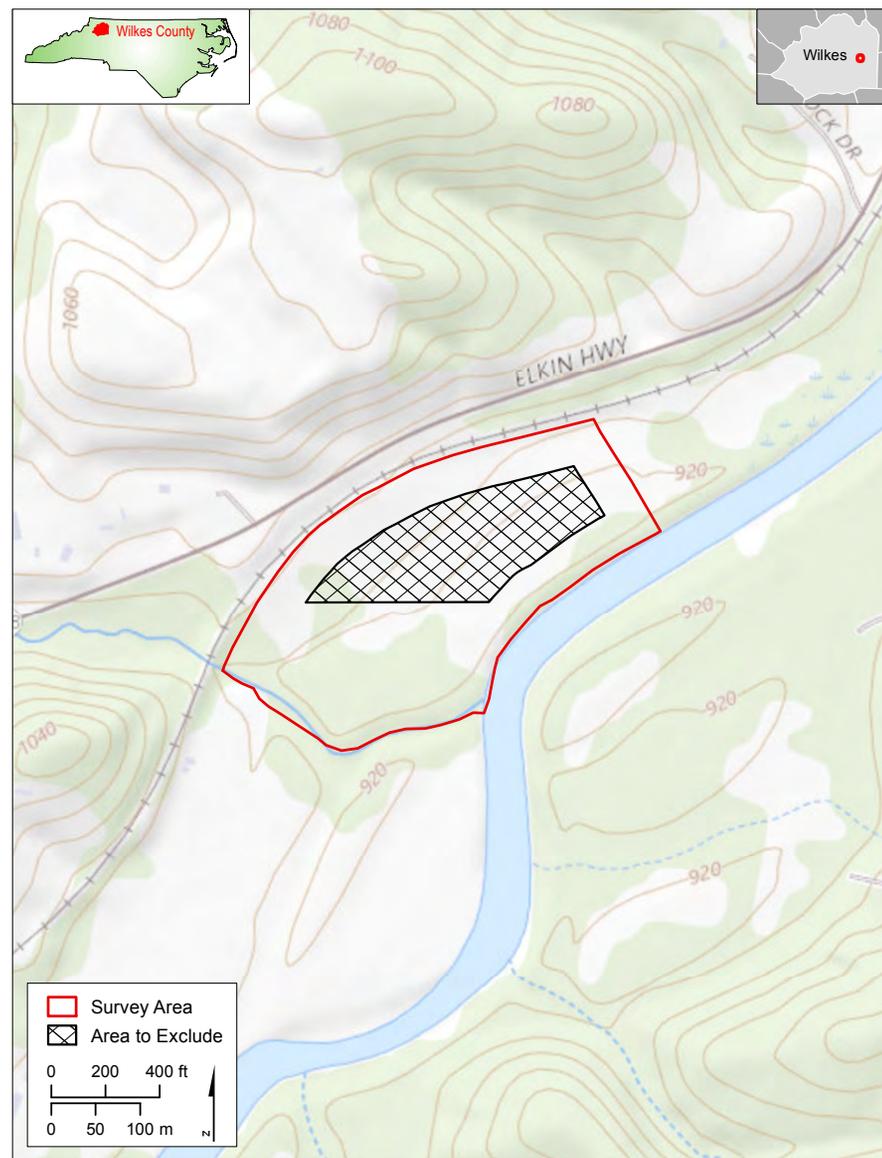
The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) reviewed this project and assigned it Number GS 21-2505. Because of the proximity of previously recorded sites 31WK124 and 31WK131, HPO recommended a systematic archaeology survey of the APE. NSA consulted with Assistant State Archaeologist Dylan Clark prior to the survey to define the field methods.

Fieldwork was conducted on February 24–25, 2022, and required 52 person hours to complete. Archaeologist Samantha Taylor served as field director, and Hunter Saunders, Tom Vallrugo, and Brittany Hamblin assisted as archaeological field technicians. Jenna Tran served as the historian for the project, and Shawn Patch as the Principal Investigator. The project included background research, pedestrian survey, fieldwork, artifact analysis, and NRHP eligibility recommendations.

Two new archaeological sites, 31WK298 and 31WK299, were identified during the survey. The current survey determined that both 31WK298 and 31WK299 are ephemeral Precontact artifact scatters that have been disturbed by agricultural activities in the 18-acre tract. Because of the ephemeral nature and lack of integrity, NSA recommends that Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

This report is organized into six chapters, including this introduction. Chapters II and III discuss the environmental setting and cultural contexts of the APE. Chapter IV presents the methods used for background research, survey, analysis, and site evaluation. Chapter V contains the results, and Chapter VI summarizes the findings and offers management recommendations. References are followed by the specimen catalog in Appendix A.

Figure 1. Project Location Map



## II. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

This chapter provides information on the natural setting of the APE and surrounding areas, including physiographic setting, hydrology, soils, climate, and floral and faunal resources. This information provides a context for assessing archaeological resources in terms of settlement location and locally occurring subsistence resources.

### PHYSIOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Wilkes County is located within the Piedmont physiographic region of North Carolina, between the Blue Ridge Mountains and Coastal Plain provinces. To the east are the lower elevations of the Coastal Plain. Elevation increases approaching the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west. Often called a plateau area, the Piedmont ranges from 400–2,000 feet above mean seal level (amsl) and is characterized by low rolling hills and ridges, shallow valleys, and diverse resources (ESRI 2015). The project area is located on a floodplain along the Yadkin River.

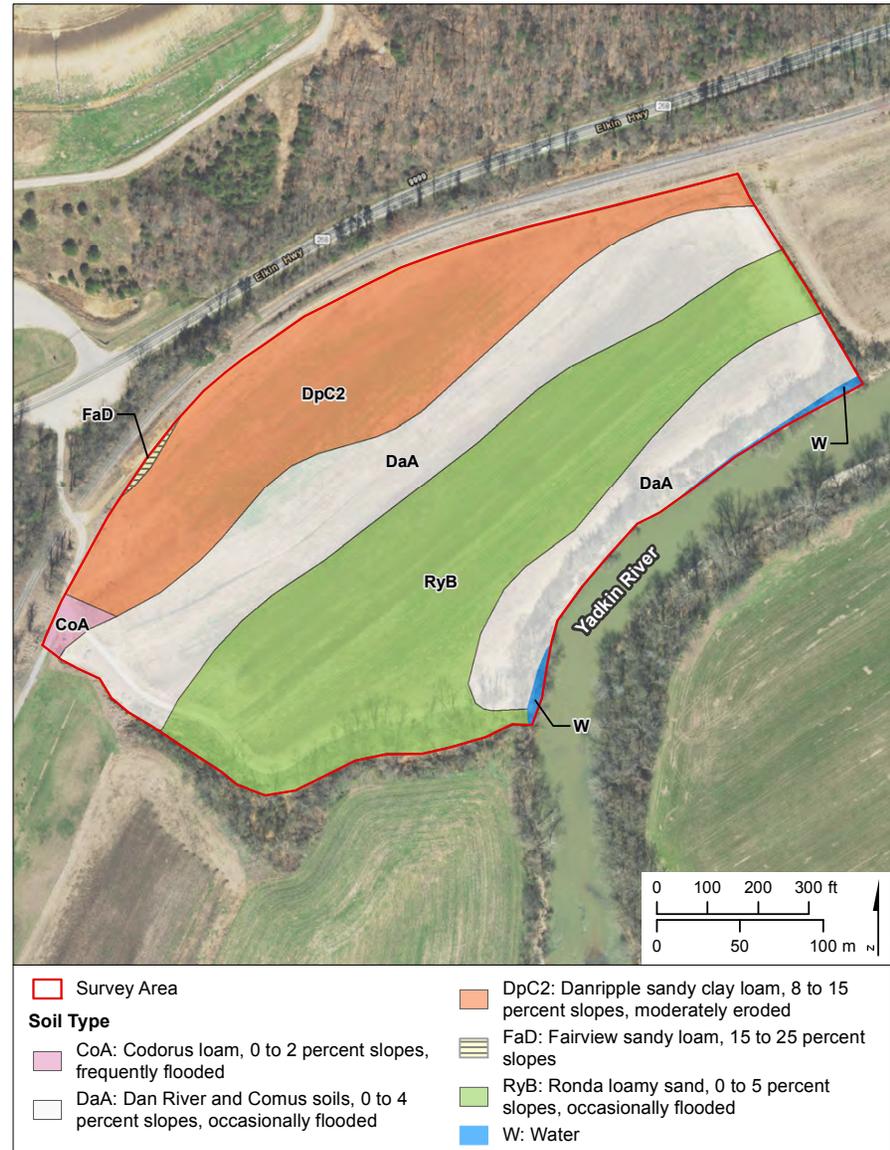
### SOIL ASSOCIATION

Much of the current APE is characterized by Dan River and Comus soils, Danripple sandy clay loam, and Ronda loamy sand (Table 1, Figure 2). Dan River series soils are commonly found on flood plains and are well-suited for agriculture (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2004). Comus series soils are deep, well-drained soils, also found on flood plains. These soil series are formed in alluvium that is high in mica (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2015). Danripple series soils are deep, well-drained soils associated with cultivated fields (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2009a). Ronda series soils are deep, excessively drained soils typical of the gently sloping flood plains in the Piedmont region (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2009b).

Table 1. Soils Present in the APE

Soil Type	Percent of APE	Permeability	Locations
Codorus Loam, 0–2% Slopes, Frequently Flooded	1.0	Somewhat Poorly Drained	Flood Plains
Dan River and Comus Soils, 0–4% Slopes, Occasionally Flooded	33.5	Well-Drained	Flood Plains
Danripple Sandy Clay Loam, 8–15% Slopes, Moderately Eroded	27.0	Well-Drained	Hillslopes on Stream Terraces
Fairview Sandy Loam, 15–25% Slopes	0.2	Well-Drained	Ridges, Interfluves
Ronda Loamy Sand, 0–5% Slopes, Occasionally Flooded	37.3	Excessively Drained	Natural Levees on Flood Plains
Water	1.0	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Figure 2. Soils Present in the APE



Basemap: ESRI, NC CGIA (2018)

## HYDROLOGY

The hydrology of the Piedmont region is characterized by many watercourses intersecting V-shaped valleys as a result of changing fluvial systems during the Miocene Period. The closest body of water to the APE is the Yadkin River, which borders it to the east. The Yadkin River is one of the longest rivers in North Carolina and constitutes the northernmost portion of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin (North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality 2003).

## CLIMATE, FLORA, AND FAUNA

Wilkes County is characterized by a moderate climate with mild winters, moderate summers, and brief spring and autumn seasons. The average high temperature in the summer is 87 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), and the average low temperature in the winter is 26°F. Annual precipitation averages 50.6 inches (U.S. Climate Data 2022).

The Piedmont physiographic province of North Carolina is characterized by rich, unique biological diversity. A relatively equal growth of oak-hickory-pine forests along with southern mixed forests and cold-deciduous, broad-leaved forest with evergreen needle-leaved trees are found throughout the Piedmont. Oak-hickory areas are dominated by species of oak, pignut, and mockernut hickory. Loblolly-shortleaf pine cover grows in disturbed areas, with an understory of dogwood and sourwood (McNab and Avers 1994).

Much of the fauna and protein sources that would have been important to Precontact and early historic inhabitants are still commonly found throughout the region today. These include white-tailed deer, black bears, bobcats, raccoons, cottontail rabbits, and squirrels. Bird species include turkeys, bobwhite quails, and doves. Box turtles, garter snakes, copperheads, and timber rattlesnakes are common reptile species in the region (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission 2020).

## CURRENT CONDITIONS OF THE APE

The APE is in the east central portion of Wilkes County 1,478 meters (4,849 feet) east of Roaring River. It is located in the Ronda (R34) 1970 USGS Topographic Quadrant Map. The APE encompasses a grassy segment of floodplain along the Yadkin River. Currently, the area is intersected by a gravel road that extends along the western and southern perimeter of the APE. This road is used to access a gravel boat ramp. The remainder of the APE is not in use. The presence of corn husks and remnants of crop rows in the APE suggests that the grassy area was previously cultivated (Figure 3).

Figure 3.  
Conditions Present in the APE

A. Overview of the APE Facing North



B. Gravel Road in the APE Facing Southeast



C. Gravel Boat Ramp Along the Eastern Perimeter of the APE



### III. CULTURAL CONTEXT

Humans have occupied the Southeast for at least 10,000 years, beginning with hunting and gathering populations. Native American societies became more complex and oriented around permanent settlements and agriculture. The arrival of Europeans and Euro-American settlers brought about significant changes to the region in terms of social development, land use, and economy. The following sections discuss the Precontact and historic periods in the region, with particular emphasis on Wilkes County, as a basis for interpreting and evaluating any archaeological resources found in the survey area. Finally, the cultural resources context of the APE is discussed to assess the survey area's archaeological resource potential.

#### PRECONTACT CONTEXT

##### PALEOINDIAN PERIOD (10,000–8000 B.C.)

Human occupation of eastern North America is thought to have begun at the end of the Pleistocene epoch (Anderson 1996a). Most Paleoindian contexts in the eastern United States date between 10,000 and 8000 B.C. Possible evidence of earlier, “pre-Paleoindian” occupations have been identified at Cactus Hill in Virginia, the Topper Site in South Carolina, Big Eddy in Missouri, and Meadowcroft Rockshelter, in Pennsylvania (Lopinot et al. 1998; McAvoy and McAvoy 1997; Sain 2015). However, researchers have suggested that these sites have not produced enough substantial evidence in support of “pre-Paleoindian” occupation of the southeast (Fiedel 2013, 2017).

The Paleoindian period in the North Carolina Piedmont is commonly divided into the Early Paleoindian “Clovis” and the Transitional Hardaway-Dalton Culture. The only differences between these cultural contexts are variations in material culture, specifically morphological differences in projectile point types. Paleoindian material culture includes fluted and unfluted lanceolate projectile points/knives (PP/Ks), such as Clovis, Hardaway, Hardaway-Dalton, and Hardaway Side-Notched (Coe 1952; Ward and Davis 1999).

A traditional view of Paleoindian settlements posits a highly mobile strategy centered on the exploitation of megafauna. Anderson (1989) has proposed that Paleoindian peoples used key locations as staging areas for subsequent population expansion. Subsistence choices in the later Paleoindian Hardaway-Dalton culture included a variety of plant and animal foods (Goodyear 1982), and the Dalton point signifies a change from hunting Pleistocene megafauna to hunting Holocene species, primarily deer (Goodyear 1982; Morse 1973).

While the development certainly indicates a change in Paleoindian technology, a reliance on sophisticated lithic technology persists into the Dalton phase. Throughout the Paleoindian period, the use of high-quality cryptocrystalline raw material suggests mobility and specialized resource scheduling (Goodyear 1979). The prevalence of this technology indicates that technological solutions to resource procurement and processing were key adaptive strategies of Paleoindians (Sassaman et al. 1990).

To date, no Clovis points have been recovered from undisturbed contexts in North Carolina. Numerous PP/Ks attributed to the Hardaway-Dalton Culture have been recovered across the Piedmont region. Notable sites dating to this period include the Hardaway Site (31ST4) in Stanly County, and the Haw River Sites (31CH8 and 31CH29) in Chatham County (Claggett and Cable 1982; Daniel 1998).

##### ARCHAIC PERIOD (8000–1000 B.C.)

The Archaic period represents the gradual shift from an economy based on big-game hunting to a hunter-gatherer economy better adapted to the environmental and climatic changes of the Holocene. The most significant environmental change that occurred during the Archaic period was the expansion of deciduous forests, which became the dominant forest type by 5000 B.C. (Cleland 1966:20–23). Deciduous forests and seasonally-dependent plants spread rapidly, contributing in part to mass extinctions of Pleistocene megafauna (Emery-Wetherell et al. 2017). Smaller animals filled the diverse and newly vacant ecological niches and replaced megafauna. These changes altered human behavior as the consolidation of resources into specific zones allowed Archaic groups to consistently procure subsistence more readily.

Increased ecological diversification is reflected by regionally distinct projectile points (Walthall 1980). This trend probably indicates increased territoriality and the establishment of ethnic boundaries signified by differences in language and cultural practices (Griffin 1964; Jennings 1974; Williams and Stoltman 1965). The distribution and form of exotic artifacts and artifact styles in the archaeological record may correlate with expanding trade and exchange networks. The apparent escalation of intersocietal interaction during the Archaic period is probably associated with greater sedentism, denser populations, and the emergence of more complex forms of societal organization (Jefferies 1995). The Archaic period is divided into three subperiods: Early (8000–6000 B.C.), Middle (6000–3000 B.C.), and Late (3000–000 B.C.) (Bense 1994; Brown 1994; Smith 1986; Steponaitis 1986).

*Early Archaic Subperiod (8000–6000 B.C.)*

Although little is definitively known about the Early Archaic subperiod, it is typically separated from the Paleoindian period by the emergence of seasonal occupation sites. PP/Ks are similar in appearance to those of the previous period but exhibit an increased sophistication through rejuvenation strategies. Similarities between Early Archaic and Paleoindian assemblages suggest the persistence of certain settlement and subsistence strategies (Cleland 1976). An Early Archaic toolkit likely contained hafted bifaces including Kirk Corner-Notched Cluster points (i.e., Kirk and Palmer) and Bifurcate Base Cluster forms (i.e., St. Albans and Lecroy). Additionally, axes, gouges, knives, drills, scrapers, choppers, perforators, graveurs, and a variety of flake tools are commonly recovered from Early Archaic sites (Chapman 1975; Jennings 1978).

Compared to the succeeding Middle and Late Archaic periods, Early Archaic assemblages appear uniformly over broad geographical areas. This broad-based similarity in styles and technology has been attributed to a high degree of mobility on the part of Early Archaic groups (Goodyear et al. 1979; Kelly and Todd 1988). Greater mobility has been equated with a specific order of subsistence adaptation oriented toward foraging and the exploitation of migratory animals (Kelly and Todd 1988).

Several models of Early Archaic settlement have been developed. Based on a study of sites in the Piedmont of North Carolina, Claggett and Cable (1982) asserted that climatic warming caused increased residential mobility. Anderson and Hanson (1988) proposed a drainage-based settlement-subsistence model. Bands occupied stable base camps near the fall line during the winter months, broke into smaller bands that occupied the coast during the spring, and moved toward the Piedmont region as late summer approached. These bands were based upon drainage locations in the state, and inter-band contact rarely occurred. Daniel (1998) questioned Anderson and Hanson's band/macrobands model, and instead proposed that high-quality stone played a more integral role in settlement patterns than previously thought.

One of the most well-known sites containing a distinct Early Archaic component is the Hardaway Site (31ST4) in Stanly County, southeast of the project area. The Hardaway Site is known for being one of the earliest archaeological sites in the state (Daniel 1998). Another notable Early Archaic site in North Carolina is the Barber Creek Site (31PT259) in Pitt County, in the eastern half of the state (Choate 2011).

*Middle Archaic Subperiod (6000–3000 B.C.)*

The Middle Archaic period's archaeological record differs significantly from the records of preceding periods. Larger sites, with repeated (seasonal) occupations and decreased mobility, are present in many southeastern river valleys (Anderson 1996b; Claassen 1991a, 1991b). Middle Archaic artifact assemblages become diverse and reflect increased regionalization and possibly the further development of ethnic boundaries. The warming climate led to a greater availability and diversity of resources, which is credited with the greater specialization in certain activities and a more complex social structure (Griffin 1978:229).

Bifurcated points demarcate the transition from Early Archaic to Middle Archaic. Stanly, Morrow Mountain, Halifax and Guilford are the primary diagnostics for the Middle Archaic subperiod in North Carolina. Stanly points, often described as medium triangular stemmed points with an elliptical cross section, represent the beginning of the Middle Archaic subperiod (Coe 1964; Ward and Davis 1999). Morrow Mountain points are medium triangular points with a contracting stem and elliptical cross section. The blade can either be broad or narrow and long, indicating two distinct types of Morrow Mountain points. These points represent the subperiod immediately following the Stanly Phase of the Middle Archaic. Guilford points are medium to large lanceolate blades with a lenticular cross-section. These points postdate the Morrow Mountain Phase and directly predate the Savannah River Phase (Coe 1964; Ward and Davis 1999).

Middle Archaic sites in the North Carolina Piedmont tend to be small and diffuse, offering little evidence for intensive long-term occupation or use of local lithic resources. Assemblages display little diversity in tool types, suggesting a generalized foraging strategy with frequent residential moves (Sassaman 1991, 2005; Shah and Whitley 2009). Sassaman's (1983) model of "adaptive flexibility" based on work in the Piedmont of South Carolina suggested that Middle Archaic peoples adopted a high-mobility settlement strategy in order to exploit dispersed resources. He pointed to the expedient nature of chipped stone tools as evidence. In contrast, Goodyear et al. (1979) proposed that people established long-term base camps on river floodplains, while sites in upland and inter-riverine areas represented extraction and procurement activities. Cultural groups appear to become more territorial during this subperiod (Walthall 1980).

Notable Middle Archaic period sites in North Carolina include the Doerschuk Site (31MG22) in Montgomery County southeast of the project area and the Gaston Site (31HX7) located in the northeastern part of the state (Coe 1964).

*Late Archaic Subperiod (3000–1000 B.C.)*

The archaeological record from this subperiod is more substantial than that of preceding subperiods, especially in the Piedmont region. Principal developments of the Late Archaic include the introduction of steatite vessels and, to a lesser extent, ceramic technology. Horticulture appears to be a possible addition to the subsistence economy, which remains focused on collecting wild plant and animal resources. Steatite, or soapstone was initially modified for use as atlatl weights and cooking stones, but the material was eventually carved into hemispherical bowls. Squash and gourds were commonly cultivated during the early Late Archaic subperiod, whereas sunflowers, maygrass, and chenopodium were favored toward the end of the Late Archaic (Chapman and Shea 1981).

Materially, stemmed bifaces were the most common point form, with the relatively large and broad-bladed Savannah River Stemmed type as a common diagnostic form for this subperiod. Other points dating to this time frame found in North Carolina include Savannah River and Iddins Undifferentiated Stem (Ward and Davis 1999). Hammerstones, axes, scrapers, drills, and other chipped-stone tools are also common. Late Archaic people probably lived in small bands within limited geographical areas. Settlements were occupied for longer periods of time than during earlier eras, and population increased. Base camps were situated in floodplains, and specialized procurement sites were in the uplands (Sassaman 1983).

Notable sites in the North Carolina Piedmont with evidence of Late Archaic occupation include the Doerschuk Site (31MG22) in Montgomery County, Lowder’s Ferry (31ST7) in Stanly County, and the Gaston Site (31HX7) in Halifax County (Coe 1964).

## WOODLAND PERIOD (1000 B.C.–A.D. 1600)

The Woodland period in eastern North America is marked by the expansion of several characteristics noted at the close of the Late Archaic period, including increasing sedentism, cultural complexity and social exchange, intensification of horticulture, and the widespread use of ceramic technology. Wide-ranging trade networks are evident in the exchange of both raw materials and finished objects between peoples across the Southeast and the Ohio Valley. A suite of wild plant foods, specifically a number of small starchy seeds, was intensively utilized, and some species were domesticated, including sumpweed (*Iva annua* L.), maygrass (*Phalaris carolinia*), chenopod (*Chenopodium* sp.), and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) (Yarnell and Black 1985). Corn (*Zea mays*) also appears in the archaeological record during the Middle Woodland subperiod, but it was not yet as common as in later periods.

The Woodland period is subdivided into the Early and Middle Woodland subperiods (1000 B.C.–A.D. 800) and the Late Woodland Subperiod (A.D. 800–1600). Traditionally, these subdivisions are demarcated by three trends: the first widespread use of pottery across the Southeast; the rise and then decline of a vast pan-regional ceremonially based interaction network; and finally “a period of political fragmentation, increasing agricultural intensification, and population growth in many areas” (Anderson and Mainfort 2002:1).

*Early and Middle Woodland Subperiods (1000 B.C.–A.D. 800)*

The beginning of the Early Woodland period is thought to be marked by the continuation of ceramic technology that appeared at the end of the Late Archaic. Ceramics began to replace steatite bowls. Early Woodland lithic assemblages do not differ significantly from those of the Late Archaic.

During the Early Woodland subperiod, the cultures of the North Carolina Piedmont were largely isolated from external influences. The result is the Piedmont Village Tradition characterized by scattered small villages and hamlets that slowly developed into larger agriculture-based settlements. Despite the intensification of agriculture during this period, hunting and gathering practices continued. Significant research has been conducted on the Piedmont Village Tradition in the Yadkin River valley (Woodall 2009). Sites are generally short-term occupations frequently located on floodplains. Population and community size in the Piedmont appears to have increased during this period, and evidence of warfare has been identified. Recent research has posited that the Piedmont Village Tradition did have some interaction with the Southern Appalachian Mississippian Tradition (Jones 2015; Jones and Ellis 2016; Patch and Espenshade 2019).

The Piedmont Village Tradition is typically split into two distinct phases: the Badin Phase (circa 500 B.C.) and the Yadkin Phase (300 B.C.–A.D. 800). The Badin Phase is characterized by abrupt changes in material culture. Badin ceramic series are well-made, sand-tempered vessels. Typical forms include straight-sided jars with conical bottoms. These vessels were generally fabric-marked and cord-marked using wrapped paddles. Large, crudely made, triangular Badin points occur at the beginning of this period. The most notable Badin Phase site is the Doerschuk Site (31MG22) in Stanly County.

The Yadkin Phase is thought to directly follow the Badin phase, with only minor changes in cultural materials. Yadkin series ceramics are similar to the Badin series, but are tempered with crushed quartz instead of sand. Radiocarbon dating has determined that Grayson and Vincent series ceramics are also associated with the Yadkin Phase (Patch and Espenshade 2019). Yadkin projectile points are similar to Badin points but exhibit finer flaking throughout. Yadkin phase

sites are more common than those dating to the Badin Phase, especially in the southern Piedmont (Caldwell 1958; Coe 1964; Ward and Davis 1999). Notable sites in the Yadkin River valley that exhibit the Piedmont Village Tradition include the Donnaha Site (31YD9) and the Forbush Creek Site (931YD1), both of which are located in Yadkin County, to the east of the project area (McManus 1985).

#### *Late Woodland Subperiod (A.D. 800–1600)*

The Late Woodland subperiod in the Piedmont region began in A.D. 800, and was marked by population consolidation and intertribal conflict. Several diverse cultural phases can be attributed to the North Carolina Piedmont during this subperiod. Beginning with the Uwharrie Phase (A.D. 800–1200) found across the center of the state, settlements became more sedentary. Multi-season villages became common along with increased reliance on domesticated plants, the use of large subterranean storage facilities, and the production of large conical jars (Ward and Davis 1999). Hunting and gathering practices continued, but subsistence horticulture became more prevalent by the end of the Uwharrie Phase (Bamann and Bradley 2009; Woodall 2009, 1990).

The Dan River Phase dates from A.D. 1000 to 1450, and is unique to the northern Piedmont of North Carolina. First identified in the upper Dan River drainage, this phase is characterized by a substantial growth in population when compared to that of the Eno River and Haw River drainages. Dan River Phase sites are characterized by linear communities parallel to riverbanks. Large storage pits for produce and meat appear, and archaeobotanical analysis of these pits suggest that beans, sunflower seeds, and maize were common staples for Late Woodland communities. During the early years of the Dan River Phase, ceramic assemblages typically consisted of large storage and cooking vessels that were decorated with notching, punctating, incising, and brushing around the lip and neck. The body of these vessels was frequently net impressed (Ward and Davis 1993).

The Early Saratow Phase dates from A.D. 1450–1600. During this phase, the regional population had coalesced into a few larger villages. Ceramics associated with the Early Saratow Phase belong to the Oldtown series. These ceramics are smooth, sand-tempered bowls and jars that are sometimes net impressed with decorated rims. Large cylindrical and bell-shaped storage pits, earth ovens, shallow basins, and hearths are features commonly associated with the Early Saratow Phase. Grave goods became more varied and complex, including bone and shell beads, bone awls, “rattlesnake” style gorgets, serrated mussel shells, and shell hair pins. Subsistence practices were broader than that of the Dan River phase, evidenced by increased reliance on agriculture (Gunter 2014; Wilson 1983). The most notable Early Saratow Phase site is the Early Upper Saratow or Hairston Site (31SK1) in Stokes County to the northeast of the APE (Wilson 1983).

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

### EUROPEAN CONTACT PERIOD (A.D. 1540–1750)

Europeans first explored northwestern North Carolina in 1540, in a Spanish expedition led by Hernando De Soto. These conquistadors traveled from the coast to the mountains, spending a month in the mountains resting horses, hunting for gold, and interacting with the Cherokee Indians. At this time, American Indians in the region lived in sedentary villages, hunted, farmed, and traded with their neighbors (Powell 1989). The results of European contact were devastating, as colonists and settlers brought the dual threats of disease and enslavement (Moore 2002; Wetmore 1975).

Ethnohistoric accounts are rare for this period, although there are some from English traders who had expanded into the western North Carolina Piedmont by the mid-1600s (Moore 2002). Local accounts indicated that the Cheraw Indians were living along the Yadkin River in 1670, and the Wateree Indians were living on the upper Yadkin. When white settlers moved into the Yadkin River Valley, the area was under the control of the Cherokee, who had reportedly ousted the smaller tribes (Hayes 1962).

By the start of the eighteenth century, present-day Wilkes County was occupied by the Cherokee and Siouan-speaking Tutelo and Keyauwee people. An account from 1709 indicated that the Cherokee and Tutelo had settled along the Yadkin River (Lawson 1709). Tutelo occupation of Wilkes County was short-lived following contact with Europeans; by 1714, the Tutelo had merged with the Saponi to form the Tutelo-Saponi and settled in Brunswick County, Virginia, to the northeast of the APE. Little modern historical and archaeological research exists concerning the Tutelo’s presence in Wilkes County (Griffin 1945; Speck 1935). By 1730, the Tutelo-Saponi had moved to present-day Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. In 1753, the remnants of the Siouan-speaking Tutelo had been adopted by the Cayuga Nation of New York.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) are descended from a small group of Cherokee that resided in a remote area along the Oconaluftee River in western North Carolina. Their descendants were allowed to remain on their traditional land as a result of two treaties in 1817 and 1819, with the assistance of William Holland Thomas, a white merchant who had been adopted into the band. After Indian Removal in the 1830s, a small group of Cherokee remained in the Appalachian Highlands of North Carolina. Their descendants are recognized as the EBCI. The land they occupied became known as the Qualla Boundary in present day Haywood, Swain, and Jackson counties, and has been kept in trust by the federal government (Anderson et al. 2006; Cherokee Preservation Foundation 2014).

## COLONIAL PERIOD (1663–1776)

After the last Roanoke colony failed in 1587, efforts at colonization on the east coast dissipated. The Jamestown settlement, founded in 1607, in Virginia, was the first real success for English colonists (Carlton 1985). As Virginia prospered, colonization expanded south to the Albemarle Sound. The Colonial period truly began in 1629, when King Charles I of England granted control of the land from Virginia to Florida to Sir Robert Heath. This included most of the Cherokee territory. Heath's efforts were lackluster, however, and the grant was revoked in 1660. In 1663, Charles II granted the same land to the Lords Proprietors of the Carolinas (Blackmun 1977; Powell 1989), and by the early 1700s, English traders had settled throughout the North Carolina Piedmont (Swanton 1946).

Two major routes led to the Yadkin River Valley. The first was the great wagon road from Pennsylvania to the Moravian Settlements near the great bend of the Yadkin River. The second route was on the "Trading Path to the Indians," heading southwest from Virginia. In 1700, John Lawson was appointed to make a survey of the Carolinas, which resulted in the most detailed descriptions of the interior to that point. He took a party of English explorers and Indigenous guides from Charleston, South Carolina, the following year. This group traveled north into North Carolina near Waxhaw and headed northeast on the Trading Path (Lawson 1709).

The population of settlers multiplied in North Carolina, spreading outward from the coast to the Appalachian Mountains as early as 1760 (Hendricks and Hendricks 1995). The French and Indian War (1754–1763) interrupted this expansion briefly, but after the war, settlement escalated. Early settlers on the Upper Yadkin were primarily subsistence farmers who were buying or living on the land that is present-day Wilkes County as early as 1750. Groups came primarily from Virginia, but Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey were all represented (Gregor 1976). Relations between the local Cherokee groups and the new settlers encroaching on their lands grew increasingly contentious, and there are many reports of raids on early settlements.

A notable early resident along the Yadkin River was Daniel Boone (1734–1820), who lived in the area until 1769 (Hayes 1962). Boone reportedly built several cabins, one at Holman's Ford and another upriver at the present location of the village of Ferguson. This last cabin, near the mouth of Beaver Creek, reportedly housed his family while he explored Kentucky and Missouri. In 1769, he sold his land on the Yadkin River and moved to Kentucky (Ferguson 1957; Ramsey 1964) (Ferguson 1957).

## ANTEBELLUM PERIOD

North Carolina was one of the original 13 colonies in 1776, when independence was declared. The Revolutionary War divided the settlers in Wilkes County, with some supporting the Americans, while others remained loyal to England (Hayes 1962). Battles in Wilkes County were not between British troops and colonists, but, instead, between Patriot and Loyalist neighbors (Blackmun 1977). Near the end of the war, loyalists largely abandoned the area, fearing reprisal from their neighbors.

Carolínians tried to convince the Cherokee to remain neutral during the Revolutionary War. Despite these entreaties, however, the Cherokee eventually allied with the British, perhaps hoping that a British victory would halt expansion into Cherokee territory. In 1776, a colonial expedition destroyed Cherokee towns west of the Blue Ridge. In July 1777, the Treaty of Long Island of the Holston forced the Cherokee to give up their claim to land east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (Waugh 1971).

Wilkes County was created in 1778 from portions of Surry County and the district of Washington. From the time of its formation until as recently as 1931, the boundaries changed repeatedly (Corbitt 1987). The U.S. Coast Survey of 1865 identified two poorly maintained roads intersecting at Wilkesboro. Topographic maps illustrate little improvement by 1889. Economic trade struggled until the first rail lines burgeoned into the area. The North-Western North Carolina Railroad, was completed in 1871, providing reliable access to trade and communication networks (Anderson 1976; J.D. Lewis 2018).

## CIVIL WAR PERIOD

The Civil War period began in 1860, with the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, and southern states seceding from the Union soon after. While most plantations in the state were located along the coast and major rivers, Wilkes County documented at least 1,200 enslaved men, women, and children in 1860. The foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains were not conducive to large plantations, however, and the differing economic circumstances between small and large farmers contributed to the county's divide between the Confederacy and the Union during the Civil War. A contingent of neutral residents remained in the county and became known as the "Home Guard" (Anderson 1976).

The mountains of western North Carolina were something of a refuge for those unwilling to serve in the Confederate or Union army. Men hid in the forest and foraged at night. Occasionally, the Confederate Army sent bands into the mountains to round up deserters and capture outlaws. By the end of the war, Wilkes County hid deserters from both armies (Powell 1989).

In 1865, Union General George Stoneman’s raiders came through the Yadkin Valley taking stores and horses. The troops destroyed public and private property as they swept through Wilkesboro—which had been incorporated since 1847—on their way to Virginia (Mazzocchi 2006; Powell 1989). This left farmers with no way to farm their crops, and despite General Sherman’s orders to return livestock and work horses to the people of North Carolina, the effort was insufficient and belated (Ferguson 1957; Powell 1989). Near the end of the war, a group of outlaws and deserters from both the Confederate and Union Armies gathered at a fortified log house called Fort Hamby, west of Wilkesboro. They used this house as a base to raid the surrounding area until a group of local vigilantes attacked the group and killed most of its members (Carruth 2007; Gougeon et al. 2007). During the war, prices rose, and food was in short supply for both soldiers and local residents, further impoverishing the area.

#### LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Following the Civil War, whiskey-making was an occupation of many families in Wilkes County. Congress passed a whiskey tax during the Civil War and tried to enforce it in western North Carolina during Reconstruction. In Wilkes County, there were 14 licensed distilleries, but numerous unlicensed stills produced “moonshine.” Resident moonshiners went to great effort to evade federal tax agents by hiding stills and distributing goods at night (Van Noppen and Van Noppen 1973).

In 1894, the Southern Railway purchased the North-Western North Carolina Railroad between Greensboro and Wilkesboro (Lewis 2018). W.J. Grandin of Pennsylvania built the Watauga Railroad, quickly renamed the Watauga & Yadkin River Railroad, around 1912. This track went along the north side of the Yadkin River from the Reddies River west to North Wilkesboro, continuing on to Brown’s Ford over Lewis Fork Creek, to Goshen and Marley Ford at Stony Fork Creek, then to Ferguson, Elksville, and Elk Creek (Lewis 2018). By the 1920s, passenger trains travelled from North Wilkesboro to Greensboro. At the end of the 1920s, as roads began to be paved, there was a decrease in train travel. By 1955, passenger service was discontinued (Hayes 1962).

From the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, farms in Wilkes County were generally in poor condition. Most of the fields on the slopes were suffering from extreme erosion, and the river bottoms were no longer fertile (Ferguson 1957). Many residents moved to larger towns searching for employment in cotton mills and factories. Those who remained lived a largely subsistence lifestyle, bartering with shops for trade goods. Poultry farming emerged as a successful alternative to traditional agriculture. The mountainous region’s foothills and narrow valleys were well-suited

for poultry farms, and the industry thrived. Lovette Poultry Company was founded in 1944 by Charles Odell Lovette and family. By 1961, Lovette and 16 other small poultry businesses in the area formed Holly Farms Poultry Industries, Inc., (Town of Wilkesboro 2022).

A prominent feature of Wilkes County is the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir on the Yadkin River, west of Wilkesboro. Authorization for the dam began with the passage of the River and Harbor Act of 1902. In 1940, extensive rain in the Blue Ridge Mountains caused a rapid rise in the Yadkin River, and flooding destroyed at least 150 homes and caused an estimated 5 million dollars in damage. This event highlighted the need for a water control system in the area. Following this disaster, the Authorization Flood Control Act was approved on December 22, 1946 (Public Law 526, 70th Congress). The W. Kerr Scott dam was one of two facilities to be constructed on the Yadkin River, as part of a comprehensive plan of water resource development for the upper Yadkin Basin. The W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir was completed in 1962, but the second facility planned for the Reddies River was never built. Today, the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir acts as flood control and water storage structure, as well as a recreational center and a fish and wildlife preserve (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2008).

#### LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND EARLY TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Today, Wilkes County has a population of approximately 69,000. The county is one of the state’s largest poultry producers. In 1989, Holly Farms was acquired by Tyson Foods, which is currently the county’s largest industrial employer (Bass et al. 2007; Town of Wilkesboro 2022). The first Lowe’s hardware store was also located in Wilkes county, and the Lowe’s corporation employed several thousand people until it was relocated in 2001 (Peña and Hayes 2007). The county is also well known as the origin of NASCAR, although the organization outgrew its local roots, and the town’s racetrack was closed in 1996. The economy remains closely tied to agriculture, particularly vineyards, flue-cured tobacco, and apples (Mazzocchi 2006). Tourism centered on the county’s natural beauty has emerged as an economic contributor. Outdoor activities and events like the MerleFest music festival draw visitors from throughout the region.

## IV. METHODS

### BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Prior to beginning fieldwork, archaeological background research was conducted remotely at OSA in Raleigh, North Carolina, in February 2022. This research was conducted to review information on sites recorded in or near the survey areas and other archaeological surveys in the general vicinity. These results were used to develop expectations for the number and types of archaeological sites within the APE. Previously recorded site locations were incorporated into GIS for the project.

### PRE-FIELDWORK PREPARATION

Digital mapping of the APE was loaded into the project GIS, along with geospatial data such as current and historic aerial imagery, USGS topographic maps, hydrography, soil types, and previous archaeological sites and studies. The GIS data were used to generate the location of survey transects, with shovel tests plotted at 20-meter intervals along the transects.

### FIELD METHODS

Archaeological field survey methods included pedestrian survey and excavation. Shovel tests were pre-plotted in 20-meter intervals, and delineation tests were excavated in 10-meter intervals. Shovel tests measured 35 centimeters in diameter. Excavation proceeded by natural stratum and continued until groundwater was encountered or at least 10 centimeters into sterile subsoil. All soils were screened through 0.25-inch mesh hardware cloth to ensure systematic artifact recovery. Upon the excavation of each shovel test, field crew members updated the corresponding record in the database on their mobile device. Each excavator recorded information on maximum shovel test depth, depths of natural strata, USDA-NRCS soil texture and Munsell color designations, presence or absence of artifacts, depth of artifacts recovered, and all other pertinent information.

### DIGITAL DATA RECORDING

NSA has developed and implemented procedures for digitally recording standard field survey data using digital devices. The electronic documentation process is driven by spatial data and can generate a range of digital data. The *Memento* and *FileMaker* databases allow for in-field data collection. Recording of shovel tests included USDA-NRCS soil texture and Munsell color designation, depth, and artifacts recovered in a consistent format with dropdown menus and

required fields. At the end of the field day, the records were automatically synced to NSA's server following a complete review of the data. Additional QA/QC was performed as necessary by the Field Director. Digital photographs were taken of general settings, disturbances, selected shovel test profiles, and the locations of all archaeological resources.

### LABORATORY METHODS

Artifact identification and cataloging began in the field. All materials were bagged according to appropriate provenience in polyethylene bags, and each provenience was assigned a unique provenience bag number that was recorded in a field bag list. All recovered artifacts were then transported to NSA's laboratory facilities in Stone Mountain, Georgia, where they were washed, cataloged, analyzed and prepped for curation. Distinct provenience numbers were assigned to each shovel test, metal detection, and surface collection point. Artifacts from each provenience were divided by class and type and assigned a catalog number.

All artifacts were cataloged using a database developed by NSA with *4th Dimension Software*. Historic items were identified using sources such as Orser (1988), South (1977) and Nelson (1968). Precontact lithic artifacts were sorted by raw material and type, and metrics were recorded for all potentially diagnostic tools (Andrefsky 2001; Goad 1979).

All artifacts and paperwork collections are currently housed at NSA but will be prepared for curation at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Research Center (OSARC) in Raleigh, North Carolina. Artifacts will be placed in separate clean polyethylene bags by artifact form. Acid-free identification tags will be generated, and the artifact bags will be labeled with the appropriate catalog number, artifact identification, and number of artifacts present. Artifact bags will then be placed in pre-labeled and tagged bags containing all other materials recovered from the same provenience. All provenience bags will be sorted by provenience number and placed in a larger container with all other materials from a given site. Once all artifacts and documentation are completed for the project (including the final report), the assembled collection will be submitted to the curation facility for future research.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION

The significance of historic properties is evaluated according to the criteria established by the National Park Service (NPS; 36 CFR Part 60.4, Criteria for Evaluation). NPS states that the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; may represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

It is recognized that Phase I surveys do not always provide all the information needed to make definitive NRHP recommendations. Accordingly, Phase I recommendations may include *eligible*, *unknown*, and *not eligible*. *Not eligible* indicates we have sufficient data to determine that the site lacks the attributes to qualify under any of the four criteria. *Unknown* means the data set is incomplete, and more research is needed to support a recommendation of *eligible* or *not eligible*. That is, *not eligible* means the site is clearly lacking key attributes, and *unknown* means it is currently unknown if the site has or lacks those key attributes.

Archaeological sites, when recommended eligible, are most commonly recommended under Criterion D. However, Section 106 of the NHPA requires that all resources be assessed under all four criteria, and that guidance is followed. Furthermore, a resource's integrity does not excuse consideration of each criterion.

To be eligible under Criterion A, a site must convey a strong relationship to one or more historic events or trends. The term *historic*, as applied here, means both Precontact and post-contact eras defined in historic contexts. Although typically seen in the case of key events (e.g., the site is involved with the Civil War defense of Charleston), Criterion A can also be applied to Precontact trends or developments (e.g., Late Archaic adaptations to a stabilizing sea level). Once a possible

key event or trend has been identified, the site must be shown to have the necessary attributes to strongly represent that event/trend and must be shown to have the integrity to convey the link. If the site lacks temporally diagnostic artifacts, it is highly unlikely it can display a link to a specific event or trend. If a site is characterized by badly disturbed, mixed components, it has lost the potential to convey its relationship to an event or trend.

Criterion B applies when a resource is associated with a key historical person. The site must capture the thematic reason and period of significance for the person's fame. There is not a concrete rule on determining who was historically significant, but it is reasonable to assume that most of the historically significant persons in a county will have been mentioned in secondary sources such as the county history. Criterion B also requires that the resource have sufficient integrity to reflect an association with the person. It is extremely rare that Criterion B can be applied to Precontact sites, as individuals cannot be identified in the absence of written records.

There are two elements of possible eligibility under Criterion C. The first applies when the resource is the work of a master, or when a building or landscape is of high artistic value. Although generally applied to the historic era, this criterion could be applied to certain Precontact site types, such as petroglyph panels. Under this aspect of Criterion C, the resource must have sufficient integrity that the design or artistic merit can be seen and appreciated. The second aspect of Criterion C states that sites – whether Precontact or historic – can be eligible if they represent a strong example of a specific site type. Implicit in this criterion is that for a site to be eligible under C, we must be able both to define a specific typological and chronological site type and to delineate what the key attributes of that site type are. The strength, usefulness, or representativeness of a particular site clearly rests in its integrity.

Criterion D states that a resource can be eligible if it has the potential to yield, or has yielded, significant or important data. In order to evaluate a resource under Criterion D, the National Register Bulletin Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties (Little et al. 2000) lists five primary steps to follow:

1. Identify the property's data set(s) or categories of archaeological, historical, or ecological information.
2. Identify the historic context(s), that is, the appropriate historical and archaeological framework in which to evaluate the property.
3. Identify the important research question(s) that the property's data sets can be expected to address.

4. Taking archaeological integrity into consideration, evaluate the data sets in terms of their potential and known ability to answer research questions.
5. Identify the important information that an archaeological study of the property has yielded or is likely to yield.

In addition to meeting Criterion D, archaeological sites or properties must possess one or more of the following aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (Little et al. 2000). Archaeological sites must possess artifacts in or near the original depositional location that can be employed to determine the past use of the locale and the approximate date of its past use. Integrity of location requires artifacts, artifact clusters, middens, or features in sufficient numbers to assess their horizontal and vertical distributions across the site. These must occur within intact soil deposits, each representing specific human activity at the site. The presence of artifacts and features that can be employed to make these interpretations is essential to recommending a site eligible for the NRHP.

The research potential of a site can be determined by demonstrating that it has temporally diagnostic artifacts, intact features, artifact clusters in activity areas, or preserved organic material. The data should be capable of addressing important research questions by testing hypotheses, supporting current scientific interpretations, or reconstructing cultural chronologies using appropriate analytical methods.

The National Park Service (NPS) defined two requirements for archaeological sites to be eligible under Criterion D (Andrus and Shrimpton 1997):

1. The site must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and
2. The information must be considered important.

Furthermore, the site must have “been used as a source of data and contain more, as yet unretrieved, data” (Andrus and Shrimpton 1997). Four points must be addressed in order to evaluate the NRHP eligibility of the site:

1. *Degree of Integrity* – Does the site possess intact remains, allowing for component (cultural and functional) separation and analysis, or is it highly mixed and disturbed?

2. *Degree of Preservation* – Does the site contain preserved cultural deposits, features, floral materials, faunal remains, or human skeletal remains suited to in-depth research and or absolute dating?
3. *Uniqueness* – Is the information contained in the site redundant to information available from other, similar sites, or do such remains provide a unique or insightful perspective on research concerns or regional importance?
4. *Relevance to Current and Future Research* – In consideration of current research themes and directions, could the excavation of the site fulfill basic research needs? Would preservation of the site provide valuable data for future studies? While this aspect is partially the sum of the aspects listed above, it also recognizes that a site may be able to contribute to ongoing research regardless of its integrity, preservation, or uniqueness.

## V. RESULTS

### BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

A review of OSA records indicates that no previously identified archaeological sites are located in the APE, and 12 previously identified archaeological sites are located within one mile of the APE (Table 2, Figure 4). Of the 12 nearby archaeological sites, two are multicomponent sites. Site 31WK92 consists of an indeterminate Precontact short-term habitation site and a historic farmstead that was occupied from 1875 to 1973. Site 31WK124 consists of a Late Woodland long-term habitation site and an indeterminate historic artifact scatter. The other 10 sites are Precontact period sites. Of the Precontact sites, three were general Woodland long-term habitation sites (31WK11, 31WK25, and 31WK27), one was a Middle Archaic to Early Woodland short-term habitation site (31WK93), one was a general Archaic short-term habitation site (31WK94), and one was an indeterminate Precontact isolated find (31WK125). Two were Late Woodland short-term habitation sites (31WK126 and 31WK127). One was a Middle Archaic and Late Woodland short-term habitation site (31WK131), and one was an indeterminate Precontact fish weir (31WK290).

One previous survey was conducted within a mile of the APE. In 1989, Appalachian Archaeological Services conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the proposed Wilkes County Landfill. The APE for the 1989 project, now the Wilkes County Landfill and Recycling Center, is on the opposite side of Elkin Highway of the current APE. The 1989 survey resulted in the identification of sites 31WK92, 31WK93, and 31WK94 all of which were determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP (Ayers 1989).

A review of historic imagery, including North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) historic aerials from 1982 and the 1971 Ronda USGS Topographic Quadrangle, did not reveal any previous structures within the APE. Both images suggest that the APE has functioned as an agricultural field since at least 1971 (Figure 5).

Table 2. Archaeological Sites Within One Mile of the APE

Site No.	Type	Temporal	NRHP	Reference
31WK11	Long-Term Habitation	Precontact - Woodland	Unknown	OSA Site Form
31WK25	Long-Term Habitation	Precontact - Woodland	Unknown	OSA Site Form
31WK27	Long-Term Habitation	Precontact - Woodland	Unknown	OSA Site Form

Table 2. Archaeological Sites Within One Mile of the APE

Site No.	Type	Temporal	NRHP	Reference
31WK92	Short-Term Habitation Precontact, Historic Farmstead	Indeterminate Precontact;1875–1973	Not Eligible	Ayers 1989
31WK93	Short-Term Habitation	Precontact – Middle Archaic to Early Woodland	Not Eligible	Ayers 1989
31WK94	Short-Term Habitation; Lithic Workshop	Precontact – Archaic	Not Eligible	Ayers 1989
31WK124	Long-Term Habitation; Historic Artifact Scatter	Precontact – Late Woodland, Indeterminate Historic	Unknown	OSA Site Form
31WK125	Isolated Find	Indeterminate Precontact	Not Eligible	OSA Site Form
31WK126	Short-Term Habitation	Precontact – Late Woodland	Unassessed	OSA Site Form
31WK127	Short-Term Habitation	Precontact – Late Woodland	Unknown	OSA Site Form
31WK131	Short-Term Habitation, Limited Activity	Precontact – Middle Archaic, Late Woodland	Unknown	OSA Site Form
31WK290	Fish Weir	Indeterminate Precontact	Unknown	OSA Site Form

### SURVEY RESULTS

During the current survey, 213 shovel tests were excavated in the APE. Of these, 185 were regular interval shovel tests, and 28 were delineation tests. Two shovel tests (STP 30 and STP 45) were positive for Precontact artifacts; 175 were negative, and 36 were not excavated due to gravel/pavement ( $n=6$ ), slopes greater than 15 percent ( $n=5$ ), and surface water ( $n=25$ ) (Figure 6). The survey resulted in the identification of two new archaeological sites (Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299).

Figure 4. Archaeological Sites and Previous Surveys Within One Mile of the APE

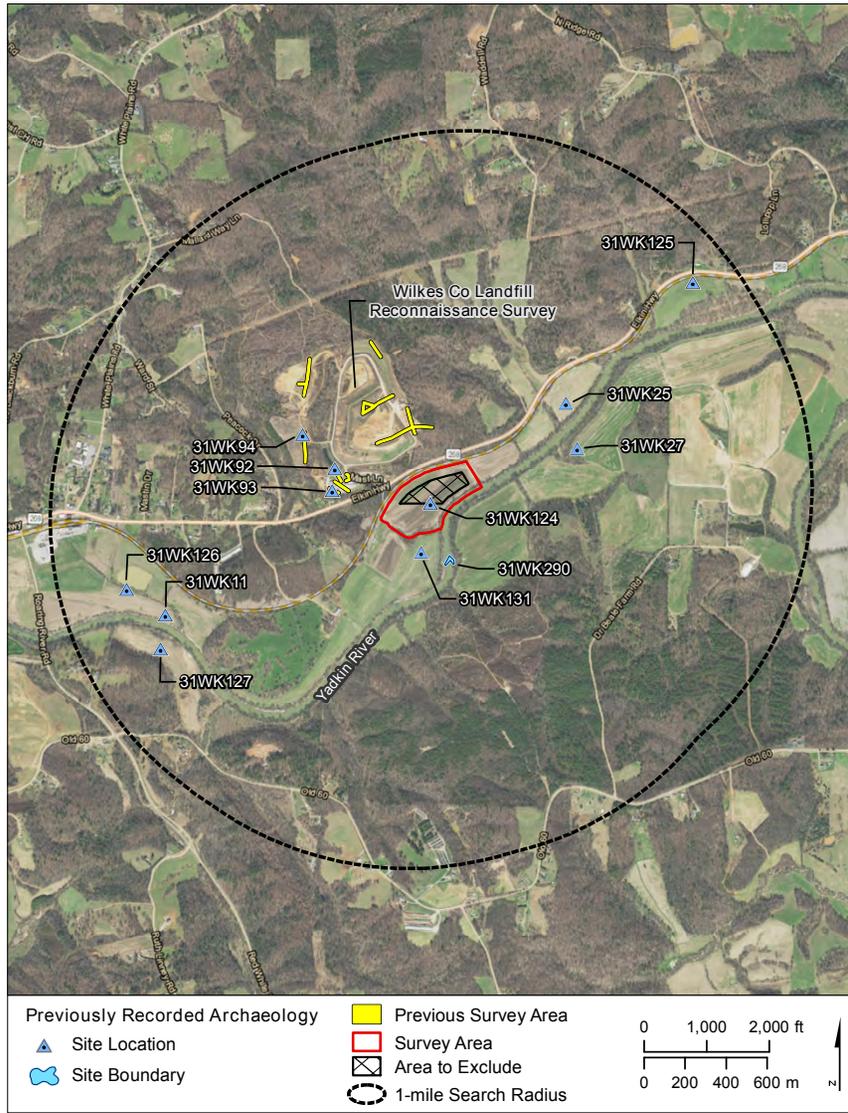
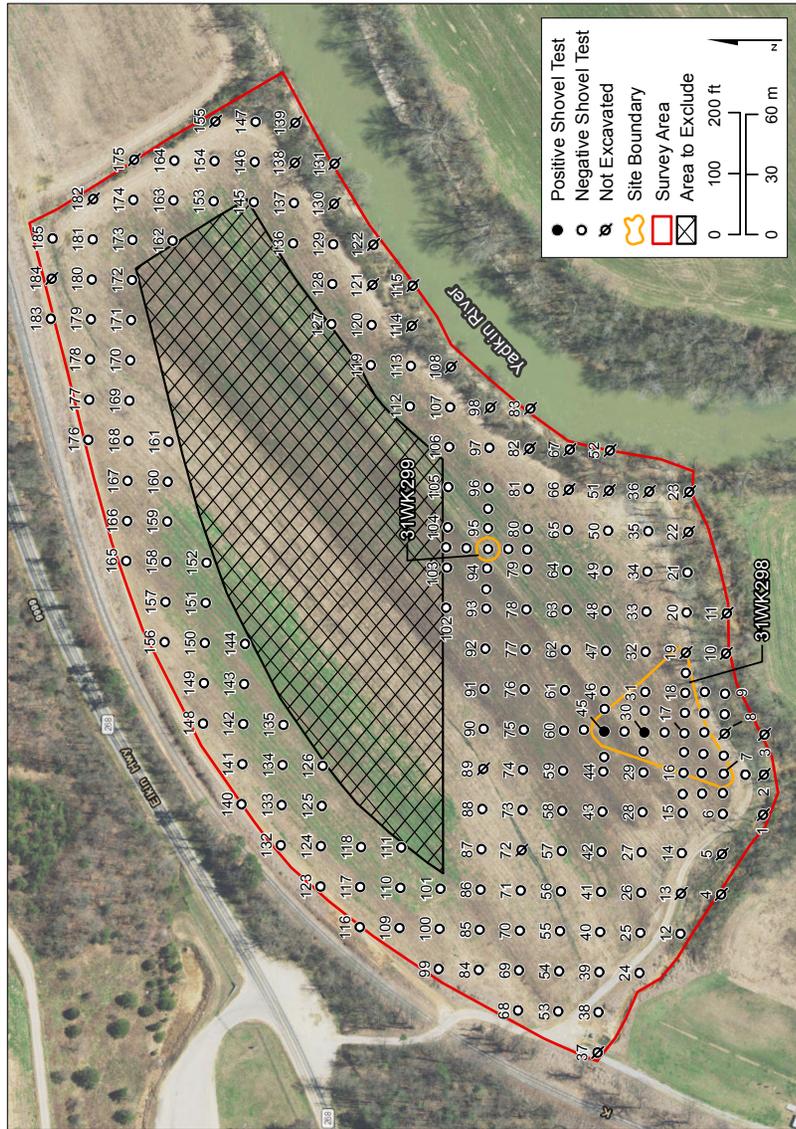


Figure 5. APE as Depicted on the 1982 Historic Aerial





Basemap: ESRI, NC CGIA (2018)

Figure 6. Survey Results in the APE

SITE 31WK298

Field Number:	SET01 and SET02
UTM Coordinates:	501302 E 4006795.1 N (Zone 17N, NAD83)
Datum Coordinates:	STP 45
Elevation:	920 feet amsl
USGS Quadrangle (7.5'):	Ronda 1971
Property/Site Type:	Open Habitation
Temporal Affiliations:	Indeterminate Precontact
Setting:	Floodplain
Soils:	Ronda Loamy Sand
Site Size:	60.7x58.7 meters
Archaeological Deposit Depth:	30 cmbs
Features:	None
NRHP Recommendation:	Not Eligible
Management Recommendation:	No Further Work

Site 31WK298 is an indeterminate Precontact open habitation site identified in a grassy floodplain in the southern half of the APE. The site is located 202.4 meters (664.0 feet) south of the intersection of Mast Lane and Elkin Highway (Figures 7 and 8). The site was initially identified by two positive shovel tests (STP 45 and STP 30) and a surface scatter bordering the gravel road along the southern perimeter of the APE. The surface of northern half of Site 31WK298 is covered in the remnants of crop rows, and the southern half of the site is covered with wheel ruts from vehicles. NSA excavated 28 shovel tests to delineate the two positive shovel tests and surface scatter.

The soil profile at Site 31WK298 consists of three strata that reflect the typical characteristics of Ronda series soils within the region (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2009b). The first stratum is a brown (7.5YR 4/2) sandy loam Ap Horizon that terminates at 25 centimeters below the surface (cmbs). The next stratum is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clay sand that terminates at 60 cmbs. The subsoil was a strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay (Figure 9). Artifacts were only recovered from the first stratum. The stratigraphy present at Site 31WK298 is representative of the stratigraphy throughout the remainder of the APE.

The artifact assemblage ( $n=15$ ) for Site 31WK298 is summarized in Table 3. The assemblage was dominated by rhyolite flakes ( $n=10$ ), although two chert flakes were also recovered. Due to the quality of the rhyolite, it is thought to be Morrow Mountain Rhyolite, frequently found at Early Archaic to Late Woodland sites across the Piedmont (Daniel and Butler 1996). A single rhyolite unidentified project point/knife was recovered (Figure 10).

Figure 7.  
Map of Site 31WK298

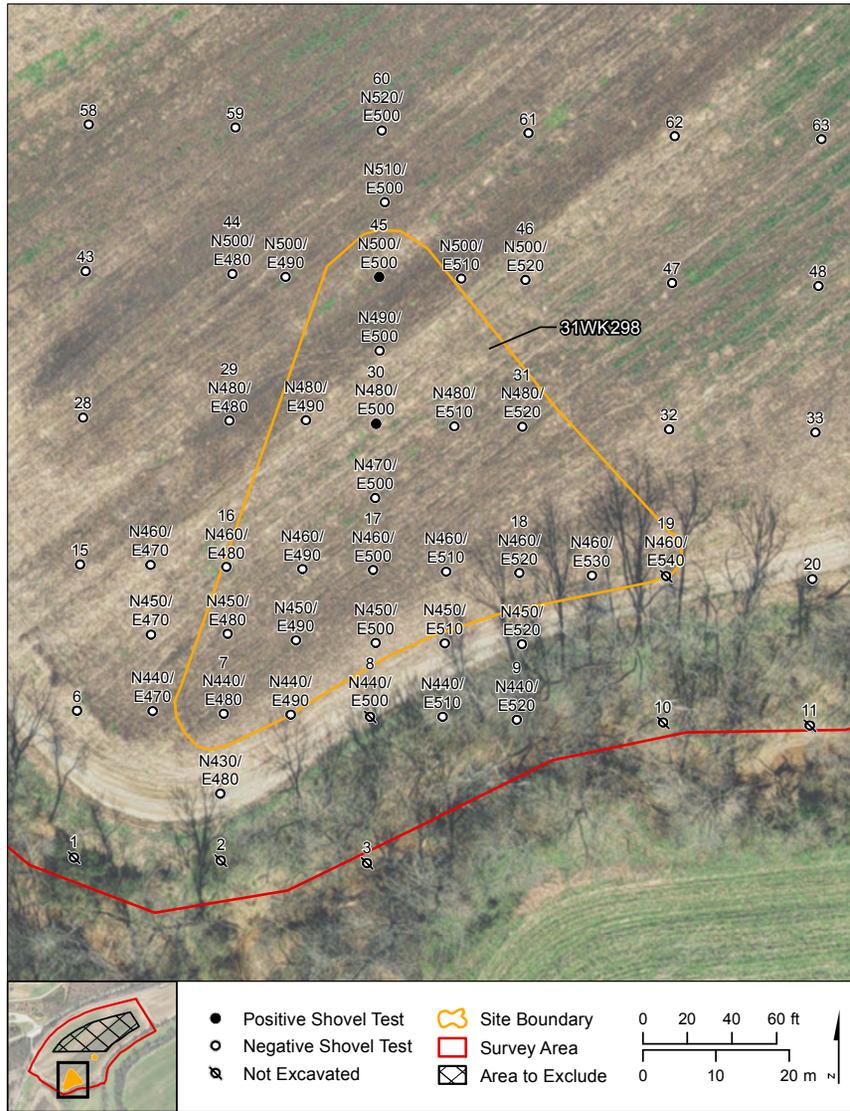


Figure 8.  
Overview of Site 31WK298



A. South Half of Site 31WK298 Facing Northeast

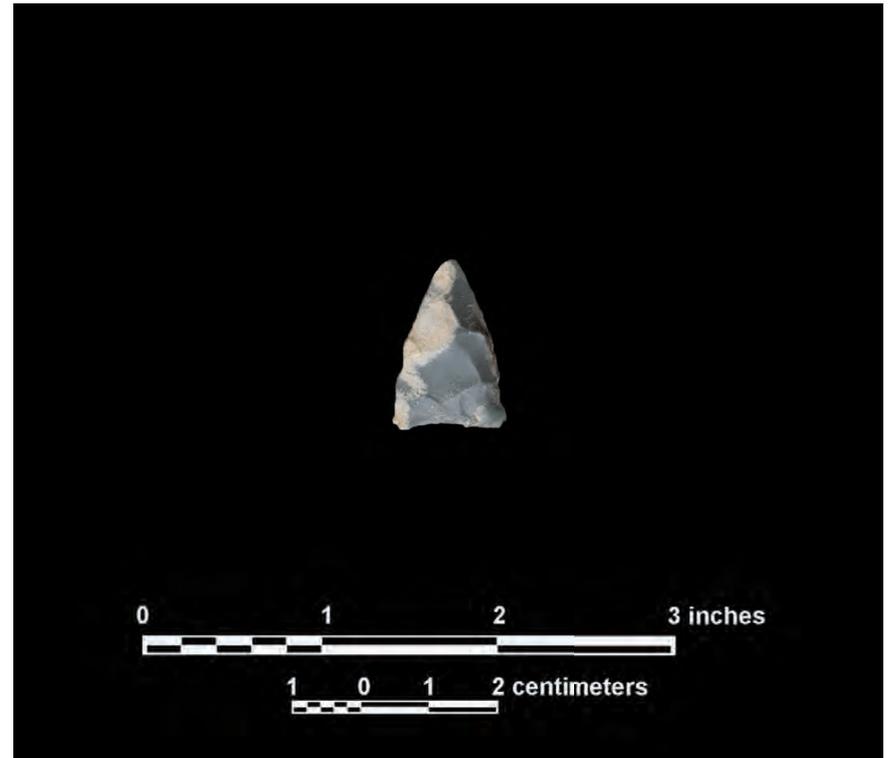


B. Northern Half of Site 31WK298 Facing Northwest



Figure 9.  
Soil Profile in Shovel Test 45

Figure 10.  
Photo of the Unidentified Rhyolite Projectile Point/Knife from Site 31WK298



Thirteen of the artifacts, including the PP/K, were recovered from a large surface scatter that borders the gravel road in the southern half of the APE. This area was covered in wheel ruts, exposing the A Horizon. Two rhyolite flakes were recovered from the Ap Horizon and were the only artifacts recovered from shovel tests. NSA fully delineated the boundaries of 31WK298.

Table 3. Artifact Assemblage from 31WK298

Shovel Test	Artifact Description	Count	Weight (g)
STP 30, 0–20 cmbs	Flake with Faceted Platform, Rhyolite	1	0.1
STP 45, 0–15cmbs	Flake Fragment, Rhyolite	1	0.3
Surface	Unidentified PP/K, Rhyolite	1	2.0
	Flake Fragment, Rhyolite	5	0.9
	Angular Debitage, Rhyolite	2	6.7
	Flake with Faceted Platform, Chert	1	0.2
	Flake, Chert	1	1.1
	Flake with Flat Platform, Rhyolite	2	5.4
	Flake, Rhyolite	1	0.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>

Site 31WK298 is an indeterminate Precontact period open habitation site in the southern half of the APE. Seventy-five percent of the artifacts recovered from Site 31WK298 were recovered from the exposed wheel ruts along the gravel road in the APE. There are no diagnostic artifacts, and the site cannot be dated to a specific Precontact time period; therefore, the site cannot be associated with broad patterns in history or important events (Criterion A), anyone of known historical significance (Criterion B), or distinctive characteristics of a type or period (Criterion C). Limited sub-surface artifact recovery and the absence of diagnostic materials and features suggest the site is unlikely to yield significant archaeological data beyond what has been learned from the current study and does not meet Criterion D. Site 31WK298 is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP. No further work is recommended.

SITE 31WK299

Field Number:	SET03
UTM Coordinates:	501391.6 E 4006874.9 N (Zone 17N, NAD83)
Datum Coordinates:	STP N500 E500
Elevation:	920 feet amsl
USGS Quadrangle (7.5’):	Ronda 1971
Property/Site Type:	Lithic Scatter
Temporal Affiliations:	Indeterminate Precontact
Setting:	Floodplain
Soils:	Ronda Loamy Sand
Site Size:	11.4x11.4 meters
Archaeological Deposit Depth:	Surface
Features:	None
NRHP Recommendation:	Not Eligible
Management Recommendation:	No Further Work

Site 31WK299 is an indeterminate Precontact period single artifact identified in a grassy floodplain in the southeastern quadrant of the APE. The site is located 250.6 meters (822.1 feet) east of the intersection of Mast Lane and Elkin Highway (Figure 11). The site was identified by a single Precontact artifact on the surface between STP 94 and STP 95. The site is covered in the remnants of crop rows (Figure 12). NSA excavated nine shovel tests and conducted a systematic pedestrian reconnaissance survey to delineate the surface scatter.

The soil profile at Site 31WK299 consists of three strata that reflect the typical characteristics of Ronda series soils within the region (National Cooperative Soil Survey 2009b). The first stratum is a brown (7.5YR 4/2) sandy loam Ap Horizon that terminates at 25 cmbs. The next stratum is a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) loamy sand that terminates at 35 cmbs. The subsoil was a strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) sandy clay (Figure 13). The artifact recovered from Site 31WK299 was a retouched rhyolite flake. Like the artifacts recovered from Site 31WK298, the material of the flake appears to be Morrow Mountain rhyolite (Daniel and Butler 1996).

Site 31WK299 is approximately 30-meters southeast from previously identified Site 31WK124. OSA data does not indicate the site’s precise boundaries. The mapped location of Site 31WK124 was not revisited as part of this survey because it is outside the APE (see Figure 4). Site 31WK299 was recorded as a separate site because it was fully delineated by surface inspection and systematic shovel testing.

Figure 11.  
Map of Site 31WK299

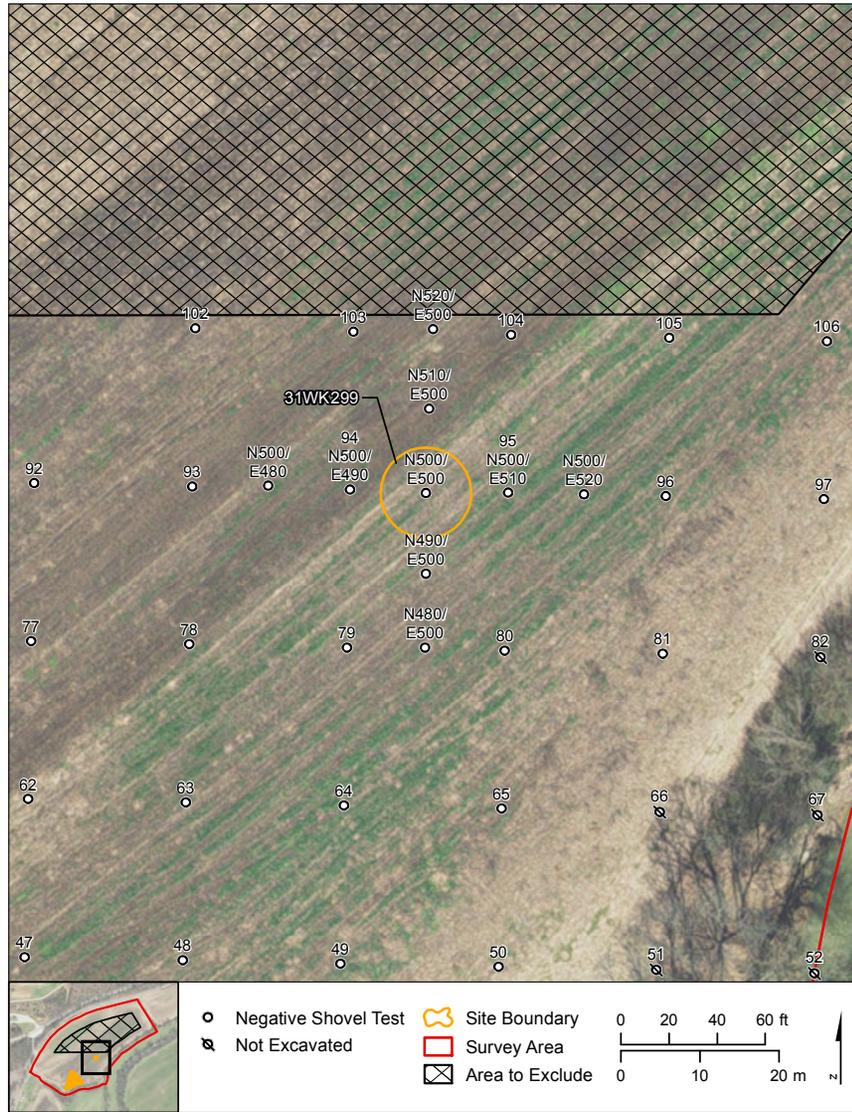


Figure 12.  
Overview of Site 31WK299 Facing North

A 1991 site form described Site 31WK124 as a long-term, Late Woodland occupation site with a high volume of ceramics, lithics, and a possible subsurface midden. The site form suggests that the site may have research potential in assessing the cultural contact between the Siouan and Pisgah people (Wake Forest University 1991). The single artifact recovered from Site 31WK299 does not represent a substantial, long-term occupation like Site 31WK124.

Site 31WK299 is an indeterminate Precontact period artifact identified in a grassy floodplain in the southeastern quadrant of the APE. A single retouched rhyolite flake was recovered, and there are no diagnostic artifacts. Because it only dates only to the general Precontact period, the site cannot be associated with broad patterns in history or important events (Criterion A), anyone of known historic significance (Criterion B), or distinctive characteristics of a type of period (Criterion C). The site has limited potential to yield important archaeological data beyond what has been learned from the current study and does not meet Criterion D. Site 31WK299 is recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP under any criteria, and no further work is recommended.

Figure 13.  
Soil Profile in Shovel Test N500 E500

## VI. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In February of 2021, NSA completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed boat ramp and park development of 18 acres on a 24-acre lot along the Yadkin River, north of Roaring River, Wilkes County, North Carolina. The purpose of the survey was to identify archaeological resources within the proposed project area and to evaluate their eligibility for listing in the NRHP. The survey resulted in the identification of two archaeological sites (31WK298 and 31WK299). The current survey determined that both Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299 are ephemeral Precontact artifact scatters that have been disturbed by agricultural activities in the 18-acre tract. As a result, many of the artifacts associated with these sites were recovered from the surface. Because of the ephemeral nature of the sites along with the lack of integrity, NSA recommends that Site 31WK298 and Site 31WK299 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

No further archaeological work is recommended within the project area.

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# APPENDIX A: SPECIMEN CATALOG

## Specimen Catalog

County: Wilkes  
 State: North Carolina  
 Project: Wilkes County Boat Ramp (2022)

State Site #	Field Bag #	Excavation Unit	Horizontal Location	Vertical Location	Count/Weight	Artifact Description	Field Date
31WK298	1	STP 45		0-20 cmbs	1 (0.1g)	Rhyolite, Flake-General	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	2 (6.7g)	Rhyolite, Angular Debris	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	5 (0.9g)	Rhyolite, Flake-Fragment	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	2 (1.3g)	Chert-Unidentified, Flake-General	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	3 (5.7g)	Rhyolite, Flake-General	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	1 (2g)	Rhyolite, Projectile Point/Knife, Unidentified, Complete	2/24/22
31WK298	2			Surface	1 (2.7g)	Unmodified Stone	2/24/22
31WK298	3	STP 30		Level 1, 0-15cmbs	1 (0.3g)	Rhyolite, Flake-Fragment	2/24/22
31WK299	4		N500 E500	Surface	1 (2.8g)	Rhyolite, Retouched Flake	2/25/22

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