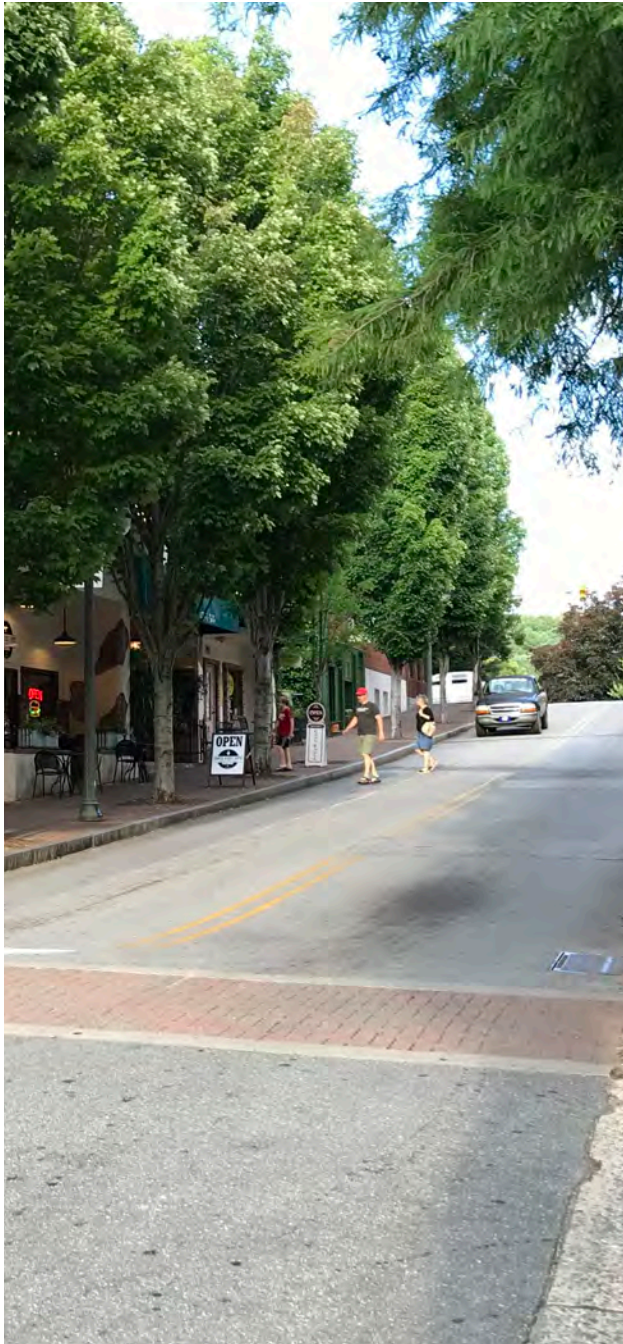




EXISTING CONDITIONS



This chapter provides an analysis of the current conditions in Waynesville in late 2018. The use of digital tools including GIS, field observation, and other research provides information on how land is currently used in the area within and surrounding the Town of Waynesville, where development is likely to occur and what infrastructure and services are available.

Quantitative and qualitative analyses of parks, the natural environment, and the State and local transportation system provide a foundation for the future land use plan recommendations.

EXISTING LAND USE

The mapping of existing land use is different from the Zoning map or the Future Land Use designation of an area. It is a reflection of what is actually occurring on a given parcel and land use trends. The predominant land uses in Waynesville by acreage are single-family residential, and vacant land (undeveloped land, e.g. agricultural or without a structure). Rural residential, defined as a residential parcel greater than 5 acres in size, also represents a significant amount of total existing land use within the Town. Waynesville lost over 1,000 acres of pasture between 2008 and 2017 according to USDA Cropscape Landcover Data (2008, 2017) for the Waynesville area and 326 acres of land have been newly developed during the same period. Agriculture still contributes to the economy and cultural heritage of Haywood County.

The more dense residential areas are located in the heart of Waynesville in the vicinity of Main Street, Frog Level, and the Hazelwood district. Density decreases in a radial pattern closer to the limits of the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), where slopes become steeper, and in areas outside of the Urban Services Boundary.

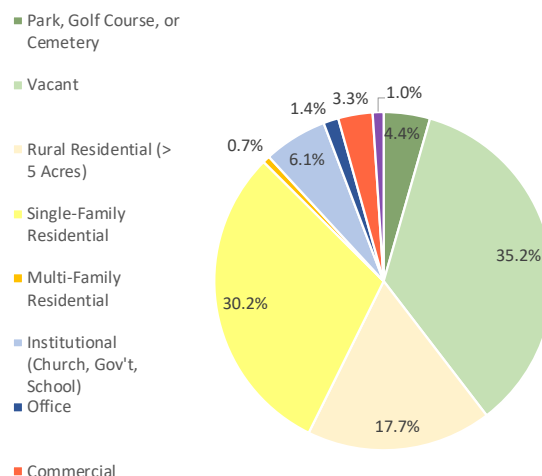
Commercial areas are concentrated on Russ Avenue, downtown Waynesville, South Main Street, and at the interchange of the Great Smoky Mountain Expressway and Hyatt Creek Road.

Land use issues and trends in the area include:

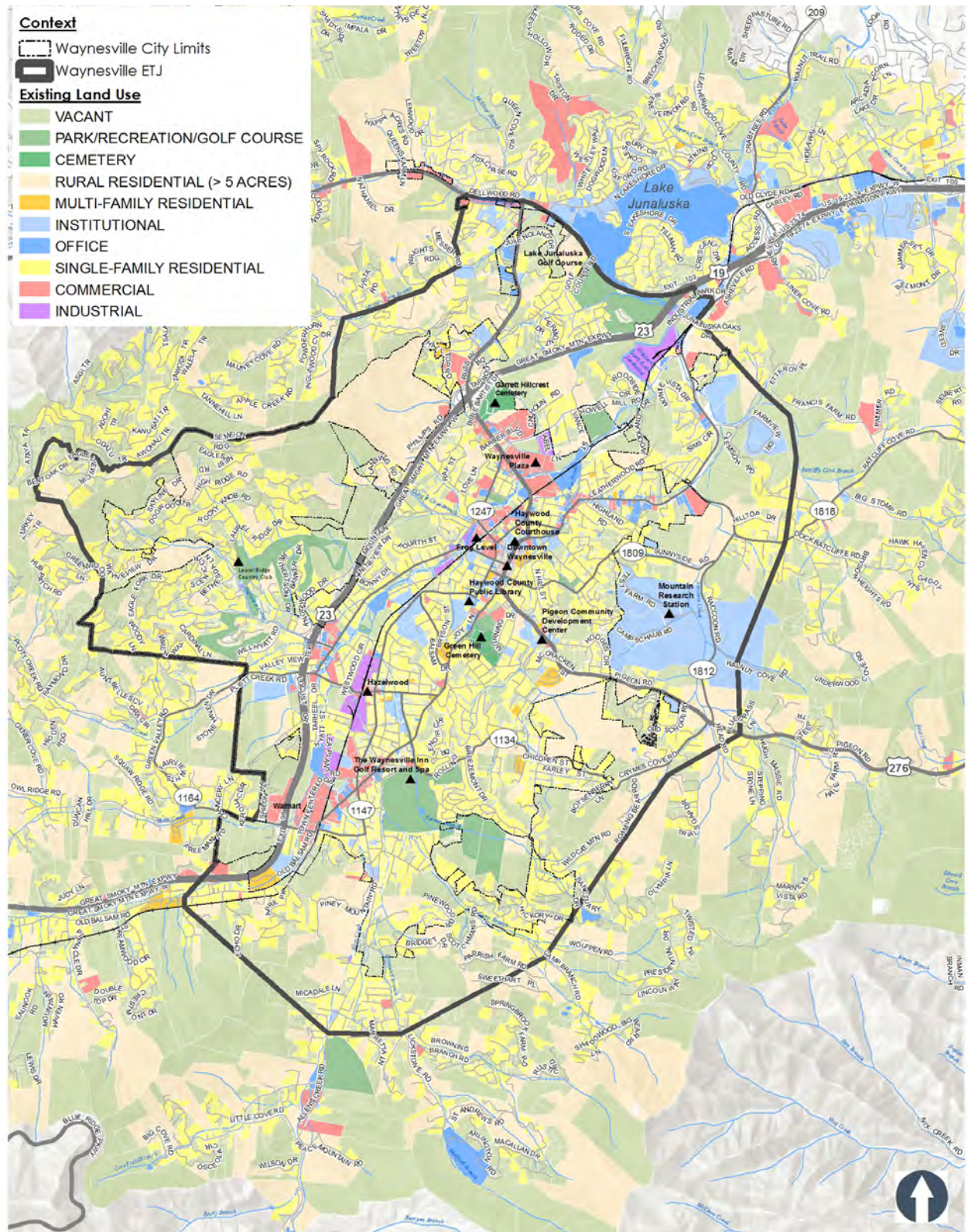
- » Lack of existing housing stock for the workforce
- » Need for redevelopment in some existing, distressed commercial centers
- » Unfavorable view of proposed multifamily and high density construction
- » Desire to protect the rural character in some areas of town (i.e. valleys that are or were once farmland)
- » Need to avoid hillside areas that have been identified as susceptible to slope failures.
- » Continued support for compact development and redevelopment in the core, especially in underutilized commercial areas

Commercial land uses only make up approximately 3.3% of study area. These uses typically provide more tax revenue than the cost of providing services.

EXISTING LAND USE BY CATEGORY



EXISTING LAND USE MAP - WAYNESVILLE AREA



Land Supply

An analysis of the land supply using data derived from Haywood County tax records divided land into three categories: Available, Underutilized, and Utilized.

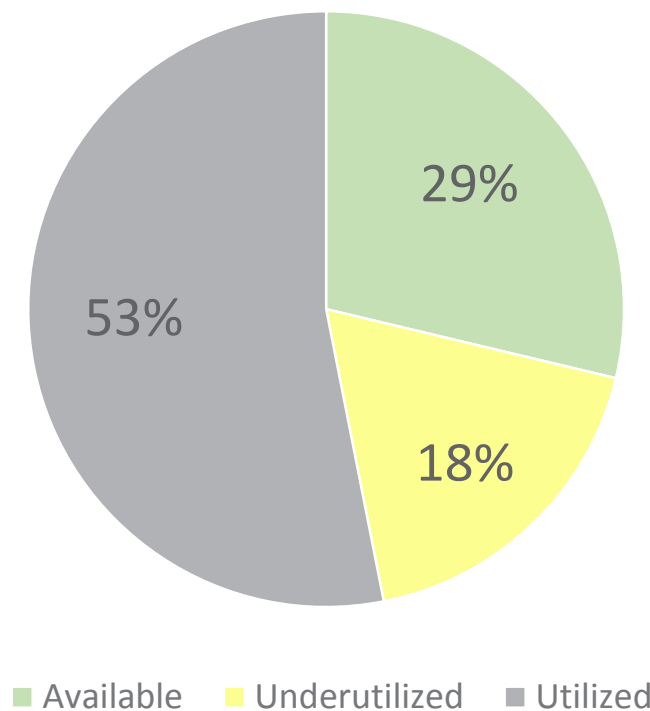
- **Available** land can be vacant land or land currently used for farming purposes, but lacks a significant on-site structure.
- **Underutilized** parcels are those that have a low structure value to land value ratio. Although some land identified as underutilized might already be developed, the potential for redevelopment may benefit the owner and the community.
- **Utilized**, or “built” lands are those that have structures such as homes, businesses, churches, or schools with a higher structure to land value ratio.

The analysis indicated that nearly 47% percent of land in Waynesville’s ETJ is either available or underutilized. The greatest amount of “available” land is primarily on the urban fringe and much of this land has significant development constraints including steep slopes, floodplains, limited utilities and poor road access.

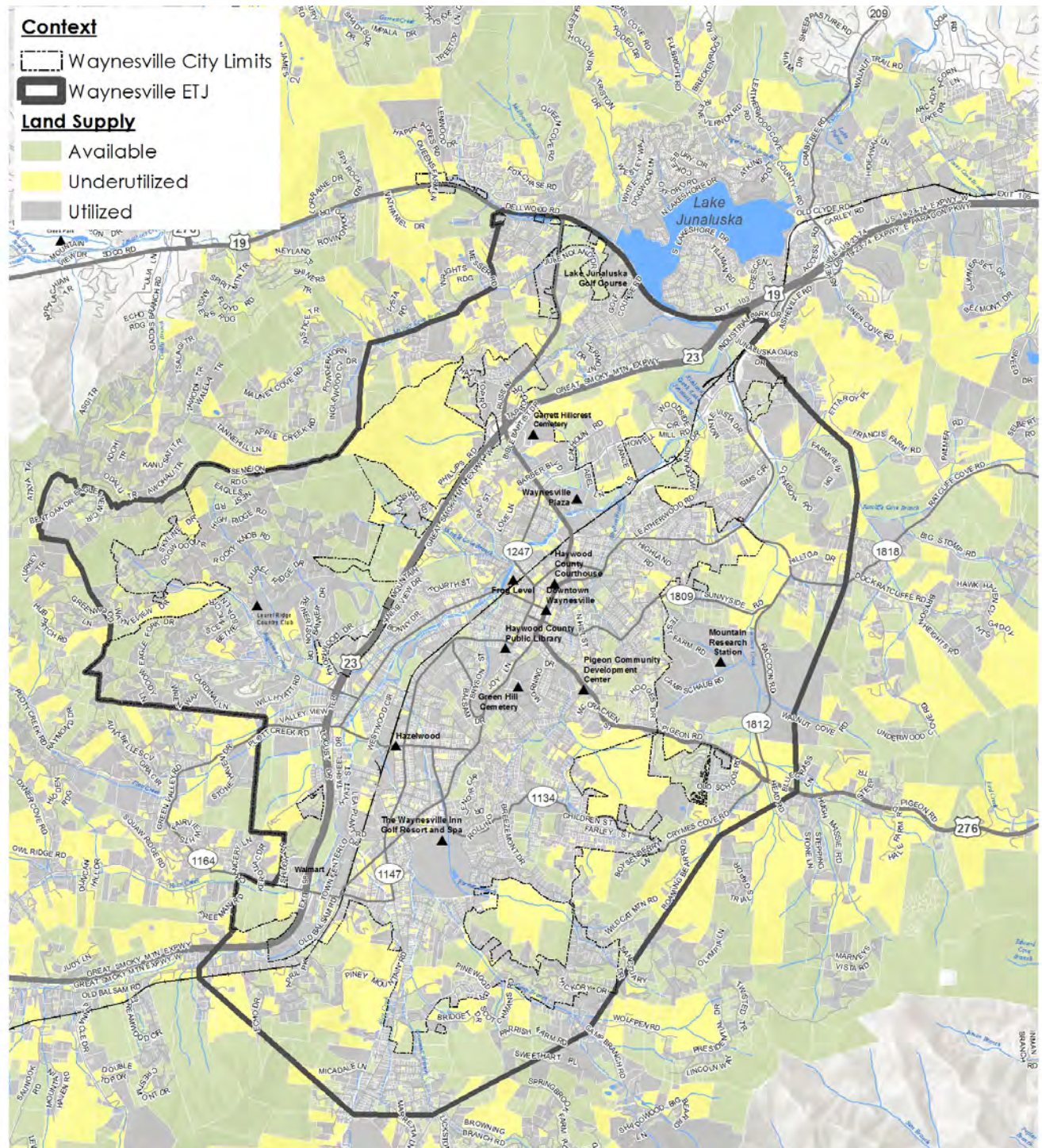
Over half of the land area in Waynesville’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) is developed.

Vacant or Available land is limited and redevelopment may be more prevalent in the future.

LAND SUPPLY SUMMARY



LAND SUPPLY IN THE WAYNESVILLE AREA

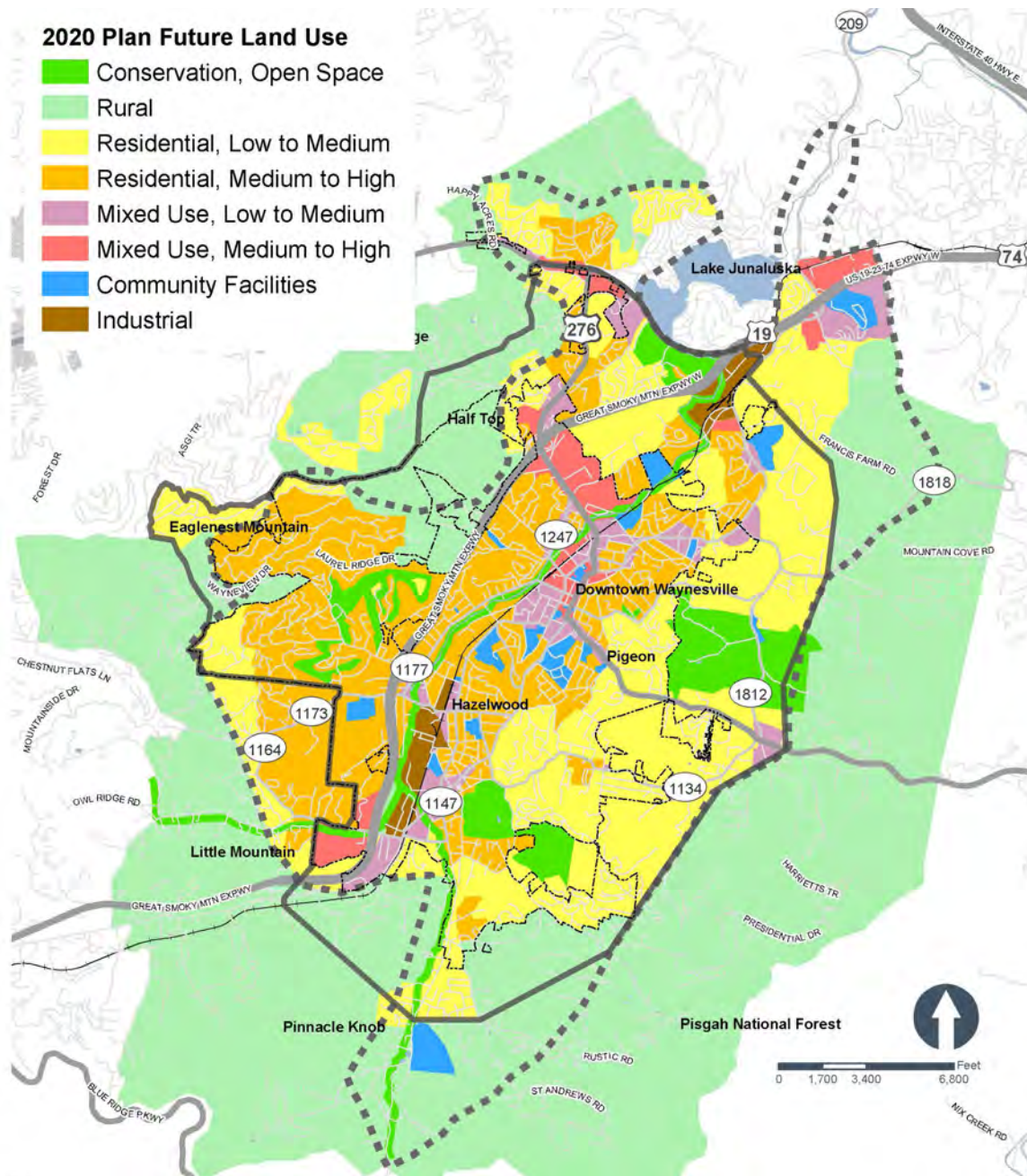


Source: Haywood County Tax Office

ADOPTED POLICY & REGULATIONS

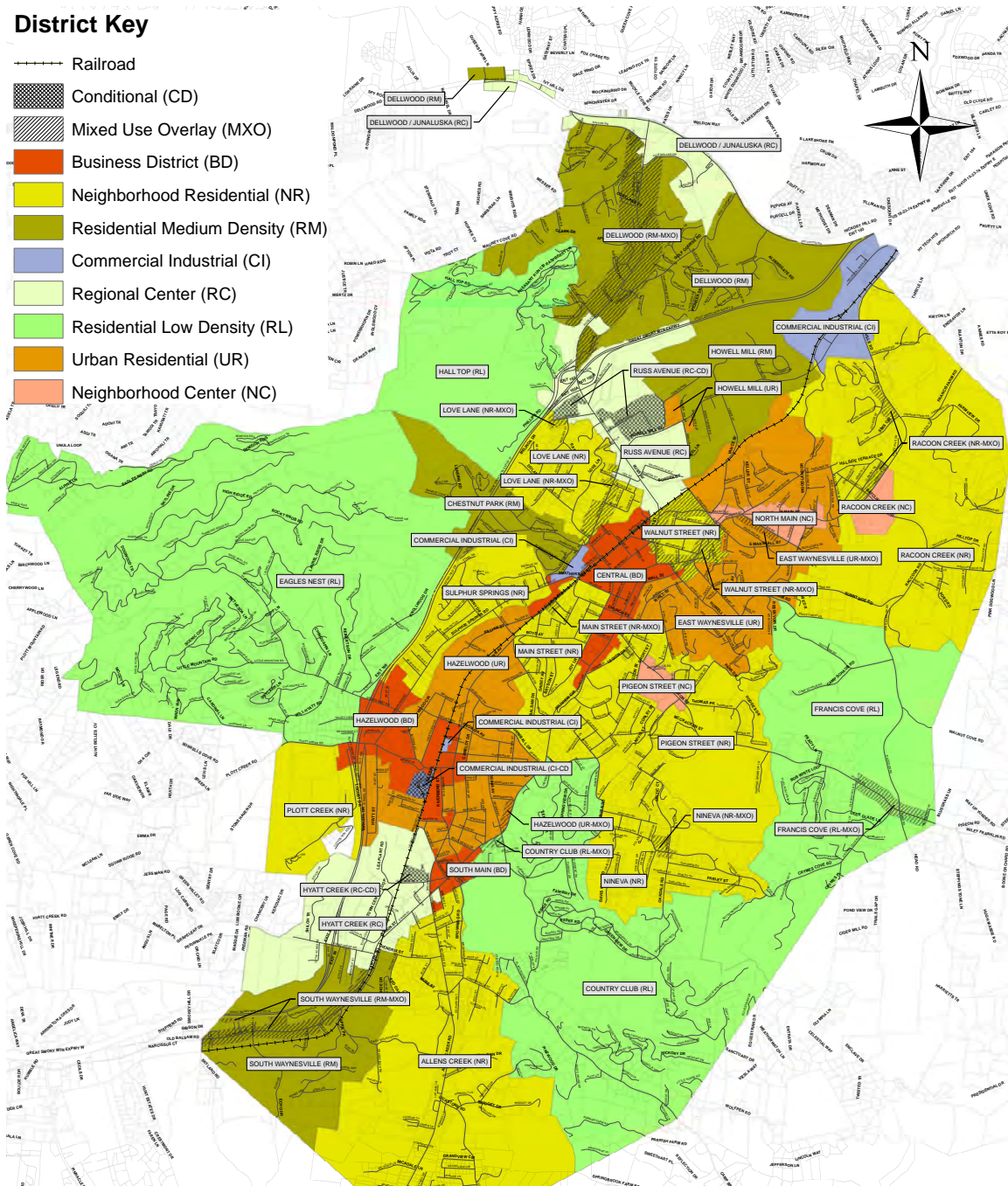
Adopted Future Land Use Map (2002)

The *Waynesville: Our Heritage, Our Future, 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan* included the Future Land Use Map adopted in 2002. Community decision use the recommendations in the plan and on the map (below) to determine appropriate use of land and expenditure of resources.



2018 Zoning

Further implementation of the land use plan occurs with the adoption of Land Use Ordinances and amendments to the Town Zoning Map. The Zoning Map below is from November 2018.



SLOPES & FLOODPLAIN

A large portion of Waynesville lies within the 100-year floodplain of Richland Creek and its tributaries. About 13% of the Town's 1,200± incorporated acres lie within this area. That includes major portions of the Town's nonresidential (commercial and industrial) land uses. Together the uses within the 100-year floodplain account for 18.6% (\$223M) of the town's assessed value. Additionally, many areas within Waynesville have steep slopes and are located on protected ridgelines, limiting development due to cost or environmental impact.

Floodplains

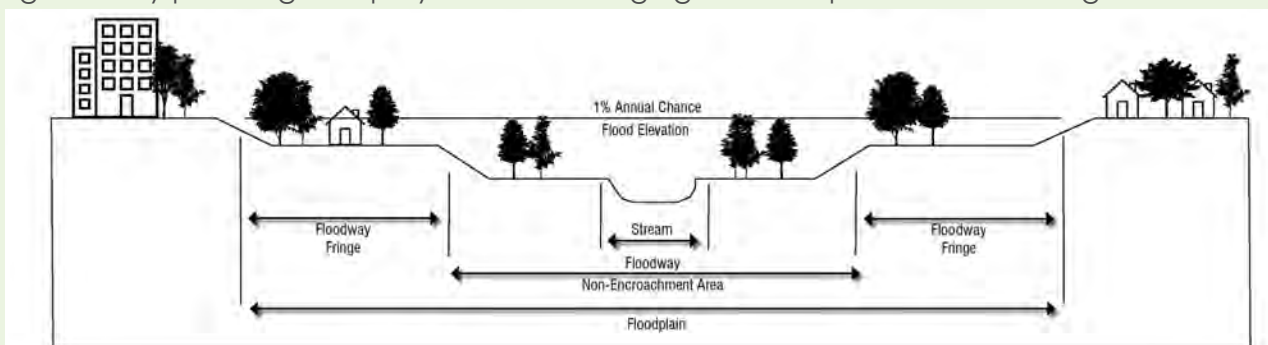
Haywood County and the Town of Waynesville are subject to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (or "FIRMs") that were adopted on April 3, 2012 as the official maps. These maps were developed by the State of North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program under a cooperative agreement between the State of North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The maps provide an estimation of flood levels and hazards for events having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, or "the base flood."

The FIRMs delineate those areas within the Town's jurisdiction that are within the:

- *Floodway* - which includes the channel of a river or watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to accommodate the base flood without cumulatively increasing the flood elevation more than one foot.
- "100 year" floodplain - which includes those areas susceptible to flooding during a base flood event; and
- "500 year" floodplain - which includes those areas susceptible to flooding during an event that exceeds the projected base flood and have a 0.2% chance of occurring in any given year.

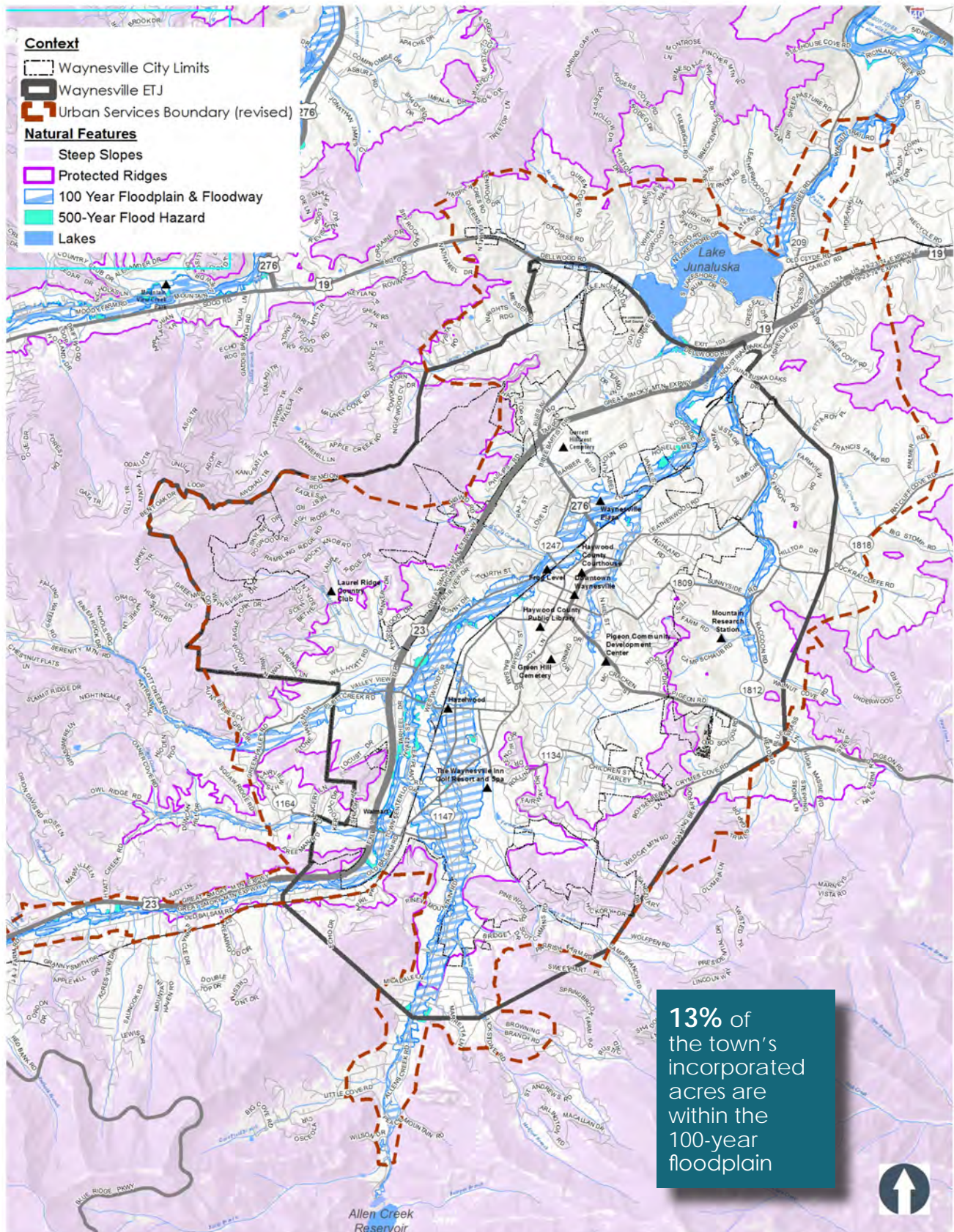
Together, the floodway and 100-year floodplain make up the Special Flood Hazard Area or regulatory floodplain in which the Town must enforce the flood hazard prevention ordinance. These regulations prohibit construction or encroachment into the floodway and require construction or structures within the 100 year floodplain to be elevated to one foot above the projected base flood elevation along with other requirements.

Any development within the floodplain that increases impervious surfaces and reduces the amount of area for rain and/or flood waters to be absorbed or retained can increase the risk for elevated flood levels within the watershed system. The Town's stormwater management ordinance, stream buffer and setback requirements, and parks and greenway planning also play roles in managing the floodplain and reducing hazards.



The floodplain, which includes the floodway and floodway fringe, has a 1% annual chance of flooding. While this may not seem concerning, consider that over the typical lifespan of a nonresidential structure (~100 years), there is a 63.4% chance of experiencing at least one 100-year flood.

SLOPE AND FLOODPLAIN MAP



LAND SUITABILITY

A land suitability analysis was conducted using GIS data to identify areas economically and environmentally suitable for development. The analysis factored in:

- » Developed areas
- » Proximity to utilities
- » Locations of existing commercial and services
- » Parcel size
- » Environmental constraints (i.e. floodplain and slope)

Suitability categories refer to the capacity of land to support a type of land use based on attributes that make the area more or less attractive for future growth. In the “Development Suitability Map”:

- » Green indicates high suitability for development based many factors including topography, transportation access, availability of utilities
- » Yellow indicates a medium suitability, and
- » Orange to red areas are generally slopes above 25%, located outside of the urban services boundary, and with limited points of access.

Basic findings from the suitability analysis include:

- » Lands within the Town limits and adjacent valley floors are most suitable for development.
- » The Town’s interchanges along the Great Smoky Mountain Expressway (US 23) are suitable for development.
- » North Russ Avenue and Allens Creek Road (both areas identified by the Town as potential growth areas) are highly suitable for development.
- » Many areas suitable for development, including the Plott Creek area on the west and Francis Cove on the east have valuable cultural and natural resources, accordingly any development activities should be carefully orchestrated to preserve assets.
- » Many areas where land is available, on Waynesville’s periphery are less suitable for development, mainly due to the presence of steep slopes and distance from utilities.

This analysis informed adjustments to new the Future Land Use Map and recommended changes to the urban services boundary as shown in Chapter 5.

Development Suitability Factors

The following environmental and economic factors were used to analyze development suitability.

- Identify land with concentrations of residential development
- Identify lands proximal to sewer
- Identify lands proximal to municipal limits
- Identify lands near existing commercial development
- Identify lands near schools and parks

INFRASTRUCTURE

Urban Services Boundary and Smart Growth

The 2002 Land Development Plan established an Urban Services Boundary (USB). The Urban Services Boundary limits “urban sprawl” and promotes infill development by establishing a planned growth area where utilities, water and sewer, and urban services will be provided. Developing in areas with existing utilities results in more efficient and cost-effective provision of infrastructure. Since the USB was established, Waynesville has not provided utilities outside of the boundary area except in special situations. These include improving resiliency of the utility system (water loops, etc.) for the NCDOT welcome center and rest area on Hwy 23/74, and for environmental reasons.

Water and Wastewater (Sewer)

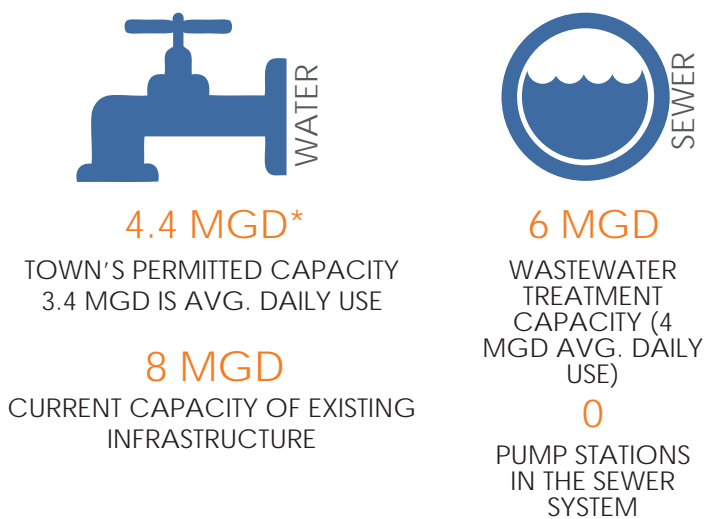
Water and sewer lines primarily fall inside the USB with some exceptions for water, as noted above. The town operates a water plant along Richland Creek with a permitted capacity of 8 million gallons per day (MGD). Average daily withdrawal is 3.45 MGD. Additional loops and connections could improve the resilience of the water system and help maintain water quality. The town also operates a sewer plant and is working with an engineering firm and the State on Capital Improvements. The plant has a permitted capacity of 6 MGD and average usage is 4 MGD.

Growth is expected along the North Russ Avenue corridor and Allens Creek Road. Both of these areas are already served by utilities, but may require upgrades depending on the amount of development and the type of infrastructure. Adequate capacity exists for additional industrial development and for infill development in the downtown area.

Topographical constraints are inhibiting factors when providing water and sewer infrastructure and much of the service area has slopes exceeding 25%. Topography is also a benefit in that most areas drain toward existing gravity sewer lines so the town has been able to provide sewer service without a need for pump stations, resulting in fewer capital expenditures to replace stations.

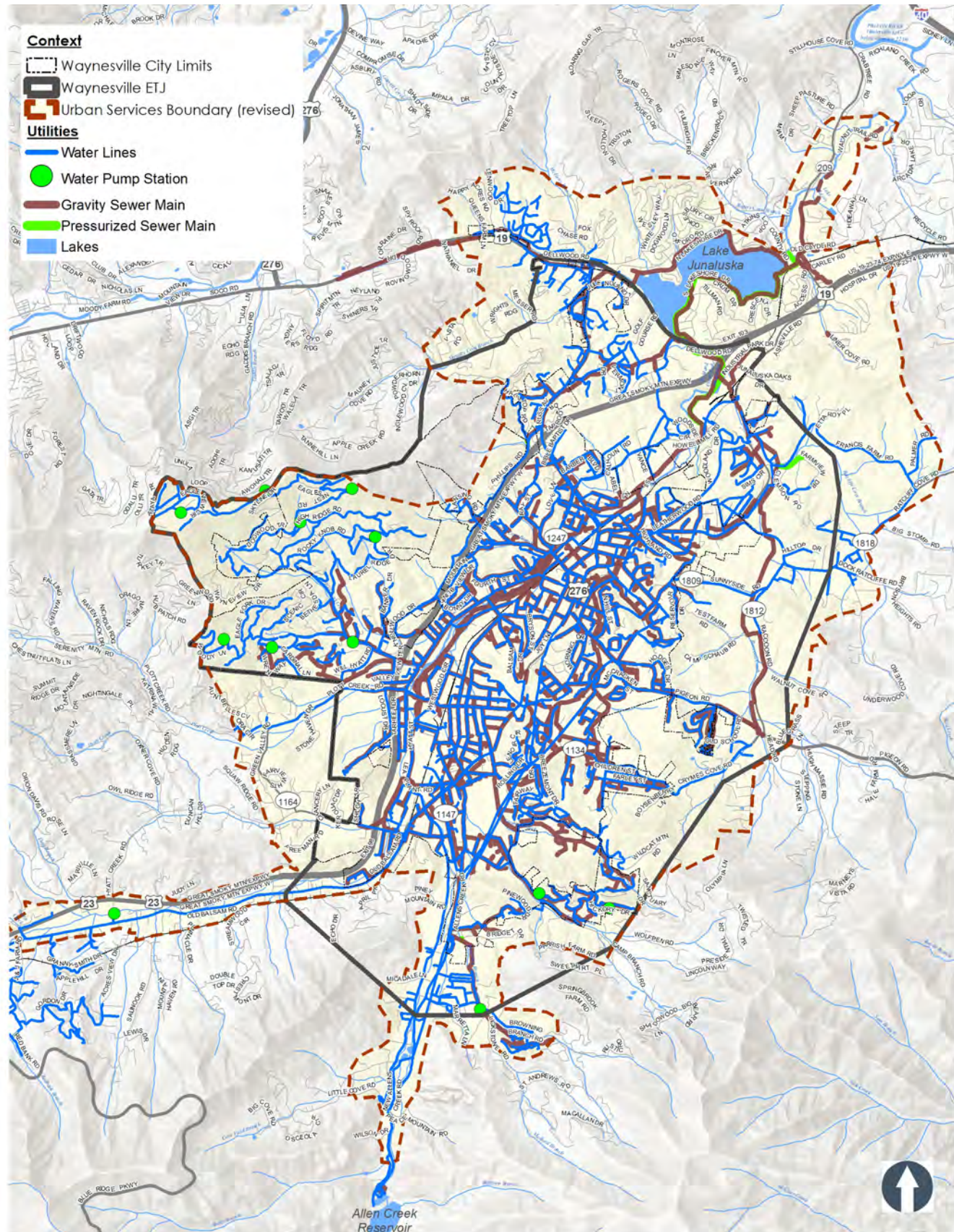
Looping and connecting water lines is an important industry-standard practice that ensures chemicals added to drinking water are effectively disbursed. Water lines that are not interconnected require more flushing, as the added chemicals will no longer be effective after long periods of inactivity.

WATER AND SEWER USAGE AND CAPACITY



*MGD = Million Gallons a Day

URBAN SERVICES BOUNDARY AND SYSTEM MAP



Transportation System

The Town of Waynesville is expected to continue to grow, accompanied by more people driving along its roads and in search of more convenient ways to travel. The Town is a member of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) which provides regional transportation planning services and is within the NC Department of Transportation Division 14. Waynesville strives to meet the Smart Growth principles of creating walkable neighborhoods and in providing a variety of transportation options that accommodate all users – from freight to transit, to automobile to pedestrian, cyclists and wheelchair dependent people. Because Waynesville is constrained environmentally by the Richland Creek watershed and mountainous terrain, it maximize capacity of existing local and state rights-of-ways to promote accessibility and efficiency.

Since the 2002 Comprehensive Plan, the Town has worked with the FBRMPO and NCDOT on corridor studies to improve existing infrastructure. North Main, South Main and Russ Avenue Plans have resulted in significant roadway improvement projects being funded that will improve safety and roadway capacity:

- » (U-5888) roadway re-alignment and conversion of intersection to a roundabout at North Main and Walnut Street;
- » (U4712) roadway improvement, access management and partial widening of South Main Street between downtown and Hyatt Creek Road
- » (U-5839) roadway improvement, access management and widening of Russ Avenue from the Expressway to Main Street which is also designated US Highway 275.

Waynesville also is studying roadway improvement on Russ Avenue from the Expressway to Dellwood Road, and along Brown Avenue in front of the Waynesville Middle School (U-5548), and working with Haywood County and the Tourism Development Authority to improve directional or “wayfinding” signage.

In 2010, the Town completed a Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan which identified goals for pedestrian connectivity and greenways. Each year through Powell Bill, local general funds, and grants and local fundraising, the Town implements portions of the plan with construction of greenways and sidewalks. In 2017, the Town completed the greenway feasibility study for the Richland Creek Greenway from Will Hyatt Road to the Recreation Center, and in 2020 is continuing trail alignment from the Recreation Center to the Industrial park, connecting to Lake Junaluska. This positions Waynesville’s greenway system to connect to regional planning efforts to develop a multi-jurisdictional trail system known as the “Hellbender.” For more information on Waynesville’s transportation planning efforts see the Appendix.

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Solid Waste Management

The Town of Waynesville's Public Services Department provides curbside waste and recyclable pickup service on a weekly basis to residential customers and public areas. Commercial waste services include dumpster collection. Waste is transferred to the White Oak Landfill which is owned and operated by Haywood County. Mixed recyclables are collected in blue bags available for purchase at grocery and retail stores. Items accepted for recycling include aluminum and steel cans, paper, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, glass and used electronics. Yard waste is collected on the first full and third week of the month. Sanitation Services operates a vacuum truck for leaf collection in the fall from mid-October to mid-January each year. Street debris cleaning also is important to keep storm drains clear and is part of the Town's main goals for stormwater management.

Stormwater Control

The Town operates a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is regulated under the Environmental Protection Agency's Stormwater Phase II Final Rule. The Town has implemented a stormwater ordinance that requires the management of post-development stormwater runoff to meet state and federal requirements. The ordinance protects water quality and is targeted at managing and minimizing effects of development by implementing controls to erosion and sedimentation and requiring the completion of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) in new development and redevelopment projects. The goal of stormwater control is to protect property that could be impacted by the quality or quantity of runoff caused from development, and to prevent pollutants from getting into the Richland Creek watershed.

Broadband Internet

There is a lack of consistent access to high speed internet in some areas of Town. Broadband is essential to residents, institutions, and businesses to access and utilize online markets and resources.

Efforts to fulfill the 2002 Plan goal to make Waynesville a wired community is on-going. In late 2017, ECC Technologies held a summit assessing broadband infrastructure, gaps, and more for officials in the Counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Land of Sky Regional Council also is working on a statewide "build-out map" and survey for residents of Madison, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania Counties. Waynesville representation in regional discussions and efforts should continue.

BROADBAND AVAILABILITY MAP



The map above shows the number of fixed residential broadband providers. Though a number of providers are present in the Town of Waynesville, this map does not factor in exact location of infrastructure or cost of service provision. Source: Federal Communications Commission

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, & NATURAL RESOURCES

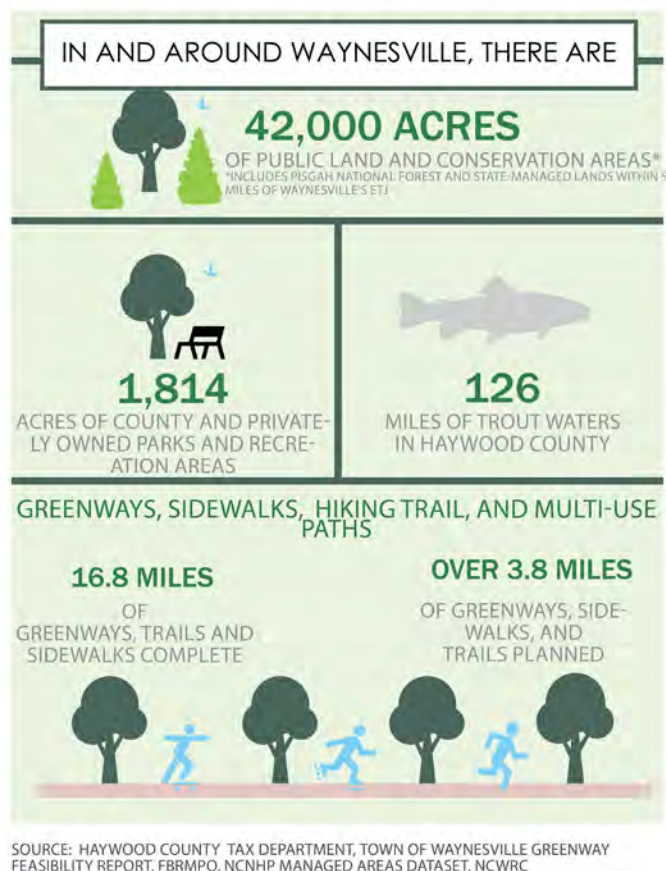
Within 5 miles of Waynesville's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) there are over 42,000 acres of parks, public land and conservation areas. Additionally, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer services maintains a test farm east of Waynesville comprising nearly 400 acres.

Parks and Greenways

Waynesville Recreation Center is the Parks and Recreation Department's most heavily used facility. The 2017 Parks Master Plan as well as the *Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study* represent efforts to continue the Town's commitment to providing quality recreational options.

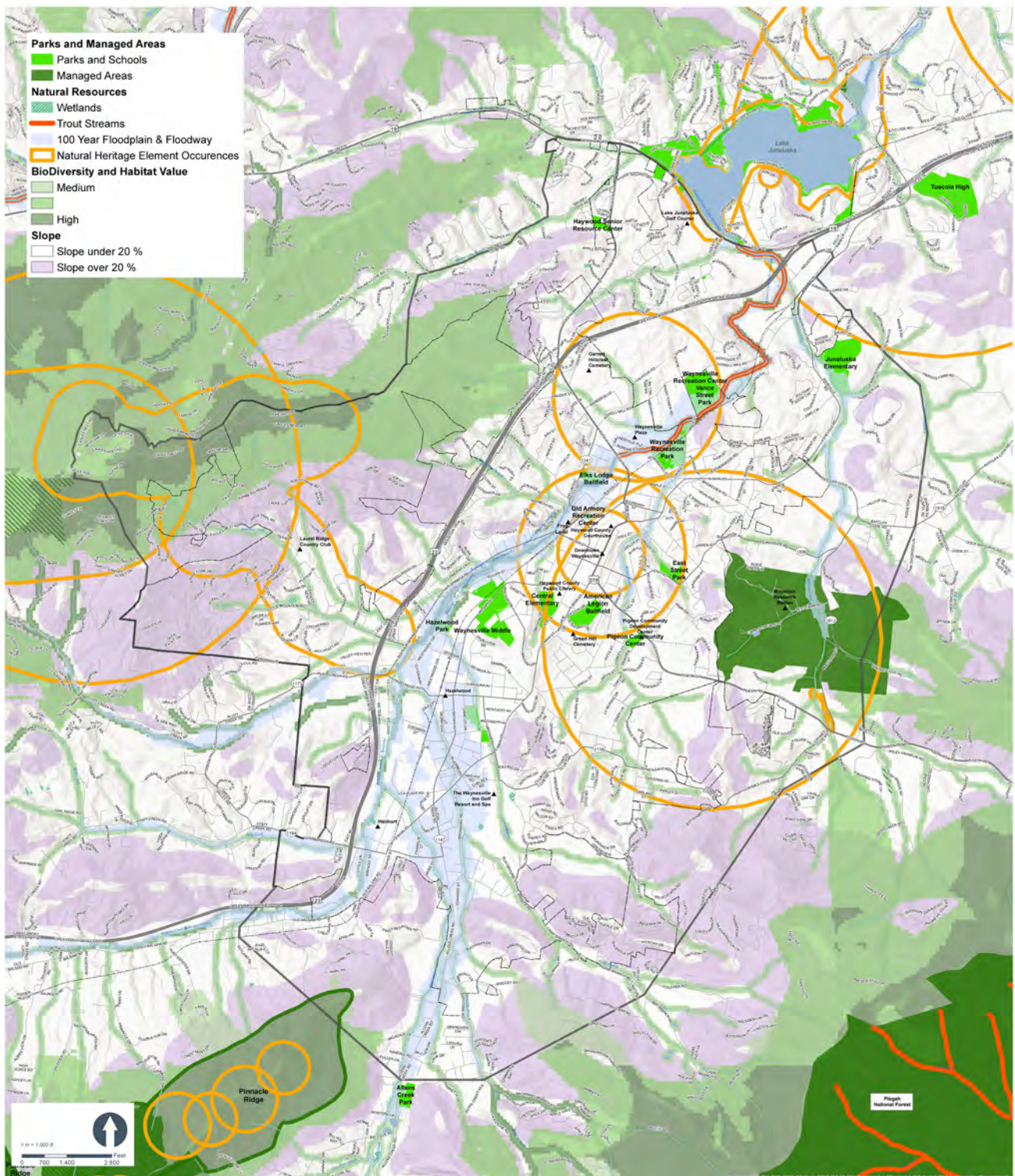
Waynesville offers a full program of activities for all ages at the Waynesville Recreation Center and the Armory Recreation Center. The Town is also working to develop neighborhood parks such as Chestnut Park. Improving existing parks, building greenways, encouraging recreation facilities and open space in new development and improving access to local and regional parks can help improve recreational opportunities for Waynesville residents.

Parks and Open Space Statistics



The Waynesville Greenway Trail System includes 4.8 miles of on-road and off-road greenways that link the Waynesville Recreation Center to Lake Junaluska.

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MAP



Natural Environment

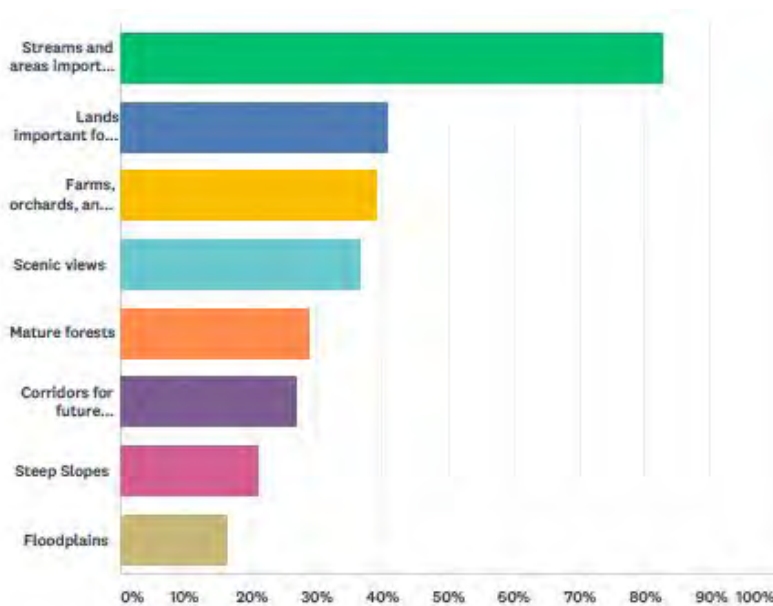
According to the NC Wildlife Commission, the western, southern, and eastern edges of Waynesville are important wildlife corridors. The area south of Waynesville is the second highest priority conservation area outside of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Plott Creek, Eagle's Nest Mountain, and Pinnacle Ridge have Natural Heritage Element Occurrences (NHEOs) nearby. These areas rank high in biodiversity and are likely home to rare species. Pinnacle Ridge, is a designated Natural Heritage Natural Area (NHNA). These are the best examples of natural habitats that remain in the state. In and around Waynesville, endangered species include the northern long-eared bat, the eastern hellbender, the southern pygmy salamander, as well as the northern saw-whet owl.

Conservation should be made a priority and special care taken when development takes place in these areas. Specific policy recommendations on preserving Waynesville's natural resources can be found in Chapter 5.

Additional environmental resources include agricultural lands, forested views, Raccoon Creek, Richland Creek (a state-designated trout stream), and nearby Lake Junaluska (to the north) and Lake Logan (to the southeast) are both used by residents for recreation.

Preservation Priorities



Responses to the survey conducted as part of the plan indicate that there is a preference for preserving streams and areas important for water quality, lands important for habitat and biodiversity, farms and working agricultural lands and scenic views.

There are 36 Natural Heritage Element occurrences and 3 designated Natural Heritage Natural Areas near Waynesville.

(Source: NC Conservation Planning Tool, Within 2 miles of Waynesville's ETJ)



Northern Saw-Whet Owl
Source: NCWC

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

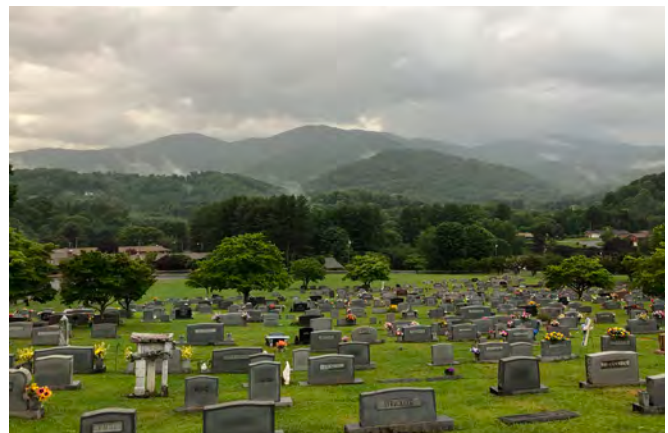
Culturally, Waynesville is known for its history, music, dance, crafts and visual arts that connect its residents to the Appalachian Mountains. Waynesville's current comprehensive plan notes the importance of preserving the Town's heritage through historic preservation and the promotion of its cultural resources.

Waynesville has a rich history that dates back to 1809 when Colonel Robert Love, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, deeded 17 acres to create a County seat for Haywood County in a community known as "Mount Prospect." He named the new town Waynesville in honor of Mad Anthony Wayne. By the mid-1800s Waynesville was a center for tourism and trade. William Holland Thomas was born in Waynesville in 1805 and became the legal agent and "white Chief" of the Cherokee, served as a North Carolina State Senator from 1848-1860, and formed the Thomas Legion which was the largest single military unit raised in North Carolina during the Civil War. The last recorded shot of the Civil War was fired on May 9, 1865 in Waynesville. Waynesville was incorporated in 1871 and became known as the "Gateway to the Smokies" with a rich architectural fabric of inns, boarding-houses, neighborhoods and the commercial areas of Frog Level and Main Street. In 1995, the Towns of Hazelwood and Waynesville merged into one community.

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission is established by Town Ordinance and the Town is a recognized Certified Local Government that meets the criteria of the 1980 Historic Preservation Act. The Commission carries out multiple responsibilities on behalf of the Town to preserve historic resources, including:

- Inventory resources (conduct surveys and studies);
- Conduct educational programs;
- Cooperate with State and Federal governments on historic preservation;
- Prepare and recommend preservation in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- Recommend restoration and preservation of properties;
- Recommend Historic Landmarks; and

National Register Plaque
Downtown



- Review projects involving designated historic properties and historic districts for "Certificates of Appropriateness."

Designated historic structures and sites are scattered throughout the Town, and currently there are 4 National Register Historic Districts:

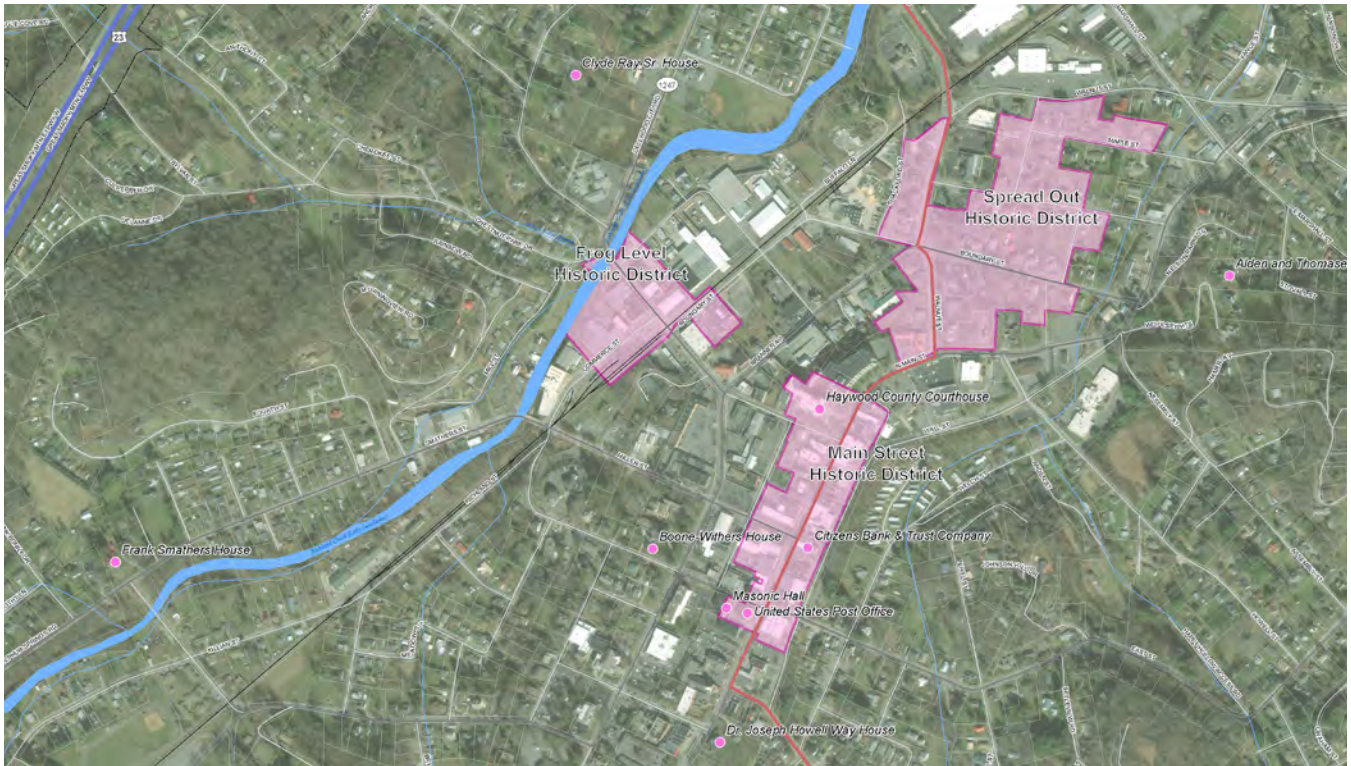
- Frog Level Historic District (2003)
- Main Street Historic District (2005)
- Spread Out Historic District (2010)
- Greenhill Cemetery Historic District (2018)

The Historic Commission works with local property owners voluntarily to pursue historic designation of sites within the Town and in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office. They also are responsible for reviewing construction projects within historic districts or those involving designated historic properties in accordance with the Waynesville, North Carolina Design Review Guidelines which were adopted in 2013.

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS IN WAYNESVILLE

Building/District Name	ID	Date of Listing
Boone-Withers House	HW0009	7/21/1983
Citizens Bank and Trust Company Building	HW0011	3/14/1991
Frog Level Historic District	HW0046	8/28/2003
Green Hill Cemetery	HW0634	5/31/2018
Haywood County Courthouse	HW0002	5/10/1979
Alden and Thomasene Howell House	HW0136	4/22/2003
Charles and Annie Quinlan House	HW0013	9/7/2005
Clyde H. Ray, Sr. House	HW0016	10/22/1996
Masonic Hall	HW0010	6/9/1988
Shelton House	HW0003	1/31/1979
Frank Smathers House	HW0072	7/10/1998
(former) United States Post Office Building	HW0012	3/14/1991
Dr. J. Howell Way House	HW0004	9/11/1980
Waynesville Main Street Historic District	HW0161	12/16/2005
Windover Inn	HW0017	01/25/2018

NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT & INDIVIDUALLY LISTED PROPERTIES



National Register Listings are those properties included in the "National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), a federal program administered by the National Park Service. Properties must go through a nomination process and be recommended for listing by the State Historic Preservation Office and approved by the Federal National Register Committee.

LOCAL LANDMARKS IN WAYNESVILLE

Building/District Name, Date of Listing
Clyde Ray House, 224 Love Lane, 06-10-97
R.D. Gilmer House, Suyeta Park Drive, 06-10-97
Judge Frank Smathers House, Smathers Street, 04-14-98
Grady Honeycutt Building, 313 Depot Street, 05-09-00
Charles U. Miller House, 53 Walnut Street, 12-12-00
J.B.S. McIntosh Building, Main Street, 12-12-00
Citizens Bank and Trust Co. Building, Main Street, 05-08-01
Rotha House, Pigeon Street, 10-09-01
J.B. Henry Warehouse, 33 Commerce Street, 05-14-02
The Thomasine Woolsey Howell House, 129 Woolsey Heights, 08-13-02
The Atkins House, 421 Grimball Drive, 01-28-03
Charles and Annie Quinlan House, 274 S. Main Street, 06-07-04
The Windover Inn, 40 Old Hickory Street, 06-22-10

Local Landmarks are structures designated by the Town as historically significant and worthy of protection through local property tax credits. These properties also have to go through a nomination process and are approved by the Town's Board of Aldermen.

Historic and cultural preservation is important to Waynesville for many reasons:

1. **Economic Development:** Historic preservation protects Waynesville's unique identity and the architectural and neighborhood context that makes Waynesville a wonderful place to live and visit. Waynesville's rich inventory of historic "bed and breakfasts" and inns draw visitors for overnight stays, and the shopping districts of Main Street, Frog Level and Hazelwood are destinations because of their historic streetscape and store fronts. Heritage tourism is a growing sector of the tourism economy because it conveys a unique community identity to visitors who seek an experience they cannot find elsewhere.
2. **Quality of life:** Visitors and residents get a sense of a community's self-image through its buildings, landscapes and history. The Historic Preservation Commission has had great success with the annual Greenhill Cemetery Tour, speaker series, and other educational efforts because there is an interested audience in residents and visitors for the excellent stories that make up Waynesville's past.
3. **Sustainability:** Buildings constructed prior to the 1950s used long-lasting materials and if properly maintained may outlast more recent construction. Maintenance of existing neighborhoods and infrastructure is less costly than outward development. Rehabilitation and revitalization create jobs and tend to rely more on local labor and purchases for materials. Keeping historic buildings in use also keeps them out of landfills. Reuse and recycling of buildings and building materials is at the heart of historic preservation.

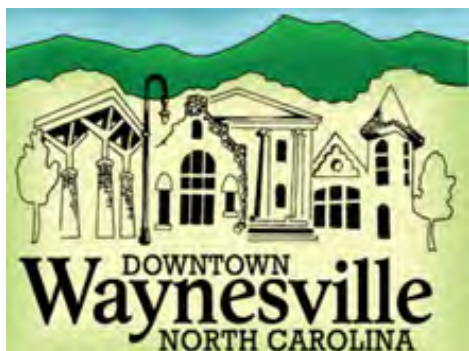
Haywood's Historic Farmers Market was established in 2008 as a producer-only market, featuring produce, meats, dairy, honey and heritage crafts sourced from Haywood or an adjacent county. Crafts featured at the market are also carried in local stores and include pottery, woodworking and other hand-made goods. The market creates a direct market between local farmers, crafts people and consumers.



Public Art

The Town of Waynesville's Public Arts Commission consists of appointed volunteers who raise funds to integrate artwork into the streetscape of Waynesville. Public art enhances the Town's streetscape while telling the rich story of Waynesville's natural and social history. The central Business Districts of Frog Level, Main Street and Hazelwood host most of the installations, but the Arts Commission would like to extend the inclusion of art into new development and along Waynesville's gateway corridors.

Downtown Waynesville



The Downtown Waynesville Association manages revitalization activities and events within the municipal service district that serves Main Street and the historic downtown area. The DWA was created in 1985 and qualified for the North Carolina Main Streets Program and established the municipal service district in 1986. Their goal is preserving and sustaining the social, cultural, economic and historic role of the downtown as the center of the Waynesville community. Every year the DWA organizes a variety of fun and inviting events in the downtown such as music and square dances, the Church Street Arts Festival and other festivals, the Christmas Parade, Trick or Treating on Main and other special events. DWA also works with the Town on enhancing and maintaining a beautiful streetscape that include native species, art installations, and places for the public to sit and enjoy.



Waynesville's walkable Main Street.

Folkmoot

Folkmoot “is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization that fosters the vibrancy of many cultures into one community. Folkmoot programs are based on cultural exchange and designed to build global relationships, foster cultural understanding and develop community prosperity.” It was founded by Waynesville surgeon Dr. Clinton Border, who saw an English folk festival while traveling, and thought such a festival would be perfect for Western North Carolina, which has its own rich history of dance. Since in 1984, Folkmoot USA has brought folk dance from all over the world to Waynesville and Western North Carolina. Folkmoot has brought dance groups from England, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Turkey, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Japan, the Netherlands, France, India, and others, over 200 countries since its beginnings.

In 2002, the Folkmoot Friendship Center was established in the former Hazelwood Elementary School, contributing to the renovation and preservation of the historic school building and expanding Folkmoot’s programming. This includes local art and dance classes, international dinners, performances and other activities. Folkmoot continues its work to provide a popular festival that brings in visitors once a year, and has established itself as a local community cultural center throughout the year.

Haywood Arts Council

Since 1977, the Haywood County Arts Council (HCAC) has supported the growth of the arts throughout the region, providing support for local creative artists and expanding opportunities for audiences, including pre-K through community college students. The Arts Council maintains a gallery and exhibition space on Main Street and offers educational programs, performances, and events that support its mission to “promote artists, art education, and innovation in art. The vision of the HCAC is a community involved in the arts.” HCAC has been the impetus for the creation of other arts organizations. The Smoky Mountain British Brass Band, Voices in the Laurel, and Haywood Crafts Associates and the Downtown Association all have roots in the Arts Council.



HART Theatre and Historic Shelton House

Another “spin-off” organization from the Arts Council is the Haywood Regional Arts Theatre (HART) which was created in 1984. HART is now a recognized and successful community theater with two performance spaces and a restaurant. They host an annual season of plays, musicals, dinner-theater, and performing arts.

The HART Theater shares its location with the Historic Shelton House which is the home of the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts. Built in 1875, the Shelton House was owned by Stephen Shelton who was the Sheriff for Haywood County, fought in the Civil War and was active in the civic life of Waynesville. The house was added to the National Register in 1979 as the first site in Haywood County listed in the NHRP. In 1977, the Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts was

HART Theatre



established in the house by Mary Cornwell. Today the house, barn and grounds continue to provide a collection of heritage crafts, agricultural exhibits, and connect today's crafters and artisans to the public, as well as hosts the Haywood Farmer's Market.

Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center

Nearby HART Theater and Shelton House, the Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center is located in the former Pigeon Street School. The school served African-American elementary school students before desegregation in Haywood County in 1967 and is another historic property and structure being preserved and re-used by a local non-profit for the benefit of the community. The mission of the Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center is "to strengthen harmony among the residents of our county and its communities. To achieve this we help re-establish the long standing tradition of community as family. We foster intentional inclusiveness to create a holistic quality of life. As we serve we recognize and give glory to God."



Today, the Center hosts after-school programs and a summer enrichment program for children, dinner for seniors, programs for veterans, and exercise and other classes for everyone. The Board and Executive Director Lin Forney provided leadership in researching, documenting and sharing the history of African-Americans' contributions to the history of Waynesville and its economy and development.

These organizations support and contribute to a wealth of local artists, businesses and performers that are vital to making Waynesville the special community that it is.