



# Community Profile

February 2020

# Purpose of the Community Profile

- This Community Profile is a summary of the information collected for Huntersville 2040 Community Plan project.
- The Profile was produced in winter 2019-2020.
- For more information, please visit the project website or contact the Key Town Staff.





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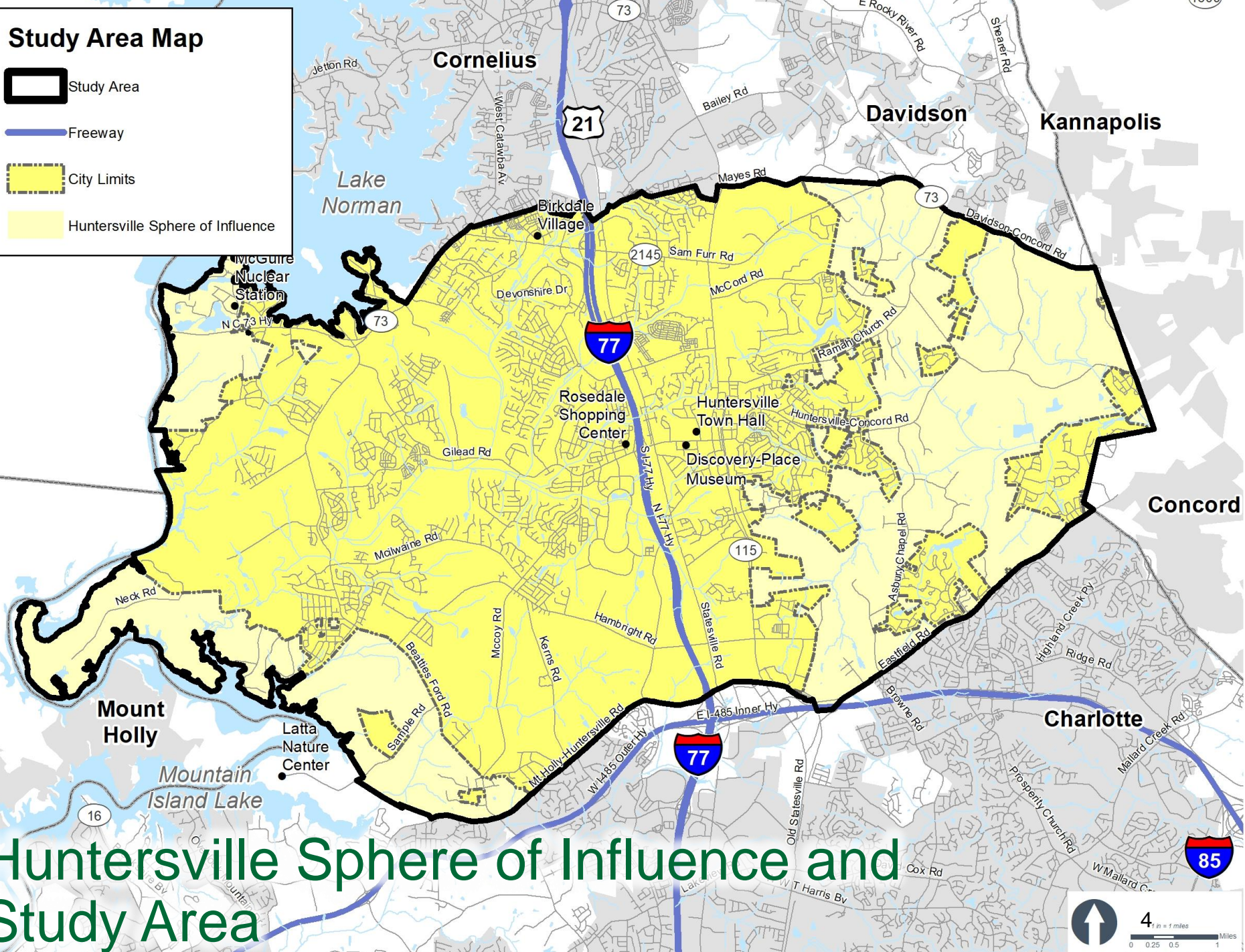
[www.Huntersville2040.com](http://www.Huntersville2040.com)

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# Study Area Map

-  Study Area
-  Freeway
-  City Limits
-  Huntersville Sphere of Influence



# Huntersville Sphere of Influence and Study Area





# Town History

- Incorporated in 1873, the community grew quickly thanks to the fertile land and rail line.
- Growth continued as cotton production and the associated textile mills attracted more residents and jobs. Town once covered everything East of the Catawba River, including Mallard Creek.
- In 1900 town defined as 1-square mile (railroad at its center)

# Town History



# Town History

- Early businesses included Cross Chevrolet (Town Center) & General Store (Veterans Park)
- Duke Power, Bell South, hosiery and cotton mills
- Proximity to Charlotte has fueled growth over the last 75 years





# Town History – 1993 Aerial





# Town History – 2007 Aerial





# Town History – 2018 Aerial



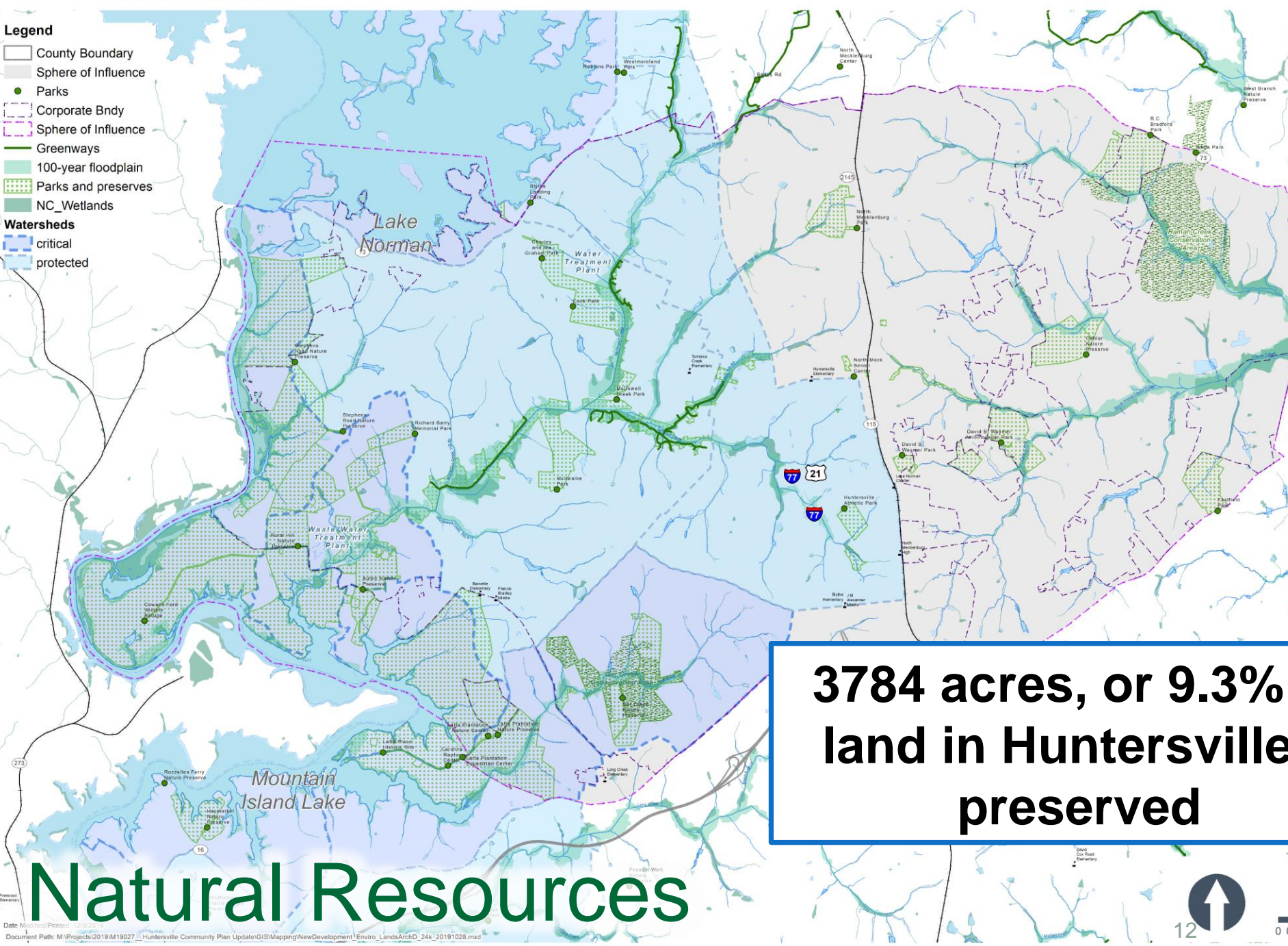


# Land Use and Environment





- Legend**
- County Boundary
  - Sphere of Influence
  - Parks
  - Corporate Bndy
  - Sphere of Influence
  - Greenways
  - 100-year floodplain
  - Parks and preserves
  - NC\_Wetlands
- Watersheds**
- critical
  - protected






**3784 acres, or 9.3%  
land in Huntersville  
preserved**

# Natural Resources

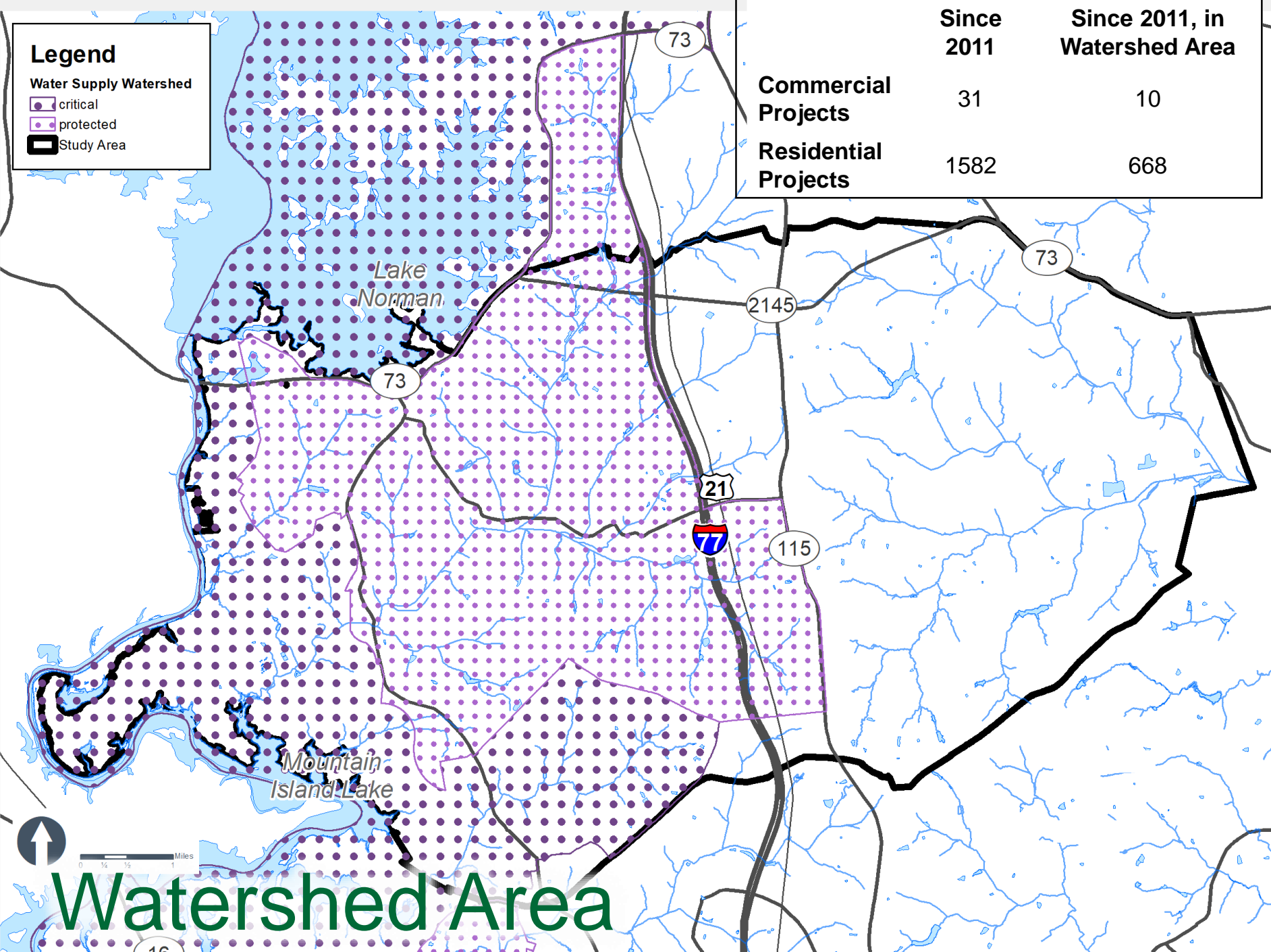


# Legend

## Water Supply Watershed

-  critical
-  protected
-  Study Area

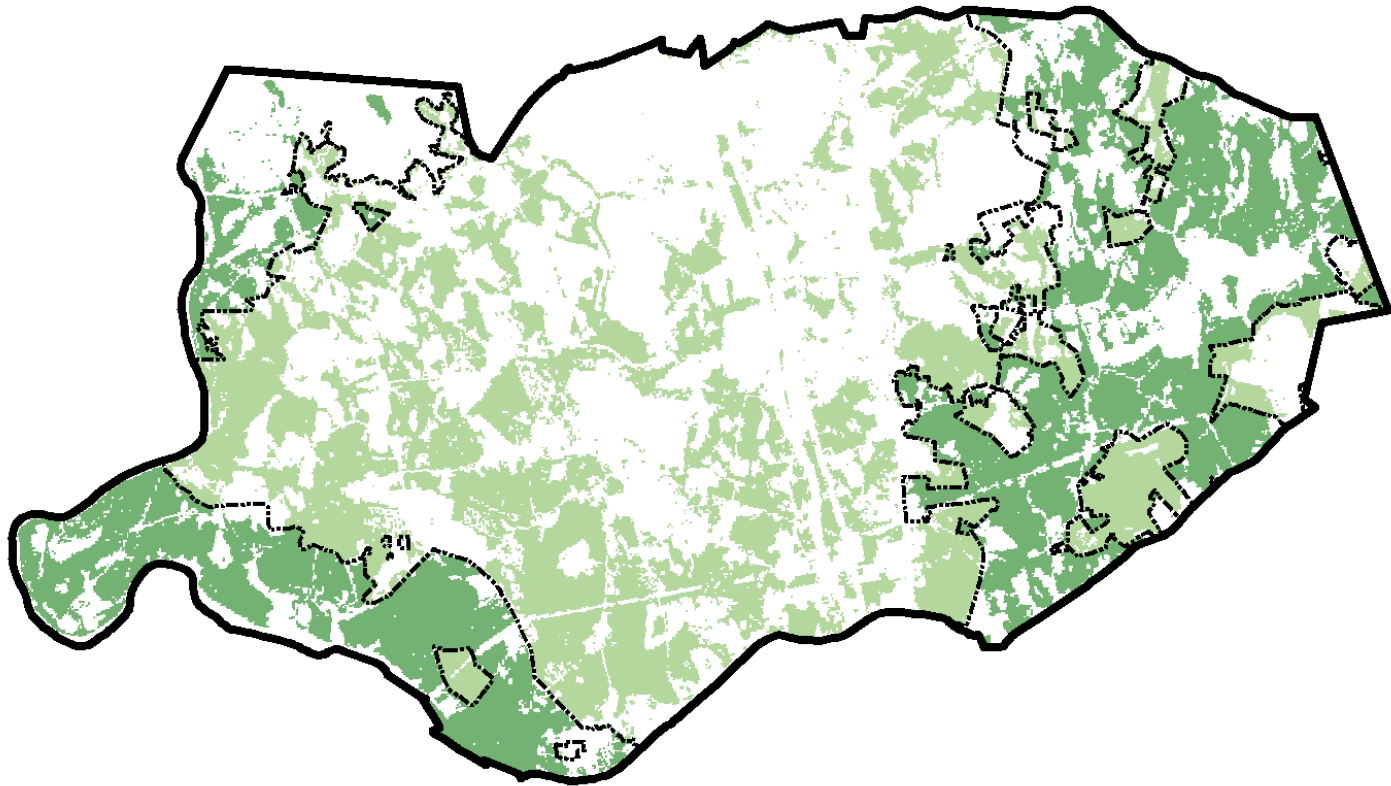
	Since 2011	Since 2011, in Watershed Area
<b>Commercial Projects</b>	31	10
<b>Residential Projects</b>	1582	668



Watershed Area

# 2010 Huntersville Forest Cover

*CropScape Data*



**Huntersville Town Limits\***

**10,568 acres of forest cover**

**40% of acreage within town limits**

**Sphere of Influence\* (excluding limits)**

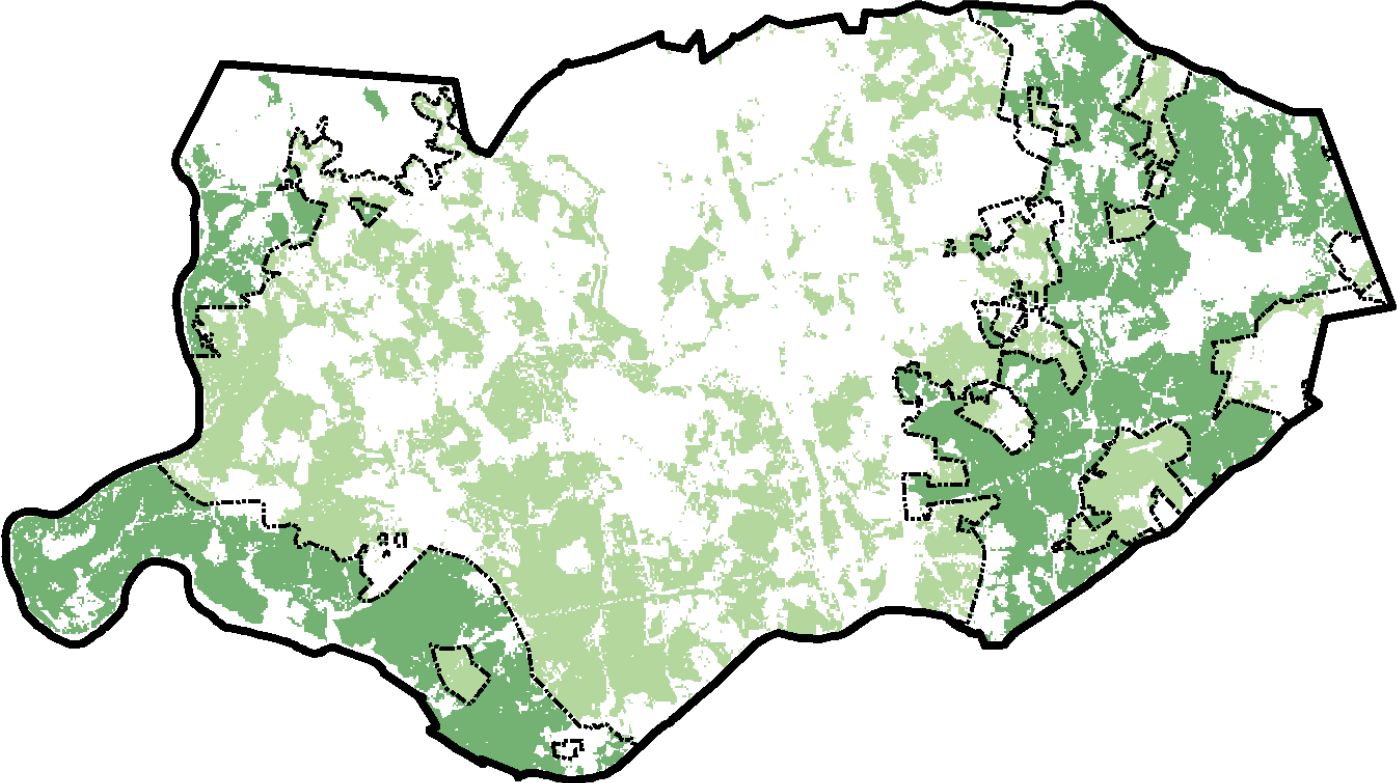
**7,995 acres of forest cover**

**56% of acreage within sphere**

*\*reflects current boundaries*

# 2018 Huntersville Forest Cover

CropScape Data



<b>Huntersville Town Limits*</b>	<b>9,985 acres of forest cover</b>	<b>38% of acreage within town limits</b>
<b>Sphere of Influence* (excluding limits)</b>	<b>8,243 acres of forest cover</b>	<b>58% of acreage within sphere</b>

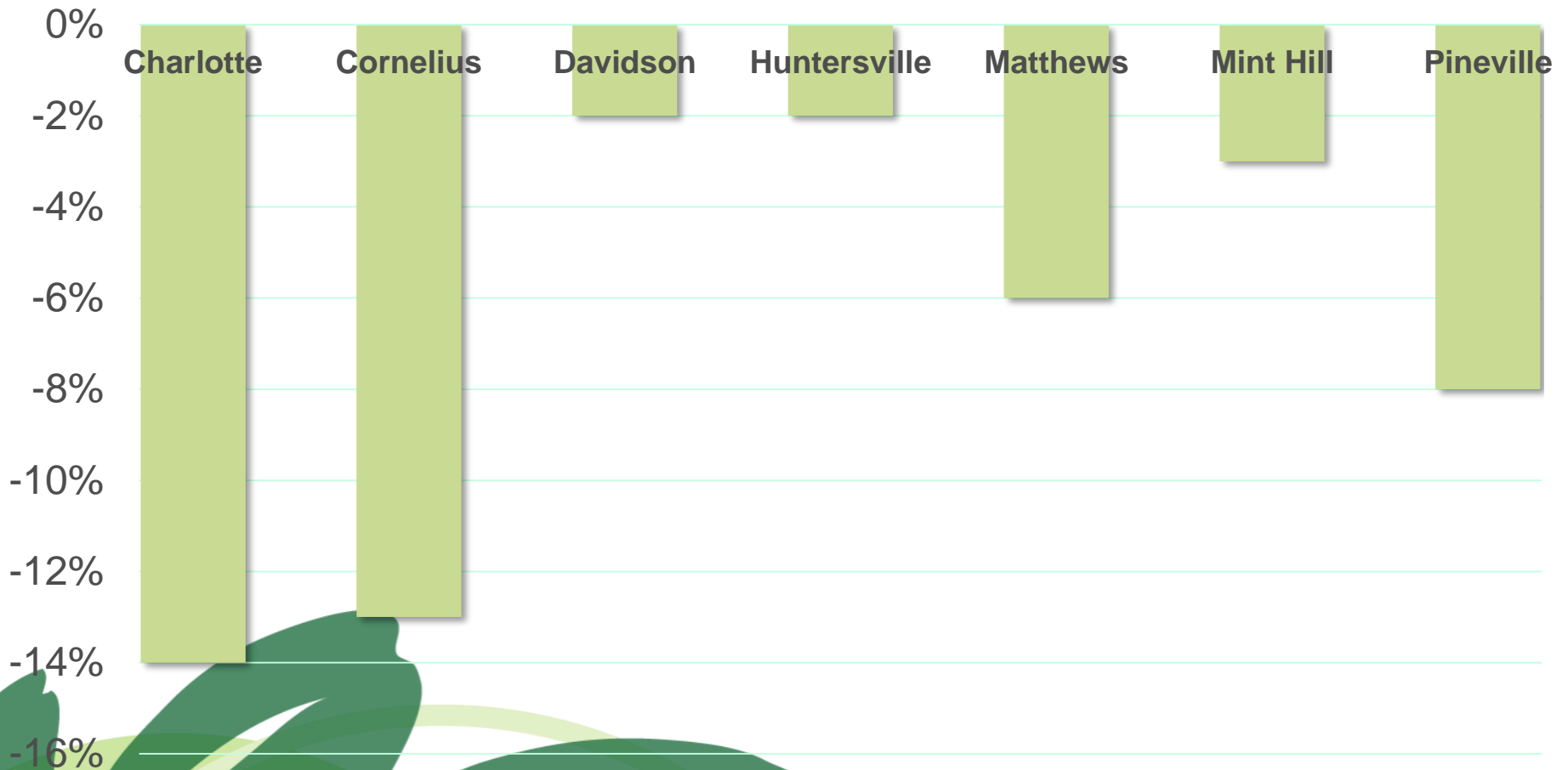
*\*reflects current boundaries*

# % Loss in Forest Cover

*From 2010 to 2018*

*Cropscape Data*

% Loss in Forest Cover 2010-2018



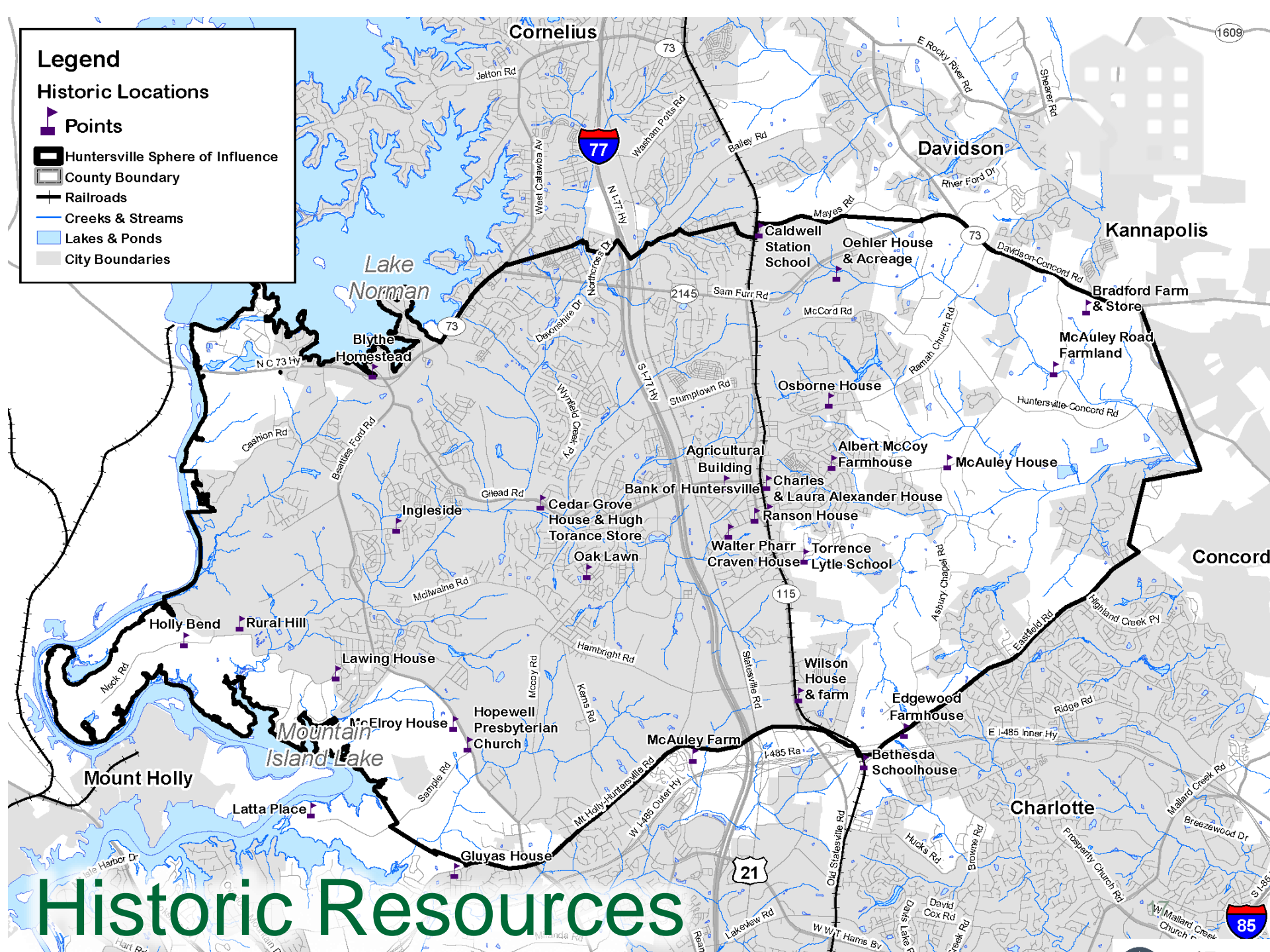


# Legend

## Historic Locations

-  Points
-  Huntersville Sphere of Influence
-  County Boundary
-  Railroads
-  Creeks & Streams
-  Lakes & Ponds
-  City Boundaries

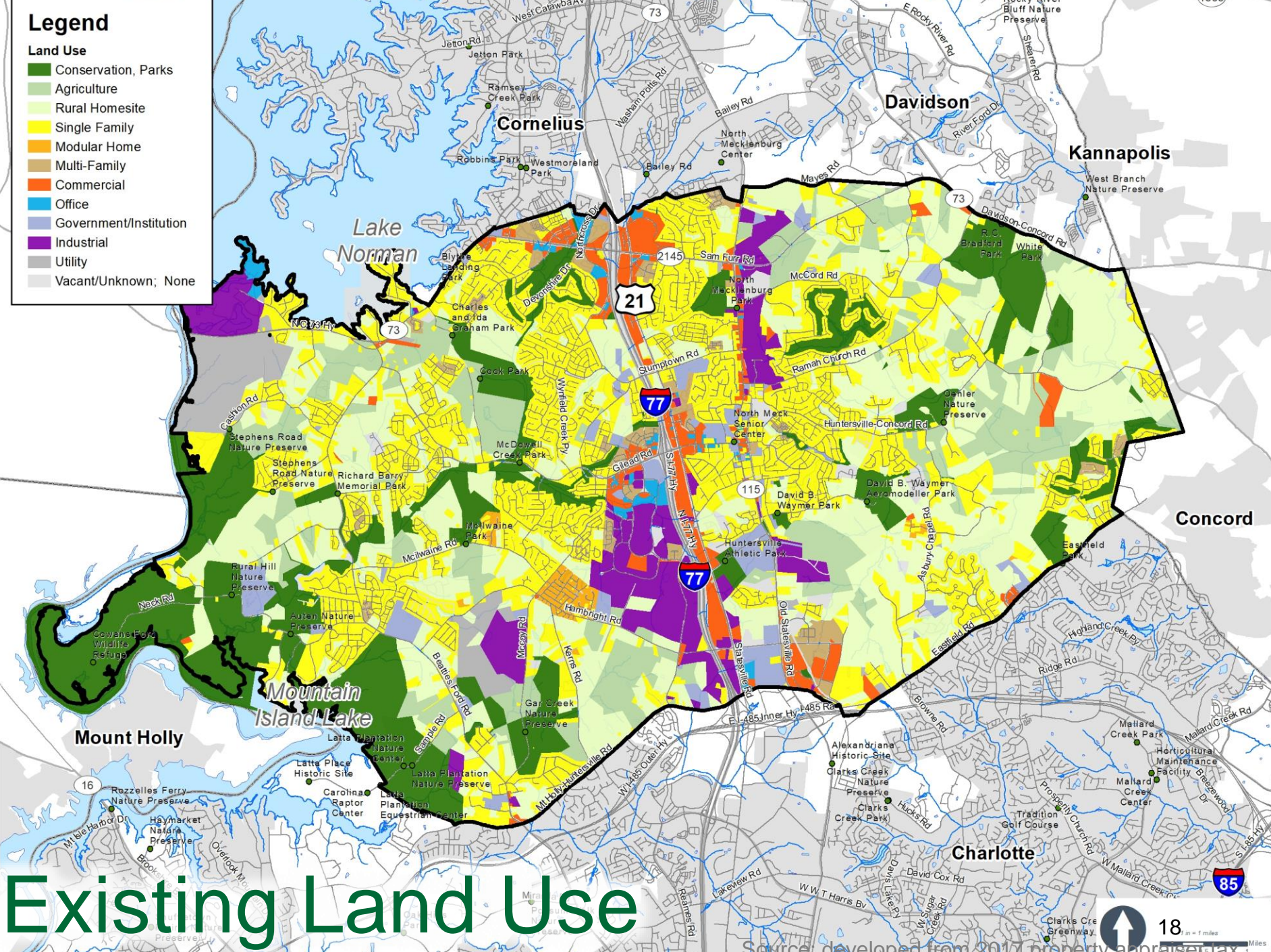
# Historic Resources





# Legend

- Land Use**
- Conservation, Parks
  - Agriculture
  - Rural Homesite
  - Single Family
  - Modular Home
  - Multi-Family
  - Commercial
  - Office
  - Government/Institution
  - Industrial
  - Utility
  - Vacant/Unknown; None



# Existing Land Use

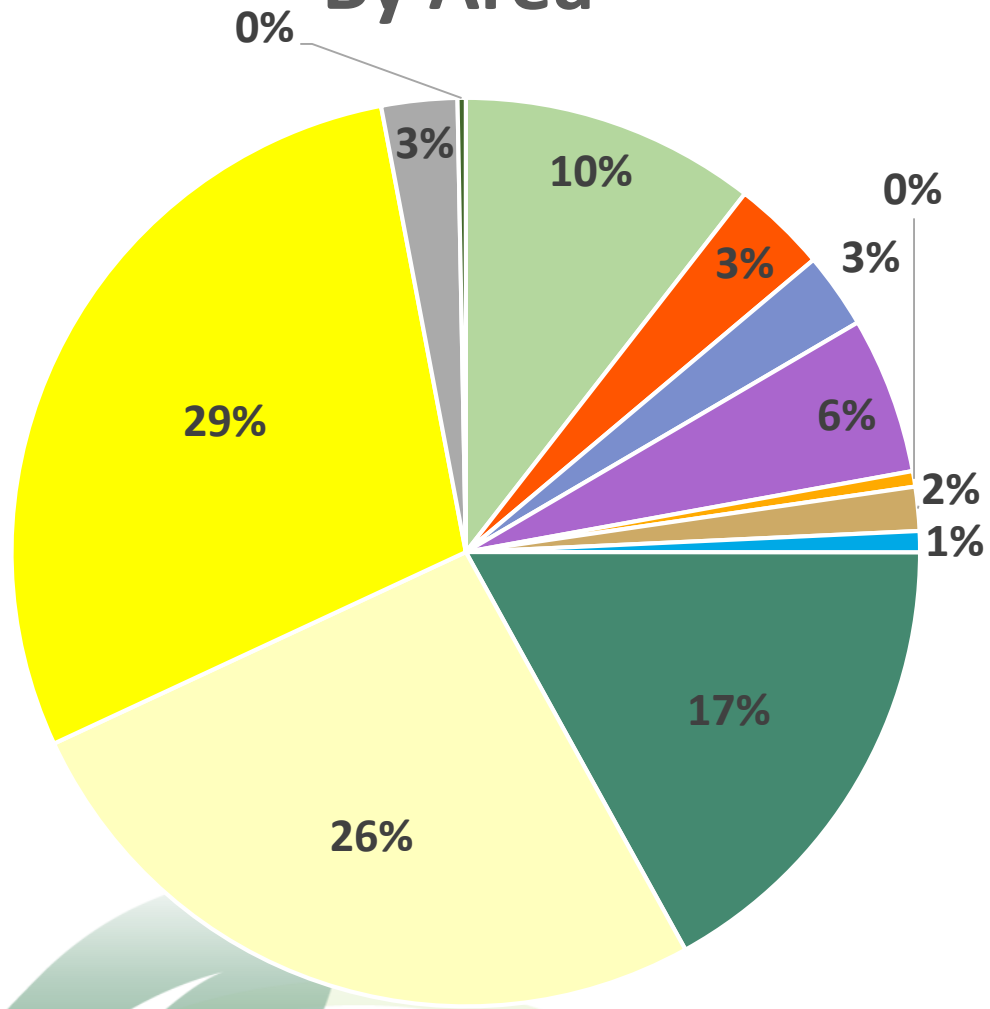




# Existing Land Use

## By Area

**57% Residential**  
**10% Commercial, Industrial, Office**



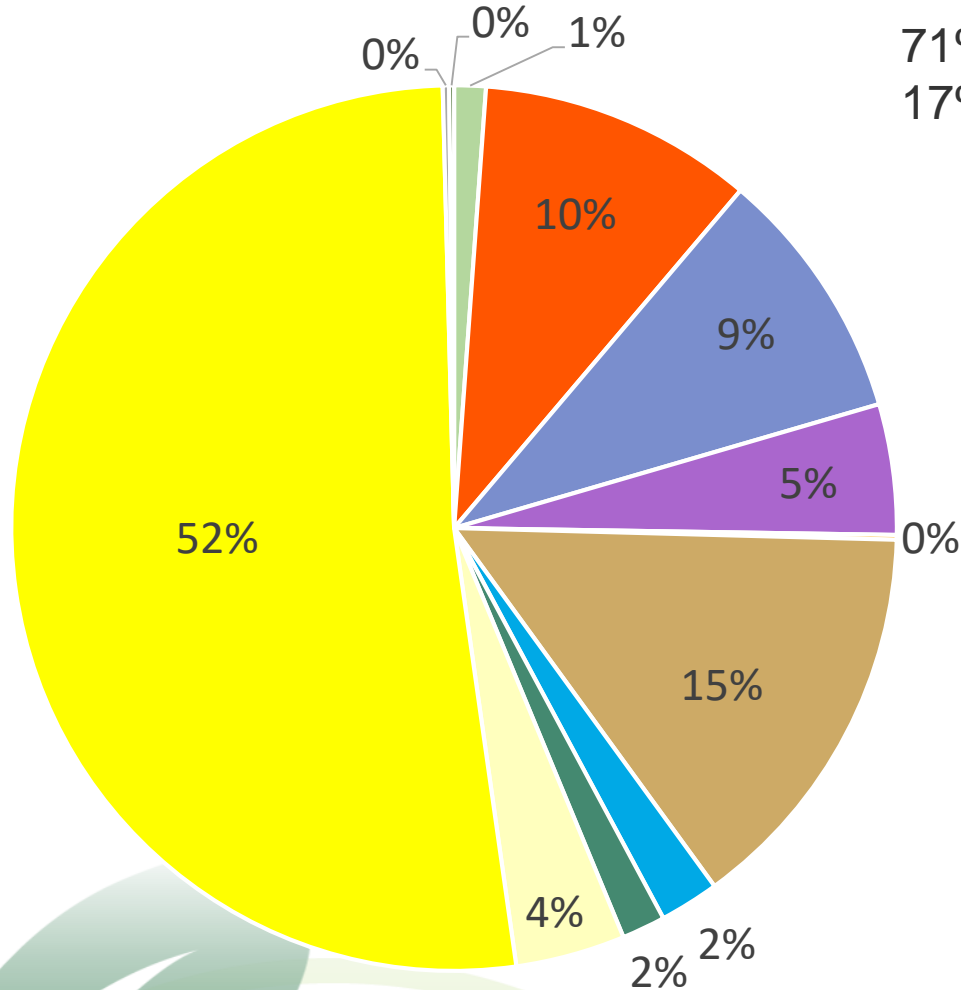
- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Government/Institution
- Industrial
- Modular Home
- Multi-Family
- Office
- Conservation, Parks
- Rural Homesite
- Single Family
- Utility
- Vacant/Unknown

Source: Developed from 2017 Property Appraiser Tax Data

# Existing Land Use



## By Total Value (Buildings + Land)



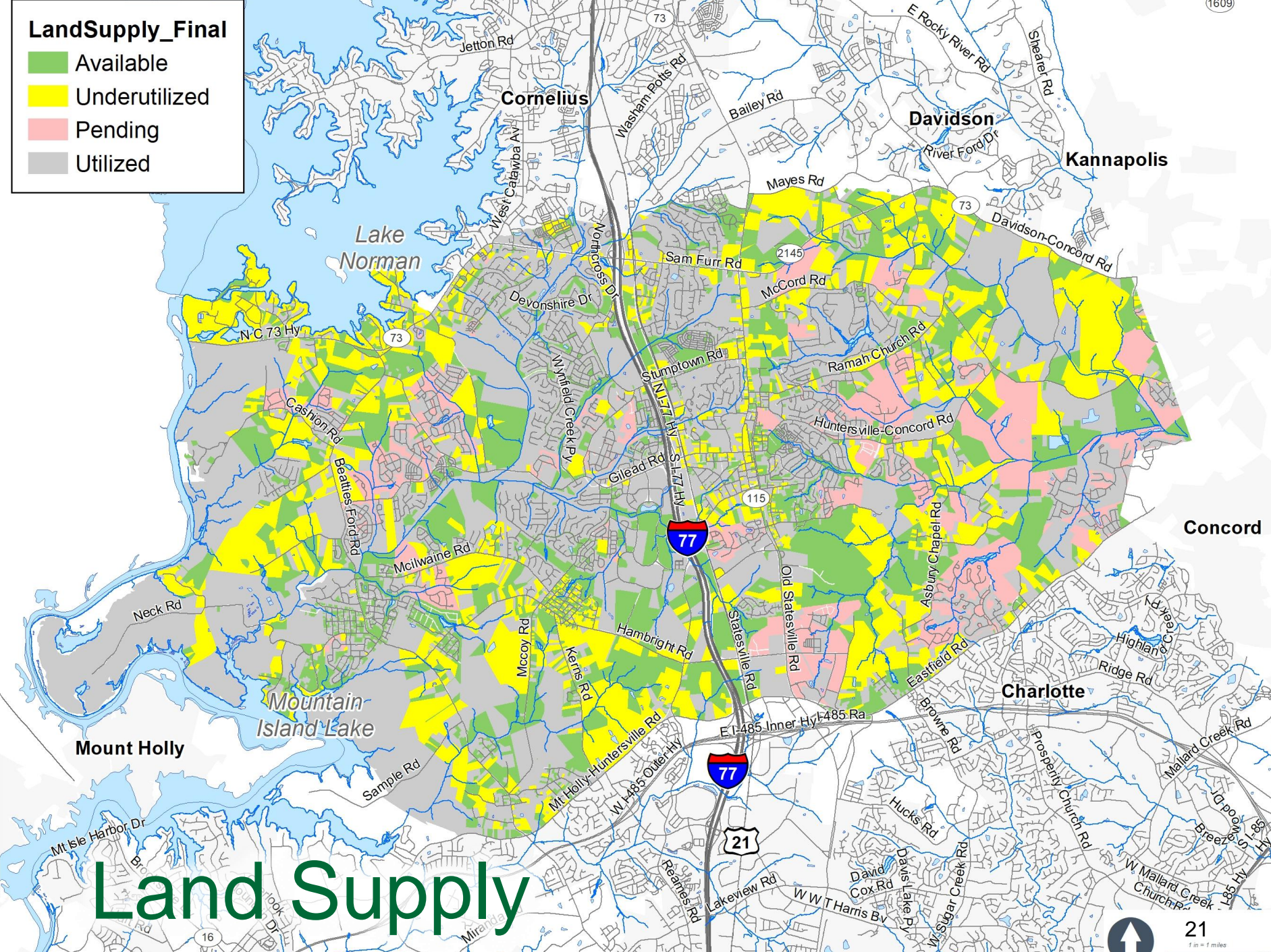
71% Residential  
17% Commercial, Industrial, Office

- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Government/Institution
- Industrial
- Modular Home
- Multi-Family
- Office
- Conservation, Parks
- Rural Homesite
- Single Family
- Utility
- Vacant/Unknown



# LandSupply\_Final

- Available
- Underutilized
- Pending
- Utilized

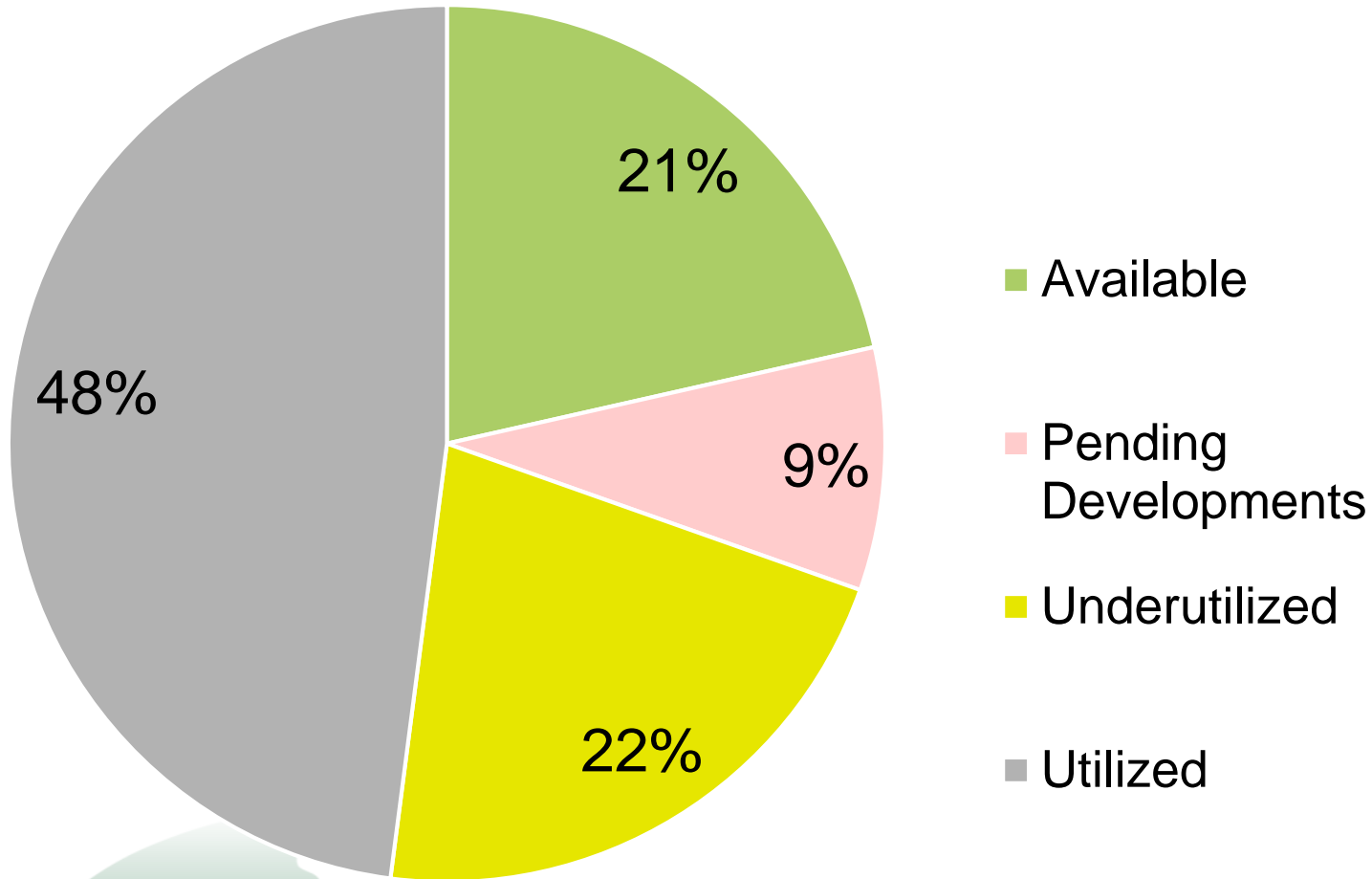


# Land Supply





# Land Supply



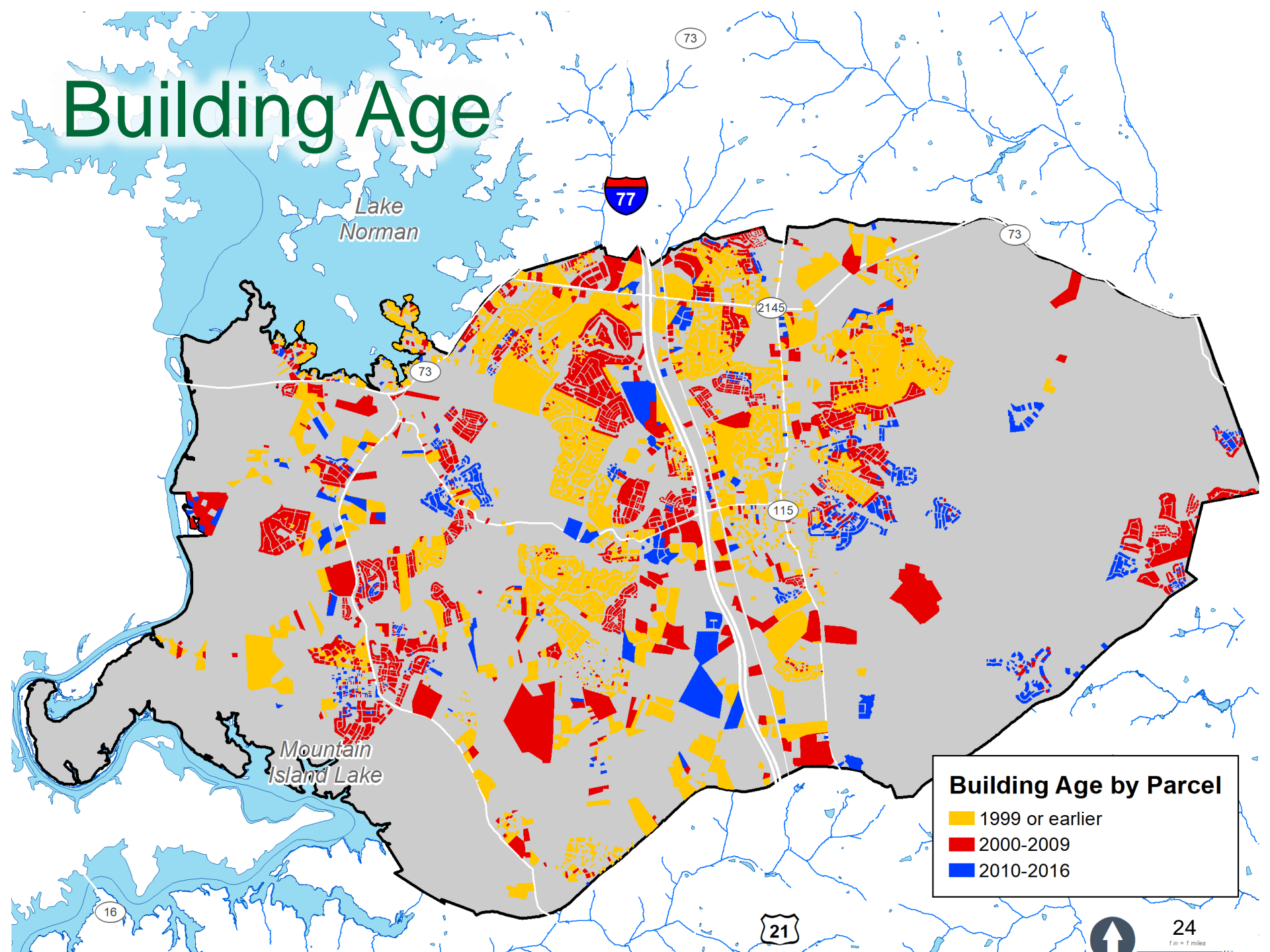


# Land Supply & Pending Development Summary

- High Intensity Area:
  - 37% of Available and underutilized lands
  - 10,000 Housing units in approved subdivisions since 2000
- Low Intensity Area:
  - 63% of Available and underutilized lands
  - 5,200 Housing units in approved subdivisions since 2000

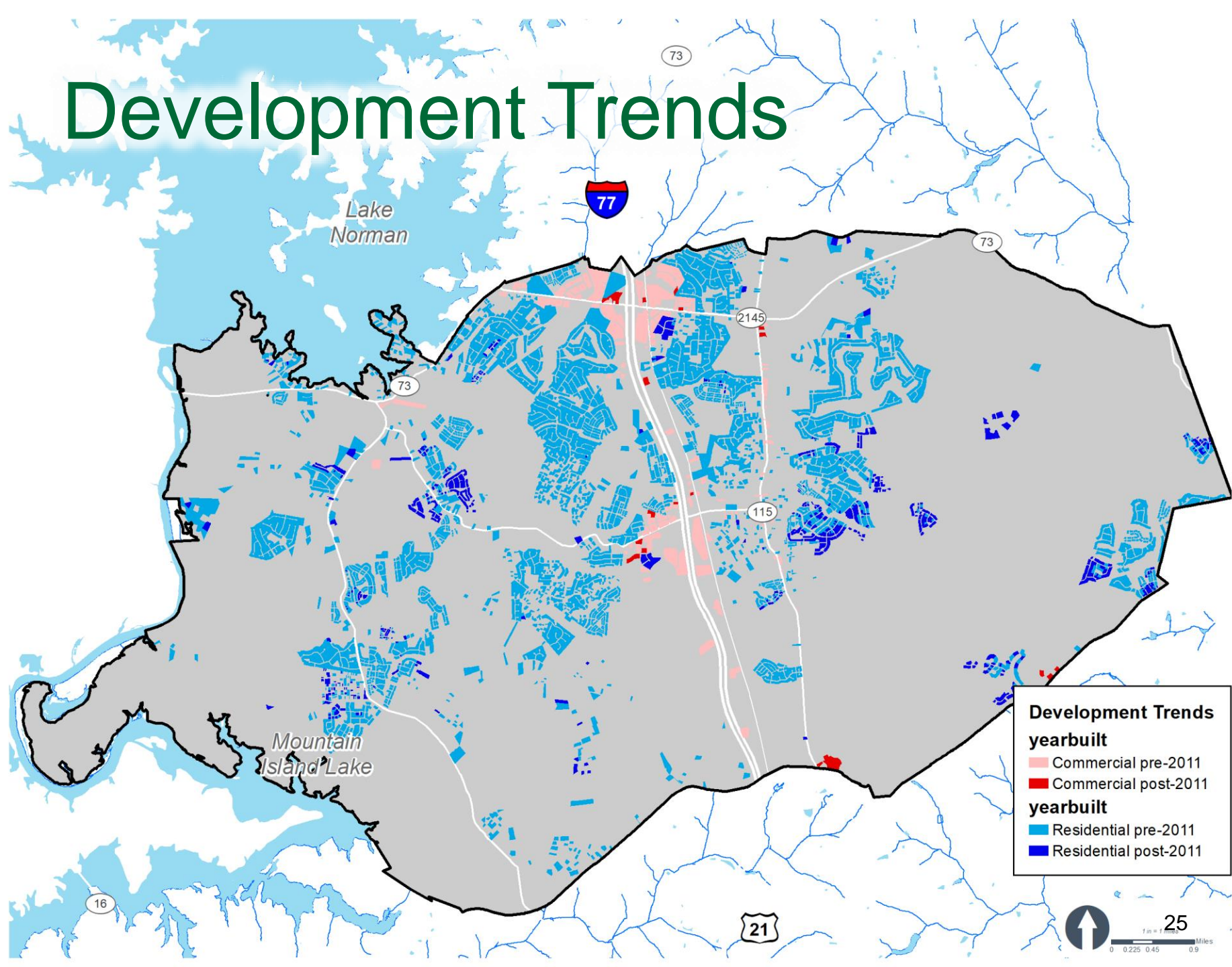


# Building Age





# Development Trends





# Transportation and Services





# Transportation Assessment – 4 Steps

- **Inventory**

What projects, funded or unfunded, have been recommended?

- **Diagnostic**

How well do the inventoried projects address local needs?

- **Transit Assessment**

What are our long-term goals related to transit and land use?

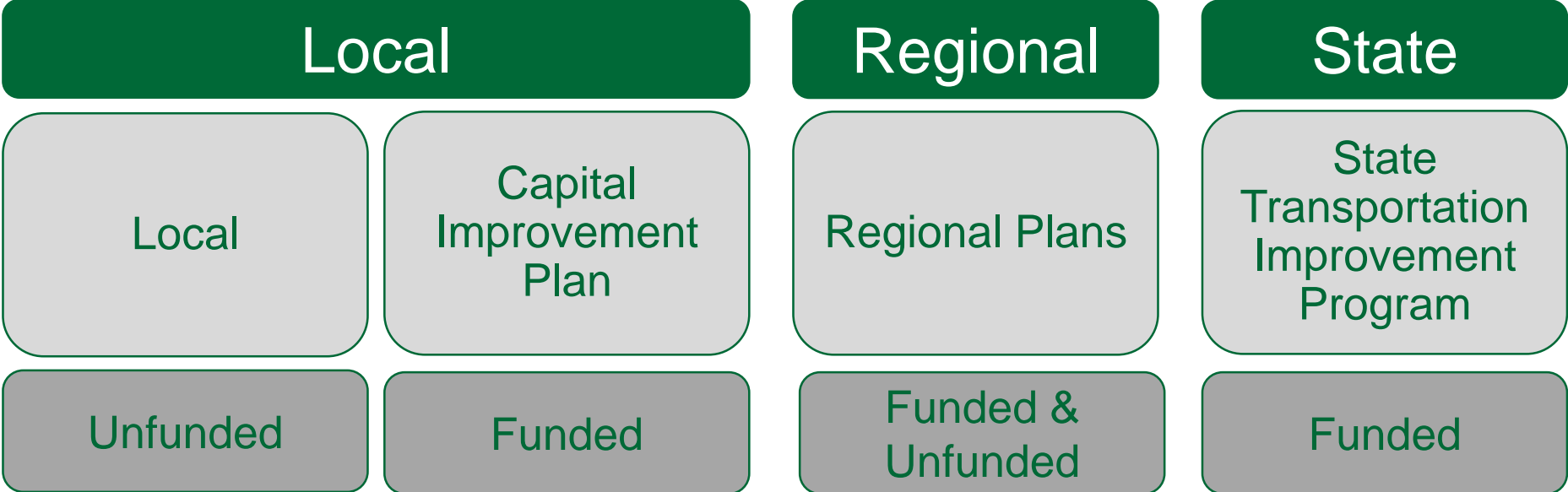
- **Transportation Policies and Action Items**

What policies and programs are needed to support other community initiatives?



# Transportation Inventory

## Plans, Studies, & Programs

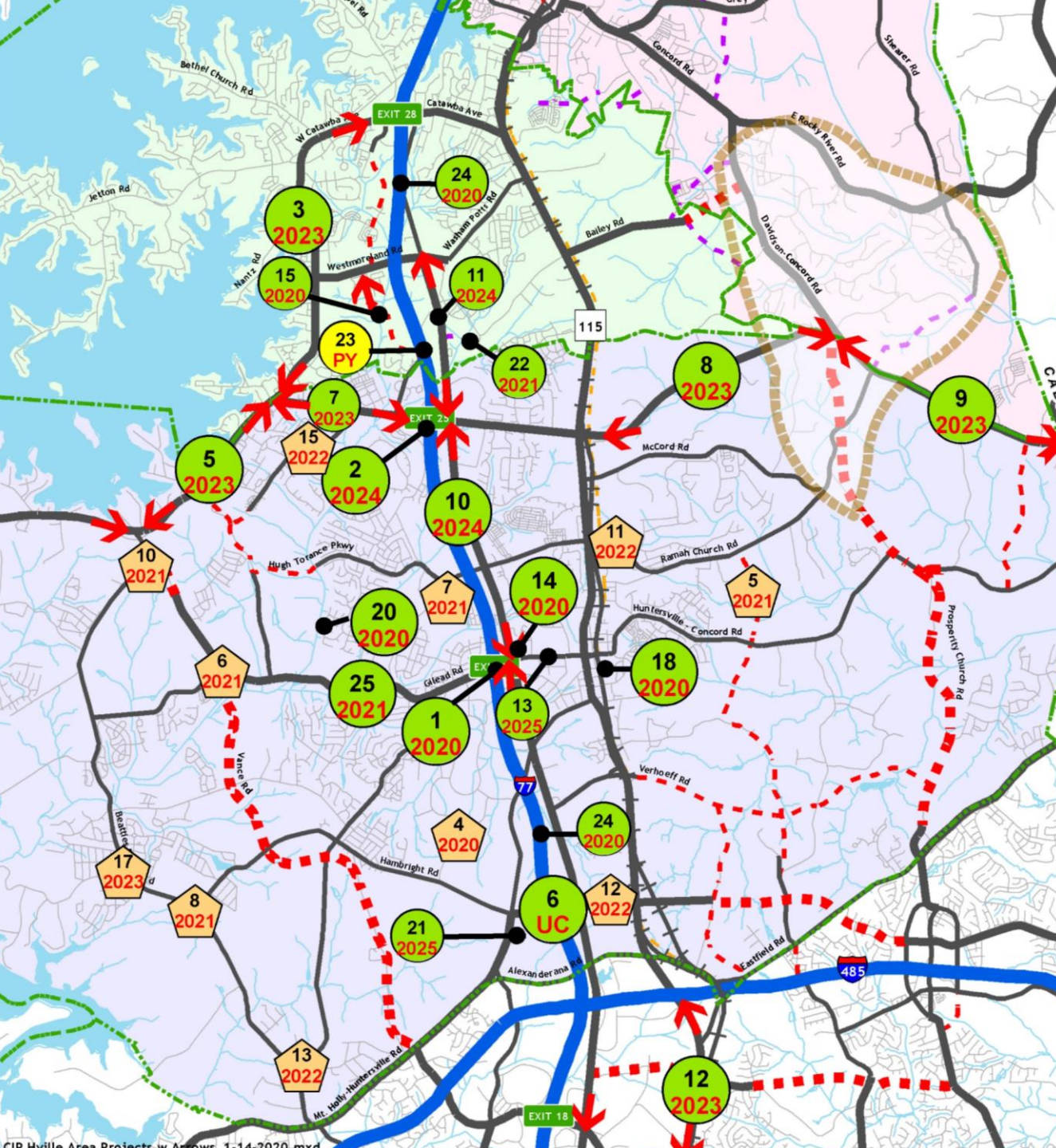


- Small Area Plans
- Corridor Studies
- Bike/Ped Plans

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Transit Studies







# Notable Projects

I-77 / Gilead Rd interchange

1-77 / Sam Furr Rd interchange

NC 73 widening

US 21 widening

NC 115 widening

Gilead Road widening

US 21 / Gilead Rd intersection

Northcross Dr Ext (new road)

Main St widening

# Public Services



**Parks:** Town/County partnership

**Schools:** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Private & Charters

**Fire:** Town funded, part time/volunteer staffing

**Police:** Town

**Electric:** ElectriCities, Duke Energy and Energy United

**Sanitation:** Contract services to Waste Connections

**Water/Sewer:** City of Charlotte

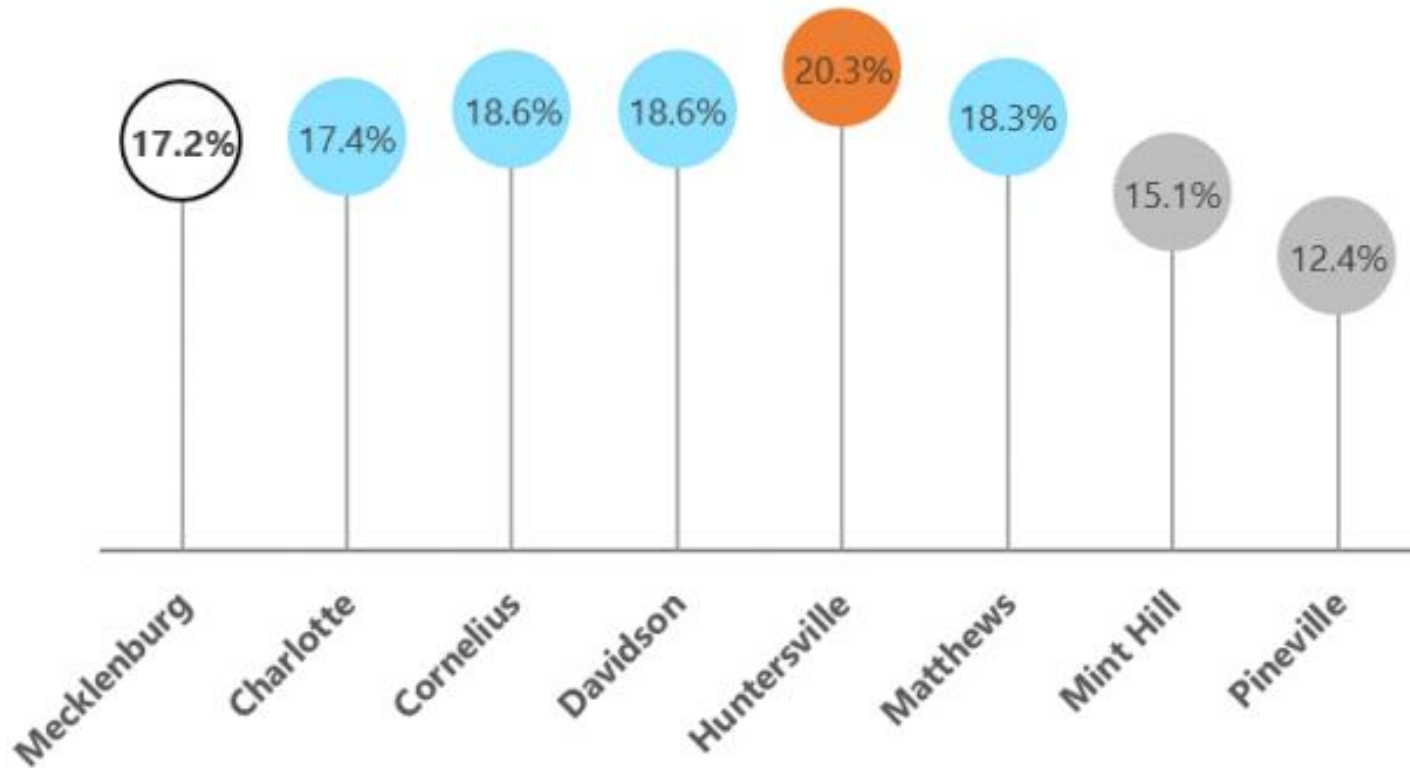
**Streets:** Local (Town), major roads/highways (NCDOT)





# Schools

## School-Aged Youth by Jurisdiction, 2017



Huntersville has the highest proportion of school-aged youth and the highest projected increase in the school-aged population. Over 8,000 new students projected in 2035, which is the highest projected increase in Mecklenburg County.

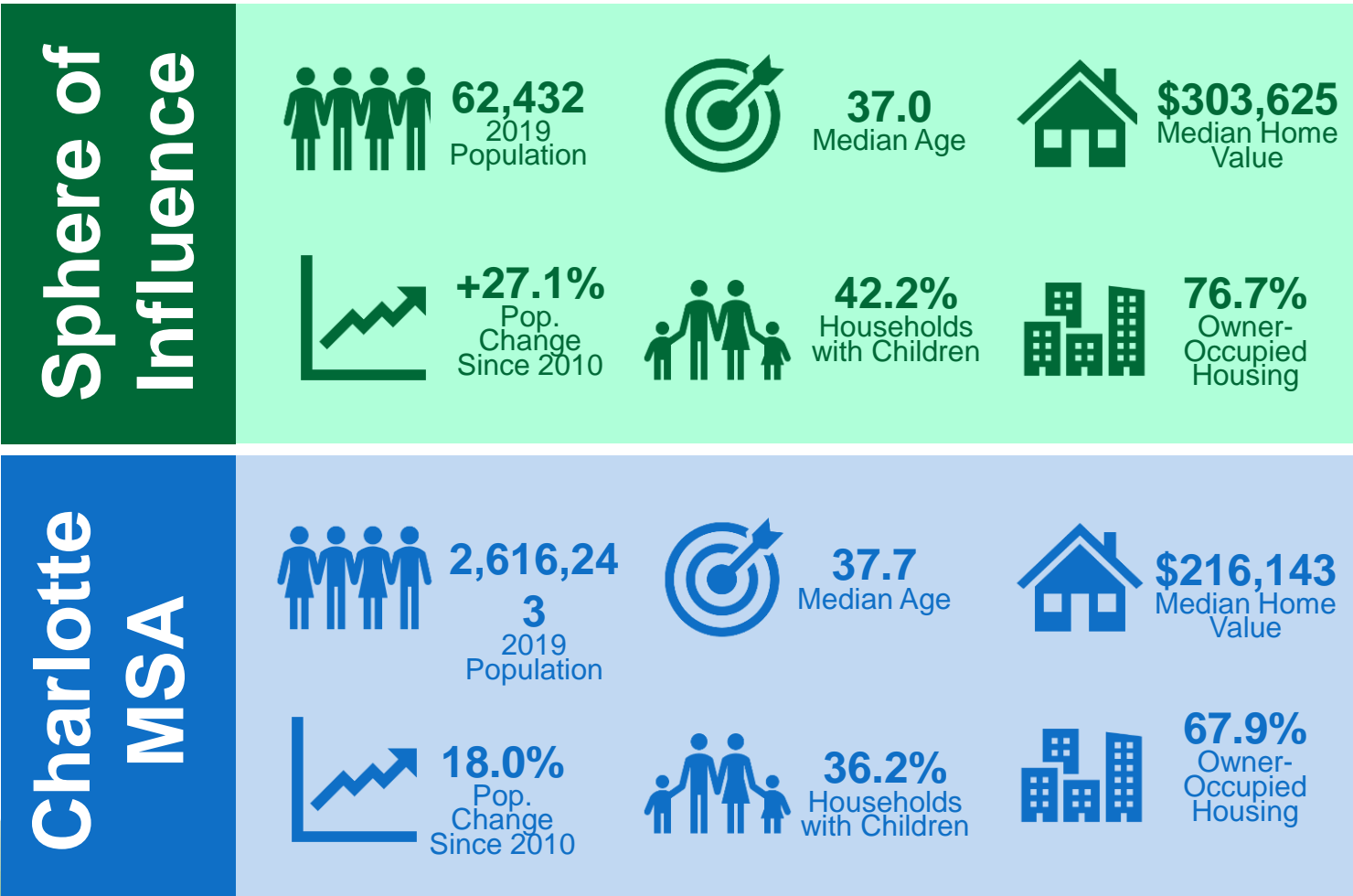
# Demographic Profile






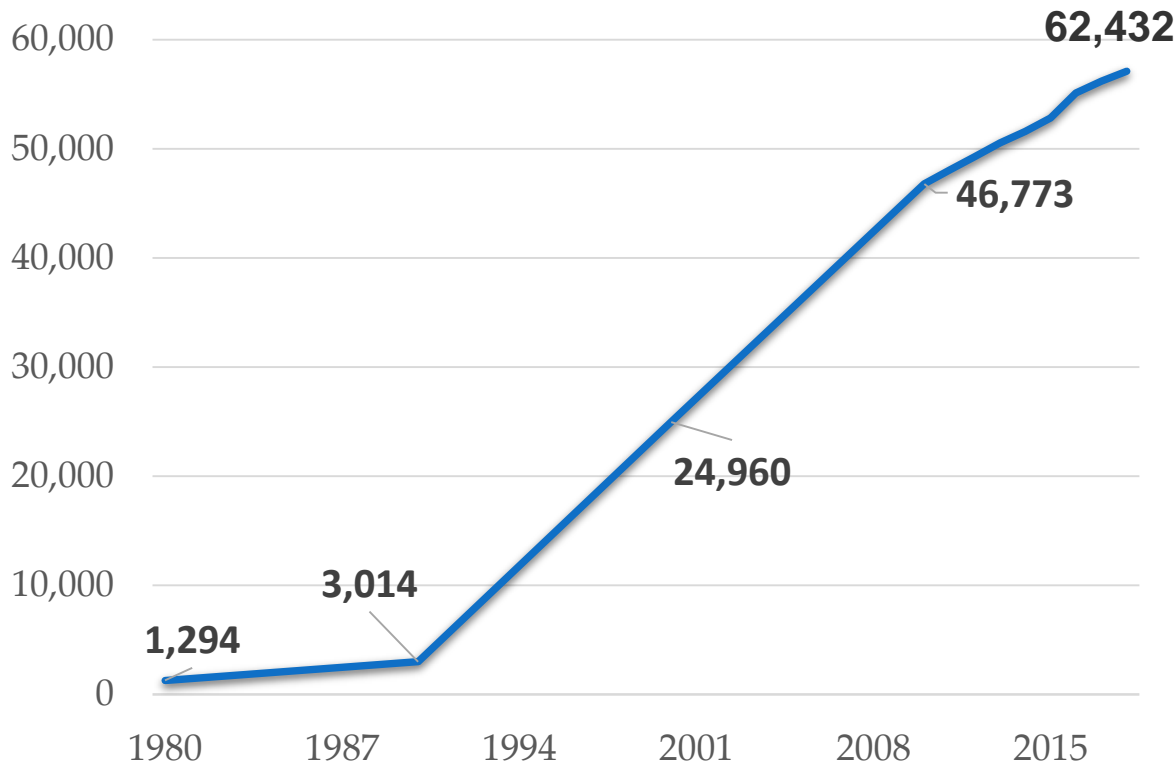
# Demographics

*At a glance...*



# Population

## Huntersville Population

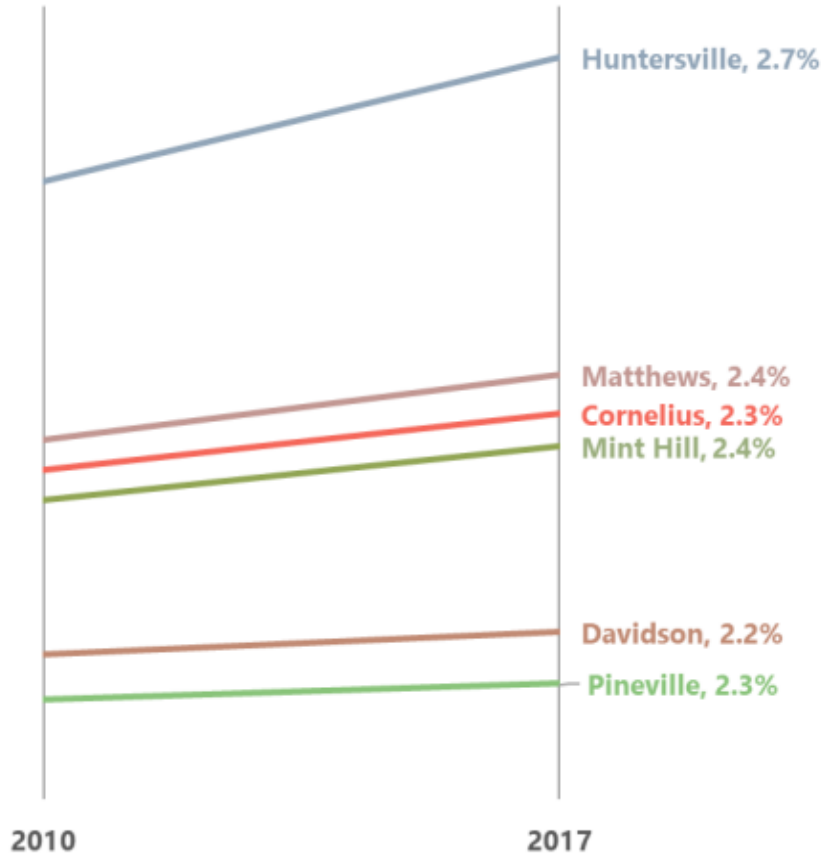
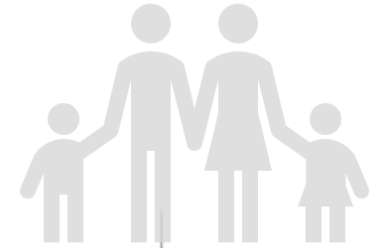


Mecklenburg County is forecasted to grow by **600,000** between 2015 and 2045

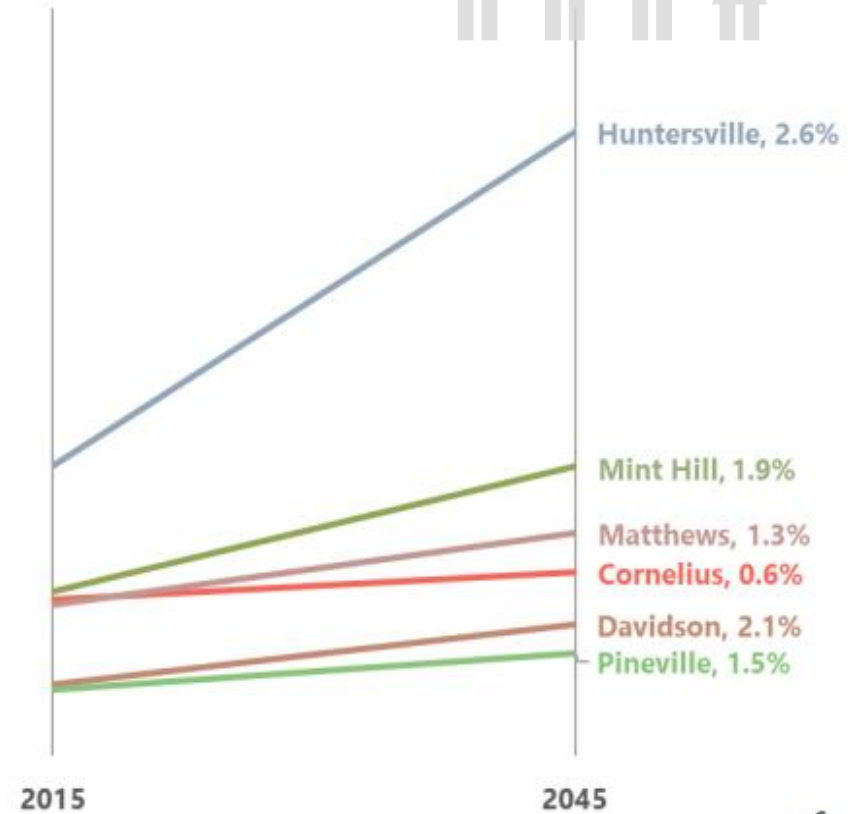
Projections indicate that Huntersville population could **grow significantly** based on demand for housing



# Population



Historic Annual Growth by Jurisdiction, 2010 to 2017

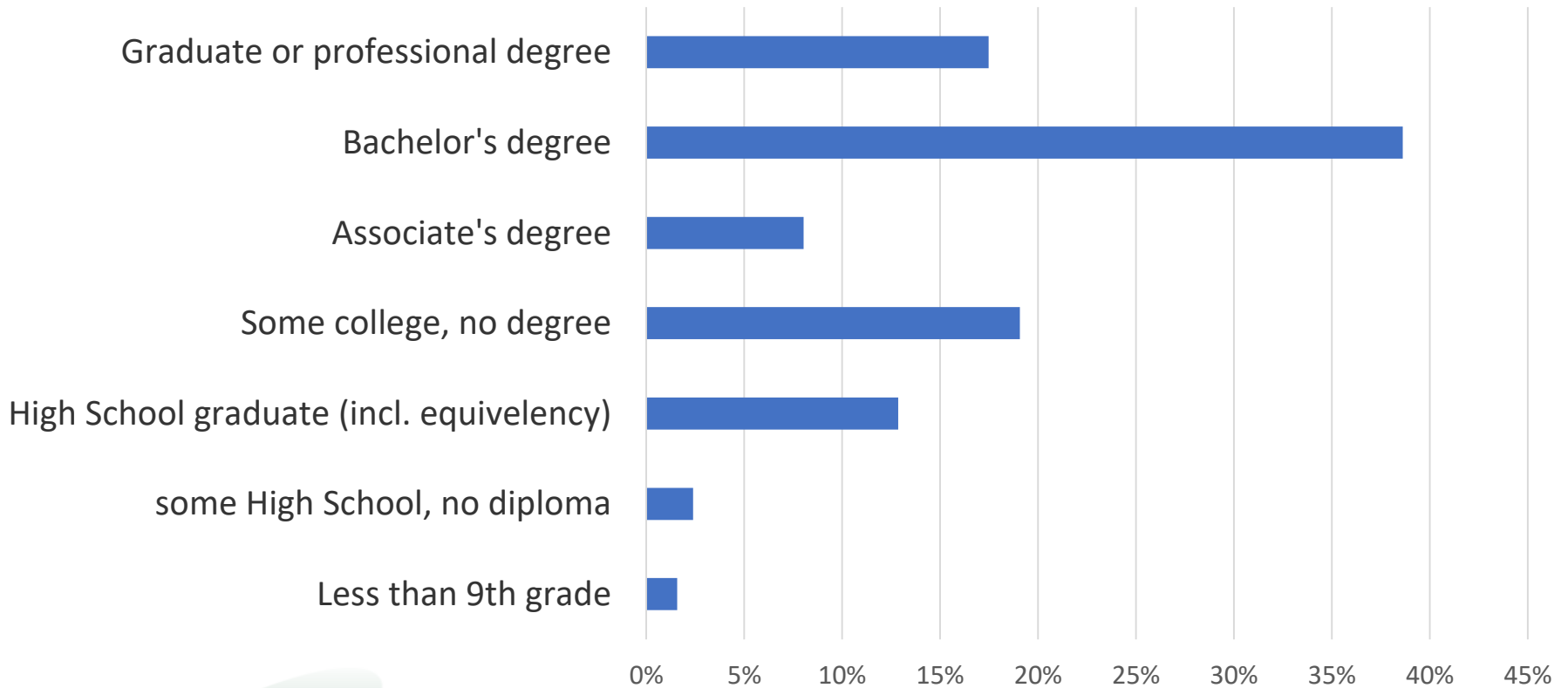


Projected Annual Growth by Jurisdiction, 2015 to 2045

# Education



## Highest Educational Attainment\*



\*persons age 25 or older



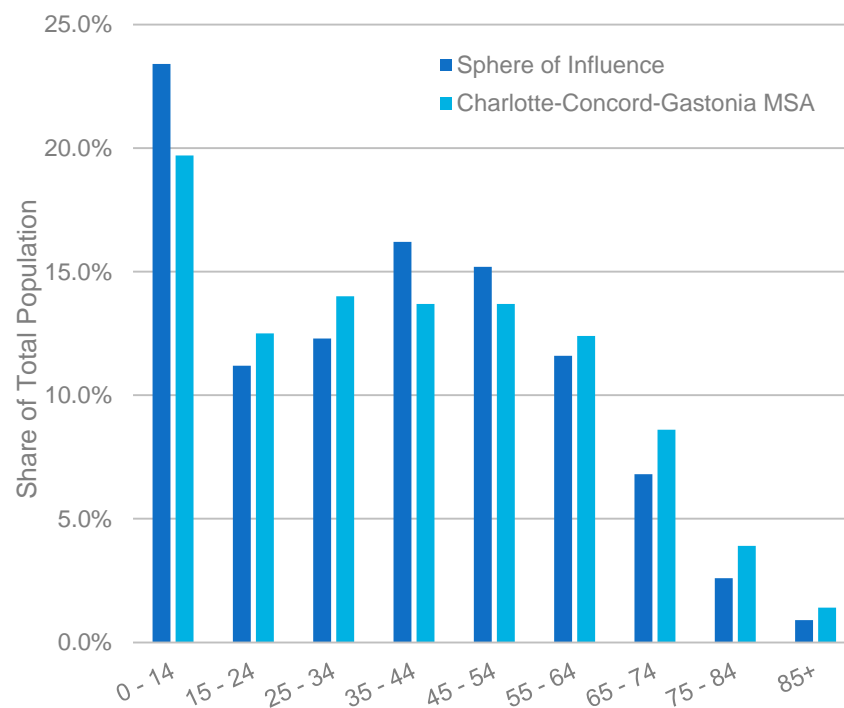
# Age Characteristics

Children less than 14 years old represented the largest age cohort in the Sphere of Influence in 2019 at 23.4% of the total population. This age group experienced notable growth since 2010, adding nearly 2,400 additional children.

When compared to the larger Charlotte MSA, the Sphere of Influence has higher shares of children under 14 and adults aged 35 to 54, but comparatively lower shares of Millennials and residents age 55+. These shares reflect the Sphere of Influence's attractiveness for families.

Trends indicate the 55+ age group is growing.

Comparison of Population Shares by Age Cohort, 2019



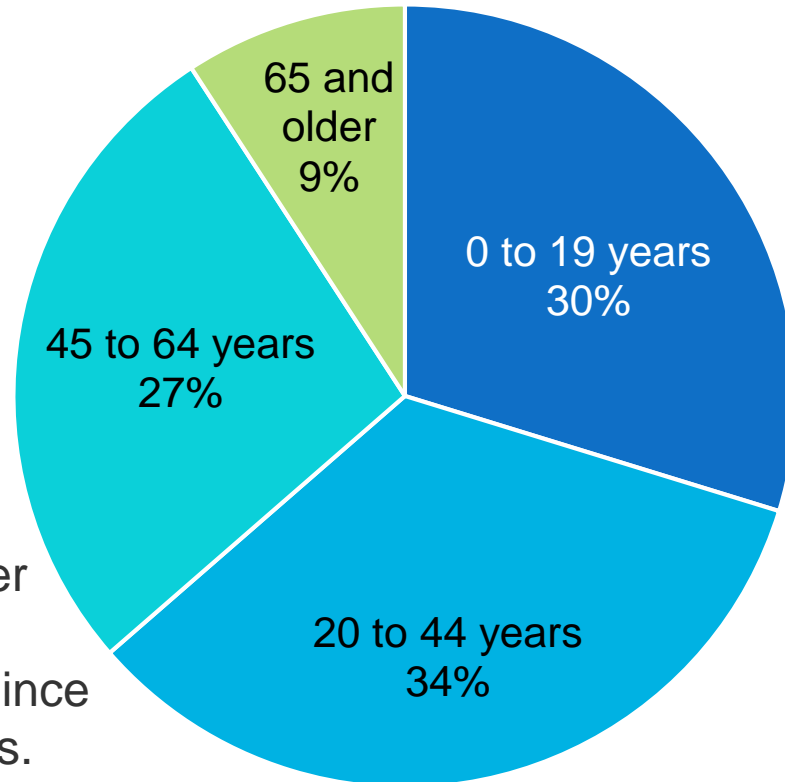
# Aging

## Change in Age Group, 2010-2017

0-19	+10.7%
20-44	+.83%
45-64	+27.5%
65+	+53.6%

The age cohort representing the younger segment of Baby Boomers (age 55-64) reported the largest absolute increase since 2010, with an addition of 2,528 residents.

## 2017 Population by Age





# Health / Aging

## 2017 Mecklenburg County Health Priorities

1. Care Access
2. Chronic Disease Prevention
- 3. Environmental Health**

Environmental health includes everything around you, including the air that you breathe, the water you drink, the places where your food is grown or prepared, the ground below us and the communities in which you live, work and play.

# Households

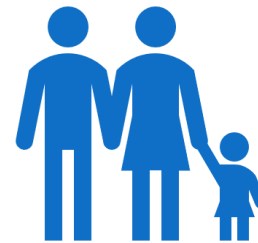
There were over 23,000 households in the Sphere of Influence in 2019, a 27.0% increase from 2010. During the same time period, the Charlotte MSA increased by more than 150,000 households or 17.7%.

As of 2019, the average household size in the Sphere of Influence was 2.68. Comparatively, the Charlotte MSA had a household size of 2.58. Growth rates for households in both geographies were only slightly slower than population, indicating a relatively stable household size since 2010.

## Comparison of Household Trends, 2010-2019

Area	2010	2019	2010-2019 Δ		
			#	%	CAGR
Sphere of Influence	18,280	23,214	4,934	27.0%	2.7%
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia MSA	848,745	998,853	150,108	17.7%	1.8%
<b>Sphere of Influence % MSA</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>		

## Comparison of Average Household Size, 2019



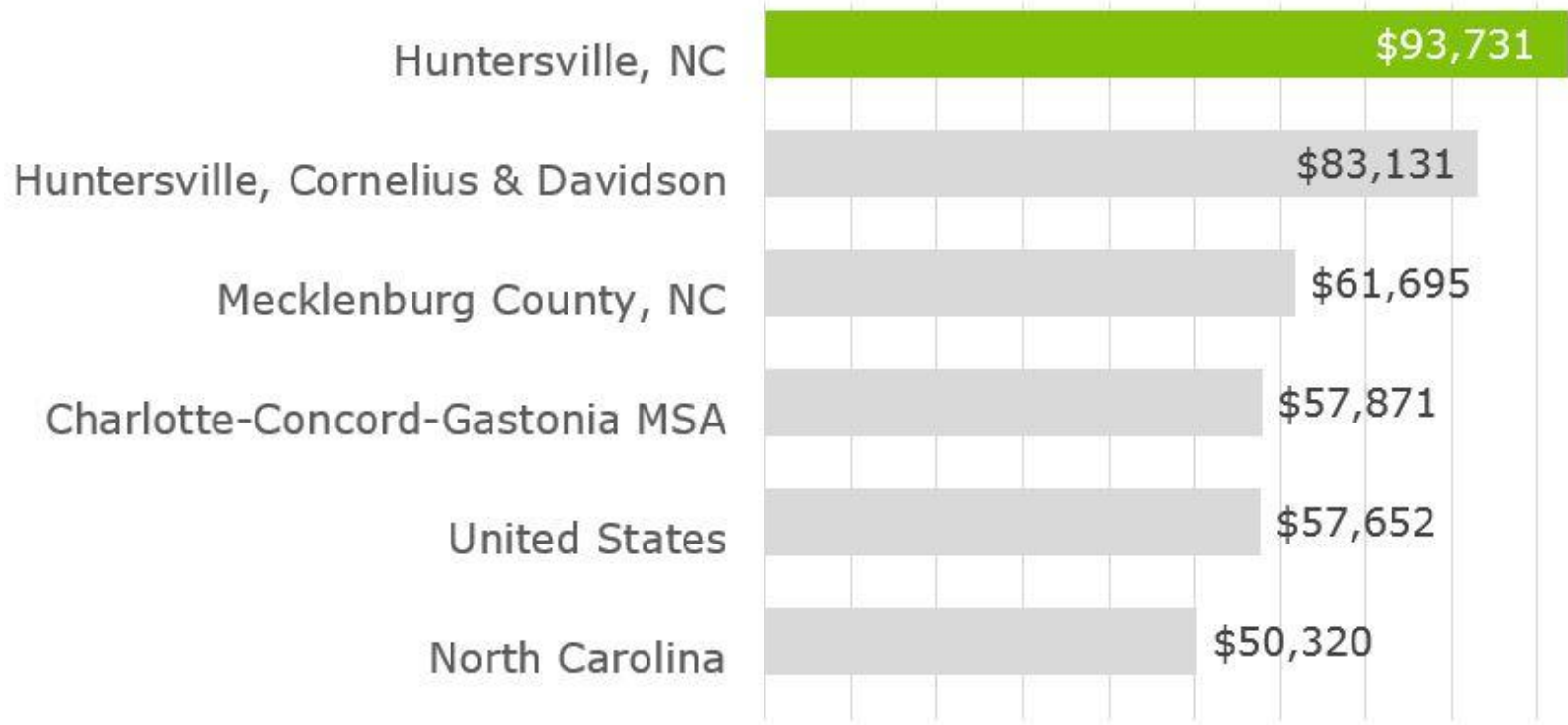
**Sphere of Influence**  
2.68 persons



**Charlotte MSA**  
2.58 persons

# Income

## Median Household Income\*



### Median Household Income in Huntersville \*

\* Statistics for Town Limits

	2000	2010	2017
Median Household Income	\$71,932	\$96,109	\$93,731



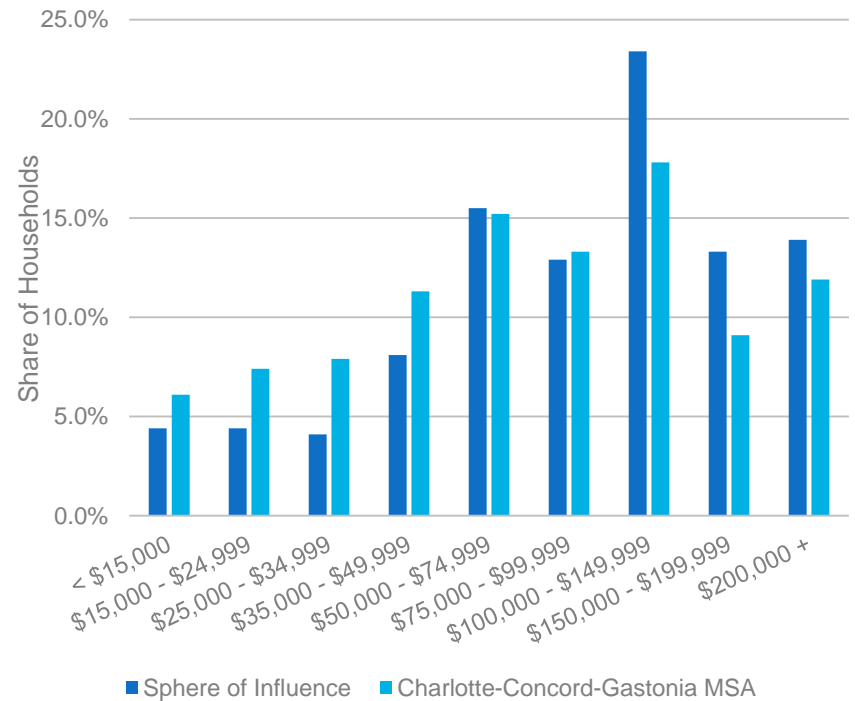
# Income

**The Sphere of Influence had an estimated median household income of \$110,716 in 2019.**

The Charlotte MSA median income was nearly 40% lower at \$62,323.

Approximately 23% of the Sphere of Influence households earn between \$100,000 and \$149,999 annually, making it the most common income cohort. It is also the most prevalent cohort in the MSA. An estimated 50.6% of all households in the Sphere of Influence earn more than \$100,000. This share of high-income households is higher than 38.8% for the MSA.

Comparison of Household Shares by Income Cohort, 2019



# Tapestry Segmentation

## BOOMBURBS

28.3% households



- Young professionals with families that have opted to trade up for new housing in the suburbs
- Residents are well-educated with head start on higher than average earnings and savings
- Low unemployment & high labor force participation
- Spend more than the average household on most retail goods and services

## UP & COMING FAMILIES

12.4% households



- Young, mobile and diverse residents, many with children living at home
- Seeking new housing subdivisions on suburban periphery
- Primarily live in single-family homes with low vacancy
- Cost-conscious shoppers with average budgets for retail goods and services

## SOCCER MOMS

11.9% households



- Affluent, family-oriented market
- Prefer new single-family, owner-occupied housing within a reasonable commute to jobs
- Carry a higher than average level of debt
- Favor time-saving devices and services, slightly above average retail budgets

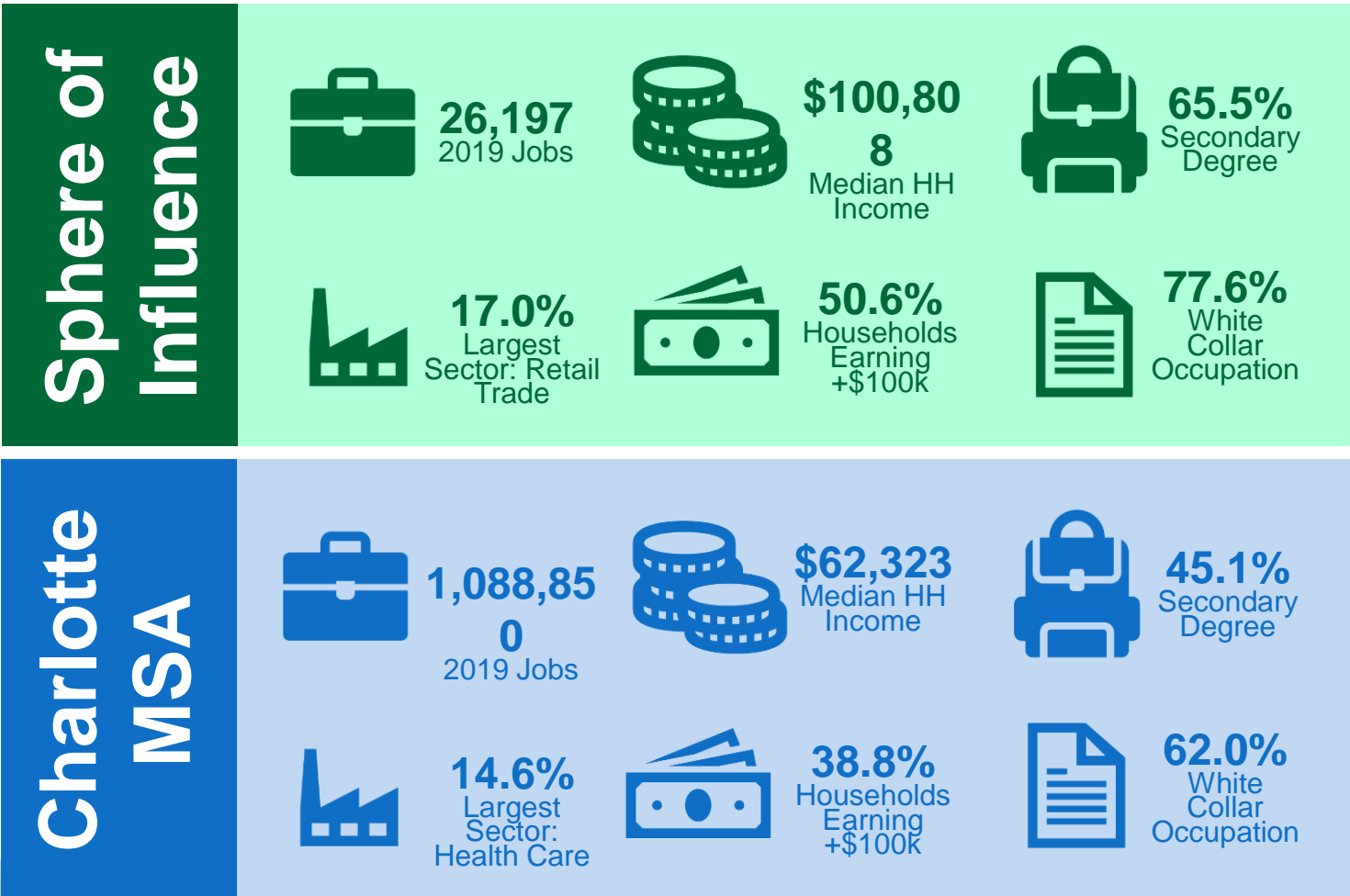
# Economic Profile





# Economics

*At a glance...*



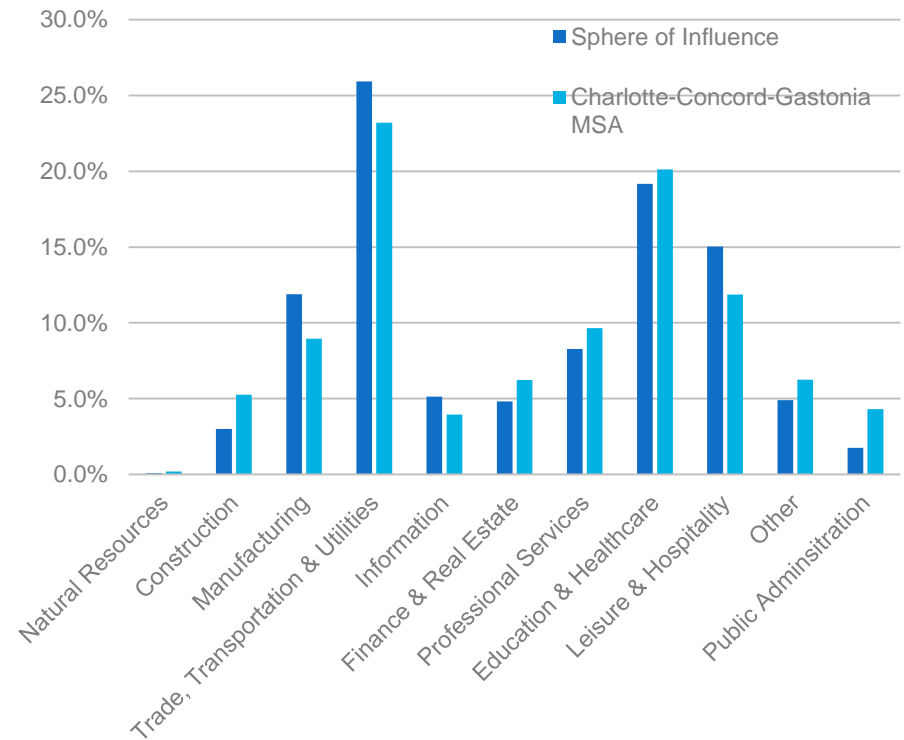
# Jobs by Industry

The nearly 26,200 jobs in the Sphere of Influence made up approximately 2.4% of the Charlotte MSA total in 2019. Trade, Transportation & Utilities, largely driven by retail positions, represented the largest share of jobs in both the Sphere of Influence and Charlotte MSA.

The Sphere of Influence has larger than average concentrations of Manufacturing, Trade, Information, and Hospitality jobs when compared to the MSA.

Based on the most recent trend data available, the job base in the Sphere of Influence has grown significantly in the last five years, reporting an increase of nearly 45% between 2012 and 2017.

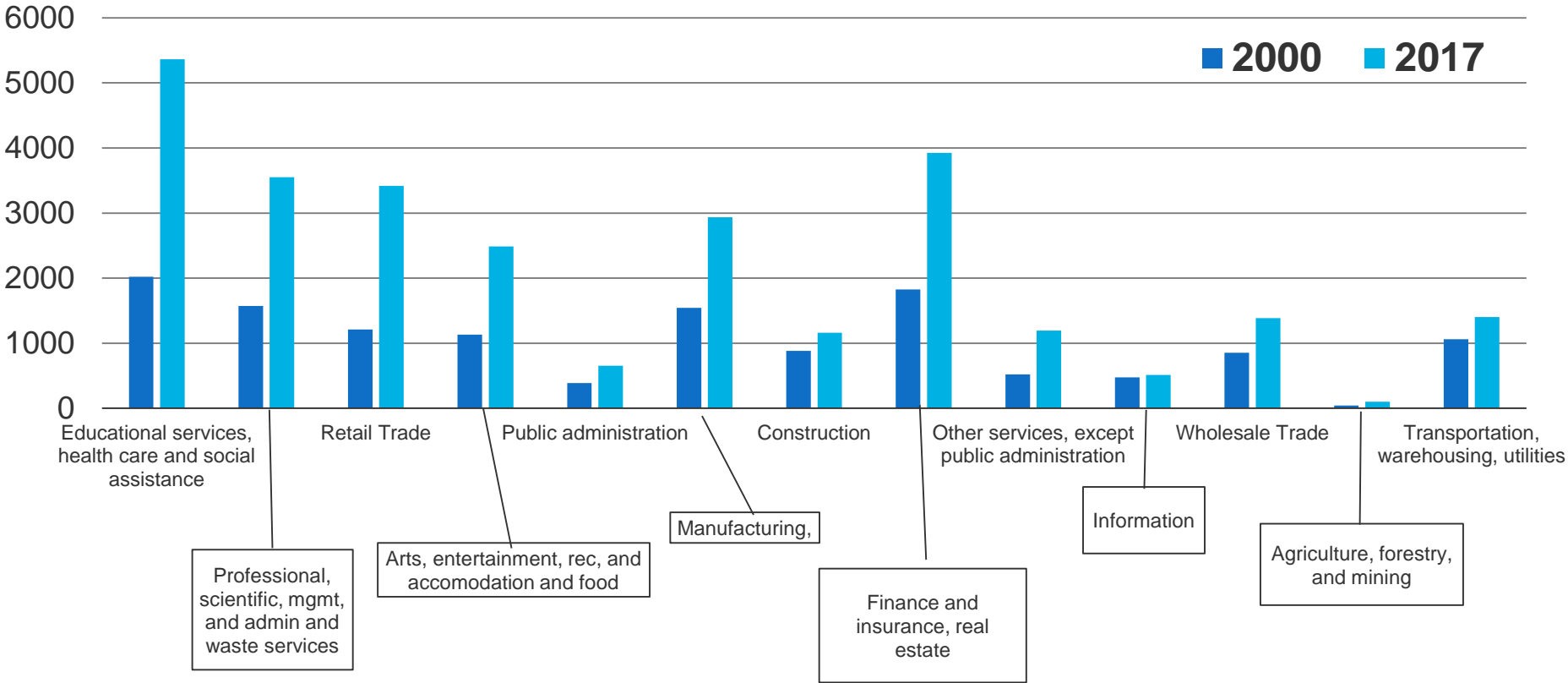
Comparison of Jobs by Industry Sector, 2019





# Employment Growth

### Employment by Sector



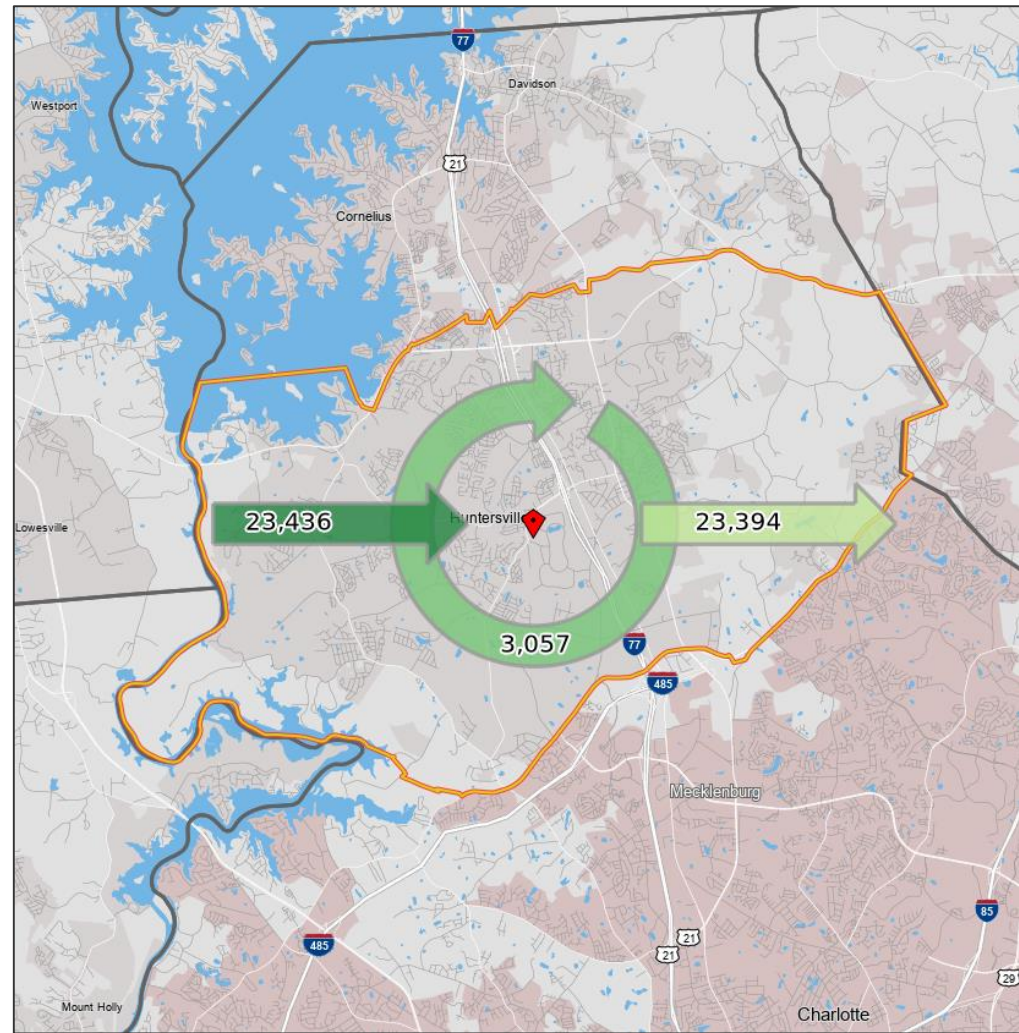


# Commuting Trends

As of 2017, nearly the same number of people commuted into the Sphere of Influence for employment as the number that commuted out. Based on US Census data, over 3,000 people live and work in the Sphere of Influence. This pattern suggests there is a mis-match in the skills of the residents compared to the jobs available.

For those employed Huntersville residents traveling out for employment, the following are the most common destinations:

- Charlotte (23.1%)
- Concord (4.3%)
- Cornelius (4.0%)
- Mooresville (3.1%)



# Real Estate Profile



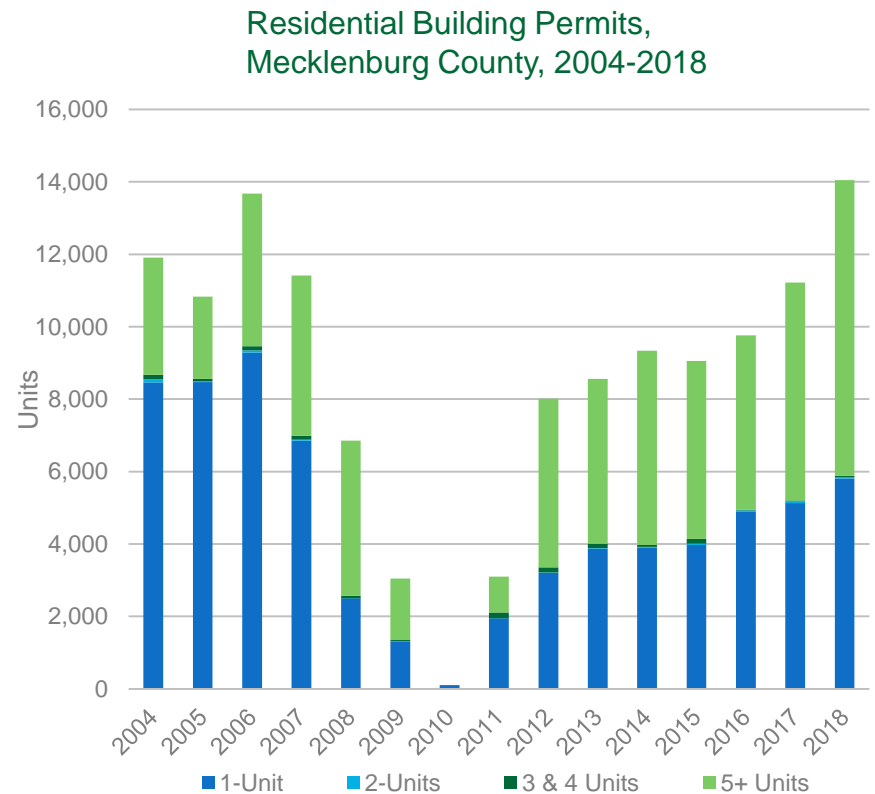


# Residential

## *Mecklenburg County Building Permit Trends*

Single-family homes represent that largest share of residential building permits between 2004 and 2018 in Mecklenburg County, making up 53.3% of all permits. Housing permits in Mecklenburg County were significantly impacted by the Great Recession. The measure reported for 2010 is incomplete.

Annual permits have largely recovered, averaging nearly 10,700 units per year over the last five years. The total in 2018 represented the 15-year high at 14,049 total units, indicating a return to pre-Recession levels. The make-up of housing types permitted has changed since the Recession, with single-family units making up a smaller share in recent years than before 2008.

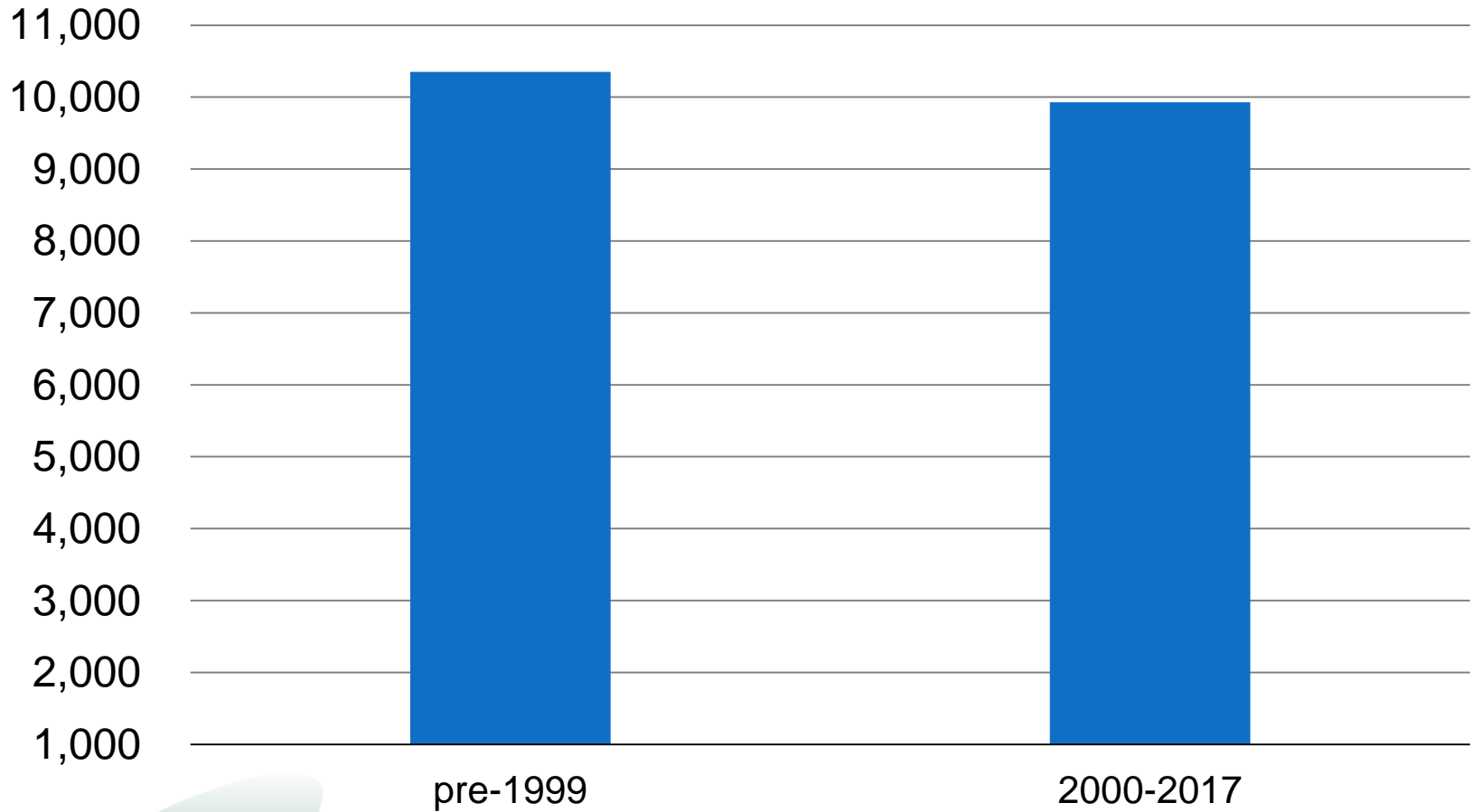




# Housing



**Huntersville Housing Year Built**



# Housing



Median home value  
in municipality

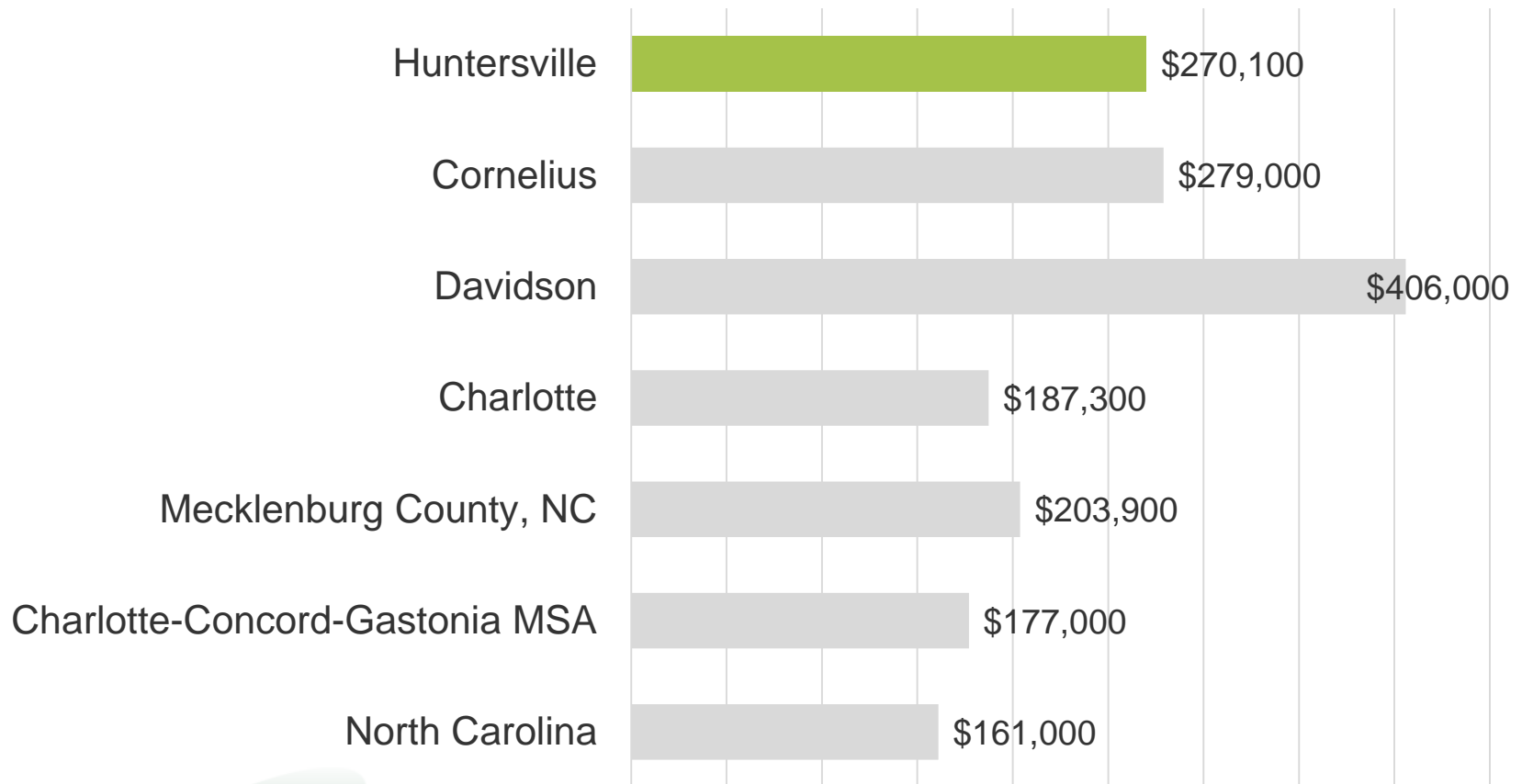
2010: **\$243,000** → **11%** increase  
2017: **\$270,100**

Huntersville Housing  
Units (including ETJ)

2010: **18,283** → **23%** increase  
2017: **22,568**

# Home Value

## Median Home Value 2017





# Affordability

**21%**

Of households have an income less than \$50k

**\$13,820**

Annual  
Transportation Cost

**\$1,040**

Median monthly rent

**\$42,000**

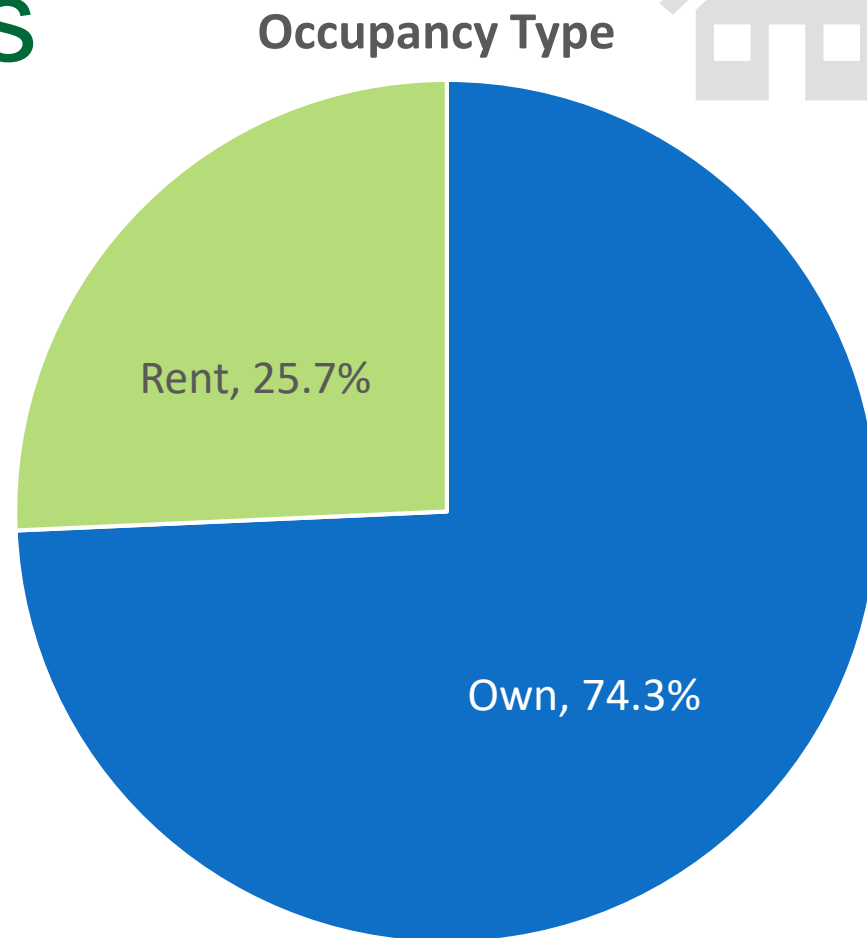
Starting police  
officer salary

# Housing Trends



Since 2010,  
Huntersville has seen

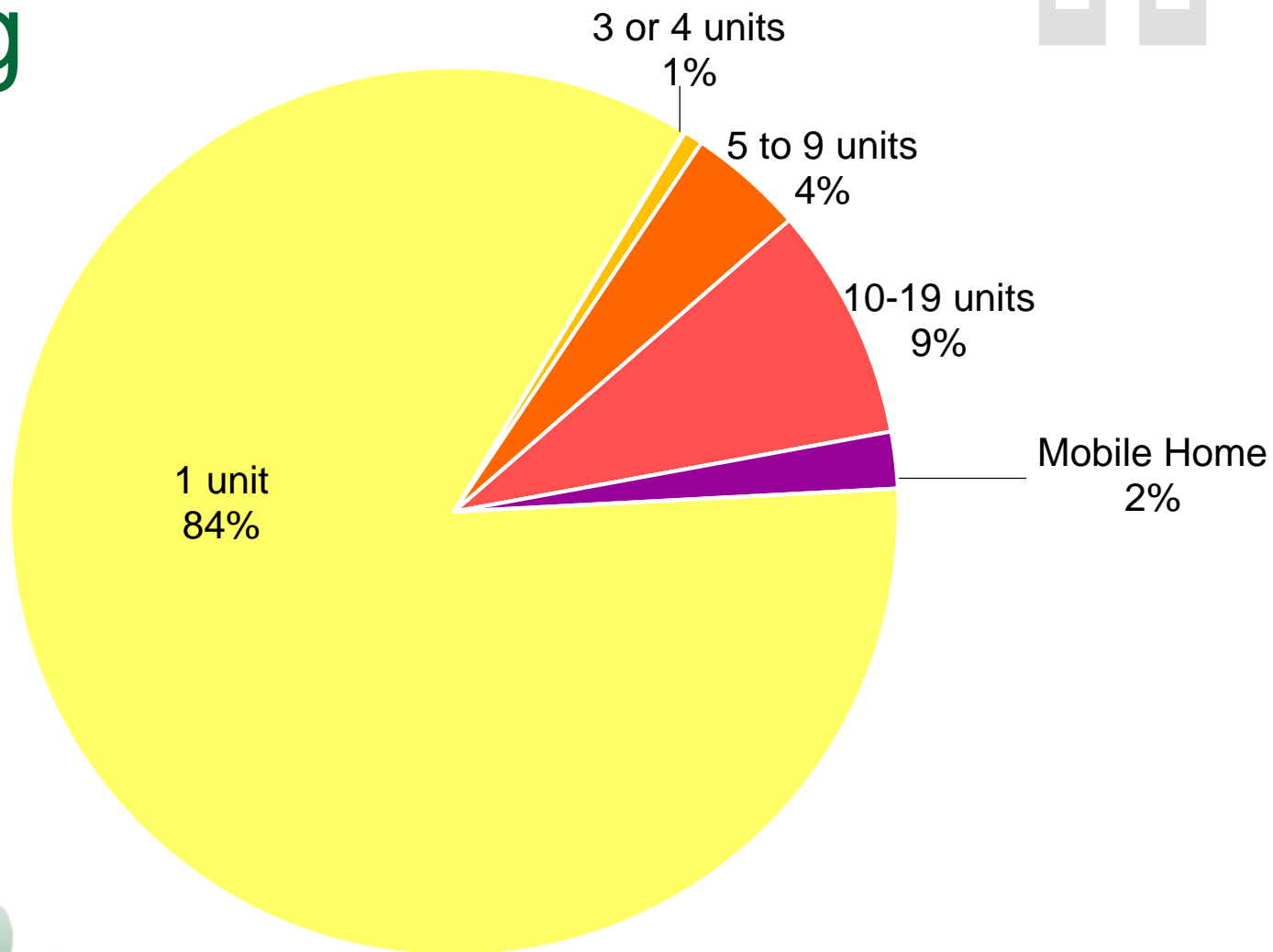
- 1.5% **decrease** in home ownership
- 4.5% **increase** in renting



# Housing



Housing by Type\*



Source: 2017 ACS

\*Housing structure breakdown provided by the Census.



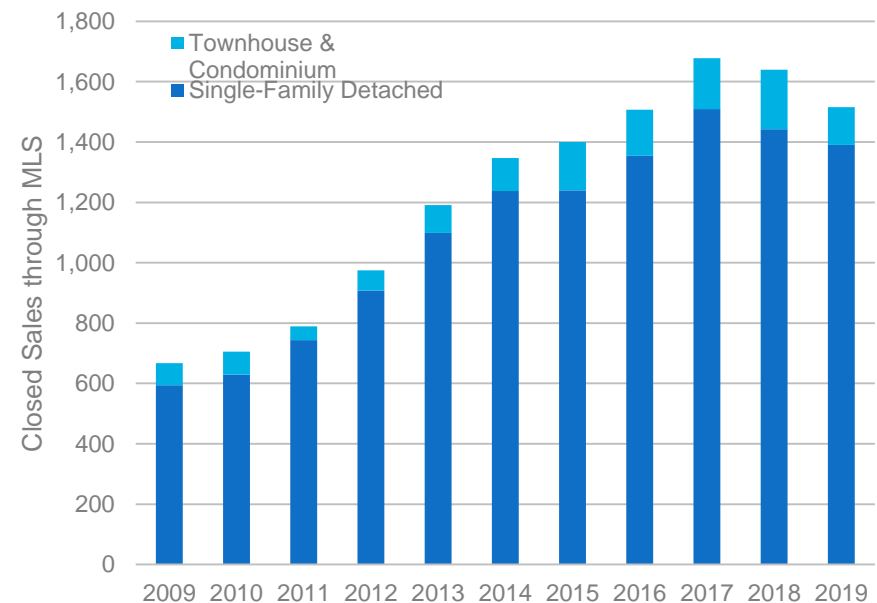
# For-Sale Residential

## *Closing Trends*

In the first 11 months of 2019, there were more than 1,500 for-sale residential closings in Huntersville's Sphere of Influence, including single-family detached, townhouse, and condominium units. Over the last 10 years single-family detached units consistently comprised 90%-94% of the total closings.

The number of closings in the Sphere of Influence has increased steadily since 2009, peaking at 1,678 units in 2017. Since 2017, annual closings have leveled-off, with 2019 expected to have a similar annual total to 2018.

For-Sale Residential Closing Trends, Sphere of Influence, 2009-2019

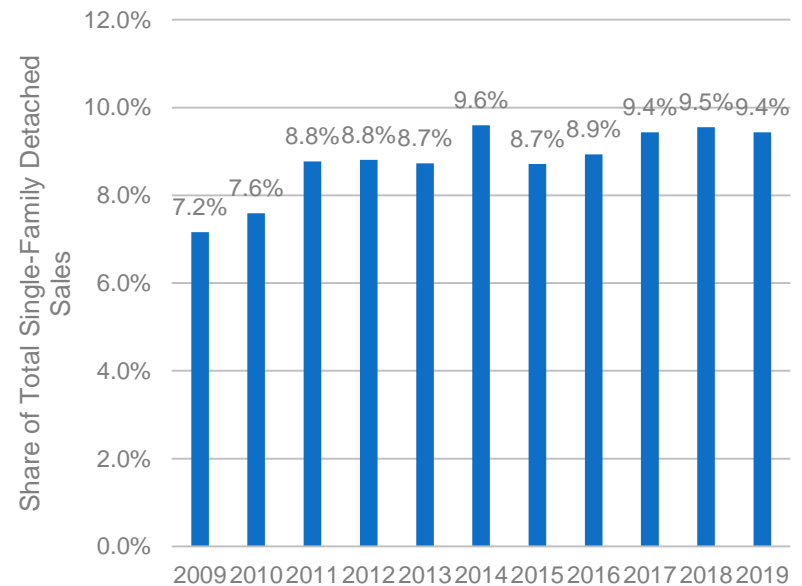


# For-Sale Residential

## *Closing Trends*

Huntersville's Sphere of Influence area has increased its share of total county-wide closings since 2009. At the end of the 2007-2009 Recession, the Sphere of Influence represented 7.2% of the total for-sale closings in the county. The share of total activity increased gradually in the last 10 years. In fact, the measures in the last three years have consistently been between 9.4% and 9.5%.

Sphere of Influence Share of Mecklenburg County Closings, Single-Family Detached, 2009-2019



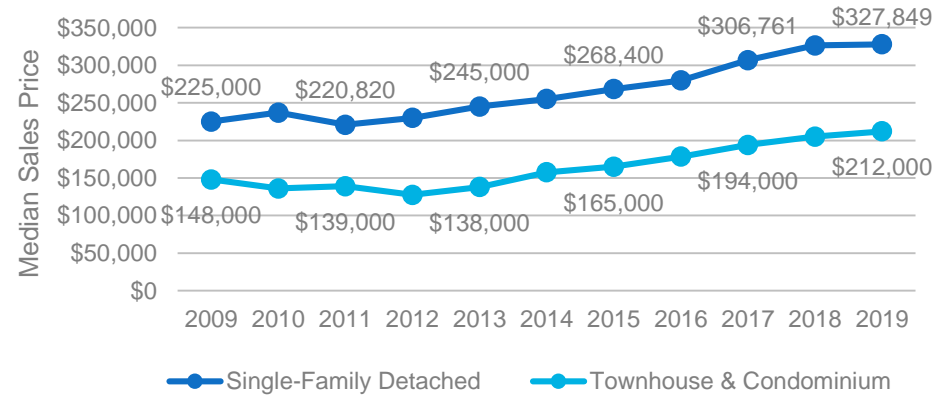
# For-Sale Residential

## Closing Price Trends

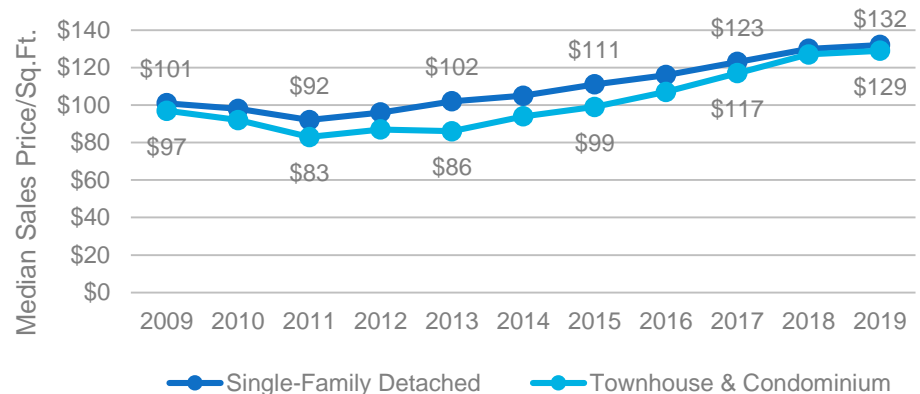
The median closing price for a single-family detached unit in Huntersville's Sphere of Influence was over \$328,800 in November 2019. This represents a 45.7% increase since 2009. Attached units, including townhouses and condominiums, experienced a similar 43.2% increase, reaching a median price point of \$212,000 in November.

Normalized for the size of the product, single-family detached and single-family attached units have median prices of \$132 and \$129 per square foot, respectively.

Comparison of Median Closing Price, Sphere of Influence, 2009-2019



Comparison of Median Closing Price per Sq.Ft., Sphere of Influence, 2009-2019





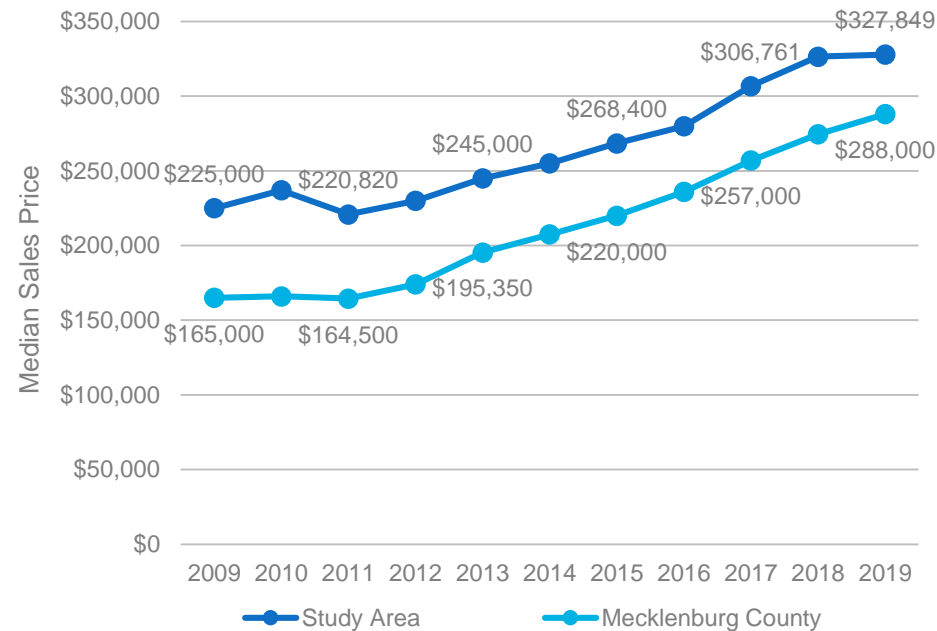
# For-Sale Residential

## Closing Price Trends

When compared to the Mecklenburg County median sales price, Huntersville demonstrates a consistent premium. In 2009, single-family detached units in Huntersville's Sphere of Influence had a median closing price that was 36% higher than the county-wide aggregate.

The price point differential has gradually declined in the last 10 years. Before 2016, the Sphere of Influence premium was over 20%, however, in the last four years it has declined. Single-family detached units in Huntersville had a 14% premium over the county in November 2019.

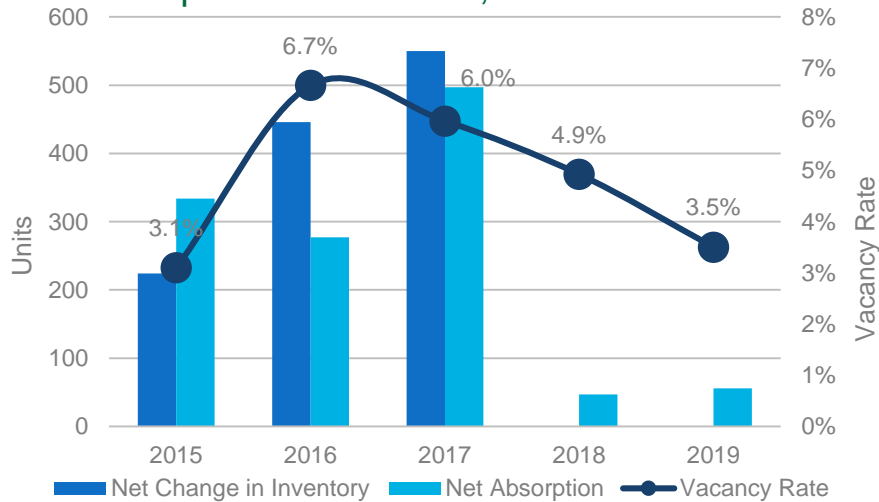
Sphere of Influence Share of Mecklenburg County Closings, Single-Family Detached, 2009-2019



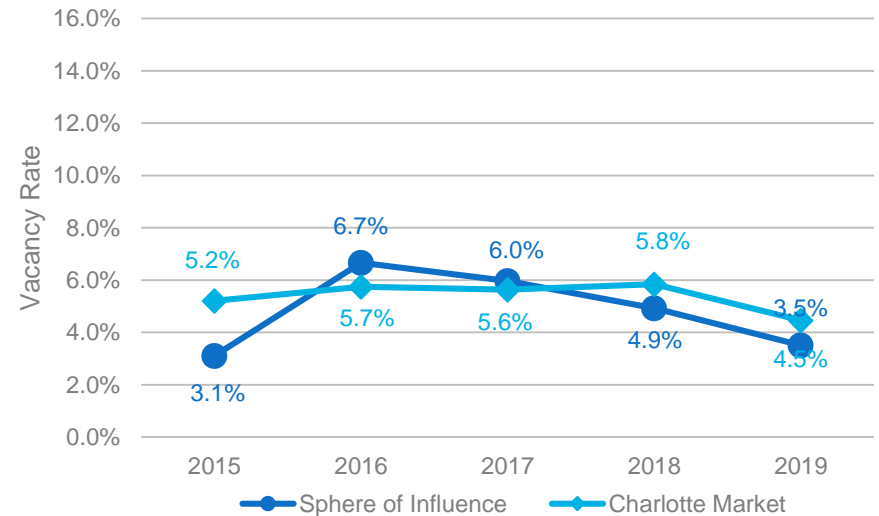
# Rental Multi-Family Residential

## Performance

Apartment Performance Trends, Sphere of Influence, 2015-2019



Comparison of Apartment Vacancy Rate Trends, 2015-2019



There are 4,224 professionally-managed apartments in the Sphere of Influence, contained in 15 communities. No new units have been completed in the last two years. More than 1,200 units have been added in each decade, beginning in the 1990s. Almost no inventory was delivered prior to that.

Vacancy rates in the Sphere of Influence have been lower than for the larger Charlotte market in recent years. The delivery of nearly 1,000 units between 2016 and 2017 in the Sphere of Influence resulted in an elevated vacancy rate that was higher than the MSA. Both geographies have trended lower than the industry standard 7.0% vacancy, representing a healthy market.

# Rental Multi-Family Residential

## Comparable Communities



- 1 Holly Crest**  
16408 Holly Crest Ln
- Built 2015
  - 402 units
  - 4.5% vacancy rate
  - Avg. rent: \$1.38/sq.ft.
  - Surface parking



- 2 Silver Collection at the Park**  
12821 Little Penny Dr
- Built 2016
  - 332 units
  - 1.8% vacancy rate
  - Avg. rent: \$1.44/sq.ft.
  - Surface parking



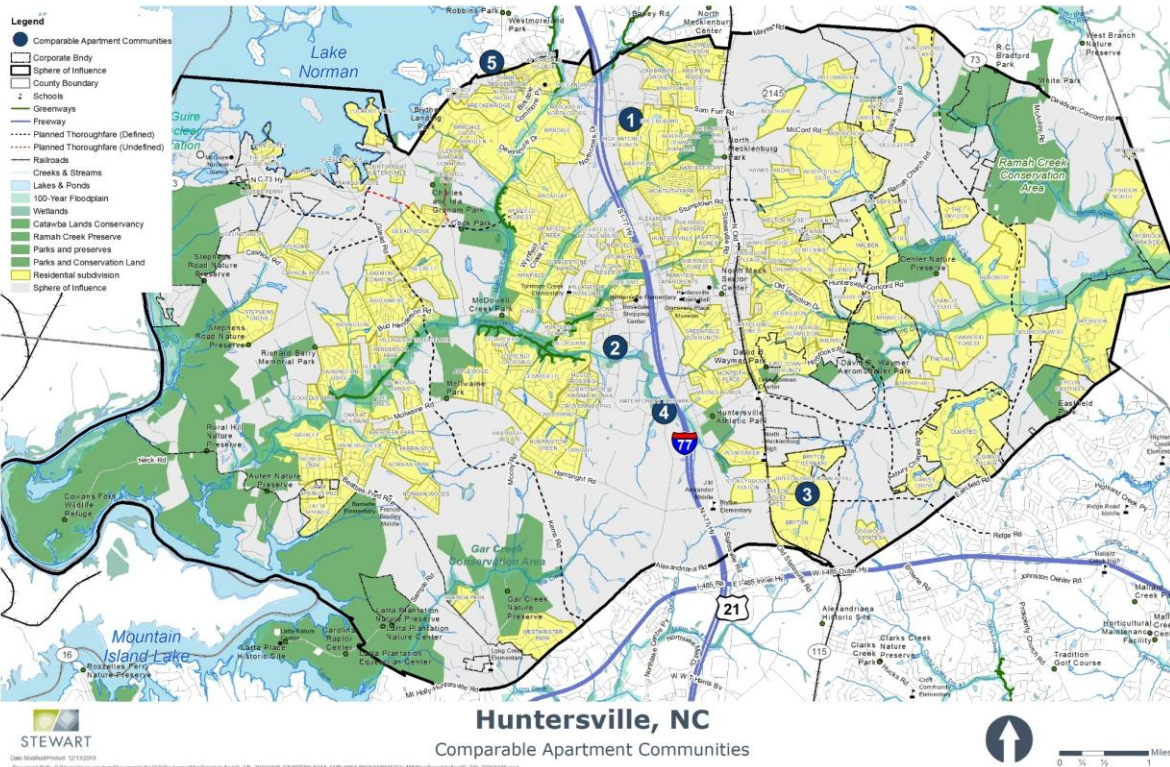
- 3 Brookson Resident Flats**  
13428 Bryton Gap Blvd
- Built 2016
  - 296 units
  - 7.8% vacancy rate
  - Avg. rent: \$1.26/sq.ft.
  - Surface parking



- 4 Silver Collection at Waterford**  
11920 Joleen Ct
- Built 2014
  - 226 units
  - 5.8% vacancy rate
  - Avg. rent: \$1.35/sq.ft.
  - Surface parking



- 5 Reserve at the Kenton Place**  
17110 Kenton Dr
- Built 2014
  - 210 units
  - 6.7% vacancy rate
  - Avg. rent: \$1.14/sq.ft.
  - Surface parking





# Retail

## *Leakage Analysis*

Retail leakage refers to the difference between the retail expenditures by residents living in a particular area and the retail sales produced by the stores located in the same area. If desired products are not available within that area, consumers will travel to other places or use different methods to obtain those products. Consequently, the dollars spent outside of the area are said to be “leaking.” If a community is a major retail center with a variety of stores it will be “attracting” rather than “leaking” retail sales.

The numbers are not meant as accurate accounts of individual stores, but, taken as an aggregate, they provide reasonable estimates of total expenditures and sales. Equally important, this type of data is reviewed by national chains when deciding whether to move into a new area.

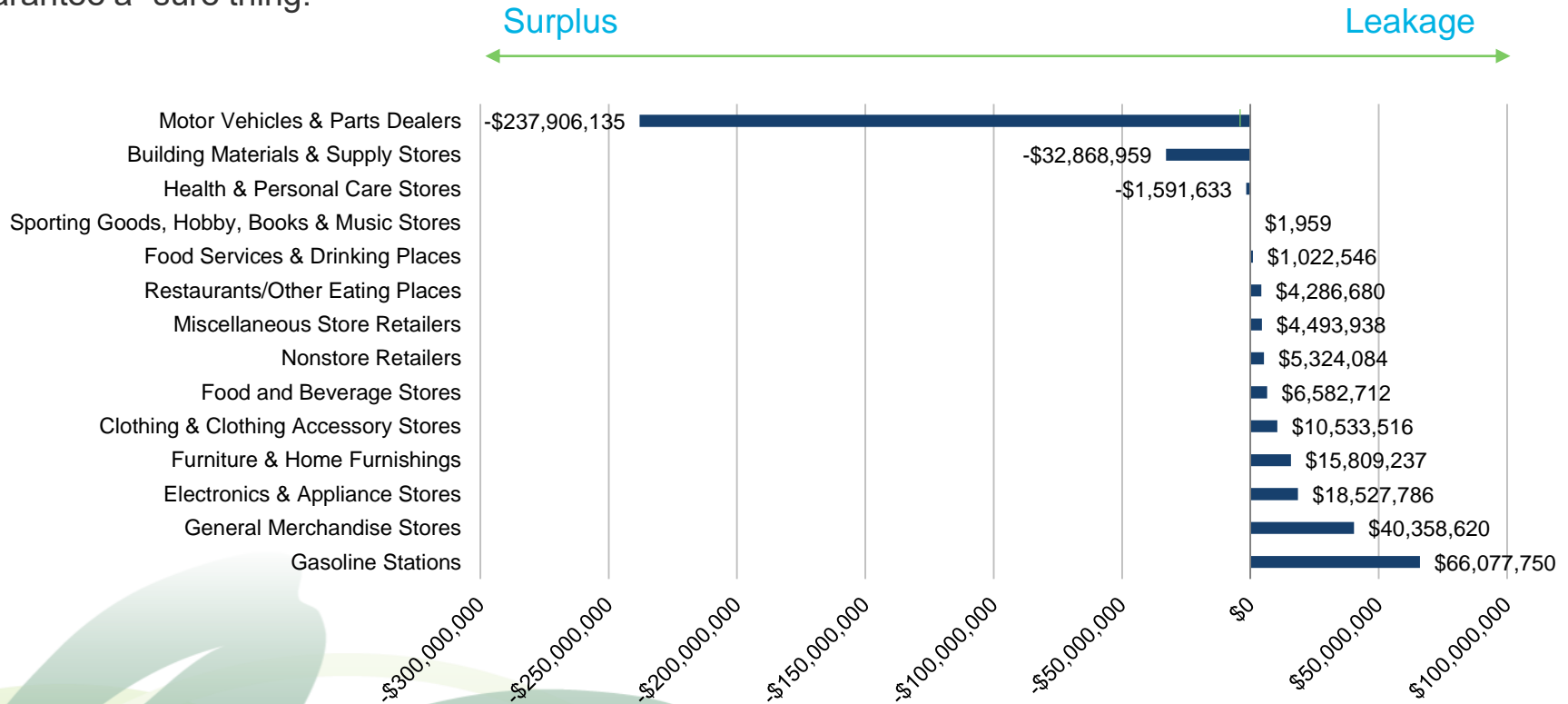
The graphic to the right shows retail sales, consumer expenditures, and retail leakage in the Sphere of Influence. The defined Sphere of Influence had a surplus of \$103.6 million in retail sales over the previous year, largely driven by car dealerships and building material and supply stores.



# Retail Leakage Analysis

This graph displays retail market opportunities for the Sphere of Influence by category based on existing retail leakage. A positive value indicates leakage of a retail opportunity outside the area, as it represents retail potential being larger than retail sales. The categories with the biggest leaks (where the most money is spent outside the Sphere of Influence) are the following: Gasoline Stations and General Merchandise Stores.

While this data can reveal opportunities for new businesses, it should serve only as a starting point and does not guarantee a “sure thing.”



# Retail

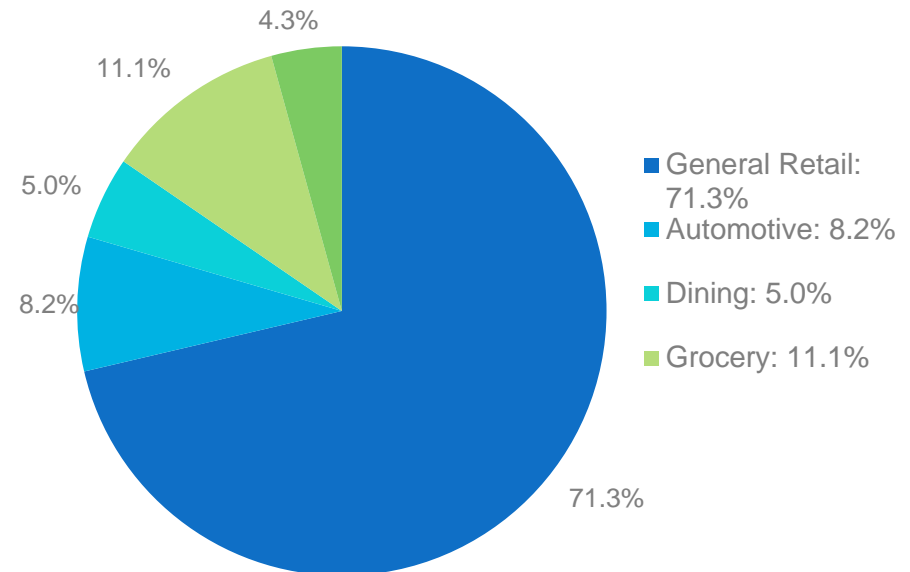
## *Sphere of Influence Inventory*

Based on tax parcel data, there is approximately 3.35 million square feet classified as retail in the Sphere of Influence.

A majority, 71.3%, of the square footage is General Retail. Grocery uses make up the second largest share at 11.1%, followed by Automotive uses at 8.2%.

The commercial property containing the most square footage is Joe Gibbs Racing on Reese Boulevard, followed by the Walmart Supercenter on Bryton Town Center Drive.

Retail Square Feet by Use Type, Sphere of Influence, 2019



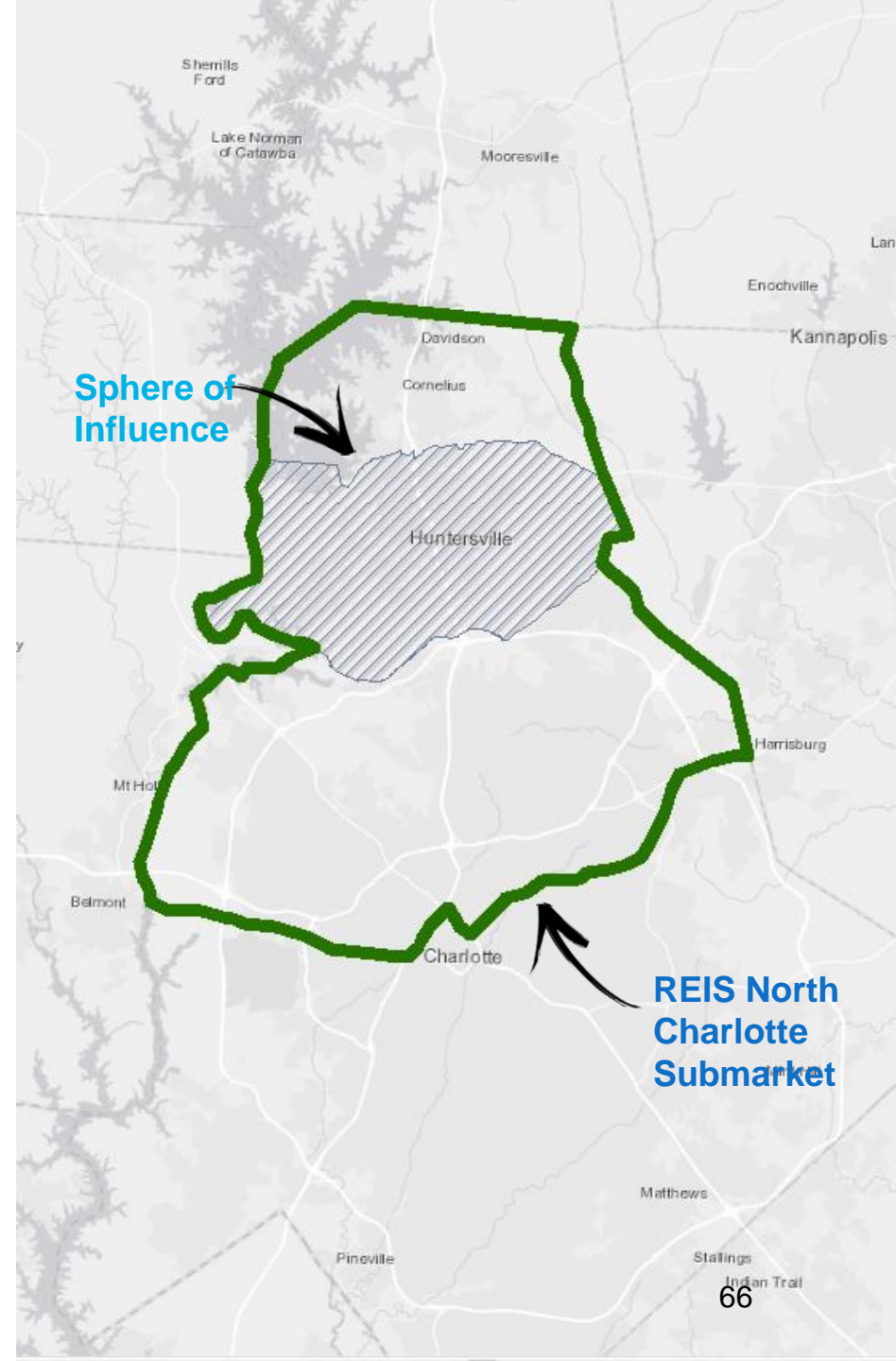


# Retail

## *REIS Submarket*

Retail performance trends are provided for the North Submarket, as detailed trend information is not available for the custom-defined Sphere of Influence. The North Submarket is bounded by the Mecklenburg County boundary to the west, north, and east.

The southern boundary includes NC 16, Central Ave, The Plaza, US 74, and US 21. It encompasses the entirety of the Sphere of Influence. This submarket is consistent for office and industrial trends, as provided later in the summary.



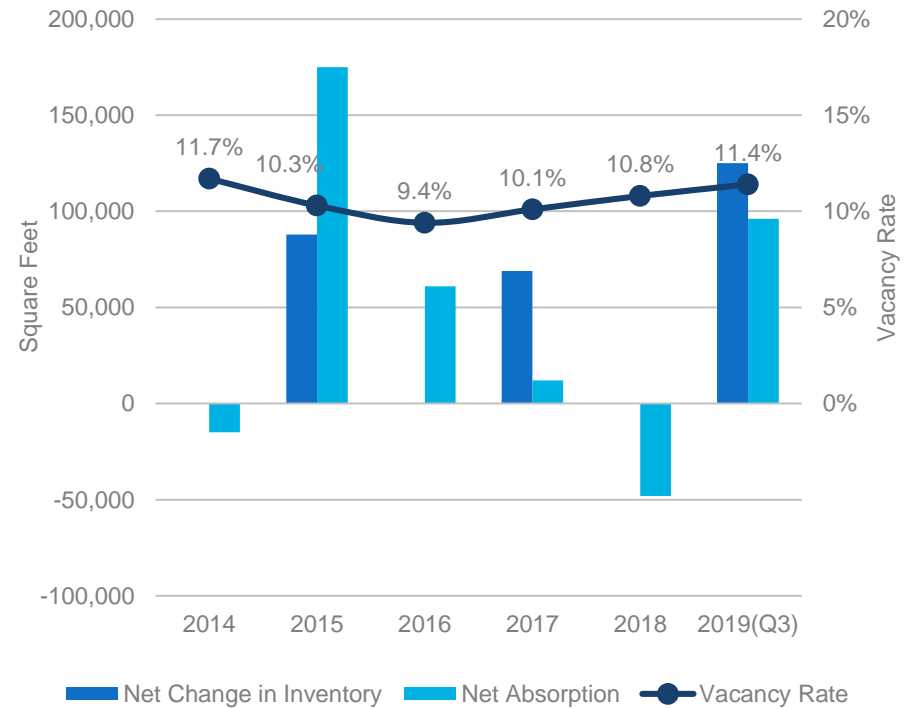
# Retail

## Submarket Performance (Vacancy)

The vacancy rate in the Submarket was estimated at 11.6% as of third-quarter 2019. This measure is higher than the 9.4% vacancy rate reported for the entire Charlotte market. Metrics presented in this graph focus on multi-tenant retail spaces in centers over 15,000 square feet. Free-standing, often owner-occupied spaces, are excluded from the analysis.

Net absorption (demand) and new deliveries (supply) have not followed a predictable pattern in the last five years. In fact, in two of the years, net absorption was negative, indicating that more retailers moved out of their spaces than moved in. Overall, however, the supply and demand have been balanced recently, with only a minor 1,000-square-foot over supply since 2014.

Retail Performance Trends, North Submarket, 2014-2019



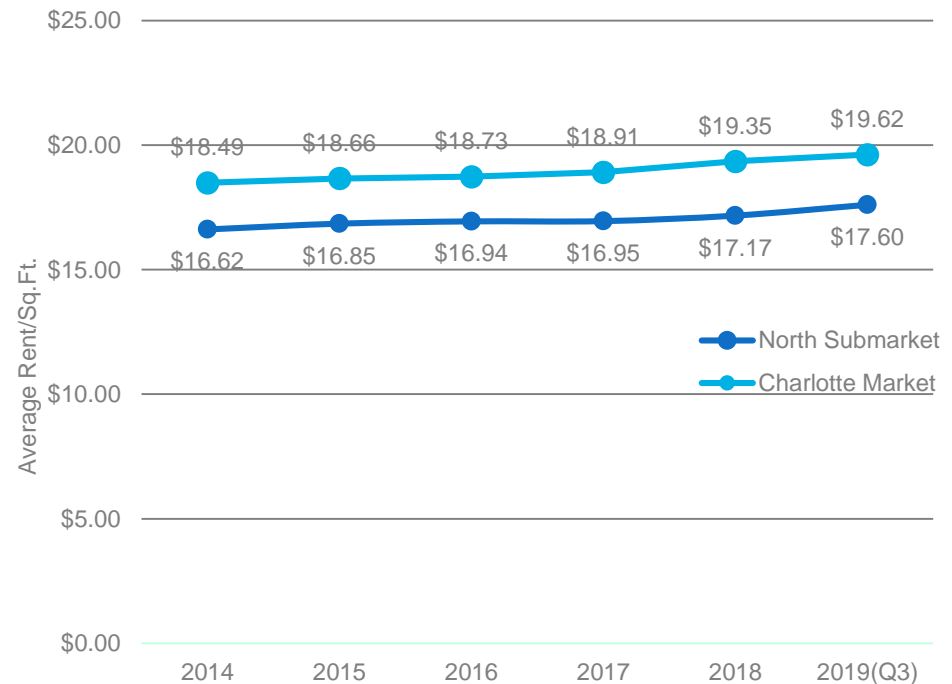
# Retail

## Submarket Performance (Rents)

The average rent per square foot for multi-tenant retail space in the North Submarket was \$17.60 in third-quarter 2019. This measure represents a 5.9% increase from 2014.

In comparison, the greater Charlotte market has an 11.5% higher average lease rate of \$19.62 per square foot. During the last five years, retail space in the Charlotte market experienced a 6.1% increase in average lease rates, comparable to the North Submarket.

Comparison of Retail Rent Trends, 2014-2019



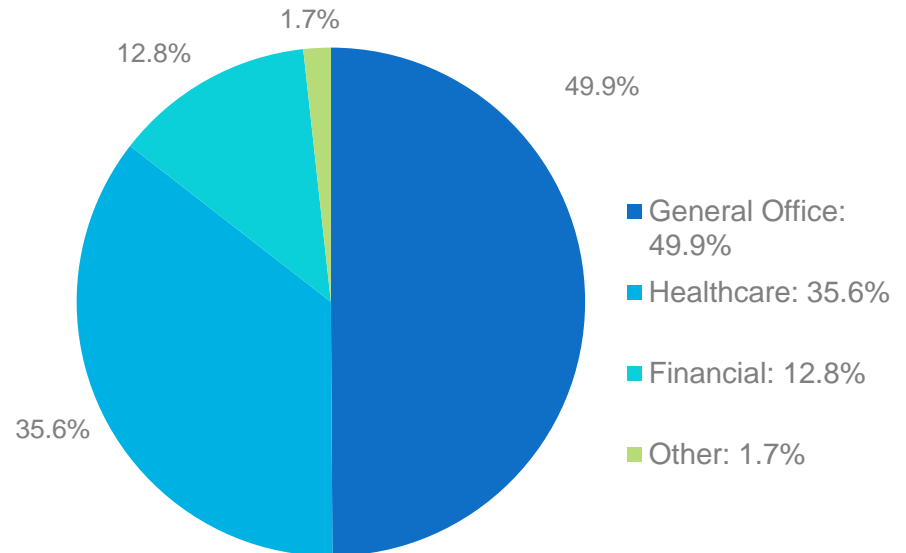
# Office

## *Sphere of Influence Inventory*

The Sphere of Influence contains approximately 3.27 million square feet of office space. Nearly half of the office space in the Sphere of Influence is classified as General Office, with Healthcare uses comprising another 35.6% of all office space.

Office properties with the largest square footage are primarily Healthcare-related, including the Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center, Ensemble Health Partners headquarters, and Atrium Health Huntersville outpatient facility.

Office Square Feet by Use Type, Sphere of Influence, 2019

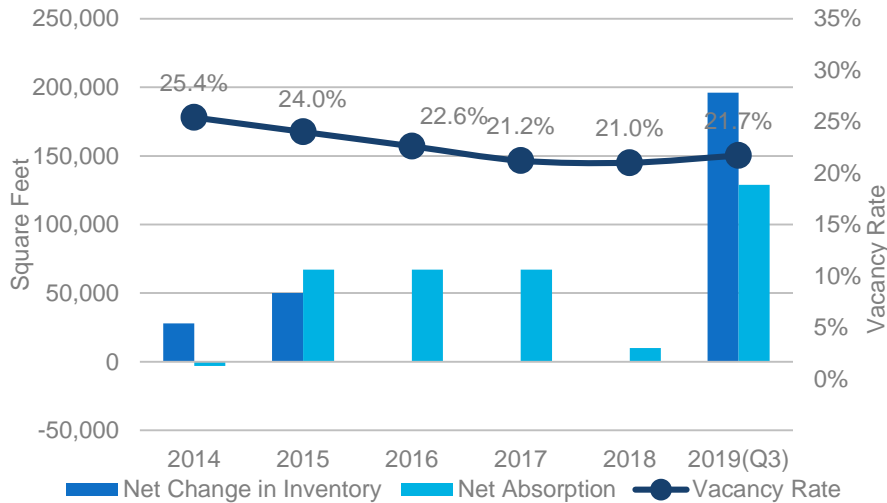




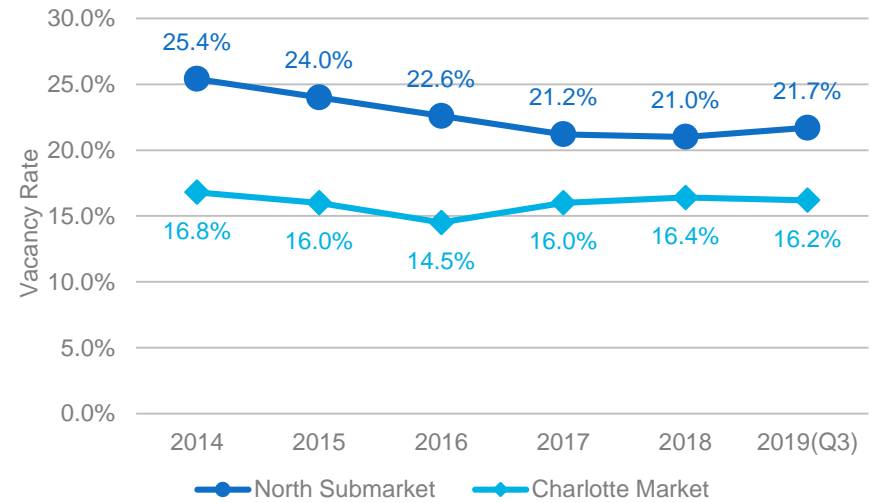
# Office

## Submarket Performance (Vacancy)

### Office Performance Trends, North Submarket, 2014-2019



### Comparison of Office Vacancy Rate Trends, 2014-2019



Like retail, office trends are based on the North Submarket. Approximately 196,000 square feet of office space has been completed in the first three quarters of 2019. No new office space delivered between 2016 and 2018 in the Submarket. The North Submarket measured an undersupply of 63,000 square feet as demand outpaced supply.

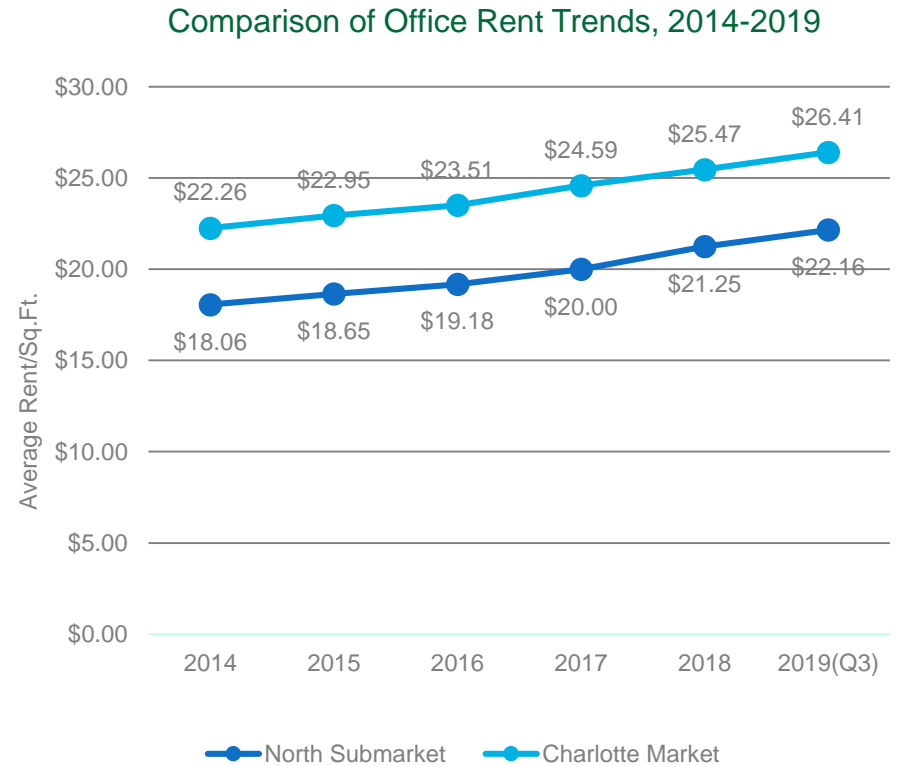
When compared to the larger Charlotte market, the Submarket's office vacancy rates are notably higher. In third-quarter 2019, the Submarket's 21.7% vacancy rate was 550 basis points higher than the Charlotte market. Vacancy had steadily been declining in the Submarket before an uptick in 2019 that coincided with the delivery of new space.

# Office

## Submarket Performance (Rents)

The average rent per square foot for multi-tenant office space in the North Submarket was \$22.10 in third-quarter 2019. This measure represents a 22.4% increase from 2014.

In comparison, the greater Charlotte market has an 19.5% higher average lease rate of \$26.41 per square foot. During the last five years, retail space in the Charlotte market experienced a 18.6% increase in average lease rates. The higher average price point for the Charlotte market is driven by the concentration of Class A office space in and near downtown Charlotte, which generates a notable premium.



# Industrial

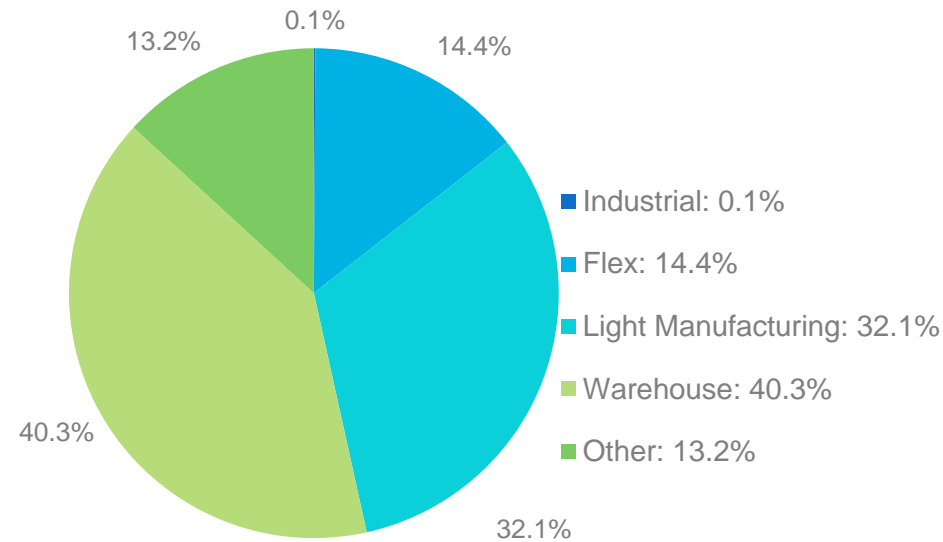
## *Sphere of Influence Inventory*

There is approximately 6.4 million square feet of space classified as industrial uses in the Sphere of Influence.

The industrial use type making up the largest share is Warehouse, comprising approximately 40% of all industrial square footage. Light manufacturing is the second most prevalent use type at 32.1%.

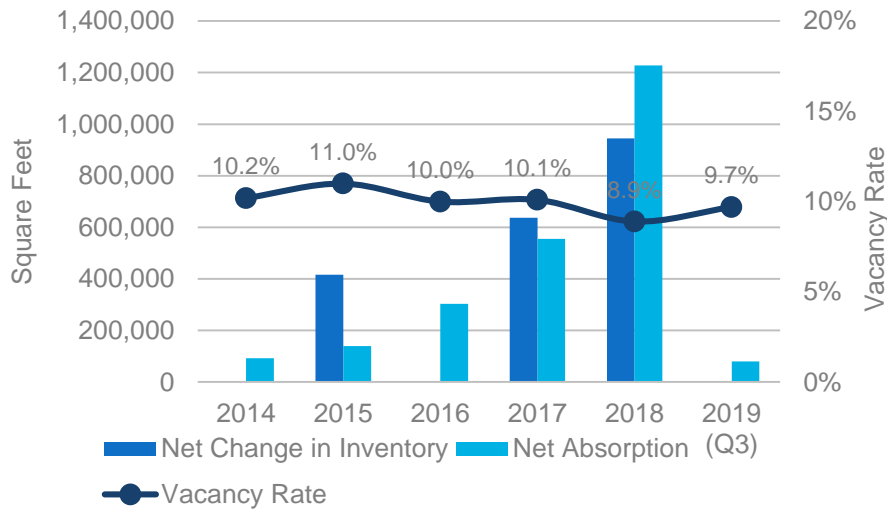
Pactive Corporation operates the two largest industrial facilities in the Sphere of Influence, located on Meacham Farm Drive and Jamesburg Drive.

Industrial Square Feet by Use Type, Sphere of Influence, 2019



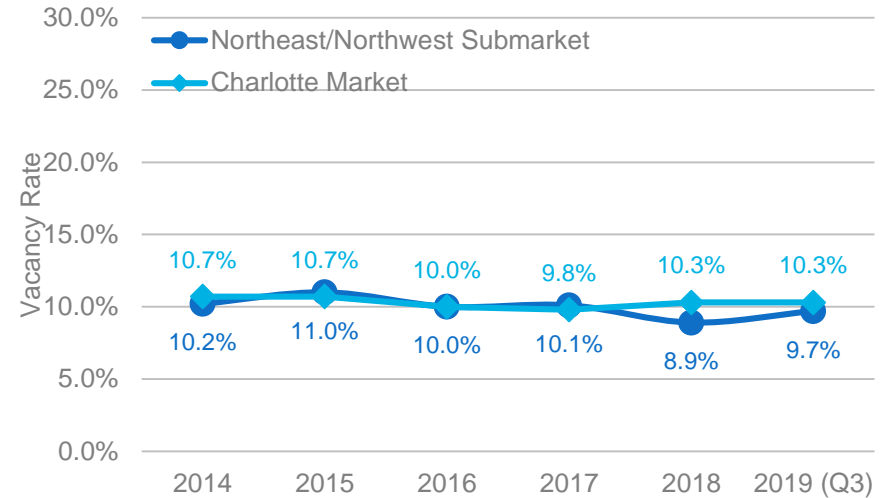
# Industrial Warehouse/Distribution Performance

Warehouse/Distribution Performance Trends, NE/NW Submarket, 2014-2019



Industrial trends are based on the Northeast/Northwest Submarket, which has the same boundaries as REIS' North Retail and Office Submarket. Nearly two million square feet has been completed since 2014. Overall, there has been an undersupply of approximately 400,000 square feet, with demand outpacing supply in four of the six years analyzed.

Comparison of Warehouse/Distribution Vacancy Rate Trends, 2014-2019

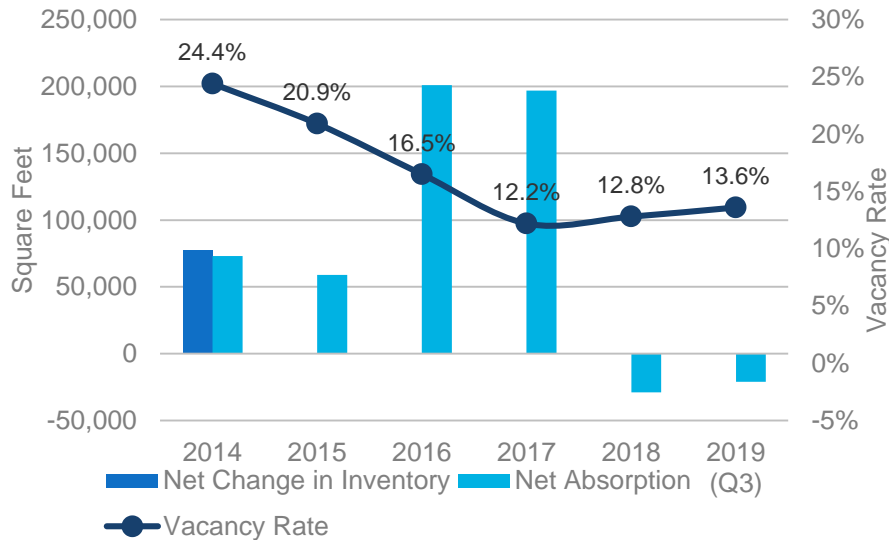


When compared to the larger Charlotte market, the Submarket's warehouse/distribution vacancy rates are very similar. In third-quarter 2019, the Submarket's 9.7% vacancy rate was lower than the 10.3% for the Charlotte market. Both geographies followed a similar pattern over the last five years.



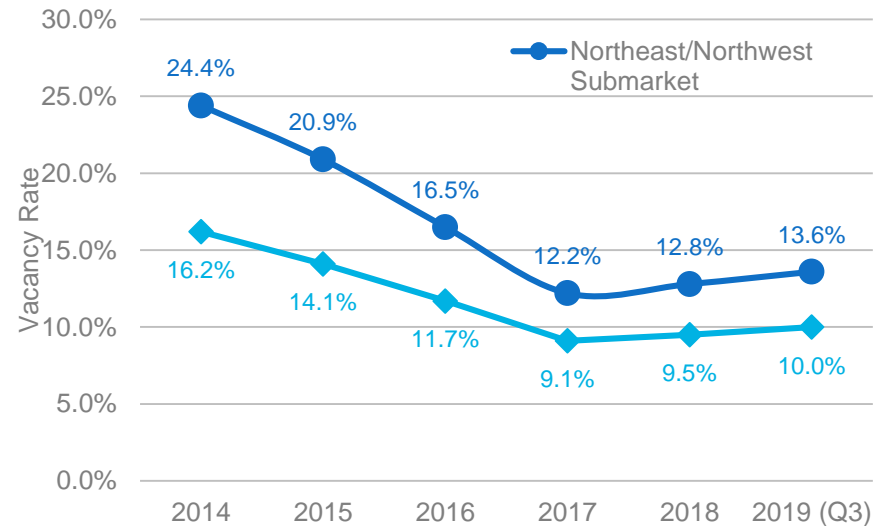
# Industrial Flex/R&D Performance

Flex/R&D Performance Trends,  
NE/NW Submarket, 2014-2019



According to REIS, there has been some flex/R&D space completed in the Submarket since the addition of 78,000 square feet in 2014 but this is not reflected in the data above.

Comparison of Flex/R&D  
Vacancy Rate Trends, 2014-2019



While the Submarket has maintained a higher vacancy rate than the larger Charlotte market, both geographies have followed a similar pattern. After falling from 24.4% in 2014 to 13.6% in 2019, the most recent measure for the Submarket was 360 basis points higher than the Charlotte market.

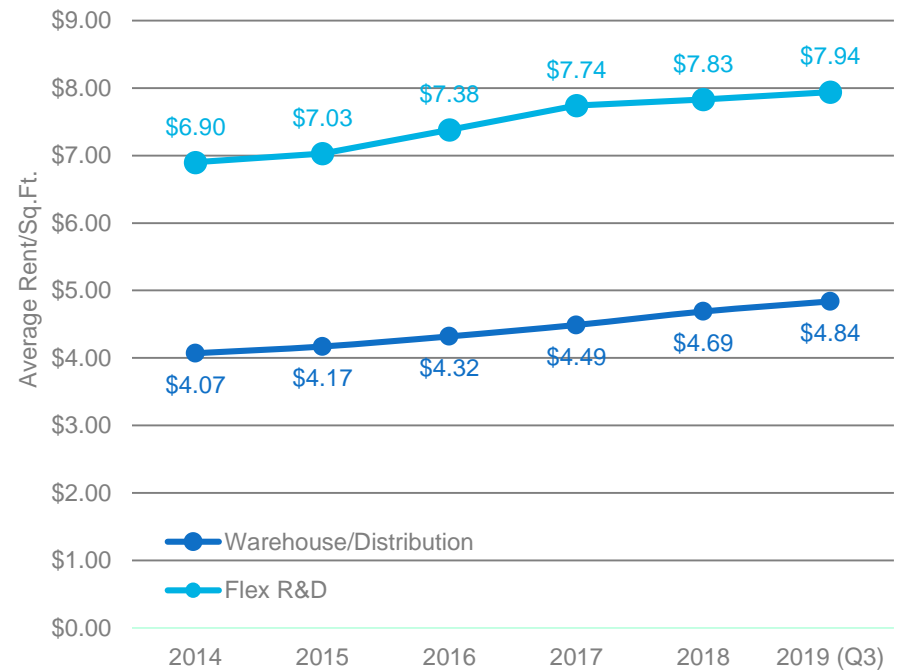
# Industrial

## *Submarket Performance (Rents)*

The average rent per square foot for warehouse/distribution industrial space in the Northeast/Northwest REIS Submarket was \$4.84 in third-quarter 2019, a 18.9% increase from \$4.07 in 2014. The 2019 measure is 1.5% higher than the larger Charlotte market's average rent of \$4.77.

Flex/R&D industrial space lease rates have increased to \$7.94 per square foot, 15.1% more than the \$6.90 measure reported in 2014. The Submarket measures for flex/R&D space have remained consistently lower than the greater Charlotte market, which had an aggregate rent of \$8.42 per square foot in third-quarter 2019.

Comparison of Industrial Rent Trends, Northeast/Northwest Submarket, 2014-2019



# Economic Development Strengths and Weaknesses

## STRENGTHS

- Highly-skilled labor force
- Shovel-ready sites
- Existing base of employers
- Regional connectivity
- Easy access to CLT, I-77 & I-485
- Proximity to Lake Norman

## WEAKNESSES

- Imbalanced tax base
- Traffic congestion
- Major corridors create barriers
- Housing access and affordability
- Lack of access to Lake Norman
- Attracting young talent

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Transportation improvements can mitigate congestion
- Future BRT/transit opportunities
- Strong regional economy (low leakage)

## THREATS

- Regional competitiveness
- Out-commuting of skilled labor
- Build-out of competitive areas
- Maintaining downtown capture