

..... SECTION I: ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Introduction

In 1998, Franklin County received a \$100,000 Federal Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant to improve mitigation planning and disaster preparedness in the county. That grant included \$40,000 for the preparation of this Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan. The preparation of this document began in December, 1998, and was concluded in June, 2000. In February, 1999, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners adopted a citizen participation plan to guide the development of this document. The citizen participation plan is included as Appendix I.

The citizen participation plan specified that a citizen's advisory committee would be established to oversee the preparation of this document. That committee was composed of the following Franklin County citizens: John Ball, Chairman; Sam Solomon, Vice Chairman; Henry Nelms; Johnny Alford; Wendy Laing; Ralph Knott; Lucy Allen; Bill Lord; Mary Jane Jennings; Mackie Rogers; Stephanie Jackson; Tom Eaves; Roger Moulton; Jenny Edwards; and Lynwood Buffaloe.

B. Plan Purpose

The intent of this land use and hazard mitigation plan is to compile an inventory of existing land use patterns and to recommend goals and objectives for future development that are compatible with the general character of the county. This document represents the county's formal policy statements concerning land use and land development. The plan serves as a guide for county officials when they review private development proposals and make decisions on the location of public facilities. The plan also provides a foundation for zoning (N.C.G.S. 160A-383) and subdivision regulations and the capital improvements program, which put the goals and objectives of the land use plan into action.

Preparation of this plan embraces the following mission statement and statements of mission, vision, and values.

Franklin County Mission Statement: To propose land use recommendations which will promote stewardship and enhancement of Franklin County's economic, cultural, natural, and human resources.

Our Vision

1. Consider land and infrastructure realities before recommending public policy.
2. Preserve open spaces and support farming on good farm land.
3. Do not steal the future by allowing construction in wetlands, non-draining land, or land with other hazards.
4. Growth in an environment that will produce quality education, jobs, open spaces, and quality living conditions.
5. To create an environment where there are opportunities for our children and their children. A future where it is not necessary to leave Franklin County in order to realize potential and dreams...jobs, education, open spaces, and pleasant living conditions.

6. Profitable agriculture and forest products industry.
7. A county with thriving and planned communities, industrial parks, planned shopping areas, prosperous farms, and natural areas which afford recreational opportunities for county citizens and refuge from urban congestion, sprawl, and turmoil.

### Our Values

1. Quality of life for all citizens.
2. The soul needs feeding and the beauty of open woods and farms are soul food.
3. Historic buildings hold a unique message and have cultural value. They must be preserved as a part of our heritage.
4. Good health, fairness, and opportunities for all.
5. Clean environment, economic opportunity, and planned residential development.
6. Good living conditions with easy work access, good neighbors, access for good health care facilities, convenient quality shopping opportunities, plenty of open space, and quality schools with adequate buildings.
7. Quality of life...not warehousing.
8. Enabling people/families to be self-sufficient.
9. We believe in community, industry, opportunity, and stewardship of historic and natural resources.

### Our Mission

1. To propose a land use plan that will guide growth and development in a way that will improve the quality of life in Franklin County.
2. Produce a workable land use plan so we may participate in our destiny rather than being victims of outside forces.
3. Provide work opportunities and environment where people who live in Franklin County may choose to work in Franklin County.
4. Preserve the agricultural and natural resources in the county.
5. Encourage appropriate opportunities for small and large businesses to grow in the county.
6. Discourage unnecessary restrictions on businesses and assure that land be zoned for business and industry.
7. Manage growth to enhance and preserve the economic, natural, cultural, historical, and human resources of Franklin County.

### C. History

The Franklin County area has a rich history, beginning well before 1750 with the movement of settlers into the area. Settlements spread along the Tar River, and a travelers' rest at the old Tar River ford became the village of Louisburg. Franklin County, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, was formed in 1779 when the state legislature voted to divide what was then Bute County into what are now Franklin and Warren counties. The legislature also authorized the incorporation of the county seat, Louisburg, which was named in honor of Louis XVI.

Louisburg, the county seat, developed as the regional trade center for the local agricultural economy and is the largest municipality in the county. There are four other incorporated towns in the county: Franklinton, Youngsville, Bunn, and Centerville.

#### D. Regional Setting

Franklin County is located on the northeastern edge of the Piedmont and is bounded by Wake, Granville, Vance, Warren, and Nash counties. Map 1 depicts the regional location. Franklin County's location is a key asset for its future economic development. The region has a network of interstate and other major highways and a trunk railroad system. Interstate 85 to the west and Interstate 95 to the east are the major arteries for truck and passenger traffic. In the county, US 1, US 401, and US 64 provide major highway access. This highway and rail network connects the county with the major market centers of the eastern seaboard as well as the growing Piedmont industrial complex. Major air transportation is less than one hour away at the Raleigh-Durham airport.

Franklin County is close to the state governmental center and the cultural activities located in Raleigh. The education and research resources of the Research Triangle area are also readily available to the citizens and businesses in Franklin County.

#### E. Franklin County Permanent Population

##### **1. Region K, North Carolina, and Franklin County**

North Carolina is divided into 18 regions based on locale for the purpose of coordinating planning efforts between neighboring counties. These designated regions are considered the Council of Governments. Franklin County is in Region K along with Person, Granville, Warren, and Vance counties. It is useful to compare the growth of Franklin County to the other counties within Region K due to their geographic proximity. Table 1 provides a summary of population change and population growth percentages for Region K counties and North Carolina. According to the Office of State Planning, in 1997, Franklin County became the highest populated county within Region K surpassing Vance County which previously held the position in the 1990 Census. Population increases in Franklin County have remained significantly higher than North Carolina state totals and the counties within Region K. From 1970-1997, Franklin County was the only county within Region K to record population percentage increases above the North Carolina state totals. All of the counties within Region K have reported net positive growth between 1970 and 1997, showing an overall increase of 33.5%, compared with a 62.5% increase in Franklin County, and a 46.3% increase for all of North Carolina.

Population growth in Franklin County has accelerated in the '80s and '90s. This has primarily been the result of in-migration from the Wake and Durham county metropolitan areas. Decreasing developable land and increasing housing costs are encouraging people to migrate north to less developed areas. According to the Office of State Planning, in-migration to Franklin County during the '90s has been in excess of 8%. Map 2 provides a summary of population growth in the '90s for all North Carolina counties.

MAP 1 - REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

MAP 2 - POPULATION GROWTH

Table 1  
Franklin County, Region K, and North Carolina  
Total Population and Percentage Changes, 1970-1997

	Total Population				Population Percentage Changes			
	1970	1980	1990	1997	'70-'80	'80-'90	'90-'97	Overall
<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>26,820</b>	<b>29,811</b>	<b>36,414</b>	<b>43,589</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>
Granville County	32,762	33,855	38,341	42,802	3.3%	13.3%	11.6%	30.6%
Person County	26,010	29,164	30,180	32,920	12.1%	3.5%	7.7%	26.6%
Vance County	32,691	36,340	38,892	40,981	11.2%	7.0%	5.4%	25.4%
Warren County	15,340	16,217	17,265	18,140	5.7%	6.5%	5.1%	18.3%
Region K Totals	133,623	145,133	161,092	178,432	8.6%	11.0%	10.8%	33.5%
North Carolina	5,084,411	5,874,429	6,628,637	7,436,689	15.5%	12.8%	12.2%	46.3%

Source: 1997 NC Municipal Population, Office of State Planning.

## 2. Franklin County Municipal Population Growth

Table 2 provides a summary of population growth for Franklin County's municipalities and unincorporated areas between 1990 and 1997. During this period, Franklinton experienced the largest rate of population growth (35.8%), followed by Youngsville (32.5%), Louisburg (15.3%), Centerville (13.9%), and Bunn (12.6%). These incorporated areas experienced a collective growth rate of 22.4% during this period. According to the North Carolina Office of State Planning, in 1997, the incorporated areas accounted for 15.6% of Franklin County's overall population. The unincorporated (rural) population had a slightly lower population growth of 19.2%. For the overall period, 1970 to 1997, Louisburg and Franklinton also had the highest municipal growth rate within the county. However, the county's greatest growth has occurred in its unincorporated or rural areas. From 1970 to 1997, the rural growth rate almost tripled the municipal growth rate.

It appears that during the 1980s, there was a population decrease in several of the county's municipalities. According to the NC Office of State Planning, the incorporated areas of Bunn, Centerville, Louisburg, and Youngsville all experienced decreases in population between 1980-1990. There are two potential explanations for this trend: residents may have moved out of the county's incorporated areas to reside within the county's unincorporated areas (between 1980-1990, Franklin County's unincorporated population increased from 24,087 to 30,859) or the US Census Bureau inaccurately estimated the population of several of the county's municipalities in 1990 (the NC Office of State Planning relies on US Census data for 1970, 1980, and 1990).

Table 2  
Total Population and Overall Percentage Change for  
Municipalities in Franklin County, 1990-1997

	1970	1980	1990	1997	% Change from '90-'97	Overall
Bunn	284	501	364	410	12.6%	44.3%
Centerville	123	137	115	131	13.9%	6.5%
Franklinton	1,459	1,397	1,615	2,194	35.8%	50.3%
Louisburg	2,941	3,199	3,037	3,500	15.2%	19.0%
Youngsville	555	490	424	562	32.5%	1.3%
Incorporated	5,362	5,724	5,555	6,797	22.4%	26.7%
Unincorporated	21,458	24,087	30,859	36,792	19.2%	71.5%
Total Population	26,820	29,811	36,414	43,589	19.4%	62.5%

Source: 1997 NC Municipal Population, Office of State Planning.

The following chart provides data concerning the population distribution of municipalities within Franklin County as well as the unincorporated areas.

Chart 1  
Population Distribution for Franklin County, 1997

\*0% indicates a percentage less than 1%.

### 3. Franklin County Population Profile

Table 3 provides the age composition for Franklin County and North Carolina in 1998. It is useful to review this data because it provides an indication of where current and future tax dollars may need to be funneled. Franklin County has an age distribution nearly identical with the state distribution, although in a few age groups the numbers vary slightly. The mean age for the county is 35.6 years, compared with 35.5 years for North Carolina. When looking at age distribution, it is common to divide the population into three primary age groups. The 0-17 age group comprises the school age population making up 25% of Franklin County, while the eligible working class (18-64) makes up 63%, and the retired/elderly population comprises 13%. During recent decades, the retirement age population has steadily increased, rising from approximately 8% of the total population to the 1998 level of 13%. These figures are also consistent with North Carolina's overall population distribution.

Table 3  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Age Composition, 1998

	Franklin County		North Carolina	
	Total	Percent of Total Population	Total	Percent of Total Population
0 to 17 years	10,862	24.5%	1,828,513	24.2%
18 to 34 years	10,952	24.6%	1,888,370	25.1%
35 to 54 years	13,078	29.4%	2,187,741	29.0%
55 to 64 years	3,983	9.0%	681,047	9.0%
65 to 74 years	3,088	6.9%	536,842	7.1%
75 years and over	2,475	5.6%	424,577	5.6%
Total Population	44,438	100.0%	7,547,090	100.0%
Mean Age	35.6		35.5	

Source: Office of State Planning, State Demographics, 1998.

Table 4 provides a summary of educational attainment for Franklin County and a comparison to North Carolina as a whole. Franklin County's education attainment is generally comparable to that of the state as a whole.

Table 4  
Franklin County  
Summary of Educational Attainment, 1990  
(Based on Persons Age 25 and Over)

	Franklin County		North Carolina	
	Total	Percent of Population >25 yrs.	Total	Percent of Population >25 yrs.
Less than Ninth Grade	4,013	17%	539,974	13%
Ninth to Twelfth Grade, No Diploma	4,890	21%	737,773	17%
High School Graduate	7,817	33%	1,232,868	29%
Some College, No Degree	3,035	13%	713,713	17%
Associate Degree	1,740	7%	290,117	7%
Bachelor's Degree	1,600	7%	510,003	12%
Graduate/Professional Degree	586	2%	229,046	5%

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project.

When engaging in planning activities, it is important to have knowledge of the racial composition of the jurisdiction so that all segments of the population are considered. In the 1990 Census, Franklin County's population was 64% white and 35% black. The county's black population is significantly higher than the state's 22% black population. The remaining population is composed of: American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut (.28%); Asian or Pacific Islander (.17%); Hispanic origin (any race)<sup>1</sup> (.38%); and other race (.08%). Franklin County's male:female ratio is nearly even, consisting of 48% male and 52% female. In 1998, the county's racial composition was 68% white and 32% all other races.

Table 5  
Franklin County  
Racial Composition, 1990 and 1998

	Franklin County		North Carolina	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
<b>Racial Composition 1990</b>				
White	23,346	64%	5,011,248	76%
Black	12,877	35%	1,455,340	22%

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<sup>1</sup>Persons of Hispanic origin are those who classified themselves as "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban"—as well as those who indicated that they were of "other Spanish/Hispanic" origin on the U.S. Census.

	Franklin County		North Carolina	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	101	<1%	82,606	1%
Asian, or Pacific Islander	61	<1%	50,395	1%
Hispanic (any race)	138	<1%	69,020	1%
Other Race	29	<1%	29,048	<1%
Total Population 1990	36,552	100%	6,697,657	100%

**Racial Composition 1998**

White	30,193	68%	5,725,968	76%
All Other Races	14,245	32%	1,821,122	24%
Total Population 1998	44,438	100%	7,547,090	100%
Male	21,378	48%	3,659,249	48%
Female	23,060	52%	3,887,841	52%

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project and Office of State Planning, 1998.

F. Employment and Economy

1. **Introduction**

Over the past ten years, the state of Franklin County’s economy may be described as middle of the pack when compared to the economies of all of the state’s counties. According to the Economic Development Yearbook for North Carolina, produced by Problem-Solving Research, Inc., Franklin County received a rank of 52 out of 100 North Carolina counties in terms of economic growth and development between the years 1984-1994. The following provides a summary, as stated in the Economic Development Yearbook, of the methodology used to arrive at the composite rankings found in Table 6.

“The Composite Rankings were created to compare the characteristics of growth between the 100 counties in North Carolina. Three rankings are provided. The one year ranking provides a short-term picture of growth. It consists of an overview of the present health of the county coupled with the county’s 1993-1994 economic performance. The five year ranking provides a mid-term view of economic development. Like the one year ranking, it assesses the present health of the county but couples the assessment with the county’s 1989-1994 economic variation. The ten year index provides a long-term view of growth. This final measure assesses the present health of the county with the county’s 1984-1994 growth and development.

The Composite Ranking of Economic Development is a broadly defined measure of relative economic well-being. Its construction has two major parts. First, it is composed of four measures that describe the economic health of an area at a particular point in time. Each of these components provides a unique gauge of the county's most recent annual economic health. Second, the ranking is composed of five measures of economic change. Thus, the Composite Ranking considers the present well-being of the county and how the local economy has improved from one point to the next.

The nine components of the Composite Ranking are arranged according to five general areas:

#### **ABILITY TO CREATE JOBS**

- **Change in Employment** measures the area's ability to create jobs.

#### **ABILITY TO EARN AN ADEQUATE INCOME**

- **Per Capita Income** measures the level of income from the wages & salaries and other forms of income generating activity (such as investments and owner profit).
- **Change in Per Capita Income** demonstrates the increase in income between two points in time. Although this measure is correlated with the growth in jobs, a pace of change in per capita income that lags the pace of job growth implies that the area is adding lower paying jobs.

#### **ABILITY TO KEEP THE LOCAL LABOR FORCE EMPLOYED**

- **Unemployment Rate** measures the percentage of the population that is willing to work but is unable to obtain employment.
- **Change in the Unemployment Rate** measures the improvement in an individual's ability to find work from one period to the next.

#### **ABILITY TO ATTRACT INCOME FROM OTHER REGIONS**

- **Per Capita Retail Sales** measures the ability of an area to attract persons to a county to shop and play, thereby demonstrating the regional importance of a local area.
- **Change in Per Capita Retail Sales** measures how the relative attractiveness of an area for shopping and play has changed over time.

#### **ABILITY TO REDUCE POVERTY**

- **Per Capita Food Stamp Recipients** serve as a proxy for a poverty index. It shows the relative number of persons that are unable to adequately support themselves or their families.
- **Change in Per Capita Food Stamp Recipients** shows how the level of poverty has changed over time.

The Composite Rankings are created by assigning equal weights to the nine components of development. First, the measure's nine components are computed for each county in North Carolina. Second, within each component the counties are ranked from most positive to most negative and assigned a ranking from 1 to 100. The average of the nine rankings is tabulated and ranked from top to bottom. The Composite Ranking is this final result."

The Composite Rankings for the five Region K counties, as found in the Economic Development Yearbook, have been included in Table 6.

Table 6  
Franklin County and Region K  
Composite Ranking of Economic Development, 1995

	One Year (‘93-‘94)	Five Year (‘89-‘94)	Ten Year (‘84-‘94)
Person County	37	24	21
Granville County	81	36	56
Warren County	93	99	97
Vance County	85	86	66
Franklin County	69	48	52

Source: The Economic Development Yearbook for North Carolina, 1995.

In addition, the following data provides some insight into the 1970-1990 economic conditions in Franklin County:

Manufacturing Employment as a Percent of Total	1970: 23.2% 1990: 21.4%
Total Employment Average Annual Rate of Growth	1970-1990: 0.43% (Ranked 90 in state counties)
Income Per Capita Rank Among State Counties	1970: 65 1990: 88

## 2. General Economic Indicators

Table 7 below provides a summary of economic indicators for Franklin County and the State of North Carolina. Due to the lack of available data, the figures provided in Table 7 are from several different years. Franklin County averages fell slightly below the state totals in nearly every category. These figures are reflective of Franklin County’s overall state rankings in the Economic Development Yearbook. Franklin County did show a slightly higher percentage of persons in the labor force than was recorded for North Carolina.

Table 7  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Summary of Economic Indicators, 1997

	Year*	Franklin County	North Carolina
Per Capita Income <sup>1</sup>	1995	\$17,052	\$18,521
Unemployment Rate <sup>1</sup>	1997	3.3%	3.6%
Average Annual Wage <sup>1</sup>	1996	\$21,781	\$25,283
% Population in Labor Force <sup>1</sup>	1997	50.8%	50.1%
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	1995	\$31,267	\$33,634

\*Indicates the year that the data was compiled.

Source: 1) North Carolina Department of Commerce; 2) U.S. Census Bureau.

### 3. Household Income

Household income is an effective way to evaluate the overall wealth of an area. Table 8 provides the number of individuals within varying income brackets, and how these figures compare to state averages. Franklin County's population is predominantly low income, with 34% of the households maintaining an income of less than \$20,000. However, the county's 1990 median household income is \$2,367 less than the state's.

Table 8  
Franklin County  
Household Income, 1998

	Totals	Franklin County % of Total
Less than \$10,000	2,770	17%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	2,910	17%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	2,750	17%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	3,130	19%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	2,140	13%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	1,300	8%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	860	5%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	430	1%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	100	1%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	30	1%
\$150,000 or more	140	1%
Total Households	16,560	100%

Source: 1998 Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., Washington, DC.

### 4. Employment By Industry

Table 9 provides a summary of employment by industry in Franklin County for those persons 16 years old and older. The leading employment industries are Services (30%) and Manufacturing (27%). The industries with the least employment are Mining (<1%) and Communication and Utilities (2%).

Table 9  
Franklin County  
Employment by Industry, 1998

Industry	# Employed	Percentage (%)
Employed Persons 16+ years (% base)	24,095	100.00%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	948	3.93%
Mining	47	0.20%
Construction	1,870	7.76%
Manufacturing	6,550	27.19%
Transportation	644	2.67%
Communication and Utilities	451	1.87%
Wholesale Trade	863	3.58%
Retail Trade	3,258	13.52%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1,053	4.37%
Services	7,229	30.00%
Public Administrations	1,182	4.91%

Source: American Community Network, 1999.

Chart 2 provides an indication of the percent of employment by specific industry type within Franklin County.

Chart 2  
Employment By Industry, 1998

Several employment changes having occurred in the last 20 years should be noted. In 1970, agricultural employment accounted for 18.3% of the county's total employment. By 1998, this had decreased to 4.55%. The decline of agriculture has been a significant factor in Franklin County. In addition, in 1979, manufacturing comprised 40.1% of total employment. This had decreased to 29.8% in 1999.

It should be noted that the agriculture/forestry and fisheries employment data that has been provided can be somewhat misleading because the figures reflect only insured employment and do not include many seasonal, migratory workers. Although the exact number of individuals employed in these industries is unknown, the data does indicate a definite and substantial decrease in the number of people employed by this sector. However, agriculture and forestry operations remain significant contributors to the county's economy. Table 10 provides a summary of agricultural data for Franklin County.

Table 10  
Franklin County Agriculture

<b>CROPS - 1997</b>	<b>Acres Harv.</b>	<b>Yield</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>County Rank**</b>
Tobacco, lbs.	7,650	2,300	17,614,000	16
Cotton, 480 lb. bales	*	*	*	*
Soybeans, Bu.	14,500	24	345,000	31
Corn, Bu.	800	76	61,000	75
Corn for Silage, Tons	600	13	8,000	33
Peanuts, lbs.	*	*	*	*
Small Grains:				
Wheat, Bu.	9,700	51	491,000	23
Barley, Bu.	550	53	29,000	18
Oats, Bu.	440	75	33,000	15
Sweet Potatoes, Cwt.	100	125	12,300	20
Irish Potatoes, Cwt.	*	*	*	*
All Hay, Tons	6,300	1.67	10,500	45
Sorghum, Bu.	100	52	5,200	28
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>		<b>Number</b>		<b>Rank</b>
Hogs and Pigs (Dec. 1, 1997)		12,000		43
Cattle (Jan. 1, 1998)		14,500		29
Beef Cows (Jan. 1, 1998)		5,800		32
Milk Cows (Jan. 1, 1998)		*		*
Broilers Produced (1997)		4,000,000		31

Turkeys Raised (1997)	*	*
All Chickens (Dec. 1, 1997)	425,000	13

<b>CASH RECEIPTS - 1996</b>	<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Livestock	\$21,896,000	40
Crops	\$33,820,000	32
Total	\$55,716,000	43

**CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - 1992**

Number of Farms	549
Total Land in Farms, Acres	118,291
Average Farm Size, Acres	215
Harvested Cropland, Acres	37,876
Average Age of Farmers	54
Average Value of Farm and Buildings	\$295,966
Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment	\$27,205,000
Total Farm Production Expense	\$37,271,000

Note: There are also a significant number of horses in Franklin County. According to the NC Agricultural Statistics Service, there were approximately 1,900 horses kept in the county in 1996 with an estimated value of \$7.9 million.

Entries designated with an asterisk (\*) were not published if there were fewer than 50 harvested acres of a specific crop, 500 hogs, 200 beef or milk cows, 500 total cattle, 200,000 broilers, 300,000 turkeys, or 5,000 chickens in the county.

\*\*Ranked out of 100 North Carolina Counties.

Source: NC Department of Agriculture.

Franklin County's forests are among its most valuable natural resources, not only in terms of their beauty, their importance to environmental health and wildlife habitat, but also in terms of their contribution to the county's economy. Table 11 provides a summary of forestry statistics for Region K counties.

As indicated in Table 11, Franklin County has the second largest number of acres in forests among Region K counties. However, Franklin County is the leading Region K county, by a significant margin, in value of Timber Harvested.

Table 11  
North Carolina Forestry Statistics  
Region K Counties

County	Total	Land (Acres)				Value of Timber Harvested (\$1,000)	Employment		Payroll	
		Forest	Government Owned	Forest Industry Owned	Privately Owned		Forest Products Industry (\$1,000)	Total Manufacturing Industry (\$1,000)	Forest Products Industry (\$1,000)	Total Manufacturing Industry (\$1,000)
Franklin County	316,403	191,027	203	8,596	182,228	17,585	807*	2,042	18,873*	54,892
Granville County	339,745	225,121	12,675	6,874	205,572	11,476	748**	6,318	16,752**	163,495
Person County	252,533	149,798	685	6,685	142,428	6,290	543	5,200	13,971	125,904
Vance County	159,226	102,275	9,322	3,417	89,536	10,272	670	5,735	13,265	115,542
Warren County	273,344	195,445	1,008	33,321	161,116	20,727	559*	1,262	9,457*	22,365

\*Does not include paper due to data suppression.

\*\*Does not include furniture due to data suppression.

Source: North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, 1996.

## 5. Earnings By Industry

Table 12 gives an overview of the total earnings by industry within Franklin County. Manufacturing has been a strong contributor to the county's economy, making up 24% of total earnings. Other top industries include Services (22.3%) and Retail Trade (11.5%). Franklin County has experienced a significantly higher (5.9%) percentage of earnings in the farm industry than North Carolina (1.9%). State and local government earnings in Franklin County have also been higher (18.3%) than North Carolina averages (12.0%).

Table 12  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Total Earnings by Industry (\$ Millions), 1992\*

Industry	Franklin County		North Carolina
	Total by Industry (\$ Millions)	% of Total Earnings	% of Total Earnings for State
Farm	7.91	5.9%	1.9%
Agricultural Service	1.66	1.2%	0.6%
Mining	0.41	0.3%	0.2%
Construction	7.41	5.5%	6.0%
Manufacturing	33.55	24.9%	26.0%
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	4.12	5.1%	6.9%
Wholesale Trade	3.93	2.9%	6.3%
Retail Trade	15.57	11.5%	9.9%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	3.22	2.4%	4.7%
Services	30.13	22.3%	20.0%
State and Local Government	24.71	18.3%	12.0%

Source: Woods and Poole CEDDS, 1992.

## 6. Industries

Franklin County has a strong and diversified base of industries. Table 13 provides a summary of the major industrial employers located throughout Franklin County.

Table 13  
Franklin County  
Industries, 1998

Company	Product	Approximate # of Employees
A & B Trailer Manufacturing, Inc.	Custom made trailers	7
Americal Corporation	Textiles (hosiery)	70
Arbor Recycling Equipment Co.	Dealer for chippers, stump grinders, etc.	11
Arch Aluminum & Glass	Commercial storefront glass	60
Ar-Co Metal Technology, Inc.	Aluminum & stainless steel mig & tig welding, fabrication	
Bandag, Inc.	Tread rubber	17
Bespak	Medical/pharmaceutical plastic injection molding	40
Boston Gear	Speed reducers	110
Briggs Sawmill & Co.	Lumber products (hardwood)	20
Brown & Gupton Co., Inc.	Lumber products, pulpwood	7
BSC	Custom office furn. & office systems	12
Bunn Hardwoods	Lumber products	17
C & G Printing Co.	Offset printing, typesetting, plastic, & staple bindery	2
C Soft	Point-of-sale software	40
Cal-Maine Foods	Egg processor	60
Canal Wood Corporation	Wood dealer, buyer of timber	3
Captive-Aire Systems	Stainless steel restaurant ventilation & fire suppressant equipment	225
Carolina Builders Corporation	Building materials, millwork	20
Circuit Board Assemblers	Computer circuit boards	105
Container Systems, Inc.	Customized shipping containers	75
Cranford Dimension, L.L.C.	Wood products	12
Diazit Company, Inc.	Blueprint equipment, file cabinets, scrolling motion displays	40

Company	Product	Approximate # of Employees
East Coast Electrical Equipment Co.	Electric motors, controls, switchgear, transformers, etc.	5
Electric Power Systems	Electrical transformers	4
EMC	Test electronic equipment for regulatory EMC compliance	4
Enertia Building Systems, Inc.	Solid log buildings & pre-cut solar homes	2
European Woodworking Machinery Co.	Woodworking Machinery Sales and Service	23
Five Star Mfg., Inc.	Street sweepers	14
Four Seasons Apparel Company	Textiles, contract sewing	35
Franklin Regional Medical Center	Hospital	221
Franklin Times	Newspaper publishing	25
Franklin Veneers, Inc.	Wood veneers	60
Harborlite Corporation	Perlite filteraid manufacturer	13
Hon Company, The	Office furniture & systems	226
ICL Retail Systems	Point-of-sale software	120
INCO Industrial Contractors	General mechanical contractor	4
Joyner Mfg. Co.	Furniture components	106
Katesville Pallet Mill	Wooden shipping pallets	33
Lawson Mardon Wheaton	Plastic containers	90
Majestic Marble & Glass Co.	Solid surface countertops, shower enclosures, mirrors, bath accessories	50
Murphy House Barbecue	Food products	20
Nomaco, Inc.	Foam products	125
North State Steel	Structural steel engineering, fabrication	11
Novo Nordisk BioChem North America, Inc.	Food & industrial-grade enzymes	330
P & R Environmental Inds.	Plastic bottle recycling	100
Power Distribution Services, Inc.	Services and remanufacturers electrical equipment	4
Pruitt Lumber Co.	Lumber products	25
Ran-Paige Company, Inc.	Fabricated assemblies and their components	85
Ready-Mixed Concrete Co.	Ready-mixed concrete	5

Company	Product	Approximate # of Employees
Roberts Meeks & Kirk	Electrical representative	12
Scotts-Earthgro	Bark products	20
Sewing Source, The	Textile (contract sewing)	10
Shoffner Industries	Wooden trusses	50
Sirchie Group, The	Law enforcement equipment	125
Southern Lithoplate	Lithographic plates for printing ind.	101
Southern Rigging & Erection, Inc.	Steel erection, crane rentals	35
Sprint, Mid-Atlantic Operations	Telecommunications	449
Sprint, Mid-Atlantic Operations	Telecommunications	100
Sprint, Mid-Atlantic Operations	Telecommunications	10
Steel Dynamics, Inc.	Contractor, steel construction	31
Stone Container, Inc.	Warehouse for finished goods	1
Ted's Cabinets and Millwork	Custom wooden cabinets & kitchen doors	2
Toney Lumber Co.	Lumber products	70
Van-Allen Steel Co.	Structural steel fabrication; beams & trusses	11
Wammock Furniture, Inc.	Aluminum & wood utility buildings; pine household & outdoor furn.	17
Washington Specialty Metals	Stainless steel sheet distribution	10
Welsh Paper Co.	Paper & packaging products distributor	45
	Total	3,792

Source: Franklin County Economic Development Commission.

The top five employers in Franklin County are: Sprint, Mid-Atlantic Operations (449); Novo Nordisk BioChem North America (330); The Hon Company (226); Captive-Aire Systems (225); and Franklin Regional Medical Center (221).

The following provides an indication of the rate at which development is taking place within the county. Between 1994 and February, 1999, the county has averaged 15.2 new commercial structures and 2.5 industrial structures per year. The cost of construction has averaged \$2,216,466 for commercial structures and \$813,989 for industrial structures. It should be noted that no industrial development took place during 1998.

Table 14  
Franklin County  
Commercial and Industrial Building Permit Activity, 1994-1999

Year	Commercial		Industrial	
	Permits Issued	Value	Permits Issued	Value
1994	8	\$567,734	1	\$90,000
1995	14	\$1,367,457	4	\$906,960
1996	26	\$4,652,694	2	\$1,525,000
1997	17	\$2,756,385	7	\$2,195,457
1998	22	\$3,729,026	0	\$0
1999*	4	\$225,500	1	\$166,519

\*1999 data was only recorded through February.

Source: Franklin County Department of Planning and Development.

A significant portion of the industrial development that is currently occurring in the county is taking place in the county's industrial parks (Franklin Park Industrial Center, Youngsville Commerce Center, and Youngsville Commerce Center South) and along US 1. Recent industrial relocations and expansions include: Arch Aluminum, Southern Lithoplate, Novo Nordisk, Nomaco, and Sirchie Fingerprint Labs.

Industrial and commercial development trends will be discussed further under the existing land use section of this plan.

In 1990, approximately 58% of Franklin County's employed residents worked outside the county. This fact is reflected in the average travel time to work for Franklin County residents, 27 minutes. Table 15 provides a summary of the length of time it took Franklin County residents to get to work in 1990.

Table 15  
Franklin County Travel Time to Work  
Workers 16 Years and Over Who Did Not Work at Home, 1990

Travel Time (Minutes)	Totals	Percentage
<5	529	3%
5 to 9	1,658	10%
10 to 14	1,737	10%
15 to 19	2,234	13%
20 to 24	1,930	12%
25 to 29	918	5%
30 to 34	2,616	16%
35 to 39	704	4%
40 to 44	919	6%
45 to 59	2,451	15%
60 to 89	909	5%
>90	206	1%
Total workers 16 years and over not working at home	16,811	100%
Worked at home	441	

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project.

Average travel times to work and the percentage of individuals who have secured employment outside of Franklin County are indicative of the heavy reliance on Wake County's employment opportunities. It is likely that with the growth that has occurred in Franklin County and the construction taking place along US 401 to Raleigh, travel times for many of the county's residents have increased.

G. Housing

1. **Housing Occupancy and Tenure**

In 1990, Franklin County contained a total of 13,418 dwelling units. Approximately ten percent of these units were vacant. Out of the 90% that were occupied, 68% were owner-occupied and 22% were rental properties. Table 16 provides a summary of housing tenure.

Table 16  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 1990

	Franklin County		North Carolina
	Total	Percent of Total Housing Units	Percent of Total Housing Units
Total Housing Units	13,418	100%	100%
Vacant	1,454	10%	11%
Occupied:	13,053	90%	89%
Owner-Occupied*	10,193	68%	61%
Renter-Occupied*	3,310	22%	29%
Average Monthly Gross Rent	\$314		\$395
Average Owned Home Value	\$60,894		\$79,016

\*Indicates breakdown of occupied household types.  
Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

## 2. Structure Age

Table 17 indicates that in 1990 the median age of structures in Franklin County was 18. In addition, approximately 32% of the county's structures were ten years of age or less. Considering recent increases in residential development as reflected in the county's residential building permit issuance (see Table 19), it is conceivable that Franklin County currently has a larger percentage of its housing stock less than 10 years of age than it did in 1990.

Table 17  
Franklin County  
Housing Structure

Year	Number of Structures	Percentage
1989 to March, 1990	571	4%
1985 to 1988	2,247	15%
1980 to 1984	1,920	13%
1970 to 1979	3,586	24%
1960 to 1969	2,038	13%
1950 to 1959	1,630	11%
1940 to 1949	1,094	7%
1939 or earlier	1,871	13%
Total Structures	14,957	100%
Median Year Structure	1972	

Built

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project.

### 3. Summary of Housing Conditions

Table 18 provides a summary of existing household size, as well as percentage of units lacking general housing needs. The statistics in this table provide a good summary of the condition of the county's housing stock. The following observations can be made:

- Franklin County has extremely low percentages of households on a water system (24%) and public sewer (18.5%) when compared with state averages, 65.4 % and 49.8%, respectively.
- The percentages of houses lacking complete kitchen facilities (4.1%) and complete plumbing (5.8%) are well above the state's percentages of 1.2% and 1.5%, respectively.

Table 18  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Summary of Housing Conditions

	Franklin County	North Carolina
Average rooms per unit	5.4	5.4
Percent with no bedroom	0.1%	0.7%
Percent with 3+ bedrooms	60.6%	57.1%
Percent lacking complete kitchen facilities	4.1%	1.2%
Percent lacking complete plumbing	5.8%	1.5%
Percent on water system	24.0%	65.4%
Percent on public sewer system	18.5%	49.8%

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project.

Chart 3 provides a summary of general housing conditions within Franklin County and a comparison to North Carolina.

Chart 3  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
General Housing Conditions

\*Based on % base of total dwelling units. There were 13,418 units in Franklin County in 1990.

#### **4. Single and Multi-Family Units**

Table 19 provides the number of single-family housing units versus multi-family units and the number of mobile homes in Franklin County. The following key points may be identified in this table:

- Franklin County has the same percentage (65%) of single unit detached housing units as the state.
- Franklin County has a lower (1%) percentage of condominium townhouse units than the state (3%).
- Franklin County has a significantly higher (30%) percentage of mobile homes than found statewide (15%).

Table 19  
Franklin County and North Carolina  
Units in Structure and Mobile Home Count, 1990

Units in Structure*	Franklin County	Granville County	Person County	Vance County	Warren County	Total Region K
Single detached unit	9,668	9,477	9,122	10,597	5,662	44,526
Single attached, including row	135	153	95	98	46	527
2 to 4 units	356	711	705	1,028	80	2,880
5 to 19 units	68	232	271	570	77	1,218
20 units or more	41	70	0	18	0	129
Mobile home or trailer	4,529	3,381	2,182	3,339	2,805	16,236
Other	160	140	173	93	44	610

\*Units in structure refers to units attached to an owner-occupied individually-owned condominium or townhouse unit.

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, PCensus Project.

## 5. Residential Building Permit Activity

Table 20 contains a summary of building permit activity for residential structures during the mid to late nineties. Residential construction activity was fairly steady between 1991 and 1997. Franklin County averaged a total of 265 single-family units, 7 duplex units, and 552 mobile homes per year. It should be noted that no duplex construction took place during the period from July, 1992 to June, 1993. The average annual total single-family construction was \$20,548,157. The average cost per dwelling unit was \$77,540.

Table 20  
Franklin County  
Residential Building Permit Activity, 1991-1997

	Single-Family		Duplex		Mobile Home*	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
7/91-6/92	243	\$15,086,719	7	\$180,000	463	\$7,658,625
7/92-6/93	215	\$13,789,057	0	\$0	439	\$7,732,809
7/93-6/94	282	\$20,705,444	4(26)**	\$750,000	522	\$10,957,786
7/94-6/95	250	\$21,551,174	2	\$230,000	564	\$12,421,502
7/95-6/96	286	\$23,875,249	4	\$183,000	630	\$16,666,676
7/96-6/97	316	\$28,281,299	4	\$315,000	696	\$21,418,374

\*Number of mobile homes represents both new and relocated ones.

\*\*Designates that there are 26 units in 4 buildings.

Source: Franklin County Department of Planning and Development.

The following provides definitions of modular and manufactured homes:

Modular Home: A detached residential dwelling unit designed for transportation after off-site fabrication on flatbed trucks or trailers. At the site, a modular home must be placed on a permanent foundation, heating and cooling system, plumbing fixtures, and electrical appliances must be installed before being occupied.

Manufactured Home: A detached residential, dwelling unit built on a chassis, with a body width exceeding eight (8) feet in width and thirty-two (32) feet in length; this said residential dwelling unit shall be designed for transportation after fabrication on its own wheels or flatbeds, or other trailers, and arriving at the site where it is to be occupied as a dwelling unit complete and ready for occupancy except for minor and incidental unpacking and assembly operations, including but not limited to, location on jacks or other temporary or permanent foundations, and connection to utilities; travel trailers and campers shall not be considered a manufactured home; a factory-fabricated transportable building designed for use by itself or designated to be incorporated with similar units at a building site into a modular structure shall not be considered a manufactured home.

Any modular or manufactured home which is permanently attached to a permanent foundation is taxable.

## **6. General Housing Conditions**

In 1999, Franklin County prepared an application for \$400,000 in fiscal year 1999-2000 Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site funds. That application was approved early in 1999. The application provided the following summary of housing conditions/needs in the county:

“A significant portion of the Franklin County housing stock is characterized by age and deterioration. Recent census data reveals that 13% of occupied housing units lack complete plumbing facilities; over 6% have more than one person per room; and out of a total of 9,460 dwellings in the county, 28% or 2,632 units are substandard. The need exists for new affordable housing and for improvements in existing deteriorating housing to reverse the trend of deterioration and to attain standard living conditions.

The majority of Franklin County’s substandard housing units are occupied by low and moderate income (LMI) persons. Minorities and the elderly constitute a disproportionate share of LMI persons and thus occupy a large percentage of existing substandard housing. Based on applications for emergency housing repairs made with the local Department of Aging, a substantial number of elderly and/or displaced persons are in need of housing assistance to provide decent, safe, and sanitary conditions.

Furthermore, the “Need for Assisted Rental Housing,” prepared by HUD, indicates a need for 1,417 additional assisted units for LMI persons. A survey of the county’s rental market reveals that standard dwellings are beyond the level of affordability for most LMI persons.

Inasmuch as the county does not have wastewater disposal facilities except in areas of concentrated industrial development, the absence of private sanitary wastewater disposal is a significant problem faced by many LMI residents. There are no areas of the county where pit privies and straight piping of gray water cannot be found. It is estimated by the Franklin County Health Department that in excess of 300 dwellings have pit privies in use. Dry and contaminated wells are also a problem for LMI persons in rural areas of the county.

Low and moderate income persons suffer, to a greater degree, water and wastewater needs. Of the twelve percent (12%) or 300+ dwellings served by pit privies and the 800+ dwellings straight piping gray water, most are occupied by LMI households financially unable to address the deficiencies.

Low and moderate income persons of Franklin County are faced with inadequate drainage and street needs. As a largely rural county, many LMI households are located in agricultural areas served by deteriorated dirt/gravel roads. Transportation is also a concern for LMI persons; many have no transportation and must rely on family, friends, or neighbors for transportation for shopping and medical services. Recreation and cultural facilities are inaccessible for physical and financial reasons herein identified.

In addition, in 1999, Franklin County received a \$300,000 North Carolina Single-Family Rehabilitation grant for the repair of 12 low to moderate income owner-occupied dwelling units. The county has targeted three (3) units to be occupied by households with incomes at or below 30% of the Franklin County median income for appropriate household size, six (6) units to be occupied by households between 30% and 50% of the county median for appropriate household size, and three (3) units to be occupied by households between 50% and 80% of the county median for appropriate household size. These goals meet the county's and the program's overall objective of rehabilitating units occupied by individuals with little or no ability to make improvements.

The county will award NCHFA rehabilitation subsidies to "scattered site" beneficiaries based on income, tax liability, special population, and cost-effectiveness criteria. The county has tailored the rating system for NCHFA applications to specifically favor elderly and disabled individuals, large households, and households occupied by wage earners with dependent children.

#### H. Summary of Population, Economy, and Housing

- Population increases in Franklin County have remained significantly higher than both the increases for North Carolina and the counties within Region K.
- All the counties within Region K have reported net positive growth between 1970 and 1997 showing an overall increase of 33.5% compared with a 62.5% increase in Franklin County, and a 46.3% increase for all of North Carolina.
- Franklinton experienced the largest rate of population growth (50.3%) for a municipality within Franklin County between 1970 and 1997, followed by Bunn (44.3%), Louisburg (19.0%), Centerville (6.5%), and Youngsville (1.3%).

- According to the North Carolina Office of State Planning, in 1997, the incorporated areas accounted for 15.6% of Franklin County's overall population.
- The unincorporated areas experienced a collective growth rate of 71.5% from 1970-1997, the incorporated (rural) population had a lower increase (26.7%).
- The mean age for Franklin County is 35.6 years, compared with 35.5 years for North Carolina.
- In the 1990 Census, Franklin County's population was 64% White and 35% Black.
- According to the Economic Development Yearbook for North Carolina, produced by Problem-Solving Research, Inc., Franklin County received a rank of 52 out of 100 North Carolina counties in terms of economic growth and development between the years 1984-1994.
- Franklin County's population is predominantly low income, with 34% of the households maintaining an income less than \$20,000.
- Franklin County's leading employment industries are Services (30%) and Manufacturing (27%).
- Manufacturing has been a very strong contributor to Franklin County's economy, making up 25% of total earnings.
- Franklin County contains a total of 13,418 total dwelling units; approximately ten percent of these units are vacant. Of the 90% which were occupied, 68% were owner-occupied and 22% were rental properties.
- Franklin County has extremely low percentages of households on a water system (24%) and public sewer (18.5%) when compared with state averages, 65.4% and 49.8%, respectively.
- Franklin County has the same percentage (65%) of single unit detached housing units as the state.
- Franklin County has a significantly higher (30%) percentage of mobile homes than found statewide (15%).
- Between 1994 and February, 1999, Franklin County has averaged 15.2 new commercial structures and 2.5 industrial structures per year.
- Between 1991 and 1997, residential construction activity in Franklin County has averaged annually a total of 265 single-family units, 7 duplex units, and 552 mobile homes.

I. Franklin County Land Use

1. Land Use History, 1983 Franklin County Land Development Plan

The only historical data relating to land use in Franklin County is provided in the county's 1983 Land Development Plan. The 1983 plan was Franklin County's first county-wide planning effort. In 1979, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners created a County Leadership Committee to study and evaluate critical issues facing the county. In 1980, the Leadership Committee recommended that a land use study be prepared, and in turn the Board of Commissioners authorized an application for a "701" planning grant. This grant provided technical assistance for the preparation of the Land Development Plan. In drafting this plan, land use was accounted for throughout the county inclusive of the incorporated areas. The 1983 plan covered a wide range of land use information and concerns including: existing demographic data, a discussion of natural features, existing land use, community facilities, establishment of goals and objectives, and a land development plan. The following information is intended to provide the reader with a brief background on land use in Franklin County. Land use conditions described in the 1983 plan will be compared to existing conditions later in this document and general trends identified.

a. Developed Land

The Franklin County 1983 Land Development Plan provided a very brief evaluation of land use conditions. However, it should be noted that all of the acreage estimates for developed areas included in the plan date back to 1975, and were taken from a study conducted by the Region K Council of Governments (Region K Land Use Element, 1978). In addition, the land use acreage estimates included in the 1983 Land Development Plan include the acreage within the incorporated areas. The following provides a summary of developed acreage in Franklin County as of 1975:

	Developed Acres	% of Total Developed
Commercial	260	1.8%
Industrial	372	2.7%
Residential	5,951	42.4%
Transportation	7,476	53.1%
Total Developed*	14,059	100.0%

\*Represents approximately 4% of the county's total acreage (316,224 acres).  
Source: Franklin County Land Development Plan, 1983.

Approximately 4% of the county's total land area was developed in 1975. Transportation facilities comprised the largest single developed land use, 7,476 acres. Although this figure appears high, the reader should be reminded that this figure includes the municipal areas in Franklin County. Commercial and industrial land uses were extremely limited in Franklin County. Of the 372 acres of industrial use in 1975, half was occupied by the Novo Biochemical Industries site. The acreage estimates for

residential and transportation land uses were significantly higher, but these figures are skewed due to the inclusion of the county's incorporated areas.

b. Undeveloped Land

The 1983 plan undeveloped land use acreage estimates were obtained from the N.C. State Government Statistical Abstract, 1979, and represent conditions existing in 1967. Approximately 96% of the county's total land area was undeveloped in 1967. Table 21 indicates that forestland and cropland comprised the majority of the undeveloped acreage in Franklin County representing approximately 60% and 30% of the county's undeveloped acreage, respectively.

Table 21  
Franklin County Undeveloped Acreage

	Acres	% of Total Undeveloped
Water	1,664	1%
Cropland	89,324	30%
Pasture	20,041	6%
Forest	183,064	60%
Other	8,072	3%
Total	302,165	100%
Undeveloped*		

\*Represents approximately 96% of the county's total acreage (316,224 acres)  
Source: Franklin County Land Development Plan, 1983.

2. 1983 Land Development Plan Development Strategy

In 1983, the county's primary development strategy revolved around the need to increase its industrial base. The idea was that an increase in industry would provide more and better jobs to Franklin County citizens and an adequate property tax base to provide services to all citizens. The establishment of a water line between Louisburg and Franklinton, along with the approval of the Franklinton-Youngsville water line were the first steps in trying to bring large industries to the area. Industrial development was to receive top priority in the development of vacant sites and provision of services. It was discussed in the 1983 plan that the county wanted to eventually provide urban services to all residential development outside of the incorporated areas, except in the lowest rural densities. Residential areas should be maintained at densities, and in locations which make the provision of services by incorporated areas possible. There were also some concerns about maintaining the rural atmosphere of Franklin County. The plan stated that development should continue predominantly in developed areas to preserve the visibility of the pastureland, cropland, forestland, and conservation areas. Any residential, commercial, or industrial development outside of urban areas on large parcels of land should provide on site buffers. Specific strategies for future growth were outlined in the 1983 Land Use Plan. The following section provides an assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of those goals.

### 3. Implementation Status of the 1983 Land Development Plan

The following goals and objectives were identified in Franklin County's 1983 Land Development Plan. Each goal and objective is followed by the results of an opinion survey taken by the Franklin County Land Use/Hazard Mitigation Plan Citizens Advisory Committee in March, 1999. The purpose of the survey was to determine how successful Franklin County has been in implementing the 1983 goals and objectives. The four responses were Very Successful, Somewhat Successful, Unsuccessful, and No Opinion. The percentages following each response reflect an overall feeling of how effective the committee felt Franklin County had been in implementing the goals and objectives established in the 1983 Land Development Plan (i.e., 70% Very Successful indicates that 70% of the committee members felt that the goal or objective had been very successfully implemented).

Goals and Objectives Defined: As used here, **goals** are ends toward which the advance planning effort is directed; they are usually general in form and express ideals. **Objectives** are intermediate milestones on the way toward a goal; they are expressed in a form that is measurable and achievable. A goal can be divisible into a number of objectives.

#### GOALS

1. ECONOMY - The county will develop a stronger economic base to provide fuller and better employment for its citizens and an increased tax base to support more adequate services. (Somewhat Successful - 70%; Unsuccessful - 30%)
2. EDUCATION - The county will provide more adequate school facilities and support a quality education program for the youth of the county. (Very Successful - 50%; Somewhat Successful - 50%)
3. HOUSING - The county will support programs to enable all residents to have standard housing in desirable neighborhoods. (Very Successful - 11%; Somewhat Successful - 44%; Unsuccessful - 11%; No Opinion - 33%)
4. FACILITIES AND SERVICES - The county will coordinate with the municipalities the efficient provision of adequate public facilities and services for industrial, commercial, and residential land uses as well as services for the people of the county. (Somewhat Successful - 70%; Unsuccessful - 30%)
5. ENVIRONMENT - The county will preserve its desirable rural and small town character, protect its prime farmland and environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains and water supply watersheds, and preserve its historic resources. (Very Successful - 20%; Somewhat Successful - 30%; Unsuccessful - 50%)
6. SPIRIT - A spirit of cooperation and progress will be generated to enable all residents and their county and municipal governing bodies to work toward a better, more prosperous way of life in pleasant surroundings. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 50%)

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize the hazards and limitations of natural physical features such as flooding, erosion, and poor soils for urban development. (Very Successful - 30%; Somewhat Successful - 30%; Unsuccessful - 30%; No Opinion - 10%)
2. To protect and preserve natural resources including prime agricultural land, surface and groundwater, woodlands, wildlife, and unique plant cultures. (Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 50%; No Opinion - 10%)
3. To encourage development in areas with public services to enable municipalities to efficiently provide the necessary urban services. (Very Successful - 20%; Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 40%)

## ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

1. To preserve and strengthen the existing industrial base by providing adequate services and protecting industries from encroachment by conflicting uses. (Very Successful - 30%; Somewhat Successful - 60%; Unsuccessful - 10%)
2. To promote new industrial development by providing necessary public services and preserving prime industrial sites for industrial use. (Very Successful - 20%; Somewhat Successful - 60%; Unsuccessful - 10%; No Opinion - 10%)
3. To broaden the tax base to reduce property tax on agricultural land and residential property. (Very Successful - 20%; Somewhat Successful - 20%; Unsuccessful - 50%; No Opinion - 10%)

## FACILITIES AND SERVICES OBJECTIVES

1. To provide adequate public water supplies and distribution systems serving the urban areas and also rural areas as required for industrial development. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 90%)
2. To provide public wastewater collection systems and treatment facilities for urban areas and also rural areas as required for industrial development. (Very Successful - 20%; Somewhat Successful - 70%; Unsuccessful - 10%)
3. To maintain a good transportation system of highways, railroads, and an airport in the county. (Very Successful - 50%; Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 10%)

## RESIDENTIAL OBJECTIVES

1. To rehabilitate substandard housing where feasible and to demolish substandard housing which cannot be rehabilitated. (Very Successful - 22%; Somewhat Successful - 44%; Unsuccessful - 22%; No Opinion - 11%)
2. To promote housing assistance programs where necessary to provide affordable standard housing for all county residents. (Somewhat Successful - 55%; Unsuccessful - 33%; No Opinion - 11%)

3. To preserve and upgrade existing residential neighborhoods by providing good streets, water and sewer service, street lighting, garbage collection, and protection from conflicting uses. (Somewhat Successful - 44%; Unsuccessful - 33%; No Opinion - 22%)
4. To assure that new housing is soundly built. (Very Successful - 40%; Somewhat Successful - 30%; Unsuccessful - 10%; No Opinion - 20%)
5. To assure that new residential areas have adequate water supplies, sewage disposal, street access, and fire and police protection. (Very Successful - 30%; Somewhat Successful - 30%; Unsuccessful - 20%; No Opinion - 20%)
6. To recognize mobile and modular housing as a necessary form of housing and provide for its appropriate location and use. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 30%; Unsuccessful - 50%; No Opinion - 10%)

#### AGRICULTURAL OBJECTIVES

1. To protect prime agricultural land from increased assessments due to higher values for urban development and from unnecessary conversion to non-agricultural uses. (Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 60%)
2. To promote appropriate development of crop, pasture, and forestlands in the county. (Very Successful - 22%; Somewhat Successful - 33%; Unsuccessful - 44%)
3. To protect agri-business as an important part of the Franklin County economy. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 60%; Unsuccessful - 20%; No Opinion - 10%)

#### COMMERCIAL OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a variety of commercial services for all areas of the county. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 40%; Unsuccessful - 40%; No Opinion - 10%)
2. To preserve and improve the existing business districts as the functional centers of both the individual towns and the entire county. (Somewhat Successful - 50%; Unsuccessful - 40%; No Opinion - 10%)

#### RECREATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

1. To provide adequate recreation facilities and parks to serve both urban and rural residents. (Somewhat Successful - 50%; Unsuccessful - 37.5%; No Opinion - 12.5%)
2. To provide recreation programs for all county residents. (Somewhat Successful - 55%; Unsuccessful - 33%; No Opinion - 11%)
3. To preserve natural areas and historic resources for aesthetic, cultural, and environmental qualities. (Very Successful - 10%; Somewhat Successful - 20%; Unsuccessful - 60%; No Opinion - 10%)

The survey of the goals and objectives established in the 1983 Land Development Plan was intended to establish a consensus opinion on where Franklin County stands with respect to its development strategy proposed in 1983. Generally, the committee agreed that the county had its greatest success in meeting its Education goals and the least success in meeting its Environment and Spirit goals. The committee had varying opinions relating to the level of success the county had in achieving the remainder of its goals and the objectives identified on pages I-33 through I-35. A list of current key land use issues identified during the development of this plan is provided on page I-48.

#### 4. Existing Land Use

Table 22 provides a summary of existing land use in Franklin County and Map 3 depicts this information. This data was compiled based on the results of windshield surveys conducted in May, 1999, and information provided by the Franklin County Office of Geographic Information Services and the Franklin County Economic Development Commission. These figures are intended to provide a general indication of land use and are estimates only.

Table 22  
Existing Land Use Estimates  
Franklin County, 1999

Category	# of Lots	Average Lot Size (Acres)	Total Acreage	% of Total
Commercial	135	6	873	<1%
Office & Institutional	18	43	769	<1%
Residential/Agricultural	2,863	39	112,153	38%
Residential Lots 2 to 5 acres	1,848	3	5,779	2%
Residential Lots < 2 acres	7,635	1	7,077	2%
Public/Transportation	17	38	10,794	4%
Industrial	99	33	3,290	1%
Agriculture/Open Space	13,911	11	155,288	52%
Subtotal	26,526		296,023	100%
Incorporated Planning Jurisdictions*	6,675	4	20,201	
Total	33,201		316,224	

\*Includes the ETJ's of incorporated areas.

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., Franklin County Geographic Information Services, and the Franklin County Economic Development Commission.

Franklin County's planning jurisdiction includes approximately 296,023 acres or 94% of the entire county. The remaining 20,201 acres are occupied by the following

incorporated areas: Bunn, Centerville, Franklinton, Louisburg, and Youngsville. Approximately 10% of the county's total unincorporated land area is developed.

MAP 3 - EXISTING LAND USE

The following provides a discussion for each land use category summarized in Table 22.

a. Residential

Residential land uses have been subdivided into three separate land use categories according to lot size. The Residential/Agricultural category includes 2,863 lots > 5 acres. The two remaining residential land use categories include residential lots 2-5 acres and residential lots < 2 acres in size. Residential land uses have been subdivided in this manner to provide a general indication of the varying densities of residential development in Franklin County and their location. Approximately 7,077 acres or 6% of the county's total residential acreage (125,009 acres) is comprised of lots < 2 acres in size. In addition, approximately 90% of the county's total residential acreage is comprised of lots >5 acres in size. However, it should be noted that the majority of these lots are multi-use and used for both agricultural and residential purposes. There are numerous large lots in Franklin County that are used primarily for agricultural purposes but also contain a dwelling unit.

Generally, residential land uses are scattered throughout the county but higher densities may be found in the southern half of the county. The highest residential densities can be found in the Lake Royale area where the average lot size is approximately 0.4 acres. Residential development trends are discussed further under the County-Wide Development, Subdivision Activity section of this plan.

Residents of Franklin County have identified a need for a greater variety of housing and for additional affordable housing in the county. Based on the county's average household income (\$29,238 in 1990), affordable housing can generally be defined as costing \$75,000 or less.

b. Industrial

Industrial land uses in Franklin County occupy approximately 3,290 acres. The majority of the county's industrial land uses are located within three industrial parks. These parks include the Franklin Park Industrial Center, Youngsville Commerce Center, and Youngsville Commerce Center South. However, portions of these industrial parks are located within Youngsville's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and not part of Franklin County's planning jurisdiction. Outside of the three industrial parks, industrial land uses can be found along U.S. 1 and N.C. 56 between Franklinton and Louisburg. A comprehensive list of the industries located in Franklin County was provided under the Employment and Economy section of this plan, pages I-19 through I-21.

It is important that Franklin County continue to encourage industrial development in the county. Additional industrial development will contribute to the county tax base and provide higher paying jobs for county residents. It is anticipated that as development continues north on U.S. 1 from Wake County, more and more industries will find Franklin County a desirable place to locate.

Related to the development of industries in the county, Franklin County will need to continue developing its infrastructure to support additional growth. It is very important for industries seeking sites that adequate infrastructure is provided including water and sewer services.

c. Commercial

Commercial development occupies approximately 873 acres in the territorial area of Franklin County. Although there are no great concentrations of commercial development outside of incorporated areas, some general observations can be made. Commercial development is largely located in the southern half of the county radiating out from the City of Louisburg along transportation corridors and also along the U.S. 1 corridor south of Franklinton.

The need for additional commercial development in a non-strip commercial fashion has been identified as a significant land use issue in Franklin County. Not only will additional commercial businesses provide jobs and expand the tax base but they will also provide convenient goods and services to county residents. At the present time, county residents must frequent the incorporated areas of the county for most of their goods and services. To preserve the carrying capacity of major thoroughfares, new curb cutts should be limited and shared access encouraged. Special attention should also be given to limiting/regulating strip commercial development.

d. Office and Institutional

Office and Institutional land uses in Franklin County's territorial area comprise approximately 769 acres. Office space outside of the incorporated areas of the county is fairly limited. The majority of the institutional acreage consists of school sites. The largest concentrations of Office and Institutional land uses are located southwest of Louisburg and in the Youngsville area. It is normal for a county to have most of its office and institutional land uses concentrated in municipal areas because that is where the majority of governmental complexes and facilities are located.

e. Public and Transportation

Public and Transportation land uses occupy approximately 10,794 acres or 4% of the county's jurisdiction. The largest single public and transportation land use is the Franklin County Airport which includes approximately 250 acres. This facility is located six miles south of Louisburg and one mile east of U.S. 401.

Major highways in Franklin County are U.S. 1, U.S. 64, U.S. 264, U.S. 401, N.C. 39, N.C. 56, N.C. 98, and N.C. 561. The rail system in Franklin County is presently owned and operated by CSX Corporation. It provides passenger (AMTRAK) and freight service in a north-south direction running through Franklinton in the western end of the county. Previous rail links between: (1) Franklinton and Louisburg, (2) Bunn and Rocky Mount, have been abandoned. The Department of Transportation is presently

negotiating to acquire the right-of-way for the abandoned rail link between Franklinton and Louisburg for a possible future light commuter rail link.

Careful transportation planning will be required to provide the most cost effective use of tax dollars and to ensure adequate carrying capacity for future development. The county may wish to review its zoning ordinance to ensure that adequate setbacks are required along major thoroughfares. This foresight will allow for effective right-of-way acquisition in the event of widening or other similar construction projects.

Transportation is discussed further in the Development Constraints: Public Facilities section of this plan.

f. Agriculture and Open Space

The Agriculture and Open Space land use category contains approximately 155,288 acres. However, as previously discussed, the Residential/Agricultural land use category is comprised mostly of agricultural uses. These two land use categories combined comprise 267,441 acres or 90% of the county's total territorial area. It should be noted that agricultural land uses include both cropland and forestland. As previously indicated in Table 22, Franklin County's planning jurisdiction includes approximately 26,526 lots with an average lot size of 22 acres. Approximately 13,911 or 52% of those lots remain vacant and may have potential for development. Although it is apparent that there is adequate vacant land available in the county to accommodate future development, the conflict between the preservation of open space/agricultural/forestland and development will become increasingly apparent in the future. The county may wish to consider land acquisition for public uses as well as reviewing its subdivision ordinance to ensure that land dedication requirements are sufficient to preserve open space.

Land use conflicts are discussed further under the Land Use Compatibility Analysis section of this plan.

**5. Changes in Land Use, 1983-1999**

As previously discussed under the Land Use History section of this plan, the only historical data relating to land use in Franklin County is provided in the county's 1983 Land Development Plan. However, the land use acreage estimates provided in the 1983 plan addressed the county as a whole including incorporated areas. No attempt was made to provide acreage estimates for just the unincorporated area of the county. As a result, it is not possible to provide detailed, direct comparisons between historical land uses and those present in 1999. In addition, the methodology used to estimate land uses in 1983 was much less sophisticated than that used to provide estimates in this plan. This fact would further complicate any attempts to compare land uses in 1983 to those present in 1999 because of potential inaccuracies in the 1983 data. However, the following generalizations can be made:

- Approximately 15% of the entire county including incorporated areas was developed in 1999 compared to only 4% in 1983.

- Approximately 89,300 acres of the entire county was cropland in 1983 compared to 83,600 in 1999.
- Acres of harvested cropland in Franklin County have slowly decreased between 1992-1996: 1992 - 37,200 acres; 1993 - 35,600 acres; 1994 - 35,200 acres, 1995 - 34,000 acres.
- Industrial land uses have increased significantly. Industrial uses occupied only 372 acres county-wide in 1983 compared to 3,290 acres in just the unincorporated portion of the county in 1999.
- Residential land uses have increased significantly. Residential land uses occupied approximately 6,000 acres county-wide in 1983 compared to 12,856 acres in just the unincorporated portion of the county in 1999.
- The land area occupied by transportation related facilities has increased. Approximately 2% of the county's total land area in 1983 was utilized for transportation purposes compared to 4% in just the unincorporated portions of the county in 1999. However, the rate of growth has not kept up with the rate of growth in development.

The generalizations stated above indicate that Franklin County is in the middle of a significant increase in the rate of development. This trend is likely to continue at the expense of agriculture, forestry, and open space acreage.

## **6. Land Use Trends**

### **a. Locations of Greatest Development Pressures**

Historically, Franklin County has provided a predominantly rural setting. Nearly half of the land within the county is comprised of either agricultural, forest, or cropland. However, the county's rural atmosphere is gradually changing due to a variety of factors. Certain parts of the county are experiencing growth at a much quicker pace than others. The most dense development is centered around several key areas of the county. Along U.S. 1, a great deal of growth is taking place. This stretch of highway traverses Franklin County and runs adjacent to Youngsville and through Franklinton. This area has been the focal point of the county's most dense and diverse development. The existing water line which runs between Franklinton and Youngsville as well as the increasing volume of traffic along U.S. 1 have been major stimulants to the growth in this section of the county. The water line was a significant objective of Franklin County discussed in the 1983 land use plan. There is also a water line running between Franklinton and Louisburg along State Road 56 which has mainly been used to service the increasing industrial development which has been taking place along this corridor since its installation in the early 1980's. Residential development has generally centered around the three major municipalities in southeastern Franklin County (Youngsville, Franklinton, and Bunn). The majority of this growth is taking place east and west of Youngsville and south of Bunn where high density subdivision

development is an increasing trend. The Lake Royale area has also experienced some high density residential development, but serves mainly as a vacation site and houses very few year round residents.

The county's services such as water and sewer are discussed in detail in the Development Constraints: Public Facilities section of this plan.

b. Northern vs. Southern Development

In Franklin County there appears to be a dividing line which distinguishes between the northern and southern parts of the county with respect to development. The northern and southern halves of the county are split by State Road 56 which is oriented east to west through the middle of the county. The northern portion roughly comprises 49% of Franklin County's unincorporated land area, but only supports 24% of the population. Land area for the north and south are nearly equal, but the difference in acreage for various land uses varies considerably. The majority of commercial, industrial, and office and institutional development has taken place in the southern portion of the county. The northern half has a predominantly rural setting. The lots are much larger in the north (average, 17.5 acres) versus the south (average, 8.6 acres), providing more open space and much lower residential densities. High density subdivision activity in the northern portion of the county is nearly non-existent. Table 23 provides a comparison of acreage estimates by land use category north and south of State Road 56.

Table 23  
Franklin County Acreages

Category	Northern Franklin County		Southern Franklin County	
	Acreage	% of Total	Acreage	% of Total
Commercial	174	<1%	699	<1%
Office & Institutional	48	<1%	721	<1%
Industrial	983	1%	2,307	2%
Agriculture & Open Space	80,252	56%	75,036	49%
Residential/Agriculture	53,946	37%	58,207	38%
Residential Lots < 2 Acres	2,047	1%	5,030	3%
Residential Lots 2 to 5 Acres	1,817	1%	3,962	2%
Public & Transportation	4,749	3%	6,045	4%
Total	144,016	100%	152,007	100%

Source: Holland Consulting Planners, Inc., and Franklin County Geographic Information Services.

The major differences in growth trends between the northern and southern sections of the county lie in developed versus undeveloped acreage. The northern

portion supports very little developed land excluding residential development. Its acreage is comprised mainly of rural agricultural and forestland with housing sparsely scattered throughout. The southern half of Franklin County takes on a much different form. Development around the southern border is rapidly expanding. The main factor attributing to this growth is the close proximity to Raleigh and the Research Triangle which is located only 15- 20 miles directly south of the Franklin/Wake county border. People have targeted Franklin County as a prime location to live while maintaining jobs in Wake County, where housing costs have become extremely high. Considering this population growth, southern parts of the county should begin to see increased commercialization. The migration of people to the county is a significant issue.

c. Subdivision Activity

Through a review of subdivision activity within Franklin County generalizations can be made about the degree and direction of growth in the county. Chart 4 provides a summary of subdivision activity by township between 1995 and 1998. Map 4 illustrates the location of Franklin County's townships. It should be noted that the approved subdivisions summarized in Chart 4 include all of the county's approved subdivisions regardless of size.

During FY1997-1998 and FY1998-1999, a total of 2,783 new major subdivisions were approved in Franklin County. Approximately 72% of these new subdivisions are located within Townships 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 combined. This data further supports the discussions provided throughout this section pertaining to the majority of the development being located in the county's southern half and near U.S. 1. Townships 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, located along Franklin County's northern and eastern boundaries have experienced significantly less growth than the remainder of the county. However, Township 9 includes the Lake Royale subdivision in which growth is occurring.

d. Stimulants to Development

Franklin County has many different stimulants for development which make the county a very desirable place for living and working. The rural setting provides an opportunity for residential development with larger average lot sizes which eliminates cramped housing conditions. The rural nature of the county also aids in maintaining clean air, water, and the provision of forestland and open space. Franklin County also contains a solid educational system. Twelve public schools are located in the county and several other private grade schools (these numbers include schools located in incorporated areas). There are also opportunities for higher education within the county at the Vance-Granville Community College - Franklin County Campus and Louisburg College which is located within the corporate limits of Louisburg. The Franklin Regional Medical Center provides excellent medical care including a 24-hour emergency room, same day surgery, physical therapy, psychiatric care, and intensive/cardiac care unit. There are a growing number of job opportunities in the county with the increasing industrial development that is taking place. Three industrial parks are located throughout the county including: Franklin Park Industrial Center, Youngsville Commerce Center, and Youngsville Commerce Center South. Franklin County also provides numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. The Tar River runs directly through the center of the county which provides an excellent opportunity for a

greenway system. Lake Royale in the southeastern part of the county provides opportunities for camping, fishing, boating, and other recreational activities. Franklin County has several significant historical points of interest. A detailed discussion of these will be included later in this plan.

The following provides a summary of stimulants to development:

- Relaxed rural atmosphere.
- Clean air and water.
- Strong school system and collegiate institutions.
- Provision of quality medical services.
- Job opportunities.
- Outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Various historical points of interest.

MAP 4 - FRANKLIN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

CHART 4 - Subdivision Activity by Township

e. Land Use Compatibility Analysis

Franklin County is beginning to experience a steady increase in development county-wide. A side effect of rapid land development in any area is increased land use conflict. A land use conflict may be defined as adjacent parcels of land where the development of one lot adversely impacts the other. For example, a residential subdivision beside an industrial plant or a school beside a major highway would both have the potential to create land use conflicts. The main reason Franklin County has not experienced significant problems from unplanned development is that the rural nature of the county has kept conflicts to minimum. However, as development continues in Franklin County and the population increases, land use conflicts may become an increasingly significant issue for the county. The following provides a summary of these issues:

**i. Preservation of Agriculture/Forestland vs. Residential Development**

As the migration of people from Wake County continues north, the issue of preserving forestland and agriculture will intensify. The southern portion of the county still has a great deal of agriculture and forestland but if measures are not taken to limit the degree and rate of subdivision activity this land will diminish. The northern portion of the county, as discussed in the previous section, contains a predominant amount of agriculture and forest land. This area is not experiencing the development pressures that southern Franklin County is and, as a result, the issue of preservation is not as relevant. The county must decide how strongly it feels about maintaining these land uses in Franklin County and develop a strategy as to how the county can preserve agricultural/forestland.

**ii. Protection of Water Quality (Surface Water and Groundwater) as Development Increases**

A major concern of any county or city as increasing growth begins to take place is maintaining the quality of the area's water resources. This concern addresses both the preservation of existing surface waters as well as groundwater supply. As development continues to progress, a variety of issues will begin to play a role in affecting the water quality. If the county allows industries which do not operate using environmentally conscious production measures then a decline in water quality could take place. Another concern which will have an impact on surface water is pollution stemming from runoff. Development increases impervious surface coverage which decreases the land area available for rainwater infiltration, and increases the degree and volume of runoff into streams, lakes, and rivers. This runoff often carries pollutants. High density residential development can pollute surrounding bodies of surface water from the runoff of fertilizers and pesticides. Water pollution from agricultural runoff is also an issue in Franklin County.

There may also be a need for increased septic tank regulations in areas of high density development. Although the county already has existing regulations

which are enforced by the county health department, these existing measures need to be re-evaluated with regard to preservation of water quality. Two specific concerns which need to be addressed are the proximity of placement to other tanks, and distance to well water supplies. Septic systems should be located a significant distance from any existing water supply and any existing septic system. Both of these measures will serve to minimize problems which could ultimately cause significant pollution of groundwater and a hazard to health. This is an issue which needs attention since the county's sewer coverage is limited and the number of septic tanks will continue to increase along with the housing stock.

### **iii. Preservation of Open Space During Development**

Franklin County has always existed as a predominantly rural county with vast amounts of open space. Maintaining the rural nature of the county is definitely a concern that exists and will continue to be a pressing issue as development pressures continue north. It will be difficult to achieve this goal in certain parts of southern Franklin County where residential and commercial growth will be focused. Certain measures can be taken to structure this growth so that the rural atmosphere of the county can be maintained. One method of shaping development to achieve this goal is concentrating commercial and industrial development in specific areas and requiring on-site natural buffers. In addition, the county can consider providing land dedication requirements in its subdivision ordinance to preserve open space. Areas which may be unsuitable for development such as 404 wetlands, floodplains, and natural heritage areas also present opportunities for the preservation of open space. These areas which may be unsuitable for development are discussed further in the Development Constraints: Land Suitability section of this plan. In the coming years, Franklin County may not be able to maintain the degree of open space residents are accustomed to, but measures can be taken to maintain the rural atmosphere of the county.

### **iv. Preservation of Air Quality**

As heavy industries locate in the county, the quality of the air may suffer. In addition, the increase in traffic traveling north from Wake County may also have negative air quality impacts. However, Franklin County is well aware that any degradation of its air quality due to industrial development is likely to have originated in Wake County. This presents an ethical dilemma for the county's policy makers. Why should Franklin County impose restrictions on industrial development to protect air quality when the majority of the air pollution present is directly attributed to development in Wake County? Although this mentality is damaging, it is a reality and rightfully so. This problem cannot be easily addressed and will become an increasingly significant issue in the future. Policy makers of Franklin and Wake counties should work together to develop mutually agreeable industrial development policies.

#### **f. Key Land Use Issues**

An important element of any land use plan is the development of key land use issues. These land use issues are addressed throughout this Land Use Plan. Each

member of the Franklin County Citizen’s Advisory Committee was asked to list what they felt were the top ten issues affecting land use within Franklin County (committee members are listed on page I-1, Introduction). The individual rankings were tabulated and a composite ranking derived. The issues covered a wide range of concerns, and should serve as a guide for future development strategies. It is recommended that the county concentrate its planning efforts on the Top 10 issues during the next five years and then re-evaluate its priorities. The following is a listing of the top ten issues collectively ranked by the Franklin County Citizen’s Advisory Committee (a complete list of the land use issues identified is provided in Appendix II). The asterisks following land use issues 8-10 indicates that these issues tied in terms of their level of significance.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>
1	• Need for more industry and commerce
2	• Development of infrastructure
3	• Protection of water quality
4	• Preservation of agriculture/forestry
5	• Varied and affordable housing
6	• Strip development
7	• Protection of surficial water supply
8*	• Need for a capital facilities plan
9*	• Well and septic regulations
10*	• Careful transportation planning

J. Current Plans, Studies, and Regulations

Franklin County maintains an active planning program. The county’s Planning and Central Permit Divisions are combined into one department. The county’s Planning Board is supported by the Planning Division which includes the following staff positions: Planning Director, Planner, and a Technician. The Central Permit Division includes two permit officers who enforce the North Carolina State building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical codes and land use-related ordinances. The following provides a summary of all county plans, policies, and ordinances which relate to land use planning.

**1. Plans**

a. Franklin County Land Development Plan, 1983

The 1983 Land Development Plan was the first county-wide planning activity for Franklin County. In addition to providing a land development plan, sections on demographics, natural features, existing land use, community facilities, and goals and objectives were included in the plan. No subsequent updates to the 1983 plan were made prior to completion of this document.

b. Thoroughfare Plan, 1990

Franklin County's Thoroughfare Plan was completed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Planning, and Research Branch in September, 1990. The plan includes a discussion of thoroughfare planning principles, existing urban thoroughfare plans in Franklin County, transportation needs and priorities, and a general discussion of land use and population.

- c. Franklin County Forward, Strategic Planning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, March, 1998

Franklin County Forward was prepared by the Franklin County Forward Steering Committee which consisted of sixty-one (61) members. This document includes an identification of county strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; summary of key goals; results of an extensive telephone survey; task force reports; and a data summary and analysis.

- d. Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2000-2015, 1999

This plan was prepared by the Franklin County Recreation Advisory Board, Master Planning Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Department. The Master Plan provides an inventory of existing facilities and programs and provides an identification of future needs based on recreation and park facility open space standards. Recommendations and an action plan for future improvements are also provided.

- e. Franklin County Zoning Ordinance

The Franklin County Zoning Ordinance was originally adopted January 5, 1987. The county's entire planning jurisdiction is zoned. The zoning ordinance provides for the following districts: AR Agriculture/Residential; R-80 Residential; R-40 Residential; R-15 Residential; R-8 Residential; NB Neighborhood Business; HB Highway Business; LI Light Industry; HI Heavy Industry; and CON-D Conservation District (county floodplain along Tar River).

- f. Franklin County Subdivision Regulations

The Franklin County Subdivision Regulations were adopted August 1, 1985. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish procedures and standards for the development and subdivision of land within the territorial jurisdiction of the county. Subdivision plats are reviewed by the Planning and Central Permit Department staff and presented to the Planning Board for preliminary and final approval.

- g. Franklin County Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Park Ordinance

The county's Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Park Ordinance was adopted October 21, 1985. The Franklin County Planning and Central Permit Department staff review all plans for mobile home parks and travel trailer parks to ensure consistency with the Ordinance. The plans are subsequently reviewed and approved by the Franklin County Planning Board.

- h. Franklin County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

The county's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance was adopted November 18, 1996. The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and

general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- Restrict or prohibit uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation of flood waters;
- Control filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase erosion or flood damage; and,
- Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

i. Franklin County Unified Development Ordinance

Franklin County adopted its Unified Development Ordinance September 16, 1991. The purpose of the ordinance was to consolidate all of the county's ordinances into one document. This ordinance is more user-friendly than having numerous separate ordinances, is easier to administer, and promotes efficiency.

j. National Flood Insurance Program

Franklin County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The program is administered locally by the Franklin County Planning and Central Permit Department.

K. Development Constraints: Land Suitability

**1. Climate**

In Franklin County, summers are hot and generally humid because of moist, maritime air. Winters are moderately cold but short in duration because the mountains to the west protect the area against many cold waves. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year and is adequate for all crops.

In winter, the average temperature is 39 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 25 degrees. The lowest temperature on record, which occurred on January 21, 1985, is -10 degrees. In summer, the average temperature is 75 degrees and the average daily maximum temperature is 88 degrees. The highest recorded temperature, which occurred on July 29, 1952, is 106 degrees.

The total average annual precipitation is about 46 inches. Of this, 25 inches, or about 53 percent, usually falls in April through September. The growing season for most crops falls within this period. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 13 inches. The heaviest 1-day rainfall during the period of record was 5.27 inches on August 18, 1955. Thunderstorms occur on about 44 days each year.

The average seasonal snowfall is about 4 inches. The greatest snow depth at any one time during the period of record was 9 inches. On the average, 2 days of the year have at least 1 inch of snow on the ground. The heaviest 1-day snowfall on record was more than 9 inches.

The average relative humidity in midafternoon is about 54 percent. Humidity is higher at night, and the average at dawn is about 85 percent. The sun shines 61 percent of the time during daylight hours in summer and 55 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average windspeed is highest, 9 miles per hour, in spring.

## **2. Topography/Geology**

Franklin County is located on the northern edge of the North Carolina piedmont plateau.

It is bordered by Wake, Granville, Warren, Vance, and Nash counties. Franklin County consists of 316,224 acres, or roughly 494 square miles. This acreage includes 315,462 acres of land and 762 acres of water. Franklin County has the smoothest surface relief of all the counties which make up the piedmont plateau. The surface relief ranges from level and gently rolling in the broad interstream areas to strongly rolling bordering stream courses. Elevation in the county ranges from 143 feet along the Tar River near the Nash County line to 562 feet above sea level near the community of Pocomoke, which is located in the western part of the county. The Tar River runs across the county from the northwestern border to the southeastern border, forming the main drainage basin. The Tar River and the following streams, Little Shocco, Sandy, Red Bud, Cypress, Cedar, Tooles, Middle, Crooked, and Moccasin Creeks, drain the county. The forest growth consists chiefly of old field pine, post oak, white oak, red oak, black oak, red maple, poplar, hickory, and a few birch.

Geologic formations are classified according to the manner and the time period in which they were formed. The three major classes of rock—sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic—are each found in Franklin County. The following provides a description of each rock class:

- Sedimentary Rocks are those formed from particles or sediment deposited by wind, water, and ice. The sediment was then glued together by natural chemical or mechanical processes. Sedimentary rocks in Franklin County include two types: “upland sediment,” a Coastal Plain rock type of the Cenozoic era, found in the southeastern corner of the county; and “alluvium” found in floodplains.
- Igneous Rocks form by solidification of molten silicate materials. Molten silicate materials within the Earth are called magmas, and rocks derived

from solidification of magmas are referred to as intrusive igneous rocks. The majority of Franklin County is underlain with igneous intrusive rocks, mostly granite, of the late Paleozoic era.

- Metamorphic Rocks are those of igneous or sedimentary origin which have been altered within the Earth's crust by pressure, heat, or hot solutions. Gneiss and schist of the Pre-Cambrian era are the most common metamorphic rock types found in Franklin County and underlay western, northern, and eastern portions of the county. A small portion at the eastern boundary of the county is underlain by metasedimentary rocks.

The rock classes described above can be divided into two groups: 1) bedrock, and 2) saprolite (or residuum). The saprolite underlies the land surface and ranges in thickness from a foot or two near bedrock outcrops to more than 100 feet. Bedrock underlies the saprolite and is the parent rock from which the saprolite was derived in the process referred to as weathering. The hydrologic characteristics of bedrock and saprolite are discussed, under Water Supply, below.

The county's most important mineral resource is crushed stone for use as road material and general construction purposes. Granite, found in the Igneous rock class, has the greatest potential for crushed stone. Granite has also been quarried for dimension building stone in parts of the county. Other mineral resources include sand in alluvial deposits, feldspar-muscovite in pegmatites in the western part, and gold in the far northeastern corner.

### **3. Water Supply**

Water located in the saturated zone of the Earth's crust and supplied by precipitation in the form of rain or snow is called groundwater. Many differing factors directly control the amount of groundwater available from any one location. The two most important factors are the amount of annual precipitation available for supply and recharge and the ability of the rocks and soils to absorb, transmit and store the precipitation within the groundwater zone. Other factors which have a direct effect on groundwater supply are rainfall intensity, topography, climate, and types and densities of vegetation cover within an area.

Porosity, which is the relative ability of rock and soil types to accept and to hold water, and permeability, which is the ability of rock and soil types to transmit groundwater, vary from place to place. This variance depends largely on whether joint systems and fracture patterns are present within the rock types of the area. These joint systems and fracture patterns afford avenues controlling the amount and the movement of groundwater within an area.

The soil type or types within the area have a direct relationship to the amount of precipitation absorbed into the groundwater zone. Tightly compacted clays act as impermeable barriers accelerating the run-off of precipitation. Loose sandy loams and sandy clay loams can absorb the precipitation and transmit it to the aquifers.

As previously discussed under Topography/Geology, the rocks underlying the piedmont can be divided into two groups: bedrock and saprolite. The bedrock has been further divided into the following six hydrogeologic units by the U.S. Geological Survey and the North Carolina Groundwater Section: Great Smoky Mountain Belt, Blue Ridge-Inner Piedmont Belt, Charlotte Belt, Carolina Slate Belt, Argillite, and Triassic Basins.

The most productive hydrogeologic units are the Great Smoky Mountain Belt and the Blue Ridge-Inner Piedmont Belt. The least productive units are the Carolina Slate belt and the Triassic Basins. The Charlotte Belt is intermediate in productivity. The majority of Franklin County is underlain by the Charlotte Belt. However, small portions of the county are underlain by the Blue Ridge-Inner Piedmont Belt and the Carolina Slate Belt.

The saprolite (weathered rock) that forms the land surface in the Piedmont consists of unconsolidated granular material. It thus contains water in the pore spaces between rock particles.

The bedrock, on the other hand, does not have any significant intergranular (primary) porosity. It contains water, instead, in sheet-like openings formed along fractures (that is, breaks in the otherwise "solid" rock).

Most groundwater supplies in the Piedmont are obtained from wells that are cased through the saprolite and finished with open holes in the bedrock. The yield of these wells depends on the number and size of the fractures they penetrate.

Dug and bored wells are used extensively for domestic water supplies throughout Franklin County, and adequate amounts of water can generally be obtained from them.

At most places, the rocks are sufficiently weathered to permit construction of these large diameter wells to depths up to about 60 feet. Tight casings prevent pollution from contaminated surface water. Drilled wells are smaller in diameter and most penetrate unweathered rock. The deeper wells are usually more reliable in times of drought, having less fluctuation in the water level in the wells at greater depths.

At most places adequate domestic supplies of water can be obtained from drilled wells in any of the rock units in Franklin County. Larger supplies may be obtained from wells where groundwater conditions are favorable. Visible features indicative of favorable groundwater conditions include highly fractured zones in the rock, pegmatite dikes, quartz veins, and topographically low areas.

#### **4. Flood Hazard Areas**

Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps were prepared for Franklin County in September, 1998, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These maps are currently undergoing review and comment and are expected to be finalized during the year 2000. The 100-year flood serves as the base flood for the purpose of floodplain management. The 100-year flood line represents the level that water would reach or "rise to" during a flood that may be expected to occur on the average of once

during a 100-year period. Thus, there is a 1% chance of a 100-year flood occurring during any one year.

Map 5 provides the approximate boundaries of Franklin County's areas which would be inundated by a 100-year flood. Major flooding in the area is caused primarily by runoff from rain and thunderstorms, but occasionally large floods are caused by hurricanes and tropical storms. In 1996, Hurricane Fran caused extensive county-wide flooding and wind damage.

The Tar River flows west to east through Franklin County. According to information from the Army Corps of Engineers, the maximum known flood on the Tar River at Louisburg occurred in December, 1934 (estimated discharge 20,500 cubic feet per second (cfs), estimated elevation at the Main Street Bridge 204.9 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NVGD)). The maximum flood recorded by the USGS since 1963 occurred April 28, 1978 (discharge 13,100 cfs, elevation 201.07 feet NGVD) at the current gage location. Generally, the Tar River, Sandy Creek, Shocco Creek, and their tributaries are the areas in the county most prone to flooding.

MAP 5 - AREAS INUNDATED BY 100-YEAR FLOOD

## 5. Fragile Areas

Fragile areas are areas which could easily be damaged or destroyed by inappropriate, unplanned or poorly planned development. In Franklin County, these areas include 404 wetlands, historic sites, and Natural Heritage Priority Areas. The following discusses each of these areas in detail.

### a. 404 Wetlands

The most significant fragile areas in Franklin County are the 404 wetland areas. 404 wetlands are areas covered by water or that have waterlogged soils for long periods during the growing season. Plants growing in wetlands are capable of living in soils lacking oxygen for at least part of the growing season. Some wetlands, such as swamps, are obvious. Others are sometimes difficult to identify because they may be dry during part of the year. Wetlands include, but are not limited to, bottomlands, forests, swamps, pocosins, pine savannahs, bogs, marshes, and wet meadows.

The role of wetlands as wildlife habitat has long been recognized. More recently their critical roles in protecting water quality, preventing floods and erosion, and maintaining fish populations have become evident. The many functions and values of wetlands interrelate to provide a natural resource worthy of protection.

*Water Quality Protection:* During rainstorms, runoff from farm land, highways, and urban areas washes into rivers and sounds. This runoff may contain toxins, bacteria, sediment, or nutrients that can harm aquatic life and contaminate drinking water. Stormwater runoff is a major contributor to water quality problems in North Carolina.

Wetlands are natural buffers between uplands and waterways. By trapping sediment, removing nutrients, and detoxifying chemicals, wetlands act as efficient and cost-effective filtration systems. When runoff enters a wetland, many of the harmful components are removed before the water enters a stream.

Wooded wetland corridors along headwater creeks are the most important filters of agricultural runoff. Bottomland hardwoods and swamp forests along rivers remove sediments, nutrients, and toxic chemicals from the river when floodwaters run through them.

*Flood Protection:* Wetlands minimize the danger of damaging floods by storing and preventing rapid runoff of water. Large pocosin wetlands can store enormous amounts of water and slow runoff of freshwater into brackish estuaries. Bottomland wetlands along streams provide holding basins for floodwaters and slow the water to reduce flood damage.

Wetlands store water after rains and release it gradually into groundwater or through surface outflow. This function of wetlands helps maintain more constant water levels in streams.

*Shoreline Erosion Prevention:* Wetland vegetation is often very dense, both above and below ground. In coastal areas, this plant cover can absorb energy from floods and wave action. By dissipating energy, binding soil, and encouraging sediment deposition, wetlands stabilize shorelines along coastal streams, lakes, and sounds.

*Fish and Wildlife Habitat:* Wetlands provide essential habitat for many diverse species – fish, wildlife, and plants. In North Carolina, more than 70 percent of the species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern depend on wetlands for survival. Many common species of waterfowl, fish, birds, mammals, and amphibians live in wetlands during crucial stages of their lives.

Coastal marshes provide nursery areas for finfish and shellfish. These marshes are among the most productive natural systems in the world, and this productivity makes the adjoining sounds some of America’s richest fisheries.

Bottomland hardwood wetlands provide abundant food, nesting sites, resting areas, and escape cover for many wildlife species. Many fish species use spring-flooded bottomlands as spawning and feeding locations.

Large pocosins are a refuge for wilderness animals, such as black bear and bobcat. Carolina Bays are critical habitat for many uncommon amphibians and reptiles. Pine savannas are host to numerous rare plants, such as insectivorous species, and to the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Although Franklin County does not contain all of the wetland types previously discussed, there are 404 wetlands present in the county in the form of swamps, bottomlands, forests, and bogs.

Franklin County’s wetland areas provide habitats for several endangered or threatened invertebrate animals and vascular plants. The following species have been identified by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources as being endangered or threatened:

Threatened	Endangered
Invertebrate Animals:	Invertebrate Animals:
Triangle Floater	Dwarf Wedgemussel
Yellow Lance	Tar Spiny mussel
Atlantic Pigtoe	
Yellow Lampmussel	
Squawfoot	
Vascular Plants:	Vascular Plants:
Piedmont Quillwort	Michaux’s Sumac
Small’s Portulaca	

While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington office has not done extensive wetlands analysis in Franklin County, the location of hydric soils is a good

indication of areas having a high probability of being classified as 404 wetlands areas. Within Franklin County, hydric soils are comprised of the following soils series: Loxville loam, Roanoke loam, Toisnot loam, Wehadkee and Chewacla soils, and Worsham loam. Unfortunately, because of map scale and the availability of data, it is not possible to include a county-wide map of hydric soils in this plan. However, detailed soil maps are available to the public from the Natural Resources Conservation Office, Franklin County District, located on 101 South Bickett Boulevard. The reader is cautioned that precise determinations of 404 wetland areas must be made through “in-field” site analysis by a representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Wilmington office. In areas containing hydric soils, public and private development should only be undertaken following on-site investigation for 404 wetland areas.

b. Historic Sites

The Tar River basin is a historic area with a wealth of architecturally and historically significant buildings. These structures are valuable resources and should be preserved for their aesthetic and cultural values whenever possible. The inventory of the historic architecture of the Tar River basin conducted by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History has documented many significant properties in Franklin County. Several properties are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and others are under consideration for nomination. The nomination and registration process aids in the preservation of these resources by fully documenting the properties and making people aware of these unique resources. Financial benefits may also be available for the owners of the properties included in the National Register through grants for preservation and through tax benefits. Unfortunately, many of the properties included in the inventory are already in ruin and others are subject to loss through neglect or demolition.

Plans for development should consider the effect of development on the historic resources of the county. Programs to aid in the preservation of the county’s historic resources should be promoted.

Table 24 provides a list of historically significant sites in Franklin County. It should be noted that this list includes sites located within incorporated areas. The approximate locations of these sites are indicated on Map 6.

Table 24  
Historically Significant Sites in Franklin County

Map Index	Name of Site
1	Louisburg Historic District
2	Ball-Pearce House
3*	Cascine
4*	Cooke House
5	Coppedge-Wilder House

Map Index	Name of Site
6*	Archibald Davis Farm
7*	Dean Farm
8*	Green Hill House
9*	Dr. J. H. Harris House
10*	William A. Jeffreys House
11*	Shemuel Kearney House
12	Las Perry Brandy Press
13*	Laurel Mill and Colonel Jordan Jones House
14*	Foster House
15*	Edwin Wiley Fuller House
16	McLemore-Canady House
17*	Massenburg Plantation
18	Mitchell House
19*	Monreath
20	Moore House
21*	Dr. Samuel Perry House
22	Willie Perry House
23	Perry-Timberlake House
24*	Person-McGhee House
25*	Archibald Taylor House
26*	Patty Person Taylor House
27*	Vine Hill
28*	Clifton House and Mill
29*	Person-McGhee Farm
30*	J. A. Savage House
31*	The Baker Farm
32	Portridge Plantation
33	Polly Wright House
34	Former Raleigh and Gaston/Seaboard Railway Station
35	John Allen House
36	William Green House

Note: Due to disclosure issues and the availability of data, the following historically significant sites have not been mapped: Allen Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Andrews-Moore House\*, Battle-Malone-Bass House, Governor T.W. Bickett House, Franklinton Depot\*, Louisburg Academy, Main Building-Louisburg College\*, Pernell House and Travelers' Rest, Perry-Alston House, Person Place\*, Robideaux House and Barn, Charles Ruffin House, Speed Farm\*, Sterling Cotton Mill\*, Vann Mansion, and Williamson House\*.

\*Sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places.  
Source: NC Division of Archives and History.

MAP 6 - HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

c. Natural Heritage Areas

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program maintains the state's list of significant "Natural Heritage Areas" as required by the Nature Preserves Act (NCGS Chapter 113A-164 of Article 9A). The list is based on the program's inventory of the natural diversity in the state. Natural areas (sites) are evaluated on the basis of the occurrences of rare plant and animal species, rare or high quality natural communities, and geologic features. The global and statewide rarity of these elements and the quality of their occurrence at a site relative to other occurrences determine a site's significance rating.

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has identified 1,678 significant natural heritage areas within North Carolina of which 22 are located within Franklin County. Table 25 provides a summary of the natural heritage areas in Franklin County. The approximate locations of these sites are provided on Map 7. The sites included on this list are the best known representatives of the natural diversity of the county and therefore have priority for protection. Inclusion on this list does not mean that public access exists or is appropriate. Permission of the landowner is recommended in all cases. Inclusion on this list does not confer protection to a site, nor does it give it regulatory status. The list includes both protected and unprotected areas. This list of sites and their significance ratings are based on the best available information as derived from the Natural Heritage Program staff and databases. More information on these natural areas may be obtained from the Natural Heritage Program.

Table 25  
Franklin County  
Natural Heritage Areas

Number*	Site Name	Significance
1	Swift Creek (Vance/Warren/Franklin/Nash/Edgecombe) Aquatic Habitat	A
2	Lower Shocco Creek Bluffs and Floodplain	B
3	Shocco Creek/Centerville Bluffs	C
4	Bog Flatrock	B
5	Overton Rock	B
6	Cedar Rock Church Flatrock	C
7	West Big Peachtree Creek Flatrock	C
8	North Big Peachtree Creek Flatrock	C
9	Big Peachtree Creek Flatrock	B
10	Norris Creek Plant Site	B
11	Bunn Flatrock	C
12	Crooked Creek Aquatic Habitat	B
13	Middle Tar River Aquatic Habitat	B
14	Cedar Creek Aquatic Habitat	C
15	Moccasin Creek Aquatic Habitat	B
16	Little River (Franklin/Wake/Johnston/Wayne) Aquatic Habitat	A
17	Tar River Camassia Slopes	B
18	County Line Flatrocks	B
19	Fishing Creek Aquatic Habitat	B
20	Upper Tar River Aquatic Habitat	A
21	Tar River Levee	C

\*Number indicated corresponds with Map 7.

Natural Area Significance

- A - Nationally significant natural areas contain examples of natural communities, rare plant or animal populations, or geologic features that are among the highest quality or best of their kind in the nation, or clusters of such elements that are among the best in the nation.
  
- B - Statewide significant natural areas contain similar ecological resources that are among the highest quality occurrences in North Carolina. There may be better quality representations or larger populations elsewhere in the nation, including possibly a few within the state.
  
- C - Regionally significant natural areas contain natural elements that may be represented elsewhere in the state by better quality examples, but which are among the outstanding examples in their geographic region of the state. A few better examples may occur in nationally or state significant sites.

Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

MAP 7 - SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

## **6. Soils**

The last Soil Survey of Franklin County was completed in 1931 by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture. However, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently preparing an updated Soil Survey expected to be complete by the year 2002. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) District Conservationist for Franklin County, much of the information included in the county's original survey is now considered to be inaccurate and should not be used for planning purposes. As a result, the soils data available for inclusion in this plan is severely limited. However, it should be noted that aerial photographs indicating the specific soil types (there are approximately 42 individual soil types) are available county-wide at the NRCS District Office at 101B South Bickett Boulevard. This information is available at a scale of 1 inch equals 2,000 feet. At this scale, it takes approximately sixty-five (65) 11 x 17 aerial photographs to comprise all of Franklin County. This data is intended to be used to determine soil types for relatively small areas and is not practical for county-wide analysis. The updated Soil Survey for the county will include a General Soils Map which groups the individual soil types into 6 or 7 broad groups. This General Soils Map will be better suited for county-wide planning purposes.

Hydric soils present in Franklin County have been discussed under the 404 wetlands portion of this section.

## **7. Basinwide Water Quality Management**

The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has initiated a basinwide approach to state water quality management. The overall goal of basinwide management is to develop consistent and effective long range water quality management strategies that protect the quality and intended uses of North Carolina's surface waters while accommodating population increases and economic growth.

The State of North Carolina has been divided into seventeen major river basins. For each river basin, water quality problems are identified and appropriate management strategies developed. The plan features basinwide permitting of pollution discharges, integration of existing point and nonpoint source control programs, and preparation of a basinwide management plan report.

The purpose of the basinwide management plan is to communicate to policy makers, the regulated community, and the general public, the state's rationale, approaches, and long-term strategies for each basin. The preparation of a basinwide management plan is a five year process. In general, this process involves the following five major phases of development:

- Collecting pertinent water quality and related information,
- Analyzing the information and targeting problem areas,
- Development management strategies,
- Circulating a draft plan for public review and comment, and
- Finalizing the plan.

Franklin County is located in two major river basins; approximately 421 square miles is in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin, and approximately 73 square miles is in the Neuse River Basin. The Tar-Pamlico and Neuse basinwide management plans received NCDEM approval in December, 1994, and March, 1993, respectively.

The long-range basinwide management goal is to provide a means of addressing the complex problem of planning for reasonable economic growth while protecting and/or restoring the quality and intended uses of surface waters.

In striving towards the long-range goal stated above, the Division of Environmental Management's highest priority near-term goals will be the following:

- Identify and restore the most severely impaired waters in the basin;
- Protect those waters known to be of the highest quality or supporting biological communities of special importance;
- Manage problem pollutants, particularly nutrients, biological oxygen demand and sediment and fecal coliform, in order to correct existing water quality problems and to ensure protection of those waters currently supporting their uses.

In Franklin County, the US Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified 3 sub-basins within the Tar-Pamlico River Basin and 4 sub-basins within the Neuse River Basin. The following table and Map 8 identify the sub-basins located in Franklin County.

Table 26  
Franklin County  
Sub-basins

Tar-Pamlico River Sub-basins	Neuse River Sub-basins
03-03-01	03-04-07
03-03-02	03-04-06
03-03-04	03-04-02
	03-04-01

The water classifications that have been assigned to the surface freshwaters located in Franklin County are provided in the next section of this plan, Areas of Resource Potential, e. Marine Resources/Water Quality.

**8. Areas of Resource Potential**

a. Valuable Mineral Resources

As previously discussed in this plan, the county's most important mineral resource is crushed stone for use as road material and general construction purposes. Granite, found in the Igneous Intrusive Rock units, has the greatest potential for crushed stone. Granite has also been quarried for dimension building stone in parts of the county. Other mineral resources include sand in alluvial deposits, feldspar-muscovite in pegmatites in the western part, and gold in the far northeastern corner.

## MAP 8 - WATERSHEDS

b. Agricultural and Forestlands

As previously discussed throughout this plan, agriculture and forestry are extremely important to Franklin County. In addition to the economic importance of agriculture and forestry, these land uses provide the rural atmosphere that is dear to many of the county's residents.

The cropland, pastureland, and forestland is scattered throughout the county due to the nature of the county's soils and topography. However, the land in Dunn and Cypress Creek townships and in portions of Gold Mine and Hayesville townships is generally better suited for agricultural purposes than land in the rest of the county. The land in Franklinton and Youngsville townships is generally the least well suited land for agriculture in the county (see townships on Map 4). The soils that are best suited for agricultural use in Franklin County are listed below.

Table 27  
Prime Agricultural Soils in Franklin County

Map Symbol	Soil Name
AaA	Altavista sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded
ApB	Appling loamy sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes
CaB	Cecil sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
CeB2	Cecil clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded
DuA	Duplin sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
GeB	Georgeville loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
GkB2	Georgeville clay loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded
HeB	Helena sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
HrB	Herndon loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
StA	State loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded
VaB	Vance sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
VgB	Varina gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes
VnB	Varina loamy sandy, 2 to 6 percent slopes
WeB	Wedowee sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes

Source: Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Economical production of food and other agricultural products requires land which can be farmed efficiently, maintain fertility, and will not be susceptible to erosion with continued use. This prime agricultural land is limited and becomes increasingly valuable as demands are made for conversion to other uses. Land's immediate cash value for non-farm development is often greater than for agriculture; and when the land is once developed, it is lost for all future agricultural uses. Whenever possible, the prime agricultural land should be reserved for agricultural use to preserve the economic base and rural atmosphere of Franklin County.

c. Public Parks

Franklin County does not own or maintain any public parks. However, county residents have access to public parks owned and operated by the City of Louisburg, Town of Youngsville, and Town of Franklinton. Recreational facilities that are available to county residents, including school sites, will be discussed in detail under the Development Constraints: Public Facilities Section of this plan.

d. Public Gamelands

The only public gameland located in Franklin County is the state-owned Hosley Forest. This site consists of approximately 250 acres and is located just northeast of Centerville.

e. Marine Resources/Water Quality

Although less than 1% (approximately 1,700 acres) of Franklin County's total acreage is comprised of water, marine resources are a valuable asset. The county's river, streams, and creeks provide valuable wildlife habitats, opportunities for recreation, and, in some cases, potential sources for drinking water.

Uses of water are significantly affected by its quality. All surface waters in North Carolina are assigned water classifications by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ).

Surface water classifications are designations applied to surface water bodies, such as streams, rivers, and lakes, which define the best uses to be protected within these waters (for example, swimming, fishing, drinking water supply). Each classification has an associated set of water quality standards to protect those uses (see Appendix III for Surface Freshwater Classifications and Standards). Surface water classifications are one tool that state and federal agencies use to manage and protect all streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters in North Carolina. Classifications and their associated protection rules may be designed to protect water quality, fish and wildlife, the free flowing nature of a stream or river, or other special characteristics.

The following provides a summary of primary and supplemental surface freshwater classifications used by the DWQ:

## DWQ PRIMARY CLASSIFICATIONS

Water Supply I (WS-I): Waters used as sources of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes for those users desiring maximum protection for their water supplies. WS-I waters are those within *natural and undeveloped* watersheds in public ownership with no permitted point source (wastewater) discharges.

Water Supply II (WS-II): Waters used as sources of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes for those users desiring maximum protection for their water supply where a WS-I classification is not feasible. WS-II waters are generally in *predominantly undeveloped* watersheds.

Water Supply III (WS-III): Waters used as sources of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes for those users where a more protective WS-I or II classification is not feasible. WS-III waters are generally in *low to moderately developed* watersheds.

Water Supply IV (WS-IV): Waters used as sources of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food processing purposes for those users where a WS-I, II, or III classification is not feasible. WS-IV waters are generally in *moderately to highly developed* watersheds or Protected Areas.

Water Supply V (WS-V): Waters protected as water supplies which are generally upstream and draining to Class WS-IV waters or waters used by industry to supply their employees with drinking water or as waters formerly used as water supply. WS-V has no categorical restrictions on watershed development or wastewater discharges like other WS classifications and local governments are *not* required to adopt watershed protection ordinances.

Class B: Waters used for primary recreation and other uses suitable for Class C. Primary recreational activities include swimming, skin diving, water skiing, and similar uses involving human body contact with water where such activities take place in an organized manner or on a frequent basis. There are no restrictions on watershed development. Discharges must meet treatment reliability requirements such as backup power supplies and dual train design.

Class C: Waters protected for secondary recreation, fishing, wildlife, fish and aquatic life propagation and survival, agriculture and other uses suitable for Class C. Secondary recreation includes wading, boating, and other uses involving human body contact with water where such activities take place in an infrequent, unorganized, or incidental manner. There are no restrictions on watershed development.

## DWQ SUPPLEMENTAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Future Water Supply (FWS): Supplemental classification for waters intended as a future drinking water source. FWS would be applied to one of the primary water supply classifications (WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, or WS-IV). State permitting requirements applicable to the primary water supply classification become effective upon reclassification. However, local government water supply

protection ordinances are not required until after the FWS supplemental classification is removed.

**Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW):** Supplemental classification intended for waters needing additional nutrient management due to their being subject to excessive growth of microscopic or macroscopic vegetation. In general, management strategies for point and nonpoint source pollution control require no increase in nutrients over background levels.

**Trout Waters (Tr):** Supplemental classification intended to protect freshwaters for natural trout propagation and survival of stocked trout. Affects wastewater discharges but there are no watershed development restrictions except stream buffer zone requirement of NC Division of Land Resources. It is not the same classification as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**High Quality Waters (HQW):** Supplemental classification intended to protect waters with quality higher than state water quality standards. In general, there are two means by which a water body may be classified as HQW. They may be by definition or they may qualify for HQW and then be supplementally classified as HQW through the rule-making process. The following are HQW by definition: WS-I, WS-II, SA (shellfishing), ORW, and waters for which DWQ has received a petition for reclassification to either WS-I or WS-II. The following waters can qualify for the supplemental HQW classification: waters rated as Excellent by DWQ, Primary Nursery Areas, Native Trout Waters, and Critical Habitat Waters. There are associated wastewater treatment and stormwater runoff controls enforced by DWQ.

**Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW):** Supplemental classification intended to protect unique and special waters having excellent water quality and being of exceptional state or national ecological or recreational significance. To qualify, waters must be rated Excellent by DWQ *and* have one of the following outstanding resource values: 1) Outstanding fish habitat or fisheries; 2) Unusually high level of water-based recreation; 3) Some special designation such as NC or National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Wildlife Refuge, etc; 4) Important component of state or national park or forest; or 5) Special ecological or scientific significance (rare or endangered species habitat, research, or educational areas). No new or expanded wastewater discharges are allowed and there are associated stormwater runoff controls enforced by DWQ.

**Swamp Waters (Sw):** Supplemental classification intended to recognize those waters that generally have naturally occurring very low velocities, low pH, and low dissolved oxygen.

It is important to note that many streams, rivers, and lakes may have several classifications applied to the same area. This is because surface waters are classified to protect different uses or special characteristics of the waterbody. For example, a stream or specific stream segment may be classified as Class WS-III TR HQW by the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ). This protects it as a drinking water supply (WS-III), as Trout Waters (Tr), and as High Quality Waters (HQW). The stream

segments upstream or downstream may have different classifications based on other water uses or stream characteristics.

Table 28 provides a list of the surface freshwaters within Franklin County and their DWQ classification.

Table 28  
Franklin County  
Surface Freshwaters

Stream Name	Sub-basin	Class
TAR-PAMLICO RIVER BASIN		
Back Swamp	03-03-02	C NSW
Bear Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
Bear Swamp	03-03-04	C NSW
Bear Swamp Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Big Branch Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Big Peachtree Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
Brandy Creek	03-03-01	B NSW, C NSW
Buffalo Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
	03-03-04	C NSW
	03-03-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
Camping Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Cedar Creek	03-03-01	WS-II NSW, WS-II NSW CA, C NSW
Cliftons Pond	03-03-01	C NSW
Crooked Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Deer Branch	03-03-02	C NSW
Devils Cradle Creek	03-03-02	B NSW
Eaves Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Flatrock Creek	03-03-02	B NSW
Fox Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW, C NSW
Giles Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Gills Little Mill Creek	03-03-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
Horse Creek	03-03-04	C NSW
	03-03-02	C NSW
Kings Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Lake Royale	03-03-01	B NSW
Lands Pond	03-03-01	C NSW
Little Peachtree Creek	03-03-02	C NSW

Stream Name	Sub-basin	Class
Little Shocco Creek	03-03-04	C NSW
Lynch Creek	03-03-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
McGees Creek	03-03-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
Middle Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Moccasin Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
Norris Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Perrys Pond	03-03-01	C NSW
Red Bud Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Richland Creek	03-03-02	B NSW
Sandy Creek	03-03-02	C NSW, B NSW
Sycamore Creek	03-03-01	C NSW
Tar River	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA, WS-V NSW
	03-03-02	WS-V NSW, WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA, WS-IV&B NSW CA, B NSW, C NSW
Taylors Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Tooles Creek	03-03-01	WS-IV NSW
Turkey Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
White Creek	03-03-02	C NSW
White Oak Swamp	03-03-04	C NSW
NEUSE RIVER BASIN		
Beaver Dam	03-04-07	C Sw NSW
Beaverdam Creek	03-04-02	C NSW
	03-04-12	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
	03-04-07	C NSW
Buffalo Creek	03-04-06	C NSW, B NSW
Cedar Creek	03-04-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA
	03-04-06	WS-II NSW
Crooked Creek	03-04-01	WS-IV NSW
Horse Creek	03-04-01	C NSW, WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA
Jumping Run	03-04-01	WS-IV NSW

Stream Name	Sub-basin	Class
Little River	03-04-01	WS-II NSW, WS-II NSW CA, WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA
	03-04-06	WS-II NSW, WS-II NSW CA, WS-V NSW, WS-IV NSW, WS-IV NSW CA, C NSW, B NSW
Moccasin Creek	03-04-02	C NSW, WS-IV NSW
	03-04-07	C NSW
Moores Pond	03-04-06	WS-II NSW
Richland Creek	03-04-02	C NSW
Sycamore Creek	03-04-02	B NSW
Turkey Creek	03-04-02	C NSW, B NSW
White Oak Swamp	03-04-07	C Sw NSW

Source: NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality.

L. Development Constraints: Existing Public Facilities

**1. Water System**

The majority of the county's population residing outside the planning jurisdictions of incorporated areas receives their water via individual wells. Public water systems are provided in the towns of Louisburg, Franklinton, Youngsville, and Bunn. A private central water system provides service to the Lake Royale community. The Franklin County Department of Water and Sewer (FCDWS) has constructed water lines between Louisburg and Franklinton and Franklinton and Youngsville. The FCDWS purchases water from the towns of Franklinton and Louisburg and sells water to the Town of Youngsville. Because the FCDWS relies on municipal water systems for its water supply, it does not own any groundwater wells. However, the FCDWS does maintain a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank off of US 1 near Youngsville and approximately 24 miles of distribution lines.

North Carolina General Statute (G.S. 143-355(I)) requires all units of local government that provide or plan to provide public water supply service to prepare a Local Water Supply Plan and to update that plan at least every five years. A local water supply plan is an assessment of a water system's current and future water needs and its ability to meet those needs. The FCDWS updated its Local Water Supply Plan in July, 1998. However, due to a shortage in staff at the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, the county's plan is not expected to be adopted until the year 2000. The county's most recent comprehensive source of

data pertaining to its water system is included in the 1998 update of its Local Water Supply Plan. Table 29 provides a summary of FCDWS water use information included in this plan.

Table 29  
Franklin County  
Water Usage Information

Average Daily Water Use by Month for 1997 in Million Gallons Per Day (MGD)

	Average Daily Use		Average Daily Use		Average Daily Use
January	0.875	May	1.037	September	0.893
February	0.892	June	1.074	October	0.880
March	0.879	July	1.079	November	0.802
April	1.044	August	1.079	December	0.697

Largest Water Users and Their Average Annual Daily Use in Million Gallons Per Day (MGD) for 1997

Water User	Average Daily Use
Novo Nordisk	0.741
Southern Lithoplate	0.042
American Textile Services	0.040
Sprint	0.026

Total Water Use for 1997 including all purchased water: 340.2628 Million Gallons (MG)

Average Annual Daily Water Use in 1997: 0.9322 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD)

1997 Average Annual Daily Water Use by Type in Million Gallons Per Day (MGD)

Type of Use	Average Use (MGD)
Residential	0.0089
Commercial	0.0433
Industrial	0.8268
Institutional	0.0000
Sales to Other Systems	0.0530
Backwash	0.0000
Subtotal	0.9320
Average Annual Daily Water Use	0.9322
Unaccounted for Water	0.0002

Source: Franklin County Department of Water and Sewer.

Map 9 provides the location of waterlines in Franklin County as of May, 1999.

MAP 9 - LOCATION OF WATERLINES

## 2. Wastewater Disposal

Most of Franklin County’s residents rely upon individual septic tanks for sewage disposal. However, public wastewater systems are provided in the towns of Louisburg, Franklinton, Youngsville, and Bunn. At Lake Royale, a package treatment plant (small wastewater collection and treatment system) serves the camping area. The towns of Bunn and Louisburg operate their wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection systems independently of the Franklin County Department of Water and Sewer (FCDWS). The FCDWS maintains the Franklin County WWTP located near the Town of Franklinton southeast of Lane Store Road (SR 1118). Wastewater is collected from the towns of Franklinton and Youngsville via sewer lines along Cedar Creek Road. Effluent is treated through an extended aeration activated sludge process consisting of an influent pump station, manual bar screen and grit chamber, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary clarification, ultraviolet disinfection with chlorine backup, and cascade aeration. Sludge is aerobically digested, dewatered, thickened, and then either wasted to drying beds or land applied through a contract hauler.

This facility has a permitted capacity of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) and on average operates at approximately 40% of its capacity. Treated wastewater is discharged into Cedar Creek.

Table 30 provides the average daily wastewater discharge by month for 1997.

Table 30  
Franklin County  
Average Daily Wastewater Discharge, 1997

Average Daily Wastewater Discharges by Month for 1997 in Million Gallons Per Day (MGD)

	Average Daily Discharge		Average Daily Discharge		Average Daily Discharge
January	0.345	May	0.370	September	0.323
February	0.422	June	0.300	October	0.308
March	0.436	July	0.311	November	0.318
April	0.439	August	0.302	December	0.289

Source: Franklin County Department of Water and Sewer.

Map 10 provides the location of sewer lines in Franklin County as of May, 1999.

Anyone who discharges into the surface waters of the state must have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The issuance of an NPDES permit follows the requirements contained in NCAC 15A 2H.0100. An application for a permit must be made to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to obtain or renew an

NPDES permit. Table 31 provides a summary of NPDES permits issued for facilities located in Franklin County.

MAP 10 - LOCATION OF SEWER LINES

Table 31  
Franklin County  
NPDES Permits

Permit	Facility	Site Address	Site City	Sub-basin	Receiving Stream
NC000285 2	Franklinton WTP, Town of	7 W. Mason St.	Franklinton	30301	Taylor's Creek
NC002023 1	Louisburg, Town -WWTP	110 West Nash St.	Louisburg	30301	Tar River
NC004226 9	Bunn, Town-WWTP/Elementary School Rd	Bunn Elementary School Road	Bunn	30301	Crooked Creek
NC004251 0	Riveria Util. of NC, Inc.	Lake Royale	Bunn	30301	Cypress Creek
NC005800 9	Laurel Hills Health Care	P.O. Box 487	Louisburg	30301	UT Wolfpen Branch
NC006898 5	Pines Mobile Home Park #2	US#1-2 Mi. North of Franklinton	Louisburg	30301	UT Taylor's Creek
NC006931 1	Franklin County WWTP	P.O. Box 685	Franklinton	30301	Cedar Creek
NC008488 3	Riveria Util-Wounded Knee Dr.	Wounded Knee Dr.	Lake Royale	30301	UT Lake Royale-Cypress Creek
NC008489 1	Riveria Util-Shawnee Dr.	Shawnee Dr.	Lake Royale	30301	Cypress Creek
NC008490 5	Riveria Util- Chuckwagon Dr.	Chuckwagon Dr.	Lake Royale	30301	Lake Sagamore

Source: NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.

### 3. Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling

Franklin County provides twelve convenience centers for solid waste disposal. The sites are scattered throughout Franklin County with each resident averaging about eight miles to a site one way. Each convenience center has one compactor unit and at least one open top container for waste. Some sites have two open top containers. Franklin County owns all the containers at each site. Waste Industries has a contract to staff each convenience center and provide the hauling of the waste containers to the Franklin County Solid Waste Transfer Station (FCSWTS). The hours of operation for the convenience centers are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM; Sunday from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM; and closed on Thursday. The following provides the location of each convenience center:

Site #1 – Highway 39

Located 1.5 miles south of Louisburg on Highway 39.

Site #2 – Moulton

Located 2 miles north of Louisburg at the intersection of SR 1414 and SR 1002.

Site #3 – Five Points

Located at the intersection of SR 1001 and Highway 98 just 2 miles west of Bunn.

Site #4 – Highway 56 East

Located 6.5 miles east of Louisburg on Highway 56.

Site #5 – Highway 58

Located 2.2 miles south of Centerville on Highway 58 next to Deer Branch.

Site #6 – Gupton

Located at the intersection of SR 1436 and SR 1407, approximately 8 miles northeast of Louisburg.

Site #7 – Rocky Ford

Located at the intersection of SR 1239 and SR 1003, approximately 7.5 miles northwest of Louisburg.

Site #8 – Youngsville

Located one mile north of Youngsville on Highway 1A.

Site #9 – Transfer Station (Old Landfill)

Located approximately 6.5 miles southwest of Louisburg on SR 1109.

Site #10 – Lake Royale

Located approximately 3 miles east of Bunn on SR 1611.

Site #12 – Mitchner's Cross Roads

Located approximately 5.7 miles west of Louisburg off SR 1003.

Site #14 – Pilot

Located approximately 1 mile east of Pilot on SR 1770.

NOTE: There is no Site #11 or Site #13.

Franklin County also has private waste haulers that provide house to house pick-up service. There are six private haulers: Waste Industries, S&W Sanitation, Norwake Sanitation, James Hartsfield, Edward Street, and Green Earth.

Once solid waste has been hauled from the convenience centers to the FCSWTS, it is shipped by Waste Management, Inc., to the landfill in Roxboro, North Carolina. Up

until April, 1994, Franklin County operated its own landfill located at the current FCSWTS. However, this site was closed due to a lack of space, groundwater contamination, and the high cost to continue operations under new solid waste rules. The county's future plans for solid waste disposal will be discussed in Section II of this plan.

Franklin County and its municipalities disposed of 36,489 tons of waste in FY1996-97. An estimate of the waste disposed of by sector is shown in Table 32. These calculations are based on actual weights from the FCSWTS.

Table 32  
Franklin County  
Estimated Waste Disposed by Sector, FY1996-97

Type of Waste	Tons	Percent of Waste Stream
pallets/clean wood	600	1.6%
yard waste	2,625	7.2%
shingles	1,600	4.4%
residential	1,423	3.9%
site waste	9,952	27.3%
landfill/residential	1,800	4.9%
lcid*	500	1.4%
commercial	17,989	49.3%

\*Lcid debris refers to materials that include clean brick, block, concrete, asphalt, and clean types of lumber.

Source: Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Franklin County has been working on a recycling program since 1987. Currently, Franklin County recycles about 4% of its total waste. Recycling containers are located at each of the twelve convenience centers. A container is available for each of the following materials: newspaper, magazines, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass (three colors), and plastic drink bottles and milk jugs.

Franklin County also runs one expanded recycling stations at the FCSWTS. Residents may bring materials to be recycled that include: yard waste, newspaper, magazines, mixed paper, steel/tin cans, mixed plastic bottles, glass (three colors), aluminum, scrap metal, appliances, tires, auto batteries, and used motor oil. Old furniture, appliances, lawn mowers, tools, and other working items are given away.

Table 33 shows the residential recycling in tons currently collected by Franklin County.

Table 33  
Franklin County  
Residential Recycling in Tons, FY1996-97

Material	County Tons*
Newspapers	504
Magazines	5
Mixed Paper	63
Corrugated Cardboard	231
Glass	224
Aluminum	10
Mixed Plastic Bottles	23
White Goods/Scrap Metal	450
Steel Cans	6
Compost/Mulch	2,625
Tires	174
Used Motor Oil	8 (2,142 gallons)
Auto Batteries	6 (307 individual batteries)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,329</b>

\*Includes tonnage recycled at the Louisburg, Franklinton, and Bunn Municipal recycling centers.

Source: Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan.

It should be noted that industrial and commercial operations, as well as the Franklin County school system, make strong efforts to recycle.

#### **4. Educational Facilities**

Franklin County students are served by Franklin County Schools. During school year 1998-99, total enrollment at the county's twelve (12) schools was 7,167. Table 34 provides enrollment figures for each of the county's schools during school year 1998-99.

Table 34  
Franklin County  
School Enrollment, 1998-1999

School	Number of Students
Bunn Elementary	912
Edward Best Elementary	440
Franklinton Elementary	622
Laurel Mill Elementary	449
Louisburg Elementary	626
Youngsville Elementary	688
Bunn Middle	631
Cedar Creek Middle	607
Terrell Lane Middle	543
Bunn High	586
Franklinton High	525
Louisburg High	538
Total	7,167

Source: Franklin County Schools.

One of the most significant events for Franklin County Schools occurred on August 27, 1996, when Franklin County's residents voted 79% "yes" to approve a \$17 million local bond referendum. This bond allowed the school system to construct two new middle schools: Bunn Middle School and Cedar Creek Middle School. The opening of these schools during the Fall of 1998 alleviated severe overcrowding problems being experienced by the school system. Additional improvements will be discussed in Section II of this plan.

There is one private school in Franklin County, Calvary Christian School, located on SR 1001 just north of Bunn. Approximately 50 students attend this school.

Louisburg College, founded in 1787, is the oldest junior college in the United States. A new 1,200 seat auditorium provides the community with concerts, plays, lecture series, art exhibits, and cultural programs which rival those available in metropolitan areas. The college is located in Louisburg on a 75-acre site. The college is related by faith to the United Methodist Church. Franklin County residents attending full-time are eligible to receive one-third off tuition.

Vance-Granville Community College located on NC 56 just west of Louisburg is a two-year college which provides technical and general education to residents at a

modest expense. A new Franklin County VGCC satellite campus recently opened in Louisburg. The Industry Services division of VGCC works with new, expanding, and existing industries, providing customized training programs tailored to meet the needs of the industry and its employees. Major colleges and universities located within a one-hour drive are North Carolina State University, Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina Central University.

## **5. Transportation**

### **a. Roads**

There are three major routes running through Franklin County, US 1, US 401, and US 64. US 1 enters Franklin County southwest of Youngsville and continues north through Franklinton into Vance County. This highway has been upgraded to four lanes in order to facilitate increasing volumes of traffic heading north from Wake County. A small section of US 64 runs through the southern tip of Franklin County. This section of highway acts as a connector between Wake and Nash counties. US 401 is also a heavily traveled highway which extends from the Wake-Franklin border north through Louisburg to Warren County. Some other significant highways include NC 39, US 1A, NC 56, NC 581, NC 96, NC 98, and NC 561.

According to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Franklin County has a total of 783 miles of roads of which 703 are paved. The 80 miles of unpaved roads are all secondary roads. Out of the total miles of paved roads, approximately 3% are located within incorporated areas, 20% are primary roads, and the remaining 77% are comprised of secondary roads.

Map 11 contains a summary of the annual daily traffic counts (ADT) compiled by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in 1998. The map indicates that the ADT on US 1 is by far the highest in the county. Other high volumes traffic areas are along US 401 south of Louisburg, NC 98 running from the southern border east to Bunn, NC 39 north of Louisburg, and NC 56 between Franklinton and Louisburg. Transportation improvement needs and priorities are discussed in Section II of this plan.

### **b. Airports**

The Franklin County Airport is located approximately five miles southwest of Louisburg on the east side of US 401. The airport serves mainly as an instructional flight center. The facility's primary runway is 5,500 feet which is long enough to accommodate a large portion of the general aviation corporate fleet. The fixed based operator for the airport is First in Flight Aviation, which offers extensive flight training in a variety of different aircraft. The airport is currently occupied by 65 based aircraft, with the capacity for up to 100. The airport is occasionally used by local industries for shipping purposes.

## **6. Recreation**

Franklin County's earliest attempt at establishing a Parks and Recreation Department was short-lived. In 1974, the county hired a full-time Recreation Director. However, in 1977, the position was terminated by the Board of Commissioners. The county re-established its Parks and Recreation Department in 1997. Staff positions include four (4) full-time employees: Director, Administrative Services Manager, Recreation Services Manager, and a Parks Development and Operations Manager. These additional staff positions were made possible through a dramatic

MAP 11 - ADT COUNTS

increase in funding. Between fiscal years 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, the operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department increased over 280% from \$84,000 to \$320,000. A substantial portion of these additional funds was used for the renovation of the department's new office at 1638 M.C. Wilder Road.

Additional funds have also enabled the county to expand its programs and services. In particular, the department offers a greatly expanded Youth Basketball Program (from 320 players on 31 teams in 1998 to 640 players on 73 teams in 1999). The department has also started offering special events (Easter egg hunt), special trips (Baltimore Orioles trip), and classes (gardening). The department also provides more support activities to operate facilities for its programs such as the department's New Adult Softball League (ballfield maintenance at the Louisburg Moose Lodge Field) and support to the Franklinton Youth Baseball and Softball Programs (field maintenance at the four fields at Franklinton Elementary School). Additionally, staff is providing support to market new programs of the Recreation Division.

The following provides a comprehensive list of programs and services that have been offered by the department:

### Programs

NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick Competition – Boys and Girls  
National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Clinics – Adults

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Softball
- T-Ball

Youth Basketball League

- 5-7 Division (Boys and Girls)
- 8-9 Boys Division
- 10-11 Boys Division
- 12-14 Boys Division
- 15-18 Boys Division
- 12 & Under Girls Division
- 15 & Under Girls Division

Youth Basketball League County-Wide Tournaments in 7 Age Divisions

Boys 13-14 Baseball League

Boys 13-14 County-Wide Tournament

Girls Softball

Adult Softball

Gardening Class

Tae Kwon-Do Lessons at Special Discount

- Adult
- Teen
- Youth

Franklin County Track & Field Program

Edward Best After School Program

Easter Egg Hunt  
 Bunny Visit  
 Fishing Seminar  
 Darlington Race Trips  
 S.T.A.R.S. Extreme Sports Program for Teens  
 Baltimore Orioles/National Aquarium Trip  
 Participation in Christmas Parades
 

- Franklinton
- Bunn
- Louisburg
- Alert
- Youngsville

 Booth at Tar River Festival

Services

Field Maintenance at Franklinton Elementary School  
 Field Maintenance at the Louisburg Moose Lodge Field  
 Grading of New Softball Field at Louisburg High School with Teamwork 2000  
 Purchase of Height Adjustable Basketball Goals for Franklinton Elementary School  
 Plumbing Work at Wilson Gym for Perry School Basketball Program  
 Purchase of gymnastics equipment for Gymnastics Program

Franklin County depends on school, municipal, and state recreational sites and facilities to provide service to its residents. Although the county does not own any parks, there are park facilities located in Louisburg, Youngsville, and Franklinton. The following provides a summary of these sites:

35	acres of park land owned by Louisburg (Riverbend Park: 7 acres developed, 28 acres undeveloped).
10	acres of park land owned by Youngsville (Luddy Park)
<u>1</u>	acre owned by Franklinton (Senior Center)
48	total acres of park land

The following state-owned facilities are available to Franklin County residents:

State Bike Trail (East) – extends approximately 12 miles along state roadways from the Nash County line to US 401 at Harris Crossroads.

State Bike Trail (West) – extends approximately 11 miles along state roadways from Harris Crossroads at US 401 through Youngsville, proceeding westward, then south to the Wake County line.

Hosley Forest – includes approximately 250 acres of forests and a two-mile walking trail.

As previously stated, in addition to municipal and state facilities, Franklin County utilizes recreational facilities at all twelve of the county's schools. A list of the county's schools was provided in this section of the plan under Educational Facilities.

The Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department is currently preparing a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. This plan provides a detailed discussion of existing conditions as well as recommendations for future improvements.

## **7. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telephone Services**

### **a. Electric**

Electric service is provided by Carolina Power and Light Company, Wake Electric Membership Corporation, and the Town of Louisburg.

### **b. Natural Gas**

Natural gas is currently available in Franklin County's US 1/NC 96 industrial corridor, and two miles east of US 1 on NC 56.

### **c. Telephone**

Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company, a Sprint/Centel company, provides service to 95% of Franklin County. Southern Bell serves the remaining area in the southeast.

## **8. Health Care**

Franklin County residents have access to a wide range of health care services which are offered at the Franklin County Regional Medical Center. The center is an 85-bed acute care medical surgical hospital. Franklin County Regional Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission on Health Care Organizations, and was selected as one of the top 100 hospitals in the United States in 1995 and 1996. The following is an overview of the services that the Franklin County Regional Medical Center offers:

- 24-hour fully staffed emergency department capable of handling a full range of needs.
- Inpatient medical, surgical, intensive care, and psychiatric services.
- Life Flight Air Ambulance.
- Same day surgery.
- Ultrasound.
- Mammography.
- Physical Therapy.
- Cardiac Care Unit.

Franklin County also has many private medical service providers. There are over thirty-one physicians in the county offering family practice, internal medicine, cardiology,

nephrology, pediatrics, gastroenterology, psychiatry, urology, general & orthopedic surgery, neurology, dentists/orthodontists, optometrists, and chiropractors. Franklin County is home to two skilled nursing facilities; Britthaven, a 160-bed nursing home, and Louisburg Nursing Center, a 92-bed center. Both facilities are located in the Town of Louisburg. There is also a 13-bay dialysis center located in Louisburg.

## **9. Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement is provided by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to the unincorporated areas of the county. However, the Sheriff's Department does provide assistance to the municipal police departments within the county as needed. The Sheriff's Department staffs 39 full-time and two part-time sworn officers. Four (4) of the full-time positions were just added this fiscal year. The Sheriff's Department operates five separate units: mobile crime scene, patrol, investigations, narcotics, and child abuse investigations. Most recently, the Department has added a Civil Squad assigned with the responsibility of administering the civil process.

The Sheriff's Department also has the responsibility for E-911 communications and the county jail. The county's Sheriff's Department, communications center, and jail are all located just outside of Louisburg on T Kemp Road in a new facility which opened in 1997. The county jail has a 120-bed occupancy. As many as 40 federal inmates may be held at the jail at one time. This service is paid for by the U.S. Marshall's Office.

## **10. Fire/Rescue Services**

Franklin County is served by 11 fire departments in the county and two departments in adjacent counties. Franklin County is divided into 13 fire district service areas. Map 12 provides the locations of these districts. Approximately 400 volunteers staff the county's fire departments (approximately 30-35 per station). The Town of Louisburg operates its own fire department governed by the Town Council. This department serves the Central Franklin Fire District. The remaining ten fire departments in the county are private, non-profit corporations each governed by its own Board of Commissioners. The Youngsville and Bunn Fire Departments serve as substations. There is an automatic mutual aid agreement between the county's Fire Departments in which two or more departments are dispatched simultaneously during structure fires.

The street addresses for the county's fire departments and rescue squads are provided in Appendix IV.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) of North Carolina has established a grading schedule for rural and municipal fire protection. Individual communities are surveyed by 150 representatives every nine to ten years and the grading process used considers the following:

- |    |                     |     |
|----|---------------------|-----|
| 1. | Water Supply        | 39% |
| 2. | Fire Department     | 39% |
| 3. | Fire Communications | 9%  |

4. Fire Safety Control 13%

MAP 12 - FIRE DISTRICTS

A rating of 1 is the best possible, with 10, the lowest, being assigned to areas with essentially no protection. The ratings have a financial impact on property owners because fire insurance premiums depend on the grade or class assigned by the ISO. The ISO ratings for the county's fire departments are as follows:

Fire Districts	ISO Rating
Bunn	6-9s
Centerville	9s
Epsom	9s
Northwest Franklin	5-9s
Gold Sand	9s
Justice	9s
Central Franklin	6-9s
Mitchner's Crossroads	9s
Pilot	9s
White Level	9s
Youngsville	7-9s

Source: Franklin County EMS.

Franklin County is served by six rescue squads, each squad serving its own district. Map 13 provides the location of these districts. Approximately 153 volunteers staff the county's rescue squads including: 49 Basic EMTs, seven EMDs (defibrillator), 38 Intermediate EMTs, 48 EMTPs (paramedic), and 11 MRs (medical responder). Three of the county's rescue squads are at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic level and three are at the Intermediate Paramedic level. The county's Communications Center, located on T Kemp Road, covers all E-911 calls. Between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, calls are handled by paid employees. After hours and weekend E-911 calls are handled by volunteers.

MAP 13 - RESCUE SQUAD DISTRICTS