

Public Input Window #1 Summary: Establish the Vision & Goals

Public Engagement Summary

Summary of Engagement Activities

Overview

The creation of a long-range Comprehensive Plan requires broad community engagement to be successful. During Phase 2, Buncombe County experienced delays to the planning process due to COVID-19 shutdowns and limits on social gatherings. This increased the amount of time needed for the completion of Phase 2. Despite those setbacks, staff were able to reach many residents through online public engagement activities, and later held in-person and intercept meetings all around the county in both urban and rural areas. Data from that phase shows that the first round of public engagement reached a large number of people from varying backgrounds. In total, 5 community meetings, 5 drop-in meetings, and 4 virtual meetings were held.

In 2022, staff facilitated the following activities:

January

- Virtual Public Input meeting
- Virtual Public Input meeting

February

- Steering Committee meeting
- Virtual Public Input meeting
- Virtual Public Input meeting

March

- Virtual Public Input meeting
- Emma PODER meeting
- Enka Middle School meeting
- Weaverville Comm. Ctr. meeting
- Fairview Comm. Ctr. meeting
- Intercept table at UNCA campus
- Intercept table at Community Market
- Skyland Library meeting
- Erwin High School meeting
- East Asheville Library meeting

April

- Creation of the draft 2022 Factbook
- Leicester Comm. Ctr. meeting
- Sandy Mush Comm. Ctr. meeting
- Black Mountain Library meeting
- Intercept table at Warren Wilson
- Steering Committee meeting
- Carolina Day Student event
- Career Day at Glenn Arden
- Hall Fletcher Elementary STEAM event

May, June, July

- Steering Committee meetings
- Analysis of data and input received
- Drafting of Vision, themes, and goals
- Review by the Board of Commissioners



Prioritizing Access

Accessibility is key to getting broad, high-quality public input. Staff were committed to addressing barriers to participation in their engagement plan. That included being mindful of limits to transportation, technology, language, work schedules, childcare, and more. Here's how we worked to address some of these limitations during Phase 2:

Transportation

- In-person meetings were held in urban and rural areas throughout the county so residents did not have to travel far.
- Drop-In style meetings made it easier for bus riders to come at convenient times.
- Online options meant residents with internet access could provide input from home or work without having to travel.
- Staff reached out to hundreds of local agencies, stakeholder groups, and service providers, offering to drop off paper polls.

Technology

- Paper activities were available at county libraries and other locations around town for people without internet access.
- Paper activities were also handed out at community events, in food boxes, and by Steering Committee members.

Language

- Online activities, paper polls, and flyers were available in English and Spanish.
- Live Spanish language interpreters were available at a number of in-person and virtual meetings.

Childcare

- Children were invited to attend meetings, allowing caregivers more flexibility.
- Child-friendly planning activities were available, with staff on hand to assist. Activities allowed children to share their input about their communities.
- Drop-in style meetings helped parents with younger children navigate the activities at their own pace, and to leave when needed.

Scheduling

- Meetings were scheduled for a range of weekday and weekend day and evening times to accommodate different schedules.
- Drop-in meetings provided greater flexibility, allowing residents to come any time during the meeting window, and stay as long as they wanted.
- Online and self-paced activities meant residents could provide their input without having to attend a meeting.



Community Vision Word Cloud

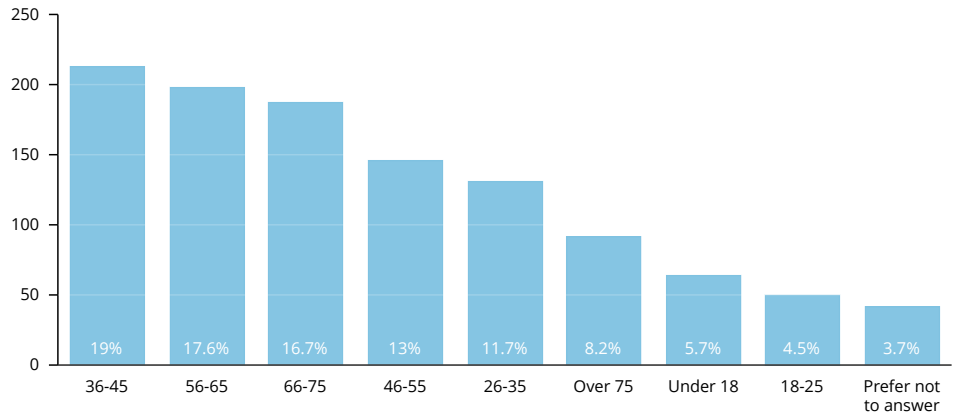
Residents could share up to 4 words or short phrases to describe their desired vision for the future.

The information will help develop The Plan's Vision statement. Anyone who lives, works, owns property, or goes to school in Buncombe County could participate. 1,321 people added their vision words to the Word Cloud. Word Cloud results were categorized into general themes to show the areas most mentioned by participants. The resulting word cloud is below:



Take the Poll: Summary of Participant Demographics

What is your age?

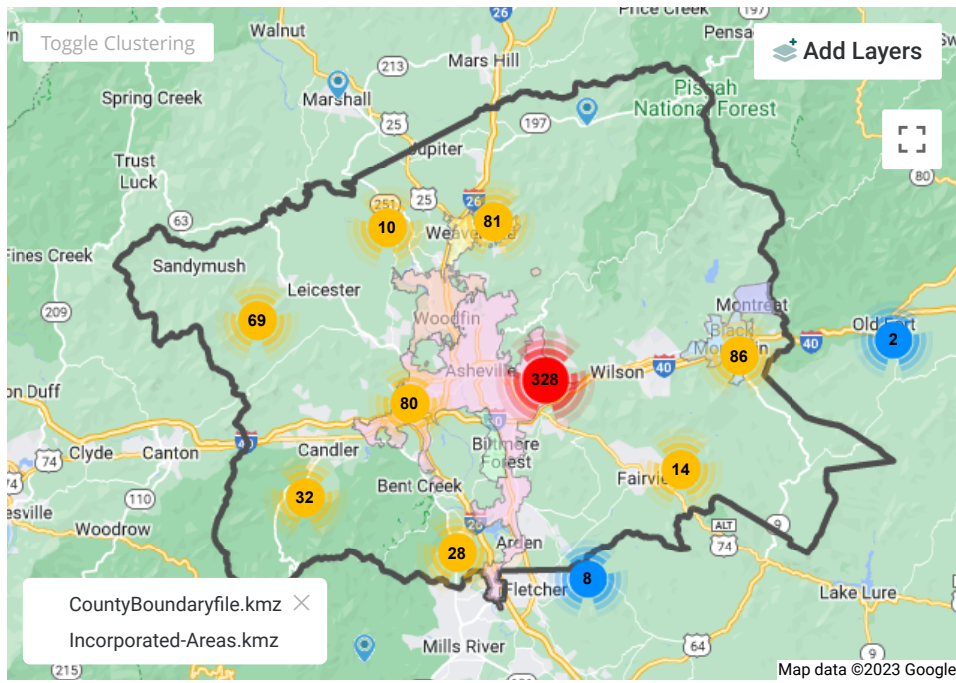


What is your race/ethnicity?

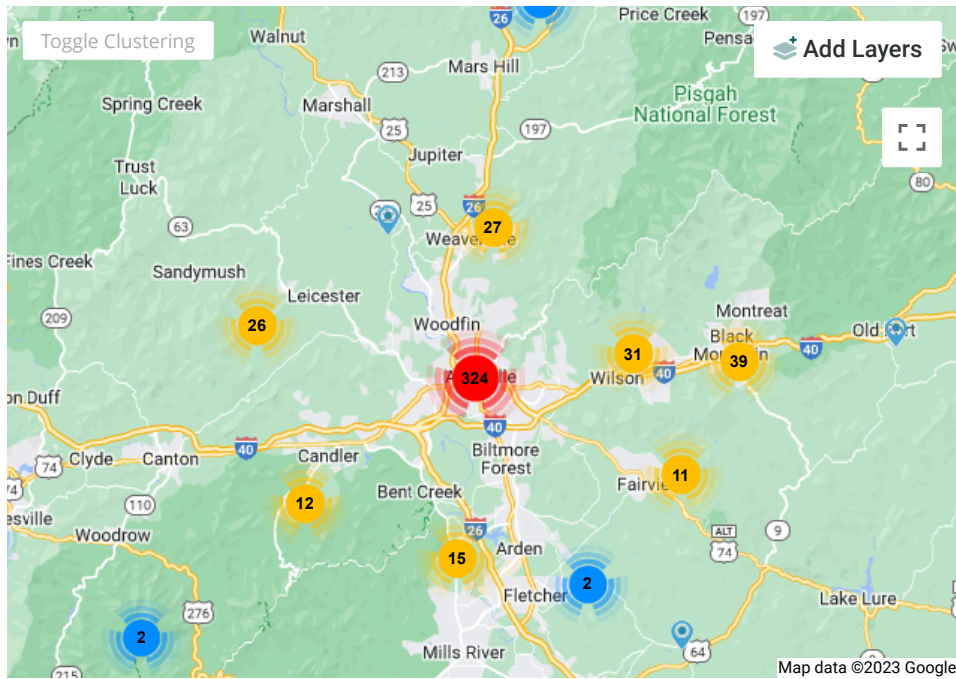
81%	White	906 ✓
10%	I prefer not to answer	115 ✓
4%	Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish	49 ✓
3%	Black or African-American	35 ✓
2%	Other	17 ✓
1%	Asian	11 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native	7 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 ✓

1,119 Respondents

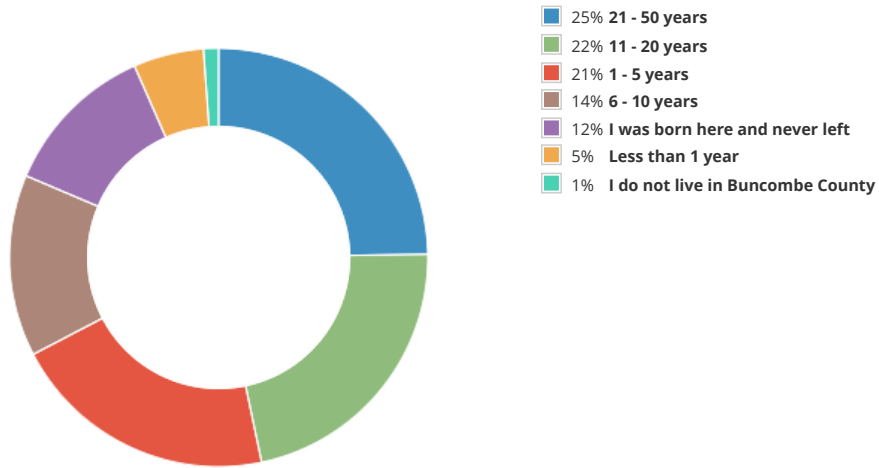
What is the zip code of the area where you live?



What is the zip code of the area where you work or go to school? (Leave blank if you do not work)

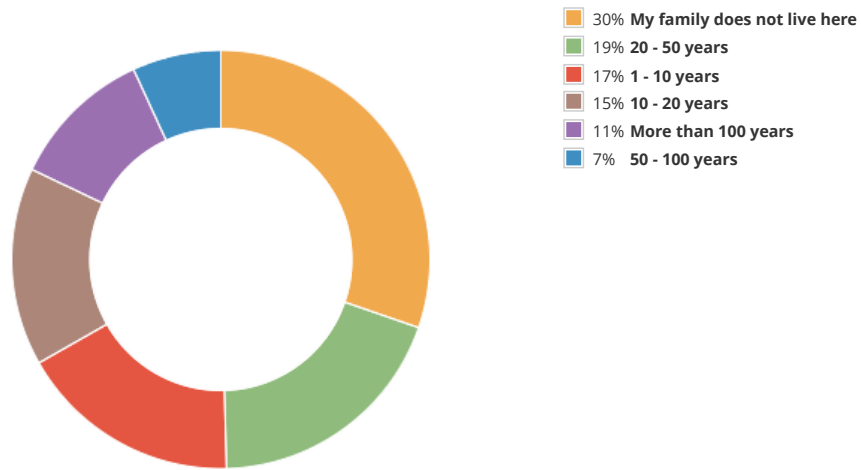


1. How long have you lived in Buncombe County?



1,288 respondents

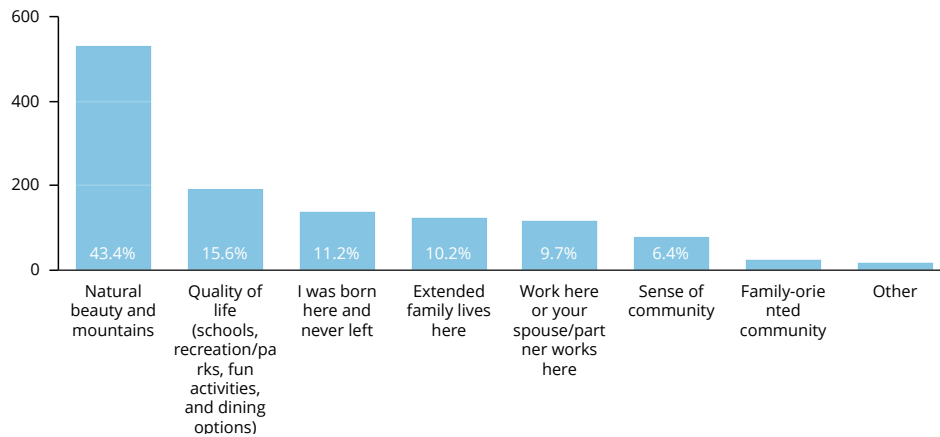
2. How long has your family lived here?



1,255 respondents

Poll: Living & Working in Buncombe

3. Why do you choose to live or work in Buncombe County? (Pick your top choice.)



4. What do you like most about Buncombe County? (Pick your top two choices.)

80%	Natural environment (mountains, rivers, creeks, wildlife, etc.)	989 ✓
25%	The people	305 ✓
15%	Great place to raise a family	184 ✓
14%	Historical and cultural roots	168 ✓
12%	Recreation and parks	150 ✓
9%	Other	118 ✓
6%	Attractive looking community	74 ✓
6%	Safe community	73 ✓

1,244 Respondents

6. What are your biggest concerns about the future of Buncombe County? (Pick your top three choices and share your specific thoughts about this concern in the blank after the answer choice.)

67%	Rising cost of living (housing, transportation, food, etc.)	816 ✓
50%	Losing natural areas and agricultural lands to new development (housing, commercial, etc.)	612 ✓
33%	Tourism development changing the character and experience of the County	402 ✓
29%	Not enough high paying jobs or training for local workers	353 ✓
27%	Rise in crime and violence	333 ✓
24%	Continued racial inequity (income, health, housing, education, etc.)	292 ✓
15%	Impacts from climate change and weather events (flooding, landslides, wildfires, etc.)	180 ✓
13%	Local youth may not have the resources or education to stay here long-term	161 ✓
6%	Other	77 ✓
4%	Environmentally sensitive areas limiting the ability to develop needed housing and businesses	43 ✓
1%	I am not concerned about the future of Buncombe County	18 ✓

1,212 Respondents

7. What is most needed for you and your family to succeed and have a healthy life?
(Select your top three choices.)

36%	More safe and affordable ways to travel to places (biking, walking, or riding a bus/public transit)	427 ✓
32%	More affordable housing options	380 ✓
25%	Better public education	293 ✓
24%	Improved access to healthcare and social services	286 ✓
22%	More access to job training and higher paying jobs	263 ✓
20%	More access to recreation and the outdoors	242 ✓
19%	Support for small business development	226 ✓
15%	Improved access to mental health services and/or drug treatment care and services	179 ✓
14%	I don't need anything else to have a healthy life	162 ✓
13%	Better access to high quality internet service	151 ✓
12%	Protection from being evicted or priced out of homes or businesses (rental or owner-occupied)	146 ✓
9%	More childcare options	107 ✓
8%	Other	92 ✓

1,194 Respondents

8. What should be the County's priority for assisting residents with health and social service needs? More availability and options for (Select your top three choices.)

56%	Mental health services	657 ✓
56%	Affordable healthcare, health insurance, and prescription drugs	653 ✓
45%	General health services (medical, dental, vision)	529 ✓
38%	Assisting residents with drug and alcohol addiction	440 ✓
34%	Getting healthy, affordable foods	402 ✓
27%	Recreation and exercise	315 ✓
6%	Other	69 ✓

1,167 Respondents

9. What are your biggest concerns for housing in Buncombe County? (Select your top three choices.)

76%	Housing is not affordable to many families and households (renter or owner-occupied)	894 ✓
35%	There are not enough choices of housing types to meet the needs of different households	411 ✓
34%	Neighborhoods don't have enough opportunities to walk and bike close to home	405 ✓
31%	There is too much housing being developed	363 ✓
24%	Housing is not located close to commercial areas and people must drive far to shop, dine, or work	282 ✓
21%	The need to make updates and repairs to existing housing.	251 ✓
14%	New houses are not built to last several generations	170 ✓
12%	Severe weather events and climate change pose threats to homes and property	138 ✓
8%	Other	89 ✓

1,175 Respondents

Poll: Environment, Recreation, and Sustainability

10. What are the most important needs for protecting land and water in the future?
(Select your top three choices.)

65%	Protect the County's environment (air, water, soil, etc.)	759 ✓
62%	Ensure water sources are clean	724 ✓
49%	Protect working lands (farms and forests)	567 ✓
46%	Protect views of undeveloped mountains and rural areas	532 ✓
25%	Protect communities and property from flooding	295 ✓
23%	Provide new recreational options, such as hiking trails and parks	271 ✓
3%	Not sure	32 ✓
3%	Other	32 ✓
2%	I don't think the County needs conservation efforts	19 ✓

1,167 Respondents

11. What are the top needs for parks and recreation facilities in Buncombe? (Select your top three choices.)

57%	Greenways and trails	658 ✓
38%	Nature centers, nature preserves, botanical gardens, and open space	441 ✓
30%	Smaller neighborhood parks close to home	350 ✓
25%	Community gardens	288 ✓
15%	Picnic areas, playgrounds, and spray parks	169 ✓
13%	Community centers and indoor fitness facilities	152 ✓
13%	Outdoor courts (basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball)	150 ✓
13%	Publicly accessible pool (indoor or outdoor)	149 ✓
12%	Indoor sports fields and courts (pickleball, basketball, skate rink, etc.)	134 ✓
11%	Athletic fields (baseball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball)	125 ✓
9%	Boat ramps and kayak launches for safe river access	101 ✓
9%	Dog park	101 ✓
7%	Outdoor amphitheater	84 ✓
7%	Bicycle or skateboard facilities (pump track, skate park, mountain bike park)	82 ✓
5%	I don't think the County needs additional parks and recreation facilities	57 ✓
5%	Other	57 ✓
2%	Disk golf course	28 ✓

1,156 Respondents

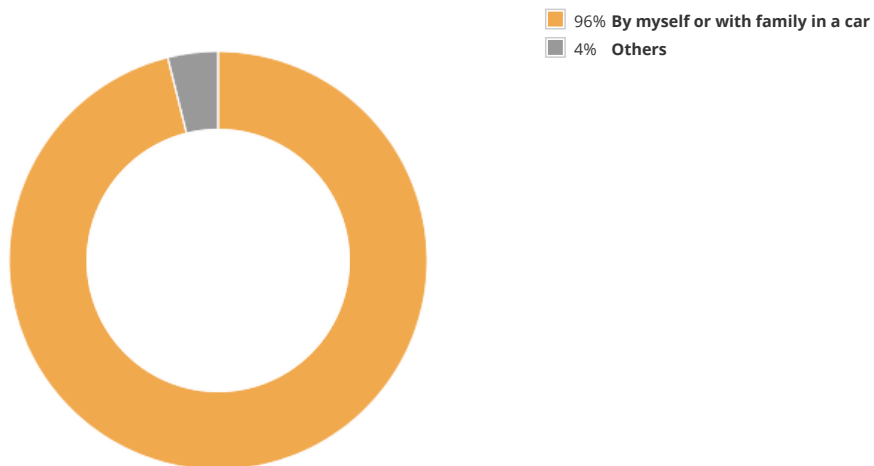
15. What should be the County's priorities for creating a more sustainable future for its people and businesses? (Select your top three choices.)

46%	Support development of housing affordable for all residents and local workers	524 ✓
40%	More biking and walking options (sidewalks, trails, greenways, and bike paths)	456 ✓
33%	Help bring higher paying businesses and jobs to the County	379 ✓
26%	Reduce the community's carbon footprint (reducing carbon pollution)	299 ✓
25%	Fix aging and historic buildings (businesses, homes, schools, community centers, etc.)	281 ✓
24%	Decide where different types of new development will be located (housing, business, shopping areas, hotels, etc.)	274 ✓
22%	Incorporate nature into new housing and commercial developments	255 ✓
21%	Prepare for climate change and severe weather events	245 ✓
19%	Support development of different types of housing (single-family, manufactured homes, apartments, townhomes, etc.)	214 ✓
11%	Better designs for new buildings (how they look and how they function)	120 ✓
6%	Other	71 ✓
2%	I am not concerned about the County creating a more sustainable future for its people and businesses	18 ✓

1,141 Respondents

Poll: Transportation

12. How do you travel to most places in the County today? (Select your top choice.)



1,160 respondents

13. If you could choose a different option, how would you prefer to travel to places in the future? (Select your top choice.)

25%	Biking	286 ✓
25%	I wouldn't pick another mode	286 ✓
19%	By myself or with family in a car	219 ✓
16%	Walking	187 ✓
10%	Bus (Mountain Mobility/ART)	117 ✓
2%	Carpooling	27 ✓
1%	Rideshare (uber/Lyft)	13 ✓
0%	Traveling with Mobility aids (Wheelchair or mobility scooter)	5 ✓
0%	Other	5 ✓

1,145 Respondents

14. What are your biggest transportation needs and wants for the future? (Select your top three choices.)

45%	Better access to sidewalks, walking trails, or greenways	524 ✓
39%	Less traffic	453 ✓
27%	Better access to bike lanes or bike trails	312 ✓
24%	Better safety while biking	276 ✓
21%	Not needing a car to get to most places in the County	239 ✓
20%	Better safety while driving	231 ✓
19%	Better access to parking	216 ✓
15%	Less pollution from cars	171 ✓
12%	Better safety while walking or using a mobility aid	133 ✓
12%	Less travel time from place to place	133 ✓
11%	Better access to bus stops and routes	132 ✓
5%	I don't have any transportation needs and wants	62 ✓
5%	Reduced cost of bus tickets or other public transit	60 ✓
4%	Other	46 ✓
3%	More handicap parking	37 ✓

1,156 Respondents

Poll: Economic Development & Upward Mobility

20. As we look to the next 20 years, where do you want the County to grow (build more homes, businesses, offices, schools, shopping areas, nightlife and restaurants, etc.)? (Select up to three choices.)

67%	In areas that have access to sewer, city water, and broadband internet AND ARE AWAY from environmentally sensitive areas (steep slopes and protected ridges on mountains, floodplain areas, wildlife habitats, water supply watershed, etc.)	738 ✓
53%	Adding more development (homes, businesses, offices, schools, shopping areas, nightlife and restaurants, etc.) to areas that already have it. This could mean filling in empty lots or fixing up older buildings.	587 ✓
47%	In areas that have access to sewer, city water, and broadband internet AND ARE AWAY from working lands (farms and forests)	513 ✓
24%	I would prefer no new growth, but understand that growth cannot be completely stopped.	259 ✓
20%	In areas that have access to sewer, city water, and broadband internet AND ARE AWAY from rural areas	216 ✓
5%	Wherever the real estate market wants to locate new development	55 ✓
4%	Not sure	47 ✓
3%	Other	29 ✓

1,098 Respondents

16. How should the County support workers and development of new jobs? (Select your top choice.)

12%	Increase employment opportunities for historically disadvantaged or marginalized populations (BIPOC, People Living in Poverty, Latino/Hispanic Population, People with Disabilities, LGBTQA+, Youth, Rural Communities, etc.)	137 ✓
12%	Make it easier for businesses to move to Buncombe County	129 ✓
12%	Increase number of trained workers in the community by providing more affordable housing options	128 ✓
12%	Support entrepreneurship and small business development	127 ✓
9%	Increase safe, affordable, and efficient transportation options for workers to get to job training and jobs	99 ✓
7%	Promote small business growth	80 ✓
7%	Provide more job training for local workers	73 ✓
7%	Increase employment opportunities for employees with varying levels of educational attainment	72 ✓
5%	Recruit and diversify industries	55 ✓
5%	Increase apprenticeships	51 ✓
4%	Recruit and promote new and emerging industries	46 ✓
3%	Connect local workers with job opportunities and assist with job interview preparation	36 ✓
3%	Set aside land for new employment uses (manufacturing, production, etc.)	32 ✓
3%	Encourage remote workers	28 ✓
0%	Other	5 ✓

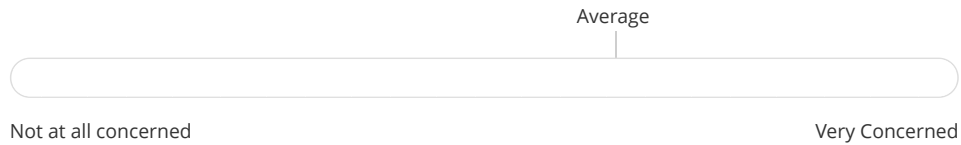
1,098 Respondents

17. What are the most important benefits that tourism brings to residents of Buncombe County? (Select your top choice.)

30%	Creates job or income opportunities for local residents and supports local businesses	336 ✓
21%	Generates tax revenues for funding facilities that benefit both residents and visitors (e.g., trails, parks, etc.)	234 ✓
17%	Creates more arts, music, restaurant, and shopping opportunities for local residents	186 ✓
10%	I don't think tourism provides benefits to Buncombe County	109 ✓
9%	Creates demand and support for new recreational amenities, such as parks, trails, and river access that are available to local residents	95 ✓
6%	Puts the County/Asheville "on the national map" as a place people want to visit and live to better compete for economic growth with other parts of the country	63 ✓
5%	Creates demand for regional travel and as a result more flight options are provided at the Asheville Regional Airport	57 ✓
1%	Helps foster community pride and identity	13 ✓
1%	Other	10 ✓

1,103 Respondents

18. Using the scale below, indicate your level of concern about the growth of tourism in Buncombe County.



19. If you are concerned about the growth of tourism in the County, what are your biggest concerns? (Select up to three choices.)

55%	Housing costs will continue to increase and make it hard for residents to afford to stay	605 ✓
48%	More housing will be used for second homes and vacation rentals leaving fewer options for year-round residents	532 ✓
39%	County will feel more like a vacation destination than a community for locals	423 ✓
35%	More workers will have to move out of the County to afford housing and will have longer commutes , which could create more traffic congestion on roads	386 ✓
35%	New tourism jobs won't pay higher wages, creating more affordability challenges for workers	381 ✓
11%	Tourism is an economic driver for the County and the problems it may cause do not outweigh what it provides to the County economically	119 ✓
8%	Not concerned about tourism	93 ✓
7%	New tourism development (restaurants and hotels) will not look like traditional County development	81 ✓
4%	Other	49 ✓

1,098 Respondents

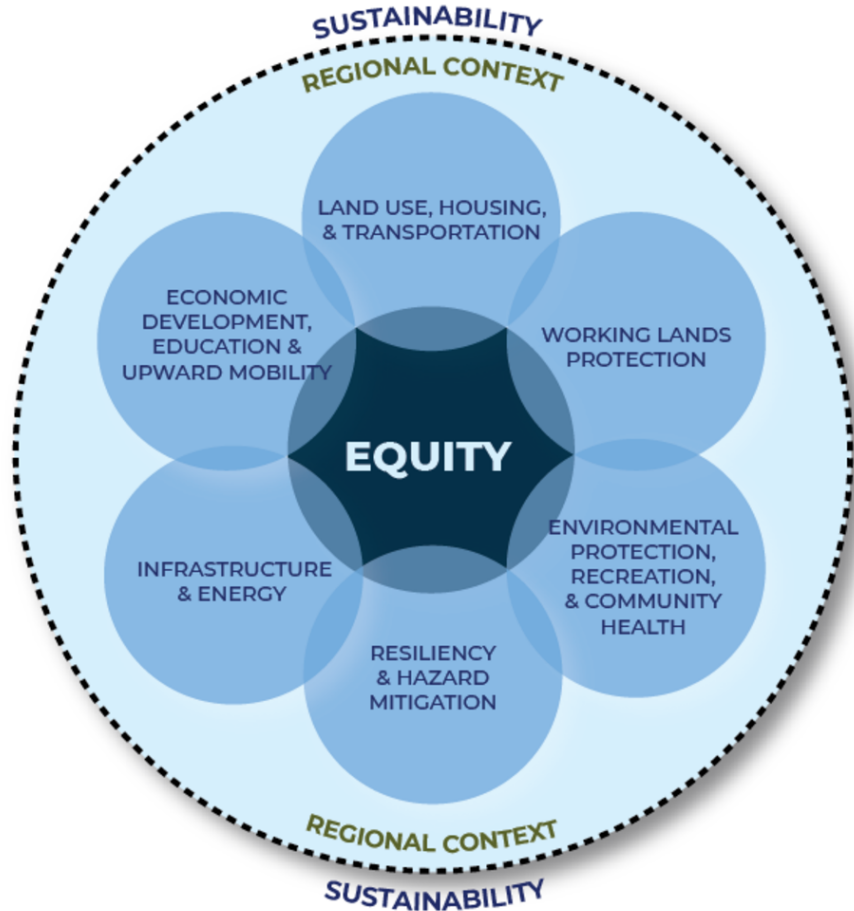
Priorities and Actions

5. How do you define the word "equity"?

56%	All of the above	667 ✓
21%	Making sure people can meet their needs (health, education, housing, recreation, employment, childcare, etc.) regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, or income	253 ✓
8%	Making sure that people living in all parts of Buncombe County have the same access to high quality community benefits (parks, libraries, schools, trails, etc.)	100 ✓
7%	Making sure that the actions of one group do not negatively impact the quality of life for another	83 ✓
5%	Making sure that new investments, made by the government or made by businesses, create benefits for all and not just for a few	55 ✓
3%	Not sure	34 ✓
0%	Other	5 ✓

1,197 Respondents

Participants were shown the below image to consider for draft Priority Planning Issues.



See image for draft Priority Planning Issues. Does this list include all of the priorities you would like addressed in the new Comprehensive Plan?

60%	Yes	537 ✓
23%	Not Sure	211 ✓
17%	No	151 ✓

899 Respondents

Participants were asked: "If there is another priority issue that is not listed, please tell us what it is, and recommend specific action items you would like to achieve through the plan for that issue."

After analyzing these comments, we have synthesized the following themes:

Summary

- **Public safety** (more specifically crime) is the top priority issue mentioned, and increase law enforcement is recommended.
- Significant number of comments (often negative) about how **equity** should not be as prioritized.
- **Homelessness** is a major issue for citizens, as well as the **safety** and **health** concerns perceived to be associated with it.
- **Community health** is a top issue that should have its own circle and is mostly centered around addiction and mental health services.
- There is concern about how **tourism** negatively impacts the community, housing, and aesthetics.
- Accountability, efficiency, and transparency of county **governance** is thought to be overlooked.
- **Environmental protection** is thought to be too complex of an issue to be lumped together with recreation and health.

Themes

- **Infrastructure:** Broadband, green infrastructure
- **Community Health:** Drug use and addiction support, mental health services, healthy design, quality of life, access to healthcare, EMS, healthy food,
- **Environmental Protection:** Preservation, farm/rural land, tree protection, wildlife, forests, greenspace, native plants, water, less development and more preservation
- **Diversity & Inclusion*:** [Lots of overlap with Equity] Diversity, inclusion, BIPOC support
- **Equity:** [Lots of overlap with Diversity & Inclusion] Inequity, reparations, racism, disabilities
- **Transportation:** Greenways, airport, road planning and construction, public transit, commuting, traffic, road safety, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, walkability
- **Housing:** [Lots of overlap with Affordability] Temporary rentals, affordable housing, housing development, eviction, abandoned housing
- **Economic Development:** Support for businesses, taxes, industry diversity, jobs, farming industry, commercial development
- **Education:** Preschool, public schools
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Mitigation, climate change, resiliency
- **Community Building & Support*:** Sense of community, elderly support, childcare, community events, services, programs, culture, family support, quality of life, community connection
- **Public Safety*:** Safety, law enforcement, crime, drugs, EMS, gun restriction
- **Sustainable Development*:** Green design, sustainability, growth management, urban design, development, walkability, renewable resources
- **Affordability*:** Housing costs and affordability, wages, job pay, property tax, affordable childcare, mobile homes, low-income families

- **Governance***: Leadership, government, city-county-state relations and collaboration, planning, BOJ and Commission, county services, politicians, budgeting
- **Arts***: Access to the arts, supporting local artists
- **Homelessness***: Homelessness, unhoused people, shelters
- **Tourism***: Tourists, hotels/motels, temporary rentals, funding for tourism
- **Recreation**: Requests for more pickle ball and tennis courts

**Themes not included in Priority Planning Issues figure*

Other topics/priority issues mentioned

- Animal Welfare
- Affordable Housing
- Information Literacy
- Good Governance
- Food Justice/Security

Draft Priority Planning Issues

Participants were asked, "Use the comment boxes below to share what actions you think the Comprehensive Plan should include to address each draft priority planning issue."

We have synthesized the comments with suggested action items by planning topic below.

Land Use, Housing, Transportation

- Density
- Affordability
- Rentals & Tourism
- Housing Diversity
- Zoning
- Environmental Protection
- Development Regulations
- Bike & Pedestrian
- Public Transportation
- Roads
- Neighborhood Access to Nature, Parks/Playgrounds, and Amenities

Working Lands Protection

- Funding & Incentives
- Conservation & Protection
- Local Accessibility
- Education & Training
- Development Restrictions
- Community Farms, Gardens, Stands, and Markets

Environmental Protection, Recreation, Community Health

- Bike & Pedestrian
- Water
- Parks & Open Space
- Neighborhood Amenities and Community Facilities (such as pickleball)
- Health
- Development Regulations

Resiliency, Hazard Mitigation

- Flood Mitigation
- Energy
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Community Support

Infrastructure, Energy

- Infrastructure Maintenance & Upgrades
- Updating infrastructure to match growth (i.e., traffic issues)
- Alternative Energy
- Agrivoltaics (solar on farmland)
- Transportation
- Waste Maintenance and Removal Incentives, Assessment, and Infrastructure

Economic Development, Education, Upward Mobility

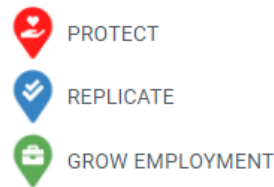
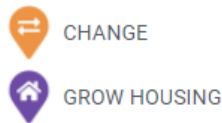
- Employment & Income
- Business Resources & Incentivizing New Businesses
- Equity & Accessibility
- Education Quality & Investment
- Teacher Support

Mapping Activity

The mapping activity was carried out on paper (through various community meetings) and on PublicInput.com. Respondents had the opportunity to place map “pins” in any of the following categories:

- Protect: places you want to stay the same
- Change: places you want to change
- Replicate: places you like and want to see more of in Buncombe
- Grow Housing: places you support development of new housing
- Grow Employment: places you support development of new businesses and jobs

Drag and drop >



In total, over 2,980 map pins were placed on the map.

Map Pin Category	Count
Change	259
Grow Employment	108
Grow Housing	172
Protect	2,321
Replicate	123
Total	2,983

After placing a map Pin, respondents had the option to leave an additional comment, and 751 unique comments were recorded. After a thorough review of all comments, a summary of comment themes is presented below.

Pedestrian and Bicycling Connections:

- Request for investment and improvements
- Connectivity is a focus, and completion of almost connected segments and routes
- More sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian and cyclist safety infrastructure (such as crosswalks and improved intersection signaling and road striping)

- Protected bike lanes in some areas and either the creation or improvement of all manner of pedestrian/bicycling infrastructure
- Trails and greenways: enhancing downtown multimodal pathways to rural and remote mountain trail networks

Preservation

- Focus on farms and rural areas, scenic views, mountain tops, public parks, wetlands creeks and rivers
- Interest in more local commercial development, and less big box or bargain store development
- Protection of existing density in some neighborhoods

Develop Housing Choices

- This theme emerged more than any other in the comment section
- Strong desire for more housing stock in general
- Also different types of housing and housing units, such as housing co-ops and single & multi-family developments
- Creating true communities, with a sense of cohesion among residents
- Sustainable communities
- Livable communities: advocating for walkability, proximity to schools and employment

Develop with Local Business

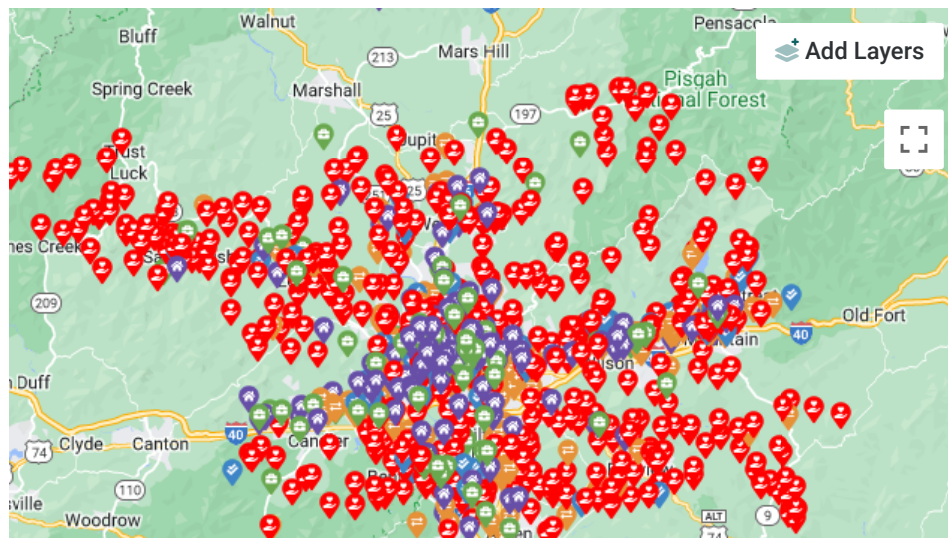
- Desire to promote local businesses, either through redevelopment, development, or otherwise
- Displeasure at the increasing extent of corporate ownership of businesses in town
- Seek to have more locally owned and operated places, citing the benefits to the livability and sustainability

Public Services and Infrastructure

- Support for public infrastructure such as schools, transit lines, public parks, broadband access, and other public assets
- Desire for improvements to public parks, schools, educational centers, and libraries
- Recreational opportunities are also desired, including river and lake access

The mapping activity results can be viewed below. For detailed tables of the pin types by jurisdiction, see the attached memo [at this link](#).

Using the interactive map below, drag and drop pins onto places or areas that you feel should be protected, changed, replicated, or have more housing or employment opportunities. For each pin that you put on the map, include a comment describing what the PLACE or AREA is that you are identifying.



Next Steps

PHASE 1 - LAUNCH (COMPLETE)

- Create resident Steering Committee
- Interview boards, departments, & stakeholders
- Develop a public engagement plan

PHASE 2 - VISION & GOALS (IN PROGRESS)

- Gather information about the County
- Identify ways the County could change or grow
- Begin public engagement process
- Draft the vision and goals for The Plan *(This is being completed by the Steering Committee, and the Board of Commissioners will review.)*

PHASE 3 - POLICIES & STRATEGIES (IN PROGRESS)

- Explore options for addressing change
- Identify how land could be used
- Develop policies, strategies, and actions
- Continue public engagement process

PHASE 4 - ADOPTION

- Draft The Plan document
- Present draft to community
- Incorporate resident feedback or changes
- Planning Board public hearing review
- Commissioners review, hearing, and adoption
- Suggest changes to County ordinances

Phase 2 will close out when the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and Board of Commissioners have finalized the Vision & Goals.

Phase 3 of the planning process focuses on analyzing the information received so far, and developing more specific policies, strategies, and actions. Residents will be asked what policy choices the county should make for each focus area, and gauge their reactions to different options. Draft policies and implementation strategies will be created based on the Phase 3 public input.

Staff will continue to work to identify any groups, communities, or stakeholders that were not well represented in the first round of engagement, and will seek to address barriers to gather their input. Phase 3 also includes the creation of a first draft of a proposed Land Use and Character Map, and categories to help guide future development within the county.

In Phase 3, the Steering Committee will take on a larger role in reviewing input, brainstorming options for how best to address the community's vision and goals, and drafting the specific chapters to be included in the final Plan document.

During the next round of public engagement, staff will continue to deploy a mix of virtual and in-person activities, drop-in style meetings, polls, and other live and self-paced options to make it easier than ever to provide input.



STAFF AT THE SKYLAND MEETING

www.buncombecounty.org/plan2043
