



LANCASTER COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

DRAFT
9/25/20

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Fred Witherspoon, Steele Hill AME Zion Church

Special thanks to the staff and members of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church for hosting the Visioning Week event and Steering Committee Meetings. Thanks to Andrew Jackson State Park, the Town of Van Wyck, and Steele Hill AME Zion Church for also hosting Steering Committee meetings.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND.....	6
PROJECT OVERVIEW	
PLANNING CONTEXT	
RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS	
PUBLIC OUTREACH	
EXISTING CONDITIONS	
PLAN THEMES & RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN.....	14
VISION STATEMENT	
RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN	
PLAN THEMES	
FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORIES	
PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION	
APPENDIX A EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	24
APPENDIX B MAPS.....	34
APPENDIX C PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.....	46



INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND



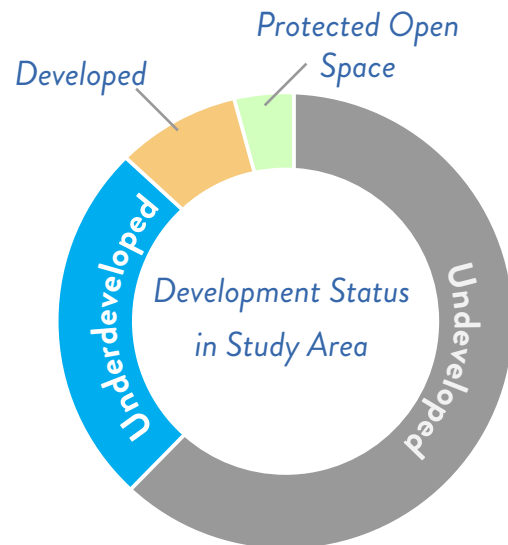
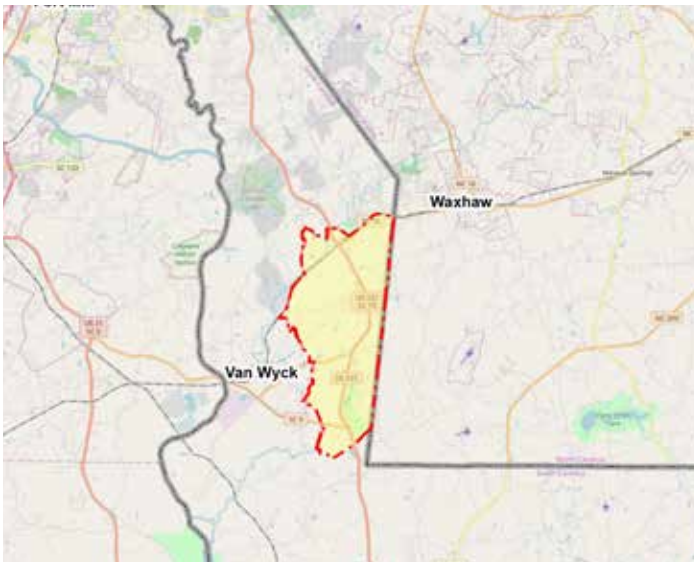


PROJECT OVERVIEW

The population of Lancaster County has grown by approximately 20% since the 2010 Census. Much of this growth has been in the Indian Land area, immediately north of the study area, but the areas of growth are expanding. In 2019, the County approved the Roselyn subdivision, an 1,850-home project on 1,800 acres—the largest residential project in Lancaster County. The site—located just south of the study area—is expected to include a County park. While the Southern Panhandle is currently dominated by low density, single-family residential homes and a rural landscape, development pressure is growing. Current zoning is primarily Rural Neighborhood, Rural Residential, and Open Space Preservation, with limited non-residential pockets. The area has many assets that make it attractive for future development, including Van Wyck Elementary School, Indian Land High School, the key US 521 and SC Highway 5 corridors, and Andrew Jackson State Park. With significant undeveloped land, County staff expects rezoning requests in the study area to continue to increase.

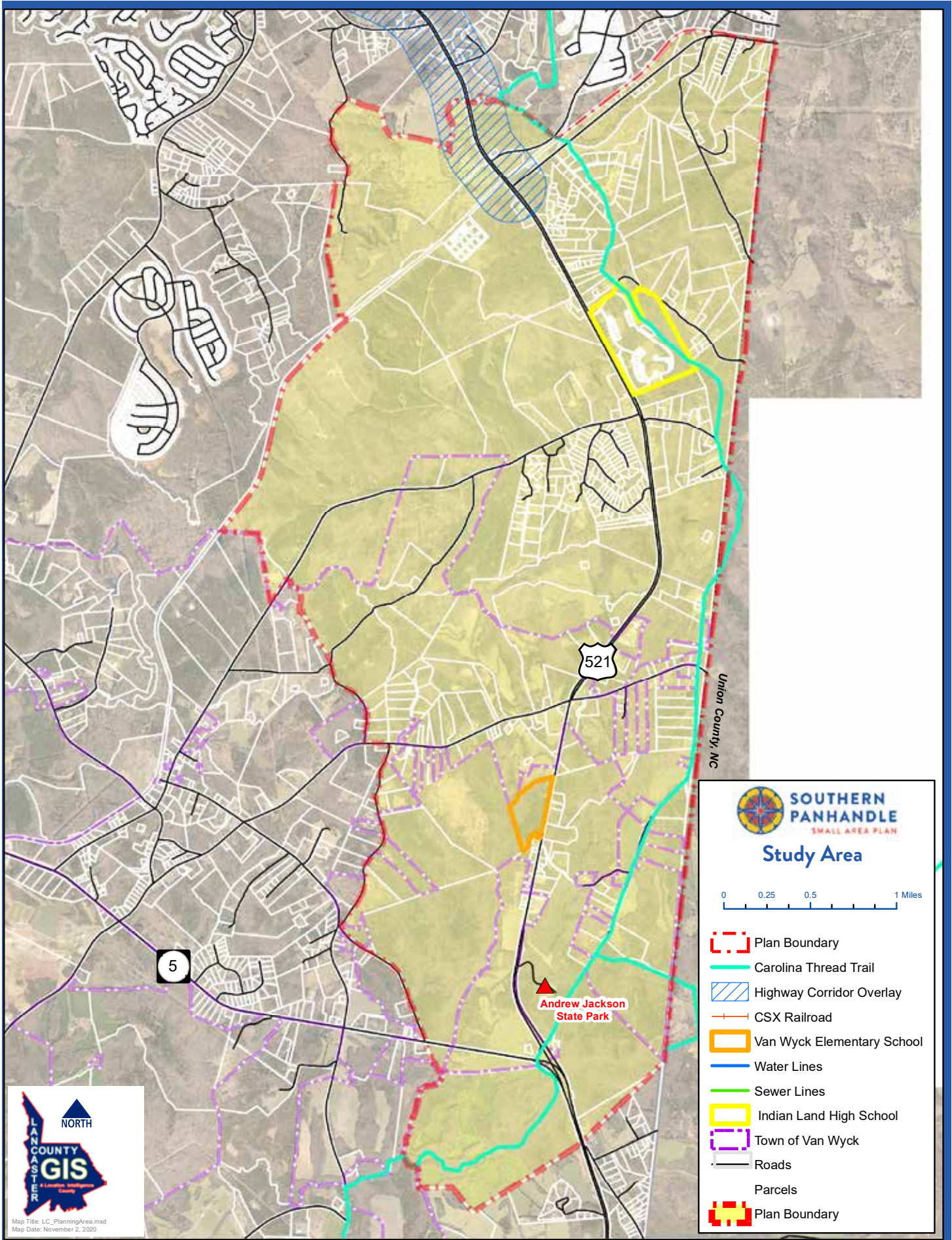
County leaders recognized a need for a Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan in order to develop a consistent vision for land use and transportation as the area grows. This plan provides the County with a guide for future growth, as well as an assessment of infrastructure needed to serve that growth. While looking to the future, the plan upholds current County goals and policies, such as maintaining a strong economy and managed growth and keeping the environment safe and healthy.


PLANNING CONTEXT















The Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan includes approximately 8,500 acres of primarily rural living. The area is located in Lancaster County south of Indian Land; west of Union County, NC; east of York County, SC; and north of the City of Lancaster. The area includes Van Wyck Elementary School, Indian Land High School, Andrew Jackson State Park, Millstone Creek Neighborhood, sections of the Carolina Thread Trail, significant undeveloped assets, and abundant natural and cultural resources. Almost 23% of the study area is within the Town of Van Wyck.

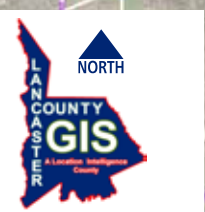
The Southern Panhandle planning area has extensive opportunities for development and redevelopment. Approximately 88% of the land is considered to be either Undeveloped or Underdeveloped. Land was considered to be underdeveloped if the parcel was not fully developed or not considered to be used to the best potential. (See Appendix B for a map of development status.)




SOUTHERN PANHANDLE
 SMALL AREA PLAN
Study Area

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

-  Plan Boundary
-  Carolina Thread Trail
-  Highway Corridor Overlay
-  CSX Railroad
-  Van Wyck Elementary School
-  Water Lines
-  Sewer Lines
-  Indian Land High School
-  Town of Van Wyck
-  Roads
-  Parcels
-  Plan Boundary



Map Title: LC_PlanningArea.mxd
 Map Date: November 2, 2020

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This plan builds on a number of previous County and regional plans. The most relevant plans are shown below. Additional plans can be found in Appendix A.

Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan 2014-2024

The Plan identifies the majority of the Southern Panhandle Planning Area as Rural Living on the Future Land Use map. Rural Living includes a variety of residential types that include farmhouses, large acreage rural family dwellings, and conservation subdivisions that preserve open landscape and traditional buildings. Along the northern boundary, a new conceptual transportation corridor (Dave Lyle Boulevard extension) is shown along with the Neighborhood Mixed Use land use category.

Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan, 2011

The Carolina Thread Trail is a 15-county bi-state program to create an interconnected trail system with major regional trails. A guiding principle of the Carolina Thread Trail is “respect for the land and respect for the landowner.” The Plan includes 182 miles of trails and 41 miles of blueways. The Lancaster Panhandle Greenway segment of the trail system is 20.4 miles long and 8.3 miles of it runs through the study area. Connection and access opportunities are located at Andrew Jackson State Park, Twelve Mile Creek, and the historic Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church / Cemetery in Union County, NC.

Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Recommendations, 2015

The Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Recommendations was completed by Clemson University to evaluate park and recreation needs in Lancaster County. The study determined a broad support for improved recreation facilities, programs, and services from a large cross-section of the community including gender, age, and ethnicity. A 100-acre multi-purpose recreation center was recommended south of the Southern Panhandle and north of the City of Lancaster next to the intersection of US 521 and Shiloh Unity Road.



Comprehensive Plan 2014-2024

Recommended by Planning Commission
October 21, 2014

Adopted by County Council
December 8, 2014

Ordinance Number 2014-1318

Town of Van Wyck

Lancaster County coordinates regularly with jurisdictions within the County. As noted previously, almost a quarter of the study area is within the Town of Van Wyck. Currently, Lancaster County staff is responsible for processing land use applications within the Town. Major applications are reviewed and approved by the Van Wyck Planning Commission and Town Council. The Town is in the process adopting their first Comprehensive Plan and will be incorporating applicable sections of the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In keeping with the County’s policy of transparency in the planning process, recommendations contained in this plan are grounded in an extensive public engagement process. The vision and planning themes reflect the values of residents from the study area and surrounding communities. A steering committee made up of key stakeholders in the area met throughout the process and helped to guide the development of the plan.

The central event of the planning process was the four-day Visioning Week at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. The week included a hands-on workshop where residents, property owners, and other stakeholders participated in a visual preference survey and small-group discussions about the future of the Southern Panhandle. During the week, County representatives also held one-on-one stakeholder interviews with major property owners, business owners, and relevant agency representatives. The public was invited to drop in any time during the week to share ideas and to ask questions. Common themes identified during Vision Week included the importance of preserving the area’s rural lifestyle, protecting natural resources and community heritage, planning for infrastructure needs, developing trails, and establishing mixed use centers and employment areas in designated locations.

Among the area’s **strengths** identified throughout the planning process were the schools, the abundant undeveloped land, location within the region, and nature trails. **Weaknesses** and **threats** included traffic conditions, infrastructure, unknowns such as the Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension, the aging population, affordability, and rapid development. The major **opportunity** identified was the ability to plan ahead for growth, as the area is currently a blank canvas.

(A more detailed description of the public engagement process and the results of a SWOT analysis can be found in Appendix C.)



EXISTING CONDITIONS

To understand the context for growth in the area, an assessment of existing conditions was conducted. The existing conditions assessment consisted of a physical analysis of the area and determination of available infrastructure and transportation needs.

Utilities

The Lancaster Water & Sewer District (LCWSD) is the utility provider in the study area. Sewer service is not yet available in most of the area though it will become available as development occurs. Capacity fees, which provide funding for facility improvements, are paid by development prior to construction.

Infrastructure, particularly sewer, is a limiting factors for development in the study area. The pipe sizes necessary for improvements within the area are dependent upon the density of proposed residential developments, how much land within a project area is improved, and the intensity of non-residential development. According to the Lancaster County Water & Sewer District (LCWSD), the most important sewer need for this study area is an equalization basin, which would allow the LCWSD to control how much sewer flow goes into the sewer station, thereby avoiding spikes in flow. The location has been identified for this basin, slightly northwest of the planning area boundary. A study was completed in 2019, but the project completion date is unknown at this time.

A pump station will be needed north of the intersection of Highway 5 and US 521. The LCWSD recently completed a sewer project that will facilitate future expansion. They coordinated with CSX and the SCDOT to extend an 18" sewer line under the railroad and Highway 75/Waxhaw Highway, which will be an advantage for development in the northern portion of the study area.

Transportation

The main transportation corridor in the Southern Panhandle is Highway 521, a four-lane divided highway. Highway 521 includes north and south bound traffic volumes and has multiple roads that intersect, including Highway 75, Steele Hill Road, Rebound Road, and Highway 5. These crossroads provide access points along Highway 521 for routes north to Indian Land and to NC and south to the City of Lancaster. At these intersection locations, transportation enhancements are needed such as traffic signals, geometric design changes, realignments, accessibility, and safety.

The Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study (RFATS) is the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Lancaster County northern panhandle is located within the northeast section of the RFATS area, whose boundaries consist of North Carolina to the north and east and the Catawba River to the west. US 521, which runs north-south, is a major arterial within the RFATS area.

The Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study (RFATS) region initiated a Collector Street Plan in 2017 to reduce long-term traffic congestion as additional development occurs by outlining a network of supporting streets to expand driver choice, provide alternative routes, and guide the construction of a more fully developed network of interconnected streets (RFATS Collector Street Plan, 2017). Dave Lyle Boulevard currently stretches from west of Main Street in Rock Hill to Waterford Park Drive, connecting to I-77 and US-21, and an extension of Dave Lyle Boulevard is planned within Lancaster County and the Planning Area; however it is listed on the Long Range Transportation Plan unfunded project list. The Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension Concept Plan is reflected in the Transportation Map in Appendix B.

A traffic signal was recently installed at the intersection of US 521 and Highway 75/Waxhaw Highway. This signal ties into the proposed Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension connection. The second traffic signal will be located at the intersection of US 521 and Witherspoon Drive for Indian Land High School.

The Carolina Thread Trail (CT Trail) is proposed to run through the study area predominately on the eastern side of US 521 and southwest of the intersection of US 521 and Highway 5. The CT Trail should be installed as the project area develops over time, and in accordance with the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and Lancaster County Unified Development Ordinance. It should connect to the existing portion currently located in the Walnut Creek residential community and park, just north of the study area boundary.

RFATS commissioned the Bike Walk plan in 2016 to guide short and long-term transportation and land use planning decisions for a safer, more accessible bicycling and walking environment (Bike Walk, 2016). The plan identified proposed network maps which include primary routes for active transportation. While the RFATS boundary limit ends at Highway 75/Waxhaw Highway, it shows the southern portion of the Carolina Thread Trail – within this study area boundary – connecting to the existing portion of the CT Trail at Highway 75/Waxhaw Highway, coming from the existing Walnut Creek CT Trail segment. This segment of the trail is proposed to be a shared use path which would ultimately run parallel to the Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension.

CSX Rail

A CSX Railroad line is located along the northern boundary of the Planning Area. The line, which carries between five and ten trains per day, includes double stack containers and provides rail service of inbound and outbound consumer goods to adjacent properties.

CSX Rail will be constructing approximately 4,000 feet of rail siding from east of Hancock Road to west of Hector Road as part of a project intended to consolidate rail crossings, eliminate rail-highway conflicts and improve emergency response time by eliminating delays due to blocked crossings by constructing a grade separated crossing along Highway 75/Waxhaw Highway. The portion of this project located within the study area consists of a siding extension for trains to dwell at a safe distance from rail-highway crossings by providing an additional track. This will accommodate the anticipated increase in train frequency and length.

Duke Energy

Duke Energy serves the Planning Area with a distribution system that meets the service needs. Major distribution system enhancements that may be necessary can be accomplished within the timelines of customer projects. Duke Energy plans to add capacity along Highway 521 upgrading 12kV lines to 24kV lines. These upgrades will be completed as new developments occur. The initial phases of the distribution enhancements will occur in the northern portion of the Planning Area and are anticipated to be completed in 2021. As the Planning Area continues to grow and develop, Duke Energy has the capacity to meet the energy demands within their stations across the region.

Natural Gas

Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority serves customers across the Planning Area. Gas main and service line extension projects are accomplished at the request of and within the timelines of customer projects. No major natural gas system upgrades or enhancements are anticipated for the Planning Area, and Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority has the capacity to meet the gas needs as growth occurs within the Planning Area.

Additional information about the study area, as well as detailed maps, can be found in Appendices A and B.



PLAN THEMES & RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN





VISION STATEMENT:

The Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan seeks to preserve the rural lifestyle and values of residents by ensuring that developments conserve the natural landscape, cultivate employment centers, and create efficient infrastructure through enhanced connectivity, safety, and mobility.

PLAN THEMES WITH RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN

RECOMMENDED LAND USE PLAN

The Recommended Land Use Plan reflects input from residents, property owners, and stakeholders from the Visioning Week held in November, 2019. Participation included drop-in discussions, one-on-one interviews, and a community evening workshop. The evening Hands-On Workshop included a diverse group of 54 individuals from the community who participated in a Visual Preference Survey and developed seven group scenarios. The consensus on the feedback received was specific on intentional growth in the Southern Panhandle that adds value and maintains the rural lifestyle of the area. The common threads heard across all the engagement opportunities are noted below.

- Maintain Rural Character and Support Local Heritage
- Focus Employment and Suburban Development in Key Areas
- Protect and Manage Tree Canopy
- Ensure Growth Does Not Detract from Andrew Jackson State Park
- Encourage Sewer and Other Infrastructure Investment in Key Growth Areas
- Protect the Natural Environment as a Key Identity Element

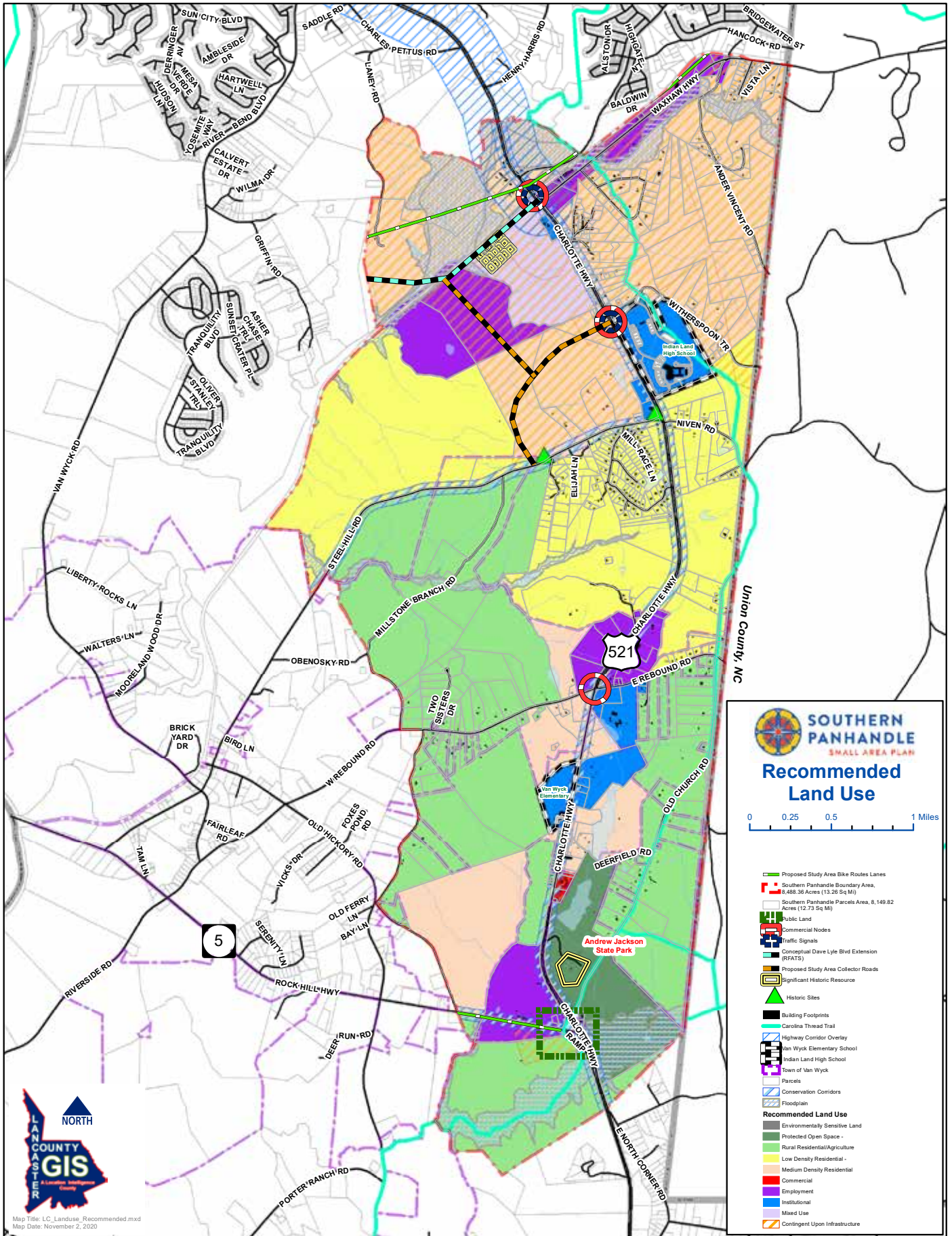
PLAN THEMES

From these common threads, four plan themes were developed and incorporated into the Recommended Land Use Plan.

- Preserve Natural Landscape
- Celebrate Rural Lifestyle
- Cultivate Employment Centers
- Create Efficient Infrastructure



Source: Uptown 101



Map Title: LC_LandUse_Recommended.mxd
Map Date: November 2, 2020

FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORIES



Environmentally Sensitive Lands

Areas designated for protection and preservation of floodplains and wetlands.



Protected Open Space

These areas are designated for the protection of properties under public ownership, such as parks, trails, greenways, and/or properties otherwise restricted for use for passive or active recreation.



Rural Residential/Agricultural

Large tracts of property with rural living that provide an abundance of open space and forested lands. Limited to a density of one dwelling unit per acre.



Low Density Residential

Land for single-family residential subdivisions and supporting recreational, religious, and educational uses at a density of 1.5 dwelling units per acre. Conservation subdivisions are encouraged here.



Medium Density Residential

Single-family residential subdivisions and supporting recreational, religious, and educational facilities at a density of 2.5 dwelling units per acre. Conservation subdivisions are encouraged here.



Commercial

Opportunities for shopping, professional services, and entertainment. These areas do not typically allow auto-oriented developments.



Employment

Employment-oriented development such as office, medical, light industrial, and service centers that are clean, quiet, and compatible with adjacent residential or business districts.



Institutional

Intended for educational facilities, government facilities, healthcare institutions, places of worship, and other similar uses.

FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORIES



Mixed Use

Designed for pedestrian walkability and as an economic activity center incorporating daily shopping, community, entertainment, housing needs, and public spaces. This can include multi-story buildings surrounded with compact moderate density housing options such as detached and attached residential uses and is connected to adjacent areas by trails and walking paths.



Conservation Corridors

Transportation corridors will be identified for the preservation of natural resources such as tree canopies, topography, and rolling hills to protect the natural beauty of the Southern Panhandle.

The design of developments must include building materials and site placement along the corridor that reflects development that is incorporated in the natural landscape and uses the rural environment as an amenity to add value and beauty. Signage and lighting for development should be discreet and attractive.

Recommended Land Use Distribution

Recommended Land Use	Acres	Sq Miles	Percentages	Total Developable Acres	Sq. Miles	Percentages
Protected Open Space	344	0.54	4%	-	0.00	4%
Rural Residential / Agriculture	2,896	4.53	34%	2,827	4.42	37%
Low Density Residential	2,094	3.27	25%	2,090	3.27	27%
Medium Density Residential	2,120	3.31	25%	1,741	2.72	23%
Commercial	34	0.05	0.4%	34	0.05	0.4%
Employment	430	0.67	5%	416	0.65	5%
Institutional	339	0.53	4%	339	0.53	4%
Mixed Use	232	0.36	3%	228	0.36	3%
Totals	8,489	13.26	100%	7,675	11.99	100%

Source: Catawba Regional Council of Governments

PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL: RETAIN THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE RURAL CHARACTER

Objective: Retain Significant Areas for Low-Density Residential Development and Agricultural Uses

Implementation Items:

- Cultivate development of a farmers market, local farms stands, and other agricultural supporting uses to provide an opportunity to sell local produce, bring visitors to the area, and meet the commerce needs of local farmers. **LT**
- Require rural identifying elements along major roadways with new development such as 3/4 board and post fencing, distinct signage design, and similar identifying elements. **MT**
- Encourage the establishment of community gardens within subdivision open space areas and other common areas. **ST**
- Support use of zoning districts that are consistent with the Rural Residential/Agriculture future land use classification as a means to continue the existing rural character and agricultural production in area. **C**
- Support development of agritourism uses in the Rural Residential/Agricultural future land use classification to help entertain and educate the local and regional community on the importance of agriculture. **C**

Timing Key:

C = Continuous

ST = Short Term (0 to 5-Years)

MT = Mid Term (6 to 10-Years)

LT = Long Term (Over 10-Years)

Objective: Preserve and Enhance the Southern Panhandle Culture and Heritage

Implementation Items:

- Examine opportunity for a historical marker or other remembrance tools to preserve the history of the Osceola community. **MT**
- Include the study area within any future county or state cultural resources inventories. **LT**
- Encourage the designation of historic structures in the local register. **C**
- Provide support to owners of historic structures in obtaining formal federal or state recognition of those structures. **C**

GOAL: HELP DEVELOP ANDREW JACKSON STATE PARK INTO A MAJOR REGIONAL DESTINATION

Objective: Grow the Park into a 7-Days a Week Activity Center

Implementation Items:

- Undertake joint recreation programming between Andrew Jackson State Park and the Lancaster County Parks and Recreation Department. **C**
- Take advantage of the park's centralized location in the region and abundance of natural resources to help cultivate regular use of the park by local and regional outdoor clubs for meetings and activities. These may include geocaching, archery, hiking/running, birding, biking, photography, fishing, radio controlled (RC) watercrafting, environmental activism groups, etc. **C**
- Promote adoption of the park as the home base for recreation clubs, clubs associated with Indian Land High School, and regional Girl Scout and Cub/Boy Scout troops, etc. **C**

Objective: Encourage Land Uses near Andrew Jackson State Park that Provide Supporting Goods and Services to Park Guests

Implementation Items:

- Create supplementary site and building design standards to minimize the visual obtrusiveness of commercial uses and require architectural design elements complimentary to the park and its natural features. **ST**
- Support small-scale rezonings to institutional or low-intensity commercial districts in the immediate vicinity of US-521 and SC-5 that will provide supporting goods and services such as food service, private campgrounds, fuel, etc. **C**

GOAL: CREATE A BALANCED SOUTHERN PANHANDLE LAND USE PATTERN

Objective: Develop Employment and Shopping Opportunities in Targeted Segments of the Study Area

Implementation Items:

- Create opportunities for small-scale retail development that can help provide goods and services for the local community. **MT**
- Non-residential development along US-521 and SC-5 should incorporate rural building design elements such as pitched roofs, non-masonry or EIFS building materials, and similar elements. **ST**
- Focus long-term economic development near the intersections of US-521 and SC-5 and US-521 and SC-75. **LT**
- A master planned, regional mixed-use town center and/or employment center should be considered in the far northwest portion of the Southern Panhandle study area. **LT**
- Rezoning to non-residential districts should be generally consistent with the Future Land Use Map. The timing of rezonings to non-residential districts should be contingent on the availability of public water and sewer infrastructure. **C**

Objective: Residential Densities Should be Appropriate for their Location

Implementation Items:

- Rezoning to higher-density residential districts should be generally consistent with the Future Land Use Map. Medium-density residential development should be encouraged in the vicinity of the two schools within the study area, with the exception of property located within the town limits of Van Wyck. The timing of rezonings to higher-density residential districts should be contingent on the availability of public water and sewer infrastructure. **C**
- Low/rural density residential development should occur in residential areas located away from the two schools within the study area, and should be achieved through large lot subdivisions or conservation subdivision design with an abundance of open space. **C**
- Townhomes, apartments, condominiums, and similar higher-density residential uses are appropriate when part of a master planned development within the mixed-use areas. **C**

GOAL: ESTABLISH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS A IDENTIFYING ELEMENT OF THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE

Objective: Protect Natural Resources

Implementation Items:

- Establish policies for minimum tree retention in association with new development projects. **ST**
- Require the use of native tree and shrub species in association with required landscaping for new development. **ST**
- Establish a min. 50-ft conservation corridor along US-521 and Rebound Road to retain existing trees and natural features. Integrate cultural and heritage features within these corridors in a manner that minimizes vegetation disturbance. **ST**
- Improve the existing Lancaster County Cluster Subdivision Overlay District to retain higher quantities of useable open space. **ST**
- Evaluate existing Lancaster County environmentally sensitive area buffer standards to ensure adequate protection of critical resources. **ST**
- Incentivize the use of low-impact development techniques for stormwater management. **ST**
- For non-mixed use commercial and rural residential areas, minimize the use of curb and gutter on new roads and within parking lots. **C**
- Coordinate with the Katawba Valley Land Trust and the State of South Carolina to protect areas critical for clean water, endangered/threatened species protection, and recreational opportunities. **C**

Objective: Create and Promote Nature Based Recreation Opportunities

Implementation Items:

- Encourage the marketing and branding of the Southern Panhandle area as being a nature-based destination. **LT**
- Support implementation of the Carolina Thread Trail and the Walk-Bike RFATS Pedestrian plan for the US-521 and SC-75 corridors. **C**
- Require new major residential subdivisions, institutional uses, and larger employment

developments to create private trail systems that interlink with the Carolina Thread Trail and Andrew Jackson State Park. **C**

GOAL: SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Objective: Support Transportation and Utility Investment in a Manner that is Consistent with the Southern Panhandle Vision

Implementation Items:

- Implement the RFATS Collector Road Study. **LT**
- Develop a collector/minor arterial road system in the western section of the study area as the Southern Panhandle develops over time. Right-of-Way dedication and road construction (as appropriate) for the proposed Dave Lyle Boulevard Extension and the proposed Southern Panhandle study collector/minor arterial roads should be undertaken as part of development projects occurring within the general alignment areas. **LT**
- Coordinate with SCDOT on needed intersection improvements for safety and functionality as growth occurs within the Southern Panhandle. **LT**
- Support extension of public water, sewer, natural gas, and other utility infrastructure in areas of the Southern Panhandle designated for non-residential uses and medium-density residential development. **LT**
- Coordinate with Comporium Communications, the Town of Van Wyck, and other partners on developing strategies to integrate a rural broadband network within the Southern Panhandle area. **LT**
- Above-ground utility infrastructure should be constructed, sited, and/or screened in a manner that ensures it blends in with the natural landscape. **C**



APPENDIX A: EXISTING CONDITIONS





PAST PLANNING INITIATIVES

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for the Catawba Region, 2019

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) is an area-wide assessment of economic trends and infrastructure needs within the Catawba Region. The CEDS is a program developed by the US Economic Development Administration (US EDA) that receives activities and programs of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments in promoting economic progress within the district.

Catawba Regional Housing Assessment, 2018

The Catawba Regional Housing Assessment is an evaluation of the economic conditions and general housing affordability within each county of the region. The Housing Assessment also considers the burden of housing costs of residents including goals and new steps to address housing affordability within the Catawba Region. Initiatives include identifying potential funding sources; evaluating property options available within the region; analyzing neighborhoods; and collaborating with construction, development, and financing partners in the region.

CONNECT Our Future, 2015

The CONNECT Our Future planning process was a three-year project covering fourteen counties in North and South Carolina that developed a vision for future growth at the local and regional levels. The project included a \$4.9 million US Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Grant Program and \$3 million in local in-kind public and private matching funds. From 2000 to 2008, the bi-state area was the fastest-growing area in the country. The population was projected to increase by 74% by 2050 with 1.2 million additional people and 860,000 additional jobs.

Six core values were generated by community input during the project: a strong, diverse economy; sustainable, well-managed growth; a safe and healthy environment; increased collaboration; enhanced social equity; and high-quality educational opportunities. The

top ten priorities for the CONNECT planning area were:

- Support our communities
- Maximize return on investment
- Support local farms
- Improve access to parks and open space
- Increase transportation choices
- Improve water quality
- Improve air quality
- Grow jobs closer to home
- Increase housing choices
- Reduce commuting costs

Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Recommendations, 2015

The Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Recommendations was completed by Clemson University to evaluate park and recreation needs in Lancaster County. The study determined a broad support for improved recreation facilities, programs, and services from a large cross-section of the community including gender, age, and ethnicity. A 100-acre multi-purpose recreation center was recommended south of the Southern Panhandle and north of the City of Lancaster next to the intersection of US 521 and Shiloh Unity Road.

Comprehensive Plan, 2014

The Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December 2014 and identifies the majority of the Southern Panhandle Planning Area as Rural Living on the Future Land Use Map. Rural Living includes a variety of residential types that include farmhouses, large acreage rural family dwellings, and conservation subdivisions that preserve open landscape and traditional buildings. Along the northern boundary, a new conceptual transportation corridor is shown along with the Neighborhood Mixed Use land use. The Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan also notes some areas in the Southern Panhandle planning area as Special District – Industrial use.

Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan, 2011

The Carolina Thread Trail is a 15-county bi-state program to create an interconnected trail system with major regional trails. The Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan integrates all trails and greenway areas into a comprehensive multi-use network for connecting people, places, and destinations. The plan includes benefits of trails on health, the economy, the environment, culture, and transportation. A guiding principle of the Carolina Thread Trail is “respect for the land and respect for the landowner.”

The Master Plan includes 182 miles of trails and 41 miles of blueways. The segment of the trails in the Southern Panhandle planning area is the Lancaster Panhandle Greenway segment which is 20.4 miles in length. The portion of that Greenway within the planning area is 8.3 miles in length. Connection and access opportunities are located at Andrew Jackson State Park, Twelve Mile Creek, and the historic Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church / Cemetery in Union County, NC.



CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL AND CORRIDOR STUDY

Twelve Mile Creek Trail at Walnut Creek (upper image) and Reconfiguration options for SC 5 and US 521 from US 521 / SC 9 Corridor Study (middle and lower images)

PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

The Southern Panhandle planning area has many assets that serve as catalysts for future development. The planning area includes Van Wyck Elementary School and Indian Land High School, as well as US 521 and SC Highway 5—key corridors within the region. Also within the planning area are abundant natural resources such as the Andrew Jackson State Park. This section covers the existing conditions and the opportunities for development.

Location / Economy

The Southern Panhandle is strategically located near high growth areas of Indian Land to the north and Union County, NC to the east. The planning area is also east of York County and north of the City of Lancaster, which is experiencing relatively moderate development. The area is home to multiple industries, businesses, health facilities, and places of worship.

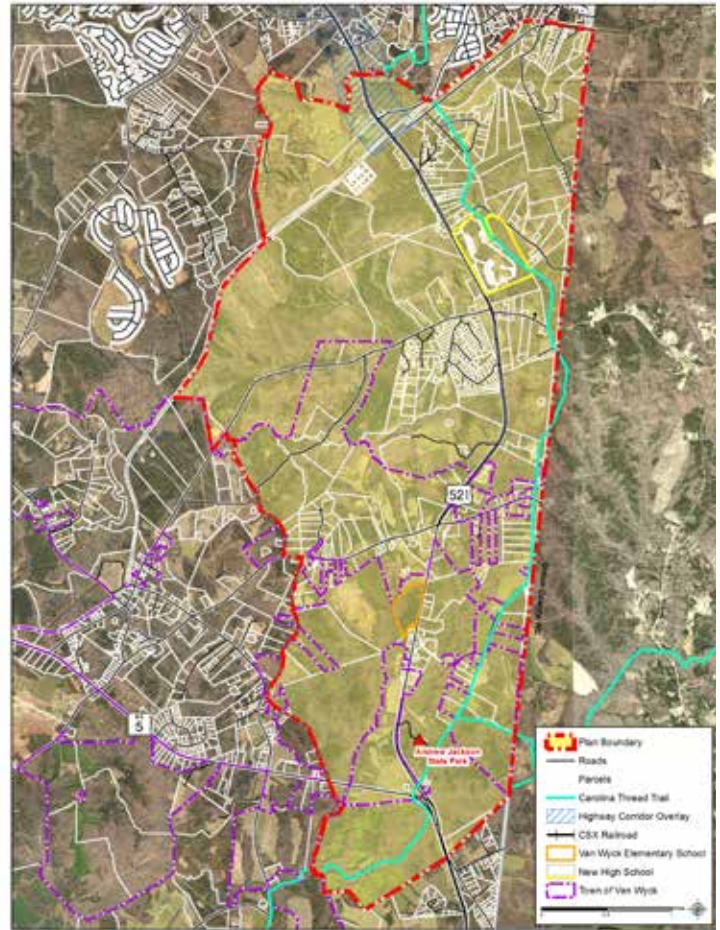
The area has been experiencing development pressures in recent years. In 2019, the County approved the Roselyn subdivision, an 1850-home project on 1,800 acres—the largest residential project in Lancaster County. The site—located just south of the study area—is expected to include a County park.

PLANNING AREA

The Southern Panhandle planning area is reflected in the aerial view to the right and includes approximately 8,200 acres and 611 parcels with 473 property owners. The planning area is centered around US 521 and is bordered to the east by Union County, NC and bordered to the west by CSX Railroad and the Town of Van Wyck. The northern boundary is the area north of Highway 75 and the southern boundary is Andrew Jackson State Park and the intersection of SC Highway 5 and US 521.

A map showing the location of existing homes in the planning area can be found in Appendix B. The US Census Bureau estimates for 2018 that 947 residents live in 353 households within the planning area. The median household income is \$44,943 and the median household value is \$250,000.

Aerial View of the Study Area



Existing Land Use Distribution

Land Use	Acres	Sq Miles	Percentages
Park / Open Space	327.54	0.51	3.88%
Working Farm	669.75	1.05	10.09%
Rural Living	7,182.03	11.22	80.23%
Large Lot Residential	109.97	0.17	1.38%
Medium Density Residential	77.39	0.12	0.74%
Civic / Institutional	66.99	0.10	2.67%
Commercial	43.70	0.07	0.42%
Industrial	49.42	0.08	0.59%
Totals	8,526.79	13.32	

Note: Right-of-way included in totals.

Traffic Counts

The Average Daily Traffic Counts in the planning area reflect the following volume of traffic for 2018:

- US 521 between SC 75 to SC 5 – 11,400
- SC 75 – 6,000
- Steele Hill Road (East) – 1,000
- Steele Hill Road (West) – 350
- West Rebound Road – 1,050

Existing Land Use

The current land use is reflected in Figure 8, Land Use and the distribution is reflected in Table 4, Existing Land Use Distribution. The planning area is predominately rural with 84% of the acres categorized as Rural Living, 8% Working Farms, and 4% Permanent Open Space. The remaining 4% of land uses are a mix of large lot and mixed density residential, professional, retail, commercial, and industrial uses. Land with some limitations is reflected in Figure 11, Environmental Constraints.

Existing Zoning Map

The existing zoning for the Southern Panhandle Planning Area can be found in Appendix B. The majority of the planning area is zoned for Rural Neighborhood, Rural Residential, and Open Space Preservation. Other zoning districts in the planning area include Low Density Residential, several types of Commercial districts, Light Industrial, and a Legacy Planned Development District.

Infrastructure

Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) serves the Planning Area. The entirety of the Planning Area has the potential to be served with public water; however service is generally limited to those area along major road corridors. The Catawba River Water Treatment Plant, located west of Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster County, is a joint venture between LCWSD and Union County, NC with a 50/50 ownership. A 500,000 gallon water tank is located on Highway 521 north of Steele Hill AME Zion Church. Currently, sewer is available only at the northeast and southeast portions of the intersection of Highway 521 and Highway 75. Sewer system enhancements by LCWSD are development-driven and performed supplementary to LCWSD's Wastewater Extension Guidelines outlined in their Water & Wastewater Developer Policy.

The Conceptual Sewer Master Plan for the Highway 521 and Highway 5 area includes a proposed Equalization Facility on approximately ten acres to the west of the Planning Area. The addition of an Equalization Facility will reduce the potential for overflows in the system or at the treatment facility, mitigate environmental damage, improve the efficiency of the treatment facility, and maximize the infrastructure sizing by equalizing peak flows. Several locations are identified for potential gravity sewer lines with sewer lift stations. LCWSD will evaluate their infrastructure sizing needs as the proposed land use plans and zoning are updated. The LCWSD sewer discharge permit for the Catawba River is 15 MGD. LCWSD's Indian Land Wastewater Treatment Facility is currently under construction for an upgrade to 5 MGD and the hydraulic capacity at the treatment facility can be increased as needed to meet the water and sewer needs as development occurs within the Planning Area.

Cultural Resources

The Southern Panhandle has many significant cultural resources that should be preserved and protected as well as celebrated and shared for future generations.

The County has not completed a historic inventory since the 1986. As of that time, the Steele Hill AME Zion Church Arbor (built in 1885) was the only structure identified as eligible to be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The Steele Hill Rosenwald School Building has not yet been evaluated for potential National Register eligibility. These historic African American sites should be considered for historic preservation programs provided by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund program.

The Steele Hill Rosenwald School was built as part of the Julius Rosenwald Building Fund, established in the early 1900s to address educational inadequacies and establish better primary schools for African Americans. Three of the seven South Carolina Rosenwald Schools are still standing. The Steel Hill School was used until the 1950s and is currently a single-family home.

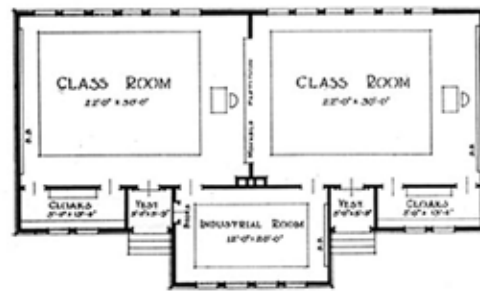
Other cultural resources include the Village of Osceola, located approximately one-half mile on the west side of US 521 at the Highway 75 intersection south of the CSX Railroad. The Village was first surveyed in 1888. Today the historic village is grown over and many of the structures are gone. The 1986 Lancaster County historic survey did not identify any National Register-eligible properties in the Osceola Community area.



STEELE HILL ROSENWALD SCHOOL

Source: Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database.

Rosenwald Two Teacher Community School Plan



FLOOR PLAN No. 20
TWO TEACHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TO FACE EAST OR WEST ONLY

Natural Resources

The Southern Panhandle has abundant natural resources that contribute to the rural living lifestyle of the area. Andrew Jackson State Park is 360 acres and has an 18-acre lake for boating and fishing, a pair of one-mile loop trails for walking and hiking, 25 campsites, two picnic sites, a museum, a meeting house, and an amphitheater. The park is located the southeast portion of the Southern Panhandle.

The planning area is located within the Santee River Basin. According to the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), many State Wildlife Action Plan freshwater fish species are found within the planning area.

While SCDNR does not indicate Carolina Heelsplitter in the planning area, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified Waxhaw Creek as a current and previous location for the endangered species, and it is still considered significant habitat. (The critical habitat is located upstream in NC). It is also a possibility that the endangered Schweinitz's Sunflower could found here. While the plan area is not currently designated as a habitat, the flower has been identified nearby.

Floodplain and wetlands may be found across the northern and southern portions of the planning area and along Millstone Branch, south of the Millstone subdivision. The Twelve Mile Creek Trail at Walnut Creek Park is located at the northern portion of the Southern Panhandle and is a part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

The **South Atlantic Conservation Blueprint** is a spatial plan that identifies priority areas for conservation across parts of six states, from southern Virginia to northern Florida. Data from the plan was considered for identification of natural resources.

A map of environmental constraints can be found in Appendix B.



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Schweinitz's Sunflower, Source: Gary Kaufmann

Carolina Heelsplitter, Source: Katawba Valley Land Trust

Collision Data

The following table includes data on number of fatal collisions, number of injury collisions, property damage only collisions, total collisions, persons killed, and persons injured at the four locations in the Southern Panhandle at the four major corridor intersections as located on pages 38 - 41. In addition, data is provided depicting the average per year for each of these categories, as well as comparative data for the entirety of Highway 521 in Lancaster County for 2018.

Collision Data, 2005 - 2019

Intersection Collision Summary Data 2005 - 2019	Fatal Collision	Injury Collision	Property Damage Only Collision	Total Collisions	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
US 521 and SC 75	1	29	92	122	3	51
US 521 and Steele Hill Road	0	7	17	24	0	7
US 521 and W. Rebound Road	1	17	69	87	2	23
US 521 and SC 5	1	18	58	77	1	31
Total	3	71	236	310	6	112
Average per Year	0.2	4.7	15.7	20.6	0.4	7.4
Total 2018 (all of US 521)	3	5	378	516	3	8

Source: South Carolina Department of Public Safety
 Note: 2018 and 2019 Data is Preliminary

MAJOR CORRIDORS



Northern area, US 521, view West of CSX Railroad and Highway 75



US 521 at East Rebound Road, view North



Northern Area, Intersection of US 521 and Highway 75 and Osceola United Methodist Church



Intersection of US 521 and East and West Rebound Roads, view Northeast



Intersection area of US 521 and Steele Hill Road and Nivens Road, view North



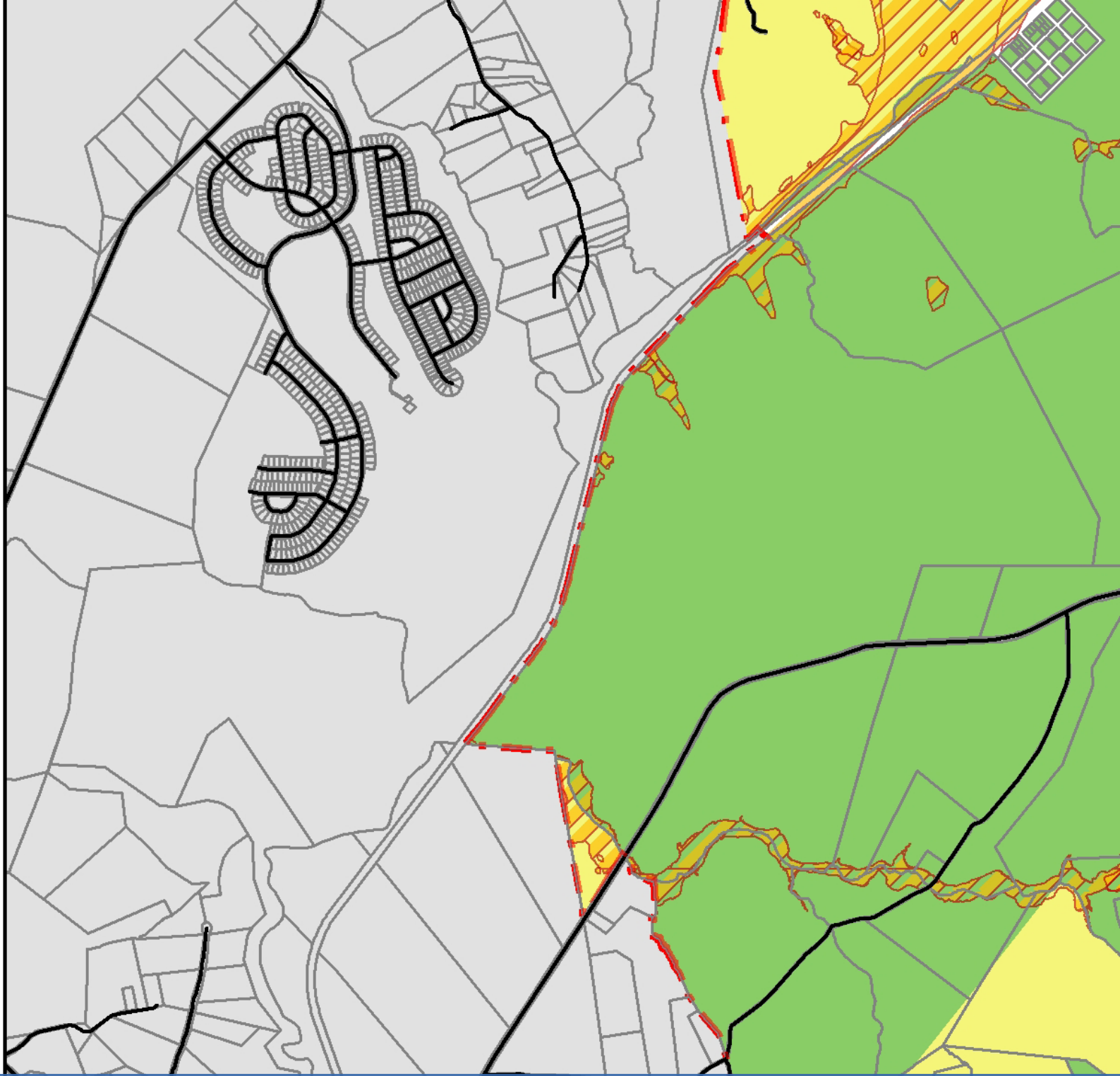
US 521, view North at Van Wyck Elementary School



Intersection area of US 521 and Steele Hill Road and Nivens Road, view South

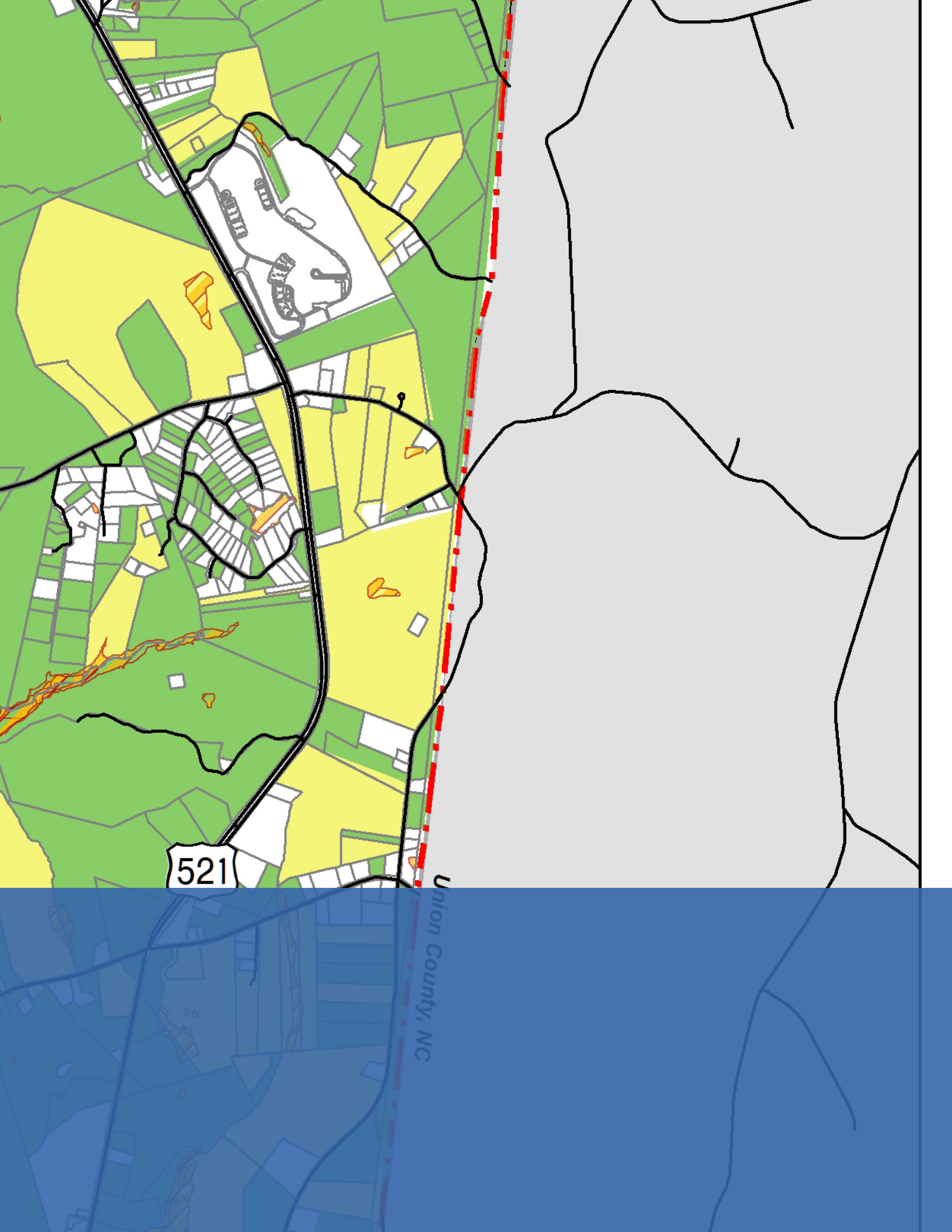


Southern area, intersection of US 521 and Highway 5, view Northwest



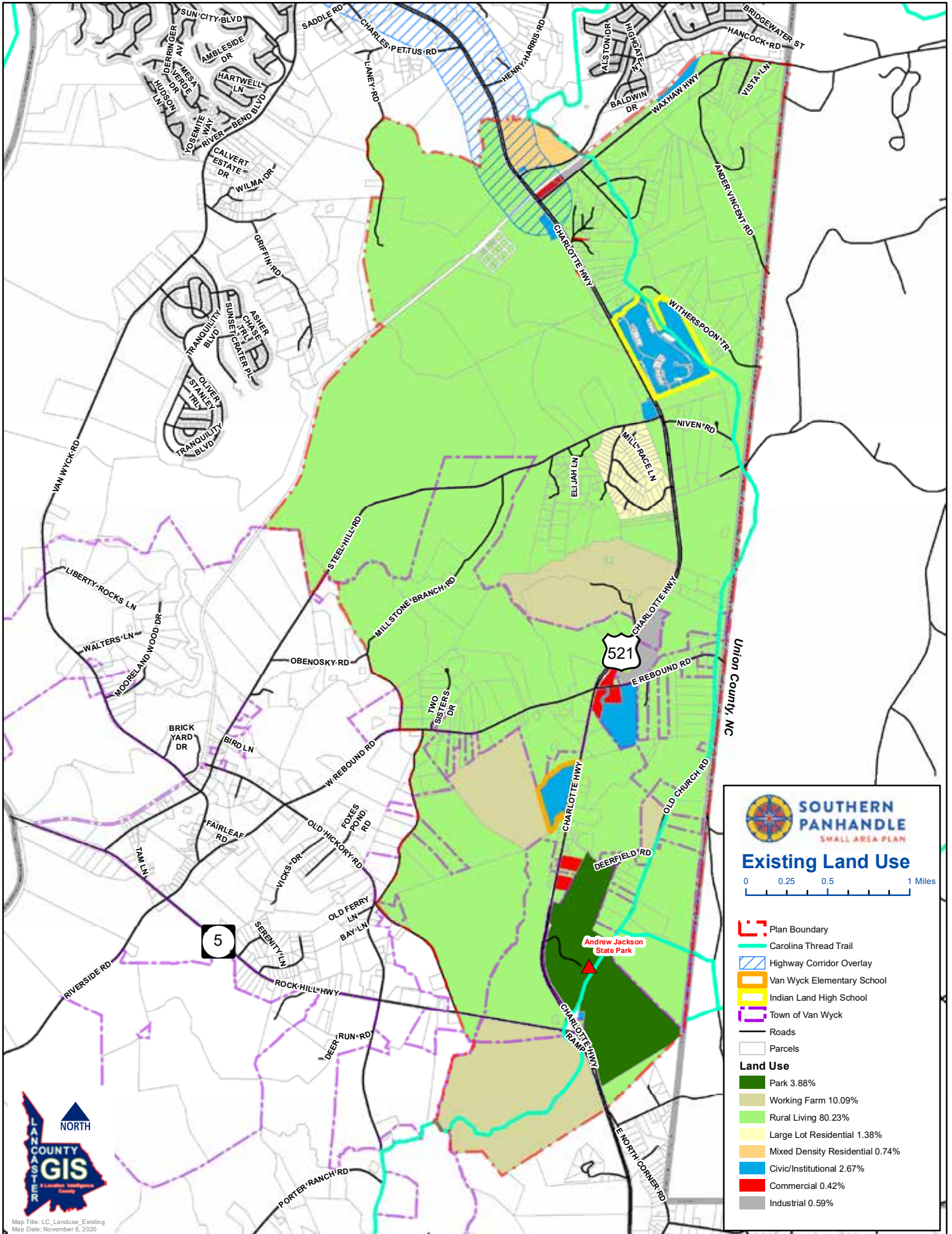
APPENDIX B: MAPS





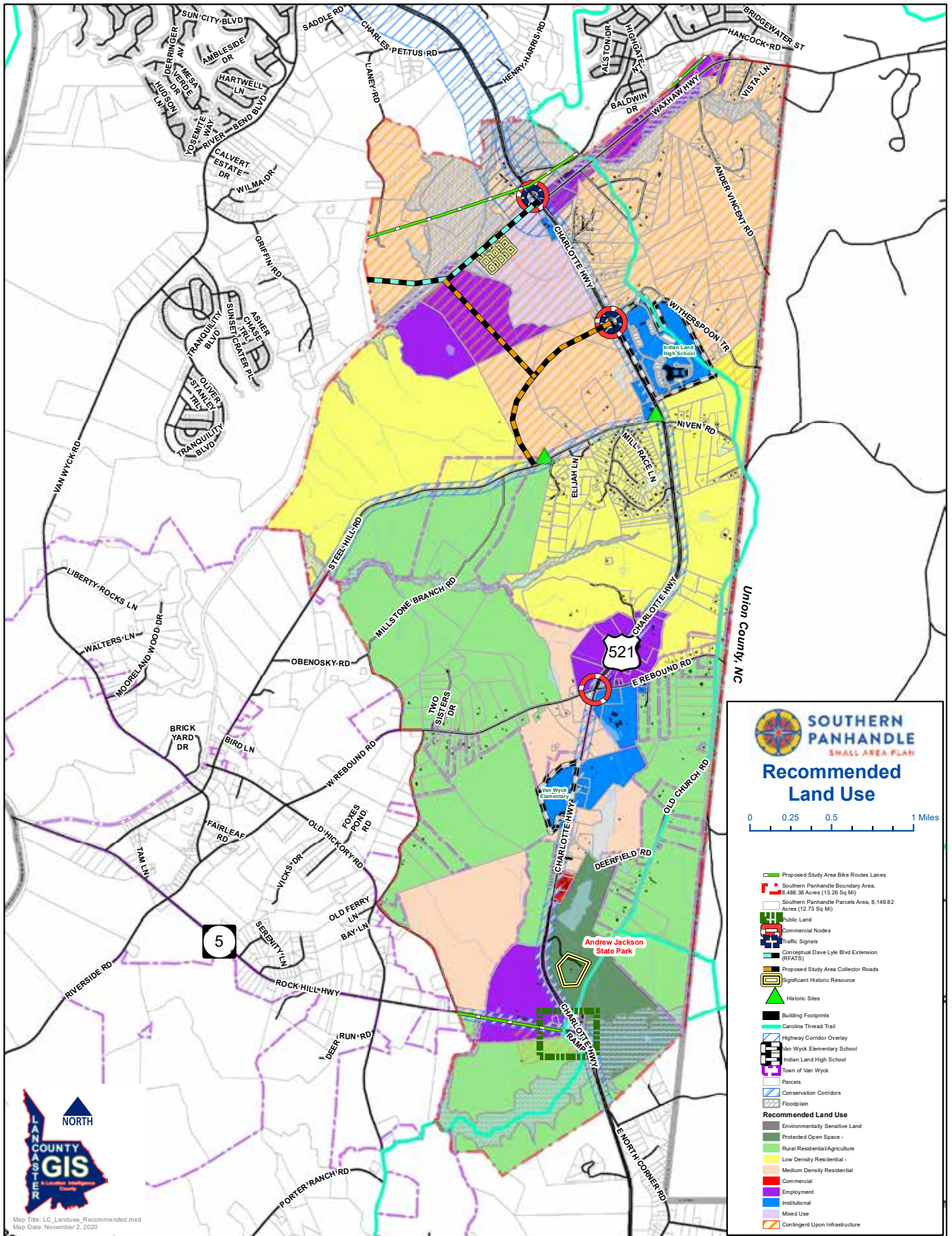
521

Union County, NC

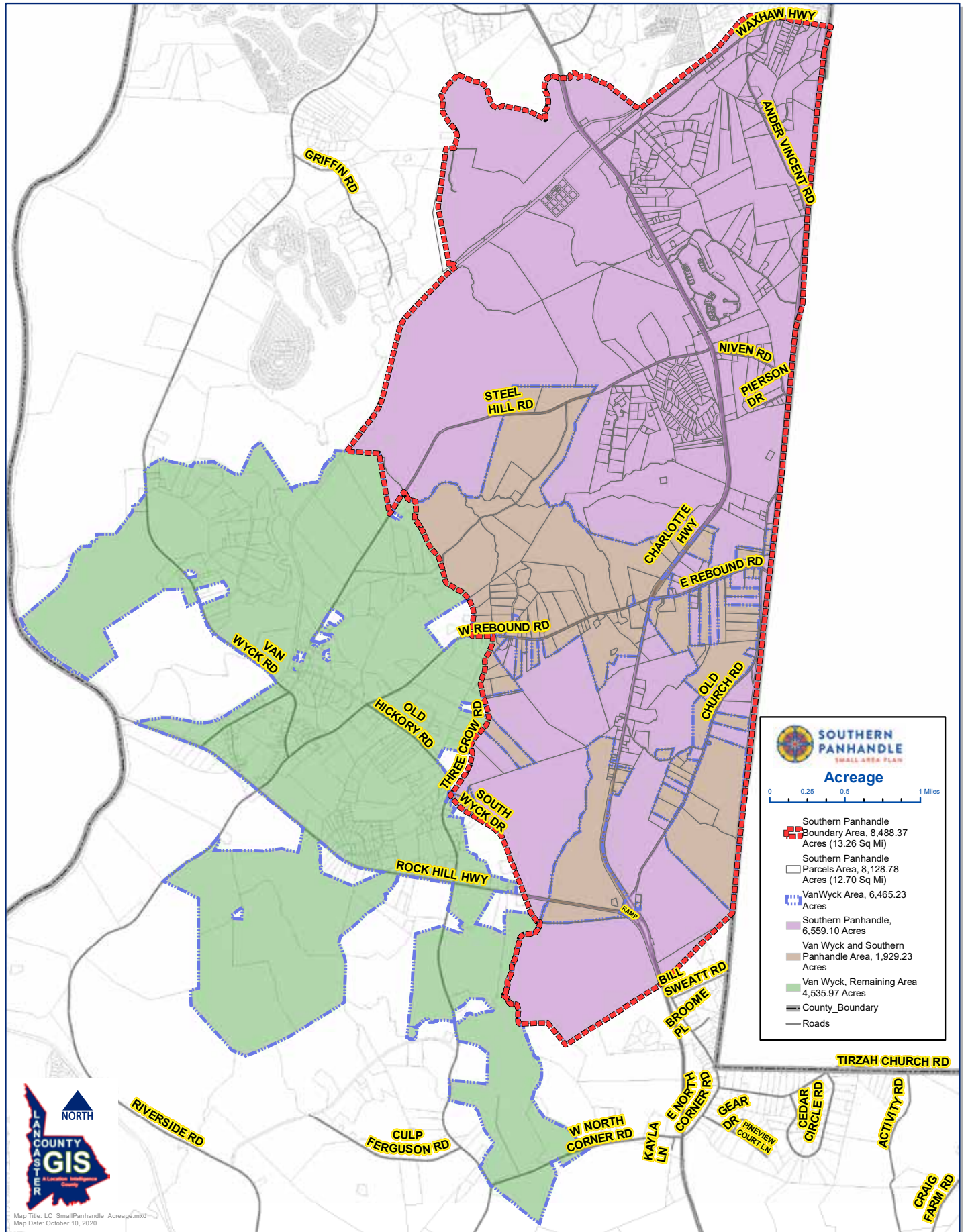


Map Title: LC_Landuse_Existing
Map Date: November 6, 2020

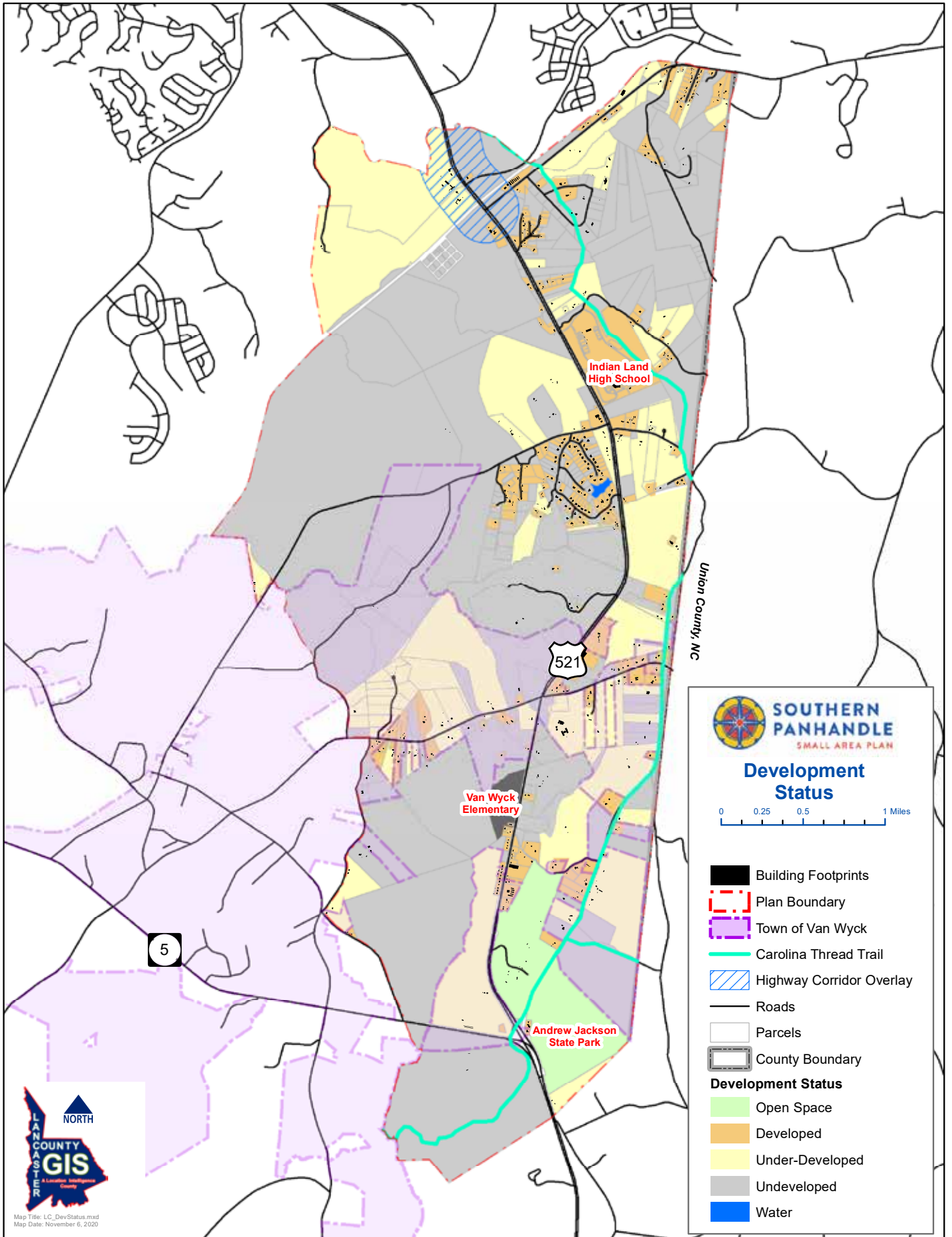
The County of Lancaster provides this data for reference only. All data must be field verified before the information is used for design/project work. The County of Lancaster is not responsible or liable for any inaccuracies. Any design using this data is at users' sole risk. Also note that information is subject to change at any time.



Map Title: LC_Landuse_Recommended.mxd
 Map Date: November 2, 2020

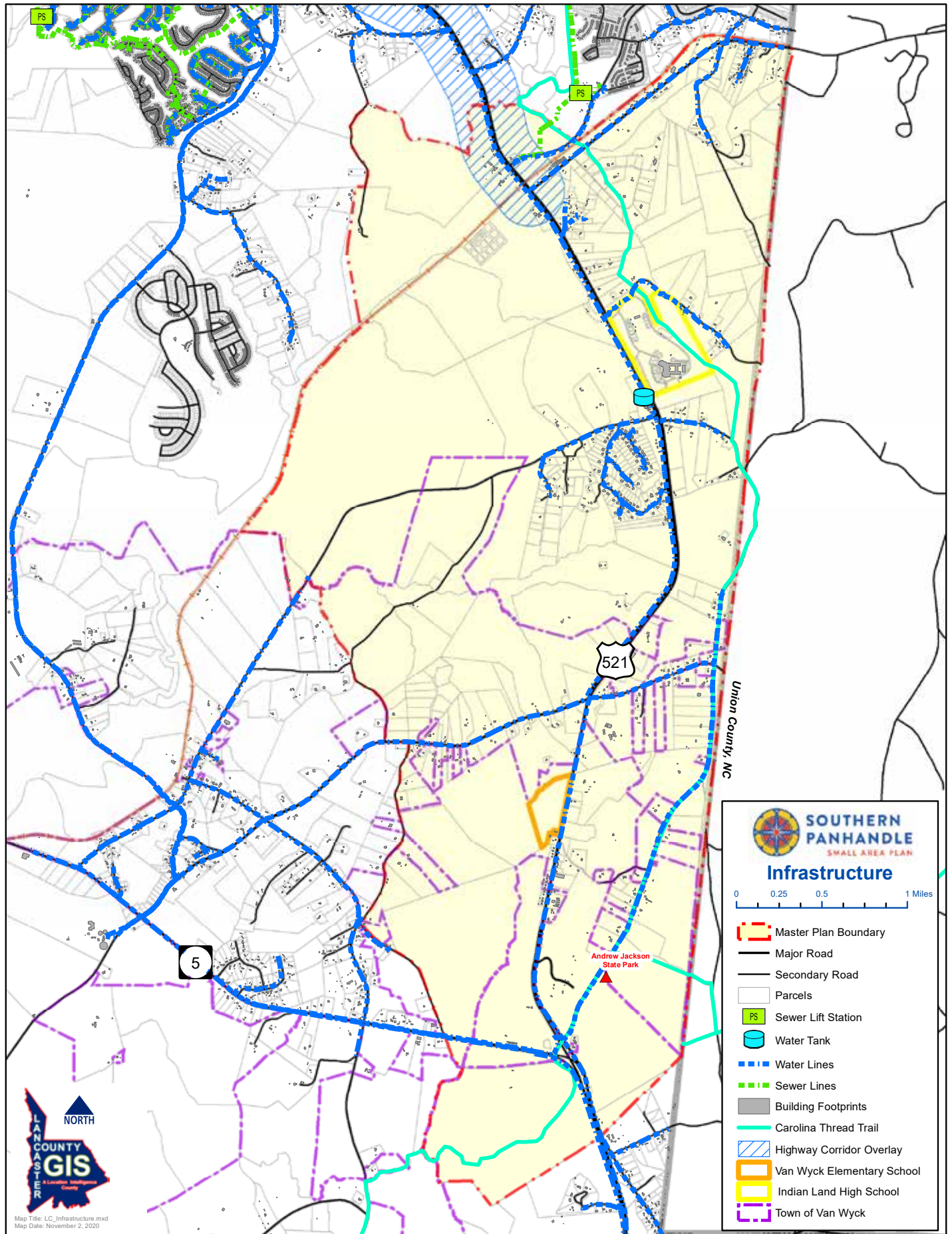


The County of Lancaster provides this data for reference only. All data must be field verified before the information is used for design/project work. The County of Lancaster is not responsible or liable for any inaccuracies. Any design using this data is at users' sole risk. Also note that information is subject to change at any time.





 Map Title: LC_DevStatus.mxd
 Map Date: November 6, 2020



SOUTHERN PANHANDLE
SMALL AREA PLAN

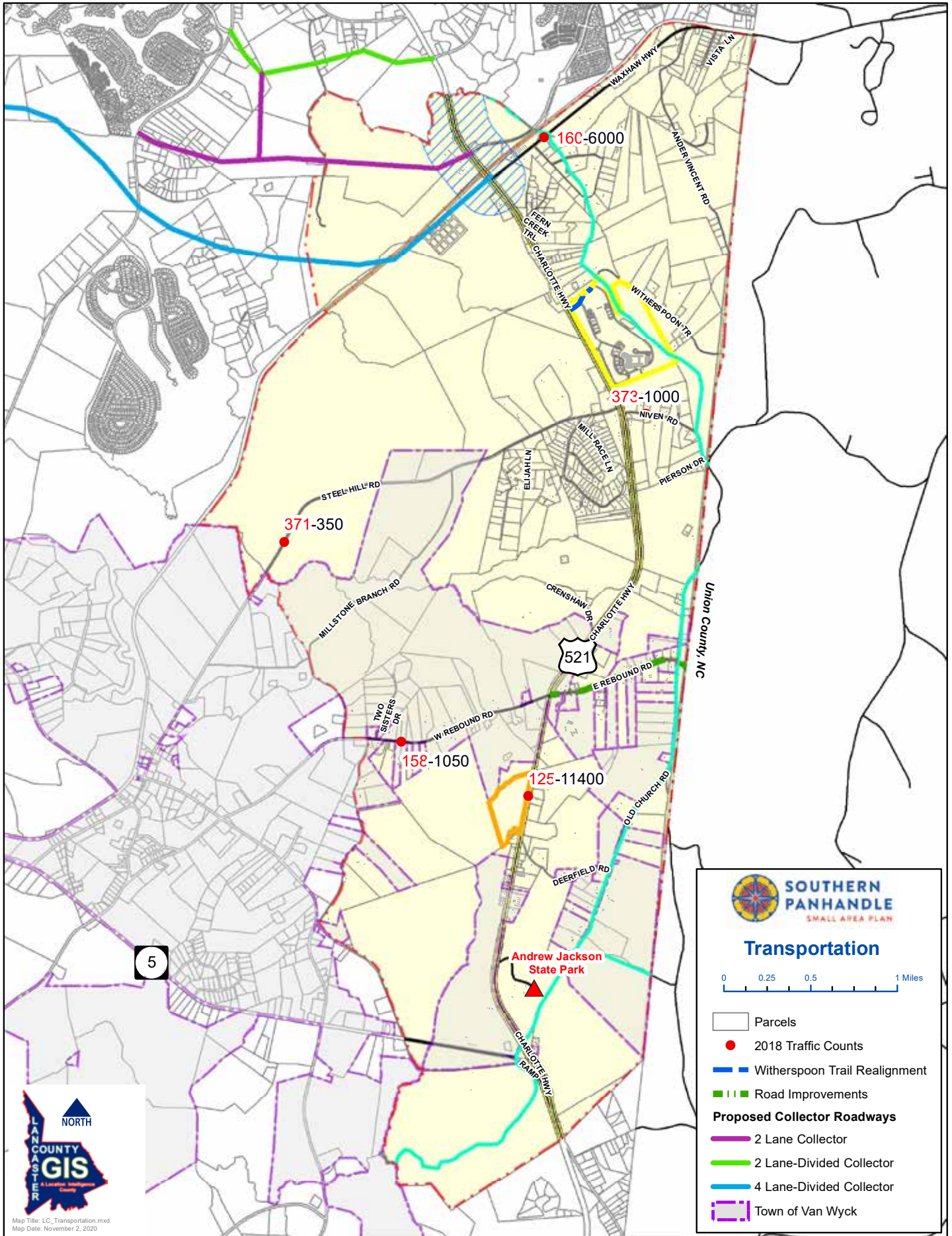
Infrastructure

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

- Master Plan Boundary
- Major Road
- Secondary Road
- Parcels
- Sewer Lift Station
- Water Tank
- Water Lines
- Sewer Lines
- Building Footprints
- Carolina Thread Trail
- Highway Corridor Overlay
- Van Wyck Elementary School
- Indian Land High School
- Town of Van Wyck



Map Title: LC_Infrastructure.mxd
Map Date: November 2, 2020



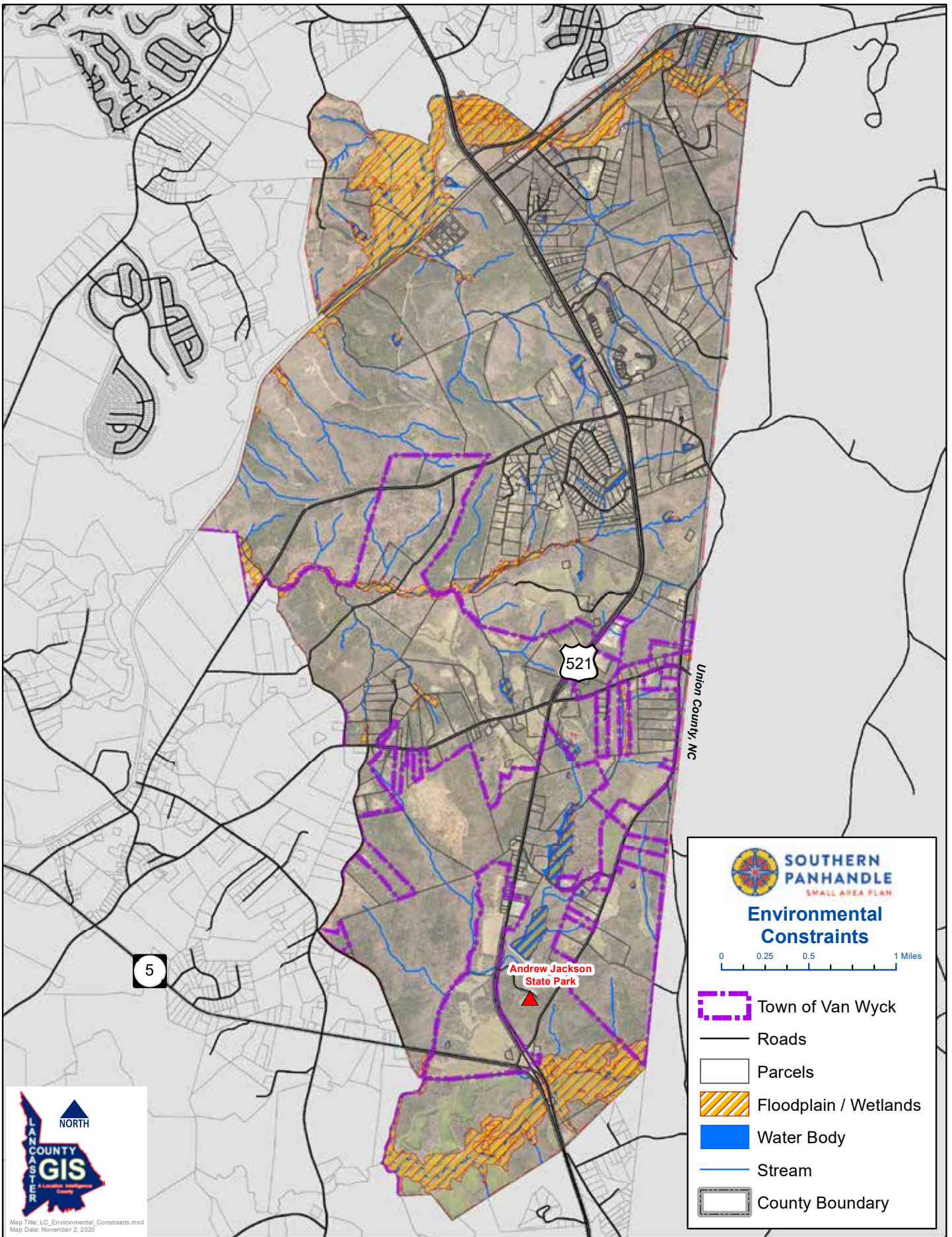
SOUTHERN PANHANDLE
SMALL AREA PLAN

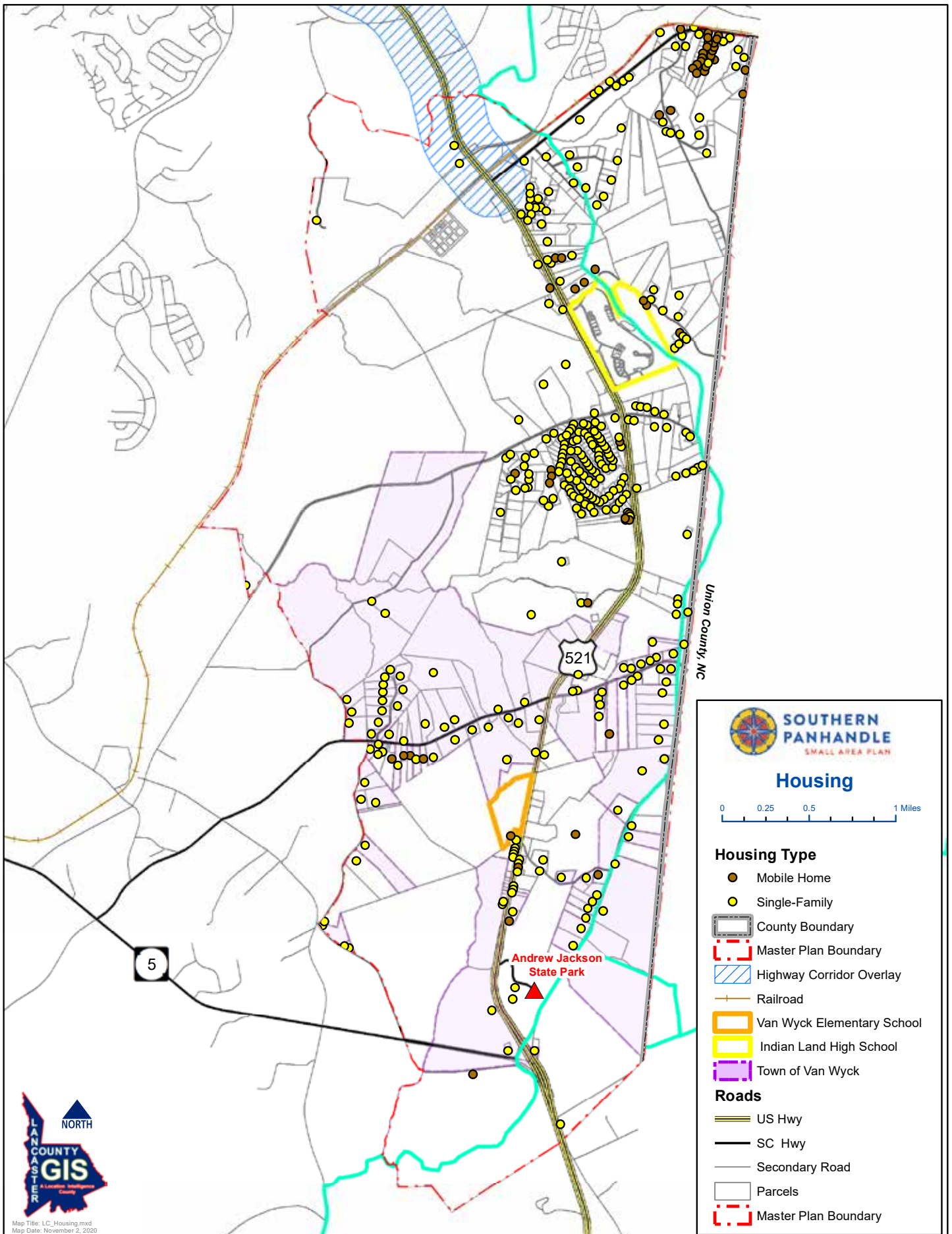
Transportation

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

- Parcels
- 2018 Traffic Counts
- Witherspoon Trail Realignment
- Road Improvements
- Proposed Collector Roadways**
- 2 Lane Collector
- 2 Lane-Divided Collector
- 4 Lane-Divided Collector
- Town of Van Wyck

UNION COUNTY GIS
Map Title: LC_Transportation.mxd
Map Date: November 2, 2020





Housing



Housing Type

- Mobile Home
- Single-Family

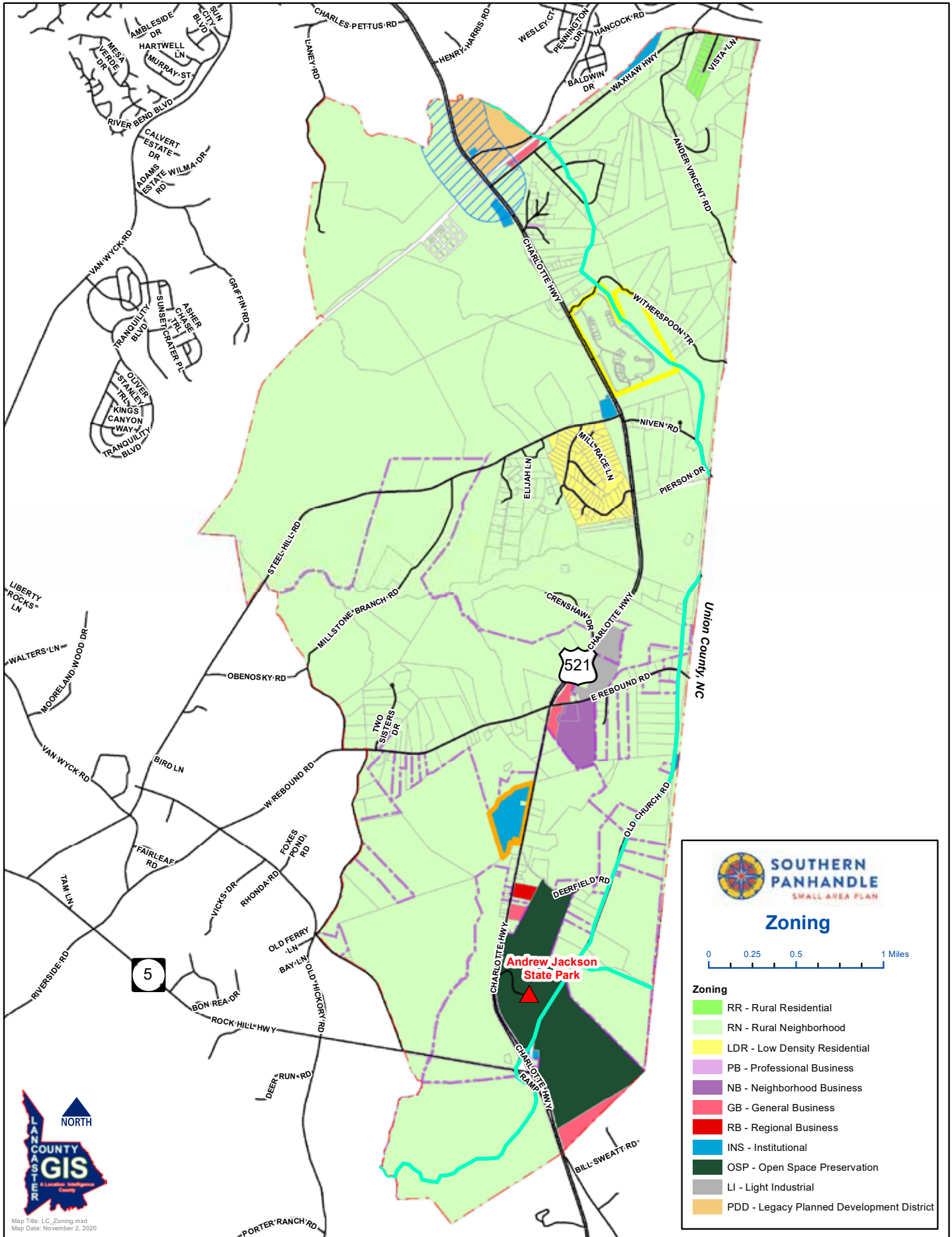
- County Boundary
- Master Plan Boundary
- Highway Corridor Overlay
- Railroad
- Van Wyck Elementary School
- Indian Land High School
- Town of Van Wyck

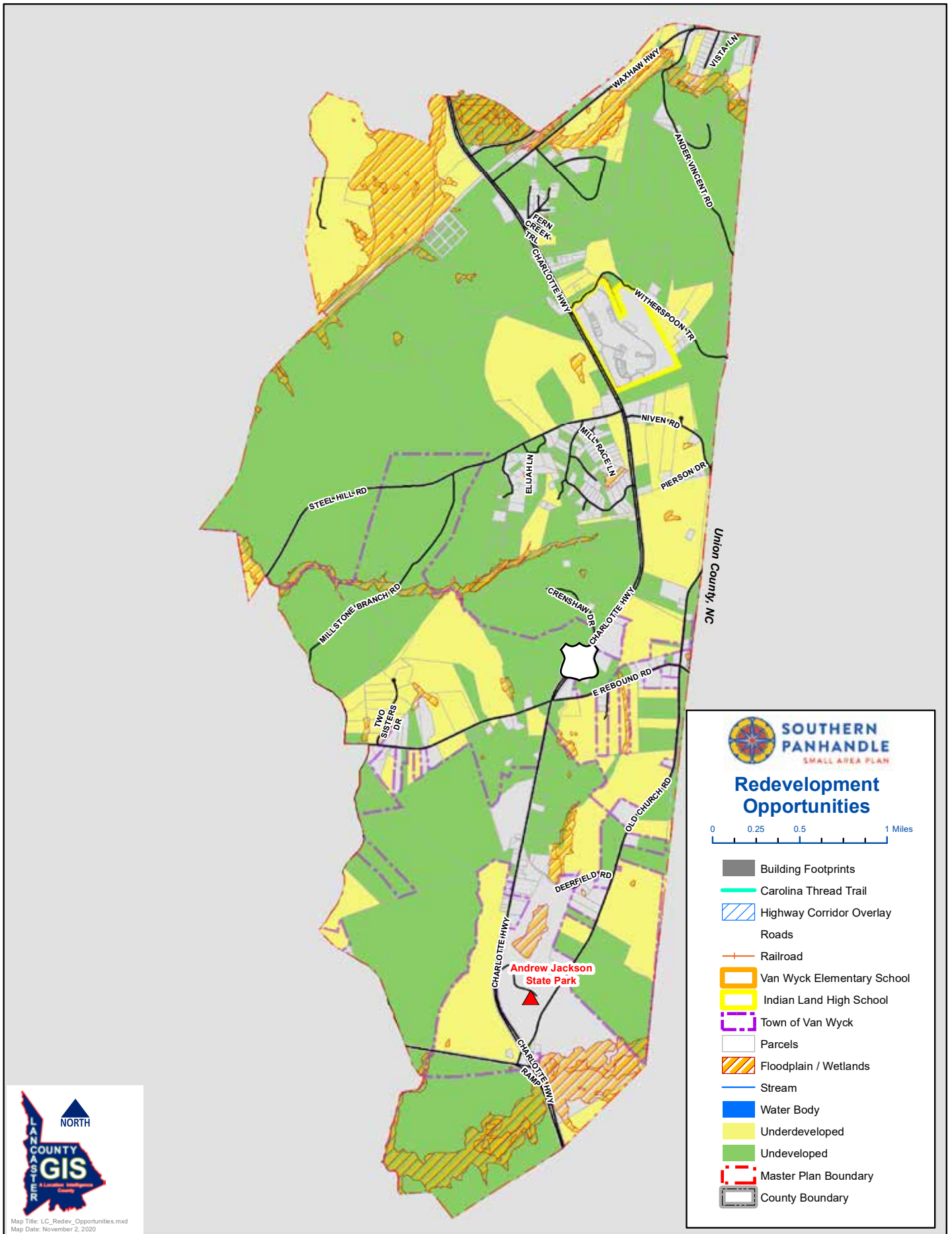
Roads

- US Hwy
- SC Hwy
- Secondary Road
- Parcels
- Master Plan Boundary



Map Title: LC_Housing.mxd
Map Date: November 2, 2020



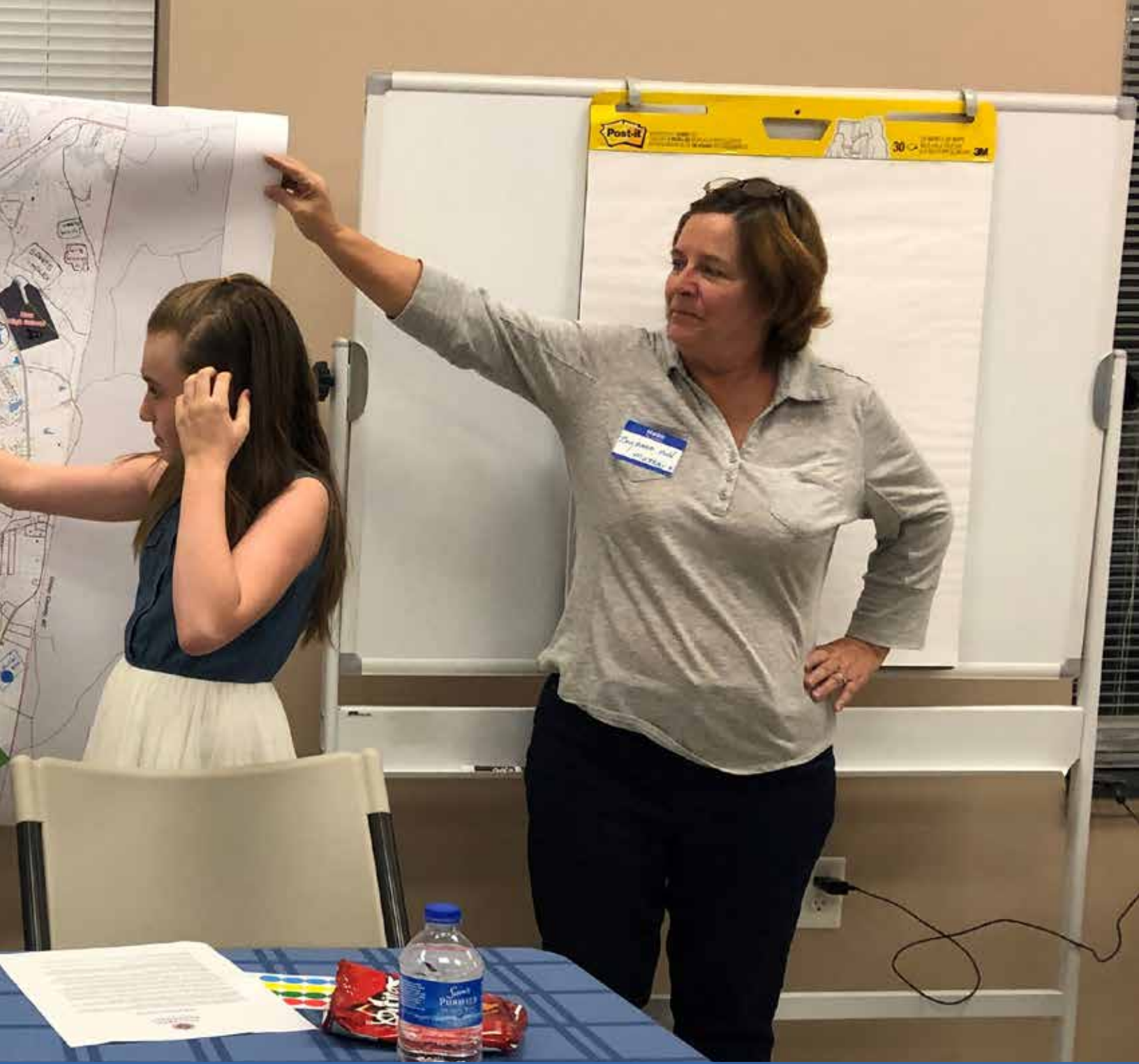


Map Title: LC_Redev_Opportunities.mxd
Map Date: November 2, 2020



APPENDIX C: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





APPENDIX C

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Participation

The Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan was developed with the participation and input from stakeholders from the planning area and the surrounding communities. The Southern Panhandle vision and planning themes reflect the values of the residents and stakeholders. Staff from the Lancaster County Planning Department and Catawba Regional Council of Governments met with residents and property owners from the Southern Panhandle. Visioning Week was held November 4 - 7, 2019 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Events included a hands-on workshop, property owner and stakeholder interviews, drop-in visits, and a Steering Committee meeting.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from Lancaster County, Lancaster County Economic Development, Town of Van Wyck, Andrew Jackson State Park, Lancaster County School District, Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, Lancaster County Gas Authority, CSX Transportation, SCDOT, Duke Energy, John M. Belk Endowment, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Osceola United Methodist Church, Steele Hill AME Zion Church, Katawba Valley Land Trust, Carolina Thread Trail, business and property owners, and residents.

The Steering Committee met throughout the process of developing the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan. Meetings were held throughout the planning area that included Andrew Jackson State Park, Van Wyck Community Center, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, and Steele Hill AME Zion Church. The Steering Committee provided direction for the development of the Small Area Plan.

Southern Panhandle Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

<i>Meeting Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Purpose of Meeting</i>
<i>June 5, 2018</i>	<i>Andrew Jackson State Park, Meeting House</i>	<i>Small Area Plan Purpose and Overview, SWOT Analysis, and Vision Exercise</i>
<i>August 15, 2018</i>	<i>Town of Van Wyck Community Center</i>	<i>SWOT Analysis / Vision Exercise Outcomes, Planning Area Boundary, and Existing Conditions Maps</i>
<i>December 13, 2018</i>	<i>Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Parish Hall</i>	<i>Existing Conditions Report, District Name / Logo, and Planning Charrette</i>
<i>August 27, 2019</i>	<i>Steele Hill AME Zion Church, Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>Existing Conditions Draft Document Review and Visioning Week Schedule / Public Participation</i>
<i>November 7, 2019</i> Promotional Materials	<i>Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Parish Hall</i>	<i>Visioning Week Outcomes, Big Ideas, Plan Themes, Vision, and Next Steps</i>

Time	Monday Nov 4th	Tuesday Nov 5th	Wednesday Nov 6th	Thursday Nov 7th		
8:00 AM		Open Planning Studio	Stakeholder Interviews	Open Planning Studio	Stakeholder Interviews	Open Planning Studio
9:00 am						
10:00 am						
11:00 am						
12:00 pm	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch	
1:00 pm	Team Arrives / Studio Setup	Open Planning Studio	Major Landowners	Open Planning Studio	Major Landowners	Studio Breakdown
2:00 pm						
3:00 pm						
4:00 pm						
5:00 pm	Open Planning Studio	Major Landowners	Hands-On Visioning Workshop 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm			
6:00 pm						
7:00 pm			Closed Planning Studio			

Visioning Week Schedule

The Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan incorporated various types of community participation promotions. Postcards were mailed to all property owners within the Planning Area listing all events and opportunities for residents to participate. Letters were sent to 26 property owners with property acreage totaling 50 acres or more and providing information about the study and inviting the property owner(s) to meet with staff. The chart below lists other opportunities for residents and property owners to participate in the community engagement activities during Visioning Week.

Visioning Week Community Outreach

2019	Type of Community Outreach
Week of October 14th	Lancaster County and Catawba Regional COG Websites
October 15th	Letters Mailed to Property Owners with >50 Acres
October 16th	Press Release
October 17th	Postcard Mailed to All Property Owners
October 17th	Emails Sent to All Agencies / Organizations
Week of October 21st	Schools and Places of Worship Social Media / Websites
October 23rd	Newspaper Ad in the Carolina Gateway

VISIONING WEEK

Hands-On Workshop

The Southern Panhandle Hands-On Workshop was held on the evening of Tuesday, November 5, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Residents, property owners, and other stakeholders received information about the planning area and participated in a visual preference survey and small group discussion to brainstorm about the future of the Southern Panhandle.

Rox Burhans, AICP, Lancaster County Development Services Division Director, welcomed the 54 participants to Visioning Week and thanked them for sharing their ideas for the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan. Cole McKinney, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, presented an overview of the project objectives. Mr. McKinney explained the importance to ensure the future integrity and economic vitality and to develop place-making strategies through proactive planning.

Kara W. Drane, AICP, Catawba Regional Council of Governments provided examples of place-making techniques, highlighted the Visioning Week schedule, and introduced the breakout session portion of the Hands-On Workshop. Participants were divided randomly by name tag “dot” color and assigned one of seven groups. Each group developed a vision documented on maps and descriptions of the future Southern Panhandle. The feedback provided by the groups were incorporated into the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan Recommended Land Use Map. The big ideas that the groups reported included:

- Maintain Rural Community
- Protect Local Heritage
- Ensure Growth is Well-Planned
- Prevent Loss of Tree Canopy
- Protect Andrew Jackson State Park
- Plan for Transportation Enhancements
- Provide for Sewer Enhancements as Needed
- Be a Natural Retreat Destination



Visioning Week Postcard Invitation



HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Lancaster County invites you to brainstorm with residents, property owners, and community stakeholders about the future of the Southern Panhandle!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, PLEASE

RSVP TO: CRCOG@CATAWBACOG.ORG

OR 803.327.9041

Drop by Our Lady of Grace to discuss your ideas, on any of the dates below, if you cannot attend the hands-on workshop.

NOV 4: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

NOV 5: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NOV 6: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

NOV 7: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM



OUR LADY OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Stakeholder Interviews

Staff from Lancaster County Planning Department and Catawba Regional Council of Governments held stakeholder interviews with major property owners, business owners, and agency representatives during Visioning Week. The purpose of the interviews was to gather information and compile different perspectives from stakeholders throughout the Southern Panhandle. The feedback provided to planners included opportunities for future growth, and all of the property owners shared personal ties and connections to the Southern Panhandle planning area.

Drop-In Visits

The public was invited to drop-in and talk with the Lancaster County Planning Department and Catawba Regional Council of Governments staff during Visioning Week to share ideas and ask questions about the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan Project. The drop-in visits provided residents the opportunity to stop by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at their convenience to participate in the process and development of the small area plan. Times were available during the day and early evening.

Through Wednesday evening, a total of 95 residents engaged in the Southern Panhandle Small Area Plan Visioning Week activities:

- November 4th / Interviews and Drop-ins – 12 participants
- November 5th / Interviews and Drop-ins – 13 participants
- November 5th / Hands-On Workshop – 54 participants
- November 6th / Interviews and Drop-ins – 16 participants



Visioning Week Work Groups Report Out



SWOT ANALYSIS & VISIONING

The Steering Committee met on June 5, 2018 and the members developed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis. The Steering Committee also provided one word(s) descriptions of how they envision the future Southern Panhandle planning area.

Strengths

- Schools (noted 5 times)
- Undeveloped land (noted 5 times)
- Proximity to Charlotte/Waxhaw/Rock Hill (noted 4 times)
- Capacity in water and sewer (noted 4 times)
- Highways, two major transportation arteries and proposed Dave Lyle Extension (noted 3 times)
- Access to US 521 (noted 3 times)
- Nature trails (noted 2 times)
- Rural living (noted 2 times)
- Area is strategic connection for trail from Andrew Jackson to Walnut Creek; New UDO guidelines can help facilitate trail development
- Connective roads to other communities
- CSX Rail Line for industry
- Distance to I-77
- Good park land
- Great growth – increase in land values
- Growing population and work force that is moving south
- Help shape development
- Highway 75 – Monroe Highway 5 – I-77
- Lack of negative industrial sites
- Limited curb cuts
- Location and proximity to retail and shopping



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 2018

Andrew Jackson State Park



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 2018

Van Wyck Community Center

- Long-time family landowners
- Low density
- Natural beauty
- New schools
- Quality of life for active living
- State Park
- Two creeks that feed into the Catawba and water system
- Vacant properties with motivated sellers
- Working with stakeholders upfront

Weaknesses

- Traffic conditions (noted 6 times)
- Sewer limitations (noted 5 times)
- Unknowns that could impact the area – Dave Lyle Extension (noted 2 times)
- Connective road intersections could easily be overdeveloped
- Constraints with river on west and state line on east
- Current zoning and Future Land Use Map
- Difficult to get consensus
- Electric capacity
- Greenspaces being reduced
- US 521 only north/south route
- Infrastructure
- Insufficient roads – need for additional lanes and “deceleration lanes”
- Knowledge about trails/trail systems not there
- Knowledge for different modes of transportation
- Lack of services south of Rebound
- Many property owners may not be aware of CTT
- No identification of defined town – no neighborhood businesses – need to balance for existing homes
- No Master Plan – only Comprehensive Plan



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 2018

Town of Van Wvck Communitv Center.



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, DECEMBER 2018

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church.

- Poorly maintained roads
- Road network (all residential)
- Several sewer sheds cross the region – complications
- Should be looking at the entire US 521 corridor to City of Lancaster
- Small, pocket communities
- Traffic north of Waxhaw Highway
- Transportation
- Two main roads heading north, 5 and US 521
- Utilities
- Very few residents in the area
- Vision discrepancies between various stakeholders

Opportunities

- Blank canvas (noted 3 times)
- Ability to get ahead of the growth/plan for it
- Additional opportunity for retail/commercial
- Being able to design superstreets ahead of time
- Better communication
- Create plan to support future growth for schools and community
- Creation of deceleration lanes – other road improvements to assist in traffic flow
- More industrial parcels
- Opportunity to be a conduit of growth that extends from panhandle to City of Lancaster
- Reduce curb cuts
- Relationship with Van Wyck community
- Smart, planned development and growth
- Structuring taxes to help pay for growth
- Super street
- Trails, recreational opportunities for Town of Van Wyck
- Use this plan as a template for other areas of the county
- We can learn from mistakes made from north part of county

Threats

- Aging population (noted 3 times)
- Affordability – small business owners (noted 2 times)
- Rapid development (noted 2 times)
- Balance needs of existing versus new residents (noted 2 times)
- Traffic flow and design (noted 2 times)
- Overcrowded schools – we only build schools after growth (noted 2 times)
- Andrew Jackson State Park (threat to facility)
- Congestion if we don't plan for collector road study – type of infrastructure improvements
- Cost involved
- Dense development
- Financial impact on county and property owners
- Highway 5
- Lack of balance – will not adequately plan for business development and it will be all one big chain of subdivisions with retailers mixed in – that doesn't pay the bills
- No design standards for US 521
- Not enough connections to Trail
- Preserving natural assets while being sensitive to property owners
- Repeat of a common theme of urban sprawl pitfalls
- Rezoning of property by county council
- Tax base - will taxes help support growth
- The growth is coming, like it or not
- Threats to natural areas
- Work together to prevent incorporation threats





















VISIONING WORDS:

Peaceful **Responsible**
Walkable **Oasis** **Desirable**
Growth
Community
Crossroads **Well-Planned**
Beauty
Sustainability **Progressive**

Visual Preference Exercise Board 1

Southern Panhandle's Future Look





















Below are various images from other communities. The images include open space, parks, trails, rural living, residential homes, town homes, and multi-family homes. Which places would you like to see in the Southern Panhandle? For each image, indicate whether you would like to see it in the Southern Panhandle or not.

Mostly Like 		Mostly Do Not Like 		Open Space and Rural Living		Residential Homes, Town Homes, and Multi-Family		Mostly Like 		Mostly Do Not Like 	
33	0			14	10						
26	0			1	20						
23	0			7	14						
24	2			11	10						
25	0			8	13						
29	0			10	14						
21	2			3	22						
27	0			2	21						

Visual Preference Exercise Board 2

Southern Panhandle's Future Look

Below are various images from other communities. The images include commercial, retail, mixed-use, and employment. Which places would you like to see in the Southern Panhandle? For each image, indicate whether you would like to see it in the Southern Panhandle or not.

Mostly Like 		Mostly Do Not Like 		Commercial and Mixed-Use	Employment Areas	Mostly Like 	Mostly Do Not Like 
2	16			17	25	0	30
19	3			18	26	12	14
17	2			19	27	8	17
6	17			20	28	15	13
24	0			21	29	4	14
5	18			22	30	6	14
18	5			23	31	8	12
14	7			24	32	7	17

WORK GROUP MAPS

