

DRAFT Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan, 2022 - 2027

C. Community Facilities and Services

Introduction

Community facilities and services are made possible by individuals, families, businesses and industries working together to serve Charlotte County. The provision of such facilities and services is usually determined by the tax income that can be obtained from local population and businesses.

The following inventory analysis summarizes the public resources for which the County has primary responsibility and control. However, it also considers other important resources and activities of other levels of government such as federal and state agencies. In addition, some private or quasi-public facilities such as educational institutions and some utility systems are important resources for the local community and must be taken into account when analyzing the full range of public resources available to the citizens of this locality.

Administrative Facilities

The Charlotte County Administration Office is located in Charlotte Court House on LeGrande Avenue. This office serves as the center for government business in the County. The County Administrator, who reports to the Board of Supervisors, oversees the daily business for the County. In addition, the County Administration Office also houses the Charlotte County School Board.

Education Facilities

- STEPS Head Start: Public Early Childhood Education program that serves infants, toddler, and preschool age children that meet federal eligibility requirements.
- Bacon District Elementary School: Public school that serves students in Grades Pre-K through 5.
- Eureka Elementary School: Public school that serves students in Grades Pre-K through 5.
- Phenix Elementary School: Public school that serves students in Grades Pre-K through 5.
- Central Middle School: Public school that serves students in Grades 6 through 8.
- Randolph Henry High School: Public school that serves students in Grades 9 through 12.
- Southside Virginia Community College: Public 2-year institution of higher education that serves students in Southside Virginia. The John H. Daniel campus is located in Keysville on Daniel Road.

Industrial Sites

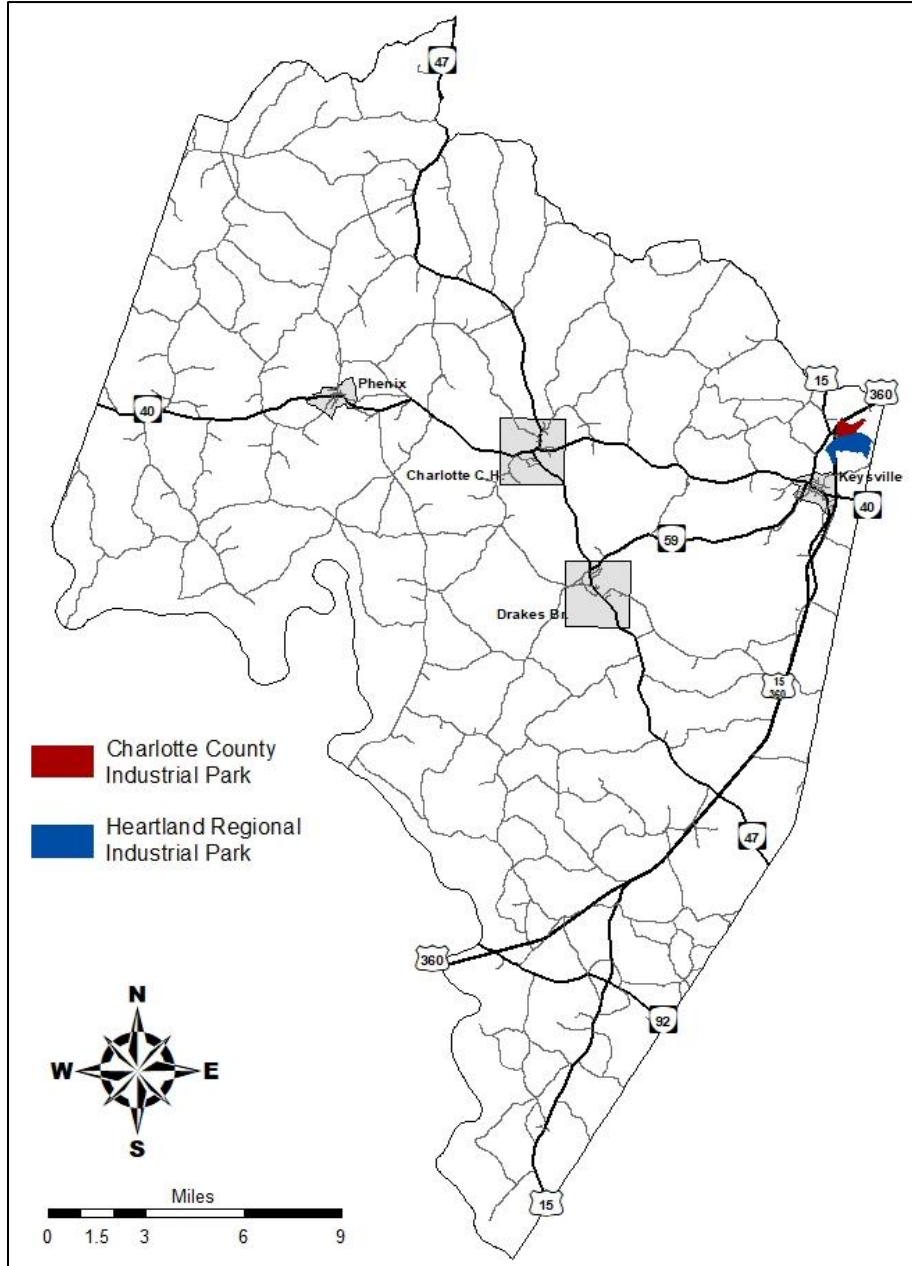
Charlotte County has two business/industrial parks, both located adjacent to U.S. Route 360 near Keysville (see Map 20 and 20a). Both of these parks are in a Virginia Enterprise Zone.

- Charlotte County Industrial Park
The Charlotte County Industrial Park has 19 acres, with water and sewer service provided by the town of Keysville.
- The Heartland Regional Industrial Park

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The Heartland Regional Industrial Park contains approximately 400 acres zoned for general industrial use and is owned by the Counties of Charlotte, Lunenburg, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Buckingham, and Amelia. The Heartland Park is currently home to Eastern Engineered Wood Products and logging equipment retailer Forest Pro, as well as the Heartland Park facility. The property is located in Virginia's Tobacco Region and is also in an Enterprise Zone and a designated Opportunity Zone, which provides additional incentives for development. The park offers tenants convenient access to a four-lane arterial highway and Buckingham Branch's short-line rail and transload site on the northern border of the park as well as water and wastewater services provided by the Town of Keysville and T1 Broadband interconnectivity with redundancy.

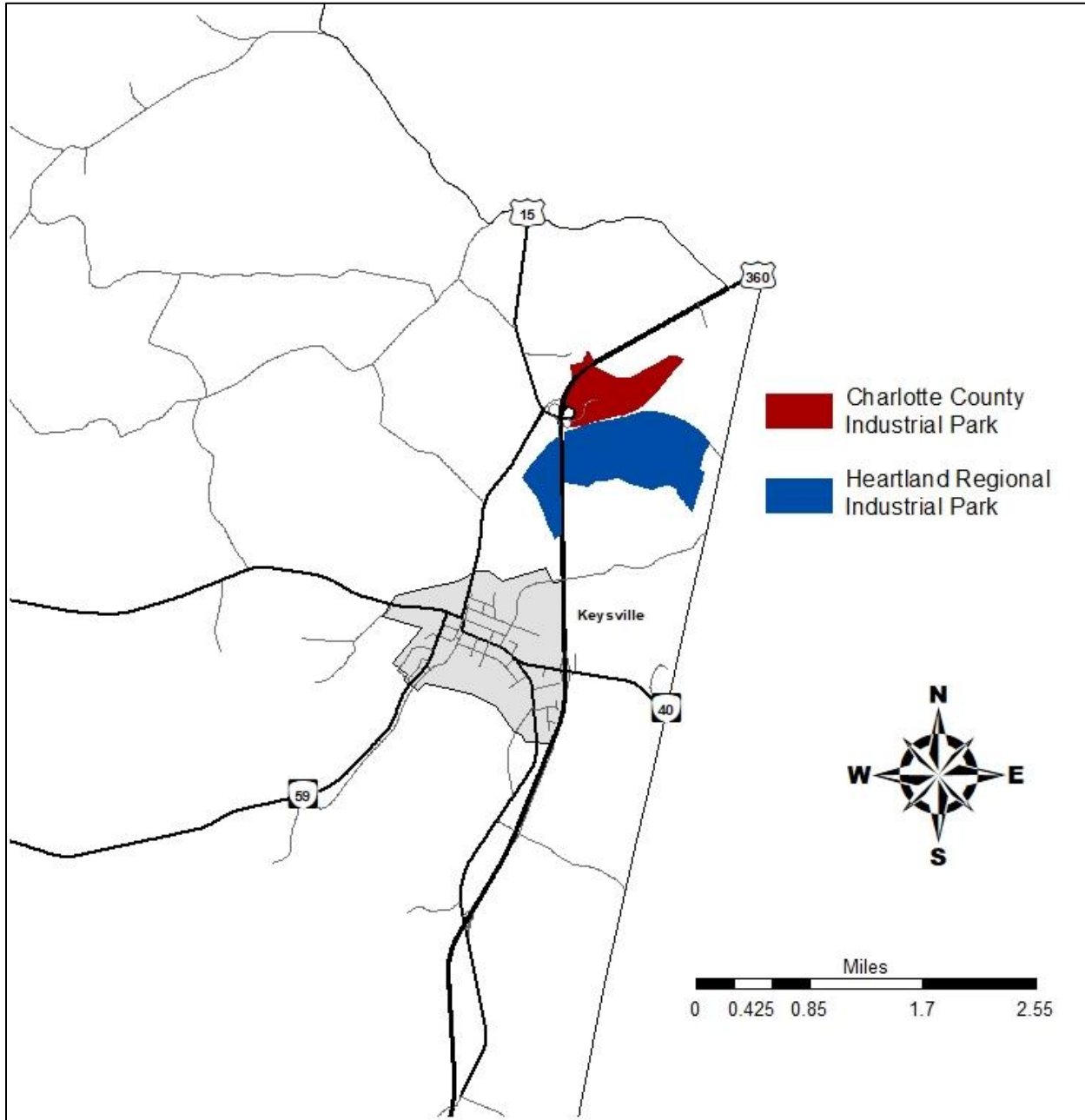
Map 20 – Industrial Sites



Map created by CRC – September 2022
Source: VEDP, Charlotte County

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Map 20a – Industrial Sites



Map created by CRC – September 2022
Source: VEDP, Charlotte County

Health Care

Charlotte County residents are within approximately 60 miles of the following hospitals/urgent care facilities:

- Centra Southside Community Hospital (Farmville, Virginia)
- Lynchburg General Hospital (Lynchburg, Virginia)

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- Virginia Baptist Hospital (Lynchburg, Virginia)
- Bon Secours-St. Francis Medical Center (Midlothian, Virginia)
- Chippenham Johnston Willis (CJW) Medical Center (Richmond, Virginia)
- Bedford Memorial Hospital (Bedford, Virginia)
- VCU Health Community Hospital (South Hill, Virginia)
- Sentra Halifax Regional Hospital (South Boston, Virginia)
- Person County Memorial Hospital (Roxboro, North Carolina)

There are also a number of other health care facilities located within Charlotte County.

- Central Virginia Health Services - Charlotte Court House
- Wayland Nursing and Rehabilitation Center – Keysville
- Centra Medical Group – Keysville (primary care facility)
- Court House Medical Center – Charlotte Court House
- Keysville Pediatrics - Keysville
- Billy M. Rutherford DDS - Keysville
- Keysville Chiropractor PLC. - Keysville

Nursing Homes

There is one nursing home facility in Charlotte County: Wayland’s Nursing and Rehabilitation Center located in Keysville.

Libraries

The Charlotte County Public Library has four branch locations:

- Charlotte Court House: located on LeGrande Ave
- Phenix: located on Charlotte Street
- Keysville: located on King Street
- Wylliesburg: located on Highway 15

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These branches provide programs and amenities including books, computers/internet service, free Wi-Fi hotspots, and fax and copy services.

Museums

Charlotte County has a number of museums. They include:

- Central High Museum (located in Charlotte Court House): Charlotte Training School, the first attempt at secondary education for African-Americans in the area, opened on February 12, 1928. The facility was constructed on land donated by Daniel Ragsdale. The \$7,000 needed to build the school was raised through community efforts. In the late 1930's Ambassador David K.E. Bruce donated funds for an accredited African-American high school in Charlotte County. Land for the facility was contributed by Elizabeth Curtis Smith. Central High was completed in 1939 and the first graduation was held in June of 1941. Central High remained in operation until the county integrated its schools in 1969. The facility then became the county's consolidated junior high school, Central Junior High, and was later renamed Central Middle School. In 1994 the county constructed a new middle school, closing the school formerly known as Central High. The facility later served as the County's Early Learning Center, a preschool education facility. STEPS, Inc. runs the Head Start Program for Charlotte County on the Museum grounds, in the building behind the Museum.
- Drakes Branch Museum (located in Drakes Branch): The Drakes Branch Museum is housed in the old State Bank of Charlotte County on Main Street in Drakes Branch, Virginia. The museum honors the railroad, the industries, the churches, the schools, and the farms that have been a part of the proud history of the community.
- Museum of Charlotte County/Visitors Center (located in Charlotte Court House): Commemorates the longstanding history of Charlotte Court House and Charlotte County, Virginia.
- Roanoke Station Visitors Center (located in Staunton River Battlefield State Park): The Roanoke Station depot opened on May 31, 2002, and is now the Roanoke Station Visitor Center. It houses an archaeological exhibit of Native American artifacts excavated from the park by the Longwood University Archaeological Field School. There is also an exhibit of rare Southern Railway memorabilia from the Crescent Passenger line that served the Roanoke Depot in the early 1920-1930's. Some of the items included on display are dining car items and place settings, books, lanterns, and miscellaneous railroad merchandise.
- Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) museum (Located in Charlotte Court House): The APVA museum is 1810 reproduction of Thomas Read's Clerk's original office that was originally built on the grounds of his nearby estate, Ingleside. The reproduction was built in 1960 by Preservation Virginia and today serves as the Charlotte County APVA museum.

Religious Facilities

Charlotte County has more than 50 religious' facilities of various denominations and religions. The Christian denominations include: Anabaptist, Baptist, Catholic, Church of God, Episcopal, Jehovah's Witness, Methodist, Pentecostal, Latter-Day Saints, and Presbyterian. The two most notable religions in the County are Christianity and Islam.

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Water Service/Sewer Service

The Towns of Charlotte Court House, Phenix, Drakes Branch and Keysville provide their respective residents and some surrounding areas with water service. According to the Safe Water Protection Plan (SWPP) that was published in 2011, Drakes Branch currently has three wells that are pumped for regular use by the public. Phenix has four (4) wells that are currently in public use. Charlotte Court House has four (4) wells and one (1) spring that is currently in public use. The spring is only used for emergency purposes. Charlotte Court House also has two (2) storage tanks in the system that affords the town around two (2) days of water use. Keysville water source consists of two (2) wells and a reservoir. Keysville operates their own water treatment plant that treats the reservoir for public use. The reservoir holds around 67 days' worth of water if needed. The Towns of Drakes Branch and Keysville provide their respective residents and some surrounding areas with sewer connections.

Solid Waste Collection/Recycling

Charlotte County operates seven (7) manned recycling centers where County residents may bring their household waste and recyclables for disposal. These centers are managed by the County's Public Works Department. The Department administers the Solid Waste Ordinance, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency regulations relating to solid waste issues.

The convenience centers are at the following locations:

- 1224 Herman Road, Saxe, VA 23967 – serves Bacon/Saxe District
- 300 Dixie Youth Drive, Charlotte Court House, VA 23923 – serves Charlotte Court House District
- 150 Depot Street, Drakes Branch, VA 23937– serves Drakes Branch District
- 65 Arvin Street, Keysville, VA 23947 – serves Keysville District
- 301 Chester Street, Phenix, VA 23959 – serves Phenix District
- 1758 Rolling Hill Road, Pamplin, VA 23958 – serves Madisonville District
- 2640 Jeb Stuart Hwy, Red Oak, VA 23964– serves Wylliesburg/Red Oak District

These sites are open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Charlotte County is a part of the Southside Regional Public Service Authority. This Authority is in conjunction with two neighboring counties, Mecklenburg and Halifax, to establish and maintain a regional landfill. The Southside Regional Landfill is located on Route 92 between the Towns of Chase City and Boydton. The Landfill is a subtitle D, double lined, solid waste disposal facility with a complete leachate collection system. The facility, which has a lifespan of approximately 45 years, also has a series of groundwater monitoring wells and gas probes per Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines to ensure that materials are disposed of in an environmentally safe and proper manner.

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Law Enforcement and Public Safety

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement protection to the citizens of Charlotte County. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for criminal investigations, calls for service, court room security, service of the civil process, the operation of the Charlotte County Jail which houses an average of 65 inmates. The Sheriff's Office has a total of 42 officers – including patrol officers, jail and administrative staff, court officers, animal control, and other personnel. The Sheriff's office also runs 9-1-1 dispatch out of their office. The Virginia State Police (VSP) provides traffic enforcement and investigative support for Charlotte County. The incorporated town of Drakes Branch has one part time officer. The incorporated towns of Charlotte Court House, Keysville, and Phenix do not currently have an officer, but they still receive mutual aid response from the VSP and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

Fire and Rescue

Charlotte County is protected by a coordinated fire and emergency medical services (EMS) system that includes an emergency services coordinator (Public Services Administrator), seven (7) all-volunteer fire departments and three (3) emergency medical services facilities.

The Keysville Volunteer Fire Department serves the Town of Keysville and surrounding areas. The fire station is located on Osborne Street. The Bacon District Volunteer Fire Department serves the Red Oak and Wylliesburg communities and is located on U.S. 15 in Wylliesburg. The Charlotte Court House Volunteer Fire Department serves the town of Charlotte Court House and the surrounding areas. The fire station is located on Route 40 and serves as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Responder unit. The Cullen Volunteer Fire Department serves the Cullen area and is located on Taro Road. The Drakes Branch Volunteer Fire Department serves the town of Drakes Branch and the surrounding area. The fire station is located on Drakes Main Street and serves as a Basic Life Support (BLS) First Responder unit. The Phenix Volunteer Fire Department serves the town of Phenix and surrounding areas. The fire station is located Charlotte Street in Phenix. The Red House Volunteer Fire Department serves the Red House community and surrounding areas. The fire station is located on Red House Road.

The Charlotte County Rescue Squad main building is located in Keysville, Virginia. The Charlotte County Rescue Squad has two (2) satellite stations in Wylliesburg and Phenix. The organization has been in operation for over 40 years serving the needs of Charlotte County and surrounding areas. The Charlotte County Rescue Squad currently has a total of 38 members – 19 full time/part time employees, 14 volunteers, and five (5) lifetime members.

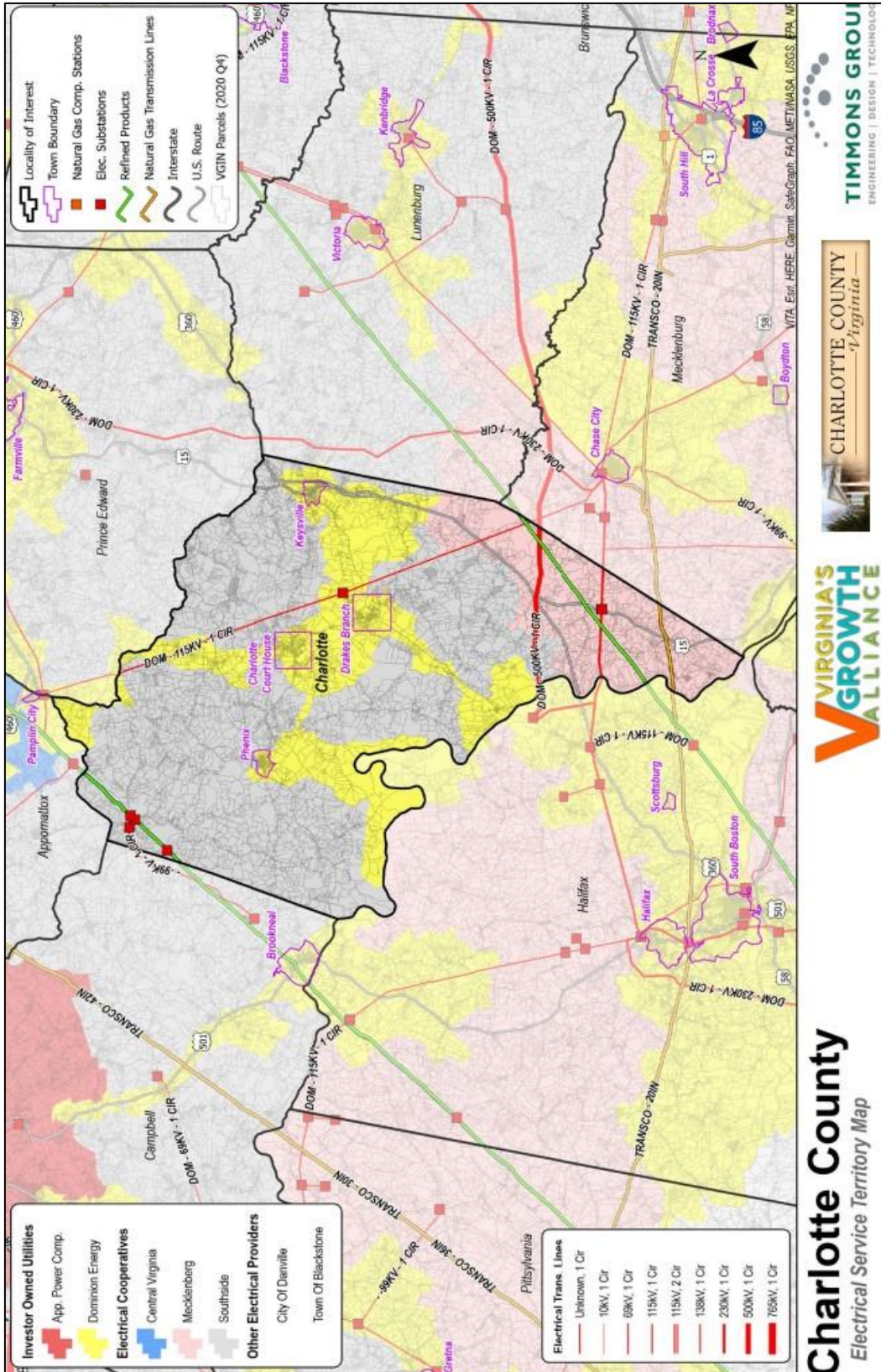
All fire and emergency medical service agencies within Charlotte County operate under mutual aid agreements to provide services when requested, and if the resources are available, to assist each other and neighboring jurisdictions outside of the county.

Electric Services

Charlotte County is serviced by Dominion Virginia Power, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) and Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC). Map 22 shows the coverage areas for SEC. Map 23 shows the coverage areas for MEC.

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Map 22 – Electric Utility Coverage Area in Charlotte County



Source – Timmons Group

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Telecommunications and Internet Access

Within any community, access to fiber optics is extremely important. The unprecedented growth in telecommunications capacity and in telecommunication applications has changed the way all persons and businesses function. Due to the County's rural nature and limited resources, it is unable to implement the infrastructure necessary for fiber optics on its own. There are a number of Internet/telephone/cell service providers in the County. They include: Empower Broadband, Century Link, Shentel, AT&T, Verizon, DirectTV, Hughes Net, U.S. Cellular, Kinex, and Viasat.

Due to the lack of current telecommunication access in the County, members of the community have provided alternative access for citizens to provide access to the internet in areas that otherwise do not have access. Each Charlotte County Library branch provides free WIFI access at their facility. The Charlotte County Library also allows library card holders to check out a mobile hotspot for educational use. This allows for Charlotte County students to complete online school work even when the internet is not accessible at home. The libraries are not the only places to access free WIFI within the community. The Bacon District Fire Department also allows for citizens to access the internet in the parking lot at their facility.

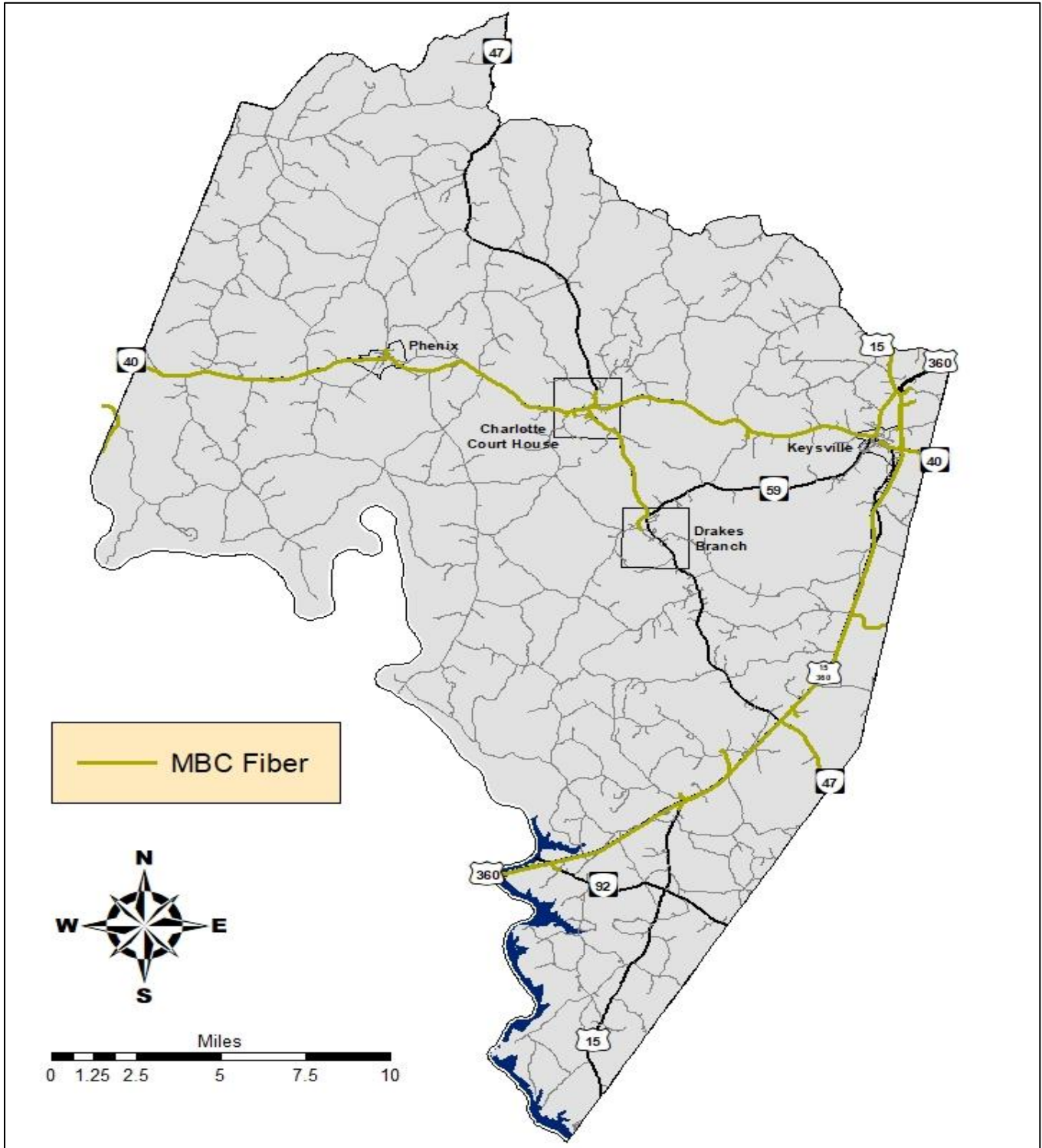
Charlotte County and the entire region are served by Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC). Using a \$4,000,000 federal matching grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and a \$4,000,000 grant from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, MBC built an open access 144 strand fiber optic backbone which extends over 300 miles and serves more than 350 businesses, commercial, community colleges and industrial parks in Southside Virginia. See Map 24 for MBC coverage in the County.

To combat the lack of fiber optics within rural America, the Federal Communications Commission established a Connect America Fund (CAF) to help accelerate the broadband buildout to 23 million homes in rural America including Charlotte County. 103 bidders won \$1.49 billion over 10 years. RiverStreet Networks won the bid for the areas available in Charlotte County. The Communication Commission also established the \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to bring high speed fixed broadband to service rural homes and small businesses that are lacking. RiverStreet Networks also won the bid for the areas available in Charlotte County.

Additionally, Charlotte County was part of a December 2021 grant award under the Department of Housing and Community Development's Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program. Charlotte was part of two regional applications. One application was submitted by West Piedmont Planning District Commission, in affiliation with RiverStreet Networks, to build fiber in unserved locations and achieve universal access for multiple counties across Southside Virginia. This project was awarded more than \$87 million under the VATI program. The second regional application was submitted by Southside Planning District Commission, in affiliation with Empower Broadband, to build out fiber in parts of Southern Charlotte County.

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Map 24 – Mid-Atlantic Broadband Fiber Routes in Charlotte County



Map created by CRC – October 2022

Source: MBC

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Natural Gas/Fuel Sources

Three pipelines run through Charlotte County: Colonial, Williams, and Plantation. Colonial and Plantation pipelines transport liquids, while Williams transports natural gas. Williams does have two subsidiary pipelines that run through the county: Transcontinental and Transco. The County does not currently have the ability to tap into existing lines. However, the County does have a close proximity to other natural gas distribution including the City of Lynchburg and City of Richmond.

Recreation

Charlotte County youth can participate in local sports through the various youth leagues and organizations or through the public-school systems. Charlotte County does not have its own Recreational Department. Organized baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, football, and cheerleading are run by various volunteer youth organizations.

Charlotte County has one nine-hole golf course. The Briery Country Club is public private club located northeast of the Keysville Town Limits and is open for membership. Their facility consists of a swimming pool and clubhouse facility in addition to a golf course. The Briery Country Club also has tennis courts.

Dixie Youth has five of their own fields for baseball and softball leagues. These leagues are located in Drakes Branch, Keysville, Phenix, Charlotte Court House, and Wylliesburg. Tower Park, an outdoor playground, is located on Main Street in the Town of Keysville and owned by the Town, is the perfect place to play with friends. The local extension office offers a variety of youth activities through the 4-H program. Other activities including scouting are also available through the public-school system & local civic and religious organizations.

Charlotte County provides a lot of opportunities for outdoor recreation exploration as well. Due to its rural nature, the County is perfect for biking along the backroads while you enjoy the picturesque views and see a variety of wildlife. Charlotte County offers many opportunities to hunt wild turkey, whitetail deer, and other small game. Along the southern border of Charlotte County, there are abundant opportunities for water recreation on the Staunton River and Buggs Island Lake. These activities include: fishing, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, and variety of water sports. The County is also home to Staunton River Battlefield State Park. This park allows for visitors to walk and enjoy a historical walking trail of Civil War origin.

Civic Organizations

Charlotte County has many civic clubs and organizations for children and adults. Some, but not all, are listed below:

- Charlotte County 4-H
- Piedmont Habitat for Humanity (serves Charlotte County).
- Charlotte Lions Club.
- American legion post 0260.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8902.

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- Charlotte County Meals on Wheels
- Keysville Ruritan Club

Festivals/Community Events

Charlotte County has a variety of local events and community activities for residents and visitors to enjoy. Patrick Henry's Red Hill hosts a multitude of events ranging from America's Independence Day celebration to Living History Days that allow for elementary school aged children to have hands-on experience of 18th century life. The Trucker's Parade Against Cancer is an annual parade of Trucks to commemorate their loved ones that have fought the battle against Cancer as they drive through three towns within Charlotte. The proceeds from this event are donated to the American Cancer Society with hopes to one day find a cure for Cancer. Central High School, a museum that preserves and commemorates Charlotte County's African American History, holds several community events to celebrate African American history and independence. The local Daylily farm hosts an annual Daylily festival to encourage people from near or far to enjoy food, vendors, music, and the Daylilies. The Barksdale Cancer Foundation also hosts an annual Wine Festival called Miss Jane's Sit and Sip. This wine festival events allows for attendees to enjoy food, vendors, music, and wine from a variety of different wineries. While these are just a few events that are held each year, the community also hosts a variety of other events.

Commerce

Businesses within the County include a Food Lion (in Keysville), hardware stores, general merchandise stores, convenience stores, a Virginia ABC Store (in Keysville), a dance studio, florists, and various service-related businesses (insurance, attorneys, auto sales/repair, medical, food, gas/oil, and banking). Because of the location of Charlotte County, the Lynchburg, Charlottesville, and Farmville areas are popular destinations for residents when shopping for goods and services.

D. Historical Sites

Introduction

Many historic sites exist throughout Charlotte County. Of these, some have been placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Through the enhancement of the assets comes economic development via tourism.

Local Historical Sites

Annefield: Constructed in 1858 in Saxe, Annefield is an Italianate villa house, a popular style in the mid-19th century. The structure was built by Jacob W. Holt, a master builder in the region. Hillery M.L. Goode, a local planter, businessman, and legislator, commissioned the house. It stands as a rare example of the antebellum high-style in the county. In addition to the main house, stylistic evidence suggests that Holt also designed and built the kitchen quarter and smokehouse. Annefield represents a relatively intact antebellum farm complex.

Charlotte County Courthouse: Charlotte County's courthouse located in Charlotte Court House was built in 1822-23 from plans by Thomas Jefferson. Henry Carrington, one of the Charlotte commissioners, was so impressed by Jefferson's design for the Buckingham County courthouse that he persuaded Charlotte County to adopt it. The temple-form design with its Tuscan portico fulfills Jefferson's ambition to have local

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governmental institutions housed in models of architectural taste. The building was constructed by John Percival. While it is unclear whether Jefferson supplied a separate set of plans for the Charlotte Courthouse, the courthouse as constructed differed from its Buckingham counterpart in several relatively minor aspects. Quintessentially Virginian with its red brick and white classical trim. The courthouse inspired several other classical court structures in the southern Piedmont. The courthouse is the centerpiece of the Charlotte Court House Historic District.

Charlotte Court House Historic District: Virginia's Courthouse villages are among the most distinctive and appealing features of the Commonwealth's cultural landscape. Charlotte County's tiny, picturesque county seat that is located in Charlotte Court House is among the best-preserved of these communities. Situated at the intersection of the community's two principal streets is the courthouse square, on which are Thomas Jefferson's 1822-23 temple-form courthouse, two county clerk's offices, the registrar's office, the county jail, and a Civil War monument. Across the road is a row of mid-19th-century brick commercial buildings, each echoing the courthouse with a pedimented roof. One of the district's oldest structures is the Brick Tavern, an imposing country Federal courthouse tavern built about 1820. Prominent residences include Diamond Hill, an 1840 Greek Revival dwelling, and the W. B. Ramsey House, a vernacular house with Gothic Revival flourishes. Two farms, Wynyard and Villeview, make up the western half of the historic district.

Charlotte County Library – Charlotte Court House Branch: Beginning in 1937, Ambassador and Mrs. David K.E. Bruce anonymously gave money to 11 sites in Southside Virginia to build libraries. The Bruce libraries, as they were called, because the first public libraries to allow access to African Americans. Though African Americans were restricted to using side or back doors and did not have full access to the collections, the Bruce libraries still represent an advancement in access to library materials for African Americans. The Charlotte County Library was originally built in 1830 as the Hager-Marshall House. The Bruces bought the house and had it fitted as a library to use an existing building. The others are built on similar plans drawn up by an architect for the Bruces. The libraries were colonial-style buildings with a large reading room across the front and an office for the librarian and a reading room for African Americans at the back. There were also restrooms and storage areas. This building was the first library in Virginia funded by the Bruce's library funds.

Clarkton Bridge: Clarkton Bridge employed an efficient "Camelback" steel truss system for its span across the Staunton River in Charlotte and Halifax counties near the town of Brookneal. Erected in 1902 by Virginia Bridge & Iron Co., of Roanoke, Clarkton was the only surviving metal truss bridge in Virginia built for highway use that was supported by steel piers, once a common engineering practice. Its name derived from the village of Clarkton, which began as a rail station and express office on the Lynchburg and Durham (now Norfolk and Western) Railroad on the large plantation of Thomas Clark. In 2005, the Virginia Department of Transportation, in association with the Clarkton Bridge Alliance, rehabilitated the structure for non-vehicular use. The bridge was demolished in the fall of 2018.

Cub Creek Presbyterian Church: Cub Creek Presbyterian Church, located near Phenix and is the oldest church in the area, was previously known as the Caldwell Settlement after the founder John Caldwell. Caldwell, born in Ireland, obtained permission to settle a new church in Virginia in the year 1738 that would be later known at Cub Creek Presbyterian Church. A few years after the church was established, Caldwell led other Scots-Irish immigrants to the area from Pennsylvania. The Church later burned down in 1937 and the site of the church remains marked with the rock foundation. While the church's physical structure is no longer present, many of the Presbyterian Churches in the County are daughter churches of Cub Creek.

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Four Locust Farm: Four Locust Farm, formerly the Pettus Dairy Farm and located near Keysville, is a great representation of a well-preserved 20th-century major Richmond market dairy farm. Operating as a dairy farm from 1925 to 1962, today's 332-acre farm features a circa 1859 two-story farm house and two associated domestic outbuildings, and 20 historic barns and agricultural buildings associated with its nearly 100-year agricultural history. The buildings still retain an exceptional level of exterior and interior integrity because of its continued use.

Gravel Hill: Gravel Hill is located near Charlotte Court House and is one of several houses built in the area by the Dabbs & Thomas firm of Richmond in the 1840s. George C. Hannah's mansion looks quite familiar, but, on closer inspection, has a number of unusual features from the Greek Revival style: a fully articulated, but idiosyncratic, Doric portico, vertically connected paired windows, diamond-paned door cases, two dissimilar stairs, and a plan of unlikely originality. A large 1914 addition was crafted with equally self-assured bravura. An earlier structure is included in the rear wing. On the property are imposing old trees, a rustic log guesthouse, a well-preserved smokehouse, an important barn, and the remains of an elaborate early 20th-century formal garden.

Moses Hall: Moses Hall was previously known as the home office and national headquarters for the Grand United Order of Moses, Inc. The Grand United Order of Moses was founded in 1904 by James Murray Jeffress, a native to Charlotte Court House. This small fraternal insurance society allowed for African American men and women to obtain medical and funeral insurance, while at the same time establishing a social order similar to the Masonic Lodge. As many African Americans migrated north to larger cities, these individuals established the fraternal organization in states like Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In 1951, the order claimed a little more than 5,000 members. In Charlotte County, the order helped establish an African American high school (Central High School); provided bus transportation for the students to this school; constructed and equipped a hospital building; owned an office building; provided housing for school teachers; and even owned 300 acres of farmland that was worked by Black sharecrop farmers. While the Grand United Order of Moses is no longer in Charlotte County, the previous national headquarters building has been transitioned into providing affordable housing opportunities for Charlotte Court House residents.

Source: Organizing Black America: An Encyclopedia of African American Associations by David M. Fahey

Greenfield: Greenfield was the plantation of Isaac Read (1739-1777), member of the House of Burgesses and of the Virginia conventions of 1774 and 1775. Read was mortally wounded while serving as an officer in the Revolutionary War. The plain but formal dwelling he erected ca. 1771 is the oldest two-story frame house is located near Charlotte Court House. Its symmetrical five-bay façade, modillion cornice, and one-story wings, give the building a commanding presence amid its rolling pastoral landscape. The Georgian stair, early mantels, and paneled wainscoting combine with the stately exterior to present a picture of 18th-century sophistication and prosperity in this thinly populated rural area. Adding to this image are the remnants of an extensive early formal garden. The property remains the home of Read descendants (as of the end of the 20th century).

Keysville Railroad Station: The Keysville Railroad Station, in Keysville, is a rare surviving example of a late 19th-century frame train station, and one that also preserves the segregated waiting rooms common to Jim Crow era public buildings. It was built in phases between 1890 and 1900 on the Richmond & Danville Railroad, occupying the site of an antebellum depot that was destroyed during the Civil War. With the construction of a spur line to Durham, North Carolina in 1882, the Keysville station was ideally located at a

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“Y” juncture of the two lines, providing a place for trains to switch directions. As the station served both passenger and freight service, it had a significant impact on the town of Keysville at the beginning of the 20th century. With long rectilinear forms and wide eaves to shelter passengers, one-story frame depots were once common across southern Virginia; today few remain, which makes the Keysville Depot an important reminder of the town’s development and a significant architectural vestige of Virginia’s railroad history.

Maple Roads: Maple Roads was built by Captain John D. Richardson, a hero in the War of 1812, who represented Charlotte County in the General Assembly from 1809 to 1837. The house is located near Keysville and was built on land John and his wife Elizabeth Spenser bought at auction following the death of Elizabeth’s father. The house was started in 1813 and reached its present form by 1821. The two-story, five-bay brick house with molded brick cornices has federal interior woodwork including fine mantels and the remarkable survival of decorative graining and marbleizing. Two outbuildings survive, as well as a cemetery containing Richardson family graves and those of the Pettus family, who acquired the property in the 1870s.

Mulberry Hill: Judge Paul Carrington, a distinguished jurist and a leader in Virginia’s movement from colony to commonwealth, made his home at Mulberry Hill in Randolph in his later years. During the colonial period Carrington was a local justice and represented the county in the House of Burgesses. In the Revolutionary period he served on the 1776 committee that framed the Virginia Declaration of Rights. From 1789 to 1801 he was a justice on Virginia’s newly created Court of Appeals. His residence, overlooking the Roanoke River valley, blends two periods of construction. The facade incorporates as its center section the late 18th-century gable end of the original house. Flanking it are two-story, early 19th-century wings. On the grounds is an unusually complete set of early outbuildings including Judge Carrington’s office. The property also preserves a family graveyard and traces of a large formal garden.

Red Hill: Patrick Henry, “Orator of the Revolution,” assembled this isolated Charlotte County plantation near Brookneal through successive purchases of rich soiled countryside, making it the ideal spot for his final home. Here he built a modest frame dwelling with a complement of outbuildings, including his law office. The house, later incorporated into a larger structure, was destroyed by fire in 1919, but its original, irregular form has since been reconstructed. Henry’s simple law office remains intact. Nearby is the family cemetery containing the graves of the Revolutionary patriot and his second wife, Dorothea Dandridge Henry. The property remained in the ownership of Henry family descendants until 1944 when it was purchased by the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, which has since developed the property as a museum.

Roanoke Plantation: Few men have been as closely identified with a place as John Randolph has with his Roanoke plantation in Randolph. So attached was he to this large tract with its hilly pastures and rich bottomlands that he came to be styled John Randolph of Roanoke. A brilliant orator, Randolph used his talent in becoming a leading member of the U.S. House of Representatives and later the U.S. Senate where he opposed any challenge to the vested interests of the South, especially slavery. Randolph lived simply at Roanoke; his house was hardly more than a cottage. With its outbuildings, the place looked more like a rustic village than the grandiose seats of the South he championed. Although the acreage has been reduced and the original dwelling house destroyed, the plantation still evokes the presence of this colorful planter-statesman.

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Salem School: The Salem School is a simple, one-story, frame school building, typical of a type once widely found in rural Red Oak. It is the sole survivor of seven schools built in Charlotte County with grants from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, established to improve public education for African Americans in the rural South. In addition to Rosenwald funds, the school was constructed in 1924 with land, money, some materials, and labor donated by the local black community. Grades one through seven were taught in the three classrooms. A fourth room served as a lunchroom. The school closed in 1959 upon the integration of Charlotte County schools. The structure stands as a reminder of the resiliency and strength of the African American community in Charlotte County.

Staunton Hill: This Gothic-style mansion, located near Brookneal, sticks out against the normally conservative dwellings of Virginia's plantation aristocracy. The design is based on a plate in an English work by Thomas Kelly: *Designs for Cottage and Villa Architecture* (1829). Completed in 1850, Staunton Hill's romantic qualities are seen primarily in the crenelated parapets, polygonal corner towers, and delicate marble veranda. The dwelling stands as a significant expression of both the exoticism and the historicism that would permeate American architecture for the balance of the century. In recent years Staunton Hill was the country home of the noted diplomat David K. E. Bruce, a descendant of Charles Bruce, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Great Britain and France and as America's first envoy to the Peoples' Republic of China.

Toombs Tobacco Farm: Charlotte County's Toombs Tobacco Farm, located in Red Oak, is a great example of a typical 19th- and 20th-century tobacco farm in a region where economic prosperity revolved around the production and sale of this crop. In addition to its mid-19th-century dwelling, the complex includes tobacco barns, a packing shed, a smokehouse, servants' quarters, a barn, corncrib, chicken coop, family cemetery, and other tobacco and agricultural-related structures. Prior to its sale in 1981, the Toombs family had owned it for a century, and many Toombs descendants still live in the area. This farm and its many structures give a clear picture of how the majority of rural Virginia families lived during that era.

Wade Archeological Site: The well-preserved Wade Archeological Site, located in Randolph, was occupied by the Saponi Indians between A.D. 1000 and 1450. The archaeological investigation of this site yielded features and artifacts that increased our knowledge of the social and political organization of the Saponi. Numerous feature pits, a large hearth, and post molds provided invaluable information concerning community organization. Period artifacts attested to a mastery of art and technology that is unique to the region. The artifacts include stone triangular points, a pendant and an axe; ceramic pottery, pipes and discs; bone awls, fish hooks, pendants, and various sizes of shell beads. The shell and copper ornamental artifacts demonstrate cultural interaction, trade, and status in a tribal society. The well-preserved plant remains have the potential to address questions related to the subsistence habits and diets of these early inhabitants.

Watkins House: The Watkins House, located near Keysville and home of prominent local citizen William B. Watkins, is a transitional Federal-Greek Revival, two-story, three-bay, frame I-house constructed in the 1840s with a rear addition constructed about 1851. The end chimneys of the main block are topped by pairs of hexagonal chimney stacks. This treatment is found on a small group of houses in the county and is assumed to be the work of a local mason, probably in the 1850s. William B. Watkins, an attorney and an active church member, owned extensive acreage in Charlotte County. He served in several military capacities and was a member of the Virginia General Assembly. He was primarily responsible for founding one of the first county school boards in Virginia.

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Westview: Westview, one of the few surviving brick dwellings in Charlotte County combining both late Federal and Greek Revival features was built between 1831 and 1833 by John Elam. The two-story brick main block is a center-hall, two-story, single-pile dwelling with well-executed mantels, two fine stairs, and paneled doors with most of their original hardware. Its later frame rear additions are also interesting. The estate's associated buildings and sites (slave houses, tobacco barns, log schoolhouse, smokehouse, milk house, other dependencies, and cemeteries) provide a rare glimpse of life on a plantation during the 19th century. After Elam died in 1847, his widow, Martha, ran the plantation near Brookneal for the next quarter of a century. Their son, John W. Elam, farmed the property until his death in 1916. Tobacco continued to be raised there until the 1980s.

Woodfork: Woodfork is an impressive Federal mansion sited on an eminence in an unspoiled rural setting located near Charlotte Court House. It is representative of the architectural work of its original owner, Henry Anderson Watkins, a master builder. Watkins, sometimes with his brother William Morton Watkins, has been credited with the construction of other historic brick homes of similar quality in Charlotte County. Members of the Watkins family have been actively engaged in business and government in the Charlotte County area since Joel Watkins arrived in the 1780s. The property, given to Henry by his father, Joel Watkins, also includes a barn, two graveyards, and the remains of another barn, as well as the remains of a brick kiln. The kiln is thought to have been the source of not only the bricks for Woodfork, but also for some of the other houses built by Henry Watkins.

Sources: Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Virginia Landmarks Register

Regional Historic Initiatives

In March, 1993, Virginia's Retreat was organized to explore ways that the Counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Nottoway and Prince Edward and the City of Petersburg, could work together to promote the region's rich abundance of natural and historical resources. Representatives of these localities, working closely with the Virginia Division of Tourism, the Virginia Division of State Parks and the National Park Service, held a planning retreat in April 1993, to design a strategy for accomplishing the Consortium's mission—increase tourism and economic development activity in this region of Virginia.

Virginia's Retreat, now known as Virginia's Crossroads, has continued its successful mission of increasing tourism, economic activity and quality of life in the participating Southside Virginia localities through the promotion, preservation, enhancement and education of the region's natural, recreational and historic resources. One of those successful regional historic initiatives is the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail (see Map 24). In March 2004, Virginia's Crossroads kicked off the grand opening of the trail – which is modeled after the successful Lee's Retreat Trail and the Wilson-Kautz Raid Driving Trail. Instead of focusing on the Civil War, the Heritage Trail highlights contributions made to bring equal education to all Americans.

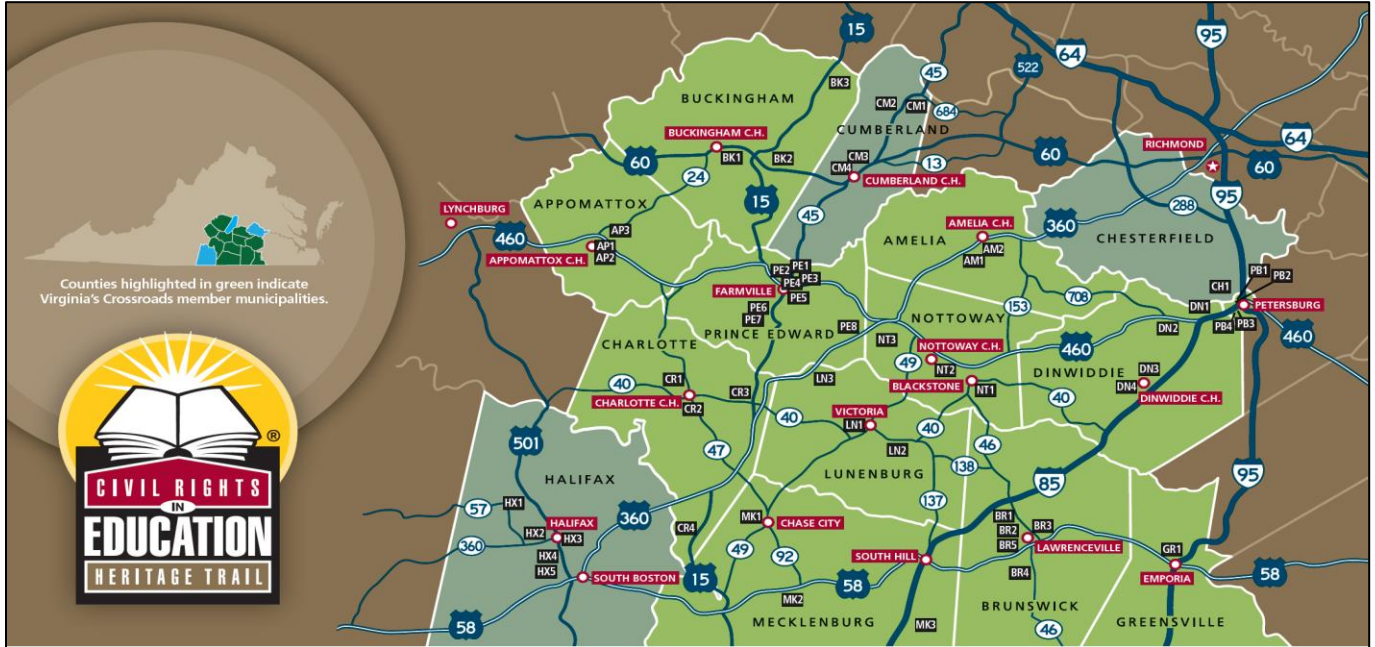
The trail includes 53 sites throughout 13 counties (including Charlotte County) and the Cities of Petersburg and Emporia that describe the history of education in Southside Virginia. The self-guided driving tour allows you to enjoy the trail at your own pace, letting you linger longer at some stops and pass by others, if time is short. Because the trail is not linear or chronological, it can be started and ended at any point. Once you begin, follow the Civil Rights in Education trail blazing signs from one stop to the next.

The Trail has more than 50 stops, with four (4) in Charlotte County (see Map 25 and map 25a):

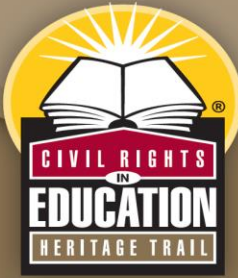
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- Central High School – Charlotte Court House
- Charlotte County Library – Charlotte Court House
- Salem School – Red Oak
- Southside Virginia Community College – Keysville

Map 25 – Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail



Counties highlighted in green indicate Virginia's Crossroads member municipalities.

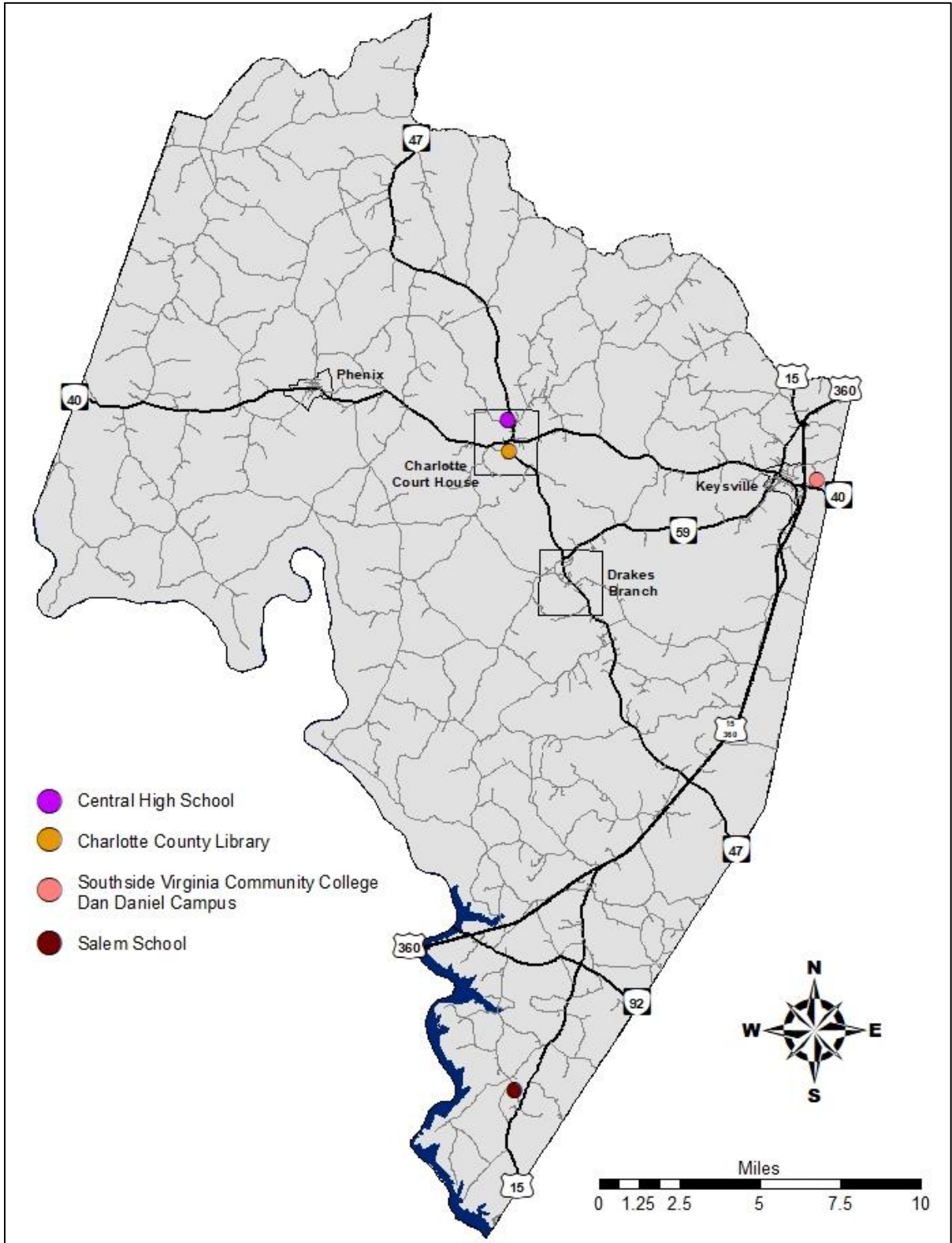


<p>AMELIA COUNTY</p> <p>AM1 Russell Grove Presbyterian Church and School 8701 Otterburn Road, Amelia, VA 23002</p> <p>AM2 Mrs. Samantha Jane Neil 16501 Church Street, Amelia, VA 23002</p> <p>APPOMATTOX COUNTY</p> <p>AP1 Winonah Camp / Mozella Price Home 102 Carver Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522</p> <p>AP2 Carver-Price School 102 Carver Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522</p> <p>AP3 The First African American School in Appomattox Near 2623 Old Courthouse Road, Appomattox, VA 24522</p> <p>BRUNSWICK COUNTY</p> <p>BR1 Southside Virginia Community College Christanna Campus 109 Campus Drive, Alberta, VA 23917</p> <p>BR2 Oak Grove School 22331 Christanna Highway, Lawrenceville, VA 23868</p> <p>BR3 Saint Paul's College and James Solomon Russell-Saint Paul's College Museum 100 Athletic Field Road, Lawrenceville, VA 23868</p> <p>BR4 Fort Christanna Historical Site 3875 Fort Hill Road, Lawrenceville, VA 23868</p> <p>BR5 Hospital and School of the Good Shepherd 236 Pleasant Grove Road, Brodnax, VA 23930</p> <p>BUCKINGHAM COUNTY</p> <p>BK1 One-Room Schoolhouse On Lee Wayside Road, Buckingham, VA 23921</p> <p>BK2 Buckingham Training School Stephen J. Ellis Elementary School For African Americans 245 Camden Street, Dilwyn, VA 23936</p> <p>BK3 Carter G. Woodson Birthplace Near 2325 C.G. Woodson Road, New Canton, VA 23123</p>	<p>CHARLOTTE COUNTY</p> <p>CR1 Central High School 515 Thomas Jefferson Highway Charlotte Court House, VA 23923</p> <p>CR2 Charlotte County Library 112 LeGrande Avenue, Charlotte Court House, VA 23923</p> <p>CR3 Southside Virginia Community College John H. Daniel Campus 200 Daniel Road, Keysville, VA 23947</p> <p>CR4 Salem School 4050 Salem School Road, Red Oak, VA 23964</p> <p>DINWIDDIE COUNTY</p> <p>DN1 Southside Virginia Training Center 112 LeGrande Avenue, Charlotte Court House, VA 23923</p> <p>DN2 Rocky Branch School Near 6009 Rocky Branch Road, Sutherland, VA 23885</p> <p>DN3 Early Education in Dinwiddie County 14101 Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841</p> <p>DN4 Southside High School 12318 Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841</p> <p><i>Note: Although there are locations you can visit in the counties listed below, they are currently not active members of Virginia's Crossroads.</i></p> <p>CHESTERFIELD COUNTY</p> <p>CH1 Virginia State University On Matthews Jefferson Dr. at East River Rd., VSU, VA 23806</p> <p>CUMBERLAND COUNTY</p> <p>CM1 Rosenwald School at Cartersville 2018 Cartersville Road, Cartersville, VA 23027</p> <p>CM2 Hamilton High School 1921 Cartersville Road, Cartersville, VA 23027</p> <p>CM3 Jackson Davis 1490 Anderson Highway, Cumberland, VA 23040</p> <p>CM4 Cumberland Educational Advancement Center & Community Center 1874 Anderson Highway, Cumberland, VA 23040</p>	<p>CITY OF EMPORIA / GREENSVILLE COUNTY</p> <p>GR1 Greensville County Training School 115 Ruffin Street, Emporia, VA 23847</p> <p>LUNENBURG COUNTY</p> <p>LN1 The Peoples Community Center 1021 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974</p> <p>LN2 Lunenburg County Training School 50 K-V Road, Victoria, VA 23974</p> <p>LN3 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Christian Day School 1364 Free State Road, Meherrin, VA 23954</p> <p>MECKLENBURG COUNTY</p> <p>MK1 Thyne Institute Near 5120 Highway 47, Chase City, VA 23924</p> <p>MK2 Boydton Academic and Bible Institute Near 18078 Highway 58, Boydton, VA 23917</p> <p>MK3 St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Carroll-Boyd School 3906 Highway 903, Bracey, VA 23919</p> <p>HALIFAX COUNTY</p> <p>HX1 Meadville Community Center 7114 Chatham Road, Nathalie, VA 24577</p> <p>HX2 L.E. Coleman African American Museum Mountain Road School No. 1 3011 Mountain Road, Halifax, VA 24558</p> <p>HX3 Mary M. Bethune High School 1927 Jeffress Boulevard, South Boston, VA 24558</p> <p>HX4 Washington-Coleman Elementary School 308 Ragland Street, South Boston, VA 24592</p> <p>HX5 Mizpah Presbyterian Church 308 Ragland Street, South Boston, VA 24592</p>	<p>NOTTOWAY COUNTY</p> <p>NT1 Blackstone Female Institute Fourth Street at South Amelia Avenue, Blackstone, VA 23824</p> <p>NT2 Mt. Nebo Church Near 515 Mt. Nebo Road, Blackstone, VA 23824</p> <p>NT3 Ingleside Training Institute Near 507 Miller Street, Burkeville, VA 23922</p> <p>CITY OF PETERSBURG</p> <p>PB1 Earliest Known Public High School for African Americans in Virginia Near 421 Harrison Street, Petersburg, VA 23803</p> <p>PB2 McKenney Library 137 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, VA 23803</p> <p>PB3 The Peabody-Williams School 629 South Jones Street, Petersburg, VA 23803</p> <p>PB4 Bishop Payne Divinity School 401 S West Street, Petersburg, VA 23803</p> <p>PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY</p> <p>PE1 First Baptist Church 100 South Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE2 Beulah AME Church 115 South Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE3 Farmville Female Seminary Association On High Street, in front of Ruffner Hall, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE4 R.R. Moton High School 900 Griffin Boulevard, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE5 Prince Edward County Public Schools Near 1499 Zion Hill Road, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE6 Hampden-Sydney College Opposite Everett Stadium on College Road, Hampden Sydney, VA 23943</p> <p>PE7 The Beneficial Benevolent Society of the Loving Sisters and Brothers of Hampden Sydney 99 Kingsville Road, Farmville, VA 23901</p> <p>PE8 Prince Edward State Park for Negroes 788 Twin Lakes Road, Green Bay, VA 23942</p>
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Source: [CRIEHT Brochure | Virginia's Crossroads \(vacrossroads.com\)](https://www.vacrossroads.com/)

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Map 25.a – Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail Sites in Charlotte County



Map created by CRC – November 2022
Source: CRIEHT Brochure/Virginia’s Crossroads

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E. Natural Resources

Land Surface

Charlotte County is located in the Virginia Piedmont, which is largely characterized by rolling hills and numerous ridges near the boundary with the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lying between the mountain and coastal plain regions, the piedmont region is a naturally diverse landscape. The bedrock consists mostly of gneiss, schist and granite rocks at a typical depth of between 2 and 10 feet. Soils developed from these rocks and minerals form acid, infertile soils, with sandy loam surfaces. Many of the clayey subsoils are red or yellowish red due to the oxidized iron weathered from the primary minerals. Natural fertility is low; however, these soils respond well to liming and fertilization.

Historically, much of the Piedmont region was cleared and farmed intensively, causing extreme erosion over much of the region. Before modern soil fertility and managerial practices were adapted to these soils, agricultural production diminished and most farms reverted to forests. Over two thirds of this region is wooded today. The best soils are still agriculturally productive through well managed soil fertility and erosion control plans. The region contains several areas and stretches of land which are of relatively high agricultural value.

Climate

Charlotte County has warm summers, relatively cool winters, and normally adequate rainfall. The growing season is approximately 190 days, long enough to allow maturity of a wide variety of crops. The pasture season is slightly longer, but winter months are cold enough to require feed and shelter for livestock. Monthly average precipitation amounts vary greatly from year to year for any given month. Using Charlotte Court House as the reference point, Charlotte County is about 170 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Due to the proximity from the Atlantic Ocean, the remnants of hurricanes or tropical storms may pass over the county from the east or south, occasionally causing flooding and wind damage. The data from the National Weather Service in Figure 32 is for Keysville, as it was not available for Charlotte County as a whole, and is based on monthly and yearly averages between 1991 and 2020.

Figure 32 – Climate Data (Averages), Keysville, 1991-2021

Criteria	Data
Annual Average Rainfall	43.85 inches
Annual Average Snowfall	4.7 inches
Annual Average Temperature	57.4 °F
January Average High Temperature	47.6 °F
January Average Low Temperature	26.1 °F
July Average High Temperature	88.4 °F
July Average Low Temperature	67.1 °F
Month with Highest Average Rainfall	July – 4.34 inches
Month with Lowest Average Rainfall	February – 2.34 inches
Month with Highest Average Snowfall	January – 2.0 inches

Source: National Weather Service

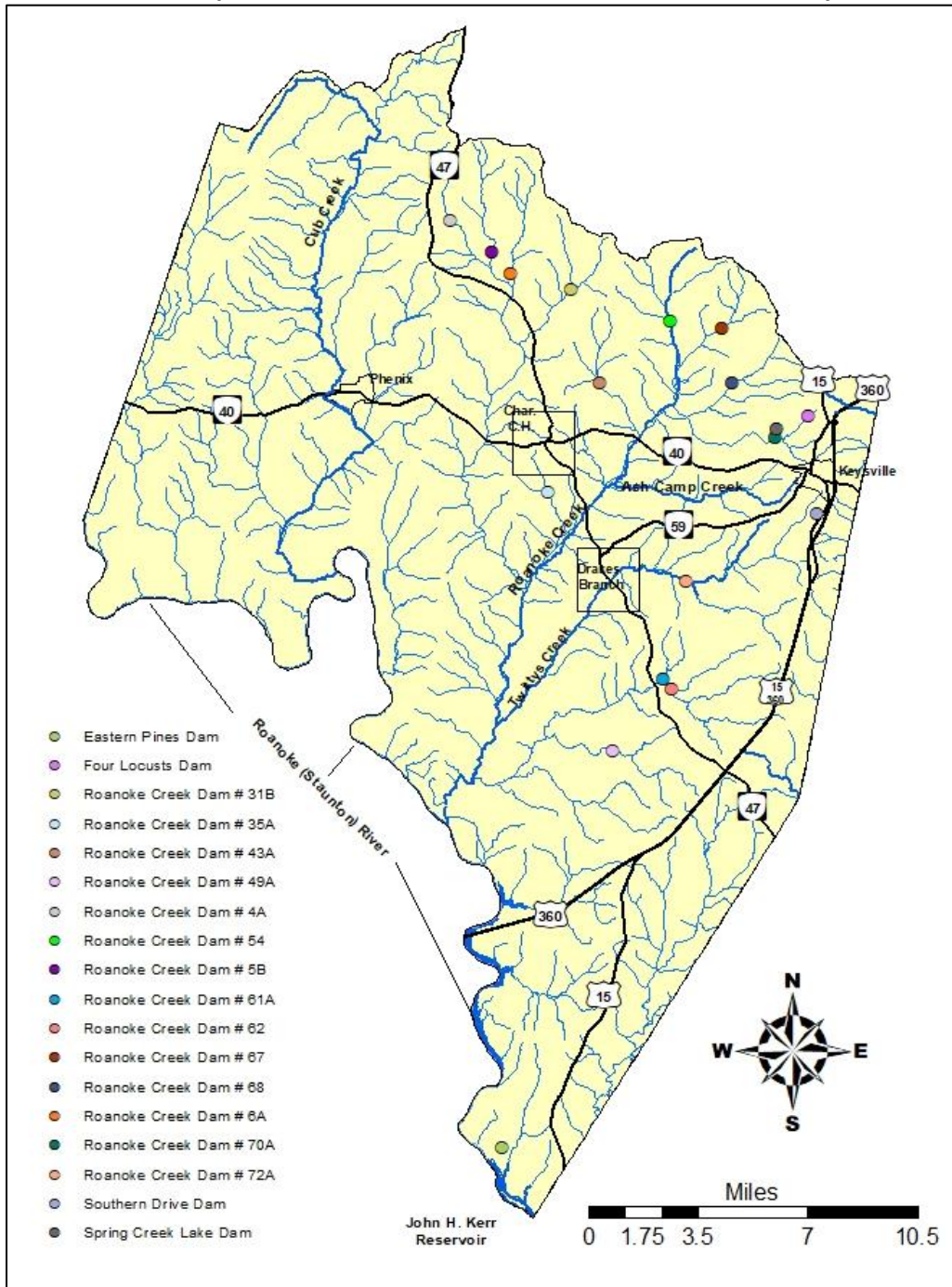
Rivers and Watershed Dams

The Staunton River (also known as the Roanoke River) forms the southern border of Charlotte County. It winds through Southside Virginia passing through Charlotte County as it empties into the Buggs Island Lake (also known as Kerr Lake) near the Mecklenburg, Charlotte, and Halifax border. The North Meherrin River

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begins near the town of Keysville and joins the South Meherrin River to the create the Meherrin River in Lunenburg County. The Meherrin River is a 92-mile (148 km) long river that flows roughly east-southeast into North Carolina, where it joins the larger Chowan River. Map 26 shows rivers and watershed dams in the County. The data was provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Dam Safety and Inventory Division.

Map 26 – Rivers and Watershed Dams in Charlotte County



Map created by CRC – October 2021

Source: Virginia DCR Dam Inventory

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Table 32: Charlotte County Dam Classification

Six-Digit ID No.	Legacy ID No.	Dam Name	Hazard Class	Regulated	Latitude	Longitude
037001	03701	Roanoke Creek Dam # 70A	Significant	Regulated	37.058	-78.504
037002	03702	Roanoke Creek Dam # 72A	High, Special	Regulated	36.992	-78.5564
037003	03703	Roanoke Creek Dam # 35A	Low	Regulated	37.034	-78.636
037004	03704	Roanoke Creek Dam # 68	High	Regulated	37.084	-78.5289
037005	03705	Roanoke Creek Dam # 5B	High	Regulated	37.145	-78.667
037006	03706	Roanoke Creek Dam # 6A	High	Regulated	37.135	-78.6565
037007	03707	Roanoke Creek Dam # 49A	Significant	Regulated	36.914	-78.5996
037008	03708	Roanoke Creek Dam # 62	High	Regulated	36.942	-78.5659
037009	03709	Roanoke Creek Dam # 67	High	Regulated	37.109	-78.5346
037010	03710	Roanoke Creek Dam # 4A	High	Regulated	37.16	-78.6908
037011	03711	Roanoke Creek Dam # 61A	High	Regulated	36.947	-78.5702
037012	03712	Roanoke Creek Dam # 31B	High	Regulated	37.127	-78.6214
037013	03713	Roanoke Creek Dam # 54	High	Regulated	37.112	-78.5646
037014	03714	Four Locusts Dam	Unknown	Regulated	37.068	-78.4849
037015	03715	Roanoke Creek Dam # 43A	High	Regulated	37.084	-78.6053
037016	03716	Eastern Pines Dam	Unknown	Regulated	36.731	-78.6658
037017	03717	Spring Creek Lake Dam	Unknown	Non-Regulated	37.062	-78.5034
037018	03718	Southern Drive Dam	Unknown	Non-Regulated	37.023	-78.4809

Source: DCR Region 3 Dam Safety Table

Watersheds

Most of Charlotte County is within the Roanoke River Watershed (see Map 27). The Roanoke River Basin covers 6,393 square miles, or approximately 15% of the Commonwealth’s total area. The basin is bordered by the James River Basin on the north, the Albemarle-Chowan River Basin to the east, and the New River Basin to the west. The southern boundary of the Basin is the Virginia/North Carolina state line. The Roanoke River headwaters begin in the Blue Ridge Mountains in eastern Montgomery County. Once through the City of Roanoke, the river generally flows east-southeast to the Virginia state line, exiting the

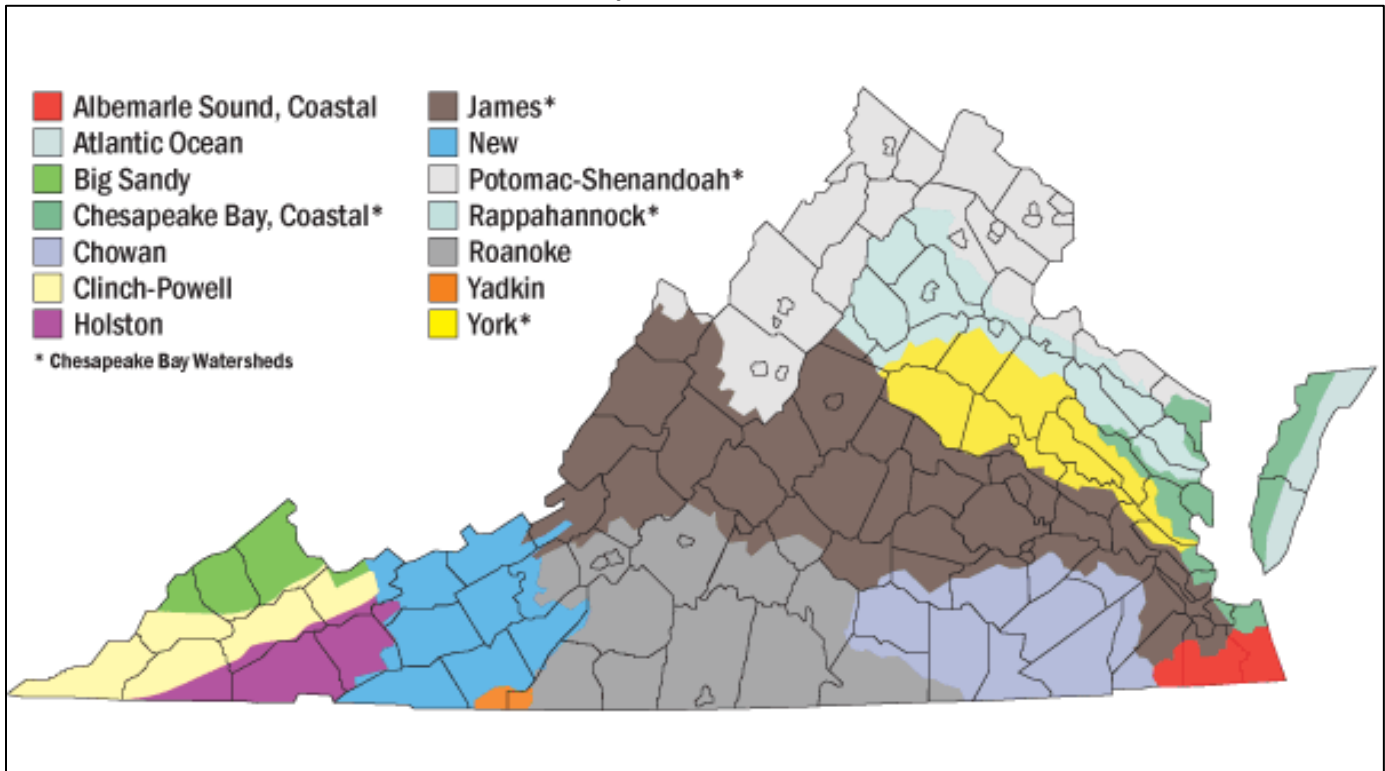
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Commonwealth near the Mecklenburg-Brunswick County line. The river travels southeast across North Carolina and enters the Albemarle Sound. In Virginia, the Roanoke River is often referred to as the Staunton River, particularly below Leesville Lake.

In addition to the Roanoke itself, the Basin also contains the Yadkin River sub-basin. The Yadkin River forms in North Carolina and is the northernmost part of the Pee Dee River drainage. The Pee Dee River flows south entering the Atlantic Ocean near Georgetown, South Carolina. The following seventeen counties and four cities are entirely or partially located within the Basin: Counties of Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Brunswick, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke; Cities of Danville, Martinsville, Roanoke, and Salem. These jurisdictions are represented within eight regional water supply plans: Lake Country, Charlotte/Town, Halifax/Towns, Region 2000, Roanoke Valley, New River Valley, West Piedmont, and Southwest Virginia.

The Northeastern portion of the County is located within the Chowan watershed. The North Meherrin River headwaters begin in Charlotte County near Keysville. It runs Southeast to its confluence with the South Meherrin River to form the Meherrin River in Lunenburg County. From there, the Meherrin River continues due south and joins with Chowan River that will eventually flow into the Albemarle Sound. The Chowan watershed covers all or part of 12 counties in Southside Virginia, including Charlotte, and a handful of counties in northeastern North Carolina.

Map 27 - Watersheds



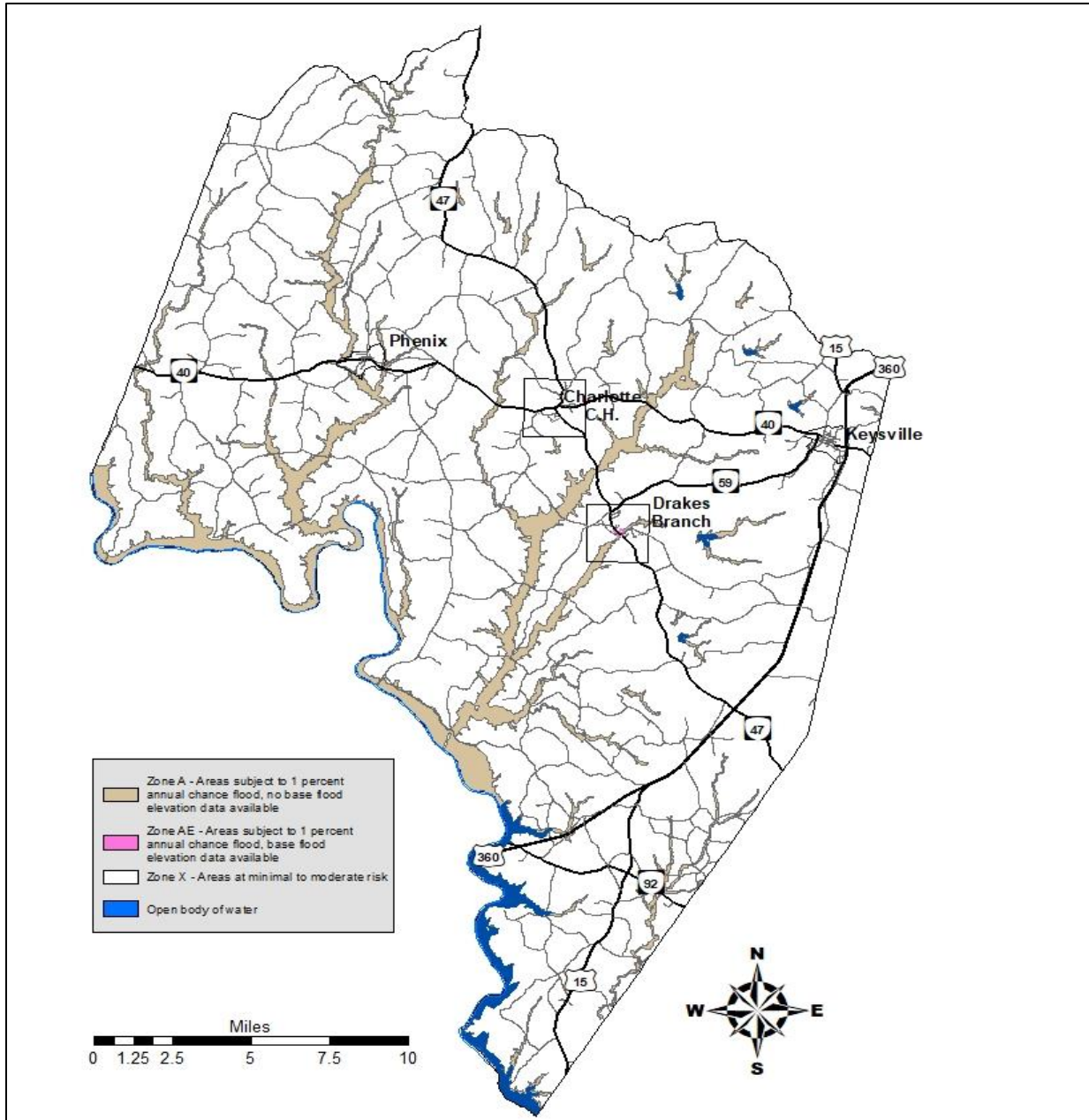
Source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Website
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/wsheds>

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Flood Zones

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) releases annual data on areas that flooding tends to occur and base flood information is available. The map below, Map 28, displays the flood zones within Charlotte County. Zone A is an area that is subject to one (1) percent chance of an annual flood with no base flood information available. Zone AE is an area that is subject to one (1) percent chance of an annual flood with base flood information readily available. Zone X is an area that is at a minimal or moderate risk for annual flooding.

Map 28: Flood Zones within Charlotte County



Map created by CRC – July 2022
Source: FEMA

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River/Stream Flow Rates

There are a few locations within Charlotte County that measure river and stream flow rates to determine the amount of discharge is released at each location. The US Geological Survey Site uses a stream gage to measure the waterflow rate. The waterflow rate is measured by Cubic Feet per Second or CFS. The higher the cubic feet per second the higher the stream or river. According to the United States Geological Survey site, the average monthly rate for June 2022 for Cub Creek is 46.89 CFS, Staunton River at Brookneal is 1289.87 CFS, and Staunton River at Randolph was 1589.67 CFS (See Figure 32). All three of the waterflow rates that were recorded are identified as a normal average for these areas.

Figure 32: June 2022 Average River/Stream Flow Rates

River/Stream	Flow Rates Measured by Cubic Feet per Second (CFS)
Cub Creek	46.89
Staunton River at Brookneal	1289.87
Staunton River at Randolph	1589.67

Source: United States Geological Survey

Farmland

The number of farms within Charlotte County has fluctuated over the course of the last 20 years. Since 1974, a farm is defined by the USDA Census of Agriculture to be a place from which \$1,000 or more agricultural products were produced or sold, or would have normally been sold during the census year. According to the 2017 USDA Agriculture Census, Charlotte County has 460 farms with an average of 264 acres within each farm. Since 1997, Charlotte County has seen a decrease in the number of farms by 118. While the number of farms may have decreased, the average size of farms has increased by 20 acres within same time frame. See Figure 33.

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Figure 33: Charlotte County Agriculture Summary

	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017
<i>Number of Farms</i>	451	578	535	489	518	460
<i>Farm Land (acres)</i>	112,944	141,578	133,719	125,531	149,355	121,667
<i>Average Size per Farm (acres)</i>	250	244	250	257	288	264
<i>Harvested cropland (acres)</i>	19,138	20,211	19,827	24,334	30,013	33,746
<i>Pastureland (acres)</i>	-	50,144	41,869	40,736	39,098	29,658
<i>Farm Receipts</i>	\$14,561,000	\$16,640,000	\$15,805,000	\$19,386,000	\$21,678,000	\$24,782,000
<i>Receipts - Crops</i>	\$8,697,000	\$9,479,000	\$6,585,000	\$6,668,000	\$11,104,000	\$9,810,000
<i>Receipts - Livestock</i>	\$5,864,000	\$7,039,000	\$9,220,000	\$12,719,000	\$10,574,000	\$16,166,000
<i>Hired Farm Workers</i>				391	509	403
<i>Farm Labor Payroll</i>				\$1,487,000	\$2,543,000	\$1,522,000

Source: 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture

Crops and Livestock

Charlotte County grows a variety of crop throughout the growing season. While some crops such as Tobacco has seen a decrease in the past 10 years, other crops have seen a dramatic increase in production due to an increase in demand. According to the USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture, soybean has increased by 9,695 acres since the 2007 Census.

Not only does Charlotte County grow a number of crops, the County’s residents also raise a number of livestock. According to the USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture, Dairy Cattle are on a decline within in the county by 655 animals over the past 10 years. According to the National Agricultural Census Service, the letter D in a column represents National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) disclosure rules. NASS is obligated to withhold, under Title 7, U.S. Code, any total that would reveal an individual’s information or

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allow it to be closely estimated by the public. Because of this disclosure rule, data regarding the Hogs and Pigs inventory is not available for public knowledge. The growth and decline of crops and livestock are denoted in Figure 34.

Figure 34: Charlotte County Select Farm Activities

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Acres 2007</i>	<i>Acres 2012</i>	<i>Acres 2017</i>	<i>Change from 2007 - 2017</i>
<i>Corn (for grain)</i>	1,877	2,043	1,792	-85 acres
<i>Corn (for silage)</i>	1,027	873	325	-702 acres
<i>Soybeans</i>	1,790	7,639	11,485	+9,695 acres
<i>Tobacco</i>	976	738	523	-543 acres
<i>Wheat</i>	1,885	2,766	2,033	+148 acres
<i>Hay (all types)</i>	16,794	16,077	16,587	-207 acres
<i>Vegetables</i>	307	195	194	-113 acres
<i>Orchards</i>	28	104	104	+76 acres
<i>Grapes</i>	21	71	73	+51 acres
<i>Livestock</i>	<i>2007 Inventory</i>	<i>2012 Inventory</i>	<i>2017 Inventory</i>	<i>Change from 2007-2017</i>
<i>Beef Cattle</i>	8,507	8,716	8,662	+155 Animals
<i>Dairy Cattle</i>	1,303	909	648	-655 Animals
<i>Horses and Ponies</i>	709	527	623	-86 Animals
<i>Hogs and Pigs</i>	D	D	14,876	-
<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	155	189	270	+115 Animals
<i>Goats</i>	205	487	458	+253 Animals
<i>Poultry</i>	28,508	1,764	5,252	-23,256 Animals

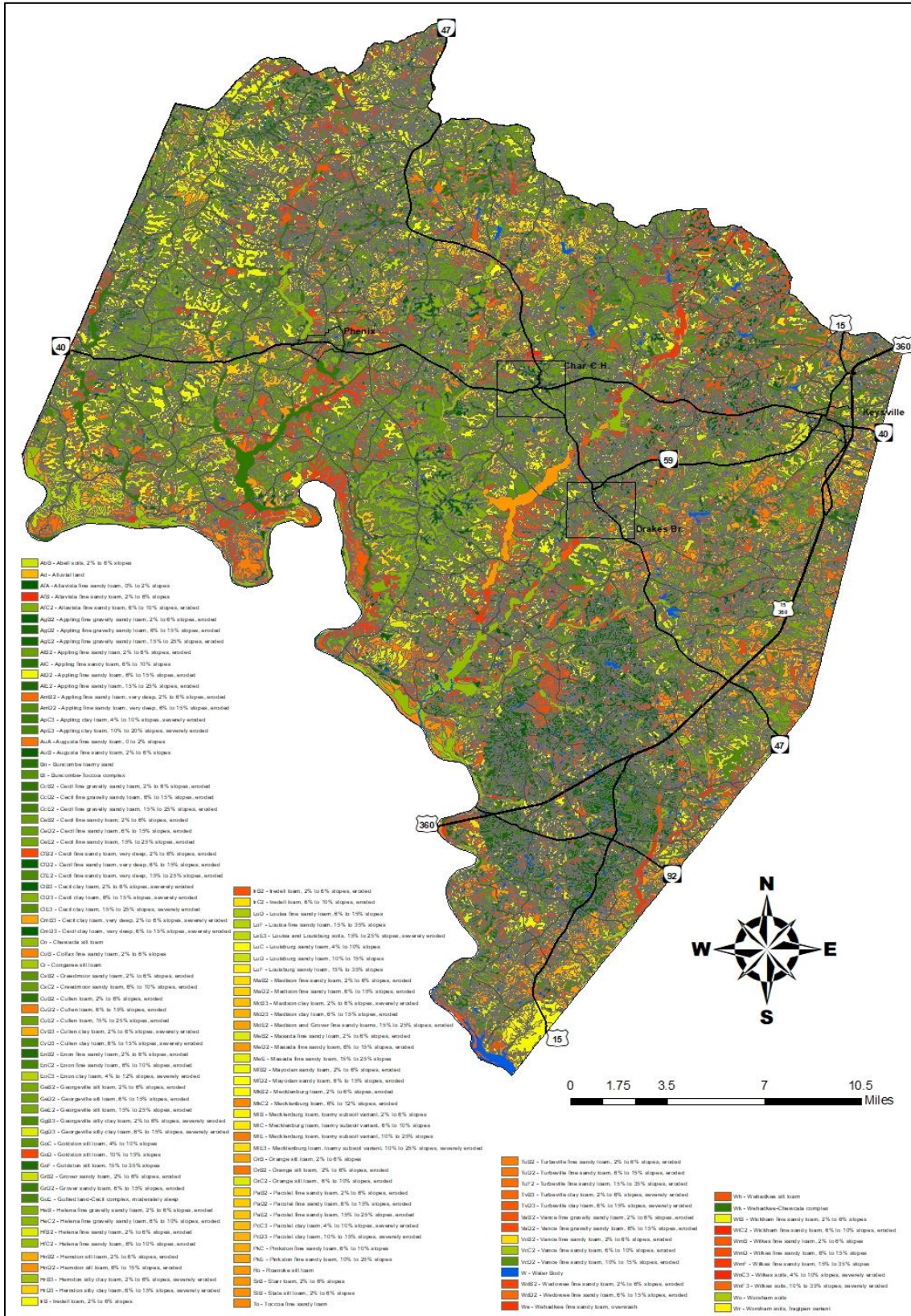
Source: 2007, 2012, and 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture

Soil

Charlotte County contains a wide variety of soils, with agricultural productivity ratings ranging from very good to very poor. A county-wide soil survey and analysis is found in the publication Soil Survey – Charlotte County Virginia, United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1974. The different types of soils in Charlotte County are denoted in Map 29.

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Map 29 – Soils in Charlotte County



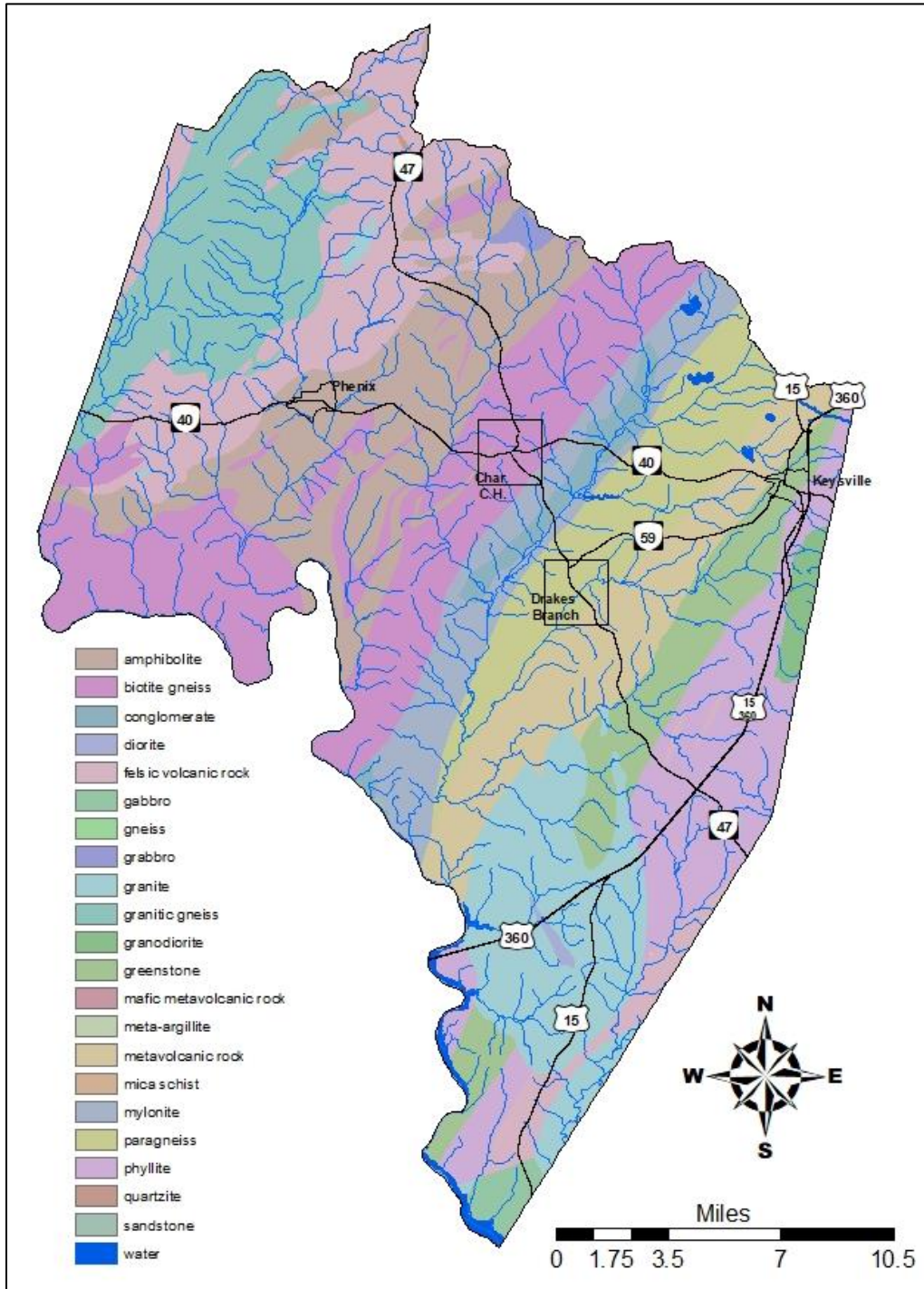
Map created by CRC – November 2021 (source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

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Rocks/Minerals

Map 30 shows the different rock/mineral types in Charlotte County. The data is from Virginia Energy, the agency formerly known as the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. The County is underlain by phyllite, diorite, greenstone, mylonite, amphibolite, quartzite, gneiss, felsic volcanic rock, schist and granite rocks.

Map 30 – Rock/Mineral Types in Charlotte County



Map created by CRC – August 2022 (source: Virginia Energy)

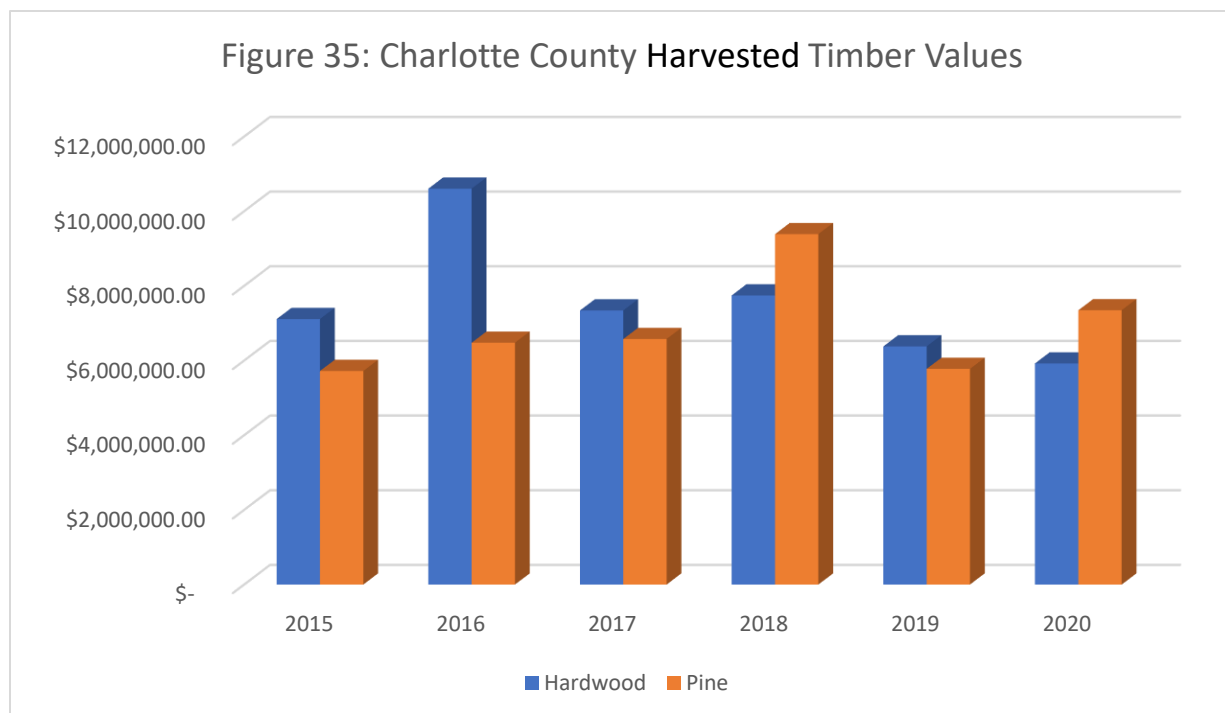
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Forestland/Wildland Urban-interface

Forests make up a large part of Charlotte County, both in terms of acreage and economic yields. There are 214,597 total acres of forestland in Charlotte County, according to the [2020](#) data from the [USDA Forest Service](#). Forestland is defined by the USDA Forest Service as a forest that is at least ten (10) percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having had such tree cover, and not currently developed for non-forest use. The minimum area is considered for classification as one (1) acre with forest strips must be at least 120 feet wide. -Of that total, 5,005 acres are publicly owned and 209,592 are privately owned. The Charlotte State Forest is the only publicly owned forest in the County with the total of 5,005 acres. These figures are based on 39 forest inventory plots checked at a 5-year interval. Dominant soft species in the area include Loblolly Pine, Shortleaf Pine, Virginia Pine and Red Cedar. Dominant hardwoods include White Oak, Red Oak, Yellow Poplar, Hickory, Black Gum, Red Maple and Birch. Figure 36 shows the Harvested Timber Volumes of wood products in Charlotte County from 2015-2020. The Harvested Timber Volumes are measured in units of 1000 cubic feet (cu ft). The Timber Volumes are based on figures self-reported by the forest industry to the Department of Taxation.

The total stumpage value of the wood products harvested from Charlotte in 2020 (the most recent year for which data is available) was \$12,307,939.63. Of this, \$7,347,649.83 was in pine value and \$5,922,123.00 was in hardwood value with the remainder coming from mixed chips (\$38,166.80). Figure 35 shows the values of wood products in Charlotte County from 2015 to 2020.

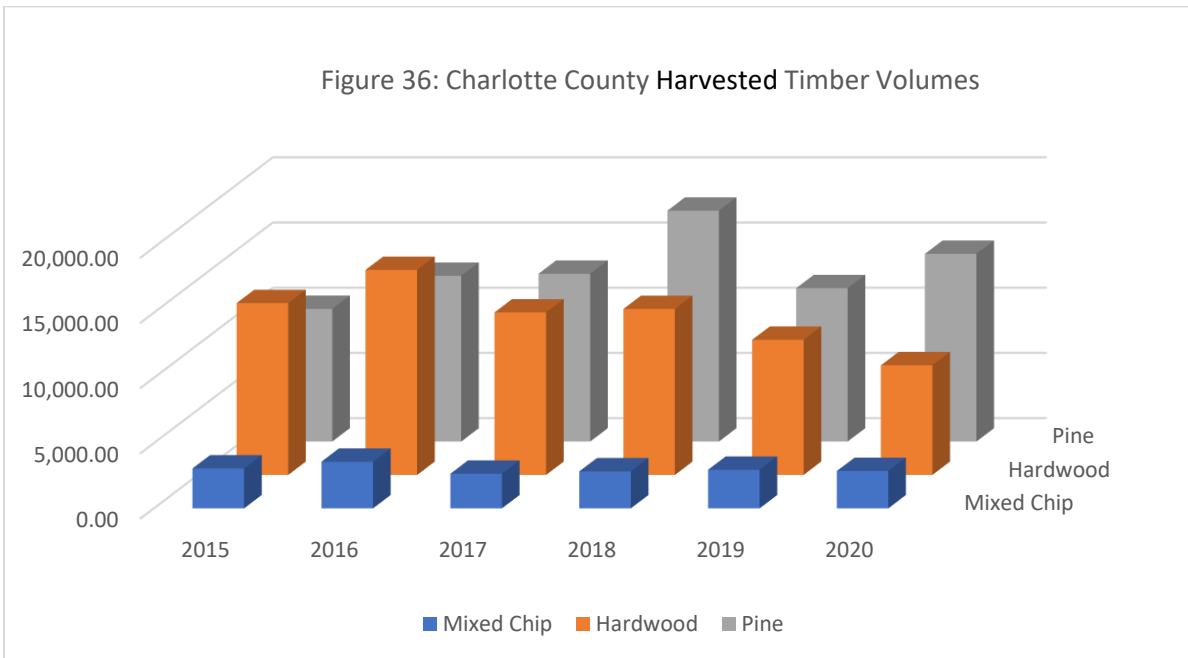
Charlotte County is served by several timber mills, and is home to many forestry consultants and timber managers. They work to monitor the timber markets and respond to product demands. Additionally, they work with the VDOF to control insect or disease outbreaks and keep the forest healthy. Forest landowners who harvest their timber may reforest these areas by planting one-year-old seedlings or rely on natural regeneration of commercially valuable species. The VDOF sells various species of seedlings for planting.



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Year	Pine	Hardwood	Total (including Mixed Chips)
2015	\$5,720,807.78	\$ 7,111,839.14	\$ 12,873,540.92
2016	\$6,477,634.90	\$ 10,603,791.33	\$ 17,129,104.22
2017	\$6,577,011.25	\$ 7,342,151.71	\$13,954,557.96
2018	\$9,385,768.34	\$ 7,744,451.60	\$17,169,665.94
2019	\$5,776,995.15	\$ 6,379,216.07	\$12,195,62.63
2020	\$7,347,649.83	\$ 5,922,123.00	\$13,307,939.63

Source: Virginia Department of Forestry



Year	Harvested Pine	Harvested Hardwood	Harvested Mixed Chip	Harvested Total	Total Forestland
2015	10,169.07	13,171.97	3,060.00	26,401.05	<u>220,100</u>
2016	12,704.67	15,719.96	3,576.00	32,000.63	<u>223,585</u>
2017	12,843.55	12,458.28	2,655.00	27,976.83	<u>218,129</u>
2018	17,699.86	12,721.43	2,883.00	33,304.29	<u>213,941</u>
2019	11,755.51	10,360.03	2,956.31	25,071.84	<u>213,956</u>
2020	14,390.48	8,406.10	2,862.51	25,659.10	<u>214,597</u>

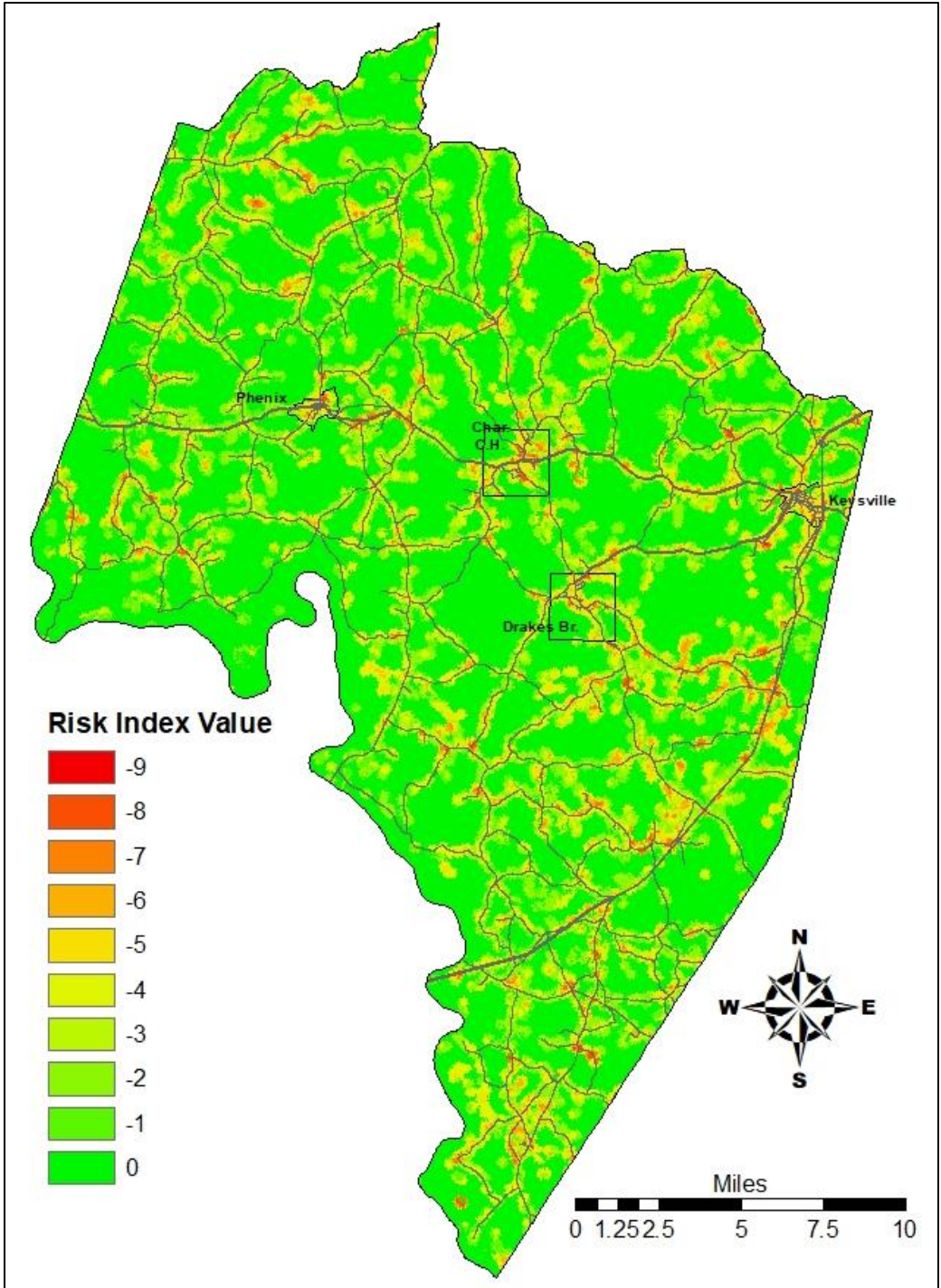
Note: The Harvested Timber Volumes are measured in units of 1000 cubic feet (cu ft)

Source: Virginia Department of Forestry, [USDA Forest Service](#)

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The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index for Charlotte County is shown in Map 31. The WUI Risk Index rates the potential impact of wildfire on people and their homes on a scale of 0 (lowest risk) to 9 (highest risk). The Index uses housing density as a key factor to determine risk. The Index was developed by the Southern Group of State Foresters and uses housing density, plus others factors, to assess risk.

Map 31 – Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Index



Map created by CRC – August 2022

(Source: Southern Group of State Foresters, Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment)