

# Public Services and Community Facilities

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Schools	1
Libraries	3
Public Safety	4
Water Service	5
Sewer Service	5
Electric Service	5
Natural Gas	5
Guiding Principles	6
Plan Goals	6

## Schools

The Plan study area includes portions of the Startown, Blackburn, Maiden, and Mt. View Elementary School districts. Students in the western portion of the study area are currently assigned to Blackburn or Mountain View Elementary, and later attend Jacobs Fork Middle School and Fred T. Foard High School. Elementary students in the eastern portion of the Plan area are currently assigned to Maiden and Startown Elementary, and later attend Maiden Middle School and Maiden High School. *See Map 9: Existing Public Use Facilities.*



In 1999, the Catawba County, Hickory, and Newton-Conover Schools systems commissioned the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to develop the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model*. This model identified and examined various factors and trends that impact student population and helps plan for future school facilities. This model was updated in 2010.

### STARTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Startown Elementary School remains under building capacity (715 students) since 2009 and will remain near capacity until 2016.

### **BLACKBURN ELEMENTARY**

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Blackburn Elementary School has exceeded building capacity (695 students) since 2009 and will remain over capacity until 2016.

### **MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY**

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Mountain View Elementary School remains under building capacity (757 students) since 2009 and will remain under capacity until 2016.

### **MAIDEN ELEMENTARY**

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Maiden Elementary School remains under building capacity (616 students) since 2009 and will remain under capacity until 2016.

The Catawba County School System is currently planning for an additional elementary school within the Fred T. Foard High School district. The new school will help address the capacity issues at the other schools within that district including Banoak Elementary, which is not located within the Plan boundary. The timeframe for constructing the new school has yet to be added to the capital improvement plan.

In order to accomplish certain principles and recommendations identified in the Startown and Mountain View Small Area Plans, the Catawba County School System should consider the Community Oriented Schools concept, explained below, as it sites this new elementary school.

### **COMMUNITY ORIENTED SCHOOLS**

In the early part of the twentieth century urban centers were rapidly developing. Schools were often the center of communities where a variety of services and amenities were in close proximity to high-density residential neighborhoods. As the country developed, suburban sprawl became a trend that helped to undermine tradi-

*“If you are  
planning for a  
year,  
sow rice;  
if you are  
planning for a  
decade,  
plant trees;  
if you are  
planning for a  
lifetime,  
educate people”*

*- Chinese Proverb*

tional neighborhood design. The introduction of the automobile led to a more mobile society and was a major factor contributing to the development of rural communities. This concept of neighborhood schools being the center of activity played less of a role as a catalyst for growth and activity.

The Community Oriented Schools concept helps to recapture the traditional neighborhood design. It encourages educational facilities to be established using smart growth principals. This model calls for smaller schools that fit into the neighborhoods they serve, encourages community involvement at the planning stage, enables schools to act as a neighborhood anchor, and provides after hours community facilities and activities. This approach also provides opportunities for multi-use campuses with public/private services such as, a daycare, library, public safety, parks and recreation facilities, located on the same tract of land or in close proximity to the school. While traditional neighborhood schools were historically developed in urban areas, many of the principles can work around the fringes of urban centers where public infrastructure, higher density, and mixed-use development are planned.



*Community Oriented School Design*

## **LIBRARIES**

Catawba County operates a well-established library system. The Catawba County Library System operates one

central library, a law library and six branch libraries. The Plan area is served by three branches. The main Newton library and the Maiden branch serve the eastern portion of the study area. The Southwest branch is located in the Westover Plaza in Mountain View on Highway 127 and serves the western portion of the Plan area. The Library Master Plan (2001) does not call for any additional library branches to be located within the Plan boundary.



## ***PUBLIC SAFETY***

### ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES***

Although an EMS base is not located within the study area, three bases respond to calls within the Plan area. The Propst Crossroads Base is located at the intersection of NC Highway 10 and NC Highway 127. This base responds to calls for the southwestern portion of Catawba County. The Newton base, located in southern Newton off US Highway 321-Business, and the Hickory Base located southern Hickory off of Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard also serves the study area.



### ***LAW ENFORCEMENT***

The Catawba County Sheriff's Department serves the plan area. The patrol division is made up of thirty-six officers among four shifts. The Sheriff's Department also operates a jail and maintains security for the court system in Catawba County. Crime prevention, investigations and civil enforcement are other functions conducted by the Sheriff's Department.

### ***FIRE PROTECTION***



Fire protection Plan study area is provided four fire stations. The north area from plan boundary to Sandy Ford Road is served by the Mountain View Volunteer Fire Department. The Propst Volunteer Fire Department serves the western portion of the plan area with the Jacobs Fork and South Fork serving as the approximate boundary. The Newton Fire Department serves the eastern portion of the study area from Sandy Ford Road to Rocky Ford Road, east of the rivers. The Maiden Volunteer Fire Department serves the area south of Rocky Ford Road and east of the South Fork River to the County line.

## **WATER SERVICE**

The City of Hickory, City of Newton, Town of Maiden and Catawba County have provided water service to areas within the Plan area. In some cases, the County pays for construction of the water lines while the municipalities maintain the lines. In such cases, revenues are shared between the County and the respective municipality. The major water lines in the Plan area extend along Startown Road, NC Highway 10 and Hickory-Lincolnton Highway. There is also a water line extension project that will add water lines to Blackburn Bridge Road to create a water service loop with the City of Hickory to provide better water service to the area. *See Map 10: Existing/Proposed Utilities.*

## **SEWER SERVICE**

Sewer service is not available in most of the Plan area; however, the City of Hickory, City of Newton and the Town of Maiden have sewer lines in close proximity to the planning area. The City of Hickory operates a sewer line which extends into the northeastern section of the Plan area. The City of Newton has extended a sewer line along NC Highway 10 and south along Hickory-Lincolnton Highway, a line that is owned by the County serving the Eco-Complex. The municipalities have long-range plans to extend sewer service into various parts of the Plan area. *See Map 10: Existing/Proposed Utilities.*

## **ELECTRIC SERVICE**

Electrical services in the Plan area are provided by Rutherford Electric and Duke Energy. The City of Newton and Town of Maiden are electric cities that also provide electric service in and around the Plan area.

## **NATURAL GAS**

Piedmont Natural Gas provides natural gas utilities in the area. There is a line along Highway 10 west of 321 and there is a trunk line located just outside the eastern boundary of the Plan area. *See Map 10: Existing/Proposed Utilities.*

## ***GUIDING PRINCIPLES***

### ***SCHOOLS***

- PP- 1 Plan to accommodate student enrollment growth.
- PP- 2 Plan for community-based, neighborhood schools.

### ***LIBRARIES***

- PP- 3 Maintain adequate level of library services for the community.
- PP- 4 Encourage continued cooperation with municipalities.

### ***WATER/SEWER SERVICES***

- PP-5 Provide water and sewer services in higher density areas in close proximity to existing municipal boundaries. (Note: As new development occurs in high-density areas, developers are required to extend utility lines based upon the County's Water and Sewer Availability Ordinance.)
- PP-6 Take a cooperative regional approach to planning of future water and sewer infrastructure.

### ***EMERGENCY SERVICES***

- PP-7 Maintain existing levels of service and expand those services as demand requires.
- PP-8 Consider ways to expand emergency facilities by locating them with existing or future public facilities.

## ***PLAN GOALS***

### ***SCHOOLS***

- PG-1 Base the development of new school facilities upon the Community Oriented Schools approach using a collaborative process involving the community, key stakeholders, and officials.

PG- 2 Consider alternative school financing and ownership models.

### **LIBRARIES**

PG-3 Explore options for locating public library facilities on school sites, other public facility sites (such as emergency services sites or parks), or partnering with private development.

### **WATER/SEWER SERVICES**

PG-4 Major utility expansions in high-density areas, as indicated on *Map 6: Future Land Use Recommendations*,” should have a priority. As new development occurs in high-density areas, developers are required to extend utility lines based upon the County’s Water and Sewer Availability Ordinance.

PG-5 Partner with municipalities to provide utilities that are consistent with adopted land use plans and “smart growth” principles.

PG-6 Partner with the municipalities to identify utility service boundary areas within the plan area to avoid the duplication of services.

### **NATURAL GAS**

PG-7 Encourage the extension of natural gas lines to the Eco-Complex.