

APPENDIX C

Community Engagement Summary

Introduction

Brunswick County (County) Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments have teamed up for a 12-month initiative called Blueprint Brunswick 2040 to craft two new plans: a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Together, these two new plans will guide future growth, decisions, and investments in infrastructure and services for the County. This planning effort covered the entire jurisdiction of Brunswick County outside municipal limits, and inclusive of participating municipalities.

The methodology used in establishing a Comprehensive Master Plan should always include citizen input. To ensure a successful study, it is vital that residents of Brunswick County have an opportunity to weigh in on critical issues facing the County today and what possible solutions may exist as well as help guide future planning decisions that will affect the quality of life in their community. The community input process this study employed was designed to allow residents to share their issues, needs, and desires.

Community input was gathered in several different ways including a public survey, focus group meetings, social media, interviews with individual residents, landowners, County staff, and community meetings. The Brunswick County website hosted a project webpage for supporting information sharing during the planning process.

The following general community concerns and aspirations were gleaned from these many mechanisms employed.

Community Concerns and Aspirations

- Mitigating impacts of development on the environment and cultural assets
- Minimizing the devastating effects of natural disasters, such as flooding, on properties and infrastructure
- Managing infrastructure as growth puts pressure on existing systems, especially the road network and water and sewer utilities
- Reducing traffic congestion building on the highways, including scenic roadways
- Enhancing connectivity in terms of mobility as well as social, economic, and environmental networks
- Maintaining housing affordability as real estate values (and housing prices) soar
- Growing the economy and the tax base
- Keeping and creating jobs in the county, ensuring employment opportunities and higher wages for residents
- Retaining the community's identity and sense of place through the quality of development
- Improving the health, well-being, and quality of life of the residents, especially older people aging in the county, with access to healthcare and expanded opportunities for recreation

Public Presentations

Seven public meetings were conducted during the Master Plan process. Residents were not required to attend an in-person event to participate. Residents were asked to pre-register to attend a community meeting by either accessing the online registration section of the project webpage or calling and/or visiting either the County Planning or the Parks and Recreation Departments. All residents could submit their survey responses before, during, or after any community meeting.

Community Meetings 1-5: November 10-18, 2020

Location: Multiple locations-one in each district

Brunswick County's Planning and Parks & Recreation Departments have teamed up for an exciting joint project.

BLUEPRINT BRUNSWICK
A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

Over the next 12 months, we will be crafting two new plans:
Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Parks & Recreation Master Plan
These plans will guide future growth, decisions, and investments in infrastructure and services within Brunswick County.

Your input is needed. Be part of the discussion.
Please register to attend one of these meetings to share your ideas and concerns.

NOV 10	NOV 11	NOV 12	NOV 17	NOV 18
Calabash Senior Center 4pm / 5pm / 6pm	Southport Senior Center 4pm / 5pm / 6pm	Supply Senior Center 4pm / 5pm / 6pm	Leland Park 4pm / 5pm / 6pm Alternate Location: Leland Senior Center	Waccamaw Park 4pm / 5pm / 6pm Alternate Location: Waccamaw Building

If you are unable to attend in person, please participate online.
Visit the project webpage to learn more, get involved, and view our resources:
Recorded Presentations
Online Survey
PDFs of Maps / Other Meeting Materials
Project Schedule / Other Input Opportunities
www.BlueprintBrunswick2040.com

Questions? Contact us!
Kirstie Dixon, Planning Director: 910.253.2027 or kirstie.dixon@brunswickcountync.gov
Aaron Perkins, Parks & Recreation Director: 910.253.2676 or aaron.perkins@brunswickcountync.gov

Figure 1 Community Meeting Advertisement

The first five input sessions were held within each of the five electoral districts from November 10, 2020, through November 18, 2020. Locations included the Calabash Senior Center, Southport Senior Center, Supply Senior Center, Leland Park Shelter and Waccamaw Park. All meetings offered three different time slots at 4 pm, 5 pm, and 6 p.m.

All public meetings, along with the community survey, were advertised by the County on the official Brunswick County website, via the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 project webpage, local news announcements, County social media, flyers posted at County offices, libraries, parks and, via County staff word of mouth. The promotion of the project webpage and community survey was also promoted via project marketing cards that were distributed at different locations throughout Brunswick County.

Meetings held in person were simulcast on Facebook Live and recorded for playback via local ATMC Community Television for those individuals that were unable to attend or preferred to participate remotely.

Each meeting comprised an informative presentation made by project team members and concluded with open question/answer and comment sessions that included both in-person and online participants. Presentations offered background into the County's existing conditions, known issues, demographics, growth trends, and review of inventory and existing conditions analysis maps.

Help Guide the Future of Brunswick County.
Have a voice & share your ideas!
Please visit the address below to reach the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Master Plan Project Page.
www.blueprintbrunswick2040.com

Please feel free to use this link or the QR code below to participate in the BlueprintBrunswick2040 Community Survey. We look forward to your input.

BLUEPRINT BRUNSWICK

Figure 2 Project Marketing Card

All public meetings were conducted in accordance with CDC guidelines for COVID-19 safety and with Governor Cooper's Executive Orders. No meetings exceeded 25 people inside or 50 people outside. Masks were required for all attendance and staff provided a mask to any registrants that needed them. Hand sanitizer was available in multiple locations around each meeting venue and surfaces were sanitized before and after each meeting. All registrants received a packet with sanitized survey and project marketing materials to use and take home.

Any residents that were uncomfortable attending in-person meetings, could participate online and had access to the same resources available at the in-person meetings. Alternative accommodations were available for residents that requested them.



Figure 3 Social distancing was required at all community meetings.

These meetings were safely conducted so that residents would be able to voice their opinions on a wide range of topics that included but were not limited to future growth and development, agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, utilities, recreation, housing, jobs, etc. The meetings encouraged attendees to interact and discuss their experiences living in Brunswick County. Common themes mentioned by meeting participants were:

- Need for affordable housing
- Smart development practices
- Less road congestion
- Need for better stormwater mitigation
- Expansion of the recreation system for passive and active recreation

Community Meeting 6 - November 18, 2021

**Location: Cooperative Extension Training Center (Building N), 25 Referendum Dr NE
Bolivia NC.**

In November 2021, the County hosted a second public forum at building N of the County Government Center campus. This three-hour event was designed as an open house that allowed attendees to drop in at convenient times. Attendees navigated the meeting using

a novel “Passport” to direct them to different information and activity stations set up around the room. Participants were greeted with a brief, recorded presentation that summarized the planning process and steps completed to date in the creation of the comprehensive plan, “Blueprint Brunswick.” At other stations, participants were able to review the draft Future Land Use & Conservation Map as well as the coordinated Future Parks & Recreation Master Plan Map. Each map was supported by preliminary recommendations and strategies for implementation. Feedback received at the meeting gave the Project Team the input needed to refine the maps and expand the set of draft recommendations.



Figure 4 The public moved between stations to learn and share information.

Community Meeting 7 - October 25, 2022

Location: The Brunswick Center in Supply, 101 Stone Chimney Rd, Supply NC.

This public meeting, advertised via County website and social media posts, summarized the County Land Use Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan. General background in the planning process and study outcomes to date were presented via four individual presentations made by the Planning Department and consultants.

In a separate room of the Brunswick Center, information stations displayed infographics explaining each area of the Land Use Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plans in greater detail. Participant feedback was solicited via open question and answer sessions after each presentation and participants were asked to share their preferences for how best to spend tax dollars via the “Turn Tax Dollars into Treasure” exercise. The results are as follows:

Turn Tax Dollars into Treasures Exercise Results

- NR-3 - 11 stickers
- HN-1 - 11 stickers
- HW-3 – 11 stickers
- DQ-2 - 12 stickers
- CF-3 - 13 stickers
- IWS-1 – 14 stickers
- ITR-1 - 15 stickers
- ED-4 – 17 stickers
- DQ-1 - 27 stickers

The Vision

Public input about the plan vision as presented in the October 25th meeting was largely centered around the desire for high density residential housing, affordability of housing for the working population, and a need for the preservation of natural open spaces.

Realizing the Vision

To realize the vision as reflected in the Future Land Use and Conservation Map, policy recommendations were presented. These recommendations provide guidance for shaping the future growth and development in the county. Public comments provided regarding policy recommendations were as follows:

Utilities - Energy, Water, Sewer

- IEN-2 – “Tax dollars should not be used for maintenance of Duke Energy’s nuclear plant. This should be a cost of doing business to Duke Energy. Service provider’s cost increase flows down to the consumer. But at least the consumer is in control of consumption. Nuclear is the way to go.”
- IEN-2 – “What are the plans for recycling solar components and other end of life (20-25 years)?”
- IWS-2 – “Multiple comments regarding resolving the PFAs issue at a County-wide level so that homeowners don’t have to invest in reverse osmosis systems.”
- IWS-2 – “Provide water to underserved communities especially those that have industrious activities near wells and public bodies of water.”

Transportation - Comments included support for the development of County lead public transportation to Wilmington & Myrtle Beach airports, the beaches, shopping, and healthcare destinations.

Community Facilities – There was a public comment requesting multigenerational aquatic facilities.

Public Access - Multiple comments were provided about residents not being charged fees for public access.

Open Space, Natural Resources, and the Environment – A comment was provided indicating a desire for dedicated bike path for bikes and walkers only.

Multiple comments provided were in support for policies establishing the number of trees that must be preserved during the development of new sites.

Health & Well-Being – A comment provided requested that county community centers with aquatic facilities for health, exercise, physical therapy, learning to swim should be provided.

Economic Development – A comment provided asked the county to rely on historic economic development partners to identify “typical” development to identify nature and needs of the workforce.

Planning Board Public Hearing – November 14, 2022

Location: Commissioners Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Administration, 30 Government Center Dr.

This hearing provided the Planning Board with important updates and opportunities for discussion and questions.

Project Webpage

The Blueprint Brunswick Project webpage hosted on the County’s website provided a way for stakeholders to submit ideas and comments while accessing information about meetings, surveys, and draft plan documents. This information portal on the County’s website allowed county staff post information about the project the planning process as well as provide a schedule of activities, and interim plan documents for public review.

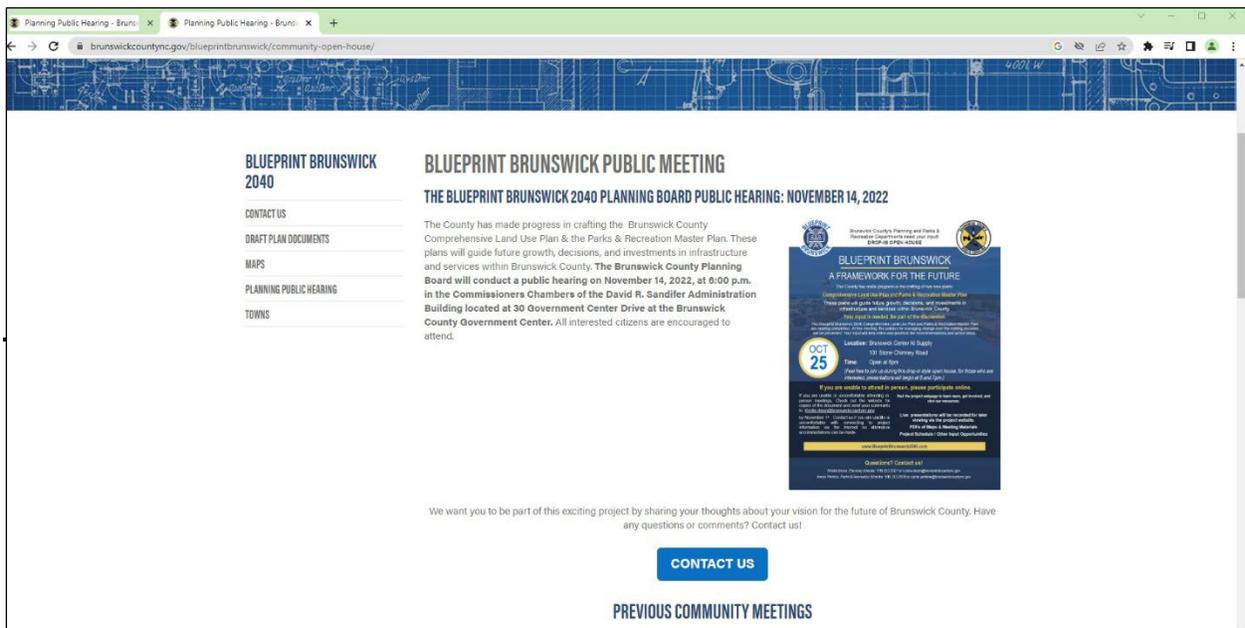


Figure 5 Screenshot of a portion of the Blueprint Brunswick project webpage.

Community Survey

The active participation of residents in Brunswick County was crucial in developing a Master Plan that reflects the true needs of the County. Community input was solicited throughout the entire planning process. A survey was created as a tool to gather information from the public concerning a range of topics that influence land planning and recreation. The following is a summary of community survey responses (See Appendix A for full open-ended survey responses).



Figure 4 Surveys were available online and in handout paper versions.

As of January 28, 2021, the County received a total of 2,197 completed surveys, representing about 3,116 individuals. These results included both the survey handouts and the online survey results. The surveys provided data collection from all persons in the household of the survey respondent. The survey data collected was a representative cross-section of Brunswick County in terms of age and household size. The results of the survey are as follows:

Q1.

Concerning the Brunswick County planning area, are you a (check all that apply):

Answered: 2,125 Skipped: 8

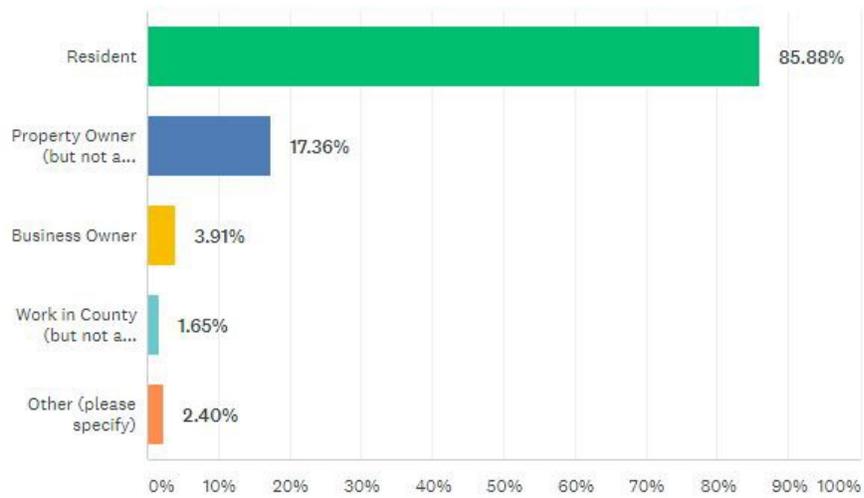
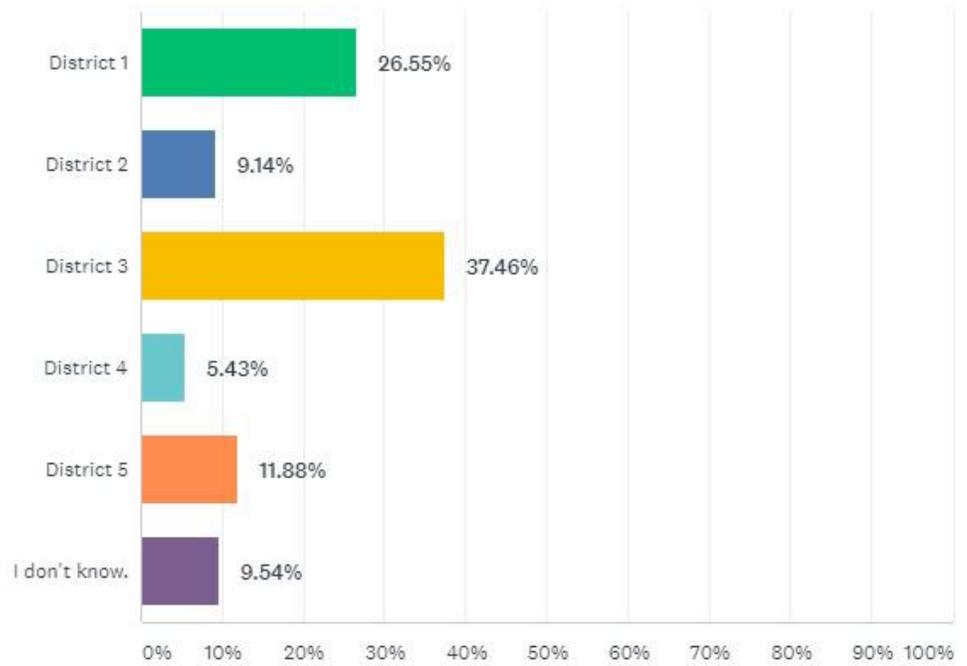


Figure 6 Public Meeting Presentation at Leland Community Park

Q2.

Please select your electoral district from the list below:

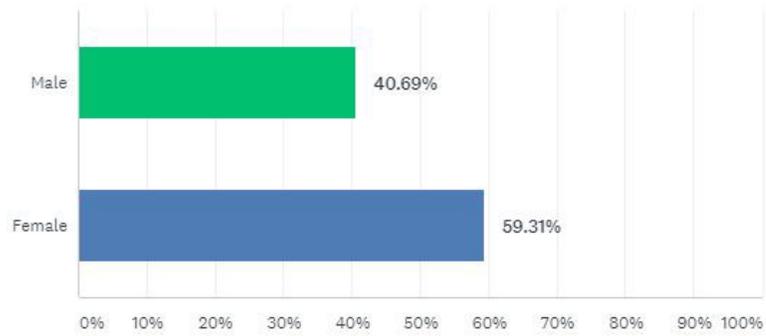
Answered: 2,045 Skipped: 88



Q3.

What is your gender?

Answered: 2,072 Skipped: 61

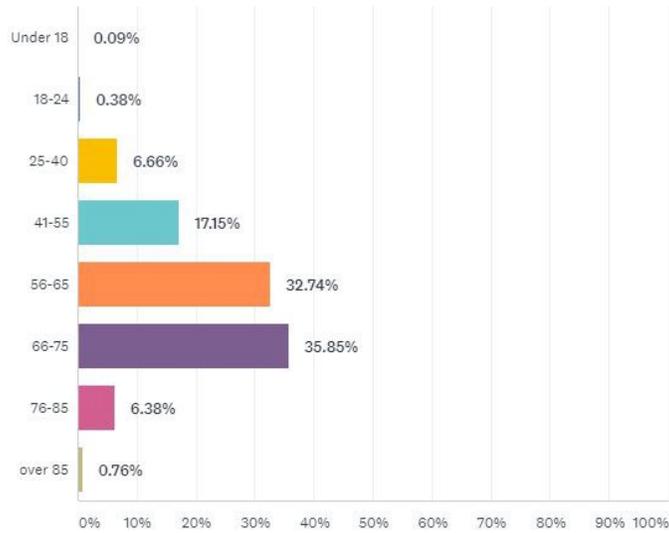


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Male	40.69%	843
▼ Female	59.31%	1,229
TOTAL		2,072

Q4.

What is your age range?

Answered: 2,117 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.09% 2
18-24	0.38% 8
25-40	6.66% 141
41-55	17.15% 363
56-65	32.74% 693
66-75	35.85% 759
76-85	6.38% 135
over 85	0.76% 16
TOTAL	2,117

The three largest age groups represented by town residents in the survey are age 65-75, age 56-65 and 41-55 years old. It was clear that participants over the age of 41 represented the largest demographic group of surveyed respondents. This is important to know when planning for facility improvements and for programming purposes because mature adults have unique needs and issues.

Q5.

Select the number of persons in your household including yourself who are in the age brackets below:

Answered: 2,113 Skipped: 20

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
5 years and younger	48.74% 58	42.86% 51	3.36% 4	1.68% 2	1.68% 2	1.68% 2	119
6-12 years old	64.20% 104	27.16% 44	8.64% 14	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	162
13-16 years old	78.95% 105	18.80% 25	1.50% 2	0.75% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	133
17-19 years old	86.60% 84	11.34% 11	1.03% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.03% 1	97
20-35 years old	62.15% 156	32.67% 82	2.79% 7	1.59% 4	0.00% 0	0.80% 2	251
36-45 years old	54.35% 125	43.91% 101	1.30% 3	0.43% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	230
46-60 years old	54.12% 361	44.83% 299	0.90% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.15% 1	667
61 and over	32.26% 470	66.85% 974	0.69% 10	0.07% 1	0.07% 1	0.07% 1	1,457

Clearly, families with children do make up a significant part of Brunswick County’s overall population and this number is expected to increase. As with mature adults, children have unique needs which should be considered when planning for the future of the County.

Q6. Where is your place of employment?

Answered: 2,119 Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am retired	56.77% 1,203
Outside the County	9.44% 200
within zip code - 28461	5.85% 124
Other (please specify) Responses	5.85% 124
within zip code - 28422	4.48% 95
within zip code - 28470	2.88% 61
Out of State (South Carolina)	2.74% 58
within zip code - 28462	2.64% 56
within zip code - 28451	2.41% 51
within zip code - 28469	2.41% 51
within zip code - 28467	1.65% 35
within zip code - 28465	0.94% 20
within zip code - 28420	0.80% 17
within zip code - 28468	0.47% 10
within zip code - 28479	0.47% 10
I am student	0.19% 4
within zip code - 28452	0.00% 0
TOTAL	2,119

While the majority of nearly 60% of respondents report being retired, many survey participants reported working outside the County. The word cloud below shows the most common “other” responses provided. The larger/bolder the word the more often it was mentioned by respondents.



Q7.

What do you like about Brunswick County? From the list of subjects below, please select which is most important to least important to you.

Answered: 2,126 Skipped: 7

	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Beaches, Open-spaces, Waterways, and Natural Landscapes	84.13% 1,765	12.63% 265	2.43% 51	0.81% 17	2,098
Quality of Life	84.91% 1,739	13.48% 276	1.32% 27	0.29% 6	2,048
Community appearance and quality of the built and natural environments	63.73% 1,307	31.84% 653	3.51% 72	0.93% 19	2,051
Parks, Trails, and Recreational opportunities	62.65% 1,288	28.55% 587	6.57% 135	2.24% 46	2,056
Cost of Living (Housing costs, Tax rates)	59.31% 1,214	31.61% 647	6.79% 139	2.30% 47	2,047
Sense of place and community character	46.13% 935	40.80% 827	10.11% 205	2.96% 60	2,027
Schools	34.09% 674	29.69% 587	17.96% 355	18.26% 361	1,977
Quality and availability of housing	29.68% 598	42.48% 856	19.80% 399	8.04% 162	2,015
Shopping choices	27.05% 551	41.38% 843	21.40% 436	10.16% 207	2,037
Employment and Economic Opportunities	26.54% 539	36.48% 741	22.06% 448	14.92% 303	2,031
Opportunities of community involvement	26.19% 533	43.78% 891	24.13% 491	5.90% 120	2,035
Heritage of Brunswick County	23.19% 473	35.54% 725	25.25% 515	16.03% 327	2,040

When asked what survey respondents liked best about Brunswick County, respondents listed beaches, open spaces, quality of life and appearance were most mentioned. Responses point to the nature of the County's demographics (largely retirees).

Q8.

Please select which is most important to least important to you.

Answered: 2,128 Skipped: 5

	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Improving water quality in streams and waterways	80.65% 1,684	16.43% 343	2.39% 50	0.53% 11	2,088
Accessibility to healthcare	70.99% 1,473	23.90% 496	3.90% 81	1.20% 25	2,075
Conservation of wildlife and sensitive plant communities	57.98% 1,199	31.96% 661	8.22% 170	1.84% 38	2,068
Promoting a strong economy that enhances quality of life	54.68% 1,133	34.85% 722	8.64% 179	1.83% 38	2,072
Addressing the needs of seniors	50.15% 1,037	37.62% 778	9.72% 201	2.51% 52	2,068
Beautification of roadways and highways	40.45% 834	40.11% 827	15.28% 315	4.17% 86	2,062
Addressing the needs of youth and families	36.73% 756	43.73% 900	14.14% 291	5.39% 111	2,058
Preservation of historic buildings and sites	35.71% 735	39.89% 821	17.78% 366	6.61% 136	2,058
Protection of agriculture and farmland	35.15% 721	42.17% 865	16.28% 334	6.39% 131	2,051
Attracting new businesses	34.35% 709	39.78% 821	17.44% 360	8.43% 174	2,064
Ensuring a supply of housing that meets the needs of all age groups, income levels, and family needs	30.39% 629	37.00% 766	23.24% 481	9.37% 194	2,070
Having housing near commercial centers	9.84% 203	27.87% 575	36.55% 754	25.74% 531	2,063

Issues related to water quality, access to health care and the natural environment were the top three most important issues to survey respondents.

Q9.

From the list of subjects below, please select which is most important to least important to you.

Answered: 2,125 Skipped: 8

	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Emergency Services (fire, police)	74.13% 1,533	22.53% 466	2.85% 59	0.48% 10	2,068
Access to Healthcare	69.78% 1,450	23.34% 485	5.63% 117	1.25% 26	2,078
Environmental Protection	67.10% 1,393	26.16% 543	5.68% 118	1.06% 22	2,076
Utilities (water, sewer, etc.)	66.38% 1,378	27.84% 578	4.58% 95	1.20% 25	2,076
Open Space, Parks and Recreation	62.61% 1,298	29.76% 617	5.74% 119	1.88% 39	2,073
Community Appearance	54.44% 1,123	38.83% 801	5.38% 111	1.36% 28	2,063
Transportation (roads, sidewalks, etc.)	50.44% 1,040	37.73% 778	9.31% 192	2.52% 52	2,062
Access to Education	34.60% 712	32.85% 676	19.68% 405	12.88% 265	2,058
Heritage and History	26.83% 551	40.21% 826	22.10% 454	10.86% 223	2,054
Housing (variety, quantity, quality)	22.37% 458	43.77% 896	25.45% 521	8.40% 172	2,047
Commercial Development	13.66% 282	40.82% 843	28.67% 592	16.85% 348	2,065

When asked what subjects were most important to respondents, emergency services topped the list followed closely by access to healthcare, protection of the environment, utilities, recreation, and community appearance. The issues reported as relatively less important subjects included commercial development, housing, history, and access to education.

Q10

Every community can identify opportunities for improvements. Which of the following do you think apply to Brunswick County? (Please select from most important to least important to you.)

Answered: 2,102 Skipped: 31

	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Utilities (Water & Sewer)	54.87% 1,109	30.93% 625	11.53% 233	2.67% 54	2,021	1.65
Traffic/Roads	53.35% 1,082	33.88% 687	10.26% 208	2.51% 51	2,028	1.64
Encroachment of development on agriculture and sensitive environmental areas	45.09% 913	33.09% 670	16.84% 341	4.99% 101	2,025	1.87
Visual blight and clutter along roadways	44.08% 894	33.48% 679	17.06% 346	5.37% 109	2,028	1.89
Lack of recreational opportunities	29.61% 592	41.17% 823	21.76% 435	7.45% 149	1,999	2.15
Lack of entertainment options	24.57% 499	33.43% 679	26.49% 538	15.51% 315	2,031	2.48
Lack of employment opportunities	24.54% 492	36.36% 729	26.43% 530	12.67% 254	2,005	2.40
Economic Disparities	23.54% 469	39.06% 778	26.15% 521	11.24% 224	1,992	2.36
Lack of availability of some services and lack of after-hours options	23.01% 462	34.76% 698	29.43% 591	12.80% 257	2,008	2.45
Too much commercial development	20.88% 415	28.32% 563	30.73% 611	20.07% 399	1,988	2.70
Lack of affordable living	19.87% 396	32.21% 642	32.81% 654	15.10% 301	1,993	2.58
Housing (variety, quality, quantity)	19.41% 386	40.27% 801	30.52% 607	9.80% 195	1,989	2.41
Lack of community character	17.62% 348	42.08% 831	27.85% 550	12.46% 246	1,975	2.48
Lack of commercial development	16.21% 327	33.96% 685	31.28% 631	18.54% 374	2,017	2.71

The top five items ranked by survey participants as most important opportunities for improvement within the County were utilities, traffic/roads, development encroachment onto sensitive environmental/agricultural land, visual blight/clutter along roadsides, and lack of recreational opportunities.

Q11.

In the future, what types of development should the County encourage?
(Check all that apply)

Answered: 2,124 Skipped: 9

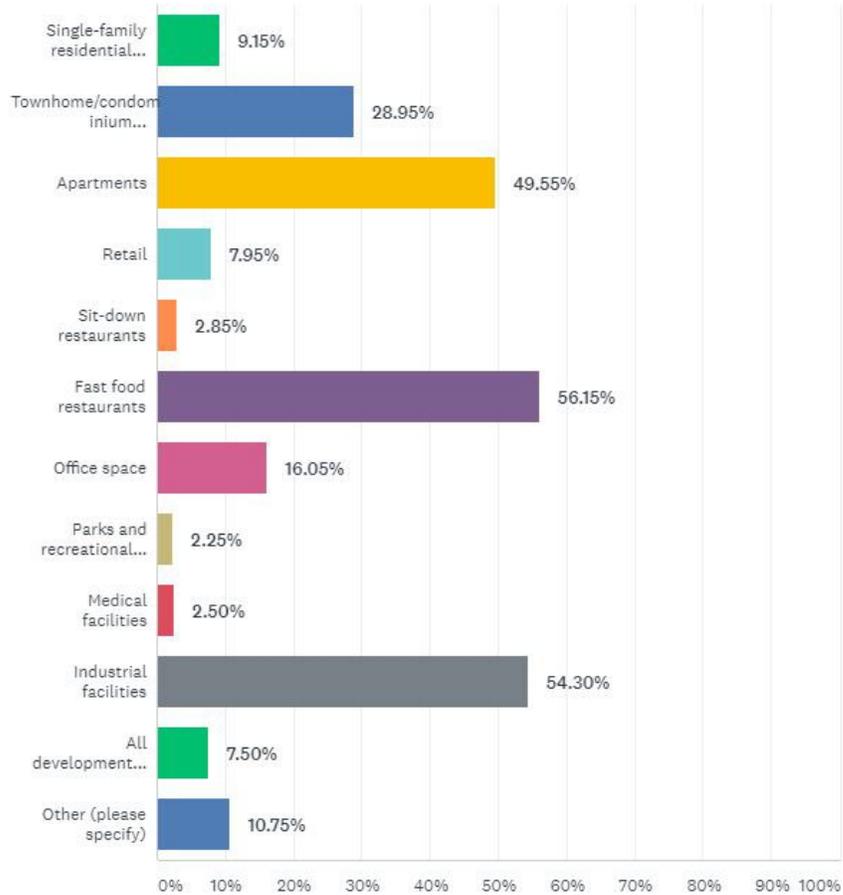
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
▼ Parks and recreational facilities		73.12% 1,553
▼ Sit-down restaurants		65.87% 1,399
▼ Small scale retail and open-air markets		65.87% 1,399
▼ Medical facilities		58.33% 1,239
▼ Single-family residential development		52.02% 1,105
▼ Clean industries		46.52% 988
▼ Housing for seniors		46.05% 978
▼ Entertainment facilities		44.49% 945
▼ Townhome/condominium development		26.18% 556
▼ Large and Big Box retail		21.14% 449
▼ Apartments		14.74% 313
▼ Lodging (hotels, motels, other...)		14.64% 311
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses	14.27% 303
▼ Office space		9.65% 205
▼ Fast food restaurants		9.60% 204
▼ All development should stay exactly as it is		3.53% 75
Total Respondents: 2,124		

Survey participants listed parks and recreational facilities as the top type of development the County should encourage followed by sit down restaurants, small scale retail and open-air markets, medical facilities, and single-family residential development (in that order).

Q12.

In the future, what types of development should the County discourage?
(Check all that apply)

Answered: 2,000 Skipped: 133



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fast food restaurants	56.15%	1,123
Industrial facilities	54.30%	1,086
Apartments	49.55%	991
Townhome/condominium development	28.95%	579
Office space	16.05%	321
Other (please specify)	10.75%	215
Single-family residential development	9.15%	183
Retail	7.95%	159
All development should stay exactly as it is	7.50%	150
Sit-down restaurants	2.85%	57
Medical facilities	2.50%	50
Parks and recreational facilities	2.25%	45
Total Respondents: 2,000		

Open ended responses for question 12 asking survey respondents what the County should discourage included a range of responses. The following is a word cloud highlighting how often certain subject were mentioned:



Q13.

Q13 Describe your vision for Brunswick County.



Open ended responses for Question 13 asking participants to describe their vision for Brunswick County (graphically described the word cloud on prior page) included

maintaining the existing environmental appeal of the land, improvements to roads and utilities, mitigation of unchecked development in favor of smarter, affordable housing and a variety of retail options. Safe and accessible healthcare with access to natural open spaces and well-maintained recreational facilities.

Q14.

Please list two (2) things that could be done to make our county a better place to live, work, and play.

etc improvement highway water quality people allow Stop well roadways
bike walking water Southport Improve roads especially seniors
infrastructure residents recreation support safe attract see
bike paths will places many business activities
Clean water along shopping small business
Brunswick County options encourage control Keep
public transportation beaches large Clean new need
schools development public parks homes
areas go Better bike lanes roads including
building facilities county use community
housing developments affordable housing fast food
Improve restaurants access walking biking retail maintain
housing living planning transportation services litter
biking trails industry Better roads walking trails traffic bring
provide Continue Less resources work land jobs Create opportunities
way growth local increase one Develop drinking water entertainment Limit
Add Make

Participant responses to things that could be done to make Brunswick County a better place to live, work, and play included a very diverse list of items. Most sentiment applauds existing quality of life in Brunswick County but supports continued development in a smart, environmentally responsible manner focusing on wise transportation improvements, encouragement of affordable housing alternatives and quality of life of both senior citizens and growing families.

Q15.

Please share any additional input that you think is important to the future of Brunswick County.

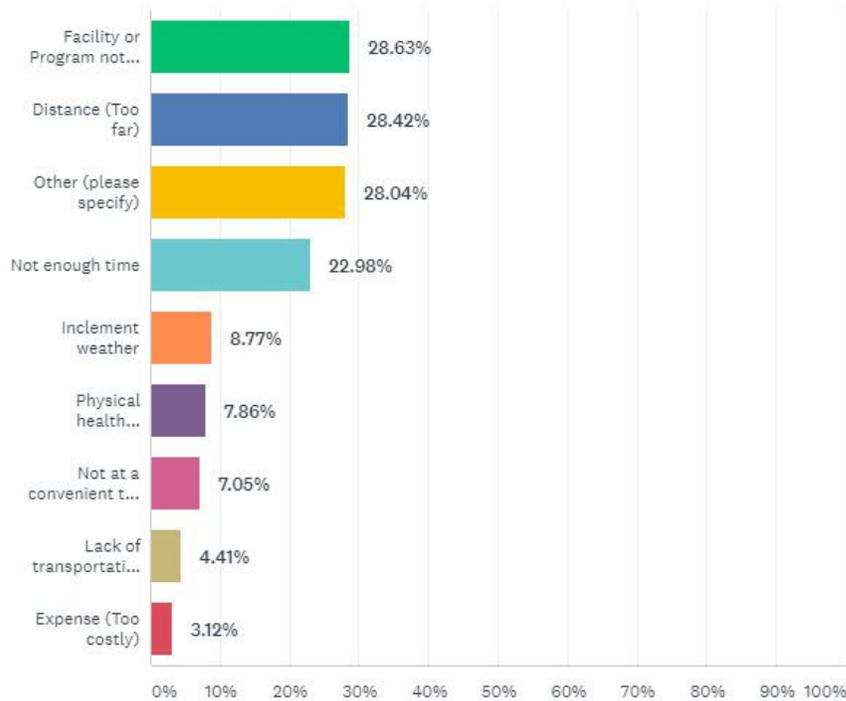
bring drive Myrtle Beach focus improve one services Leland great things
encourage homes opportunities left become small business water
concerned parks high think local housing Holden Beach None now
businesses work live Clean water infrastructure provide
going land many maintain roads change will much
beaches N community us better already
Keep s county way need developing area use
Brunswick County retirees growth control
development Southport building future plan love
people important residents protect make coming grow
Please Continue children schools population support towns traffic
families new properties seniors Brunswick places highway access years
Clean needs better Want jobs see education don t young people Stop big etc
increasing

Additional input reiterated many of the desires for better infrastructure and support for supporting environmentally sound development projects and not spoiling the existing natural beauty of the County. More mentions of the needs for growing families included interest in expanding schools, parks, and other public services.

Q16.

Current health risks related to COVID-19 affect participation and availability of many public recreation options. However, prior to the health crisis, what was the greatest barrier to your households' regular use of public parks or recreational facilities?

Answered: 1,858 Skipped: 275



The top four responses provided by participants regarding what barriers to regular use of public parks or recreational facilities were not enough time, other, distance to facilities, and facility or program not offered. Most of these responses indicate the need to expand parks and recreation facilities in improve access and convenience for residents the word cloud below offers additional detail from the “other” category which was selected:



Q17.

Prior to the need to socially distance (COVID-19), How frequently would you or others in your household have visited the following facilities in a typical year?

Answered: 2,107 Skipped: 26

	REGULARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Eating out at area restaurants or visiting area breweries/distilleries	70.61% 1,480	23.04% 483	5.06% 106	1.29% 27	2,096	1.37
▼ Brunswick Beaches	71.34% 1,379	21.37% 413	6.00% 116	1.29% 25	1,933	1.37
▼ Area Farmer's/Artisan Markets	38.83% 810	40.65% 848	15.44% 322	5.08% 106	2,086	1.87
▼ Public River/Creek/Stream access points (dock/piers/observation platforms)	31.99% 644	39.29% 791	20.81% 419	7.90% 159	2,013	2.05
▼ Area Golf Courses	27.71% 572	16.42% 339	14.87% 307	40.99% 846	2,064	2.69
▼ Area Greenways/Trails	23.27% 481	35.90% 742	22.59% 467	18.24% 377	2,067	2.36
▼ Area Museums/Historical Sites	16.14% 334	46.43% 961	25.85% 535	11.59% 240	2,070	2.33
▼ Area Canoe/Kayak launches	11.82% 245	24.23% 502	29.01% 601	34.94% 724	2,072	2.87
▼ Area Ball Fields/Game Courts	11.29% 231	17.99% 368	28.01% 573	42.72% 874	2,046	3.02
▼ Area Playgrounds	10.90% 223	21.27% 435	27.73% 567	40.10% 820	2,045	2.97
▼ Area Public Picnic Shelters	7.47% 153	25.78% 528	33.20% 680	33.54% 687	2,048	2.93

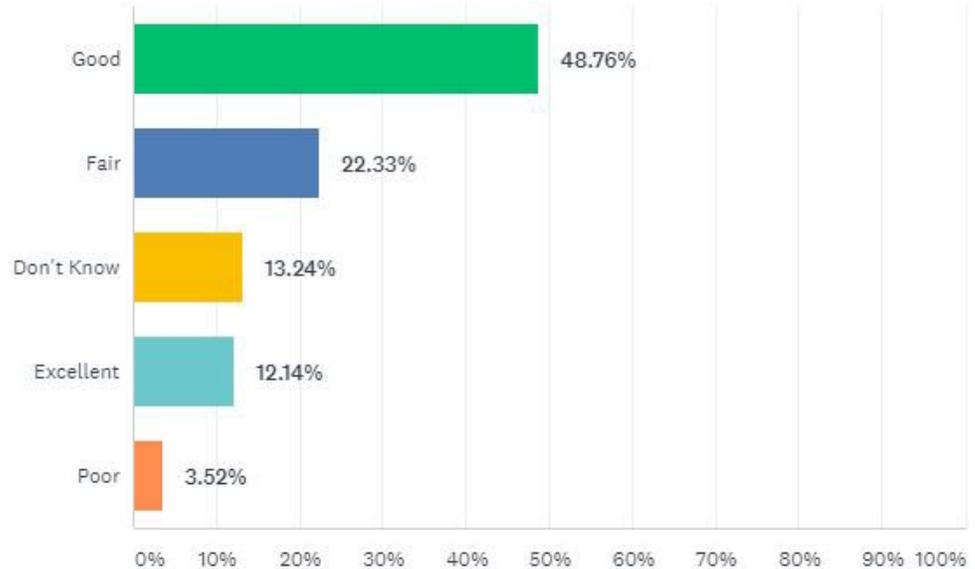
When asked about what activities survey participants reported frequently visiting (prior to COVID-19 restrictions), eating out at area restaurants or visiting area breweries, etc. was top of the list at nearly 71% and tied with visiting the Brunswick Beaches. Below is an analysis of open-ended responses related to what frequently visited facilities. These answers highlight the quality-of-life residents enjoy and would like to preserve as development continues. Other notable activities included visiting art and farmer's markets and visiting public water access points.

trails farmers markets access dogs bigger walking Need Brunswick
 Southport Music library senior center regularly Love
 visit greenways parks greenways trails area swimming
 beach use restaurants boating shopping events
 county enough good Center local one concerts Dog parks
 Boat Ramps

Q18.

Overall, How would you rate County Park Facilities?

Answered: 2,100 Skipped: 33



around Ocean Isle Beach please clean well maintained addition Sunset Beach recreation
Holden Beach fields bike paths dog little add seniors center renovations new wish also location
OIB Park time love know clean greenway shade along much available beach
maintained nice bigger county parks trees trails town use pickleball courts
great bike trails facilities lots parks taxes need adults
areas lack better Leland county walking trails enough
parks near dog parks limited access River many near playgrounds go
ball fields especially Town Creek others space walk Calabash located always
preserved offer way excellent update feel pool don't shelters kids pickle ball courts love see
programming rarely use building Brunswick Nature Park keep Lockwood Folly park large

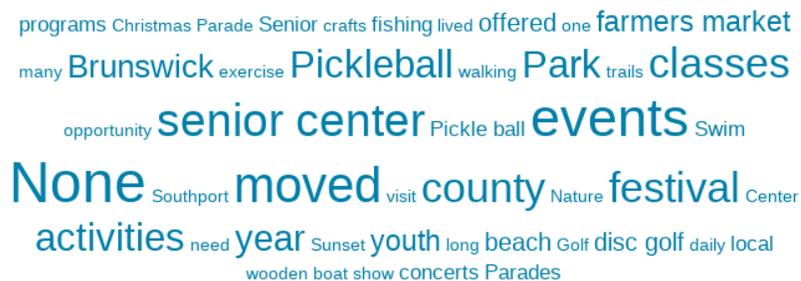
The above open-ended comments for how respondents would rate existing County park facilities supported desires for both active and passive recreation facilities for families and seniors.

Q19.

Before the current need for social distancing occurred, in which of the following recreation programs and special events would you or others in your household participate on a regular basis?

Answered: 1,927 Skipped: 206

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Summer Concert Series and Movie Nights (hosted by area municipalities)	69.95% 1,348
NC 4th of July Festival	60.20% 1,160
NC Oyster Festival	47.48% 915
NC Festival by the Sea	46.81% 902
Fitness/Instructional Classes, Tennis Lessons, etc.	33.00% 636
Area Gallery Walks	31.60% 609
Family Oriented Community Events (Little Princess Ball, Grand Tea, Halloween, Easter Events)	15.72% 303
50+ Over Day Trips	14.37% 277
50+ Athletics (Basketball, Softball, Golf, Co-Ed Volleyball, etc.)	10.48% 202
Senior Games/SilverArts Programs	10.02% 193
Boys & Majors Dixie Baseball/Dixie Belles & Debs	5.55% 107
County Youth Soccer	5.40% 104
Summer Camps	4.77% 92
County Youth Football/Cheerleading	4.05% 78
Special Olympics	3.89% 75
County Youth Basketball	3.48% 67
Total Respondents: 1,927	



Question 19 asks what programs and special events survey respondents most frequently participated in (prior to COVID-19 restrictions). The top five activities were fitness/instructional classes, the NC Festival by The Sea, the NC Oyster Festival, the 4th of July Festival and municipality offered summer concert series/movie nights. Above is a word cloud graphic resulting from an analysis of the open-ended comments some participants added.

Q20.

How often in the past 24 months have you or members of your family visited the following County Parks Facilities?

Answered: 2,081 Skipped: 52

	REGULARLY	OCCASIONALLY	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL
▼ Ocean Isle Beach Park	15.41% 303	23.19% 456	18.11% 356	43.29% 851	1,966
▼ Brunswick Nature Park or Park Picnic Pavilion	8.54% 169	27.84% 551	19.56% 387	44.06% 872	1,979
▼ Shallotte Park	8.31% 161	19.67% 381	17.76% 344	54.26% 1,051	1,937
▼ Smithville District Park	6.10% 114	11.45% 214	10.38% 194	72.07% 1,347	1,869
▼ Town Creek Park	5.44% 103	14.20% 269	12.40% 235	67.97% 1,288	1,895
▼ Dutchman Creek Park	5.01% 95	12.92% 245	11.45% 217	70.62% 1,339	1,896
▼ Leland Community Park	3.78% 72	12.61% 240	11.51% 219	72.10% 1,372	1,903
▼ Lockwood Folly Community Park	3.22% 61	10.71% 203	14.41% 273	71.66% 1,358	1,895
▼ Northwest District Park	2.55% 47	4.51% 83	8.31% 153	84.64% 1,559	1,842
▼ Cedar Grove Park	2.19% 41	6.72% 126	10.94% 205	80.15% 1,502	1,874
▼ Waccamaw Park	1.50% 28	8.39% 157	11.70% 219	78.41% 1,467	1,871
▼ Navassa Park	0.65% 12	3.40% 63	7.29% 135	88.67% 1,643	1,853

The top five park facilities survey respondents reported visiting in the past 24 months were: 5. Town Creek Park, 4. Smithville District Park, 3. Shallotte Park (district), 2. Brunswick Nature Park/Picnic Pavilion, 1. Ocean Isle Beach Park.

Q21.

The following is a list of recreation activities that could be offered at a public park or recreation facility. Select from "Most" to "Least" important. Please consider other members of your household.

Answered: 2,102 Skipped: 31

	MOST IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	LEAST IMPORTANT	TOTAL
▼ Jogging/Walking Trails	60.75% 1,249	27.72% 570	7.88% 162	3.65% 75	2,056
▼ Open Space/Natural Areas	53.98% 1,078	29.44% 588	10.27% 205	6.31% 126	1,997
▼ Nature Based Recreation (Nature Walks, Wildlife Observation Areas)	51.30% 1,048	34.21% 699	10.77% 220	3.72% 76	2,043
▼ Bicycle Trails (paved)	47.46% 961	29.19% 591	13.53% 274	9.83% 199	2,025
▼ Picnic Areas	31.31% 624	37.83% 754	20.52% 409	10.34% 206	1,993
▼ Indoor Fitness Facility	30.76% 610	28.95% 574	17.04% 338	23.25% 461	1,983
▼ Community Center	28.65% 571	34.82% 694	21.68% 432	14.85% 296	1,993
▼ Outdoor Playground	26.94% 531	27.25% 537	19.89% 392	25.93% 511	1,971
▼ Environmental Center	23.86% 466	30.41% 594	24.12% 471	21.61% 422	1,953
▼ Community Garden	23.51% 462	28.70% 564	24.83% 488	22.95% 451	1,965
▼ Teen Center	17.42% 340	22.75% 444	22.03% 430	37.81% 738	1,952
▼ Game Courts (Corn Hole, Horseshoe Pits, Boccie Ball, Pétanque)	17.03% 338	30.33% 602	28.97% 575	23.68% 470	1,985

Table continued below

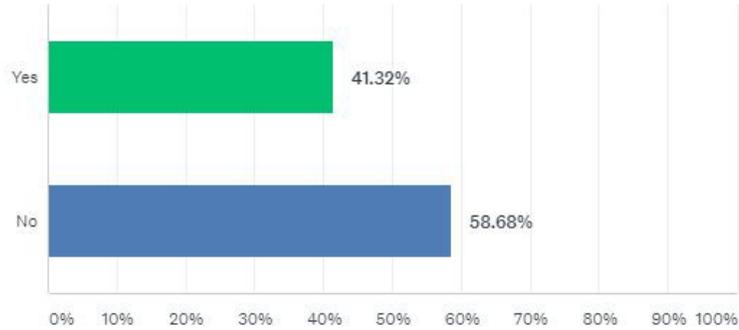
Outdoor Fitness Stations	17.13% 336	31.06% 609	27.28% 535	24.53% 481	1,961
Spray-ground/Splash Pad/Interactive Water Feature	16.34% 321	23.22% 456	23.88% 469	36.56% 718	1,964
Off-road Biking	16.28% 316	20.92% 406	25.61% 497	37.20% 722	1,941
Indoor Gymnasium	16.12% 312	20.72% 401	25.48% 493	37.67% 729	1,935
Multi-purpose Field	14.34% 279	29.29% 570	27.85% 542	28.52% 555	1,946
Facility Rentals	12.99% 253	23.37% 455	25.42% 495	38.21% 744	1,947
Pickle-ball Courts	11.28% 225	19.81% 395	25.08% 500	43.83% 874	1,994
Tennis Courts	10.67% 208	24.27% 473	29.76% 580	35.30% 688	1,949
Baseball/Softball Fields	9.67% 190	20.61% 405	27.33% 537	42.39% 833	1,965
Outdoor Basketball Courts	9.13% 179	20.14% 395	26.98% 529	43.75% 858	1,961
Disc Golf	8.05% 156	17.59% 341	29.14% 565	45.23% 877	1,939
Skateboard Course/Obstacles	7.55% 147	14.33% 279	23.22% 452	54.90% 1,069	1,947
Sand Volleyball Courts	6.72% 131	20.41% 398	33.54% 654	39.33% 767	1,950
Ice Skating	5.70% 111	11.09% 216	19.82% 386	63.40% 1,235	1,948
Climbing Wall	4.89% 96	15.01% 295	26.82% 527	53.28% 1,047	1,965
Shuffleboard Courts	4.73% 92	16.65% 324	30.06% 585	48.56% 945	1,946
High-ropes Course	4.64% 91	13.50% 265	25.32% 497	56.55% 1,110	1,963
Over-sized Outdoor Chess Board	4.15% 81	9.58% 187	24.44% 477	61.83% 1,207	1,952

Question 21 asked for participant's opinion on what could be added to a public park or recreation facility. These are the top 10 most important activities: community garden, environmental center, outdoor playground, community center, indoor fitness center, picnic areas, paved trails (bicycling), nature-based recreation, open space/natural areas, and jogging/walking trails.

Q22.

Do you use any school or private facilities (Fitness & Aquatic Center, private fitness clubs, etc.) for recreation or leisure activities?

Answered: 2,086 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	41.32%	862
No	58.68%	1,224
TOTAL		2,086

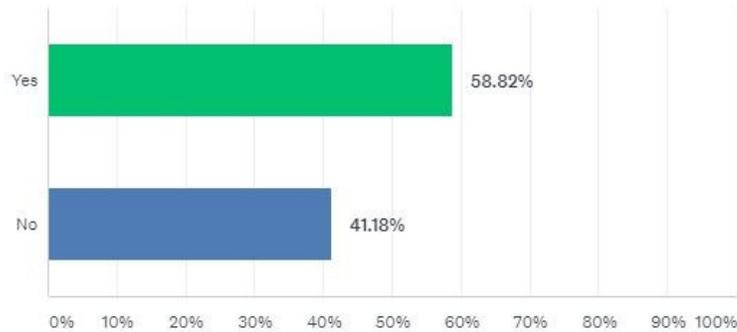
Commensurate with a community of many senior residents, the responses about use of school or private facilities show a narrow majority of those that do not use any. However, a not so insignificant number of survey participants (41.32%) do report using school or private facilities for recreation. This points to the potential need to establish or reassess the need for shared use agreements with these alternative recreation providers. The following is an analysis of open-ended comments some participants provided with their answers. Several responses mentioned using either private recreation offered by exclusive neighborhoods or the community college pool.

private community North Myrtle beach Wellness Center Magnolia Greens Rec Waterford
 Life quest Little Ctr Brunswick Comm College Indoor pool Crow Creek pool gym House Pickleball
 swimming Life Quest Winding River Bolivia Southport parks BCCC covid
 St James Plantation Seascape Dinah Gore Fitness Wilmington Use
 recreation center Body Edge club Pilates Brunswick Forest Fitness
 exercise Dinah Gore Neighborhood Ocean Ridge Plantation beach
 Ocean Ridge golf Fitness Aquatic Center tennis club fit
 fitness county Aquatic center Forest Fitness Center
 Brunswick Forest Gore Fitness Aquatic
 fitness center Brunswick Forest Wellness St James
 Saint James BCC Gore Aquatic Center pool Gore Fitness Center
 facilities college gym Dinah
 Brunswick Community College Edge
 Cape Fear Fitness within Center BSL private pickleball
 Sea Trail Rooms YMCA Brunswick county senior center Magnolia Greens
 Brunswick Tru fit BCC pool trails Community College Amenities
 Anytime Fitness need community Core Planet Fitness BBC
 Brunswick Plantation Movement Works Clubs St James Holden Beach
 YMCA Wilmington golf courses Compass Pointe Dinah Gore Aquatic HOA quest Little River
 TruFit Greens Rec Center Shallotte Forest Wellness Center fitness aquatic hour fitness

Q23.

Do you feel there is a need for additional County owned park space?

Answered: 2,001 Skipped: 132



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.82%	1,177
No	41.18%	824
TOTAL		2,001

Community bike hiking trails Walking biking trails USE tennis courts know Green Swamp located disc golf fishing around Natural Hwy Nature Park preserve dog park good river maybe near near water Indoor pool bike paths outdoor location Leland places Calabash waterway pool nature walks Bike trails Bolivia sure along access swimming pool picnic Additional nature trails much nature activities facilities kayaking walking trails Skate park area green space park available county water trails Greenway Southport small need Natural areas space Southport Oak Island Beach fields open space water access large Hiking biking picnic areas fitness Indoor people Shallotte nice land indoor outdoor etc roads Close hiking center Supply playground NC walking anywhere Brunswick County Leland area town near Southport Holden Beach near beach open South Brunswick public biking walking trails kayak launch Waterfront park space walking biking

Please see above analysis of open-ended responses provided for need for additional County owned park space. Several requests for additional trails linking existing parks and destinations with towns and municipalities were made.

Q24.

Please list below, any recreation programs or special events that you would like to see offered or expanded within the Brunswick County Parks & Recreation system?

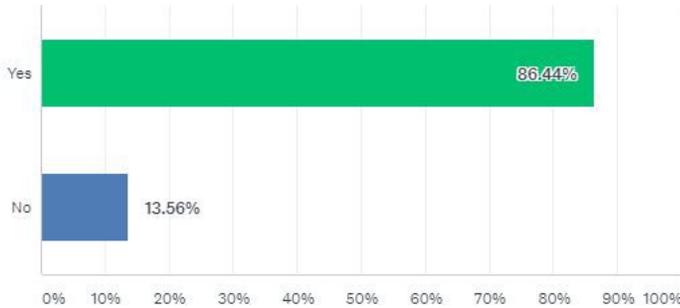
Indoor pool open sure Additional lessons many festivals exercise classes trails
baseball sports people Adult anything Tennis day Swimming Improved Biking
Water N fitness classes pool large kayaking soccer fitness access
youth markets kids History walking trails Dog parks nature
YMCA walks Boating activities see concerts
opportunities indoor ages outdoor art None public
events disc golf programs exercise park family
area Pickle ball seniors local classes run
community trips facilities gym county use need
outdoor concerts Bike trails tours expanded Music beach great
teens NA good Brunswick County Pickleball free swimming pool
residents offerings educational children basketball etc tournaments yoga nature trails
Farmers markets Oak Island dancing things Center Hiking fishing birding
swim lessons bike paths

Responses to Question 24 indicate that survey participants prefer a wide variety of recreation programs and special events including traditional passive recreation such as trails and open spaces but also nature/water-based activities and concerts. Indoor programs such as fitness classes and senior activities were significant. Many participants indicated desire for another indoor pool in the County.

Q25.

Would you support expanding recreational opportunities in Brunswick County?

Answered: 1,998 Skipped: 135



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.44%	1,727
No	13.56%	271
TOTAL		1,998

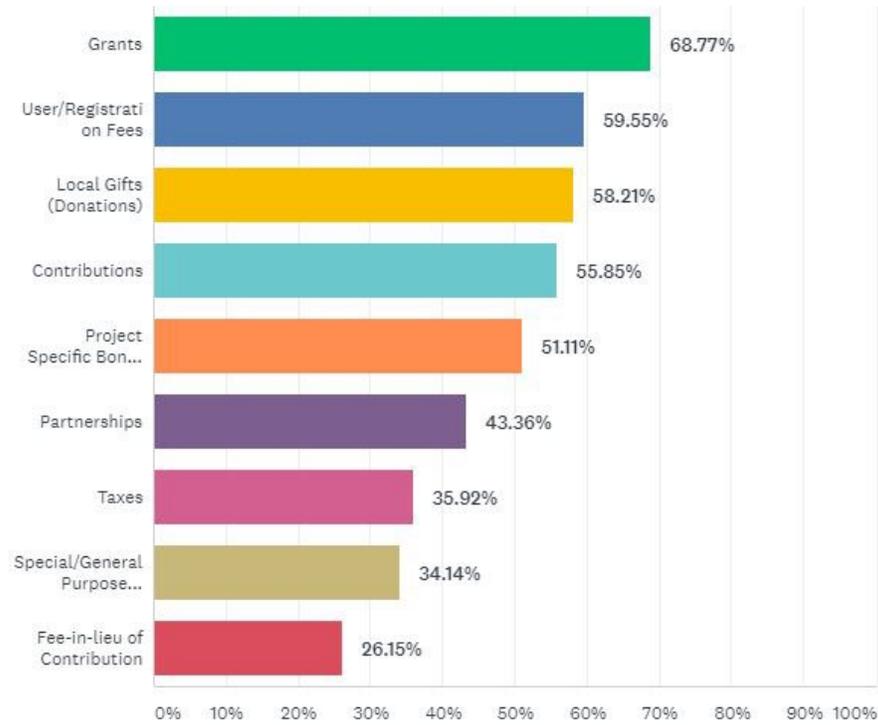
ages busy outdoor activities tourism pool stay offer already growth available
everyone want provide beautiful Brunswick County Improve quality life much
important health youth local children costs support growing recreational now
facilities time expand public help many keep improves recreation
space residents love exercise outdoor important
Recreational activities area think people great
opportunities build good nature need promotes
community things county kids parks will
activities life healthy enhance families citizens seniors
one use teens quality life seems active fitness population us
outdoors health People need encourage give lacking enjoy health fitness
options Increases recreational opportunities access S always outside long
benefit especially place together programs see make beach live enough

Please see above analysis of open-ended responses related to whether participants would support expanding existing recreation opportunities. Several responses highlighted the positive benefits of recreation and its impact on quality of life in Brunswick County.

Q26.

What funding sources are you willing to support for County recreation improvements, (i.e. build new facilities, and/or programs)? Check all that apply.

Answered: 2,027 Skipped: 106



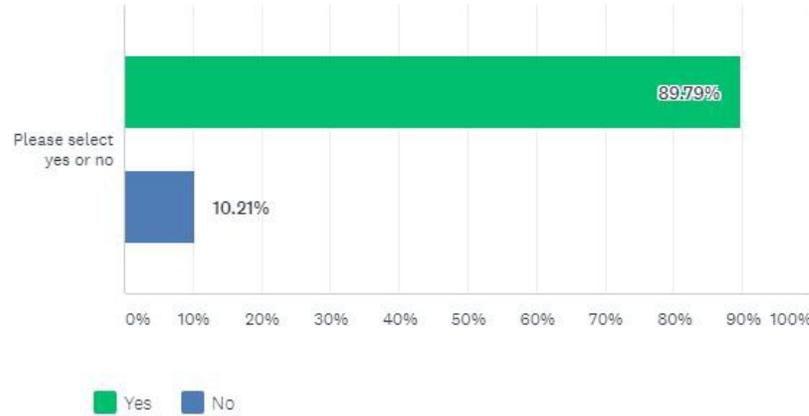
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Grants	68.77%	1,394
User/Registration Fees	59.55%	1,207
Local Gifts (Donations)	58.21%	1,180
Contributions	55.85%	1,132
Project Specific Bond Referendums	51.11%	1,036
Partnerships	43.36%	879
Taxes	35.92%	728
Special/General Purpose Foundations	34.14%	692
Fee-in-lieu of Contribution	26.15%	530
Total Respondents: 2,027		

Clearly, survey participants prefer the use of grants and user fees to pay for County improvements followed by local gifts/donations and contributions. However, there was significant support for project specific bond referendums as well.

Q27.

Would you be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or use a special facility?

Answered: 2,067 Skipped: 66



There were a significant number (89.79%) of responses to whether survey participants would be willing to pay a nominal fee to attend an event or special use facility.

Q28.

What is one issue or opportunity you believe is critically important to address in the Parks & Recreation Plan?

development Oak Island live indoor swimming events Funding Accessibility pool
walking trails many one land Expand include free swimming pool place
bike lanes beach sports parks recreation Cleanliness public school plan
disc golf locations future opportunities N
Brunswick County recreational trails services build library
programs variety biking trails Availability Keep center
community sure county lack areas space
need make sure parks enjoy facilities None
access time use maintaining Safety large activities
local safe year round people outside bike paths something
residents enough families transportation better close available Also
offer Southport walking biking natural areas youth don t ages children
seniors allow will active open space kids provide know maintenance
Biking walking recreation dog park age groups walk make support

(Q28 Continued on next page)

Open-ended responses to what issues or opportunities survey participants felt were critically important to address are arranged graphically above. There was interest in improved and expanded parks and park safety, more family-oriented activities and additional trails and open-spaces.

Survey Conclusions

Survey participants generally expressed the opinion that the County offers a good quality of life, and there is an appreciation for the natural environment. Respondents support continued smart development, streamlined permitting processes and, quality public services aimed at addressing the needs of the large senior and retiree population but also desire more and better paying jobs, and affordable housing to support the working families that keep the County such a pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Survey participants understand the need for, and desire plans to manage inevitable population growth. Concerns about traffic congestion, stormwater mitigation and a desire for more commercial/retail opportunities was evident. Quality of life was paramount with expansion of parks and recreation facilities being of high importance.

Community Comments Provided via Project Email Outlet

Several residents provided their comments via the Blueprint Brunswick project email outlet provided on the project website and marketed at all public meetings. Generally, the comments provided were in line with data collected via the public survey and community meeting discussions.

Messages ranged from a desire for more accurate GPS data on outlying parcels of land in the county, to wanting the county to develop more extensive biking and running paths, greenways and trails, and connectivity of area residential developments to an overall system of public paths. There were comments about the need to clean up derelict properties that posed a preserved esthetic detriment to the need to remove hazardous trees and vegetation from county owned properties adjacent to new properties. Other comments expressed frustration with vehicular traffic and need for better management of highways to concerns about flooding and the cost of housing.

Focus Group Interviews

Eighteen separate focus group categories were created, and relevant groups were invited to partake in virtual meetings over two separate days, in October of 2020. Some meetings were held at the same time by different members of the project team (consultants/County staff). Large groups were divided into three sub-groups (A, B, & C) to manage time and staffing. All meetings were virtual and began with formal introductions and project background presented by the consultants or County staff.

The following is a summary of each group/sub-groups' conversation themes, concerns, and ideas.

Group 1 - Economic Development (Sub-group A)

The first of the Economic Development Group meetings occurred on November 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Attendees included project team members, a member of the South Brunswick Business Development Committee and Brunswick County Tourism Development Authority.

Discussion centered on the need for a larger labor force to support the construction, home improvement and healthcare industries. Training and retention of skilled labor also was mentioned as an issue affecting the available work force in the County.

The group agreed that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was affecting economic development in the County, but opinions were mixed on the effects. Some felt the County should try and diversify the business development so not to rely entirely on tourism while others felt that the pandemic had expedited home purchases and construction.

Everyone agreed that small businesses were the heart of Brunswick County and in general could use additional County support in the way of streamlined permitting, tax reform and smart growth decisions with respect to infrastructure projects.

Group 1 - Economic Development (Sub-group B)

The second of the Economic Development Group meetings met on November 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Attendees included project team members from County Planning and Zoning, Brunswick BID, Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Brunswick Community College Economic & Workforce Development, business members from Cygnus and Coating & Adhesives and two County residents.

Discussion of the group centered around successes and thoughts regarding past and existing commercial development projects in the region including the mega-sites with Columbus County-International Logistics Park and Mid-Atlantic. There was a discussion concerning the sewer work for the aforementioned projects.

Ideas about what businesses considering relocation to Brunswick County were looking for included the need for buildings and building shells of about 50,000-75,000 square feet in size up to 100,000 square feet or more. Concerns about losing out to counties in South Carolina were thought to be due to a lack of ready sites and access to sewer and water capacity.

The group briefly touched on the idea that the County should try and attract technology companies and companies without high pollution potential. There was a consensus that County staff were great to work with, the County was business friendly and had a fairly low tax rate but, some things were frustrating like the mismatch between recent changes in the fire code and the UDO.

There was discussion about how Cygnus – Bio Pharm was growing and needing larger space. At the time of the focus group meeting, Cygnus was looking at the Leland area and was willing to build their own building to meet their own specifications of 80,000-100,000 square feet with a three-story building.

The group thought the County should continue networking and teamwork efforts to support a workforce training center and small business incubator. Also, the County should take an aggressive stance on transportation improvements overall with special thought on how to expand services into the southern and western parts of the County.

Group 1 - Economic Development (Sub-group C)

The third of the Economic Development Group meetings occurred on November 10, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. Attendees included project team members from County Planning and Zoning, a small business owner, a member of a healthcare group, a representative of a local golf course and a representative of a local banking institution, among others.

Needs mentioned by the group included expansion of Brunswick Community College programs to meet the large and growing demand for skilled workers. There was also a stated need for more healthcare workers, affordable housing, a reassessment of evacuation routes and more utility expansion into affordable housing areas. Other desires by this group were many more public beach access areas, public beach parking, and amenities like restrooms and showers. The group wanted to see the County do more to attract commercial and retail businesses like clothing, electronics, and home improvement stores as well as a movie theater and other entertainment-type venues.

All input indicates an understanding that Brunswick County needs more affordable housing options and job positions to support its development. Affordable housing, work opportunities, education/quality schools and the ability for easy commutes to neighboring jobs in Wilmington can all impact Brunswick County's ability to continue to grow healthily. Assessment of existing impact fees and stormwater regulations should consider how challenging it is to bring affordable housing and commercial development to Brunswick County.

Group 2 – Planned Residential Communities

This group met on November 10, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. The participants in this group included representatives from several different residential communities in the County. Some of the issues mentioned were that planned communities were an important part of Brunswick County's fabric and should be more included in hurricane debris cleanup, recreation, and municipal service planning, etc. According to meeting participants, relationships between planned communities and County government have improved over the years.

This group wanted to see improvements to County recreation facilities to include better connectivity with other neighboring destinations, more events and programs, more access

to healthcare, expansion of senior centers, lower sewer impact costs and, they all agreed that affordable housing was a major issue the County should address.

Group 3 – Infrastructure

This group met on November 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Attendees included project team members from County Planning and Zoning utility providers from the community. Development pressures have increased the need for utility expansion within the County. Delays from transportation projects influence utility improvements. Cooperation and coordination between utility providers, Brunswick County, NCDOT, and developers is critical to seeing needed growth and expansion through.

When asked where underserved areas and priority areas exist in the County, responses included:

- Growth in the Hwy 74/76 corridor - the need for large capacity water and sewer extensions
- The Hwy 130 corridor toward Waccamaw school has the potential for growth
- The County should perform stormwater permitting for all of the County and five municipalities
- Some areas near Brunswick Plantation/Hickman Crossroad have stormwater issues
- Airport Road has an opportunity for growth
- Need for growing infrastructure around existing development
- Need broadband for education and business development
- Holden Beach Road should continue to be a major priority of the County

Group 4 – Public Safety

This group met on November 10, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. A lot of conversation in this group praised the County for its efforts to provide public safety to its residents. There was some discussion about hurricane evacuation planning and how the growing population may make existing routes dangerously congested unless continued efforts to access and plan were not regularly analyzed.

Group 5 – Agriculture/Farming Community

This group met on November 11th, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Agriculture in the form of row cropping and timbering has a long tradition in Brunswick County. This group suggested that there are few young people following in their family's example by carrying on with agricultural endeavors, instead opting to sell valuable land for residential/commercial development.

There is a mix of agricultural types in the County. Timber projects make up the vast majority of what Brunswick County produces agriculturally. The timber business is stable currently. The areas of organic produce and horticultural materials continue to persist. Housing development does put pressure on growers as residential property owners often complain about agricultural operations (truck traffic, perception of environmental damage). This group suggested that landowners that choose not to develop but rather allow natural forest succession to occur deserve a tax break of some kind.

Group 6 – Alliance of Brunswick County Property Owners Associations

This group met on November 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Activities and programs desired by this focus group included:

- Dog parks areas are important. Need for off-leash opportunities for dogs and people to socialize
- Nice sidewalks/trails with attractive landscaping and nice amenities can become a real draw to any County park
- Neighborhoods need connectivity to public destinations

This group mentioned that social and economic issues relating to improving new development in Brunswick County included:

- Lack of employment opportunities - outside of retail/restaurant
- Need more professional related work
- Jobs are in retail/hospitality – County should seek ways to bring decent housing at a reasonable cost

There is a growing need for affordable housing and jobs to support the non-retiree population. Quality of life is critical to attracting and retaining workers. Opportunities for job promotion, good shopping, and desirable recreation facilities/amenities are necessary as well.

Group 7 – Historic/Unincorporated/Rural (Sub-groups A & B)

This group met on November 11th, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. The participants in this group included representatives from several different residential communities in the County. Some of the issues mentioned included:

- Bringing utility expansion to distant parts of the County to spur development potential
- Investment in innovative programs to help residents find jobs
- Work with small communities to help get affordable housing built
- Manage traffic congestion without ruining the character of rural communities
- Invest in more recreation opportunities in older, more historic communities that may have limited things for young people to do
- Support local produce growers and sellers, big business doesn't buy locally

Group 8 – Recreation

This group met on November 11th, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Participants in this discussion mentioned that parks are often the hub of growth centers in many counties. In Brunswick County, the beach areas serve as the primary recreation resource for residents and visitors. However, it was acknowledged that the County has much more to offer in the way of active and passive facilities and natural resources that attract and serve a growing number of people.

Activities that were considered in high demand for the County to support or expand were:

- Trails and greenways
- Water access for canoes/kayaks/fishing
- Pickleball courts
- Community/senior centers
- More event planning for all ages
- Additional indoor recreation for multiple activities (basketball, volleyball, fitness, etc.)
- Educational/arts/performance programming for teens and seniors
- Additional four-season public pools with a variety of uses (lap swimming, zero entry-spray grounds, and therapy pools)

Eco-tourism and nature-based recreation amenities were mentioned as a huge draw for area residents and visitors that the County should continue to develop with more passive and educational opportunities at both new and existing parks. One idea from the group was for the County to develop a large event-based facility to attract larger concerts, festivals, and events similar to a fairground but with day-use park amenities, mountain biking/hiking trails, camping, and nature walks with educational opportunities (example: Venus flytrap). The discussion wrapped up with a talk about how the County needed better pedestrian connectivity to parks, schools, shopping areas, neighboring municipalities, and other trail systems.

Group 9 – Education

This group met on November 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. The talk began with how COVID-19 has made a huge impact on education and how schools and County staff have had to reimagine how to deliver services to County residents in a safe way. The idea that so many students have learned to engage entirely or partially via remote learning was a big part of the solution, but it also highlighted the need for better or expanded broadband across the entire County. Traditional issues related to the transportation of students were still an important topic according to the discussion participants.

The conversation shifted to how Brunswick Community College is a huge resource in the County for employers seeking skilled workers in the healthcare, skilled trades, and technology industries. The Brunswick Guarantee program was heralded as an example of how the County is leading in educational programs aimed at advancing college enrollment in North Carolina.

From this group, land and infrastructure needs were also considered of critical importance about dealing with the impending population increases for the next 10 or more years. Also, the County should make sure that the types and quality of educational resources were attractive to high-wage transplants looking to relocate to the County.

The group supported the idea that Brunswick County Schools and the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department partner more often on shared-use facilities to mitigate costs associated with transportation for afterschool programs, increasing public access to parks on school properties and providing more indoor options for Recreation Department programs.

Group 10 – Development Community

These groups met on November 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Attendees included project team members from County Planning and Zoning. The group was asked about areas where they thought commercial growth should occur and responses included:

- Along Highway 17, Highway 211, and Highway 74/76
- Huge void in the Southport area
- West side of Leland

The group thought that environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas of the County should be protected from development. Affordable housing, including affordable fees to run sewer and other utilities for the development of affordable housing, was an important issue the County should address. The group felt sewer and other impact fees were too high. The group mentioned that simple renovation to existing commercial properties can be limited by expensive or complicated requirements which can negatively impact some developers and business owners.

Group 11 – Partnering Municipalities

This group met on November 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. This was a very informative conversation about how the participating municipalities and County worked together now and how that relationship could strengthen in the future.

Below are topics discussed and themes/ideas from the participants:

Identity

Belville – Desires to keep a small intimate/small-town charm, provide visitor experiences in the natural environment. “Like to live in and love to visit”

Navassa – A growing community desiring water access for boat/kayak launches to the Cape Fear River (more water access coming soon)

Bald Head Island – Ferry access / no internal combustion engine vehicles allowed and very natural island environment

Northwest – Small, park orientated

Services

Belville – Fire Department, Animal Control provided by (Leland); County provides water, sewer, law enforcement and building inspection services. Belville will need help from County and NCDOT with transportation

Navassa – County provides all but law enforcement. Fire, animal control, water, sewer

Bald Head Island – Village provides water and sewer utility but receives peak help from the County; Public Works Department maintains streets and beach access. Funding is received from the County for emergency services

Northwest – Provide law enforcement but all other services are provided by the County

Parks & Recreation

Belville – Recent grant received from Division of Coastal Management for a motorized boat launch. With the Eagle Community growing, need to expand current boat launch to make handicap accessible and access for motorized boats. Looking for assistance from the County for the boardwalk which extends to Old River Road for connection to the downtown area (seeking funding now). Vision 2030 process has started. Pavilion built with assistance from Duke Energy needs to be utilized.

Navassa – Have ballfields, etc. but need pedestrian and bike facilities.

Bald Head Island – Have four parks but no programs. Kayak launch, marina (dog) park, internal park; no County-related park; CAMA permit to replace pier and boat launch lost in a storm.

Northwest – Northwest District Park is only park. More demand of parks with growth especially around Sandy Creek. Population is not reflective of the County population but consists of young families.

Opportunities and Partnerships

A consensus that the County is doing a great job informing municipalities and supporting all the growth on the horizon not just about planning but also emergency management. (Covid 19 highlighting the need for partnerships)

There was a discussion about corridor along Hwy74-76 which is ripe for manufacturing jobs and associated housing demand that comes with commercial development. Transitional use = live/work/play goals.

Single-family home neighborhoods are worried about new apartment development and increased traffic and stormwater runoff.

All participants mentioned a desire to support growth while maintaining a balance in community identity and small-town values. The group supported ordinances to mitigate unchecked growth.

A similar worry about the rise of tiny home communities was discussed (smaller homes and lots, interest from out-of-town developers).

Northwest ordinance would allow tiny homes, interest in more moderate price points.

There were also concerns about short-term rentals in homes in neighborhoods. Cars parking on streets with on-street parking ordinance

Short-term rentals are more lucrative than long-term rentals and add to affordable option issues.

Bald Head Island mentioned more development but not a shift in the type of development. Zoning in place before incorporation and still remains effective. The property owner association has such strong controls. Still have more approved for development (not built out) so there is a need to increase sewer capacity. A concern for short-term rentals is the collection of accommodations taxes.

Expectations

Coordination/information sharing. (Example the economic impact study from Belville)

Add to amenities in Navassa that help young families and improve affordable living.

Group 12 – Community/Public Health

This group met on November 12, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. The group felt that senior residents should be able to age in place in Brunswick County. This would entail multiple types of housing at various cost levels. Overall, the group was interested in how expensive the cost of living was for so many County residents and that this fact should be a major problem the County should seek to remedy.

The quality of life was linked to access to public parks, trails, and healthcare. However, this group wanted to see more opportunities for families to work and gain advancement and higher pay to save and move up the economic wealth ladder. The high number of retirees was a potential asset in the way of adding to the demand for healthcare and other service jobs but also meant that other markets that cater to families and young adults would be less attracted to the County.

Another concern for this group was perceived access limitations to a mental health facility, drug rehab clinics, and support/resources for families affected by substance abuse.

Group 13 – Environmental/Natural Resources

This group met on November 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Attendees included representatives from the USDA Resource Conservation, NC Forest Service, Eagle Island Coalition, NC Wildlife, Cape Fear Architecture Conservation Collaboration, and others.

This group stressed the importance of the vast natural areas in Brunswick County as being a great asset that needs to be protected and conserved. The group felt maritime forest and riparian systems were of particularly high importance to identify and protect. Impacts from transportation and large residential developments were concerning. This group felt that mitigation of these impacts through smart, ecologically responsible designs and development practices, was possible. One of the major ideas was for neighborhoods developed around the preservation of natural areas, limited sprawl with denser housing, and interspersed with connected corridors of forest and wetlands as opposed to clear-cutting and piping of streams.

Group 14 – Senior Community

This group met on November 17, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. This group began a discussion about the desire for the senior community to be able to age in place and have affordable housing choices and a good quality of life in Brunswick County. Many in the group felt like adult playgrounds, fitness stations, and recreation programs should be expanded to meet the growing needs of senior residents.

Suggestions on how the County could continue to assist in solving senior issues included:

- Allocation of County funds to acquire land around existing senior centers to expand affordable senior housing, transportation, and medical resources.
- Needs for the County to take a lead proactive role in coordination efforts to ensure collaboration, efficient delivery of services, and infrastructure.
- County should waive fees for the development of parks and senior housing projects.
- The County could underwrite projects for lending.
- Develop partnerships with transportation companies to provide low-cost trips to parks, doctor's appointments, shopping, etc. while also building more walkable areas with connectivity to destinations seniors regularly visit.

Group 15 – Community/Service/Faith

This group met on November 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Attendees included project team members from County Planning and Zoning, a County non-profit coordinator, and members from area churches and service organizations (Christian Recovery Center).

The conversation with this group started with the mention of how COVID-19 has complicated efforts to serve the community but has not stopped groups from serving. Issues related to making sure disadvantaged residents have access to meals and shelter need continued support from Brunswick County.

These groups mentioned the need for more programs and beds for residents needing help due to direct or indirect impacts related to substance abuse. This led to further discussion about how Brunswick County is severely lacking affordable housing and opportunities for gainful employment for traditionally low-income populations.

Group 16 – Transportation

The first of the economic development group meetings occurred on November 17, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Issues of resident mobility generally were centered on seniors' access to both Brunswick Senior Resources and other options. Getting the word out to senior groups should be a county effort. Other mobility discussions mentioned the need for more multimodal options such as bicycle paths and greenways. Another big interest of this group was roadways, their maintenance, and their expansion. Congestion of roadways was discussed and a program to promote carpooling was mentioned as something that should be broadened and better funded. Public transit expansion was also a desire of this group.

Group 17 – Affordable Living, Workforce Housing & Homelessness

This group met on November 17, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. The major concerns of this group were the need for affordable housing and programs to incentivize the construction of low to moderate-income housing options to support working-class residents. One suggestion talked about was lowering impact fees and streamlining regulations to offset barriers to building low-income and transitional housing. Another common idea was for continued and expanded collaboration between non-profit organizations, private businesses, and Brunswick County to solve the affordability problem with housing.

Group 18 – Youth (Sub-groups A & B)

This group met on November 17, 2020, at 5 p.m. The meeting participants wanted us to know that they enjoyed the weather, views, and nature in Brunswick County. Also, they appreciated the proximity to larger cities but not the everyday issues that come with living with a denser population. A major concern for young people was clearing too many trees for the development of homes. This group wanted to keep as many trees as possible while still allowing for new homes. This group encouraged the addition of public beach accesses and thought that existing parks were good, but that the County needed more for the future. Aesthetic renovations to older parks were mentioned as needed. Young participants also wanted the County to build more paths, trails, and sidewalks and there was some interest in an arboretum. It was clear that along with recreational-type interests, these participants were concerned about what types of job opportunities would be available soon and if they would need to move in order to find the high-paying jobs they desired.

Individual Interviews & Meetings

Several individual interviews were conducted by members of the Planning Department staff to ensure that input was provided by the broadest and most representative cross-section of residents and local organizations as possible. The summary below provides dates of when interviews were conducted as well as additional information on the participant's associations or positions if volunteered by the interviewee. It should be noted that some interviews were facilitated via structured questions and answers while others were not.

A. Participant 1, *Commissioner* – September 19, 2020

Participant has lived in Brunswick County his whole life (except for one 10-yr period) and has reported seeing the most change in the County in the last 10 years. The participant is an advocate for property rights, low taxes (pay for what you need, not what you want), diversity, affordable housing, stormwater management, good road network, appearance (solid waste management), and farmers (protection from lawsuits).

Participant provided information on the following issues:

- Transportation (roads, specifically) – Participant mentioned that there were now three MPOs and a CTP for Brunswick County that is underway.
 - Appearance – What is the County's role concerning litter and mowing? How can we get more consistency in property maintenance?
 - Congestion along Hwy 211
 - Surface condition – potholes everywhere
 - Lack of roads connectivity
- Water and sewer
 - Costs affect the ability to provide affordable housing by driving up development costs
 - Complexity – There are 19 municipalities and two (2) sanitary districts
 - Unclear for developers as to where services come from
 - Need policies regarding service provision and annexation
- Public safety
 - Similar service confusion as with water and sewer
 - Fire Fees seem to be a wasted resource. They are high and participant felt the money seems to be spent on unnecessary facilities.
- Stormwater Management
 - County program is excellent, but towns are not the same.
 - Hurricane Florence cause flooding for the first time for most.
 - Trees in ditches
- Solid Waste
 - Post-storm readiness. County needs ability to contract debris removal immediately to reduce fire hazard, critter habitat and unsafe conditions.
- Housing

- Expensive and keeps going up. People who work here can't afford to live here.
- Need education on the negative perception of "low-income" housing.
- Need solutions to the affordability issue
 - MH is part of a mix
- Apartment rent is too high. There is an abundance of apartments in Leland.
- No small homes (800-900 sf) are being built. Most homes are 1800-3000 sf.
- The interviewer added the term "Young Flight" describing those starting careers here can't afford it to live here due to the high cost of living.
- Gentrification – Participant cited the example of Lord Street in Southport as being a formally predominately African American neighborhood but that fees, taxes, interest rates, etc. are forcing out African American residents.
- Business
 - Have trouble filling positions due to the high cost of living.
- Water Access
 - Need more access points and need corresponding parking
- Parks & Recreation
 - Need more parks. Would like to see one added at Sunset Harbor and the completion of Smithfield Park.
 - The pandemic underscored the need for spaces for people to get outside. Cannot have all dense development with no open space.
 - People can't distinguish wants from needs. Participant gave an example of a Sunset Harbor group wanting an indoor facility with a pool.
- Agriculture
 - Participant feels the County needs to protect farmers. An example of a lawsuit between a hog farm and a new development in which the developer won the lawsuit.

B. Participant 2, *Farmer* – December 8, 2020

Participant was asked the following questions in bold.

What are the biggest threats and opportunities to agriculture in Brunswick County? Agriculture is drying up in Brunswick County. Small farms can't accommodate the size of equipment that is now being manufactured. The return on growing is not enough (can't make a living off the sale of corn and soybeans).

Brunswick County has been experiencing high growth and the projections indicate that the growth will continue. Is the growth positive or negative? There are too many people for farms, but without farms, there is no food. Suggests making more hobby farms. Growth is positive where planned, but there is a concern with building in wet areas.

How is growth impacting your community? How can Brunswick County encourage growth and reduce negative impacts? Where in Brunswick County do you think the anticipated growth and development should be? The number of true farms is declining.

Where in Brunswick County do you think the anticipated growth and development should be? Away from the wetlands.

What are the challenges with having new development? It lessens the number of farms

What has proven effective against encroaching development? VADS has been effective in Brunswick County; however, the legislation needs to be stronger.

Are there VADS and events effective at raising awareness and appreciation for agriculture? Yes.

What are you seeing as opportunities for young farmers? Is agriculture being promoted as a future economic opportunity for the County? The Earp Farm has been in their family since the 1800s. Young people tend to not want their hands dirty and are typically not mechanically minded enough to operate a farm. There is no future in animal agriculture or row crops as you cannot make money.

K. Participant 3, *Developer* – December 9, 2020

Where are the opportunities for commercial growth? Shallotte is becoming the central part of Brunswick County and Leland is on Wilmington's coattails. Shallotte has more of a Brunswick County lifestyle close to beaches and cities, but it's a distinctive place. Don't expect commercial growth as seen in the past. The pandemic has let us see that things can be done differently in offices and small communities.

Healthcare will be coming closer to the population.

The workforce has become more geared toward the internet for business. Just because a business is located on a major road does not ensure that it will be successful.

Commercial activities will follow residential development.

Where is infrastructure (or lack of it) stalling investment? The lack of infrastructure on the west side of US 17 is stalling development. People are ready to live on the west side of US 17.

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.)?

Must have regulations but can't have too many. Don't get choked on minor stuff. Focus on the major and leave the minor alone.

Property owner associations are a pain but protect a project.

Some things should be in every development including storm drainage (no ditches), sidewalks, and all underground utilities. These items allow you to have easier maintenance and overall serviceability in times of storms.

One must know your customer so you can give them what they want.

Are there special places in the County that warrant protection? Which natural or cultural features, if lost, would make the County less attractive to investors? River Road (NC133) is under conservation preservation, which is great. A lot of

Brunswick County is in the floodplain so it will be naturally preserved. Unsure if anything of significance has been destroyed.

What are the barriers and the solutions to affordable/workforce housing being built throughout Brunswick County?

- Housing is built by demand.
- Closer to development the land is more expensive.
- Workforce housing inhabitants will have to move further away from where they work. The current cost to develop a lot is \$25,000 and does not include the purchase of the property or amenities.
- Must build what you can afford.

Final Thoughts

Spread out the infrastructure west of US 17. Brunswick County is a special place. Don't want to get rid of all of the farmlands in the future and don't want it to become a giant metropolitan area.

C. Participant 4, *Transportation* – December 9, 2020

Brunswick County has experienced mobility issues, what are the barriers and solutions?

- Barriers from the public transportation/Brunswick Transit System (BTS) perspective
- Availability of public transportation services to the entire service area, BTS has limited capital and resources
- Timeliness of services that are available (call-in requirements, wait times, etc.)
Geography and infrastructure (dirt roads, no sidewalks, little to no shoulder area)
Choice riders don't live in neighborhoods with good roads, sidewalks, etc.
- Accessibility for those with mobility needs (getting to the bus with barriers, see above). All funding doesn't support the entire area, urban vs. rural, accessing federal funding, reduced funding, etc.)
- Employee hiring and retention barriers including current Covid-19 related difficulties in hiring drivers
- Solutions (from a public transportation/BTS perspective)
- Infrastructure improvements, both to existing sub-standard roads, etc., and new development
- Funding that supports services in the entire area
- Expansion of mobility options outside of traditional public transportation
- Solutions (from a public transportation/BTS perspective)
- Infrastructure improvements, both to existing sub-standard roads, etc., and new development

- Funding that supports services in the entire area
- Expansion of mobility options outside of traditional public transportation
- Capturing of funds generated from the Brunswick County urbanized area population that is being used by New Hanover County to provide transportation. These funds should be utilized for the Brunswick County population.

What problems are being solved with current initiatives and projects? We are working toward creating solutions that address our needs by completing a transportation plan for BTS. We have begun taking the first steps toward implementing some of the ideas as well as sharing the plan with others in the community.

BTS has applied to South Carolina for a mobility manager position which will free up the director to move forward with organizational projects that could impact the entire County. In addition, a grant for a part-time marketing position has been submitted to North Carolina.

Which components of the network (existing and planned) are key to the County's long-term economic health?

- Accessibility/mobility options and support including improved infrastructure, like sidewalks, that make it effortless for people to move from place to place regardless of mode (walking, bicycling, auto, public transport)
- Planned neighborhoods allow people to stay in their communities throughout their lifetime.
- Sidewalks in neighborhoods allow residents to get the necessary services.

Is there a desire for alternative modes of transportation? There is a great need and desire for alternative modes. People need options based on personal preference, financial means, mobility needs, etc.

People also like choices and necessity alone will never drive a complete system. Note that the Leland area is different in that they are more working-class, whereas other parts of the county are retirees. Traditional options will not appeal to younger people. Given the differences, our focus is on options.

D. Participant 5, Cape Fear RPO – December 11, 2020

Brunswick County has experienced mobility issues, what are the barriers and solutions? The barriers are the environmental constraints and limitations on the amount of land developable. Can we plan fast enough?

Transit would lean more toward micro-mobility Uberizing trips, downsizing vehicles, and pooling trips, but that would not be the focus. The focus would be a good response time.

What problems are being solved with current initiatives and projects? Bike/pedestrian paths and greenways that serve the mobility and recreational needs

of local communities and distance riders. Unfortunately, counties have not historically put funds into these types of projects. It is a popular project for all ages.

Driveway cuts need to be looked at from a more long-term perspective. Service roads should be requested when they make sense.

Which components of the network (existing and planned) are key to the County's long-term economic health? The lack of transportation funds from the State of North Carolina has a great impact on the area. The scoring within the prioritization process tends to reward areas with congestion. Scoring is reactive with the growth making us competitive in the region and allowing us to hold our own against Wilmington. The competition will tighten in the short-term, moving the focus to short-term fixes. We must not restrict ourselves but when we find problems, we need to push for two solutions: interim and long-range.

Is there a desire for alternative modes of transportation? There is a desire for more bike paths and interconnectivity of roadways. From a tourism perspective, day adventures for cyclists are desired.

Other Topics of Interest

The County needs to collaborate with the impacted municipalities to implement a buffer for the Sunny Point Railroad track as suggested in the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point Land Use Study. To develop, water and sewer is necessary north of US 17. Workforce Housing is important to Brunswick County's economic vitality. The County should pay better attention to NCDOT's Complete Streets Policy.

E. Participant 6, *Developer* – December 11, 2020

Where are the opportunities for commercial growth? A commercial/retail hub is important to residential development/walkable communities. The most valuable land is close to the intracoastal/mainland. Opportunities for growth are where there is public water and sewer.

Where is infrastructure (or lack of it) stalling investment? Land and infrastructure costs are problematic for affordable, workforce housing. More cost-sharing for infrastructure is needed due to the high cost of land.

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.)? Consider earmarking areas for workforce housing. Also, look at less square footage in the units and smaller yards. The smaller yards will give more of a community feel. The participant feels supported when working with Brunswick County. There is cooperation with all on the same team. Staff listens.

Are there special places in the County that warrant protection? Which natural or cultural features, if lost, would make the County less attractive to investors? Need a more established center in the County. Shallotte appears to be headed that way.

Things that warrant protection include the intracoastal waterway, islands, the Green Swamp, Venus flytrap, areas for kayaks and canoes and campgrounds.

What are the barriers and the solutions to affordable/workforce housing being built throughout Brunswick County? Will get back to discuss the needs to think about it.

F. Participant 7, Retired School Guidance Counselor, Cedar Grove Community – December 14, 2020

What are the biggest threats and impacts to rural Brunswick County?

- Environmental issues that threaten our way of life and the lack of employment opportunities
- Need clean industry

Based on what you know about other communities (maybe you moved here from somewhere else), how would you describe living in Brunswick County? Born in Brunswick County. Left for New York and then came back to be near family.

Likes? Like the quietness; safe communities (no house keys).

Dislikes? Travel distance to things that Brunswick County does not offer (i.e., entertainment).

Challenges? Lack of transportation options - must have a vehicle; wait times for good medical care; lack of variety of jobs.

Needs/Wants? Clean industry: more cultural things to bring about diversity.

Brunswick County has been experiencing high growth and the projections indicate that the growth will continue.

Is the growth positive or negative? Positive.

How is growth impacting your community? The area is more crowded. How can Brunswick County encourage positive growth and reduce negative impacts?

Where in Brunswick County do you think the anticipated growth and development should be? Wherever there is someone willing to sell their property.

Should Brunswick County promote communities that are family-friendly? Yes.

Do you use the parks in Brunswick County? If so, how do you use them? Use Cedar Grove and Shallotte parks to walk.

What do you like and not like? What activities and programs do you want? More playground equipment. Invest in playground equipment for small children at Cedar Grove.

G. Participant 8, *Fire Marshal* – December 15, 2020

What are your concerns regarding the increases in development? A number of challenges:

- Infrastructure - Need sufficient water to meet the fire flow based on the facility use, type of construction, and square footage.
- Location of development - fire insurance ratings depend on available equipment types. If we don't have the equipment, rates go up.
- Access into development - Siren-operated gates for newer developments; often one way into the development; apparatus road widths may not accommodate larger trucks; on-street parking creates barriers; reduced road widths by developers and enforcement of this shift.
- Response times - Quick access for fire responders is needed. The station locations impact insurance ratings and service delivery.
- Need to engage fire chiefs in the project conceptual phase as opposed to waiting until the building plans are submitted.
- When the County provides comments, responses are not often provided.
- Methods for verification of inspections of roads and hydrants are needed, particularly on the residential side.

What growth-related impacts are you experiencing?

- In large industrial parks there are fire flow problems, volume, elevated tanks, etc. For residential development -access (getting in and out of the development) and open floor plans (more area to burn at a quicker rate).
- Tighter Setbacks create Challenges for equipment placement resulting in more cases of having to shut down roads.
- Need more information on what's being constructed so that appropriate planning takes place (especially municipal departments).
- Overnight shifts are beginning to happen.
- Concern over what the current setting and capabilities can support.

Do you have concerns with addressing the increasing demand (response times)? Department of Insurance looks at this. Currently, 3/4 of the calls are medical-related. Contact Fire Administrator Mack Smith to discuss this in more detail.

Do your facility or staff plans call for changes to address increasing demand?

- Fire/EMS sharing facilities.
- Some common training, but more specialized training.
- Problem with getting volunteers and the associated training demands.
- Contact Fire Administrator for more details on the check and balance for spending fire fee district funds.

What metrics are driving your current decision-making (i.e., ISO ratings?)

Number of calls Ratio of Personnel State Fire Code

Fire Prevention Ordinance Nationally Recognized Standards Local Challenges

Police relationship with the public - Is it stable or trending like some US cities?

The fire department's relationship with the public is stable. Expectations are varied. Issues with burning/clearing lots and open burning.

Additional Comments

- Trade-offs with Developers - working on infrastructure has challenges. Don't want to set people up for failure. (i.e., elevated tanks needed ... who pays for this?)
- Better infrastructure planning for storms.

H. Participant 9, *NC Wildlife* – December 15, 2020

Which resources are most threatened and where are they? Habitats in areas with high development pressure and a lot of high connectivity. Note the interactive map and conservation data for green growth on the GIS website. The Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat Assessment denotes managed areas and areas conserved.

Describe current conservation efforts and plans related to environmental and natural resource protection. We want to highlight areas that can connect protected areas so that animals can migrate to them.

Where are priority conservation areas and why? Conservation easements/policies need to be in areas rated 6 and up. Consider the conservation development district as a zoning district - landowners could rezone to conservation development. The County should have an active role in connectivity and conservation planning. The County must approve the project that goes into land trust.

Have there been any changes to these priorities/ areas in recent years? Describe the status, quality, and sources of any inventories. The Natural Heritage Inventory is quite old but still valid. "Element Occurrences" are inventoried. (Each state has a National Heritage Inventory.) Identify the best GIS source for this information.

Can we get anything we don't already have? Identify existing partnerships and opportunities for new partnerships. Encourage the County to look at conservation development districts. Kacy can help with that. Smaller developers aren't familiar with the projects. We need to get the word out. Look at developing exceptional design guidance.

I. Participant 10, *Realtor* – December 15, 2020

Where are the opportunities for commercial growth?

- Holden Beach underdeveloped
- Supply area

Where is infrastructure (or lack of it) stalling investment?

- Bad roads are stalling the area (i.e., Boonesneck Road)
- Lack of Natural Gas
- Problems with getting propane service in the Holden Beach area

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.)? He likes the people working at the County, but the dilemma is that a lot of the infrastructure was in place before the policies and that causes gridlock. Change policies over time - not all at once.

Are there special places in the County that warrant protection? Which natural or cultural features, if lost, would make the County less attractive to investors?

- Historical areas - use them but preserve the character
- Preserve fisheries

What are the barriers and the solutions to affordable/workforce housing being built throughout Brunswick County? Shift to smaller housing needs to keep taxes and utility costs in check.

Additional Comments

- Rural areas should not be zoned R-7500. One should have the right to change the zoning if one wants to do so. Should be allowed to have the "highest and best use" of the land.
- Holden Beach Causeway -working to get local businesses to invest in the Causeway, bringing it up to speed with the other beaches in Brunswick County.

J. Participant 11, COG –December 15, 2020

Major ideas shared:

- A lot of growth, more interest in environmental issues, recreation, and quality of life,
- Slowed by the Great Recession, “zombie subdivisions”, legacy reject approvals don’t necessarily align with ideas
- Conflicts setting up:
 - Municipalities vs County
 - Coastal vs inland
 - Old population versus newcomers
- Transportation
 - Complicated with various agencies, two MPOs and RPO
 - No NCDOT money (some funded but not moving forward
 - Transit is hard, funding is limited and a fractured system. No solutions to offer. Retired department head concerned about getting medical on-demand transportation and independent communities provide services. Could a nonprofit manage? Rural

transit is a problem because of costs for nonsubsidized trips. Graying of Brunswick County makes it more important.

- Emergency Management - mass evacuation of vulnerable populations important to the transit component (nuclear, hurricane, MOTSU explosion) – funding to mobilize also needed along with strategy.
- Availability of land for transportation to serve growth
 - Elimination of map act to preserve corridors makes it more challenging
 - Corridor widening with a transitional setback for future widenings. Alleviate the non-financial challenges of getting a transportation project done.
- Make it common knowledge to build trails, acceptance before buildings, etc. are built in the wrong place and become an obstacle. Get it on the correct sides of the road. Plan that has specificity to get dedications and easements as development is approved. Put in CTP too.
- Census. Flip back into Wilmington MSA (because of Leland's growth? Does it outpace the rest of the county, but will it flip back?)
- Very wet county
 - But still a lot of solid land
 - Need bridges everywhere, use existing infrastructure
- Need some high-density options for housing.
- Is there an effective buildout within the time horizon of this plan?
- What share of new residents live in the County vs. municipalities?
- Intergovernmental coordination is especially important here. Especially for managing assets across jurisdictional boundaries although there's clear ownership/management responsibilities coordination makes for better protection of natural resources and utilization of gov resources.
- Bio hot spot – not just presence but also uniqueness. Show Biodiversity Index Map for the whole state highlights Brunswick County. See pics from the Nature Conservancy from Green Swamp – super special.
- Would be a mistake to accommodate the urbanization needed to support seniors and the workforce. Needs to be in units and walkable. An exception would be Supply, but County and NCDOT changes are needed to transform retrofit. Encourage where services are. The plan could contemplate but is not likely to back off the current trend of higher density out in County.
- MOTSU – the facility and transportation, road, and rail (access, security, and safe) present challenges. Corridor protection? Explosion overlay? Berms and vegetation to shield impacts. Disclosure is not enough, and the seller's perception of value is higher than what it would be if a buyer understood. Too high to buy out.
 - With an overlay, the staff report would have to acknowledge the location in this special district. Mapped but no regulatory component.

- Coordination brought about by unnecessary conflicts in recent years.
- Huge opportunity in Caswell Beach, Bald Head Island, Oak Island area for tourist ferry from Southport to Oak Island and to other destinations. Alleviate the pressure on the bridge for various modes. Old Bald Head ferry landing at Old Indigo.

K. Participant 12, *Small Business Owner*, Holden Beach December 16, 2020

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.) The UDO is very helpful if you know how to read it. In most instances the staff is fair.

The participant likes to question the ordinance and interpretations. She stated that she "might not like the answer, but typically okay."

Would prefer the ordinance to be even clearer.

What are the biggest threats and impacts to rural Brunswick County?

Rezoning impacts the rural character, would not want to lose what growth brings but would love to keep north of US 17 rural.

How would you describe living in Brunswick County? Likes, dislikes, challenges, needs, wants.

Likes - Weather, good mix of different types of living.

Dislikes - Not being able to place structures in the front yard space (i.e., detached carports)

Needs - Affordable housing, bring back junk removal/mobile home removal cleanup program.

We are experiencing high growth. Is the growth positive or negative? How does it impact your community? How can we encourage growth and reduce negative impacts? Need to plat larger lots on the north side of US17. Do not want the county to consist of small lots. Fresh, locally grown produce is desperately needed.

Where should anticipated growth/development be? Ocean side of US 17. Not for growth on the North side of US 17.

Starting a new business. Good? Bad? Barriers? The County needs small businesses in general. Participant decided to start a small business, working with contractors/individuals to do their county building permitting for them, because she wanted to help people.

Answers to questions often take some time and can be complicated because they are the result of someone making a mistake.

The County will shut down something wrong versus helping to make it right. Be more understanding and offer solutions where possible. Be as helpful when someone does something wrong in trying to get them back on track.

L. Participant 13 – December 17, 2020

What are your concerns regarding the increases in development? A major concern is stormwater, people with property regularly experience flooding but are not in the floodplain.

How can we help them? Children walk through standing water to get to the bus.

What growth-related impacts are you experiencing? People continue to be overlooked.

What are the needs of the community? Better healthcare and closer communities so that ways of thinking can be changed.

Based on what you know about other communities, how would you describe living in Brunswick County?

Likes? History of the area.

Dislikes? The disparity between race and lack of help for projects that were not the fault of those receiving damage (flooding).

What are the biggest threats and impacts to rural Brunswick County? Teaching follows disparities. Something positive needs to be done and worked on (i.e., cultivating commissioners)

Are there special places in Brunswick County that warrant protection?

Should not take away from others to give protection, old developments versus new developments don't want to devalue old places, but the building rules are stricter.

What are the barriers to affordable living in Brunswick County? The rules become a barrier to affordable living in Brunswick County. There is lots of inefficiency in home building, which drives up the cost.

M. Participant 14, *Wilmington Homebuilders Association* – December 17, 2020

Where are these opportunities for commercial growth? US 17 Corridor where water and sewer are available. US 74/76 near 1-140. Not familiar with southwestern Brunswick County.

Where is infrastructure (or lack of it) stalling investment? The County has been proactive and doing things that make sense regarding infrastructure.

The Economic Development arm has challenges, particularly with water and sewer. May be a little too early. Too many hands dipping into the water/sewer pot. The high cost of commercial sewer impact fees for developers impacts investment in the County.

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.)? At what point does Brunswick County stop being rural and become an urbanized county? The UDO has opportunities for new zoning districts with more density, greater building heights, and diversity. The current density bonus does not work. Recommend regular development /builder check-ins to

get input on processes and how they can be improved with the people dealing with the procedures/rules each day.

Are there special places in the County that warrant protection? Which natural or cultural features, if lost, would make the County less attractive to investors?

Intracoastal Waterway, wetlands, and the Green Swamp.

What are the barriers and the solutions to affordable/workforce housing being built throughout Brunswick County? Subsidies are needed. Public/Private partnerships are needed. Assistance to help offset infrastructure costs. Today it is taking six months to construct a home, formerly it was four months. Try with zoning to get rezoning for multifamily into the urban corridors - even if water and sewer are not on the ground. Need diversity of housing (rentals, multifamily, townhomes).

Allow multifamily by right instead of requiring that they go before boards for approval. Reduce red tape to reduce time.

Look at the project not requiring a mixed-use but rather a mixture of uses in the surrounding area.

Additional Comments

The builder/development portfolio is not local. The new national groups don't care. Do an inventory of local/national builders. The national builders are going to reshape the County. We will lose the community touch (products and what is put on the ground is different). Work with regional and local builders. Ask what they need to continue to operate their businesses.

N. Participant 15, *Landscape Architect, Midway Road Farmer* – December 18, 2020

What are the biggest threats and impacts to rural Brunswick County?

Commercialization, environmental impasse, residential impacts-Burkhart's Bible is the book "Rural by Design". Interest in homes, jobs, and agriculture - how they can co-exist. Also interested in canoeing corridors. Have residential in nodes/villages versus 160-acre subdivisions. Same with commercial - smaller community clusters. VAD for farming - a very good move by the County.

Based on what you know about other communities (maybe you moved here from somewhere else), how would you describe living in Brunswick County?

Likes? Participant chose to move here, likes what Brunswick County has to offer. Moved to Wilmington in 1979 and to more rural Brunswick County in 2004.

Dislikes? Need to attract tourists, specifically agritourism. Challenge to preserve open space designated for rural.

How do we manage the land we don't use and keep ruralness? Share agricultural enterprises between families

Challenges? Needs/Wants?

- Light pollution

- Traffic
- Encroachment into forest areas
- Keeping neighborhoods where they will not lose natural settings "something special"
- Don't want the development of neighborhoods to keep agritourism from developing
- Would like to see an additional zoning district- more than the VAD- that would preserve the farming heritage
- Would like an agritourism magnet comparable to Seagrove (Moore County) that would showcase part of our rural heritage

Brunswick County has been experiencing high growth and the projections indicate that the growth will continue. Is the growth positive or negative? How is growth impacting your community? Zoning is impacting the community. Please keep hard line and don't allow uncomplimentary uses and development next to adjacent tracts that negatively impact adjacent properties.

How can Brunswick County encourage growth and reduce negative impacts? Encourage more family friendliness, cross cultural, economic diversity, age diversity, these are attributes of healthy communities and more of a mixture should be encouraged.

Where in Brunswick County do you think the anticipated growth and development should be? Discussed earlier.

Should Brunswick County promote communities that are family friendly? Yes.

Do you use the parks in Brunswick County? If so, how do you use them? Use the Brunswick Nature Park to walk.

What do you like and not like? Not sufficient trail information, such as the length of each trail. That is needed for health issues as some have limitations as to how far they can walk.

What activities and programs do you want? Smaller parks, neighborhood parks, greenways that connect. Would be supportive of bond money to do this.

Other Thoughts

Consideration of designated historic and scenic ways. More connections to parks.

Connections to habitat corridors and to dovetail greenways and habitat corridors where possible. Initiatives for development and homeowners to connect greenways and habitat corridors.

Scale down street design requirements (i.e., street widths) to minimize pavement.

O. Participant 16, *Economic Development* – December 18, 2020

What are the major initiatives to attract and retain employers/jobs? What initiatives have worked well? What needs improvement? Business usually follows people. Should promote tourists and retired people. There should be simple rules so businesses will come in to spend their money, modest fees, and reasonable, not burdensome rules.

What makes Brunswick County a desirable location to invest and work? The ocean and the climate make Brunswick County desirable. There is enough change to keep it interesting. Reasonable tax rates and a reasonable cost of living compared to others make it desirable too.

What opportunities do you foresee in increasing tax revenue? Types? Homebuilding and water and sewer systems.

What are the barriers to economic advancements? What makes starting or growing a business in Brunswick County a challenge from the Business Community's perspective? Barriers to economic development are the lack of water and sewer. Development costs have gone up. Corps of Engineers rules are driving up the costs, which must be done upfront, which places a huge burden on the developer.

The profit margin is being squeezed out, which puts locals at a disadvantage. Rules and regulations are pushing the cost up to get the land ready.

There should be no duplication of things that the state controls, such as traffic studies for access to highways.

How reliant on seasonal population/tourism is your business? Half of the golf course play in March, April, and May of 2020 was from people moving into Brunswick County. Covid has improved local play on the golf course, with promotions decreasing.

P. Participant 17, *CEO Brunswick Novant Hospital* – December 22, 2020

What has COVID-19 revealed to you about county services, readiness, and resiliency? Brunswick County is very resilient. The hospital partners with the Health Department and Emergency Management. The hospital has the most data. These relationships help all see the value in systems such as Code Red.

Setting aside the pandemic for the moment, the County has three health priorities: Substance misuse, chronic conditions, and access to care. Are there additional priorities? We need to add health maintenance. Mental health is tops. The hospital is working to bring more resources. Access to care - working to get more specialists and growing services locally.

Is there anything about land-use mix or development patterns that would contribute to the health disparities within the County? There are worries about outlying areas and the lack of transportation to health services. Working on more mobile clinics. Need groups to partner and have conversations with other developers to look at additional clinics (recently accomplished in Pine Forest).

Does Brunswick County have enough healthcare facilities? Types? Location?

There are enough locations but not enough providers. May need more imaging centers. May need free-standing emergency facilities. Brunswick Transit is needed in the morning and afternoon, but they don't have empty seats. Help is needed getting discharged patient's home. The hospital has had to establish a discharge lounge to get discharges out of the patient rooms to make room for the next person. It may be the end of the day before a family member can come to pick them up.

What plan and parks-related initiatives would you like to see (walking, trails, bike paths, recreation, more opportunities for healthcare facilities)? Need to work with Parks and Recreation Department to develop a fitness activities plan. (This has been on their list of items to tackle.)

Additional Comments

Fix roads and transportation issues to allow people to get to the resources. Need more rental housing.

Assistance from Duke Endowment is needed to telecommunicate behavioral health issues in the school system.

Q. Participant 18, Brunswick County Association of Realtors & Director of the Business Alliance for a Strong Economy (BASE) – December 22, 2020

Where are the opportunities for commercial growth? Transfer fees.

The challenge is to get balance in business and industries. Businesses need to be able to stay in Brunswick County and not go east/west.

Infrastructure fees for water and sewer need to be restructured where they are not all loaded up front (but) allow payment over "X" years.

Where is infrastructure (or lack of it) stalling investment? The biggest infrastructure impediment is all the different entities in the northeast part of the County. One entity could be more strategic.

Other items have to do with the ordinance, and different goals. An example is the Sunset Beach ordinance requiring everyone to have solar panels.

Describe the County's regulations and approval processes (ease of use, what is missing, what is innovative, etc.)? Need consistency across the Board. Inconsistency in the time it takes to go through permitting and to get inspections. Different staff reviews in the field as opposed to those completed in the offices (Example - floodplain non-encroachment area).

Are there special places in the County that warrant protection? Which natural or cultural features, if lost, would make the County less attractive to investors? Places in Brunswick County deserve development. We need a large greenway and there is enough land, but we don't have it. It would be a big draw. Do the same thing in a kayak or canoe. Provide more public access to water. We are surrounded by water but can't get to it. Must be balanced (i.e., clear-cutting).

Don't want huge requirements. Let developers determine what goes inside their communities.

There should be consistent community entrances. (Look from the street is consistent. (i.e., like Hilton Head.)

What are the barriers and the solutions to affordable/workforce housing being built throughout Brunswick County? Barriers are regulations and infrastructure. Cost of providing workforce houses. Demand for \$200,000 houses. Need new mobile home parks. The cost of materials does impact the types of homes constructed. Incentives would help workforce housing construction, but the problem with having to pay up-front for infrastructure makes it difficult.

Other Comments

Infrastructure and transportation funding is needed. We want this to be a place where people can and want to do business not just a bedroom.

R. Participant 19, *Brunswick Housing Opportunities* – January 21, 2021

What are the underserved areas and priority areas in Brunswick County and why? Resources go to where there is a concentration of residents, tax dollars, and development (east of US 17). There are underserved pockets throughout the County. We need to look at things differently.

What are the biggest threats and impacts to rural Brunswick County? There are four major threats to rural Brunswick County.

Threats

- Unwillingness to take a different look at what it takes to grow. We can't continue to do things the same way. We need to look at how to best grow existing businesses and new businesses by looking at all the current resources and how to maximize them.
- Continue to ignore the haves and have-nots – often created by the County's actions.
- Continue to lose young families. We cannot continue to survive as a county of seniors. Our youth need incentives to remain in Brunswick County.
- The people making the decisions are old and short-sighted. Look at economic development from lots of little fish – not focus on one big fish.

Impacts

- We are missing an opportunity to take advantage of the concentration of people and business.
- We have failed to develop a center of the County. (i.e., constructed the Community College away from the Governmental Center with no retail center and housing).
- Nineteen municipalities and four Chambers of Commerce need to work more together.

How would you describe living in Brunswick County? Likes, dislikes, challenges, needs, wants.

Likes: Family-centered although we don't promote heritage enough. Connecting easily with others. Possibilities.

Dislikes: Ignore race ingrained in institutions (lack of training).

Challenges: Change leadership and decision-making (i.e., districts are not set up so that you are represented by who you elect (institutionalized racism). Everyone votes for candidates in all the districts.

Is growth positive or negative? Neither positive nor negative. It depends upon where you are located. In Leland it is great.

How can we encourage growth and reduce negative impacts? We need to have an agreement with the community regarding needs and more discussion.

Should we promote family-friendly communities? Yes. Everyone needs a "place" to be. We need to be safe and have places where all groups of people want to live.

What activities/programs do you want for recreation? We have the activities and programs; however, everyone cannot get to them due to transportation needs. All programs are needed, but we can't connect the people to the programs. We need to work better with the municipalities. Look at regionalizing and put together small towns that can work well together.

Where is infrastructure stalling development? We can't be so blinded and not ask for help (from the government). Go out for anything to bring in more infrastructure. Need more enterprising thought instead of traditional ways. Choose areas and then push the growth. Use infrastructure dollars to get growth started. Think like entrepreneurs-no haphazard growth.

What are the special places that warrant protection?

- US 17 (there are no sidewalks).
- Protect heritage. What are the values? Create a "place".

Closing Comments

The team is commended for continuing to try to push the County forward in thinking. Don't miss the opportunity to do something different.

**Additional Community Input Provided by the County Health Department
Summary from Community Health Assessment focus groups fall 2020**

Focus Group Locations

Location	Town
Brunswick Community College	Supply N.C.
Brunswick County Cooperative Extension	Bolivia, N.C.
Cedar Grove Improvement Association	Supply N.C.
Johnson Chapel AME Zion Church	Leland, N.C.
New Hope Clinic	Southport, N.C.
St. Brendan's Catholic Church	Shalotte, N.C.
St. John's Missionary Baptist Church	Bolivia, N.C.
Woodard Adult Day Care	Shalotte, N.C.

Each of the above participating groups identified the need for safe places to exercise in their communities and expressed interest in having walking trails in their communities.

One additional priority was the overarching theme and focus on the aging population. We are currently working on our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which takes a results-based accountability approach when addressing our health priorities. Some of the results to achieve are below.

Chronic Conditions

When Brunswick County residents have access to healthy foods and exercise opportunities we anticipate seeing:

- A reduction in the number of deaths due to chronic diseases
- Improvements made to park facilities
- Expansion of senior center facilities
- Increased access to exercise classes and recreational activities
- Improved access to affordable and nutritious foods
- Increased access to health education and screenings

Substance Misuse

When Brunswick County experiences a decrease in drug overdose deaths, we anticipate seeing:

- Increased and improved access to local treatment
- Reduced access to illicit drugs and access to substances (i.e., vaping, tobacco, alcohol, prescription medications)
- Increase in participation in educational programs and support services
- Demographics (age, ethnicity) 18-30 age group, white males

Access to Health Care

When Brunswick County residents have increased access to health care, we anticipate seeing:

- An increase in life expectancy especially among vulnerable populations
- Increase in Medicaid enrollment
- Improved prenatal care
- Increase in healthcare providers accepting all patients
- Residents receive the necessary care when and where they need it, in a manner they can understand
- Increase awareness about insurance options to ensure access to needed healthcare providers and services

Other County Public Outreach Efforts

Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Youth Art Contest Winners

In February of 2021, Brunswick County announced the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Art Contest to invite the youth to help shape the County's vision for the future. Through the support of Brunswick County Schools and a partnership with the Brunswick Arts Council, the Blueprint Brunswick, 2040 Art contest was created to raise awareness and increase community engagement for the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Project in a fun interactive way. The contest invited the youth of Brunswick County to contribute to a significant County-wide planning process by helping shape the vision of the future.

The contest was open to students in grades K-12 including those homeschooled from ages 5 to 17.

Schools from around the County were invited to participate including Brunswick County Schools, homeschools, as well as charter and private schools. Participants were asked to show their vision of Brunswick County's future using mediums such as acrylic paint, watercolors, tempera paint, colored pencils, markers, and crayons with a submission deadline of March 31, 2021.

Entries were separated into four grade level categories: grades K- 2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. First, second, and third place awards were given in each category with \$100 checks from the Brunswick Arts Council for the schools with the most submissions. Waccamaw School submitted the most entries in the K-2 and 3-5 grade categories and tied with Leland Middle School in the 6-8 category. North Brunswick High School had the most submissions in the 9-12 grade category.

Local artists, Brunswick Arts Council members, and members of the Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments judged the submissions and decided the first, second and third place winners within each category. In addition, the Planning Department and Parks and Recreation Department each picked their favorite. Contest winners were announced on May 4, 2021. Prizes for winners include gift cards, art supplies, and a framed award.

Kids: Enter your artwork in the
Blueprint
Brunswick 2040
Art Contest!
* * *
Brunswick County
in the year 2040 -your
design for the
future

What will Brunswick County be like
in the year 2040? Show us how you
imagine Brunswick County's future.

What will the
County look
like?

Where will
you live?

How will people
move around?

The contest is open to children in grades K-12 or those home-schooled from ages 5 to 17. Deadline for entry is March 31st. Winners will be announced April 15th.

Contest Info and Rules and Entry Form at:
Brunswickcountync.gov/blueprintbrunswick/art-contest

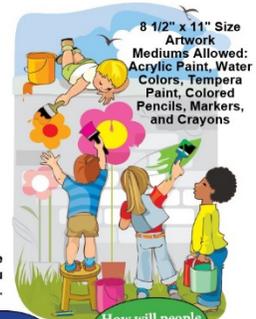


Figure 7 Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Art Contest Advertisement Flyer



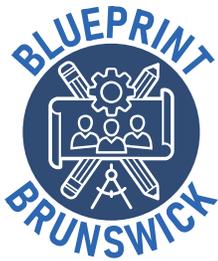
Figure 8 Contest winner receiving award certificate. May 2021

Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Youth Art Contest increased participation and engagement with the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan and promoted the arts in Brunswick County. The winning artwork was featured on June 19, 2021, at the Soundstock Solstice by the Sea Festival at Middleton Park in Oak Island and is also in the upcoming Brunswick County Future Land Use Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



Art contest prizes.

Winners were presented by Brunswick County Planning on May 3, 2021. Winning art pieces can be seen below:



BRUNSWICK
ARTS COUNCIL
CELEBRATE, CULTIVATE, COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Estrella Gonzalez, Waccamaw School Grade 2: Untitled

K-2
3rd Place



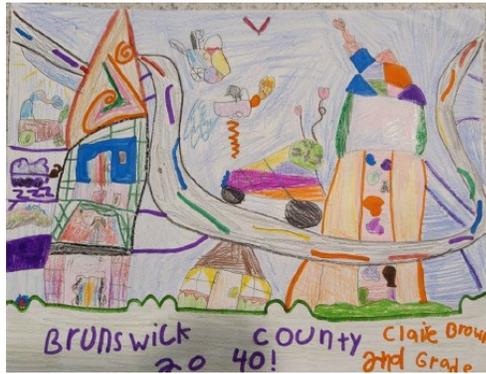
Nicole Sanchez Resendiz, Waccamaw School Grade 2: Beach

K-2
2nd Place



Claire Brown, Town Creek Elem. Grade 2: Brunswick County 2040

**K-2
1st Place**



Addysen Rawley, Home School Grade 5: Drawbridge Tram to BHI

**3-5
3rd Place**



Lily Lopez, Charter Day School Grade 3: Magnolia Greens to Oak Island 2040

**3-5
2nd Place**



Emma Collis, Waccamaw School Grade 4: The Park in Brunswick County

**Parks
Pick**



Emma Robinson
Home School Grade 3:
Fun in the Sun!

**3-5
1st Place**



Savannah Lancaster, Leland Middle School Grade 8: Arrogant Hope

6-8
1st Place



Miranda King, Waccamaw School Grade 8: Road

6-8
2nd Place



Eunice Gutierrez Nino, North Brunswick HS Grade 9: Into the Future

9-12
3rd Place



Olivia Badovinac, North Brunswick HS Grade 10: My Future

9-12
2nd Place

Planning
Pick



Maria Ochoa, North Brunswick HS Grade 10: Brunswick Either Or

9-12
1st Place

