

Cumberland County Existing Conditions

April 11, 2023

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Introduction

What's an Existing Conditions Report?

The Comprehensive Plan update is based on both empirical data and community visioning. This Existing Conditions Report is a collection of data with analysis that shows where Cumberland County stands at the start of the planning process - where people live, the major employers in the area, what the landscape looks like, what roads need improvement, etc. From this “baseline,” members of the community will describe how they would like to see Cumberland County improve over the coming 20 years.

Why do we need an Existing Conditions Report?

People tend to have subjective understandings of their own community based on their individual experiences. It is important to understand different perspectives; however, it is also important to rely on objective data - demographic, economic, geographic, and more - to help ensure all stakeholders are on the same page at the beginning of the planning process. An Existing Conditions Report helps establish an objective baseline from which Cumberland County residents can plan for the future.

How is this data used?

This data will be used to inform recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan. These recommendations will guide decision makers as Cumberland County progresses over the next 20 years.

Where did the data come from?

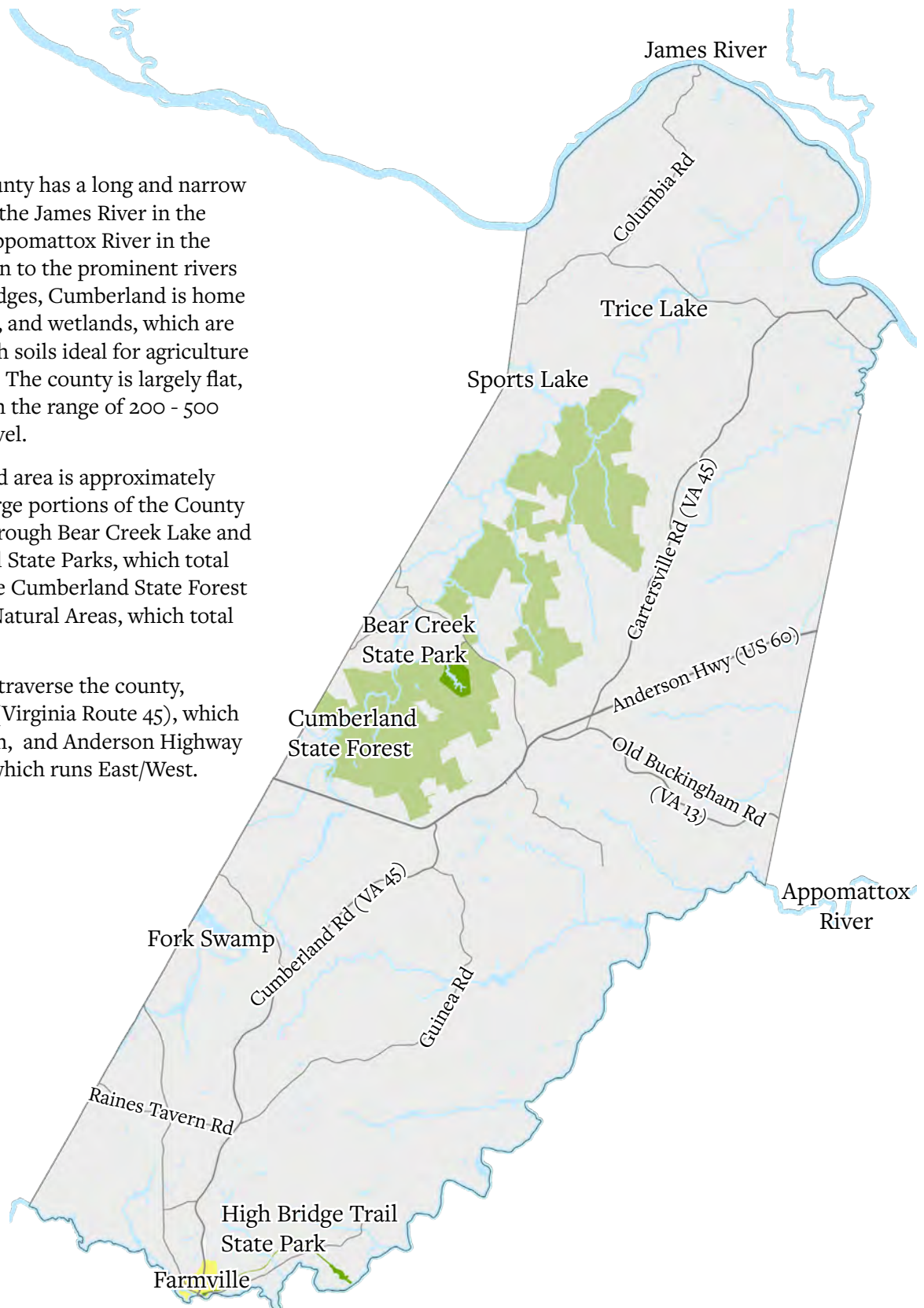
Most of the data comes from the 2021 American Community Survey, released on December 8, 2022, by the United States Census Bureau, however this document also utilizes other decennial census counts, Virginia Employment Commission, and Zillow data.

Geography

Cumberland County has a long and narrow shape, bound by the James River in the North and the Appomattox River in the South. In addition to the prominent rivers at the county's edges, Cumberland is home to streams, lakes, and wetlands, which are critical to the rich soils ideal for agriculture and horticulture. The county is largely flat, with most land in the range of 200 - 500 feet above sea level.

The county's land area is approximately 191,845 acres. Large portions of the County are conserved through Bear Creek Lake and High Bridge Trail State Parks, which total 433 acres, and the Cumberland State Forest and designated Natural Areas, which total 16,398 acres.

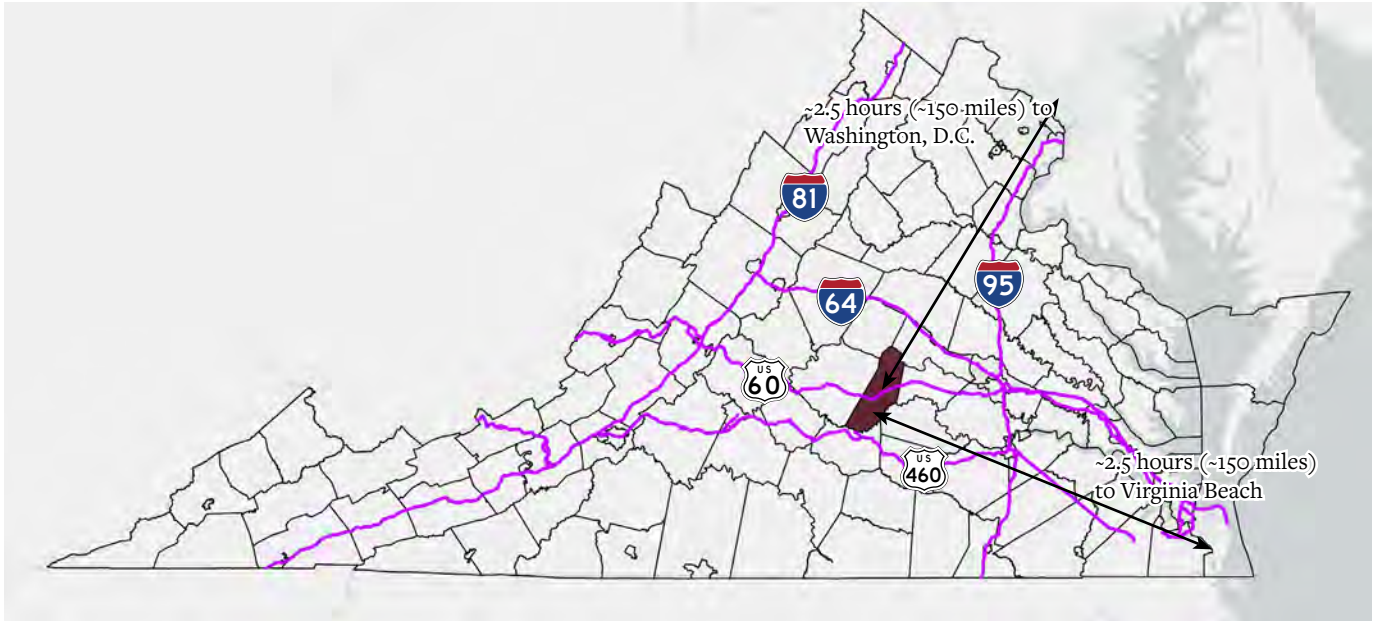
Two main roads traverse the county, Cartersville Rd. (Virginia Route 45), which runs North/South, and Anderson Highway (US Route 60), which runs East/West.



Regional Context

Cumberland County is located in central Virginia, bordered by the Counties of Fluvanna, Goochland, Powhatan, Amelia, Prince Edward, and Buckingham. The northern portion of the Town of Farmville is within Cumberland County, and the recently unincorporated community of Columbia is north of Cumberland's border with Fluvanna.

As shown on the following maps, Cumberland is about 150 miles from Washington, D.C., 150 miles from Virginia Beach, 55 miles from Charlottesville, and 50 miles from Richmond.

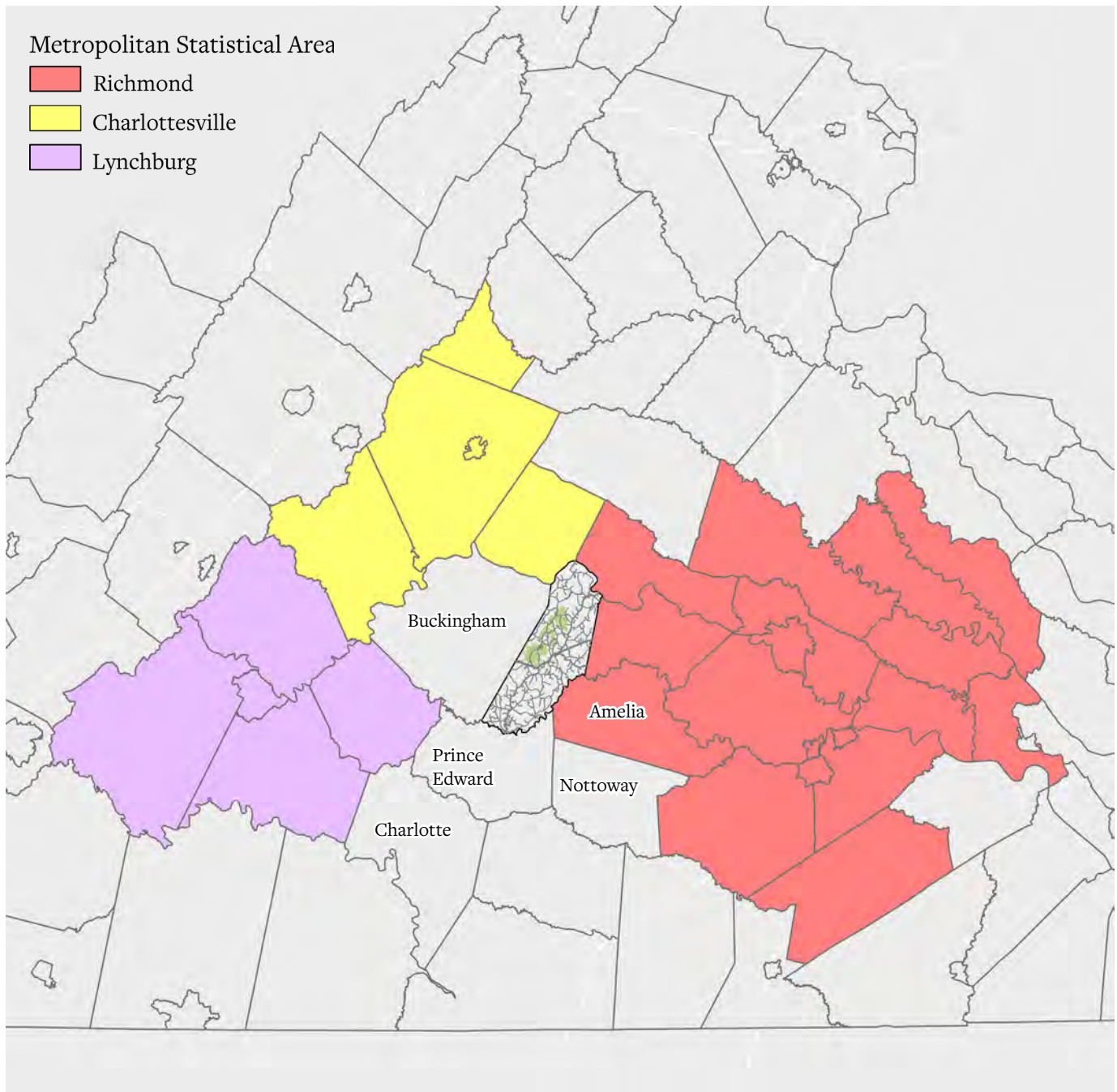


Surrounding Metro Areas

A metropolitan statistical area (MSA) one definition of region used by the US Census Bureau. Generally speaking, an MSA consists of a core area that serves as a “population nucleus” and surrounding areas that have a “high degree of economic and social integration” with that core. MSAs are delineated, in part, through commuting patterns.

Cumberland is located near the MSAs anchored by Richmond, Charlottesville, and Lynchburg. While it is feasible for Cumberland residents to commute to one of the nearby cities, the county’s exclusion from the nearby MSAs indicate that Cumberland does not have clear ties to one area in particular.

While Cumberland is not part of a Census-recognized region, the County generally identifies with the Counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Nottoway, Prince Edward in terms of regional collaboration.



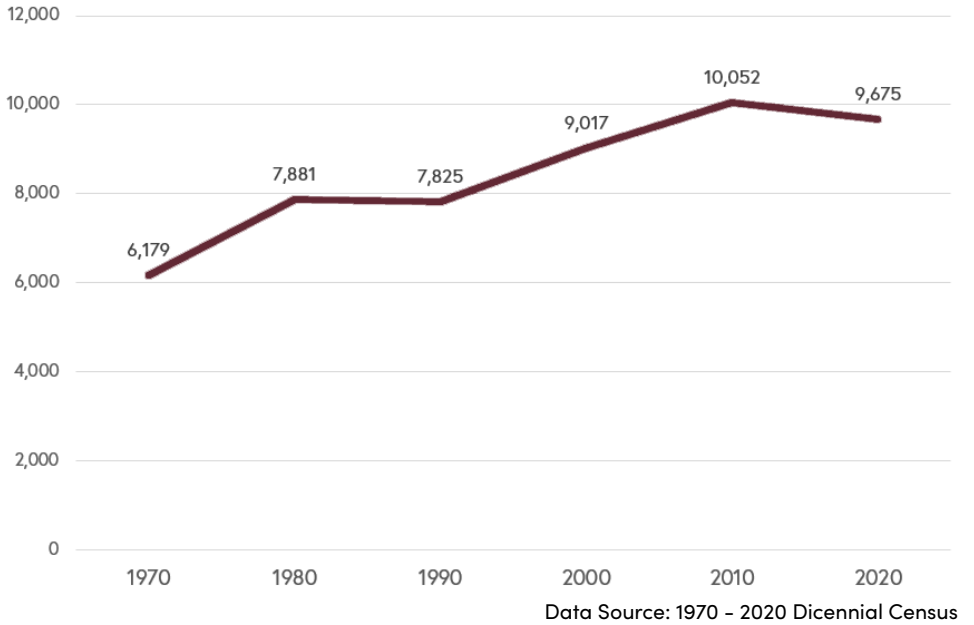
Demographics

Population

The total population of Cumberland County is estimated to be 9,669 people as of the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The more accurate, but now outdated count in the 2020 Census is estimated at 9,675.

The graph to the right shows the County's population increase since the 1970s. Notably, the population dropped by about 400 people between 2010 and 2020. As of 2022, the population has not dropped further.

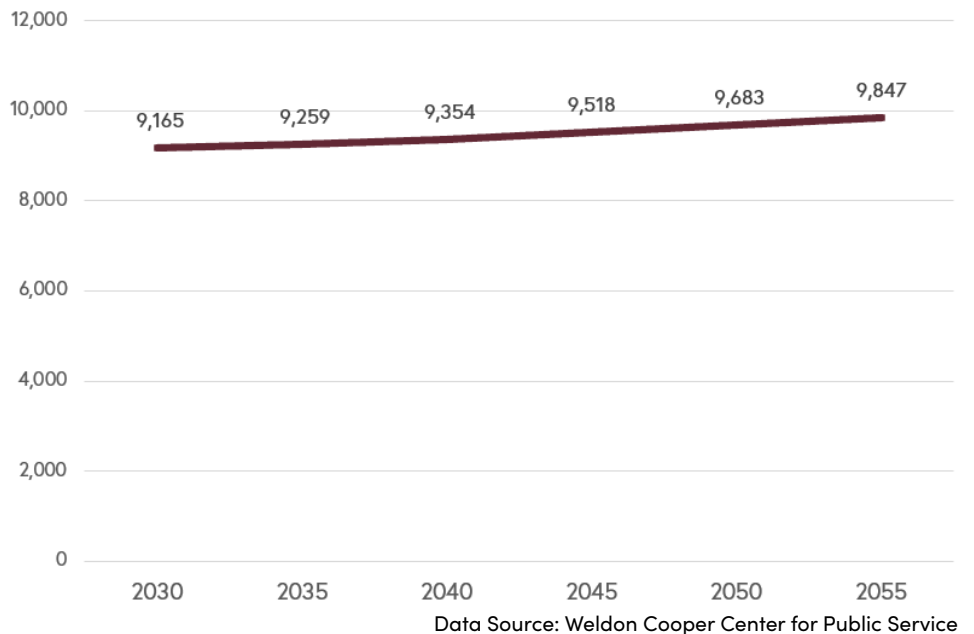
Across Virginia, many rural localities are struggling with the impacts of population loss. However, Cumberland appears to be remaining stable.



Population Projections

The University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service provides population projections for the Commonwealth's localities. While down from the 2020 population of 9,675, it is expected to rise slowly over the next decades to 9,847.

While not experiencing growth or loss, it is important to plan for infrastructure that accommodates the needs of current and future residents.



Cumberland has experienced slight population decline over the past decade; however, growth in surrounding counties, such as Powhatan and Goochland may put pressure on Cumberland in the coming years.

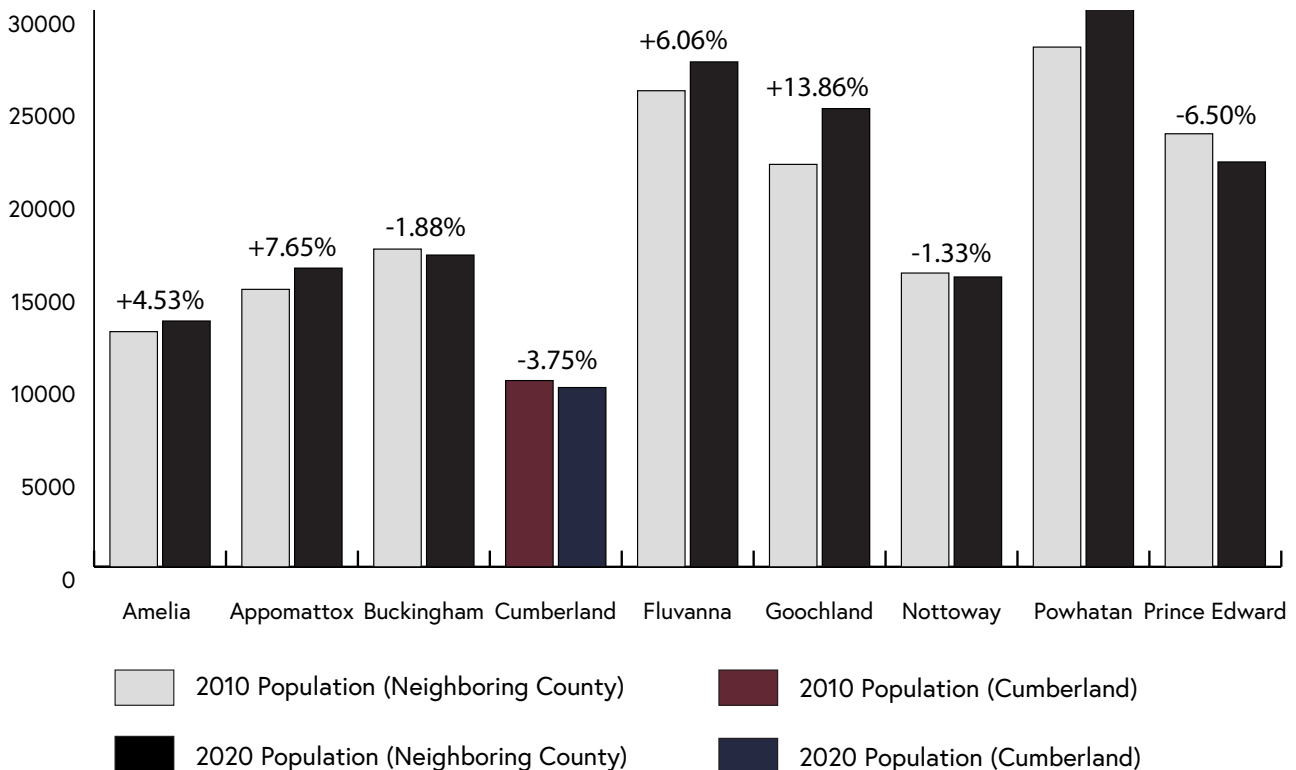
Census Data

The United States Census has two major sources of demographic information. The decennial census, required by the Constitution and conducted every ten years since 1790, is a short survey of every household in the country. The American Community Survey (ACS) is a longer form containing more questions, taken throughout all years, and its most reliable dataset is published yearly as rolling five-year estimates. The decennial census has a smaller number of data points, like population, sex and race, with a lower margin of error. The ACS has a much larger number of data points (like social, economic and housing characteristics) and a wider margin of error. A mix of decennial census and ACS data is used to form the empirical basis for the Comprehensive Plan, to make up as accurate a picture of a community as possible.

This plan uses a combination of 2020 Decennial Census data and 2021 ACS data, which is the most recently available data as of the collection of this document.

Population Change Comparison

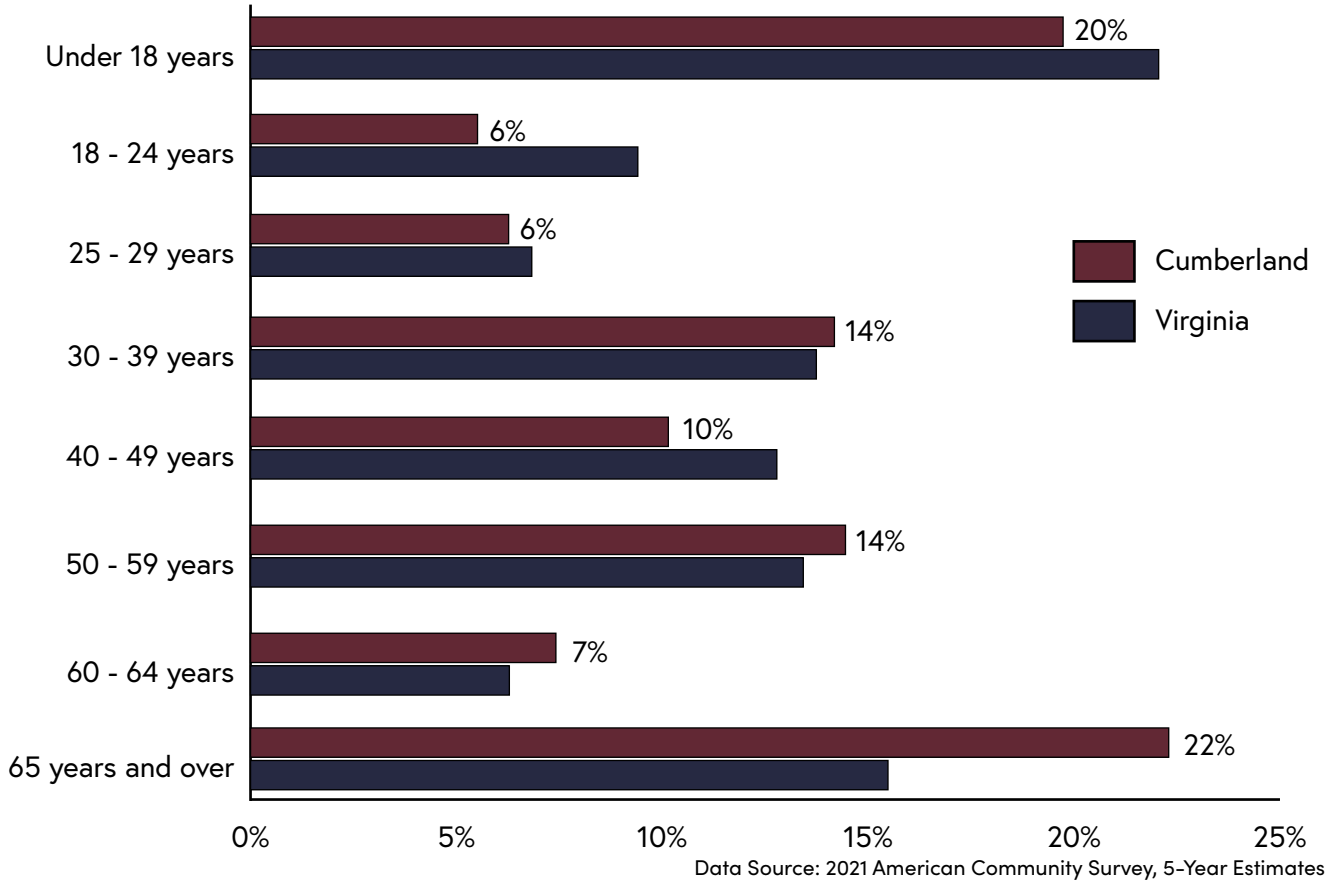
The graph below shows population change by percentages between the 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census with comparisons to other neighboring and rural localities in Central Virginia. While not growing as quickly as others localities that are closer to more dense urban centers, Cumberland’s population has remained relatively stable in recent decades.



Data Source: 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census

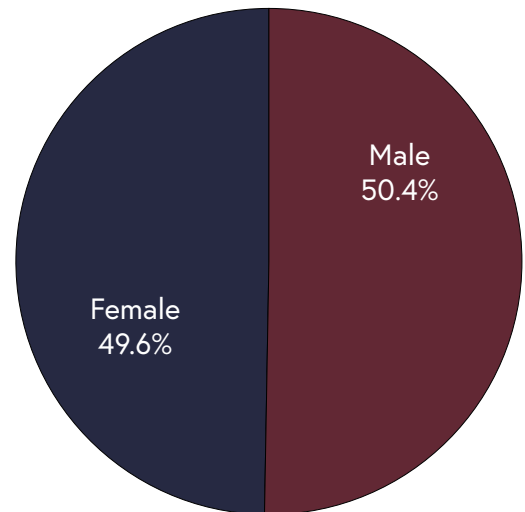
Age

The median age in Cumberland County is 45.4. For comparison, the median age in Virginia is 38.8. Comparing the percentage of age groups in each category with an age pyramid displays this information. While there is a stable foundation of young members of the community, the population is aging as evidenced by larger percentages of the population in their 50s and older.



Sex

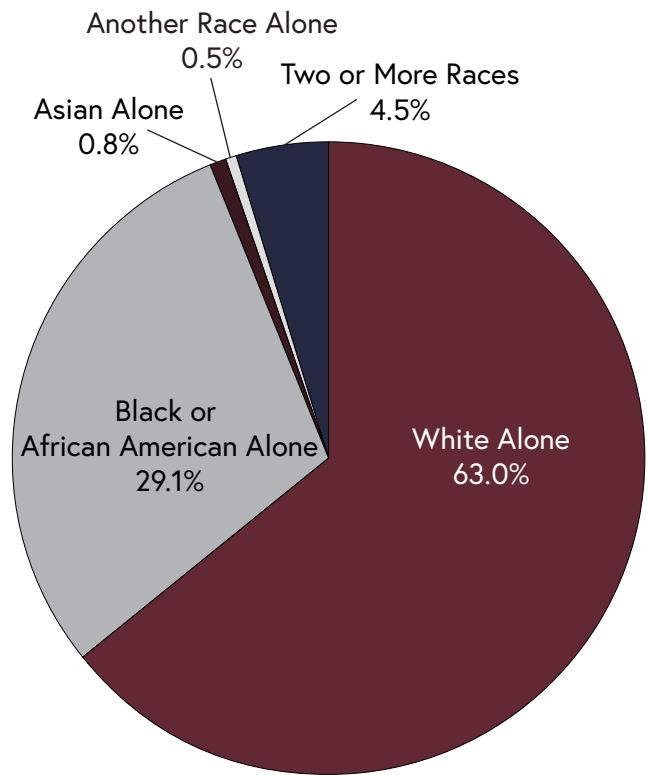
The population in Cumberland is split generally evenly between 50.4% men and 49.6% women. This typical of other localities, Virginia, and the United States as a whole.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Race

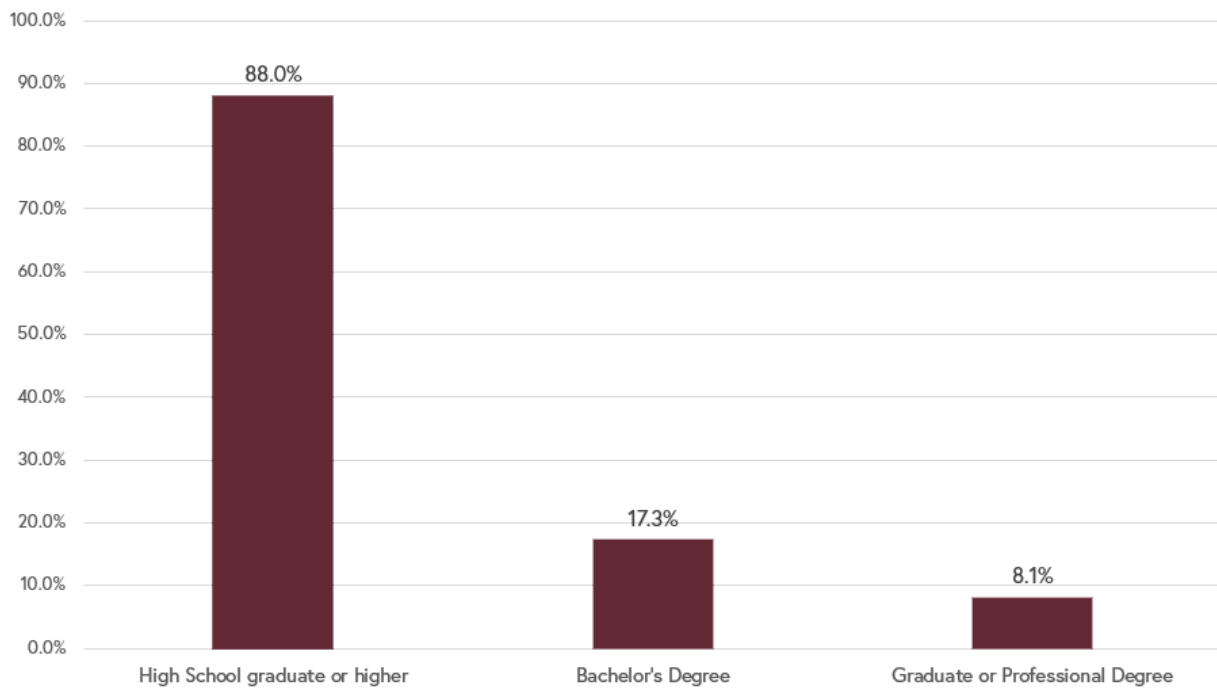
According to 2021 American Community Survey data, 63% of Cumberland County identifies as “White alone,” while 29.1% identify as Black or African American. Other racial groups, such as Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, or Other Race Alone make up only 1.26% of the County. 4.5% of the population identifies as Bi-racial.



Data Source: 2020 Decennial Census

Educational Attainment

The population of Cumberland County that is over the age of 25 totals approximately 7,228. Of this total, 88% are high school graduates or higher while only 17.3% of the population holds a Bachelor’s Degree and only 8.1% hold a Graduate or Professional Degree. Cumberland’s economy has not been historically reliant on the need for higher education as a primarily agricultural and forestal County. However, as technology, high speed internet access, or other resources become available, new businesses may locate in Cumberland County. Additionally, members of the community leaving to pursue higher education may choose to return to the County again with new skills and education to further develop and contribute to the agricultural and forestal economies.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Housing

Household Size

Households are comprised of one or more people living together. This includes families related by birth, marriage, or adoption, as well as other combinations of people, such as roommates.

The total number of households in Cumberland County is estimated to be 3,990 with an average size of 2.42 people per household.

Estimated 3,990 Total Occupied Housing Units.

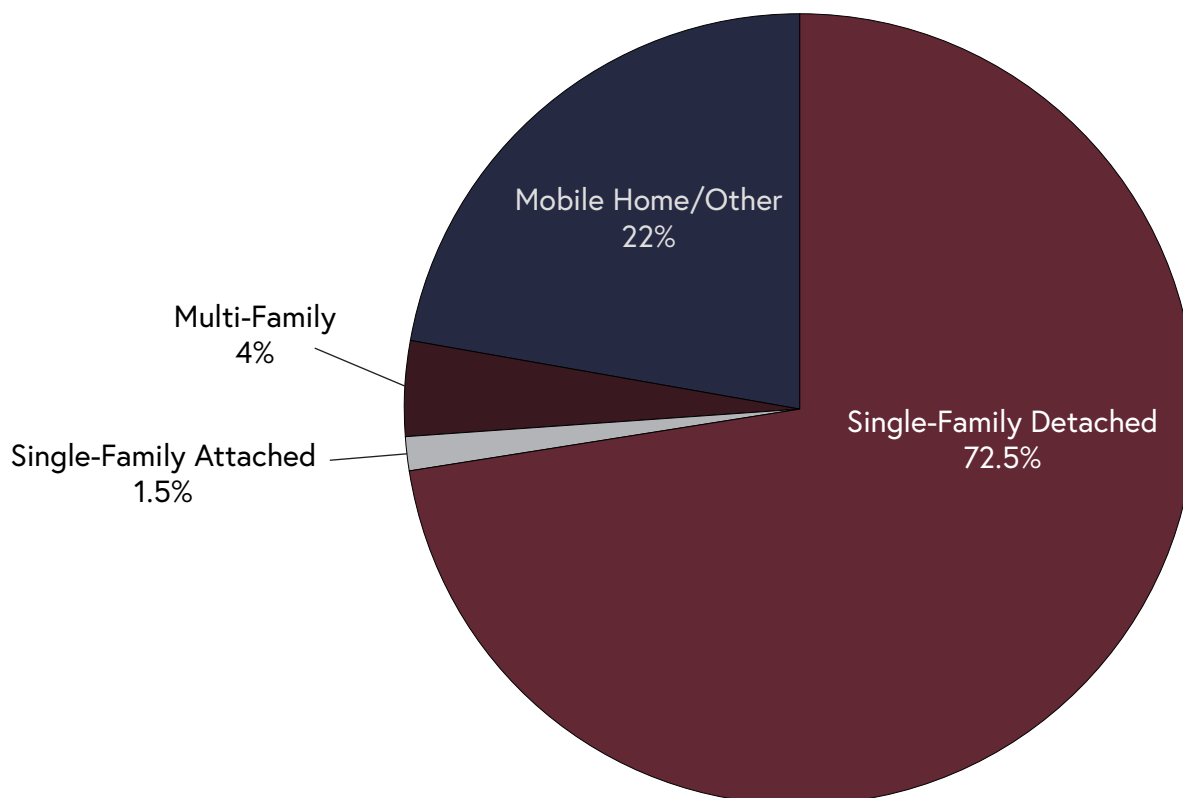
Average Size: 2.42 per Household

Housing Types

Single-family detached homes predominantly make up 72.5% of the housing stock in Cumberland, or an estimated 2,893 units in total. The county has some attached single-family homes (townhomes) estimated at 66 units, and 155 multi-family units (apartments), as well as an estimated 876 mobile homes.

The Comprehensive Plan is required by Virginia’s State Code to provide for Manufactured Housing as a source of affordable housing. Currently, almost a quarter of the County’s housing is currently of this more affordable type.

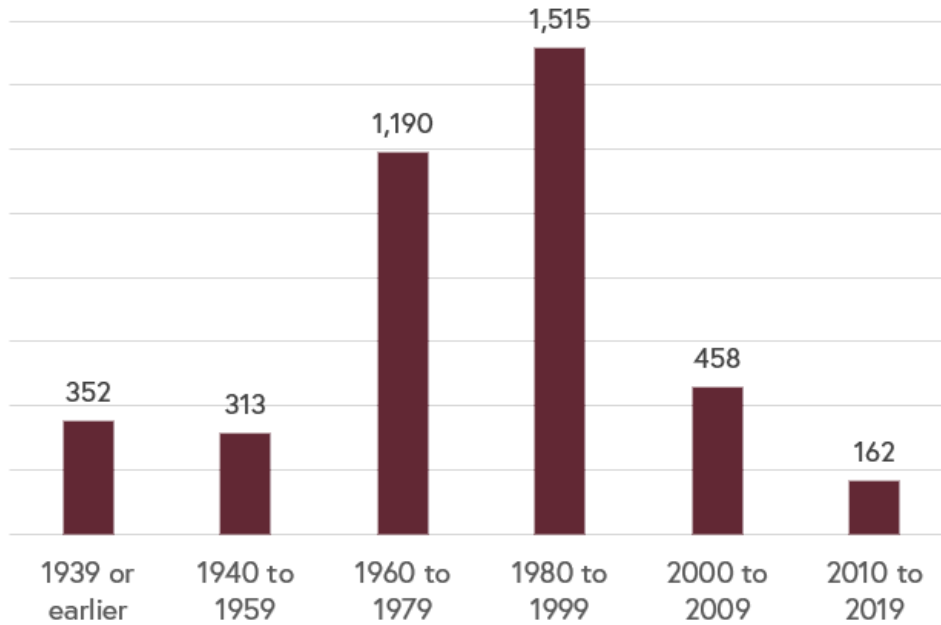
Ideally, housing options are diverse to meet many different lifestyle needs, such as downsizing, raising a family, or simply wanting to live in one type of housing over another. Determining suitable locations for developing multi-family or single-family attached homes would help diversify the housing stock.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Age of Housing

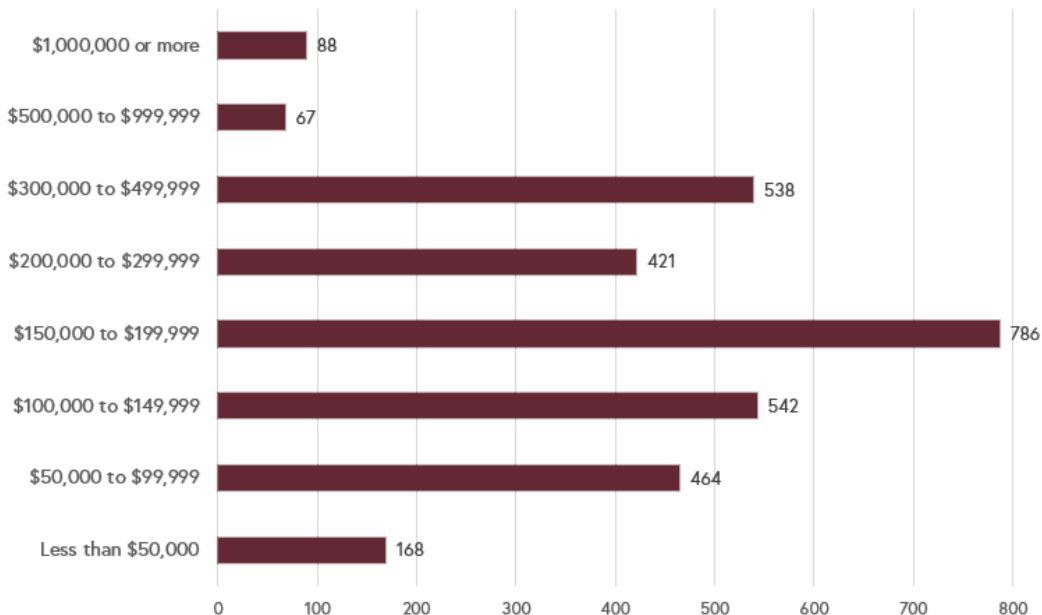
Cumberland has roughly 4,600 housing units in total, about 4,000 of which are occupied. Cumberland has a mix of older housing (60+ years old) and relatively new housing (less than 25 years old). As seen in Cartersville and other parts of the county, the condition of older homes varies. More homes were constructed in previous decades than are currently being constructed.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Housing Value

Of the 3,074 owner-occupied housing units, the median home value (including lot value, where applicable) was estimated at \$170,100 in 2021. Approximately 64% of homes have values less than \$200,000. For comparison, the median home value in Virginia was estimated at \$295,000, making Cumberland County a more affordable place to live. However, in the future, as nearby metropolitan areas begin to grow, housing prices may begin to rise significantly if there is no new construction.

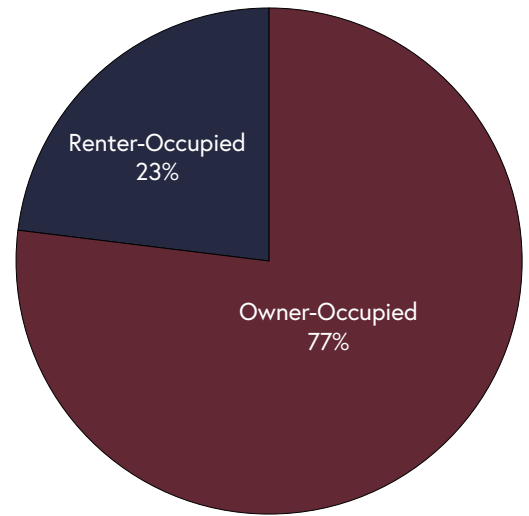


Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Owners & Renters

Homeownership is regarded as one of the most effective ways to “plant roots” in a community and build intergenerational wealth. It is also important to provide affordable, high-quality rental housing for young professionals and other residents who may not have the means to purchase a home or may be not want to purchase a home.

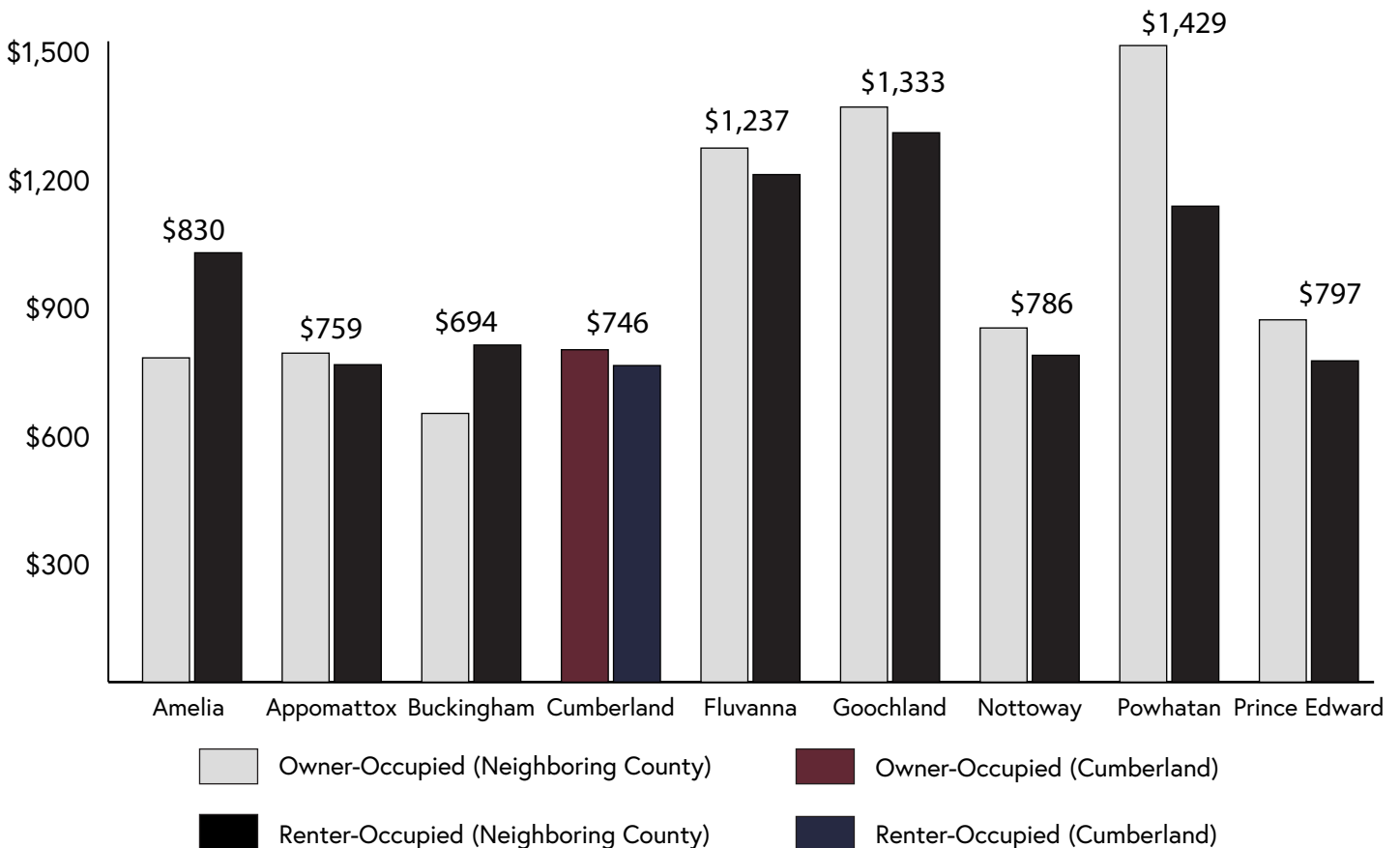
Out of the 3,990 estimated occupied housing units in the County, 77% are owner-occupied and 23% are renter-occupied. Cumberland’s mix of housing is fairly standard for rural localities in Virginia. Further analysis and community engagement will help determine if the county needs additional rental housing and/or owner-occupied housing.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

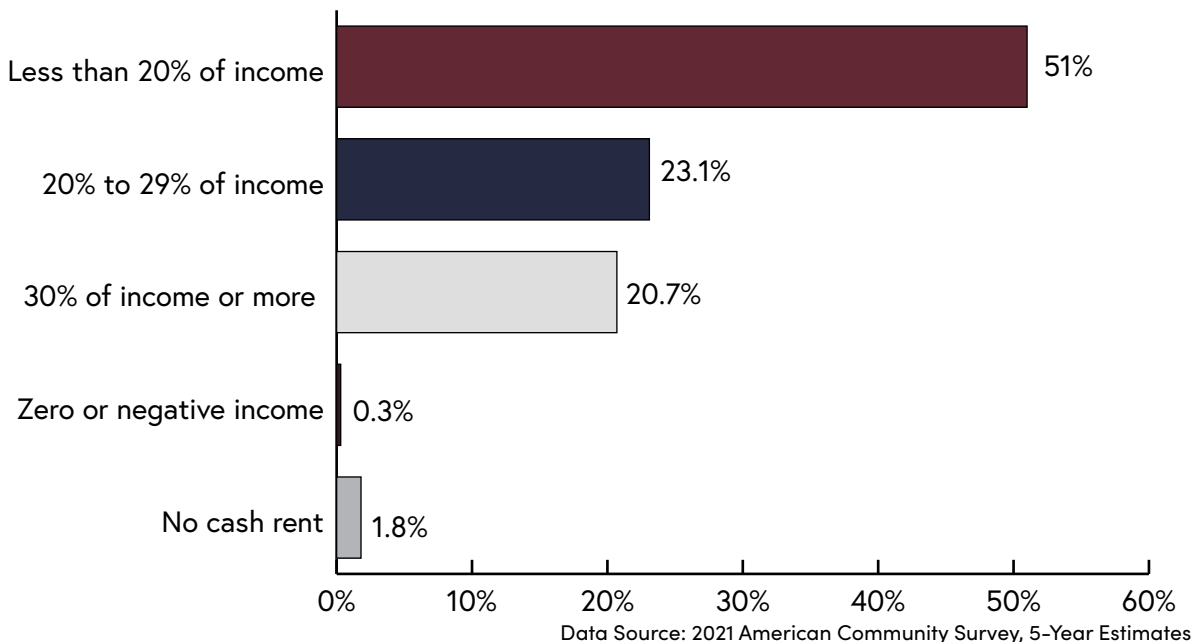
Median Monthly Housing Costs

Housing in Cumberland is some of the most affordable in the area, with a median housing cost of \$746 per month. Cumberland is one of the few counties in the area where median housing costs for those renting are cheaper than those for homeowners. The disparity in housing costs between Cumberland, Fluvanna, Goochland, and Powhatan provide an incentive for some to live in Cumberland and commute to work in one of the larger surrounding counties.



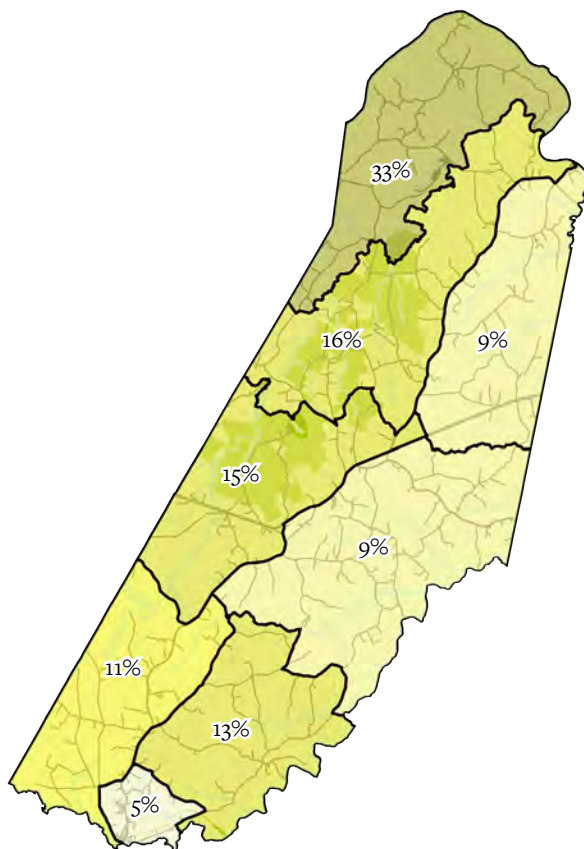
Proportion of Income Spent on Housing Costs

The majority of Cumberland residents spend less than 20% of their household income on housing costs each month; however, roughly 21% of residents meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development criteria for “housing cost burdened” by spending more than 30% of the monthly income on rent/mortgage payments, utilities, and any other bills or fees associated with housing. Additionally, another 23.1% of residents are spending between 20% to 29% of their income on Housing costs. If housing costs continue to rise, more members of the community will struggle afford life in the County.



Vacancy Rate of Housing Units

Roughly 13% of housing units in Cumberland are vacant, as reported by the 2020 Decennial Census. The northwestern portion of the county has a disproportionately high vacancy rate of 33% (vacancy rate for all housing in the Census Block Group). Additional investigation into the high vacancy rate in the northwest portion of the county will take place as the Comprehensive Plan update process continues.

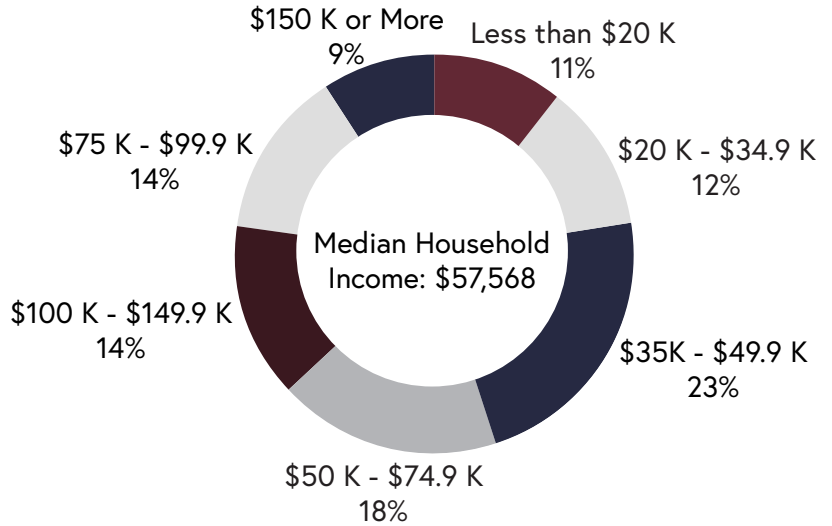


Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Economy

Median Household Income

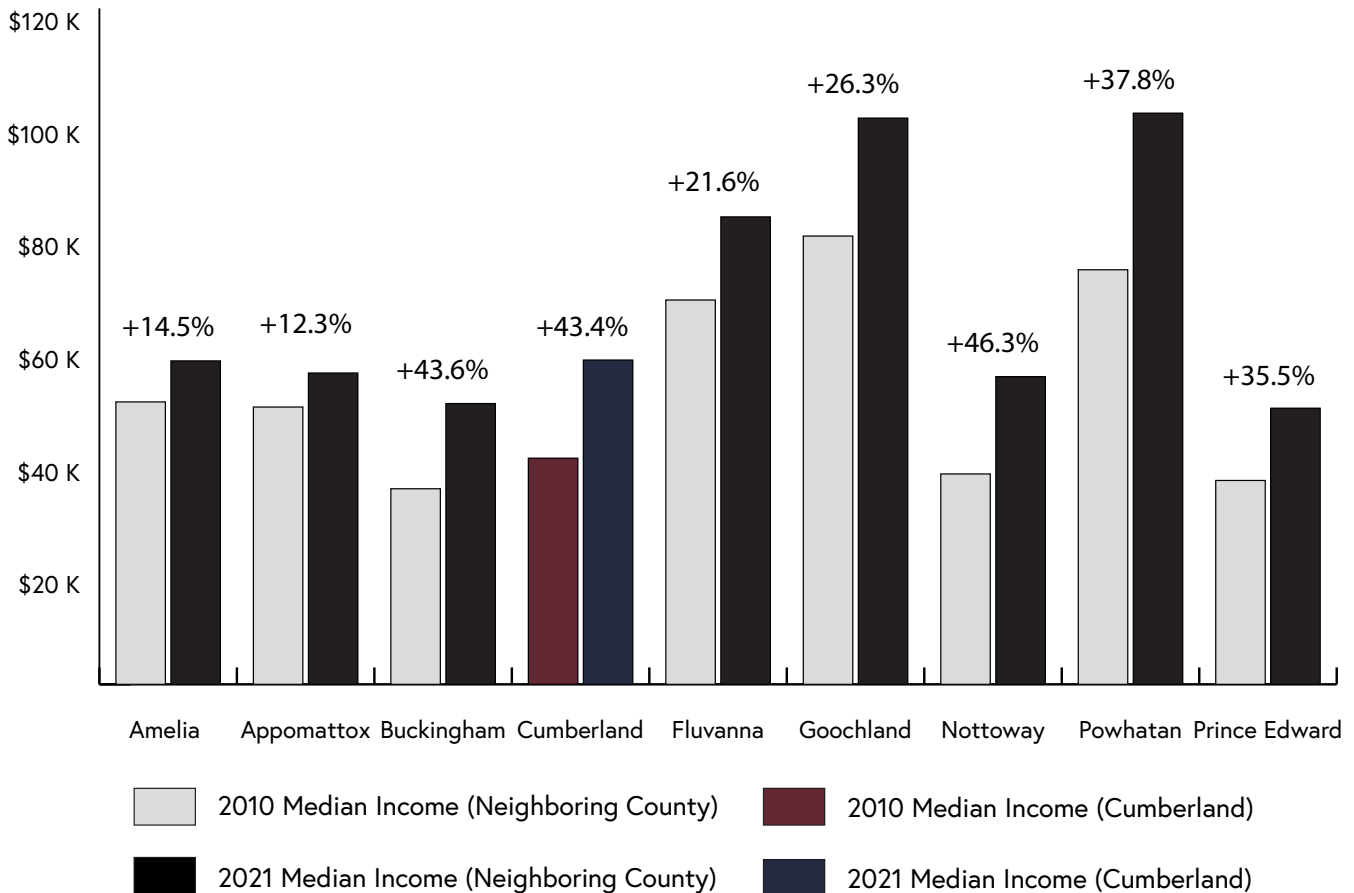
The median household income in Cumberland County is \$57,586, with roughly 40% of households earning between \$35,000 and \$75,000 annually. Cumberland's median household income is about \$23,000 less than the statewide median of \$80,963.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

As shown in the bar graph below, median household income in Cumberland increased 43.4% between 2010 and 2021 (ACS estimates, not accounting for inflation). Cumberland is on par with the more rural localities in the region in terms of household income.

Median Household Income: 2010 and 2021

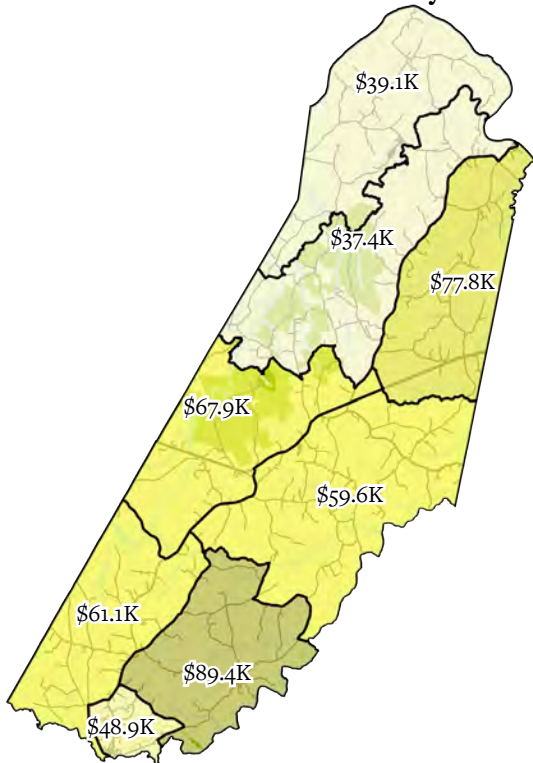


Data Source: 2010 & 2021 American Community Surveys, 5-Year Estimates

Median Household Income (Continued)

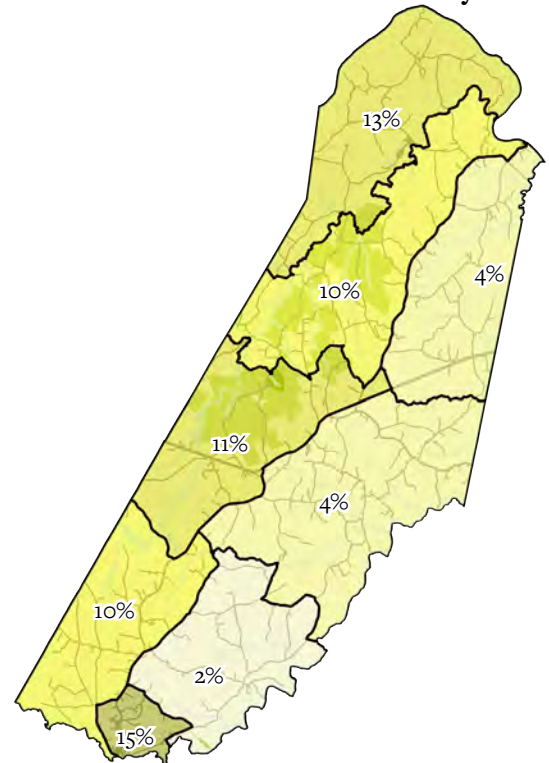
There are significant differences in economic indicators for households in various parts of Cumberland County. As shown below, there is a difference of over \$50,000 between the highest and lowest median household incomes for the Census Block Groups in Cumberland. A higher median household income is not clearly correlated with a lower proportion of households living below the poverty line, which indicates that households are not strictly clustered based on economic status. **These maps illustrate that people of different socioeconomic status live throughout Cumberland.**

Median Household Income by Block Group



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

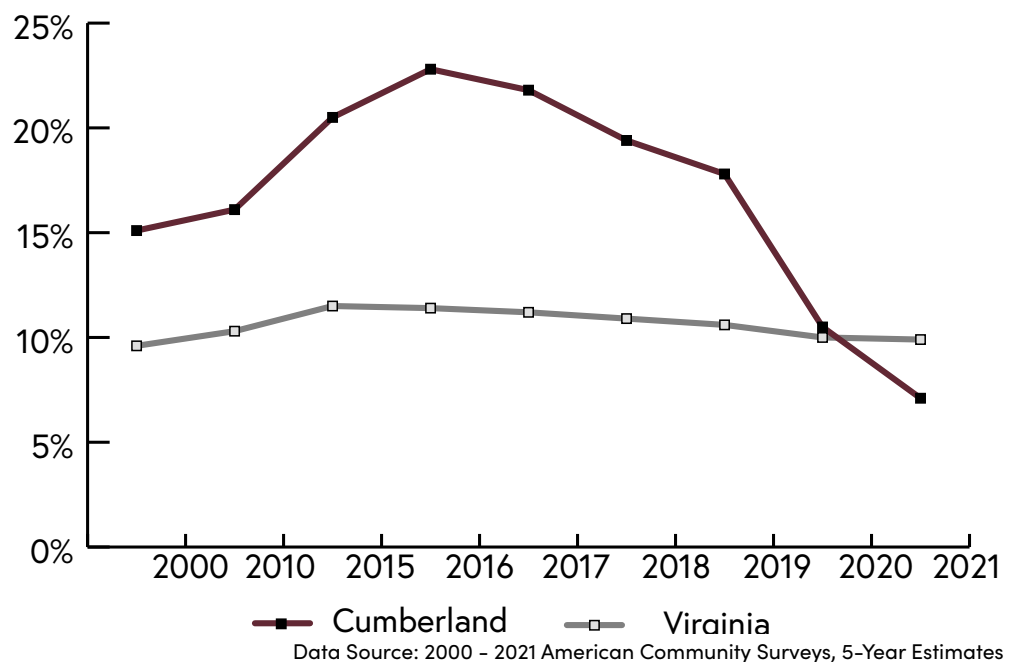
% of Households Below the Poverty Line



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Poverty

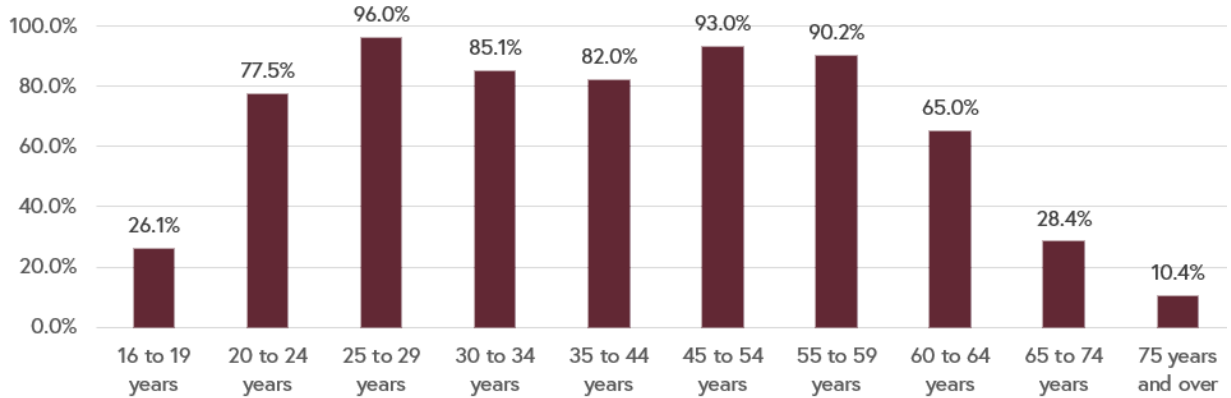
Cumberland County has a poverty rate of 7.1% overall, compared to 9.9% for Virginia. When broken out by age, those under the age of 18 years have the highest poverty rate of 9.2%. Racial demographics for poverty roughly follow those for the county of the whole. Of individuals below the poverty level, 60.7% identify as white, 26.6% identify as African American, and 12.8% identify as two or more races.



Data Source: 2000 - 2021 American Community Surveys, 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Participation Rate

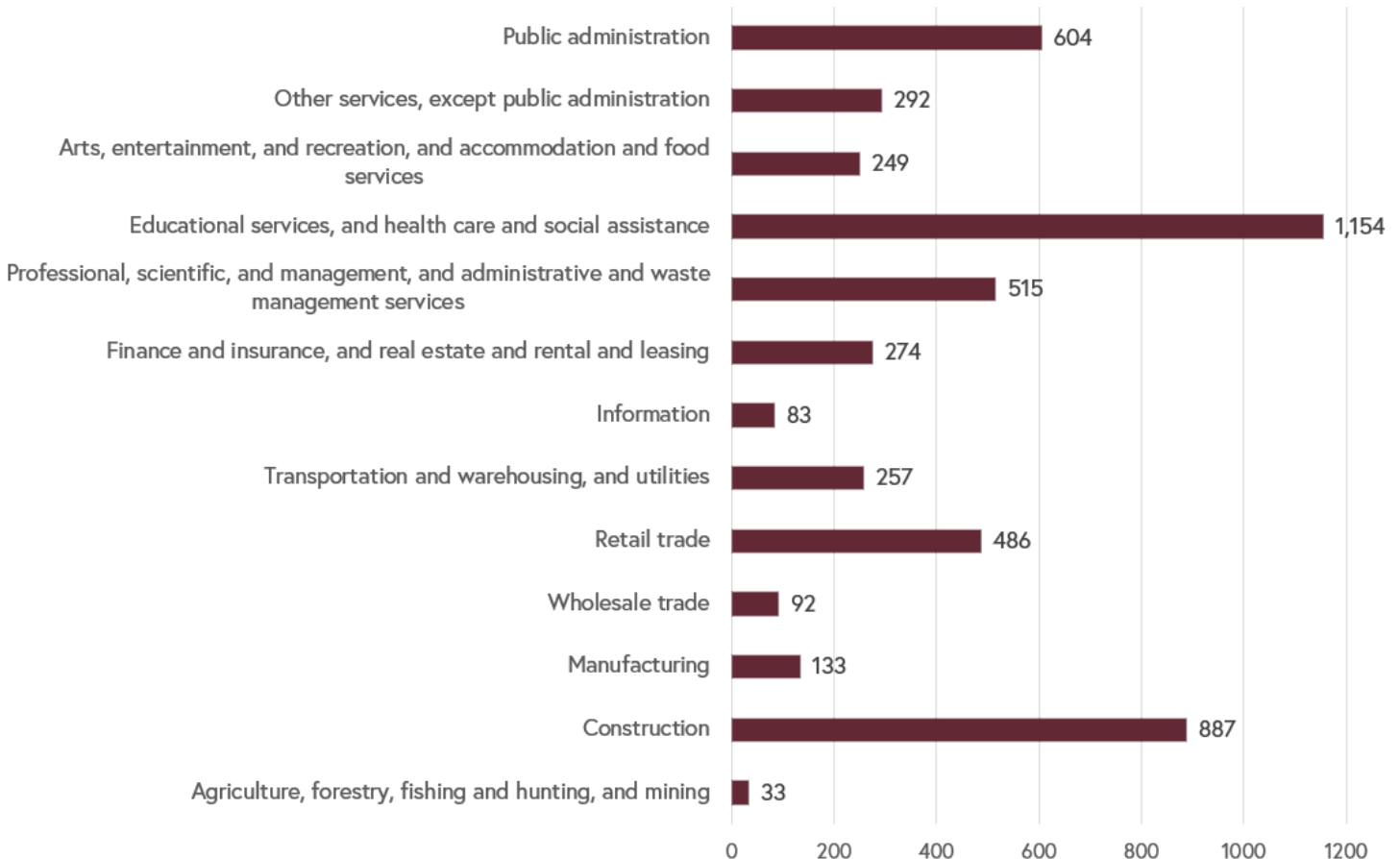
The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the percentage of all people of working age who are either working or actively seeking work (Employed + Unemployed). Cumberland County’s LFPR is 64.2%, which is similar to the national rate of 61.8% and Virginia’s at 63%. The chart below shows the percentage of each age cohort’s percentage of the population participating in the labor force. Relatively low LFPR for individuals between 30 and 44 years old underscores the importance of creating jobs in Cumberland County in the coming years.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Employment by Industry

Most people in the County are employed in “Educational services, and health care and social assistance,” this is typical for most localities. Notably, many people in the County are employed in Construction. Employment data is difficult to track and is subject to seasonal shifts and mis/under-reporting. This may be the case for the low number of people employed in Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Major Employers

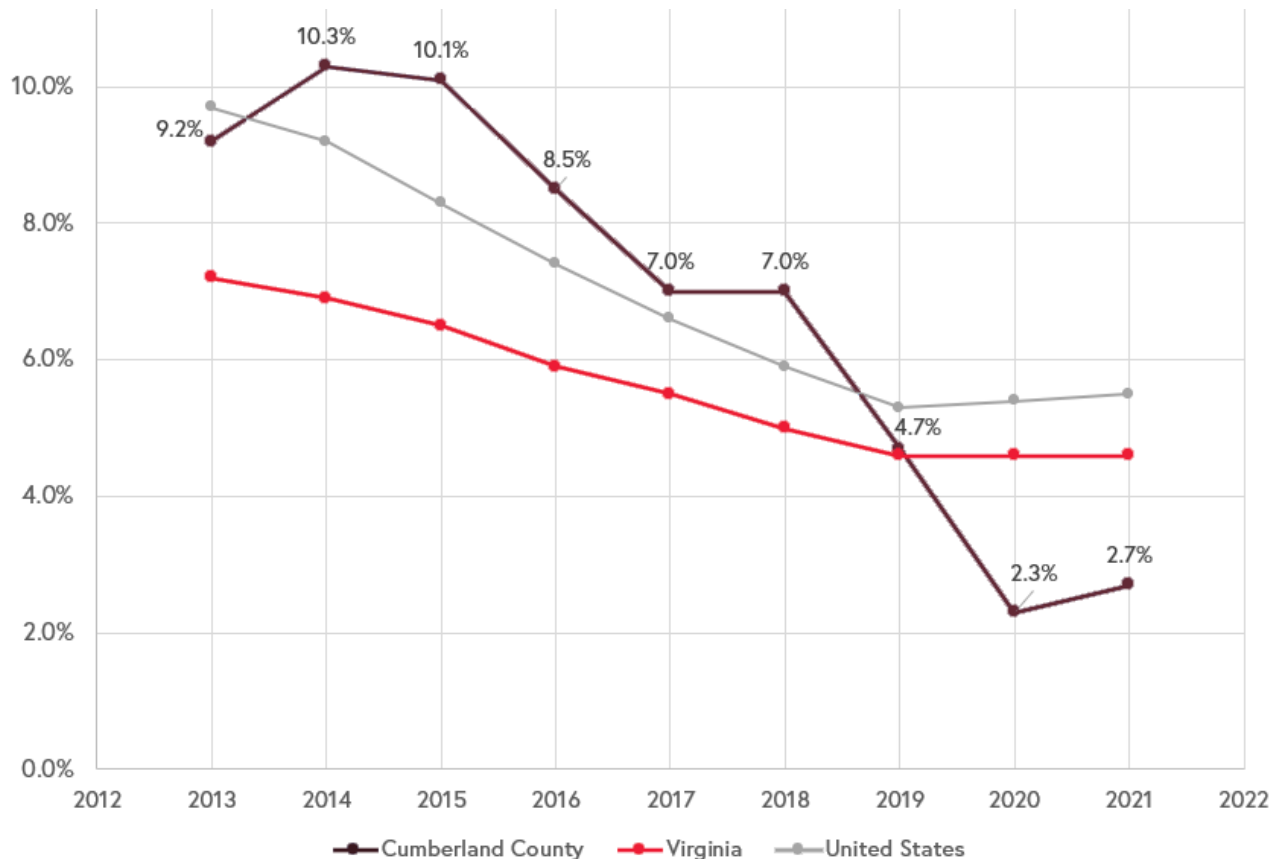
ESRI Business Analyst uses the U.S. Bureau of Labor’s Quarterly Census reporting on employment numbers. These can be somewhat inaccurate as to the employment numbers, however, they offer a snapshot of local employers that is useful.

Business/Organization Name	Employees	Annual Sales (\$1,000)
American Woodmark Corp.	550	71,003
Cumberland County Public Schools	238	Not Applicable
Cumberland County Administration	87	Not Applicable
Johnny R Asal Lumber Co	45	6,207
American Tower Corp	43	9,366
Gemini Inc	40	3,383
CF Marion Inc Trucking Corp	30	3,643
Colonial Pipeline Co	30	12,257
Cumberland County Sheriff	25	Not Applicable
Cumberland Restaurant, LLC	22	836

Data Source: ESRI Business Analyst, 2023

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate in the County in 2021 was estimated at 2.7%. Over time, it appears to have fallen almost 8 percent. While other localities struggled with high unemployment rates through the COVID-19 pandemic, it appears Cumberland’s economy has employed more people during and after the pandemic than it had been in the previous decade. For comparison, the rate was higher than Virginia and the United States overall rates at the beginning of the decade, but has since dropped below.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

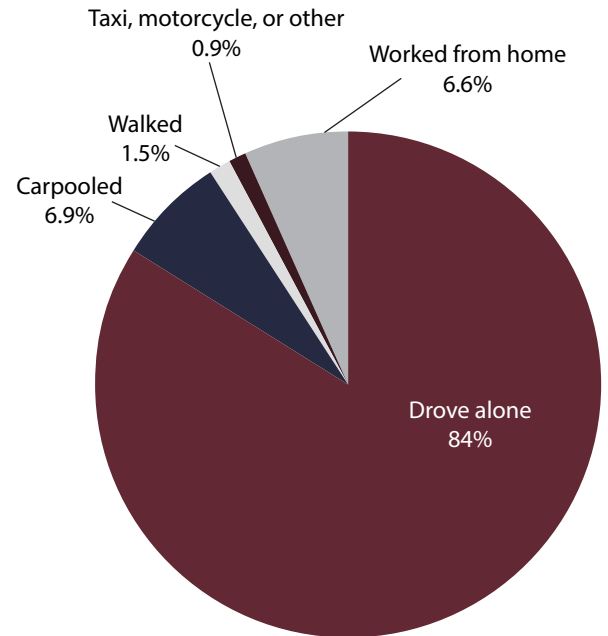
Transportation

Road Ownership

All public roads within Cumberland County are owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Commuting

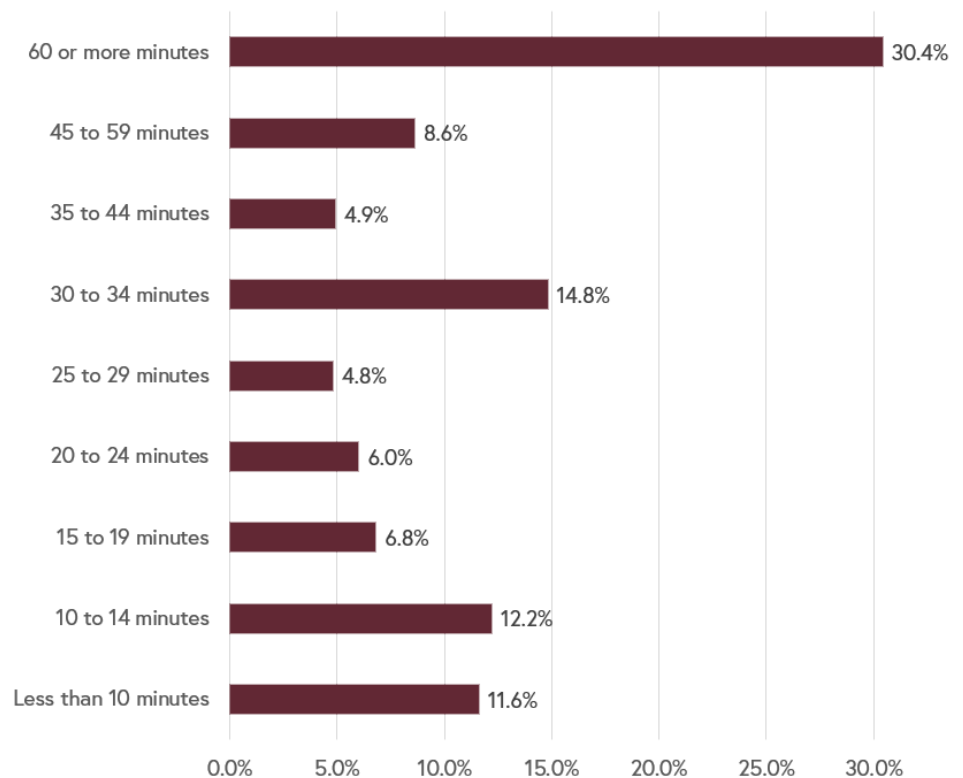
90.9% of Cumberland residents get to work by commuting in a car, truck, or van. This is typical of other localities. 6.6% of the working population work from home, which may be part of a nationwide trend from the COVID-19 pandemic towards more teleworking options. 1.5% of the population walks to work in the County and 0.9% utilize other means, such as bicycles, while 0% reported Public Transportation use. Although Cumberland is a rural County, if there is further growth and development it may burden the local road system with greater traffic. If development is targeted around more dense unincorporated communities, there is the opportunity to allow for a greater share of the community walking and bicycling to daily needs, or even a public transportation service for the County.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Travel Time to Work

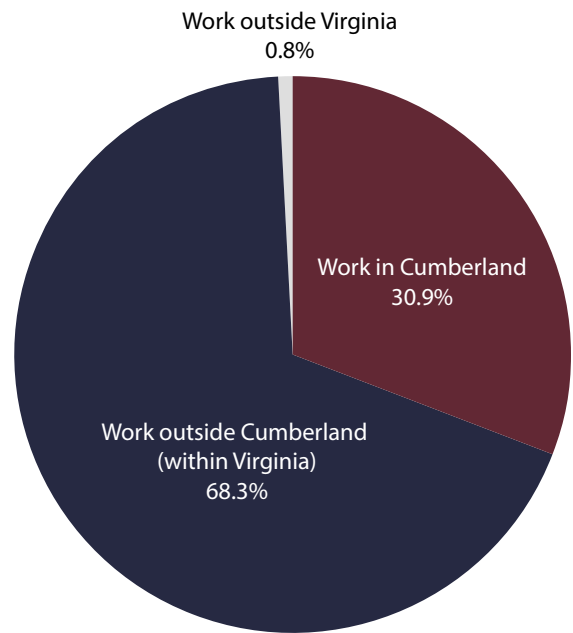
The largest percentage of Cumberland’s workforce is commuting 60 or more minutes to work (30.4%). This is enough travel time to mean they are likely commuting to one of the three nearby metropolitan areas of Lynchburg, Charlottesville, or Richmond. Shorter commutes to nearby places of employment can greatly improve quality of life through happiness and wellbeing. Long commute also come at a higher cost in vehicle maintenance and fuel. As Cumberland grows, if this share of commuters traveling for that distance continues the County may take on the character of a “bedroom community,” referring to a community in which people go to sleep in one locality, but spend their money and free time elsewhere.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Place of Work

When commuting times are cross-referenced with the place of work, it is noticeable that 68.3% of the population works outside of the County. As mentioned previously about “bedroom communities” or the impacts of longer commutes on quality of life, it is important to examine transportation patterns and ensure that places of employment, recreation, residency, and commercial uses are all available locally.



Data Source: 2021 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Commuting To/From

The tables below, provided by the Virginia Employment Commission, show where workers are coming in to Cumberland County and where they are going if they work elsewhere.

Top 10 Places Residents are Commuting To	Workers
Prince Edward County	645
Chesterfield County	399
Henrico County	378
Richmond City	332
Powhatan County	285
Buckingham County	164
Goochland County	117
Hanover County	98
Lynchburg City	93
Nottoway County	73

Top 10 Places Residents are Commuting From	Workers
Prince Edward County	197
Buckingham County	123
Powhatan County	62
Chesterfield County	56
Nottoway County	23
Henrico County	21
Amelia County	21
Appamattox County	19
Charlotte County	18
Lunenburg County	18

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics, 2014.

Functional Classification

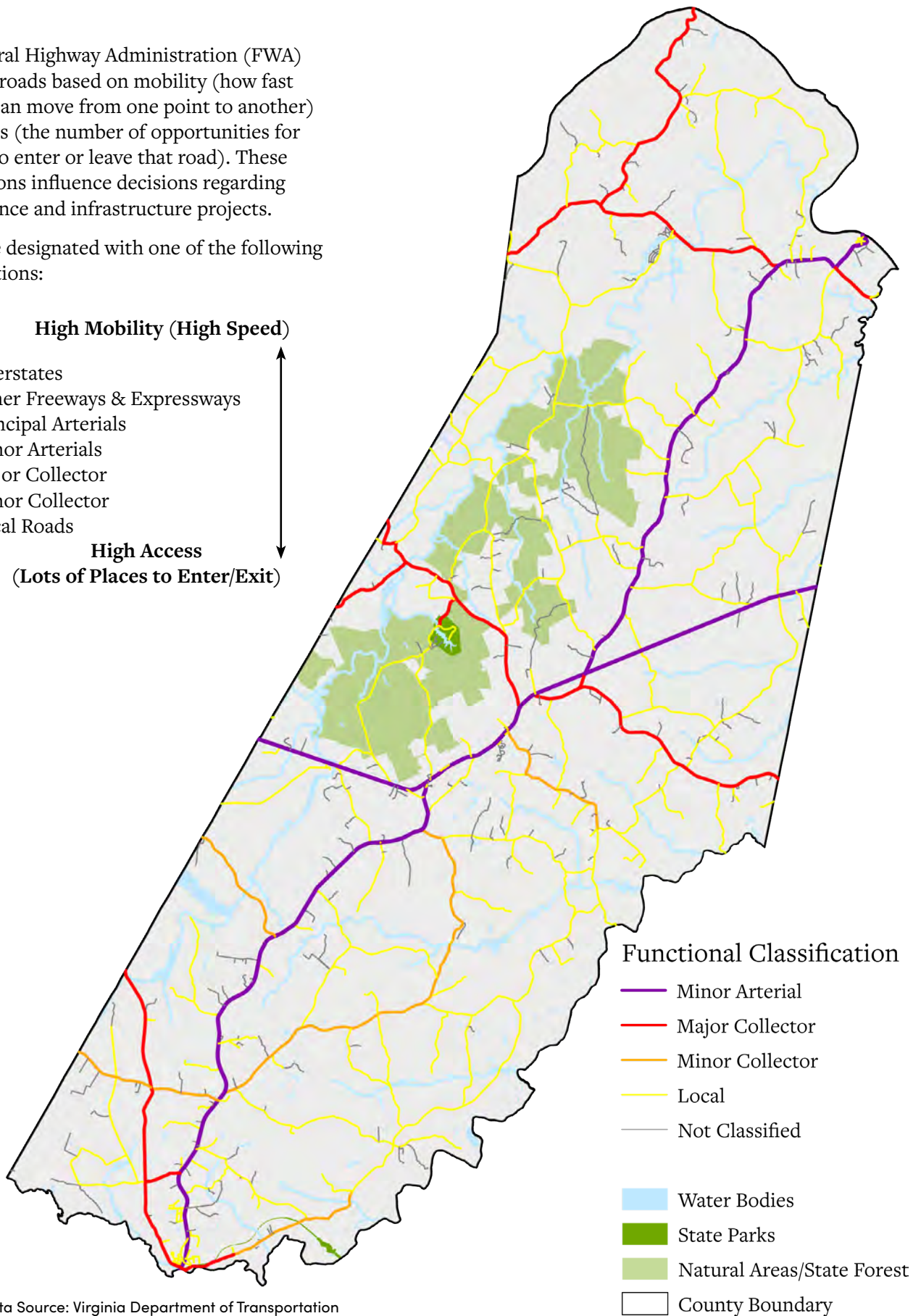
The Federal Highway Administration (FWA) classifies roads based on mobility (how fast vehicles can move from one point to another) and access (the number of opportunities for vehicles to enter or leave that road). These designations influence decisions regarding maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Roads are designated with one of the following classifications:

High Mobility (High Speed)

- Interstates
- Other Freeways & Expressways
- Principal Arterials
- Minor Arterials
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local Roads

High Access
(Lots of Places to Enter/Exit)

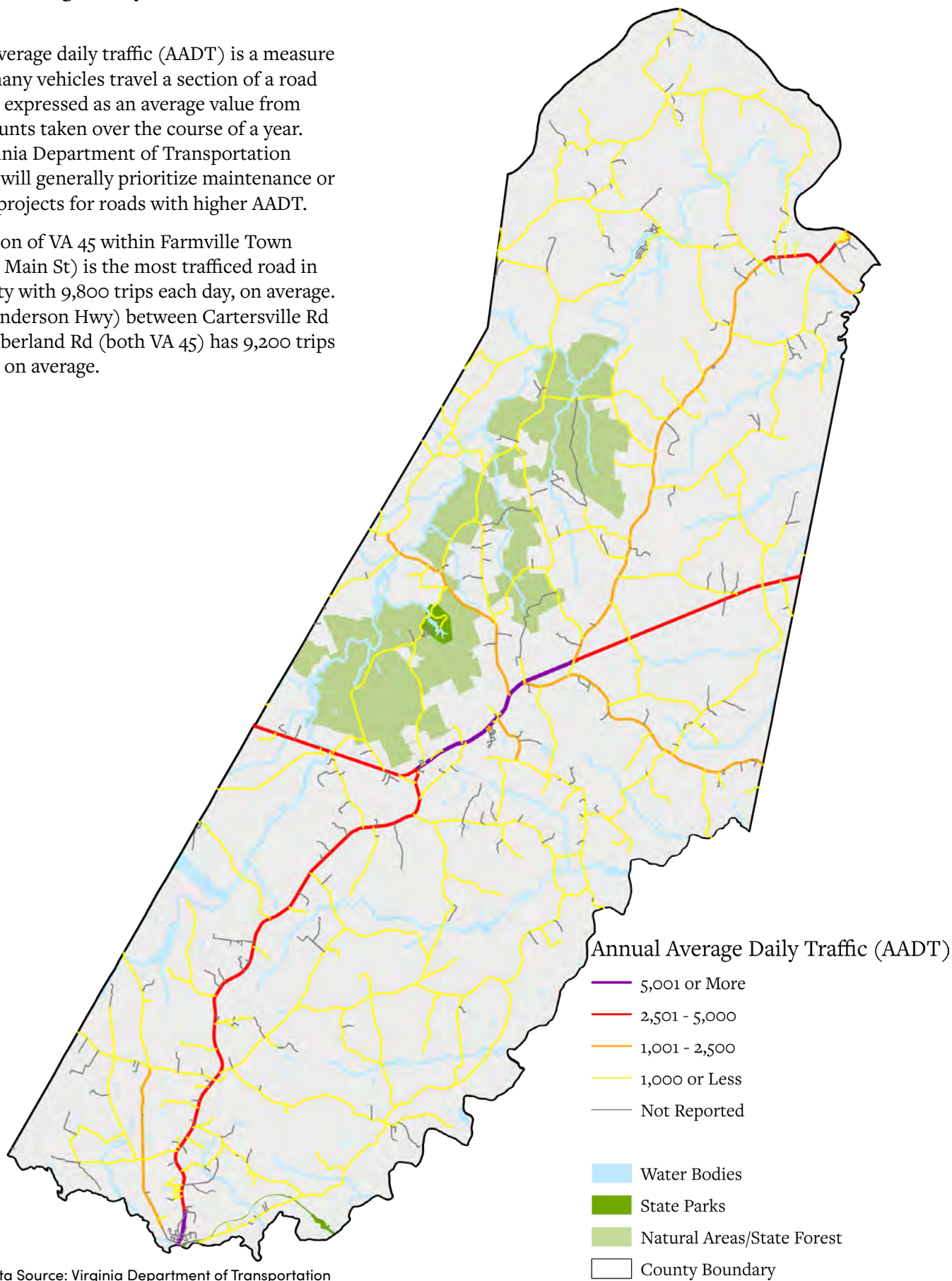


Data Source: Virginia Department of Transportation

Annual Average Daily Traffic

Annual average daily traffic (AADT) is a measure of how many vehicles travel a section of a road each day, expressed as an average value from traffic counts taken over the course of a year. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will generally prioritize maintenance or upgrade projects for roads with higher AADT.

The section of VA 45 within Farmville Town limits (N Main St) is the most trafficked road in the county with 9,800 trips each day, on average. US 60 (Anderson Hwy) between Cartersville Rd and Cumberland Rd (both VA 45) has 9,200 trips each day, on average.



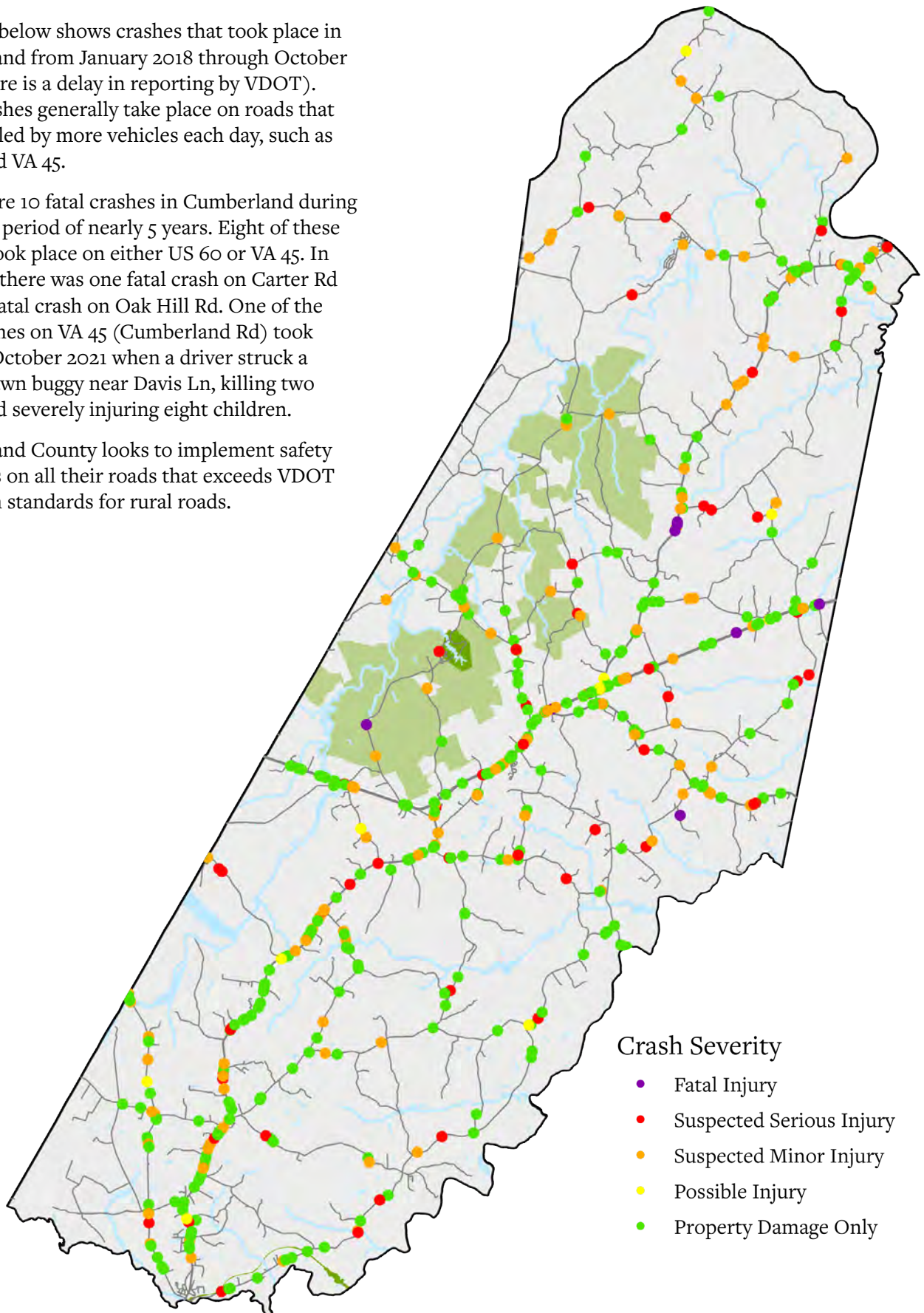
Data Source: Virginia Department of Transportation

Crashes

The map below shows crashes that took place in Cumberland from January 2018 through October 2022 (there is a delay in reporting by VDOT). More crashes generally take place on roads that are travelled by more vehicles each day, such as US 60 and VA 45.

There were 10 fatal crashes in Cumberland during the study period of nearly 5 years. Eight of these crashes took place on either US 60 or VA 45. In addition, there was one fatal crash on Carter Rd and one fatal crash on Oak Hill Rd. One of the fatal crashes on VA 45 (Cumberland Rd) took place in October 2021 when a driver struck a horse-drawn buggy near Davis Ln, killing two adults and severely injuring eight children.

Cumberland County looks to implement safety standards on all their roads that exceeds VDOT minimum standards for rural roads.



Data Source: Virginia Department of Transportation

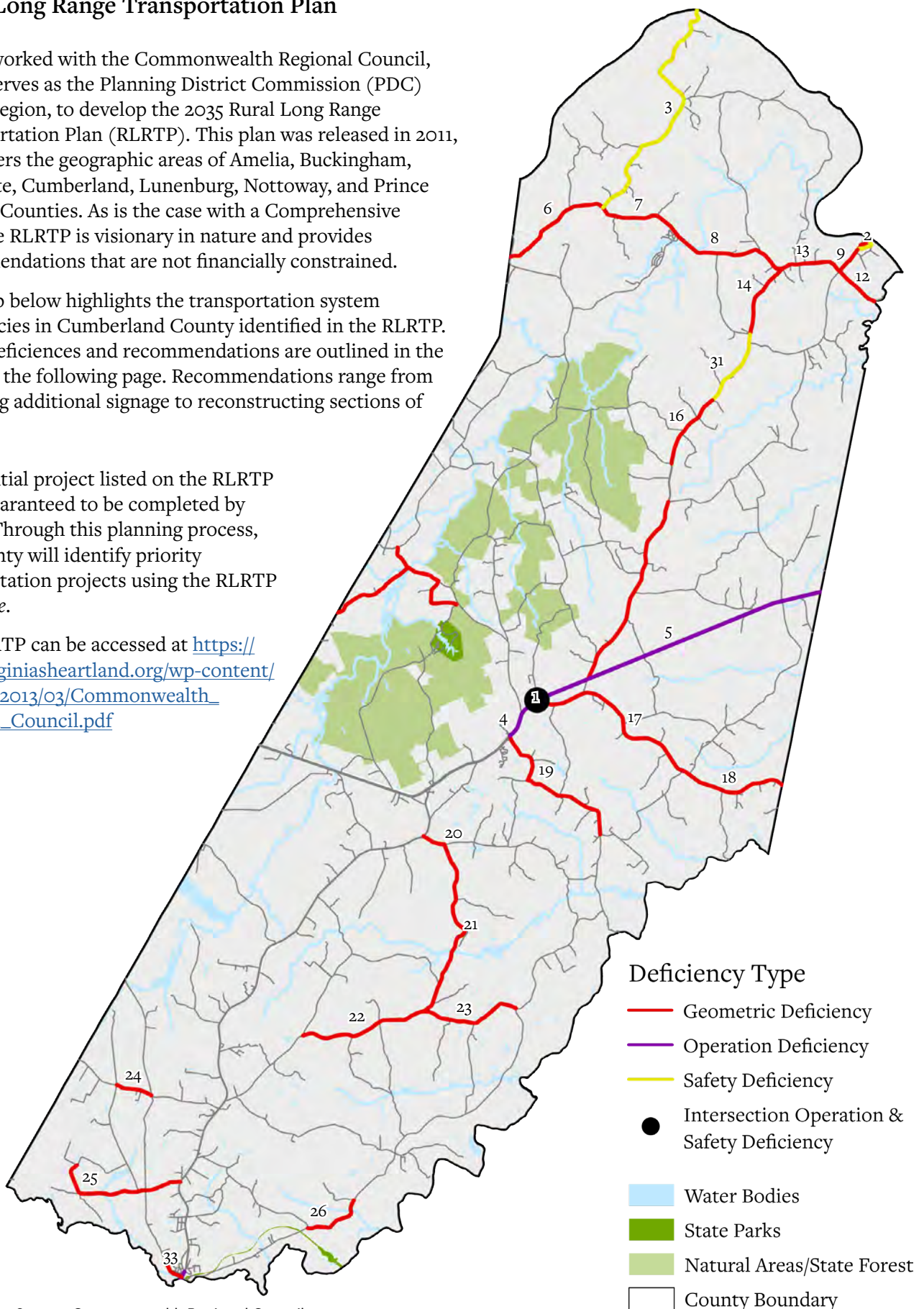
Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

VDOT worked with the Commonwealth Regional Council, which serves as the Planning District Commission (PDC) for the region, to develop the 2035 Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP). This plan was released in 2011, and covers the geographic areas of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties. As is the case with a Comprehensive Plan, the RLRTP is visionary in nature and provides recommendations that are not financially constrained.

The map below highlights the transportation system deficiencies in Cumberland County identified in the RLRTP. These deficiencies and recommendations are outlined in the table on the following page. Recommendations range from installing additional signage to reconstructing sections of roads.

*A potential project listed on the RLRTP is not guaranteed to be completed by VDOT. Through this planning process, the County will identify priority transportation projects using the RLRTP as a *guide*.

The RLRTP can be accessed at https://www.virginiashheartland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Commonwealth_Regional_Council.pdf



Data Source: Commonwealth Regional Council

RLRTP #	Road	Segment Start	Segment End	Deficiency Type	Recommendation
1	US 60 & VA 13	Intersection		Operation & Safety	Short-term install signage; Mid-term add turn lanes or reconstruct to make a four-leg intersection.
2	VA 45	High St	Goochland Line		Short-term install advance warning signs; Long-term reconstruct intersection to improve geometric deficiencies.
3	Columbia Rd	Duncan Shore Rd	Fluvanna Line	Safety	Long-term reconstruct roadway to current design standards and provide turn lanes for boat landing access.
4	US 60	Stoney Point Rd	VA 13	Operation	Long-term widen to urban four lanes with median.
5	US 60	VA 13	Powhatan Line	Operation	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
6	Duncan Store Rd	Buckingham Line	VA 690	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
7	Columbia Rd	VA 714	VA 610	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
8	Columbia Rd	VA 45	VA 714	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
9	VA 45	VA 684	High St	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
10	High St	VA 45 S	VA 655	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (10-foot lanes).
11	High St	VA 655	VA 45 N	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (10-foot lanes).
12	VA 684	VA 45	Powhatan Line	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
13	VA 45	VA 690	VA 684	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
14	VA 45	0.117 km N VA 610	VA 690	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
15	VA 45	VA 663	0.718 km S VA 684	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
16	VA 45	US 60	VA 616	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).

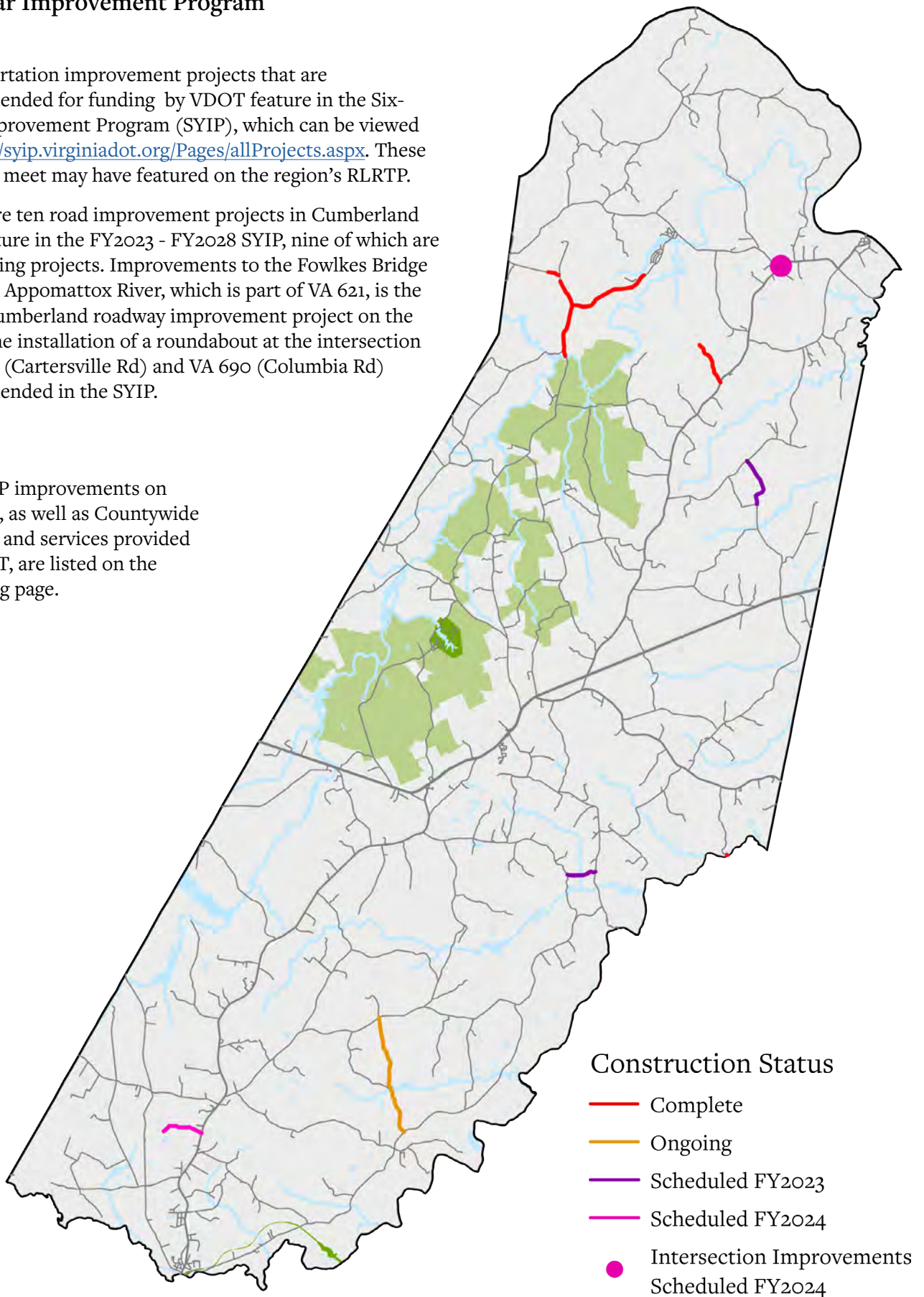
RLRTP #	Road	Segment Start	Segment End	Deficiency Type	Recommendation
17	VA 13	US 60	VA 654 W	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
18	VA 13	VA 654 W	Powhatan Line	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
19	Stoney Point Rd	VA 710	VA 654	Geometric	Mid-term add guide signs to direct airport traffic. Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders)
20	Davenport Rd	VA 45	Putney Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).
21	Putney Rd	Davenport Rd	John Randolph Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
22	John Randolph Rd	VA 640	Putney Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).
23	John Randolph Rd	Putney Rd	VA 600	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).
24	Cedar Ln	VA 635	VA 600	Geometric	Mid-term add guide signs to direct airport traffic; Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (10-foot lanes).
25	S Airport Rd	VA 45	VA 716	Geometric	Long-term widen roadway to current two-lane standards (11-foot lanes) and add wayfinding signs to improve access to the airport.
26	River Rd	VA 677	0.51 miles E of VA 657	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
27	Bolden Rd	Buckingham Line	Bear Creek Lake Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
28	Bear Creek Lake Rd	VA 672	Bolden Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
29	Trents Mill Rd	Bolden Rd	Oak Hill Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
30	Oak Hill Rd	VA 666	Bear Creek Lake Rd	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
31	VA 45	0.718 km S VA 683	VA 611	Safety	Short-term reconstruct roadway to current rural two-lane standards.
32	VA 45	Appomattox River Bridge (N)	Osborn Rd S	Operation	Long-term construct new roadway running parallel to and east of Main Street.
33	Plank Rd	VA 45	Farmville Line (N)	Geometric	Long-term reconstruct as urban two-lane roadway.

Six-Year Improvement Program

Transportation improvement projects that are recommended for funding by VDOT feature in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), which can be viewed at <http://syip.virginiadot.org/Pages/allProjects.aspx>. These projects meet may have featured on the region's RL RTP.

There are ten road improvement projects in Cumberland that feature in the FY2023 - FY2028 SYIP, nine of which are resurfacing projects. Improvements to the Fowlkes Bridge over the Appomattox River, which is part of VA 621, is the other Cumberland roadway improvement project on the SYIP. The installation of a roundabout at the intersection of VA 45 (Cartersville Rd) and VA 690 (Columbia Rd) recommended in the SYIP.

The SYIP improvements on the map, as well as Countywide projects and services provided by VDOT, are listed on the following page.



Data Source: Virginia Department of Transportation

UPC	Route(s)	Description	Estimated Cost	Previous Allocations	FY23 Allocations	FY24 - FY28 Allocations	Construction Status
110766	VA 45 & VA 690	Roundabout Construction	\$3.912 M	\$2.732 M	\$1.540 M	\$0	Underway
111282	VA 621	Bridge Replacement	\$3.006 M	\$3.006 M	\$0	\$0	Complete
115588	VA 612	Resurfacing	\$237 K	\$237 K	\$0	\$0	Complete
115589	VA 697	Resurfacing	\$137 K	\$137 K	\$0	\$0	Complete
115590	VA 608	Resurfacing	\$300 K	\$269 K	\$31 K	\$0	Complete
115591	VA 609	Resurfacing	\$45 K	\$45 K	\$0	\$0	Complete
115593	VA 664	Resurfacing	\$165 K	\$23 K	\$142 K	\$0	Underway
115594	VA 679	Resurfacing	\$300 K	\$107	\$193	\$0	Underway
121608	VA 654	Resurfacing	\$209 K	\$0	\$18 K	\$191 K	Scheduled FY2023
121609	VA 631	Resurfacing	\$125 K	\$0	\$9 K	\$115 K	Scheduled FY2023
121610	VA 701	Resurfacing	\$209 K	\$0	\$0	\$209 K	Scheduled FY2024
Countywide Transportation Projects & Services:							
99800	Countywide	Traffic Services	\$250 K	\$116 K	\$0	\$0	N/A
100007	Countywide	Engineering Services	\$250 K	\$277 K	\$0	\$0	N/A
100317	Countywide	Right of Way Engineering	\$250 K	\$15 K	\$0	\$0	N/A
116956	Countywide	Drainage Improvements	\$23 K	\$23 K	\$0	\$0	N/A
119184	Countywide	Unpaved Road Projects	\$209 K	\$0	\$0	\$756 K	Scheduled FY2026
119186	Countywide	Unpaved Road Projects	\$334 K	\$0	\$0	\$437 K	Scheduled FY2028
119290	Countywide	Unpaved Road Projects	\$817 K	\$0	\$0	\$437 K	Scheduled FY2027
121658	Countywide	Transportation Services	\$70 K	\$0	\$0	\$108 K	FY 2025
T18320	Countywide	Unpaved Road Funding	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

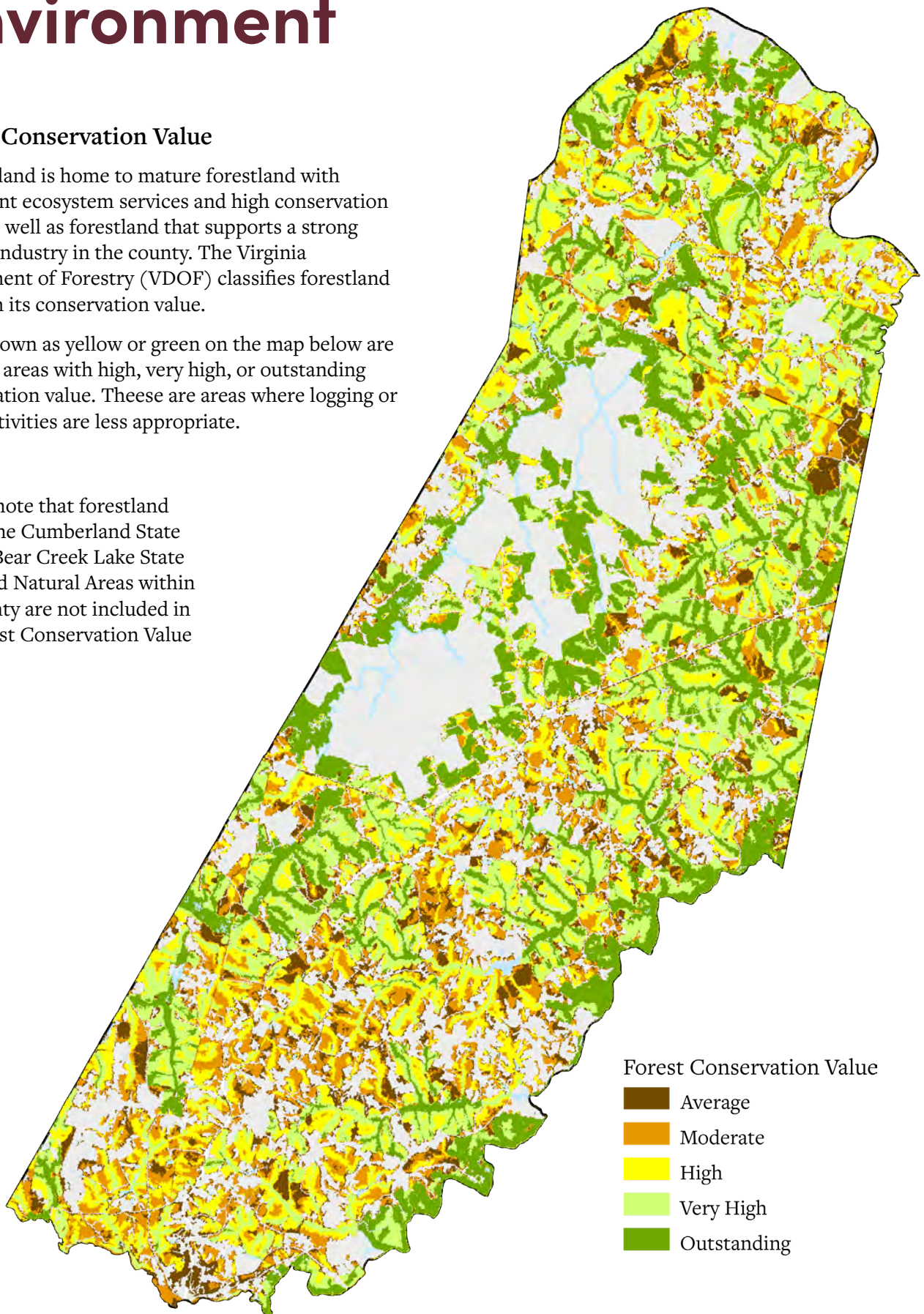
Environment

Forest Conservation Value

Cumberland is home to mature forestland with significant ecosystem services and high conservation value, as well as forestland that supports a strong lumber industry in the county. The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) classifies forestland based on its conservation value.

Areas shown as yellow or green on the map below are forested areas with high, very high, or outstanding conservation value. These are areas where logging or other activities are less appropriate.

*Please note that forestland within the Cumberland State Forest, Bear Creek Lake State Park, and Natural Areas within the county are not included in the Forest Conservation Value data.

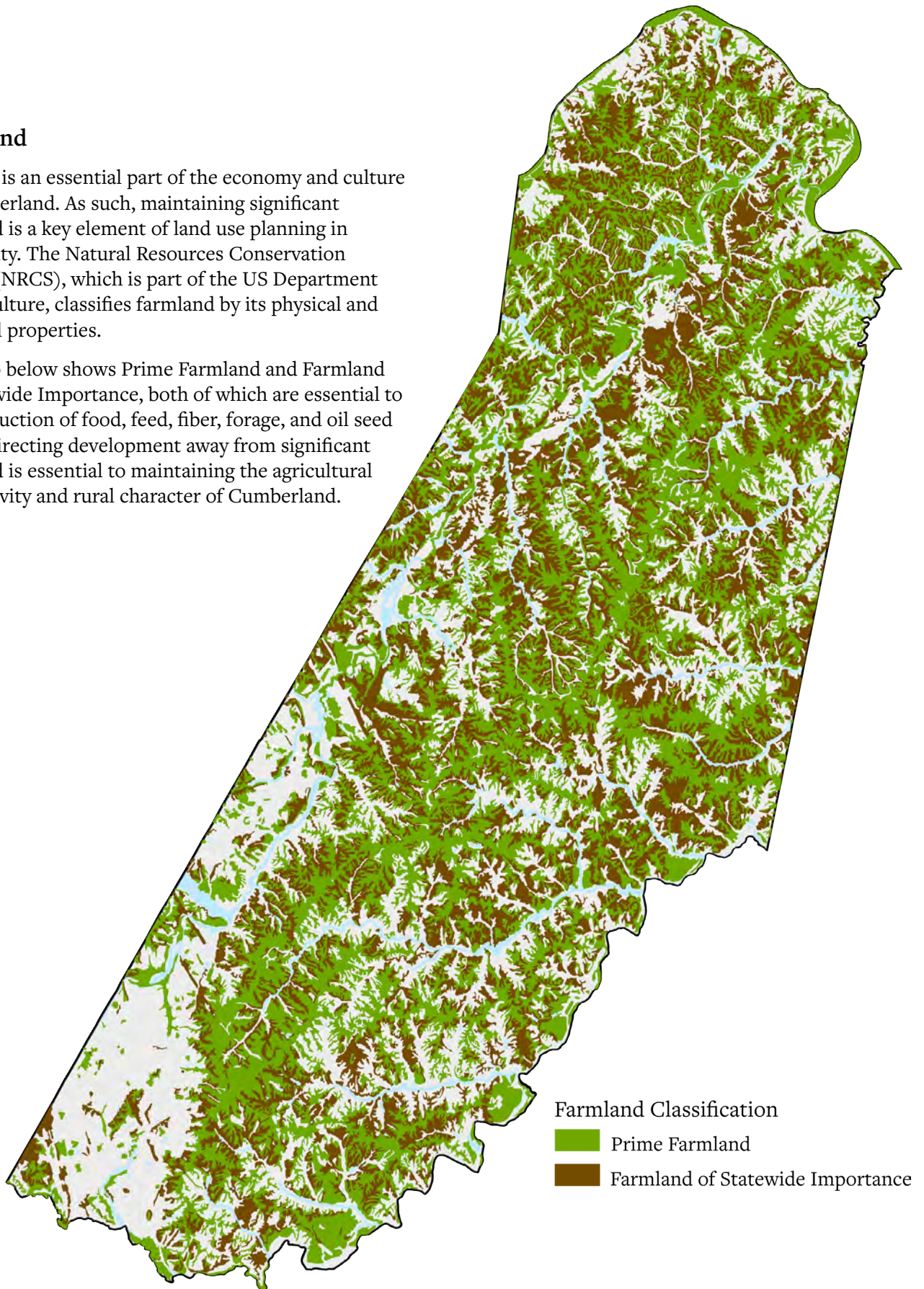


Data Source: Virginia Department of Forestry

Farmland

Farming is an essential part of the economy and culture in Cumberland. As such, maintaining significant farmland is a key element of land use planning in the county. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which is part of the US Department of Agriculture, classifies farmland by its physical and chemical properties.

The map below shows Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance, both of which are essential to the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops. Directing development away from significant farmland is essential to maintaining the agricultural productivity and rural character of Cumberland.

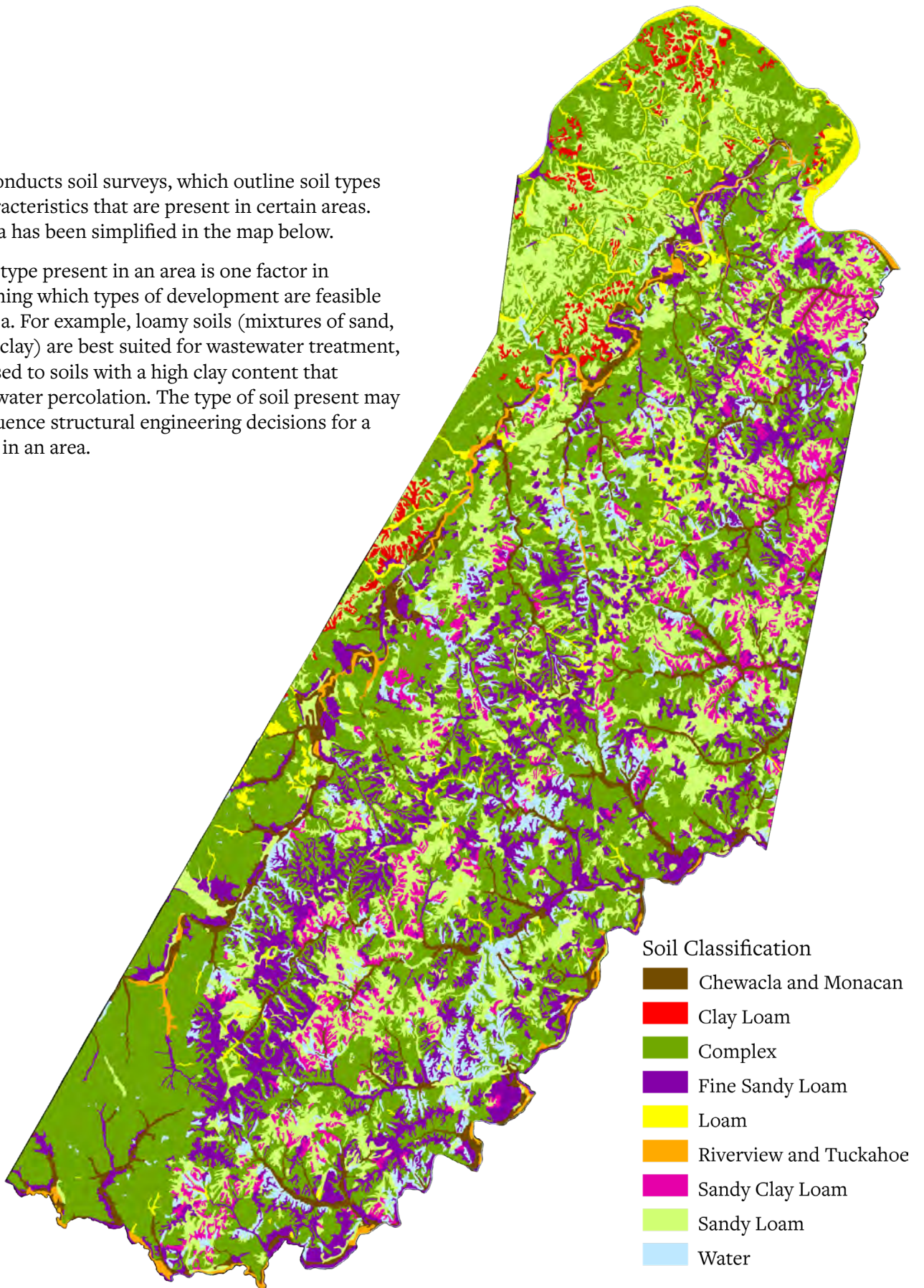


Data Source: US Department of Agriculture

Soils

NRCS conducts soil surveys, which outline soil types and characteristics that are present in certain areas. This data has been simplified in the map below.

The soil type present in an area is one factor in determining which types of development are feasible in an area. For example, loamy soils (mixtures of sand, silt, and clay) are best suited for wastewater treatment, as opposed to soils with a high clay content that restrict water percolation. The type of soil present may also influence structural engineering decisions for a building in an area.

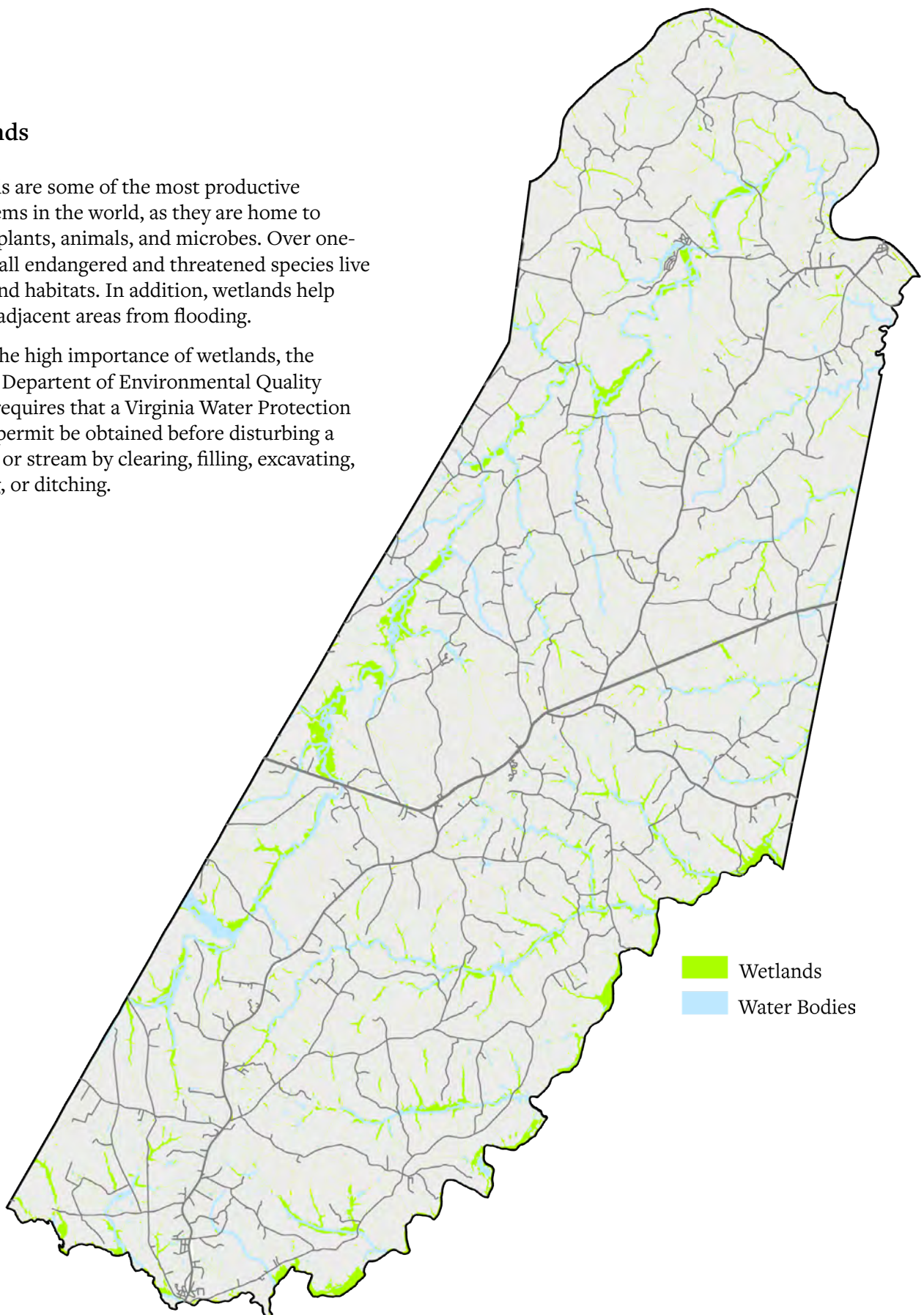


Data Source: US Department of Agriculture

Wetlands

Wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, as they are home to various plants, animals, and microbes. Over one-third of all endangered and threatened species live in wetland habitats. In addition, wetlands help protect adjacent areas from flooding.

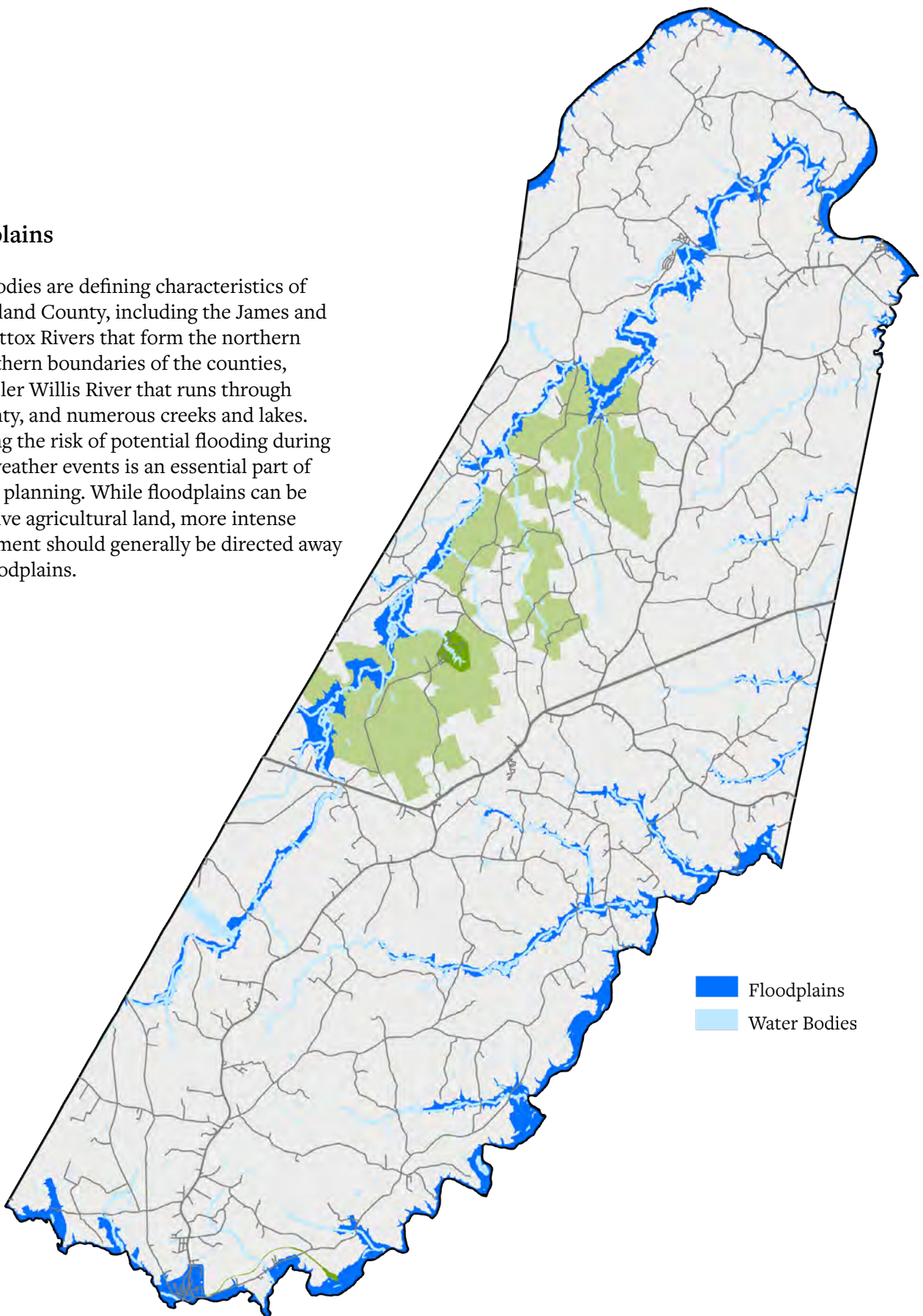
Due to the high importance of wetlands, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requires that a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit be obtained before disturbing a wetland or stream by clearing, filling, excavating, draining, or ditching.



Data Source: Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

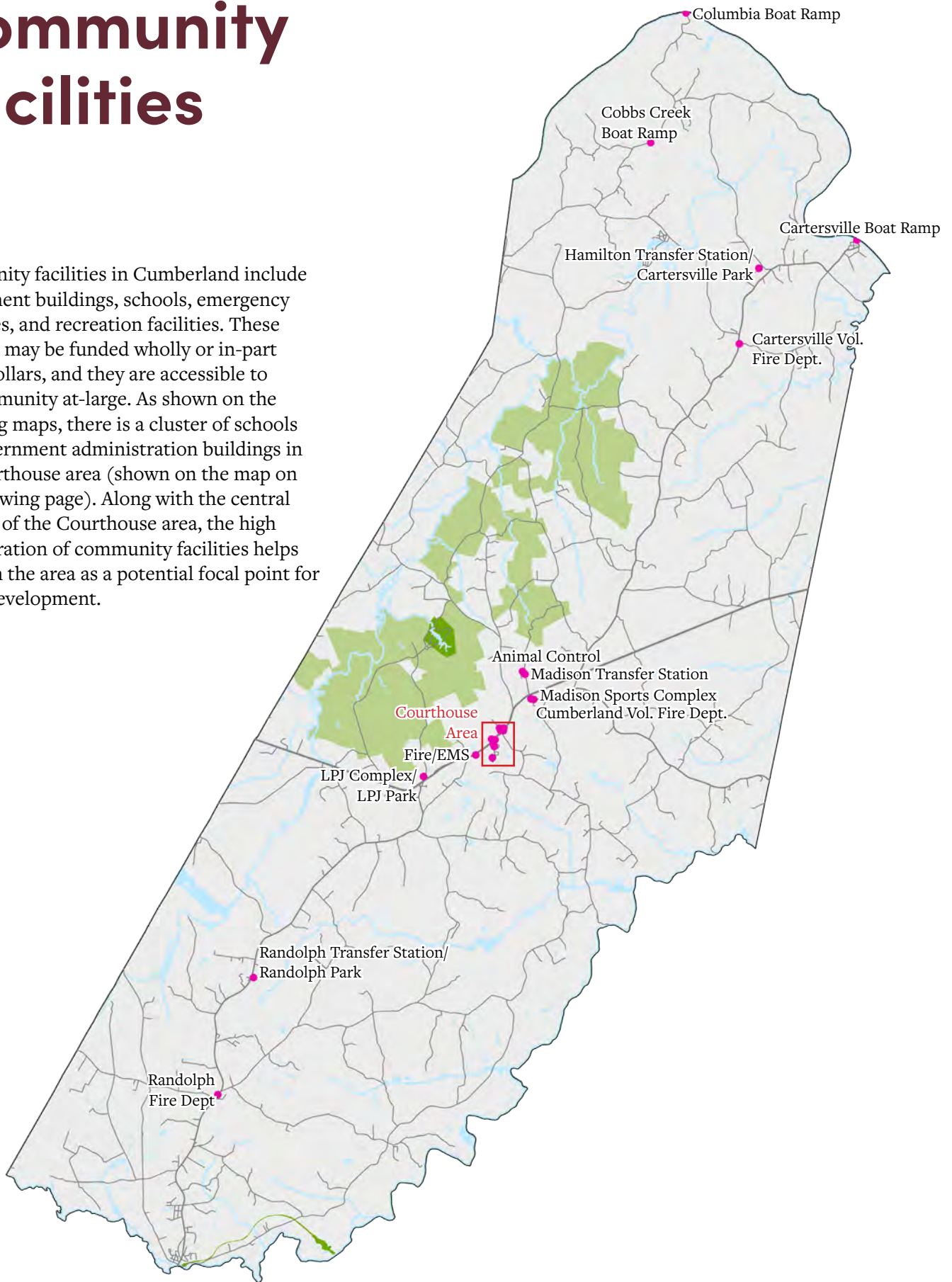
Floodplains

Water bodies are defining characteristics of Cumberland County, including the James and Appomattox Rivers that form the northern and southern boundaries of the counties, the smaller Willis River that runs through the county, and numerous creeks and lakes. Managing the risk of potential flooding during severe weather events is an essential part of land use planning. While floodplains can be productive agricultural land, more intense development should generally be directed away from floodplains.



Community Facilities

Community facilities in Cumberland include government buildings, schools, emergency resources, and recreation facilities. These facilities may be funded wholly or in-part by tax dollars, and they are accessible to the community at-large. As shown on the following maps, there is a cluster of schools and government administration buildings in the Courthouse area (shown on the map on the following page). Along with the central location of the Courthouse area, the high concentration of community facilities helps establish the area as a potential focal point for future development.



Community Facilities (Courthouse Area)

As shown on the map below, a significant number of community facilities are located in the Cumberland Courthouse Area. Moving forward, the County should address safe multimodal connections in the area to leverage the proximity of these facilities. For example, a student could make the 10-minute walk from the high school to the Cooperative Extension Office, but that route needs to be safe and comfortable .

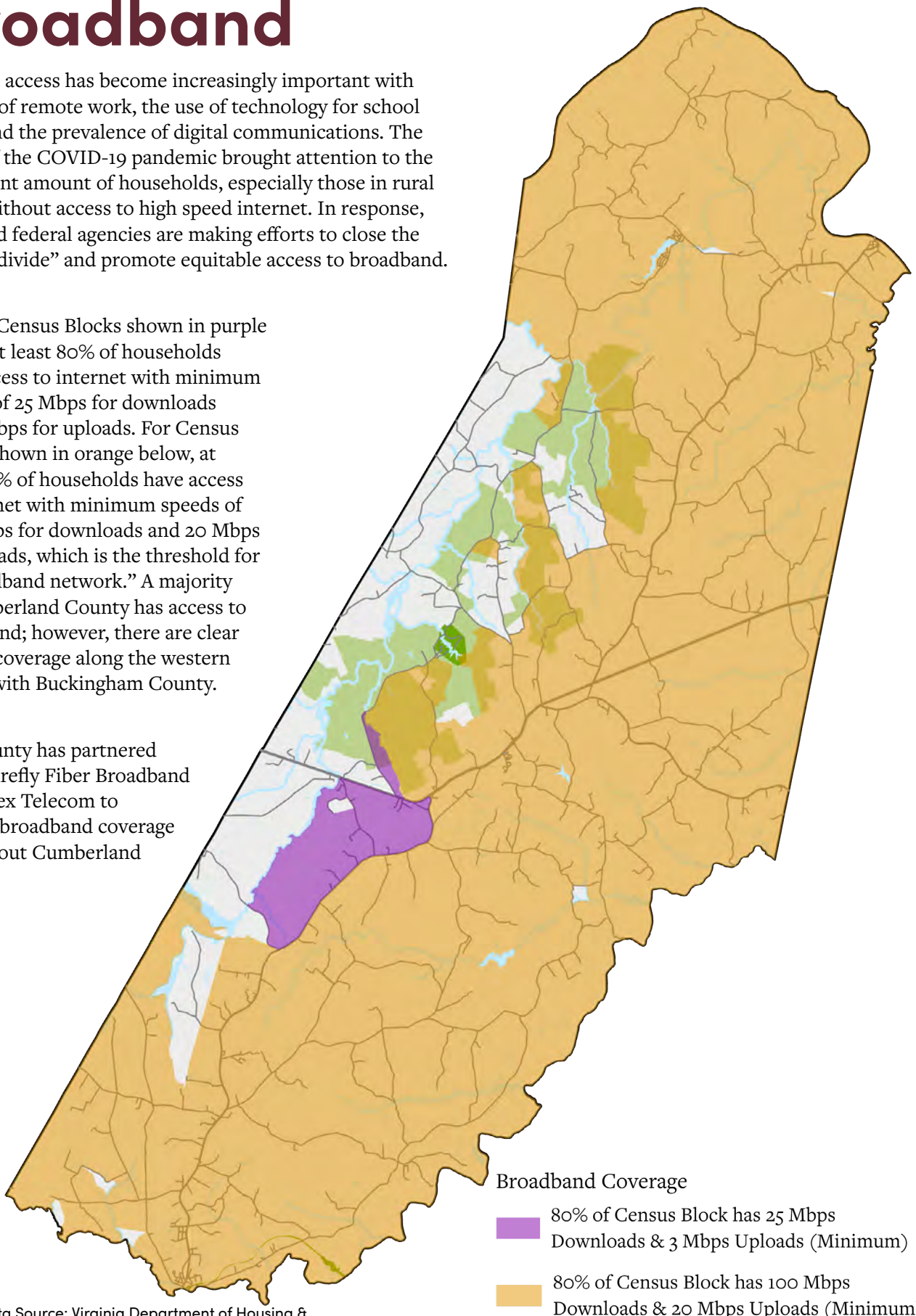


Broadband

Internet access has become increasingly important with the rise of remote work, the use of technology for school work, and the prevalence of digital communications. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brought attention to the significant amount of households, especially those in rural areas, without access to high speed internet. In response, state and federal agencies are making efforts to close the “digital divide” and promote equitable access to broadband.

For the Census Blocks shown in purple below, at least 80% of households have access to internet with minimum speeds of 25 Mbps for downloads and 3 Mbps for uploads. For Census Blocks shown in orange below, at least 80% of households have access to internet with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, which is the threshold for a “broadband network.” A majority of Cumberland County has access to broadband; however, there are clear gaps in coverage along the western border with Buckingham County.

The County has partnered with Fiurefly Fiber Broadband and Kinex Telecom to provide broadband coverage throughout Cumberland County.

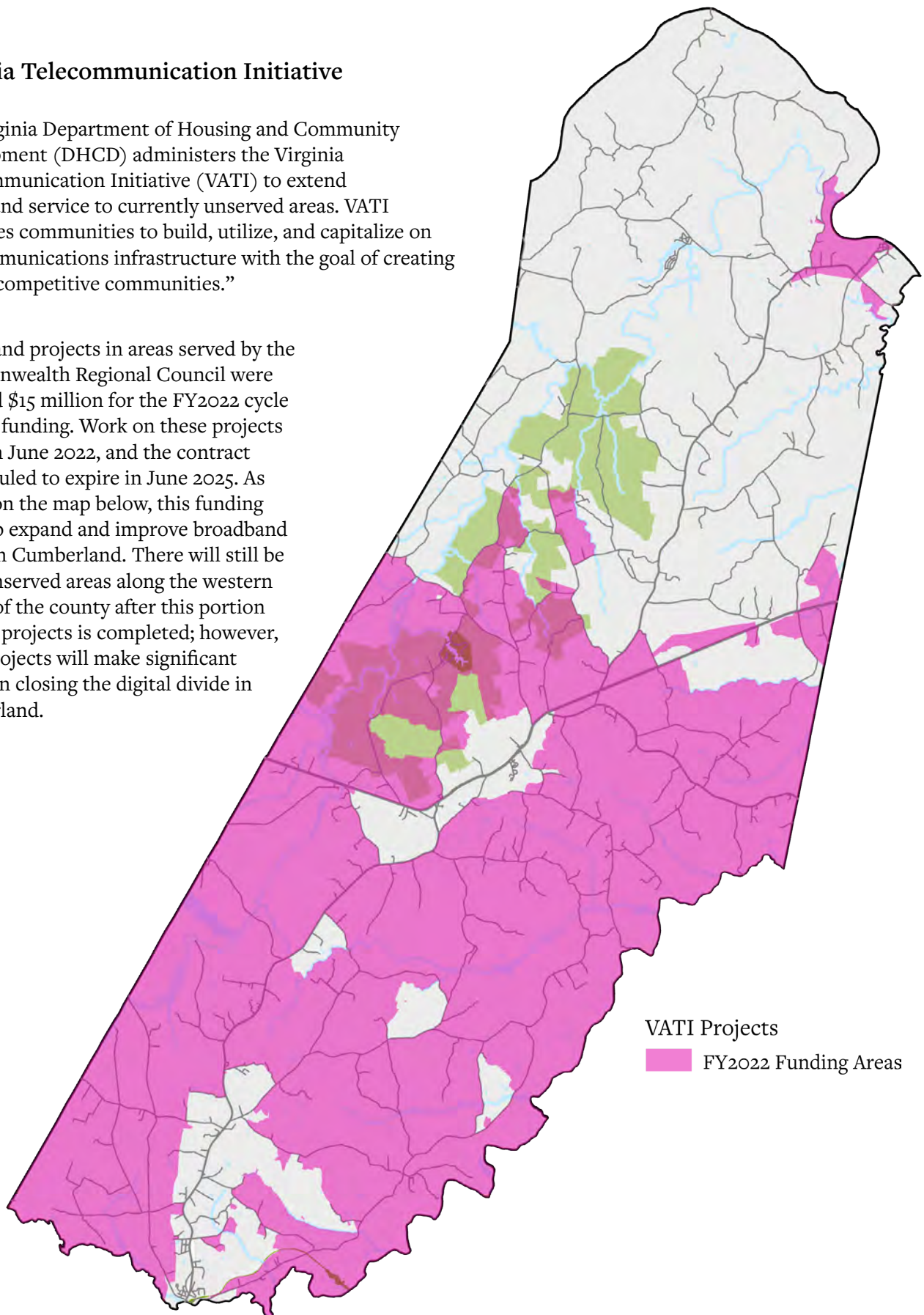


Data Source: Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) to extend broadband service to currently unserved areas. VATI “prepares communities to build, utilize, and capitalize on telecommunications infrastructure with the goal of creating strong, competitive communities.”

Broadband projects in areas served by the Commonwealth Regional Council were awarded \$15 million for the FY2022 cycle of VATI funding. Work on these projects began in June 2022, and the contract is scheduled to expire in June 2025. As shown on the map below, this funding will help expand and improve broadband access in Cumberland. There will still be some unserved areas along the western border of the county after this portion of VATI projects is completed; however, these projects will make significant strides in closing the digital divide in Cumberland.



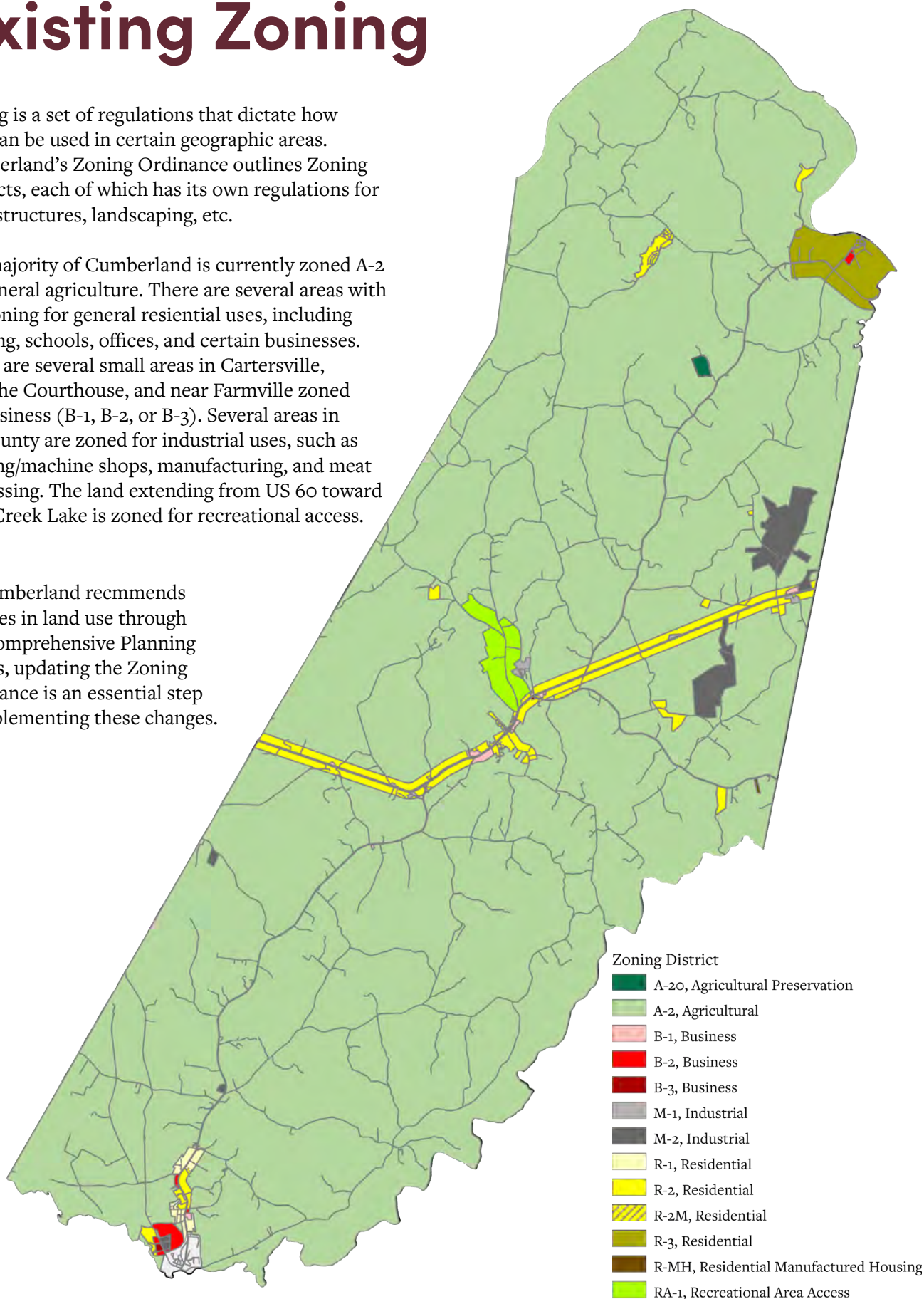
Data Source: Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

Existing Zoning

Zoning is a set of regulations that dictate how land can be used in certain geographic areas. Cumberland's Zoning Ordinance outlines Zoning Districts, each of which has its own regulations for uses, structures, landscaping, etc.

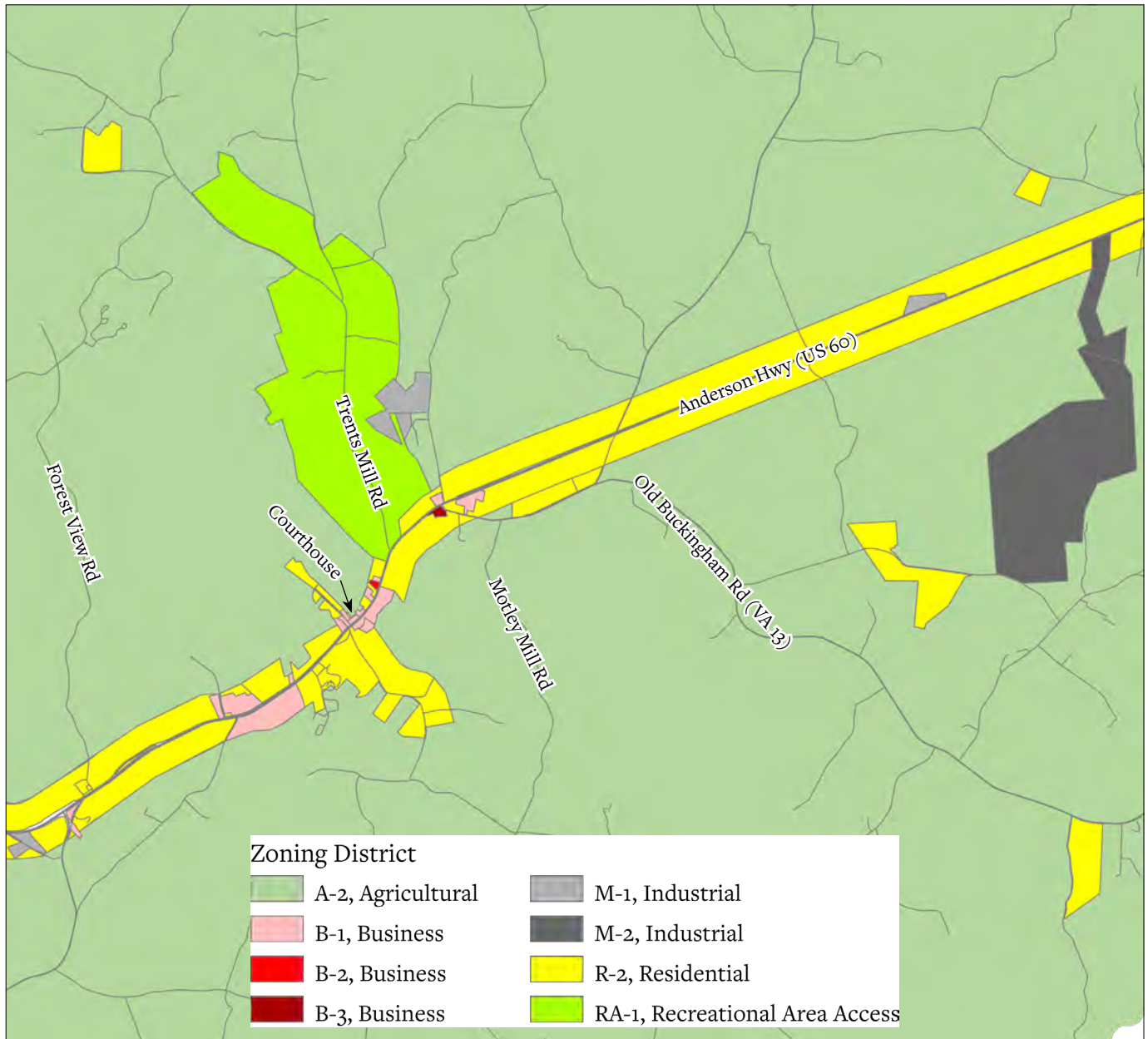
The majority of Cumberland is currently zoned A-2 for general agriculture. There are several areas with R-2 zoning for general residential uses, including housing, schools, offices, and certain businesses. There are several small areas in Cartersville, near the Courthouse, and near Farmville zoned for business (B-1, B-2, or B-3). Several areas in the county are zoned for industrial uses, such as welding/machine shops, manufacturing, and meat processing. The land extending from US 60 toward Bear Creek Lake is zoned for recreational access.

As Cumberland recommends changes in land use through the Comprehensive Planning process, updating the Zoning Ordinance is an essential step in implementing these changes.



Existing Zoning - Route 60 Corridor

The existing zoning in the county has been designed to cluster residential, commercial, and some industrial uses along the Route 60 (Anderson Hwy) corridor. The majority of the land within a quarter-mile of Route 60 is zoned R-2, which allows subdivisions, single-family houses, duplexes, modular housing, schools, churches, offices, and barbershops/beauty parlors by-right, among other allowed uses. Other areas along the corridor, including the Courthouse area, are zoned B-1, which allows offices, retail, restaurants, and service stations by-right, among other allowed uses. This pattern of zoning contributes to a strong reliance on Route 60 for the movement of goods, residents, and workers.



Existing Zoning - Farmville Area

The area along Route 45 north of Farmville has a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial zoning districts. The Plank Rd corridor just to the northeast of Farmville Town limits includes areas zoned M-2 for the most intense uses, including meat processing, asphalt mixing, and furniture manufacturing. The Plank Rd corridor also includes land zoned for manufactured housing and limited commercial uses. A mix of uses near the Town of Farmville helps establish the area as one of the hubs of Cumberland County.

*It should be noted that while part of Farmville is within Cumberland County, the Town has its own Zoning Ordinance.

