



2040
COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN

2024

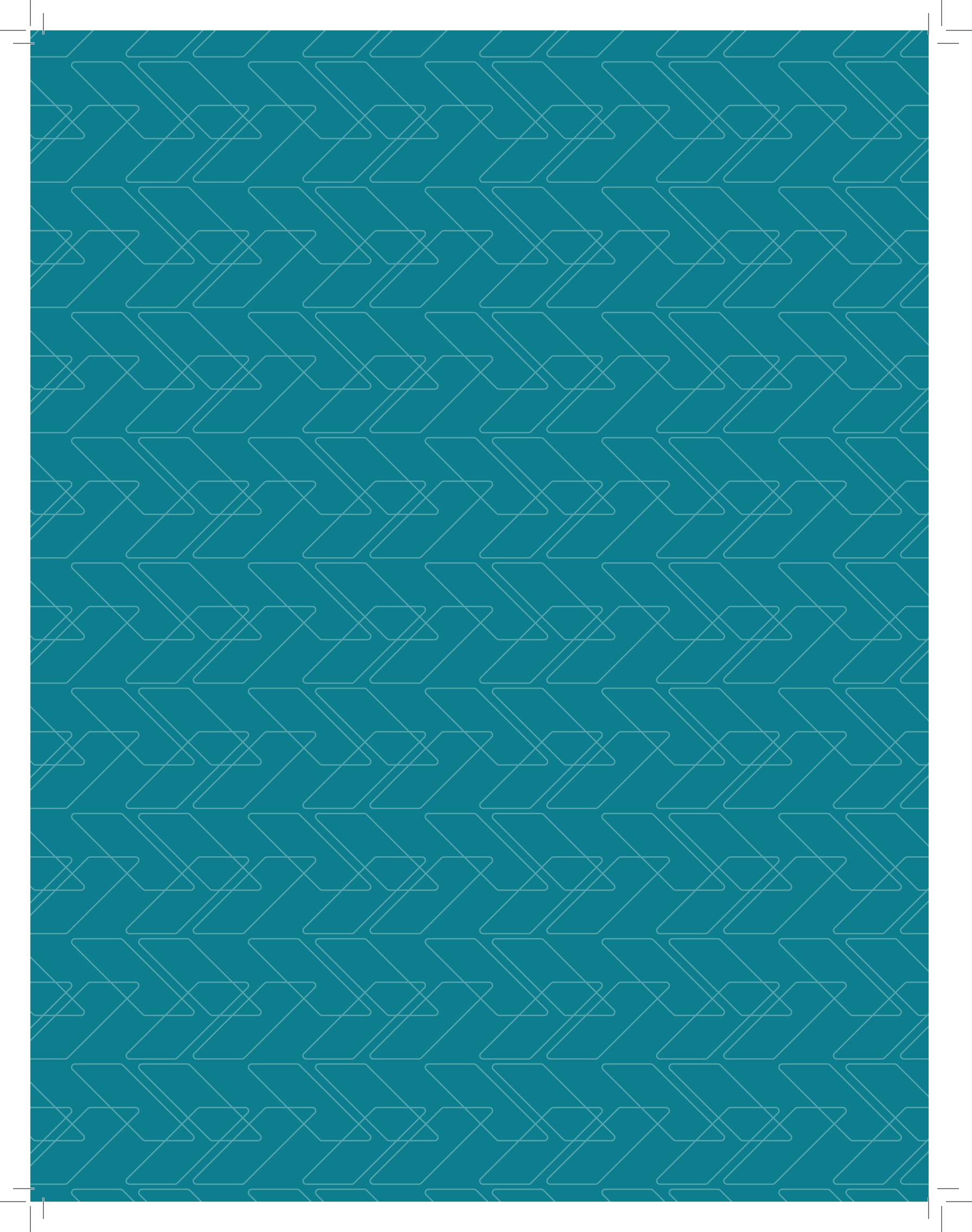
ANNUAL REPORT

The year "2024" is rendered in large, white, sans-serif numerals. Each numeral contains a stylized city skyline illustration. The first '2' features a green and yellow skyline. The first '0' features an orange and yellow skyline. The second '2' features a blue and white skyline. The '4' features a green and yellow skyline. A teal horizontal band crosses the middle of the numerals, containing the text "ANNUAL REPORT" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

PUBLISHED 2025



 CITY of CHARLOTTE



DEAR CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY,

I am pleased to present the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan 2024 Annual Report. We made an incredible amount of progress on the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan (the 2040 Plan) in 2024! As part of the 2040 Plan's implementation strategy, the annual report describes ongoing and accomplished tasks slated for the 2024 calendar year. So many important goals have been realized since Charlotte City Council adopted the 2040 Plan in June 2021, and we expect those successes to continue throughout the 2040 Plan's timeline.

The 2040 Plan sets the stage for our city's growth and development by focusing on creating a livable, equitable and resilient community. This year's annual report reflects the city's collective progress toward realizing the 10 goals identified in the 2040 Plan, each aimed at improving the quality of life for all residents. These goals touch on areas such as affordable housing, transportation and transit, sustainability, economic opportunity and community connectivity. The implementation of these goals guides our efforts across the city as we work to address current challenges while preparing for the future.

A key component of the 2040 Plan is the 2040 Policy Map, which provides a framework for land use and zoning decisions. This map serves as a vital tool for managing growth and ensuring

that development aligns with the community's vision. In tandem with this, the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) continues to provide the regulatory framework for managing development while promoting quality, sustainability and inclusivity in our community.

Our commitment to community engagement remains a top priority. Throughout 2024, we continued to work closely with our Community-Based Advisory Committees, gathering feedback and insights from residents to ensure that the implementation of the Plan is inclusive, transparent and reflective of the diverse needs of our community.

In addition to these foundational components, the report highlights the progress of several projects and programs organized by the following sections:

- ▶ The Vision
- ▶ The Impact
- ▶ The Future

Furthermore, we are witnessing continued investment in parks, housing, infrastructure and sustainability, as well as small business and workforce development. As we continue to implement the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan, I want to thank our residents, stakeholders and partners for their ongoing engagement and support.

The success of this plan is a collective effort, and together, we will continue to build a city that is ready for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.



We look forward to sharing our continued progress in the years to come as we move closer to achieving our 2040 vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Jones'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'M' and 'J'.

Marcus Jones, City Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	CHARLOTTE FAST FACTS	3
 Highlights	FORGING THE PATH AHEAD	4
 The Vision	EMBRACING THE VISION	7
	A SHARED VISION	10
	THE LAY OF THE LAND	11
 The Impact	COMMEMORATING OUR PARTNERS' WORK	13
	CREATING COMMISSIONS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE	14
	PLANNING FOR GROWTH	16
	BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS	22
	PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT	26
	EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHARLOTTEANS	32
	COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLACEMAKING	38
 The Future	ON THE HORIZON	41
	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	48

Notice of Accommodations: The City of Charlotte is committed to making our services and programs accessible to all. Upon request, auxiliary aids, written materials in alternative formats, language access and other reasonable accommodations or modifications will be provided. To make a request, please email cltfuture2040@charlottenc.gov or call 704-336-2205.

CHARLOTTE FAST FACTS

Calendar Year: 2023



Largest City / **14th**



Square Miles / **314**



Estimated Population as of 7.1.23 / **911,311**



Homes Owner-Occupied / **50.2%**

Age

Median Age / **34.7**

Under 18 / **22%**

20 – 24 / **7.3%**

62+ Years / **14.2%**

Education for Ages 25+

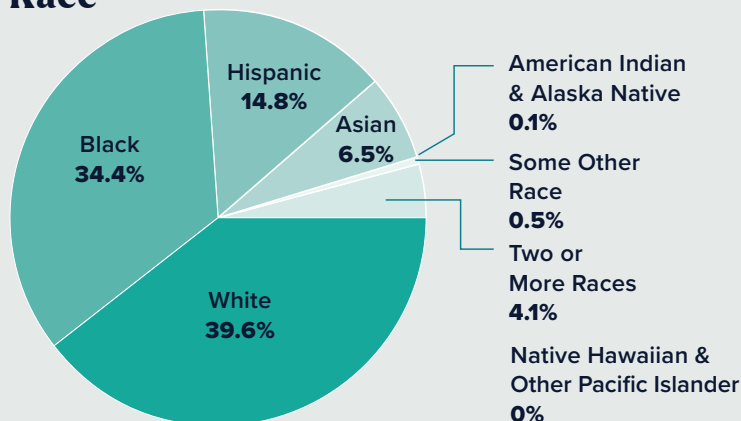


High School Graduate or Higher / **90.1%**



Bachelor's Degree or Higher / **50.1%**

Race*



Nationality

Foreign-Born Population / **18.1%****

*Estimates are based on available data and are subject to a margin or error of 0.1%.

**Source: ACS Data 2023 1-Year Estimates.

HIGHLIGHTS

FORGING
THE

PATH
AHEAD

HIGHLIGHTS

THE VISION

THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (THE 2040 PLAN) IS THE COMMUNITY'S SHARED, COMPREHENSIVE VISION TO GUIDE CHARLOTTE'S GROWTH DURING THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

It is a living document that provides a policy framework that will steer our city's decision-making and investment in the near- and long-term. The planning process was driven by a focus on equitable growth and included robust public input. As a community-driven plan, it seeks to address the inequities of the past and unite the city around a shared set of goals for our future.

THE IMPACT

THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ENVISIONED A TRANSPARENT REPORTING MECHANISM FOR TRACKING, MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE 2040 PLAN'S GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Annual Report will focus on how projects and programs advance the 2040 Plan's 10 goals each calendar year. The Annual Report will share the status of policy recommendations and highlight projects showing how the policies are enacted.

THE FUTURE

THE WORK OF IMPLEMENTING THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS ONGOING.

There was substantial work completed in the 2024 calendar year to continue moving each of the policy recommendations toward completion, including continual tracking. To shed light on upcoming projects, this section spotlights projects that have progressed in the reporting timeframe, further supporting the vision of the 2040 Plan (Table 1: Charlotte Future 2040 Plan Progress, page 42).



Impact Policy Recommendations

The Impact section highlights the project status of the **55** short-term policy recommendations that are being considered.

OF THOSE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Total Progress To Date (2021-2024)

8 COMPLETE **15** COMPLETE & ONGOING **27** IN PROGRESS **5** FORTHCOMING





Embracing THE VISION

CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



The values of the community are at the heart of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The 2040 Plan's equitable and inclusive process focused on hearing from every Charlottean. This community-driven approach led to the development of the guiding principles and vision that are true to Charlotte's character and the needs of its people. As Charlotte continues to grow and welcome newcomers from around the country and the globe, it will be critical to foster a community ethic of belonging. The values, vision and goals for Charlotte embrace and celebrate differences, as well as the places and opportunities that unite us.

The Vision section includes the guiding principles, vision elements, equitable growth metrics and plan goals developed through a community-led process. It highlights seven supporting initiatives: Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map, Charlotte Strategic Mobility Plan, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), Meck Playbook, Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP), Charlotte Area Transit (CATS), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services and Charlotte Water.



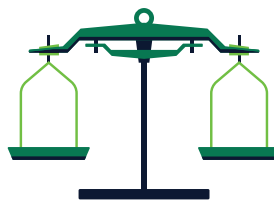
Charlotte is America's Queen City, opening her arms to a diverse and inclusive community of residents, businesses and visitors alike. Here you will find a safe, family-oriented city where people work together to help everyone thrive.

- City of Charlotte's Vision Statement

Over 500,000 residents participated in the development of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The 2040 Plan consists of 3 parts: The Plan Policy, Implementation Strategy, and Manuals and Metrics. The Plan Policy is considered the main body of the Plan and was adopted by Charlotte City Council on June 21, 2021. The 2040 Plan can be summarized, in part, by the following Guiding Principles, Vision Elements, Equitable Growth Framework and Plan Goals.

Guiding Principles

The values that are used to establish the framework for decision-making throughout the life of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan



EQUITABLE



INTEGRATED



AUTHENTIC



RESILIENT

Vision Elements

How Charlotteans picture their city in the future

**Inclusive & Diverse / Prosperous &
Innovative / Livable & Connected
Healthy & Sustainable / Regional**

Equitable Growth Metrics

Assess and track progress towards becoming a more equitable, fair and just city over the next 20 years

**VULNERABILITY
TO DISPLACEMENT**



**ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL
AMENITIES, GOODS
AND SERVICES**



**ACCESS TO
HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**



**ACCESS TO
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE**

Plan Goals

Reflect the voices of our community, articulate key elements of the growth strategy and establish the foundation for complete communities



Goal One
10-Minute
Neighborhoods



Goal Six
Healthy, Safe and
Active Communities



Goal Two
Neighborhood
Diversity and Inclusion



Goal Seven
Integrated Natural and
Built Environments



Goal Three
Housing
Access for All



Goal Eight
Diverse and Resilient
Economic Opportunity



Goal Four
Transit and Trail
Oriented Development



Goal Nine
Retain Our
Identity and Charm



Goal Five
Safe and Equitable
Mobility



Goal Ten
Fiscally
Responsible

THE VISION

A SHARED VISION

The Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a shared vision to guide the city's growth over the next 20 years.

The 2040 Plan is the foundation for strategic policy, equitable investment in infrastructure and regulatory tools such as the Unified Development Ordinance. Since the 2040 Plan's adoption, Charlotte has made significant progress in modernizing and broadening its toolbox for managing growth. Planning is an iterative process that requires multiple layers of guidance and direction. The 2040 Plan supports the following citywide policies and initiatives while being strengthened by the city and county partners who advance them.



Mobility

Open Space & Sustainability

Public Services

Implementation



Visit www.charlottenc.gov for more information.

Mapping Place-Based Policies

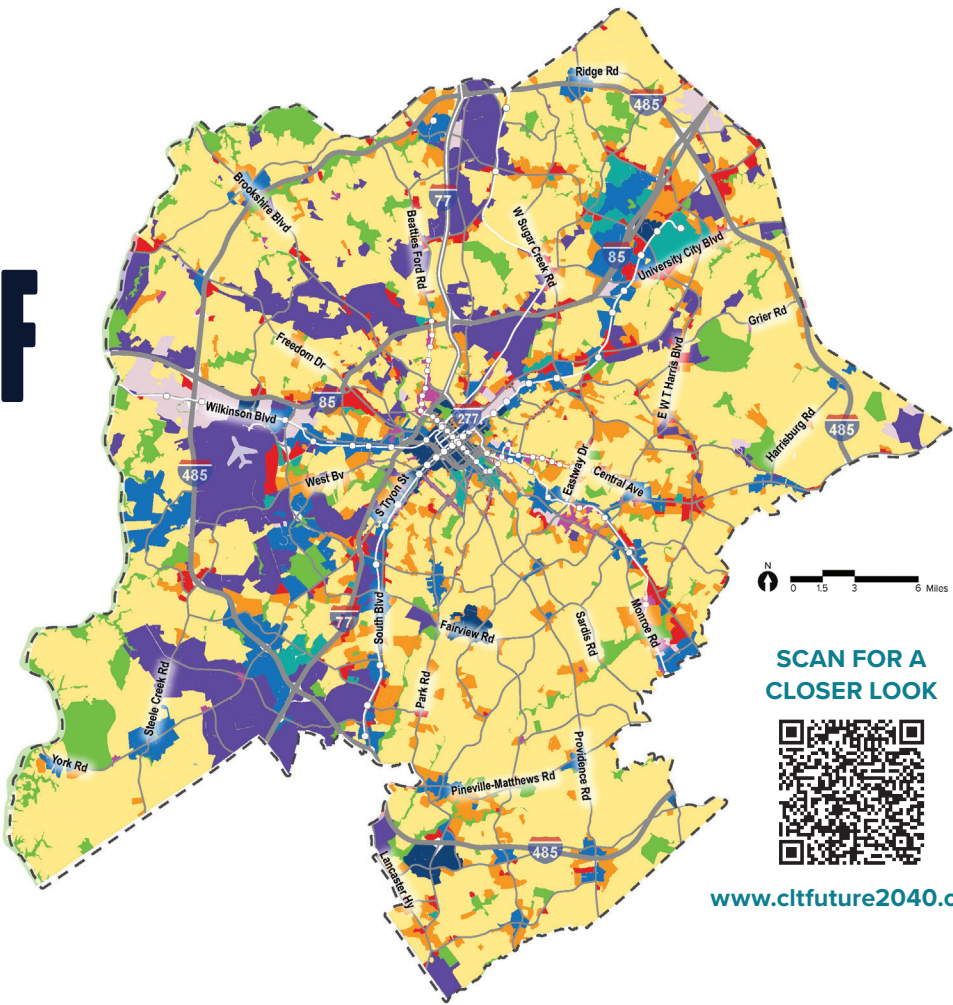
THE LAY OF THE LAND

THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 POLICY MAP IS A COMPANION TO THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND A TRANSLATION OF THE 2040 PLAN'S PLACE-BASED POLICIES FOR SPECIFIC LOCATIONS.

It is an essential tool that identifies the type and intensity of development appropriate throughout Charlotte and is used in multiple decision-making processes related to growth and development.

The Policy Map assigns a Place Type designation to each property in the city's jurisdiction. There are 10 Charlotte Place Types, each providing guidance for the appropriate type and intensity of development. The Place Types also correspond to one or multiple zoning districts in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that provide specific development standards such as permitted height, required lot size, setbacks and permitted uses.

The Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan with the accompanying Policy Map and UDO were developed together to create a strong connection between the community's vision and its regulatory tools, which help make the vision a reality. These linked policies and regulations make future development more predictable and transparent for all stakeholders.



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | High-Capacity Transit Line and Station | | City of Charlotte Boundary |
| | Neighborhood 1 | | Innovation and Mixed-Use |
| | Neighborhood 2 | | Neighborhood Center |
| | Parks and Preserves | | Community Activity Center |
| | Commercial | | Regional Activity Center |
| | Campus | | Manufacturing and Logistics |

www.cltfuture2040.com



The progress our partners and their supporters are making to implement the 2040 Plan and improve the Charlotte community is commendable. The positive impact they are having on the quality of life of Charlotteans is appreciated. We wish to offer a special thanks to all the partners who supported the creation of the 2024 Annual Report.

Putting It ON PAPER

COMMEMORATING OUR PARTNERS' WORK

The 2024 Annual Report is the outcome of annual tracking and reporting on the implementation progress of the goals, objectives and policies of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan.



Directions for how the annual report is published can be found in the accompanying documents to the 2040 Plan, including the Charlotte Future 2040 Implementation Strategy and the Manuals and Metrics.

Both documents provide guidance for short-term action items and tracking plan progress. The 2024 Annual Report highlights projects and programs our city and county partners implemented to achieve the city's vision and ten 2040 Plan goals. The partners' work is organized by the Implementation Strategy and most applicable goal. This approach demonstrates the cross-collaborative efforts and multi-departmental initiatives used to achieve the city's vision and implement the Plan. Some projects and programs further multiple goals. In those instances, additional goals are listed.

The partners featured in this report include:

- ▶ Charlotte Equitable Development Commission (CEDC)
- ▶ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)
- ▶ City of Charlotte Economic Development Department
- ▶ City of Charlotte Housing and Neighborhood Services (H&NS)
- ▶ City of Charlotte Human Resources Department
- ▶ City of Charlotte Innovation and Technology Department (I&T)
- ▶ City of Charlotte Planning, Design and Development Department (PD&D)
- ▶ City of Charlotte Office of Sustainability and Resilience
- ▶ Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services
- ▶ Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO)
- ▶ Charlotte Water
- ▶ Corridors of Opportunity
- ▶ Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department
- ▶ Neighborhood Equity and Stabilization (NEST) Commission

CREATING COMMISSIONS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

THE CHARLOTTE
EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION (CEDC) AND
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
EQUITY AND STABILIZATION
(NEST) COMMISSION WERE
APPROVED THROUGH
THE ADOPTION OF THE
CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

THE CEDC WAS TASKED WITH ASSESSING INFRASTRUCTURE

throughout the city and recommending strategies that balanced equitable investments among areas most in need, including areas with absent and insufficient facilities, fast-growing areas and areas targeted for growth. The NEST Commission was established to review and recommend specific anti-displacement strategies and tools for protecting residents with moderate to high displacement vulnerability.

BOTH COMMISSIONS WERE APPOINTED by the Mayor and City Council and served a three-year term between 2021 and 2024. During that time, the CEDC participated in an equitable development workshop that explored the elements of a complete community in the context of equitable development. Workshop deliverables included the Catalogue of Elements for Equitable Development: Centers and Neighborhoods (February 2024) and an educational video (August 2024). The Catalogue of Elements for Equitable Development describes the CEDC's connection to the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. It includes key elements of equitable and vibrant city centers, such as neighborhood and community activity centers, as well as development around transit. Lastly, it provides guidance on how to use the recommendations.

DURING ITS THREE-YEAR TERM, the NEST Commission worked extensively to examine issues and opportunities to mitigate displacement, developed policy and programming recommendations to help the city address displacement pressures and helped shape the Displacement Risk Dashboard, Community Toolkit and City of Charlotte Anti-Displacement Strategy that was published in June 2023. The Commission played a significant role in informing the city's anti-displacement efforts, shaping council policy and influencing how city programs and resident services are delivered. All of the Commission's recommendations are in the NEST Commission Anti-Displacement Recommendations Report, which was published in November 2024.

We would like to offer a special thank you to the CEDC and NEST Commission members, city staff, Clarion & Associates, HR&A Advisors and our community stakeholders for their hard work in implementing equitable development and their dedication to finding strategies to mitigate displacement!

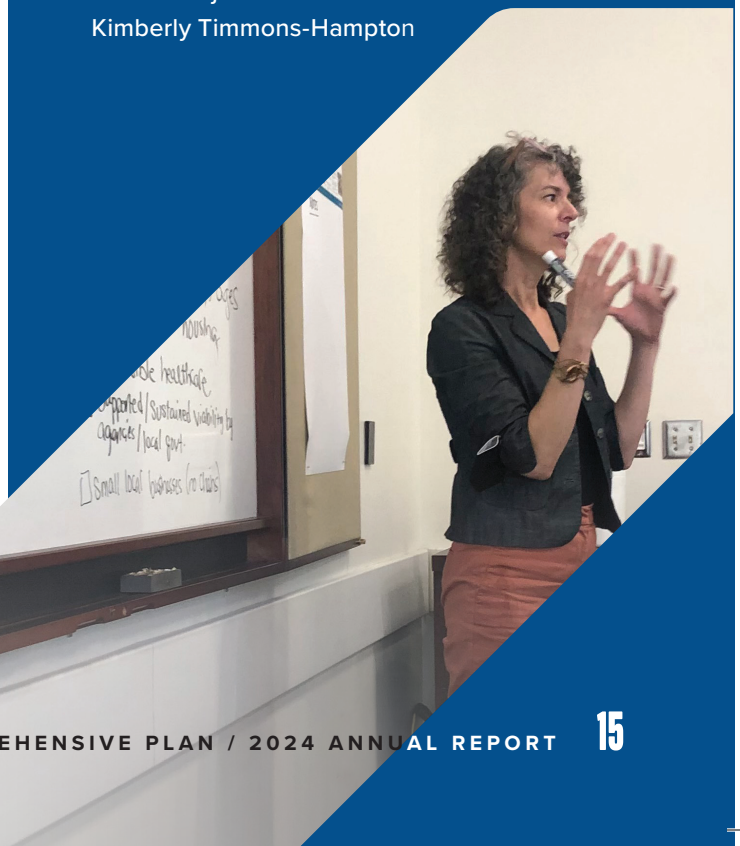


CEDC Members

Tonya Jameson (*Chair, Current*)
Caleb Theodros (*Chair, Former*)
William Hughes
Kendall Everette Cooke
Jordan Brooks-Adams
Mattie Marshall
Carolyn Millen
Nadia Anderson
Trevor Melito
Richard Saltrick (*Former*)

NEST Commission Members

Kim Graham (*Co-Chair/Work Stream Lead*)
Justin Harlow (*Co-Chair/Work Stream Lead*)
Angela Ambroise (*Work Stream Lead*)
Nadia Anderson
Melissa Gaston
Mitch Gibson
Monique Humphries
Tonya Jameson
Roma Johnson
Vicki Jones
Eric Lemieux
Eric Lewis
Tameko McCarthy
Deon Smith
Marta Tataje
Kimberly Timmons-Hampton



PLANNING FOR FUTURE GROWTH

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The top three major implementation strategies of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan and accompanying documents recommend creating the Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map, completing the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and establishing Community Area Plans. The UDO was adopted by the Charlotte City Council on August 22, 2022.

The Policy Map is a companion document to the 2040 Plan and is a translation of the 2040 Plan's place-based policies to specific geographies. It is an important tool that identifies the type and intensity of development that is appropriate throughout Charlotte. The Policy Map was adopted by the Charlotte City Council on March 28, 2022. The UDO is the regulatory tool that will shape future development to result in the type of complete communities and places defined by the 2040 Plan's goals and policies. The third major implementation item, Community Area Plans, are intended to provide a more coordinated, efficient and effective structure for neighborhood planning.

The Planning, Design and Development (PD&D) Department designs, shapes and connects great places that preserve existing built and natural spaces, while simultaneously planning for growth and guiding the development of thriving communities. The PD&D Department includes seven divisions: Business Executive Services, Land Development, Community Tree Canopy Preservation, Entitlement Services, Design and Preservation, Regional Transportation Planning and Long Range Planning. Each division advances the 2040 Plan's goals, policies and implementation strategies in unique ways.



Ernesto Moreno Photography

ENTITLEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

The Entitlement Services Division comprises rezoning, UDO and annexation services. The Entitlement Services staff kicked off 2024 with community engagement for the Alignment Rezoning project. The purpose of this project is to update the Charlotte Zoning Map to align the Zoning Map with the city's goals and vision set by the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan and 2040 Policy Map. The project will suggest changes to the current Zoning Map only where the goals and vision detailed in the Policy Map are not aligned with the current zoning rules for properties.

The staff met with community stakeholders and partnered with city departments to provide this information, including:



63 Neighborhood Leaders
hosted at breakfast workshops



64 Neighborhood Leaders
discussed Alignment Rezoning virtually



8 Neighborhood Associations
met to introduce Alignment Rezoning (Dilworth, Eleanore Heights, Four Seasons, Camp Greene, NoDa, Barringer Woods, Clanton Park, Revolution Park)



45 Engagement Feedback Surveys received to help guide future public engagement efforts



Collaborated with city divisions and departments

In addition to the Alignment Rezoning project, Entitlement Services received more than 145 rezoning petitions. As part of administering the rezoning petition process, staff guided the community by explaining the regulations of the UDO and how they apply to a particular development proposal. Entitlement Services actively ensures that the UDO is user-friendly. As part of that effort, staff authored four text amendments to the UDO that were approved by the City Council. Entitlement Services concluded the year with eight annexations totaling 303.124 acres.



Ernesto Moreno Photography

LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Land Development Center is a space for developers and design teams to access city staff in a single location for city development permitting services. Land Development staff review site plans for compliance with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) as part of the permitting process. In 2024, Land Development staff partnered with the Entitlement Services Division on the UDO to meet the goals and policies of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The staff collaborated with Housing and Neighborhood Services to create accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations to make it easier for residents to develop ADUs on their property and reviewed several plans to ensure consistency with the 2040 Plan's housing policies.



Ernesto Moreno Photography



LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

The Long Range Planning division leads the Community Area Planning efforts. The Charlotte City Council adopted the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan in June 2021 and the Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map in March 2022. The next step in putting the 2040 Plan into action is Community Area Planning, which will provide more detailed guidance for growth and development within the 14 Plan geographies.

The Community Area Planning process engages and unites neighborhoods to plan their communities within a framework that efficiently and effectively uses the resources available. This ensures that the city has sufficient community-level input and guidance.

Expected outcomes for this project include 14 Community Area Plans and a Revised Policy Map, which will be used by decision makers in efforts related to the built environment.



The planning process includes five phases:





PHASE 1

SET THE STAGE identified each community's needs for future development by evaluating the area's Equity Metrics. These are defined by the 2040 Plan's Equitable Growth Framework as an area's Access to Housing Opportunities, Access to Job Opportunities, Access to Essential Goods and Services and Environmental Impacts. The outcome of Phase 1 came in the form of 14 Community Reports that identified each community's greatest needs in terms of increased access and reduced impacts.

PHASE 2

CREATING GREAT PLACES reviewed recommendations for future development (via the Place Type designations within the 2040 Policy Map) to ensure they addressed each community's needs for increased access to housing, jobs, goods/ services and reduced environmental impacts. The outcome of Phase 2 was the Revised Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map. The Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map Manual was published as a companion document and provides information about how the Policy Map was developed, how it is intended to be used and how it can change over time.

PHASE 3

SUPPORTING THE VISION identified planned projects and existing programs, as well as new projects and programs, that supported recommendations for future development. The outcome of Phase 3 was a series of policy recommendations and mapped projects within the Community Area Plans related to the topics of Mobility, Open Space and Sustainability, Public Services and Community Character.

PHASE 4

PLAN FOR ACTION developed an implementation strategy for putting the Community Area Plan recommendations into action over time. The implementation strategy outlines specific short- and long-term steps that can be taken by public and private agencies to realize each plan’s aspirations.

PHASE 5

REVIEW & ADOPTION will conclude with the Charlotte City Council’s adoption of the Charlotte Future 2040 Community Area Plans and Revised Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map. Community engagement is integral to all planning processes. The engagement strategy for Community Area Planning was meant to be equitable and inclusive, which required the use of many constant, collaborative and coordinated engagement tactics. Overall, the Community Area Planning engagement efforts are considered to have been successful.

The graphic on the right depicts the range of engagement tactics used throughout the planning effort.



For more information,
please visit
cltfuture2040.com.

Ernesto Moreno Photography

CONSTANT PLAN SUPPORT



EMAIL &
NEWSLETTERS



MATERIALS
AT LIBRARIES



FLYERS



STORY
MAP



VIDEO



SOCIAL
MEDIA

COORDINATED EFFORTS



YARD
SIGNS



DOOR
HANGERS



MEETINGS



FOCUS
GROUPS



OFFICE
HOURS



WORKSHOPS

BUILDING STRONG



NEIGHBORHOODS



ALL CHARLOTTEANS WILL LIVE AND WORK IN SAFE AND RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ENABLE HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES BY REDUCING EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TREE CANOPY COVER, ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN WALKING, CYCLING AND RECREATION FACILITIES, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

On November 7, 2023, Mecklenburg County residents voted to approve a \$2.5 billion bond initiative for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). The top 30 projects in the bond request help address the greatest need for student-facing capital projects. These projects will improve learning environments, create new opportunities for our students and families, invest in key program offerings and support the education of our students, and the recruiting and retention of our staff for the betterment of our community.

Cotswold Elementary School is one of the top 30 projects identified to address the highest-need, student-facing capital projects in the CMS bond-funded program. This is an onsite replacement for a facility that has reached the end of its usable life and has many factors identified as negatively impacting learning environments. The Cotswold Elementary School site is in a walkable community; this replacement ensures the continued presence of a neighborhood school.

Developing a new Cotswold Elementary School advances **Goal 6: Healthy, Safe and Active Communities** because it will allow students and staff to learn and work in a healthy environment. Cotswold will remain as a neighborhood school, promoting walking and rolling to school.

Additional Applicable 2040 Comprehensive Plan Goals

GOAL 1: 10-Minute Neighborhoods

GOAL 5: Safe and Equitable Mobility

GOAL 7: Integrated Natural and Built Environments

GOAL 9: Retain Our Identity and Charm

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

On June 26, 2024, the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) received a \$5 million grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program to conduct the Making Our Roads SAFER: A Cross-Jurisdictional Study.

This regional study will examine issues related to safety, accessibility, resiliency and connectivity in historically underserved communities throughout the metropolitan planning organization's planning area. This study will prioritize equity-driven public engagement. Designed to involve underrepresented and vulnerable road users, the study will incorporate safety and infrastructure condition audits of community-prioritized corridors and intersections.

For more information on the SAFER and RAISE Grant programs, please visit bit.ly/CRTPOPrograms.





**HOUSING AND
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

The Housing and Neighborhood Services (H&NS) works with residents to create vibrant neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for all. This work is done through the following service areas: CharMeck311, Code Enforcement, Community Engagement and Housing. Through these service areas, H&NS provides numerous programs and initiatives that advance the goals of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan such as neighborhood matching grants and the Staying in Place Program.

gardens and other neighborhood improvement projects. Over the years, many Charlotte residents have received these matching grants. In 2024 alone, 57 community grants were awarded. Of those grants, 18 were neighborhood matching grants, 21 were summer boost grants and 18 were Lowe’s National Night Out grants for Corridors of Opportunity. Neighborhood Matching Grants advance **Goal 6: Healthy, Safe and Active Communities** because they support residents in creating safe and resilient neighborhoods.



**NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING
GRANTS**

Neighborhood Matching Grants can support eligible neighborhood-based organizations (HOAs, resident organizations in rental communities, neighborhood associations and coalitions) in building community



STAYING IN PLACE PILOT PROGRAM

Housing and Neighborhood Services (H&NS) administers the Staying in Place (SIP) Pilot Program in three neighborhoods: Hidden Valley, Washington Heights and Winterfield. The SIP locations fall within the Corridors of Opportunity and are embedded with local grassroots organizations. The purpose of the SIP program is to connect residents in targeted city areas to healthcare and other services.

The program includes three community health workers from Atrium Health. In 2024, 182 residents were served through this program. That same year, H&NS added two new positions: Access and Mobility Engagement Lead and Community Stability Coordinator. These positions help engage more people in vulnerable populations to connect them to resources and services. The SIP Program furthers **Goal 6: Healthy, Safe and Active Communities** by connecting residents to healthcare, resources and other services.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation continues to expand park and greenway trail access through the acquisition and development of county-owned properties and facilities. Park gap areas, as defined by Mecklenburg County, are available through the Meck Playbook, the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Master Plan. Gap areas are one metric used in prioritizing county capital investment. Greenway trails are prioritized by evaluating connectivity, property ownership and equity metrics.

Numerous parks, greenways and property acquisition projects were completed in 2024 to fill some gap areas within the county. Three new or renovated parks were established: Druid Hills, Eastway Playground and Shelter, and Fred Alexander Park. Additionally, 546.95 acres of land were obtained for future park and recreation projects.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation's focus on constructing new greenways, developing new recreational areas and enhancing existing parks advances **Goal 6: Healthy, Safe and Active Communities** by promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for Charlotteans.

6.4 MILES

**OF NEW GREENWAY TRAILS
WERE CONSTRUCTED**

- ▶ Briar/Little Hope Creeks: 1.1 miles
- ▶ Caldwell Station Tributary: 0.8 miles
- ▶ Long Creek Greenway: 2 miles
- ▶ McIntyre Creek Greenway: 0.6 miles
- ▶ Stewart Tributary 2: 1 mile
- ▶ Torrence Tributary 2: 0.9 miles



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

CHARLOTTE WILL PROTECT AND ENHANCE ITS SURFACE WATER QUALITY, TREE CANOPY AND NATURAL AREAS WITH A VARIETY OF TREES, PLANTINGS, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES AND OPEN SPACE AT DIFFERENT SCALES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AS A COMPONENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ADDRESSES THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services is a joint municipal/county stormwater utility that includes the City of Charlotte, the surrounding towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville and Mecklenburg County. Charlotte Storm Water Services completed several major projects to improve surface waters and convey rainwater safely through storm drainage systems.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

CUTCHIN DRIVE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Located within a drainage area of approximately 160 acres, the project replaced and/or rehabilitated aging infrastructure and provided adequate drainage system capacity to reduce street and structure flooding. The project installed 23,000 feet of storm drainage pipe and culverts ranging in size from 15 inches to over 10 feet, representing a \$10M investment over multiple years.

WESTBOURNE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Located within a drainage area of approximately 72 acres, the project replaced aging infrastructure and provided adequate drainage system capacity to reduce street and structure flooding. The project installed 500 feet of storm drainage pipe ranging in size from 15 inches to 5 feet, representing a \$3M investment over multiple years.

LAKEWOOD WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Located within a drainage area of approximately 48 acres, the project constructed an engineered wetland Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) to capture and treat stormwater runoff before it enters Stewart Creek. The project constructed a 2-acre wetland and installed hundreds of native plants, including the threatened Georgia Aster, representing a \$1.8M investment over multiple years.



\$83M+
capital
investments



48,000+
feet of pipe installed/
rehabilitated



275+
projects
completed



22,000+
feet of stream
improvement in progress





Charlotte Water

Charlotte Water serves more than a million customers in the City of Charlotte and greater Mecklenburg County, including the towns of Matthews, Mint Hill, Pineville, Huntersville, Davidson and Cornelius. Charlotte Water completed several projects to improve the water supply reliability and upgrade the infrastructure to ensure community-wide accessibility.

CHARLOTTE WATER'S CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN (CIP) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025-2029

TOTALS
\$2.22B

10-YEAR
ESTIMATED CIP OF
\$4.63B



KEY COMPONENTS INCLUDE

\$760.4M
WATER CIP

Enhancing distribution systems, refurbishing water treatment facilities, and supporting growth and regulatory compliance

\$1.38B
SEWER CIP

Expanding treatment and conveyance facilities to meet growth and environmental requirements

\$78.3M
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CIP

Technology upgrades and facility improvements



THE IMPACT / GOAL 7: INTEGRATED NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

KEY PROJECTS

STOWE REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

A new wastewater treatment plant for western Mecklenburg County, expected to be complete by 2026

BIOSOLIDS PROGRAM

Transitioning to Class A biosolids treatment and regionalizing solids treatment with new technologies

EASTERN SERVICE AREA EXPANSION

Expanding wastewater treatment capacity in response to growth on the eastern side of Mecklenburg County

LEAD AND COPPER PROGRAM

Increasing testing and reducing lead and copper risks in older water lines

WATER AND SEWER MAIN REHABILITATION

Replacing aging water and sewer infrastructure to maintain service and prevent overflows

SANITARY SEWER CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrading pipelines in areas of growth to reduce overflow risks and accommodate development

For more information about Charlotte Water, please visit bit.ly/FY25AtAGlance.



Additional Applicable 2040 Comprehensive Plan Goals

GOAL 6: Healthy, Safe and Active Communities

CHARLOTTE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

The Charlotte Office of Sustainability and Resilience is tasked with achieving the City Council's vision of becoming a global leader in environmental sustainability by balancing economic growth with preserving our natural resources. The Office of Sustainability and Resilience is working toward this vision and advancing the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan goals through various initiatives such as Cities for Smart Surfaces, the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) Update and more.

CITIES FOR SMART SURFACES

Charlotte is one of 10 cities selected for the Cities for Smart Surfaces program, supported by the National League of Cities and the Smart Surfaces Coalition. The program offers data, educational materials, cost-benefit analysis tools, funding guidance, policy frameworks and community engagement support. The focus is on creating urban heat mitigation solutions through tools like cool roofs, green roofs, solar energy, porous pavements, reflective pavements, rain gardens and an enhanced tree canopy. Research was conducted to support some of the 2040 Plan objectives, including tracking the heat index to inform implementation progress.

STRATEGIC ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP) UPDATE

The Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) was created in collaboration with the community and city partners before being adopted by City Council in 2018. Since its adoption, our community accomplished several milestones toward its 2030 and 2050 goals. The city and its partners updated the SEAP to reflect our successes, address gaps and review our action items so they better reflect the next steps needed to reach our goals. As part of this update, a high-level climate risk assessment was included to tie our goals to the local climate. The updated SEAP was completed and adopted by the Charlotte City Council on May 27, 2025, as SEAP+. For more information, please visit bit.ly/SEAP2023REPORT.

STRATEGIC ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP+) DASHBOARD

This Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP+) Dashboard serves as a data repository to communicate the progress being made on the SEAP+ implementation. The dashboard is intended to help local partners plan, implement and evaluate efforts to achieve shared goals. The information will be updated yearly, at a minimum, and will add more data and analytical information as it is available.

SOLARIZE CAMPAIGN

The city was awarded an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy to implement a Solarize Campaign to educate the community on the benefits of solar energy and encourage the installation of solar panels on homes and businesses. As part of the program, the grant funds will also be used to finance the installation of solar panels on low- and moderate-income homes.



**All these initiatives advance
Goal 7: Integrated Natural and Built
Environments by promoting green
building and infrastructure practices
to minimize the effects of climate
change and enhance public health.**





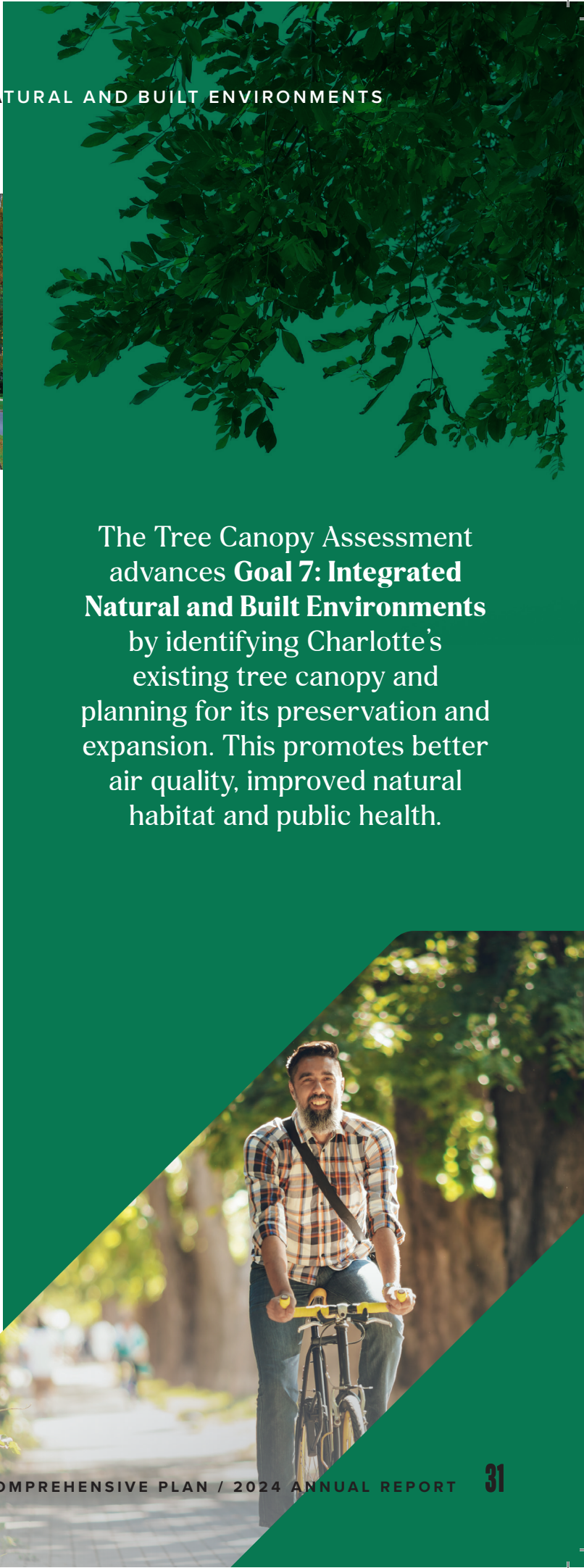
**PLANNING, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY TREE CANOPY
PRESERVATION DIVISION**

The Charlotte Planning Design and Development (PD&D) Department shapes, connects and designs great places to preserve built and natural spaces, plans for growth and guides the development of thriving communities. The PD&D Department includes seven divisions: Business Executive Services, Land Development, Community Tree Canopy Preservation, Entitlement Services, Design and Preservation, Regional Transportation Planning and Long Range Planning. Each division advances the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan’s goals, policies and implementation strategies in unique ways. The Community Tree Canopy Preservation division strives to preserve and enhance the city’s tree canopy through voluntary land acquisitions, assessments and more.

TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT

This collaborative Tree Canopy Assessment by the City of Charlotte and TreesCharlotte, a local nonprofit, aims to update past analyses to better understand the distribution of tree cover throughout the city. The results, based on 2022 imagery from the USDA’s National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), provide a near-current look at land cover in the City of Charlotte and surrounding areas and will allow the city to revise and develop existing and new strategies to protect and expand the urban forest. The data is compiled from multiple geographies, including counties, city limits, city council districts, neighborhood planning areas, census block groups, jurisdiction, watersheds and land ownership. Filtering the data using the “Geography” field will help isolate the desired geographic value for further analysis.

The Tree Canopy Assessment advances **Goal 7: Integrated Natural and Built Environments** by identifying Charlotte’s existing tree canopy and planning for its preservation and expansion. This promotes better air quality, improved natural habitat and public health.



EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ALL CHARLOTTEANS

CHARLOTTEANS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR UPWARD ECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH ACCESS TO A DIVERSE MIX OF JOBS AND CAREERS THAT ALIGN WITH THE EDUCATION AND SKILL LEVELS OF RESIDENTS AND THE ECONOMIC STRENGTHS OF THE REGION.





THE IMPACT / GOAL 8: DIVERSE AND RESILIENT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY

Corridors of Opportunity supports six underinvested areas in Charlotte to foster thriving communities for residents and businesses, build lasting legacies and grow communities equitably. The corridors include Albemarle/Central, Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry, Freedom/Wilkinson, North Graham/North Tryon, West Boulevard and West Sugar Creek. More than \$230 million has been invested in the Corridors of Opportunity program, with the City of Charlotte investing more than \$99 million. To date:

\$96.5M+

**CORPORATE
INVESTMENTS IN
THE PROGRAM**

75+

**PROJECTS HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED**

20+

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**

Albemarle/Central

- ▶ The Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte launched the Spark Centro Opportunity Hub with a \$1.5 million Corridors grant.
- ▶ Prospera NC led an in-language small business program for Hispanic and Latino-owned small businesses in the corridor.

Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry

- ▶ GreenPrints began in 2024 as a strategic plan for resiliency and green investments in the Beatties Ford Corridor. This plan is co-created with community partners Sol Nation and CleanAIRE NC.
- ▶ The Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridor Playbook planning process kicked off with a Friendsgiving Celebration at West Charlotte High School.

Freedom/Wilkinson

- ▶ The Freedom Mobility Corridor was awarded a \$25 million USDOT RAISE grant to increase connectivity and access at the Freedom-Ashley-Tuckaseegee intersections.
- ▶ The Start-Scale-Sustain grant award was given to QC Family Tree to expand the business district organization program into the corridor.

North Graham/North Tryon

- ▶ The city piloted a Corridors E-Bike program in partnership with DreamKey Partners and Trips for Kids Charlotte with funding from the 2023 Wells Fargo Championship. The pilot provides new e-bikes and training to first-time homeowners in the House Charlotte program.

- ▶ Next in North End launched the transformation of the former Dillehay Courts public housing site. This partnership with Inlivan will reimagine the vacant site into a mixed-use, vibrant center with new housing, infrastructure and community services.

West Boulevard

- ▶ The West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition, together with the community and city staff, explored expansion opportunities, securing additional capital, developing sustainable structures and extending corridor influence.

West Sugar Creek

- ▶ The \$24+ million Sugar Creek Mobility Corridor project launched in 2024. It was supported by a USDOT RAISE grant to increase mobility and access to transit.
- ▶ The former Economy Inn property was transferred to a local developer, Prosperity Alliance, who will build 39 affordable, for-sale townhomes in the Hidden Valley community.
- ▶ She Built This City opened the Sugar Creek Opportunity Hub by expanding its construction training program for women in a new space with a \$302,000 grant from the city.

For more information, please go to www.charlottenc.gov/corridors.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The City of Charlotte Economic Development Department seeks to make Charlotte the ideal place to live, work and play. The department supports equitable business growth, creates local jobs, supports job training and invests in local communities. The Economic Development Department advances the goals of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan in various ways, including administering the business matching grant program, engaging resource partners and serving as one of the departments that plan and implement Corridors of Opportunity.



RESOURCE PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

The Economic Development Department convenes more than 40 government agencies, academic organizations, nonprofit organizations (501c3) and Chambers of Commerce (501c6) that serve Charlotte's small business community. This group meets quarterly to communicate, collaborate, innovate and raise the profile of entrepreneurial support organizations in our community. From funding opportunities to technical assistance, mentorship and training programs, these partners offer a wide range of services designed to support businesses at every stage of their journey.

AMP UP CHARLOTTE

AMP Up Charlotte is a six-month business growth program supporting the expansion and development of minority businesses in the Charlotte region. Using the nationally recognized Interise StreetWise MBA Curriculum, participants receive targeted training, business development services, and access to local experts and corporate stakeholders for relationship-building and procurement opportunities. Graduates complete the program with a three-year Strategic Growth Action Plan to scale their businesses sustainably. Since its launch, AMP Up Charlotte has graduated 127 business owners and now runs twice per fiscal year. The program also provides ongoing alumni support, including networking events, webinars, post-graduate coaching and the AMP Up Charlotte Alumni Business Directory. By equipping minority entrepreneurs with essential resources, training and connections, AMP Up Charlotte strengthens business growth and economic opportunity in Charlotte.

127

**BUSINESS OWNERS
GRADUATED FROM
AMP UP CHARLOTTE
SINCE LAUNCH**

BUSINESS MATCHING GRANTS

The Business Matching Grant Program provides financial assistance to small businesses to revitalize their buildings and storefronts. By improving the visual appeal of commercial spaces, the program fosters community pride, attracts customers and residents, and encourages private investment. In 2024, the program awarded \$767,000 in grants for facade, interior, security enhancements and brownfield remediation within targeted business corridors. These public funds are expected to leverage approximately \$3.6 million in private investment, magnifying the program's impact and driving the vibrancy and growth of these commercial areas.



Business Matching Grants: Before & After



HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

The Housing and Neighborhood Services (H&NS) works with residents to create vibrant neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for all. This work is done through the following service areas: CharMeck311, Code Enforcement and Community Engagement and Housing. Through these service areas, H&NS provides numerous programs and initiatives that advance the goals of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan (the 2040 Plan), like the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program (MYEP) and the Job and Career Readiness Training – Youth Employment Programs.

MAYOR’S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Mayor’s Youth Employment Program (MYEP) supports investing in paid internships for eligible youth between 16-18 years old who reside in Charlotte or attend a Charlotte-Mecklenburg School. Internships are offered at a minimum of \$13 per hour for at least 150 hours per MYEP season. In 2024, 421 students had internships in this program.



JOB AND CAREER READINESS TRAINING—YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The city staff administering the Job and Career Readiness Training – Youth Employment Programs prepare youth for work experience. This program connects youth in all 32 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools, as well as the district’s charter, home, e-learning and private schools. The target audience for this program is youth attending Title I schools and schools within the Corridors of Opportunity. The program includes soft skills, resume writing and other essential work skills. The training is offered during the school day at participating schools, and two community trainings are open to youth ages 16-24. Last year, 1,114 students participated in the Job and Career Readiness Training.

37

NEW PARTICIPANTS JOINED THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The City of Charlotte's Human Resources department serves more than 8,400 employees and prospective candidates by providing recruitment, selection, compensation, benefits, performance management, payroll processing, human resources management systems, organizational learning and development, employee relations, and work-life and diversity programs. Consistent with the goals and policies in the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the department offers education, outreach and workforce development through various mediums, including the Career Training Academy.

The Career Training Academy offers six months of on-the-job training in 30 different occupations and is used by various departments throughout the year. This program is a gateway for community residents to enhance their social capital and acquire skills in professions they may not have previously considered. Previous skills are not required but participants need a willingness to work and learn. Upon completing the program, individuals successfully transition into full-time employment



with the city or businesses in the community. In 2024, 13 participants graduated from the program. Charlotte Water had two graduates and Aviation had 11 graduates. All 13 graduates are currently employed full-time with the city or other businesses in the community.

The Apprenticeship Program features 18 occupations registered with the U.S. Department of Labor and spans eight city departments. The program, typically lasting from one to four years, offers wage progressions and comprehensive benefits. In 2024, 37 new participants joined the program, while six individuals who started before 2024 successfully completed their apprenticeships. Those individuals earned credentials and secured full-time positions within their respective departments. Since its inception in 2018, the City of Charlotte's registered apprenticeship program has supported 109 participants. Because of its success, the City of Charlotte has been designated as an Apprenticeship Ambassador by the federal government.

The Education to Employment program is a partnership with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system (CMS) in response to its 2024 "3 E's" initiative, which encourages graduates to commit to enrolling in higher education, enlisting in the military or securing meaningful employment after graduation. In alignment with this initiative, three city departments pledged positions. They hired 16 graduates from the Class of 2024 for full-time roles, including 311 customer service representatives, CDOT street crew members and a General Services office assistant.



CHARLOTTE'S INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The City of Charlotte's Innovation and Technology (I&T) Department provides leadership for the city's Technology Governance Policy and delivers technology services to city departments and partners. The Smart Charlotte Program within I&T coordinates initiatives to enhance citizen service delivery and leads programs to close the digital divide and promote economic mobility.

The current phase of the Smart Charlotte Program runs through January 2026 and focuses on digital inclusion efforts. There is a strong emphasis on outreach and communication to identify community needs and solutions, such as providing computers and enhancing digital and technology literacy. The program also aims to create opportunities related to internet connectivity, including workforce development.

Access Charlotte is a multi-phase pilot program offered by the City of Charlotte through the I&T department to help residents access the internet. To implement this pilot, I&T leverages partnerships with Spectrum, the Center for Digital Equity at Queens University, affordable housing providers and other institutions serving areas with low digital connectivity. It also supports countywide digital navigation resources offered through CharMeck 311. It currently benefits up to 8,600 households across more than 75 sites, including four public areas, 13 common areas in senior housing and one community center.

The Learn2Earn program, part of the Smart Charlotte initiative, aims to help residents develop essential digital skills by providing up to 100 laptops, enabling them to learn by completing entry-level courses focused on digital literacy. In the first two rounds, the team partnered with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library, offering classes on vital skills such as safe and effective email and internet use. Other class topics focused on Microsoft programs like Word and Excel while providing guidance on resume writing and interview techniques. For the third round, they collaborated with nonprofit workforce development organizations, including the Latin American Coalition (LAC) and the Beatties Ford Road Vocational Trade Center. LAC followed the same curriculum offered at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library, while residents at the Beatties Ford Vocational Trade Center focused on Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Generative AI. As a result of these three rounds, over 90 residents have received brand-new Dell laptops, each with a three-year warranty.



ACCESS CHARLOTTE

The pilot program aims to connect 84 percent of all Access Charlotte sites by the end of 2025. To date, 72.78 percent of Access Charlotte sites have been connected to the internet. That equates to:



Goal 8: Diverse and Resilient Economic Opportunity is advanced through each of the previously mentioned initiatives, from workforce development programs to business education and technology services. These partners demonstrate the importance of supporting residents and the business community in obtaining the skills needed to progress professionally.



COMMUNITY DRIVEN PLACEMAKING

CHARLOTTE WILL RETAIN THE IDENTITY OF EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS BY INTENTIONALLY DIRECTING REDEVELOPMENT, LIMITING DISPLACEMENT AND CULTIVATING COMMUNITY DRIVEN PLACEMAKING THAT ELEVATES THE IMPORTANCE, QUALITY AND DESIGN OF PLACES.



PLACEMAKING GRANT

The City of Charlotte Placemaking Grant Program celebrated its 5th annual placemaking grant cycle, awarding \$150,000 to 14 community-led projects. Projects that were awarded funding include community programming and events, murals, bus stop beautifications and public spaces.

URBAN DESIGN CENTER PROGRAMMING

The Urban Design Center hosted 14 different community events at the South End Studio, welcoming more than 1,000 community members to events such as film screenings, conversations with local design professionals and community-building game nights. These events consistently cultivated important conversations about the importance of quality urban design and the power of placemaking in Charlotte.

PLACEMAKING HUB UPDATE

The City of Charlotte's Placemaking Hub, an online website portal for community-led placemaking projects that has been serving Charlotte communities and creatives since 2018, was updated in 2024 to consolidate approval processes and information into a public realm guide to simplify and better visualize the placemaking process. The Hub's website directs visitors, depending on the project type, to the specific processes, procedures and permitting necessary for communities and neighborhoods to enhance their streets and public spaces.



NEW PUBLIC SPACES

In June 2024, a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for Spring Street Plaza, the City of Charlotte's fourth public space. Spring Street Plaza provides a community gathering place on a city-owned parcel for Greenville neighborhood residents and those enjoying sights along the Urban Arboretum Trail (UAT). Funding for this space was awarded by the Lowe's Hometown Grants program. Additional improvements included the planting of flowerbeds and trees to enhance the existing tree canopy along the UAT.





The Comprehensive Plan
goals reflect the voice of
the community.

On The HORIZON

Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan Policy Progress



The Plan goals make critical connections between community values, guiding principles and vision elements, while also articulating key aspects of our growth strategy, establishing the foundation for complete communities and places and providing the 2040 Plan’s Policy Framework structure. Each goal of the 2040 Plan has accompanying objectives and policy recommendations. The policy recommendations detail what is needed to achieve the associated goal. Each policy recommendation also has a different time frame for implementation.

As such, **Table 1: Charlotte Future Plan Progress** on the following pages include the short-term policy recommendations expected to be completed within five years, along with the associated goal and status.



Goal One
10-Minute
Neighborhoods



Goal Two
Neighborhood
Diversity and Inclusion



Goal Three
Housing
Access for All



Goal Four
Transit and Trail
Oriented Development



Goal Five
Safe and Equitable
Mobility



Goal Six
Healthy, Safe and
Active Communities



Goal Seven
Integrated Natural and
Built Environments



Goal Eight
Diverse and Resilient
Economic Opportunity



Goal Nine
Retain Our
Identity and Charm























Goal Ten
Fiscally
Responsible

TABLE 1: CHARLOTTE FUTURE PLAN PROGRESS

STATUS KEY			
	IN PROGRESS		COMPLETE & ONGOING
	COMPLETE		FORTHCOMING
GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	1.3	Implement complete neighborhood policies that encourage mixes of different types of uses, depending on the development's context (applies to Neighborhood Center, Neighborhood 1 and Neighborhood 2).	
	1.13	Develop strategies, potentially including financial incentives or through Community Benefit Agreement, to encourage inclusion of full-service grocery stores in new mixed-use development and within areas of the city that are deemed to be food deserts where healthy produce and meats are not available.	
	1.20	Ensure the implementation of 10-minute neighborhood development policies align with the Stormwater Master Plan, promote the health of stormwater features (creeks, wetlands, stream buffers, floodplains and drainage infrastructure) and seek opportunities to reduce costs and maintain stormwater management objectives.	
	2.2	Allow fourplexes on all lots fronting arterials where single-family detached dwellings are permitted when key city priorities are advanced and community benefit is provided, such as affordable and/or workforce housing.	
	2.7	Work toward reducing or removing barriers identified in the Accessory Dwelling Unit Report and the Charlotte Housing Framework Report regarding missing middle housing and evaluate development regulations, such as required lot sizes, clustered home development, neighborhood character overlay districts and other tools to reduce barriers.	
	2.11	Preserve existing supply of middle density and small footprint housing and reduce conversion to large footprint single-family units using a neighborhood character overlay district.	
	2.24	The Group/Commission will launch an anti-displacement study and recommend tools and strategies for protecting residents of moderate to high vulnerability of displacement. Using Commission recommendations, Council may adopt an Anti-Displacement Strategy focusing on vulnerable neighborhoods.	
	3.3	Develop market-focused regulatory and administrative changes to encourage production of affordable housing.	

ON THE HORIZON / CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICY PROGRESS

GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	3.6	Use the Place Type Manual (in the Manuals and Metrics) to guide design transitions within neighborhoods to more intense use types that can accommodate affordable and workforce housing.	
	3.10	Support an increased Housing Trust Bond Allocation to expand programs and develop more units.	
	3.16	Increase efforts to make homeowners aware of the Mecklenburg County property tax relief program for elderly homeowners and consider working with the County to develop new programs to mitigate the impacts of rising property values on lower-income households, particularly in neighborhoods where housing costs are rapidly appreciating.	
	3.18	Coordinate and streamline existing programming that aids homeowners who desire to stay in their homes.	
	3.22	Include provisions similar to the Bonus Menu included in the TOD Zoning Ordinance in some or all new zoning districts associated with Neighborhood 2, Community Activity Center and Regional Activity Center Place Types.	
	3.24	Provide zoning incentives for mixed-income developments.	
	4.27	Develop a scorecard system for prioritizing in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) bicycle, pedestrian and other active mode capital improvements for communities that have limited accessibility and connectivity.	
	4.30	Work with CATS and Housing, Neighborhood Services and other local and regional partners to leverage park and ride locations, as well as surplus parking to provide equitable TOD opportunities.	
	5.1	Prioritize the safety and comfort of travelers in all modes when planning and implementing mobility projects and focus safety investments on the “high injury network” – the 10% of Charlotte streets that account for 100% of serious injury and fatal crashes.	
	5.2	Define transportation equity and develop quantitative equity metrics to guide the prioritization of programs and projects that ensure that people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have access to high-quality, affordable transportation choices.	

STATUS KEY



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETE & ONGOING



COMPLETE



FORTHCOMING

GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	5.12	Include in the development regulations an integrated Traffic Impact Study (TIS) / Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program that requires development and redevelopment projects to meet an established threshold to evaluate and address the multimodal transportation impacts of the development.	
	5.18	Transit Bus Priority Corridors: Implement transit priority and high-frequency service on key corridors.	
	5.28	Develop and regularly update a Strategic Mobility Plan that establishes a comprehensive and prioritized strategy of mobility projects and programs to implement the shared goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan.	
	6.12	Invest in programs that address social determinants of health conditions (e.g., tobacco use, substance abuse, domestic violence and other determinants) targeting neighborhoods that are the most vulnerable.	
	6.14	Coordinate economic development and brownfield remediation efforts to encourage cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites.	
	6.24	Develop preventative programs and community events designed to promote improved health and wellness decision-making.	
	6.34	Work with city and community partners to develop a Public Space Master Plan that identifies opportunities for parks, plazas and other public spaces.	
	7.3	Update development regulations to better mitigate impacts from development and infill development such as stormwater runoff and tree removal.	
	7.5	Continue to require development of publicly accessible shared-use path sections that connect the city's network through private developments and change private development standards to ensure that sections on private lands are constructed to meet public standards.	

ON THE HORIZON / CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICY PROGRESS

GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	7.6	Review development regulations for opportunities to remove barriers and/or create requirements or incentives for sustainable development practices, including regulations relating to implementation of solar power through community solar arrays, electric vehicle charging stations and battery energy storage in residential and non-residential areas.	
	7.12	Increase sustainable and resilient building standards applicable to existing and new city-owned buildings through a revised Sustainable Facilities policy – for example, require LEED certification for new construction, solar energy generation where feasible, energy benchmarking, temperature set points and net zero energy consumption.	
	7.13	Continue to preserve and protect tree canopy on city-owned properties and consider a tree planting program on city-owned properties available for public use, such as the Urban Arboretum Trail and Program.	
	7.19	Establish new partnerships and expand existing partnerships with Mecklenburg County, community organizations and nonprofits to secure support and development of new and existing parks and shared-use paths, including small parks in or near different neighborhoods, and the protection of open spaces.	
	7.20	Continue working with Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency within shared watersheds to set resiliency policies, establish implementation programs and implement consistent regional standards to manage change within watersheds. Use the Charlotte-Mecklenburg All Hazards Plan and future Mecklenburg County stormwater residual flood risk goals to guide these efforts.	
	7.21	Continue to test, pilot and document green stormwater infrastructure best management practices.	
	7.22	Develop a dashboard to track progress towards the city's climate action goals.	
	7.29	Continue to transition the city to a circular economy by expanding programs that maximize product reuse and recycling and minimize waste, such as city-wide composting.	
	7.34	Establish programs to educate the public on how to reduce their environmental impact through sustainable practices relating to water usage, composting, fertilizers and energy usage.	

STATUS KEY



IN PROGRESS



COMPLETE & ONGOING



COMPLETE



FORTHCOMING

GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	7.38	Work with the county on the development of an app that provides an interactive map of all public parks, open spaces and trails.	
	7.42	Implement a signage program throughout the city to provide clarity for shared use path and park connections.	
	7.43	Modify development regulations for zoning districts associated with neighborhoods to provide publicly accessible open spaces as part of private developments.	
	8.7	Continue leadership role in regional efforts to support economic development with further emphasis on defined roles and responsibilities for the city, regional partners and the state. Focus city efforts on project-based business attraction/retention opportunities within target industries, investments in place-based economic development efforts and partnering with place-management organizations that implement them, supporting Minority, Women, and Small Business Enterprises (MWSBEs) and supporting workforce development efforts by providing resources and connecting training providers to residents and businesses.	
	8.9	Grow and promote the greater airport area to support its master planning efforts.	
	8.14	Explore policies and programs, such as Community Benefits, to support the development of new and the retention of existing community assets and amenities (such as childcare facilities in or near major employment centers).	
	9.6	Explore implementation of “neighborhood character” overlay zoning in appropriate neighborhoods to reduce or mitigate changes to community character, while balancing needs to diversify the city’s housing stock.	
	9.8	Promote the reuse and redevelopment of under-used surface parking lots to support the expansion and creation of local businesses.	

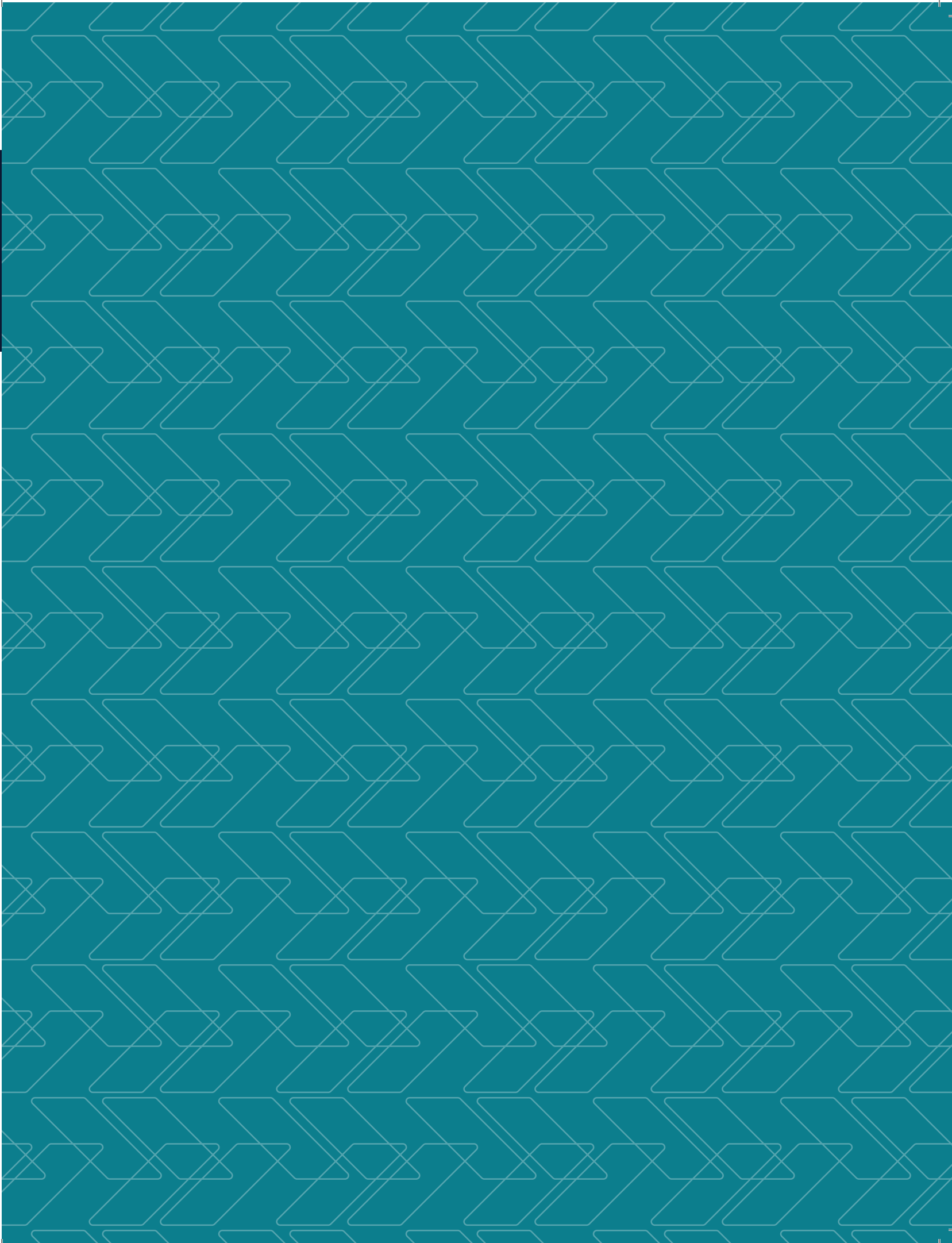
ON THE HORIZON / CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICY PROGRESS

GOAL	POLICY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	9.10	Mitigate neighborhood-defined cultural displacement through support and incentives for local businesses, markets and community amenities, and funding to support artwork placed through Public Arts Program (enabled by the Public Art Ordinance) and the city's Placemaking Program.	
	9.16	Develop a fund for the maintenance and programming of public spaces.	
	9.21	Develop registries of vacant properties and large surface parking lots and work with property owners to evaluate and encourage beneficial reuse of sites.	
	9.27	Develop preservation plans that identify places, traditions, landscapes and buildings that tell the full story of the city's history and outline future directions for celebrating and enhancing the unique physical character, cultural values and social identity of the city.	
	9.30	Cultivate placemaking and local culture by continuing to fund the Placemaking Program.	
	9.34	Develop a community design handbook to guide redevelopment of Charlotte's historic neighborhoods and other cherished places.	
	9.37	Finalize the Route 4 Survey project to support planning efforts. Work on local historic landmark and district designations, conservation district designations and National Register nominations.	
	10.1	Develop programs to require that all costs of utility extension be fairly allocated to the development to encourage efficient growth that minimizes utility extension costs (e.g. Charlotte Water).	
	10.2	Empower neighborhoods and business districts to aid in the development of Capital Improvement Plan and Bond projects.	
	10.12	Analyze and plan for infrastructure and utility needs in areas identified as play place types (e.g. Regional and Community Activity Centers) or where additional infill and redevelopment will be encouraged.	
	10.14	Perform an economic impact analysis prior to the implementation phase of the Plan.	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2024 Annual Report and the work to implement the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a collaborative effort and would not be possible without many partners working to realize the 2040 Plan's vision. We wish to offer a special thanks to all the partners who supported the creation of the 2024 Annual Report.





**CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**



WWW.CLTFUTURE2040.COM



cltfuture2040.com



cltfuture2040@charlottenc.gov



cltplanning



@CLTPlanning