

MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY VISION 2015

Mecklenburg County will be a community of pride and choice for people to LIVE, WORK and RECREATE.

People who **LIVE** in Mecklenburg County will be residing in the center of a **thriving** regional metropolitan area comprising 14 counties in North and South Carolina. Mecklenburg County will be the place of choice in the region for people to live because we will have affordable housing opportunities throughout the county for residents from all economic backgrounds **and taxes will be competitive relative to the quality of service provided by local government.** We will have respect for and will celebrate the diversity of and promote equality of opportunity for all of our citizens. We will have safe neighborhoods with comparable crime rates from one neighborhood to another **and offer alternatives to incarceration for those suffering from the disease of alcoholism and substance abuse.** We will have eliminated “preventable” child deaths and injuries and **will have no disparities in resident health based on ethnic background.** We will have lower than the national average per capita cases of cancer, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, teenage pregnancy and infant mortality, among many health indicators. Our senior citizens will have the choice to age with dignity in their homes.

People who **WORK** in Mecklenburg County will have job growth opportunities in a variety of business sectors that provide all who are willing to work with a living wage, and the workforce will be trained to meet the needs of employers. All residents will have the opportunity to share equitably in the community’s prosperity. **We will have a vibrant and diverse economy as we attract new businesses, support existing businesses and promote tourism.** The County will continue to be a regional hub for higher education, offering individuals opportunities to attain degrees **and further their professional development.** We will be a model learning community, leading the state of North Carolina and surpassing the national average for student achievement, regardless of pupil socio-economic standing. **Our adult literacy rate will be in excess of 90%.** We will have a regional mass transit **system that includes buses, commuter and light rail** that connects citizens to their homes, work, schools, park facilities and commercial centers.

People who **RECREATE** in Mecklenburg will have a system of parks, greenways and open space located throughout the County that **will provide more park land per capita than the national average,** connects neighborhoods, satisfies public recreation needs, and protects environmentally sensitive areas. We will have an abundant source of clean drinking water, clean and healthy creeks that are suitable for prolonged human contact, and **will maintain** air quality within **national** standards. We will **sustain and enhance the environment by** protecting our natural resources. **We will preserve our historical landmarks and places.** Residents and visitors will learn from and be inspired by our community’s arts and cultural activity **and enjoy our social, entertainment, and recreational opportunities.**

Mecklenburg County will be the best local government service provider. We will **maintain** a local government that is highly efficient, effective, accountable, and inclusive. Partnerships between government, the private sector and the faith community will be bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to address and solve community problems. **Through joint master land use planning and capital investments, quality of life in neighborhoods will be maximized.** Residents will consider themselves owners of the community and actively participate in citizen engagement opportunities.