

## Celebrating the Quality of Life Explorer

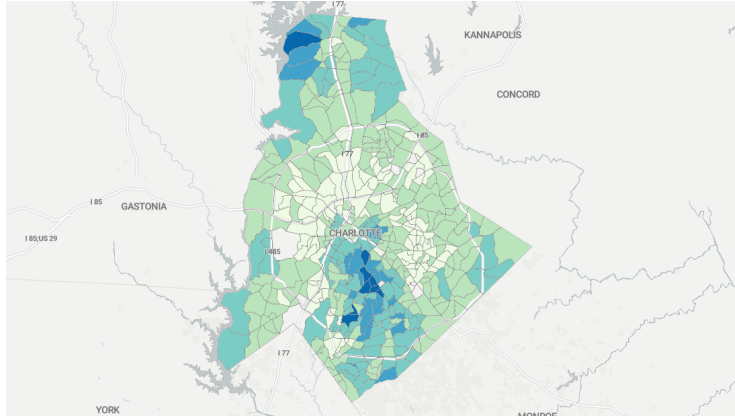


**From** UNC Charlotte Urban Institute <urbaninstitute@unc.edu>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Date** 2023-04-20 11:29

[View this email in your browser](#)

# CHARLOTTE URBAN INSTITUTE

This email was sent to sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute · 9201 University City Blvd · Charlotte, NC 28223 · USA

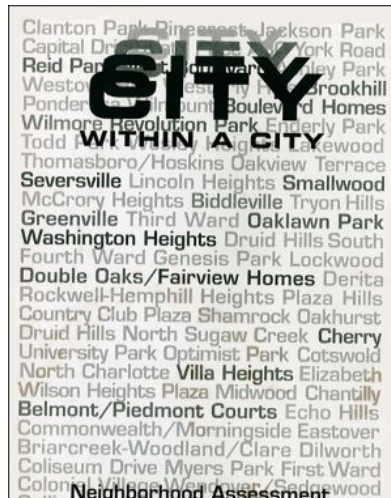


## The Quality of Life Explorer: Big Value for Local Government

**By Andrew Bowen, City of Charlotte**

The [Quality of Life Explorer](#) is a tool that provides incredible value to our local governments, especially the City of Charlotte. At its core, it is a single location that provides consistent, reliable, and up-to-date information about the City and its neighborhoods. Whether there is a need from Economic Development to understand the features and characteristics of a corridor or a neighborhood organization looking for information and stats at their scale, the Quality of Life Explorer is built to answer questions from a range of community stakeholders.

The tool itself does not answer 100% of questions that come in from my City colleagues or the community, but it offers a great starting point.





## Quality of Life Explorer: A Brief Timeline

**By Katie Zager**

Although we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Quality of Life Explorer, the history of Quality of Life in Charlotte actually goes back more than 25 years.

In 1993, according to a [2013 Urban Institute interview](#) with Dr. Owen Furuseth, Professor Emeritus of Geography at UNC Charlotte and former Associate Provost of Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs at UNC Charlotte (the Urban Institute's parent unit at the time), "The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission identified what it called the "city within a city," 73 neighborhoods within a 3-mile radius from the intersection of Trade and Tryon uptown."



## Slow Birding

**By Ruth Ann Grissom**

Even casual birders feel the urge of spring migration. Within a few short weeks, millions of birds will pass through our forests, parks and yards. Many pause here only briefly to fuel up for their journey north, so this will be our only opportunity to get a glimpse of them in their breeding plumage.

We rush around to various habitats – riparian, grassland, upland forest – in an effort to see as many as possible. We lift our binoculars to the canopy and see a flash of yellow. It could be any number of warblers. We focus long enough to (hopefully) get a positive identification, and then we quickly move on. Other species might be flitting about in a nearby tree, and they might not be here long. It's exhilarating, but it can also be exhausting and somewhat superficial.

---

**Read more from the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute**

*Copyright © '120231' 'URBAN INSTITUTE, UNC CHARLOTTE', All rights reserved.  
'1April 6, 20231' 'NEWSLETTER1'*

**Our mailing address is:**  
'19201 University City Blvd Charlotte, NC 282231'

**Subscribe to the Newsletter**

