



## Countless Amenities Spur Impressive Growth

From its early beginnings as a farming community named Craighead, Huntersville began to grow with the coming of the railroad and the location of a cotton mill in the late 19th century. The Town was renamed Huntersville in honor of landowner and cotton farmer Robert Boston Hunter. Incorporated in 1873, the town drew new residents with an expanding textile industry, available fertile farm land and its close proximity to the City of Charlotte.

As the development of Charlotte began to influence Huntersville and its surroundings and with the creation of Lake Norman in 1963 population growth accelerated. Between 1990 and 2000 residency increased by a remarkable 728 percent. Encouraged by its friendly small town atmosphere, great neighborhoods, lower cost of living, and the scenic beauty of lakeside vistas, attractive parks and pristine open spaces, the town's continuous growth has fueled a booming real estate and home building industry. Only 10 minutes from Charlotte, residents have easy access to all the amenities of a major metropolitan area from within the quieter, safer, and less congested community. It's easy to see why *Money Magazine* recognized Huntersville as the 76th Best Place to Live in America for 2005 and as one of the top 20 places in North Carolina to retire. The Town was also identified as one of America's Top-Rated Smaller Cities for 2004-2005 by Grey House Publishing.

The Town offers an interesting and exciting blend of old and new. Although much of the retail and residential development are new, Huntersville also has 18 historic sites dating back to 1740 serving as a living legacy and link between the present and past. Newcomers can choose from a broad range of home styles and prices: family-friendly neighborhoods with sidewalks and bike trails, condominium communities or spacious luxury apartments. Specialty retailers and large general merchandisers are in the mix provided by large-scale shopping malls and smaller neighborhood service centers. As continued growth brings more expansion and diversity of choice, active planning efforts will ensure that residents have easy access to the goods and services to meet every need.

To accommodate existing growth and prepare for expansion, Huntersville has devoted considerable time and effort to the development of numerous plans for capital improvements, land-use, and area redevelopment. The Town intends to accomplish smart and efficient growth and development while maintaining and preserving many characteristics that have contributed to the exceptional quality of life so important to the Town's residents. With strong community involvement and a serious sense of identity, they are sure to realize their objectives.

Incorporated: 1873  
2006 population: 34,365  
County: Mecklenburg  
[www.huntersville.org](http://www.huntersville.org)

### Huntersville Utilities:

- Electricity

### Major Employers:

- American Tire Distributors, Inc.
- Americredit
- GE Polymerland
- Irwin Industrial Tools
- Joe Gibbs Racing
- Max Daetwyler Corporation
- McGuire Nuclear Generating Station
- Metrolina Greenhouses
- Presbyterian Hospital
- Rubbermaid

### Transportation:

- Major highway routes serving Huntersville: I-77, I-85 (20 mi E), I-40 (25 mi N), US 21, NC 73, and NC 115
- Air: Charlotte Douglas International Airport (25 mi S)
- Rail: Norfolk Southern Corporation, Amtrak (Charlotte)



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## INTERESTING FACTS

Lake Norman is the largest man-made lake in North Carolina, with a shoreline of 520 miles, more than both the North and South Carolina coastlines together. Created in 1963 with the damming of the Catawba River at Cowan's Ford, the lake provides electricity and supplies water to the area. The variety of natural and rural settings and abundance of parks along with its close proximity to Charlotte make the region attractive for family living, working and recreation.

The Battle of Cowan's Ford, fought on February 1, 1781, was the last battle of the American Revolution to be fought in Mecklenburg County. After British General Charles Cornwallis captured Charleston in early 1780, he marched toward North Carolina and attacked Charlotte.

General William Lee Davidson, the hero of the Battle of Cowan's Ford is buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville. Although Gen. Davidson was a member of Centre Presbyterian Church, the young general's body was secretly laid to rest at Hopewell's cemetery to avoid desecration by nearby British troops.

Rural Hill Farm, settled in 1760, is the oldest and largest publicly owned historic site in Mecklenburg County. The historic homestead of Maj. John Davidson, the farm became one of the most prosperous plantations in the piedmont. The 265-acre Rural Hill farm hosts heritage and cultural events throughout the year including the Loch Norman Highland Games held each April.

The oldest standing store building in North Carolina, the Hugh Torance House and Store is one of Mecklenburg's few remaining 18th century structures. The log portion of the house was built c.1779 with a storehouse addition added c.1787 and a Federal addition c.1805. Hugh Torance House and Store, Inc., a non-profit organization responsible for maintaining the site, offers tours to visitors.



## Business Opportunities Abound

The exemplary quality of life that has facilitated the impressive population growth and the boom in residential development has also created an appealing and much sought-after environment for business and industry. As housing expands, numerous retail trade and service opportunities arise. New investments in industrial and commercial areas like the 650-acre Huntersville Business Park have resulted in a broad array of businesses from offices to distribution centers. Numerous other industrial parks and business campuses offer a wide selection of sites and buildings. Strong and effective local leadership with a business-friendly mind set offers a comprehensive array of development services and professionals ready to serve every business requirement.

An Interlocal Agreement has helped avoid duplicative, competitive development activities between the communities of northern Mecklenburg County and has fostered an unprecedented level of cooperation. Joint efforts to support education and workforce training, small business growth and entrepreneurship, existing business programs, and maintenance of quality of life factors along with the development of cost and revenue sharing arrangements for new investments have proven to be a cost-effective approach and an added inducement to business development.

## Dealing with Transportation System Pressures

Through its Community Plan, Huntersville has committed itself to a transportation system that utilizes innovative design practices for efficient and safe movement of traffic that improves and preserves convenience and overall livability. Using the concept of "connectivity" it is implementing an internal road network that quickly and efficiently transports motorists to local neighborhoods and facilities. Commuter travel in the future will be enhanced through a combination of capacity expansion of existing arterial thoroughfares and a vastly improved public transit system.

This is but one of the many areas in which local leadership is acting to ensure that the Town's residents enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of quality, small town living, but have exceptional access to urban amenities. Huntersville's future looks extremely promising.

