

Executive

Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Greensboro City Data Book was created by City of Greensboro staff in cooperation with the Technical Advisory Team. This Book provides an overview of principal findings from facts and figures that were provided by City and County departments and State and Federal agencies. Various major trends are addressed in the chapters of the Data Book. This Executive Summary includes major key indicators that will be used annually to monitor social, economic, cultural, environmental and physical conditions, and to highlight the data contained in each chapter.

Major Key Trends and Indicators

Nineteen major issues were selected for analyzing and assessing the impact of major trends over time. The indicators represent significant concerns for evaluating various aspects of community life at the city, county and regional levels. The indicators are listed below and discussed in the Key Indicators Chapter.

- Greensboro's annual population growth;
- Per-capita income in Greensboro (ratio of total income to population);
- Unemployment rate in Greensboro (percent of unemployed in the civilian labor force);
- Growth in manufacturing (e.g. (light and heavy industrial firms) and service (e.g. personal and professional) jobs;
- Municipal Credit Agency Ratings by major bond raters;
- Number of emergency fire service calls: number and timing of response;
- Annual regional ozone exceedances based upon federal standards;
- Acres of parkland per 1000 population;
- Population growth rate in the Piedmont Triad Region;
- Employment growth rate in the Piedmont Triad Region;
- Greensboro's percentage share of retail sales in the Piedmont Triad Region;
- Median sales price of single family housing units in the Greensboro Regional Market Area;
- Increase in the amount of solid waste tonnage being managed or recycled,

- Commercial airline daily flights at the Piedmont Triad International Airport;
- Public transit ridership by route for Greensboro;
- Ratio of water demand (daily average) to capacity for Greensboro/ Guilford County;
- Ratio of waste water demand (daily average) to capacity for Greensboro/ Guilford County;
- Guilford County school enrollment by grade level; and
- Greensboro total index crimes compared to North Carolina and out-of state cities.

Comparisons to benchmark North Carolina and out-of-state cities are given whenever possible. Additional details are included in each chapter.

TRIAD REGION

The “Triad region” is not clearly defined at federal, state, or local levels, and few definitions include the same counties. In spite of this, it is important to have key statistics for those areas in the region whose population and economies are directly related to Greensboro.

Of the counties that are contiguous to Guilford County, four were selected as being a part of the Triad region for this study. In many cases, some of the cities within these selected counties were examined as well, to compare with Greensboro. The four counties chosen are Rockingham County to the north, Randolph County to the south, Alamance County to the east and Forsyth County to the west.

Population

Randolph County had a population growth rate higher than Guilford during the 1990s. The population growth rates in Alamance, Rockingham, and Forsyth Counties were lower than Guilford County.

Among Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the state, from 1990 to 2000, the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA experienced the highest population growth rate (38.4 percent), followed by the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA (29.1 percent) and the Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC MSA (19.2 percent).

In the past 10 years, six towns, all within a 10-mile radius of Greensboro, have incorporated. They are Stokesdale, Whitsett, Summerfield, Pleasant Garden, Sedalia, and Oak Ridge.

Population and Employment

Employment growth between 1990 and 1999 in Guilford and Forsyth Counties (and particu-

larly in the City of Greensboro) is outpacing population and labor force growth. In the remaining suburban counties of Randolph, Rockingham, and Alamance, population growth is outpacing employment growth. Thus, commuting into Greensboro from outlying areas (especially Randolph County) is still growing. Increased commuting has a number of implications for transportation, and other infrastructure systems, etc.

Commuting

Of the approximate 142,000 people working in Greensboro in 1990, just over half (56.4 percent) were residents of Greensboro. In that same year, approximately 62,000 people per day commuted into Greensboro to work from other areas within the region. Of the 62,000 commuting into Greensboro, approximately 35,000 were coming from outlying areas within Guilford County, including all of the City of High Point. Although Census 2000 commuting data have not been released, other studies indicate that the number of commuters into Greensboro continued to rise throughout the 1990's.

Agriculture

Farmland acreage in all counties in the Triad region has been in decline since at least 1974, and data previous to that time collected for Guilford County shows an even longer decline. However, in all counties of the Triad region, the average size of farms (in acreage) increased between 1974 and 1997.

Retail Sales

Greensboro accounts for over a third of all retail sales within the five-county Triad region. Annual retail sales per capita in Greensboro are the highest among all municipalities in the Triad region.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Greensboro grew from 183,894 to 223,891 people. According to the Greensboro Planning Department and the United States Census Bureau, Greensboro's population increased annually from 1990 to 2000. In 2000, the population gained over 15,000 persons (7.2 percent). Much of Greensboro's population growth over the decade was the result of annexation (16,401 people).

From 1990 to 2000, Greensboro's population increased by 21.8 percent, with an urban growth rate (excluding annexation) of 11.4 percent. During the same time period, the population of Durham increased by 36.9 percent, with an urban growth rate of 18.6 percent. The population of the City of Charlotte increased by 36.6 percent, with an urban growth rate of 13.8 percent. The population of Raleigh increased by 30.2 percent, with an urban growth rate of 10.8 percent. Winston-Salem's population increased by 29.5 percent, with an urban growth rate of 10.7 percent, while High Point's population increased by 23.6 percent, with an urban growth rate of 13.4 percent.

Along with the population growth, the corporate limits of Greensboro expanded and population density decreased over the last decade. Population density is a relationship between land acreage and population. In 2000, Greensboro's land area increased by 33.6 percent to 67,011 acres in 2000 from 52,344 acres in 1990. Persons per acre decreased from 3.5 to 3.34 persons. In the comparison cities of Charlotte and Durham, the population density also declined between 1990 and 2000, while in Winston-Salem and High Point, the population density increased. Raleigh's population density remained the same in 1990 and 2000, 3.76 persons per acre.

Age, Race , and Ethnic Origin

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of Black persons and American Indian persons in Greensboro grew at a higher rate than any other race, 34.3 percent and 27 percent, respectively. The number of Asians increased tremendously, although it is not possible to calculate either numbers or percentages by way of comparing 1990 with 2000, due to different data collection and reporting methods used by the United States Census Bureau for each decade. In Census 2000, citizens were allowed to report themselves as being of one race alone, or as being of more than one race. In addition, many racial categories were altered. For example, in 1990 one category was Asian and Pacific Islander. In 2000, it was split into Asian alone and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone. Those reporting Hispanic or Latino ethnic origin (can be of any race) experienced a growth change from 1990 to 2000 of 564.9 percent.

According to the 1990 Census, Greensboro's highest age concentrations were in the 25-34 age group (19 percent) and the 35-44 age group (15 percent). The third highest proportion was the 0-9 age group (12 percent). Generally, Greensboro's median age has been increasing since the 1970s, meaning that the City's population is aging; the median age was 32.2 in 1990.

According to the Office of State Planning, between 1990 and 2000 in Guilford County, the number of persons in the 18-34 year age group declined by almost 9,000 persons, a decrease of 8.5 percent.

Education

In 1990, 79 percent of Guilford County adults had a high school diploma or higher. Thirty percent of Guilford County adults had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Income

According to the 1990 Census, median family income in Greensboro was below that of Raleigh and Charlotte, but above that of Durham, Winston-Salem, and High Point. Median family income in Greensboro was also higher than all out-of-state comparison cities.

Housing

In 1990, 53.7 percent of Guilford County's residents were homeowners and 46.3 percent were renters. Homeownership rates in 1990 were highest in northwest Greensboro and within Guilford County itself, outside the borders of the cities of Greensboro and High Point.

Poverty

According to the 1990 Census, 11.6 percent of all persons in Greensboro lived in poverty. Of that group, 12.1 percent were 65 years old and older, with the greatest percentage being in the 18-24 age group, with 23.1 percent of the total. The Census also reported that 6.8 percent of the City's White population and 20.7 percent of the Black population were living below the poverty level.

Several factors distinguish the remainder of Greater Greensboro from its poorest zip code. Conditions in the poorest zip code include a lower homeownership rate, a higher percentage of minorities, an unemployment rate nearly three times higher, and a higher number of people with less than a high school education.

ECONOMY

The economy of Greensboro has experienced modest growth over the past ten years. During the time from 1990-1999, Greensboro has experienced a 29.2 percent increase in new businesses, a 27.2 percent increase in new workers, and a 33.1 percent increase in new jobs. Of that growth, Greensboro accounted for nearly 63 percent of all new businesses, nearly 53 percent of all new workers, and nearly 62 percent of all new jobs in Guilford County.

In spite of these economic gains, there have also been job losses through layoffs, terminations, and plant closings. After 1996, these losses decreased until 1999. In 2000, the total number of jobs lost (2,824) was more than double that of 1996 (1,163).

Manufacturing as a percentage of employment has decreased from 27.6 percent in 1970 to 19.2 percent in 1990. In Guilford County, the average annual wages for the manufacturing industry in 1999 were \$40,911, while for service industry jobs the average was \$27,155. The economy of the County is in transition from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based one.

Per Capita Income

In 1999, employment in the manufacturing sector compared to the service sector was 55,398 versus 72,403, respectively. Guilford County's per-capita income, when compared to selected areas for 1998, was lower (\$29,229) than that of Forsyth (\$31,304), Mecklenburg (\$35,245), and Wake (\$33,780). Guilford County's per-capita income was higher than the remainder of the comparison areas of Alamance, Durham, Randolph, Rockingham, the state of NC, and the US. Per-capita income will be the true measure of how the community endures this transition. Unemployment, median family income, wage rates, and population all influence per capita income.

Investment and Jobs

On a regional level, Guilford County led comparison counties in investments and jobs for expanding and new firms between 1998 and 1999, but Forsyth County led in both categories in 2000. However, during this same time period, jobs and investments have been continuing to decline. Between 1999 and 2000, Guilford County had a 76 percent decrease in investments in businesses.

Employment and Income

North Carolina, the Triad region, and Greensboro have all experienced low unemployment during the 1990s, reflective of a strong economy and high availability of jobs. According to the 1990 Census, several census tracts, primarily in southeast Greensboro, have experienced unemployment rates as high as 22.9 percent. It appears, however, that the low unemployment levels of the 1990s may be coming to an end. Between November 2000 and April 2001, unemployment increased from 3.1 percent to 3.6 percent.

Cost of Living

In 2000, the overall cost of living in Greensboro was slightly below the national standard. The City's housing costs were the second highest among all North Carolina and out-of-state comparison cities. The cost of transportation in Greensboro (104.5) was higher than any comparison city and well above the national standard.

Tourism

For the past five years (1995-1999), Guilford County has led the Triad region in the four indicators relating to the impact of tourism: expenditures, payroll dollars, employment and local tax receipts. In 1999, the County had \$814 million in expenditures, \$273 million in payroll, 14,000 employees, and \$21 million in tax receipts.

ZONING AND LAND USE

Land Use

The City of Greensboro Development Ordinance, often referred to as the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), contains the procedures and regulations which pertain to land development within the city limits (please see the Greensboro Planning Department's Web site for the online version of the UDO at <http://www.ci.greensboro.nc.us/planning/ordinance/index.htm>). Among other elements, the UDO contains zoning regulations, which provide the principal legal tool for implementing the land use plan of a community. There are 31 zoning districts within the City that govern the permitted uses, dimensional standards, off-street parking, landscaping, and signage requirements for residential, office, commercial, industrial, institutional, and planned unit development land uses.

Zoning

In 2000, the Greensboro city limits encompassed approximately 112 square miles. Approximately 68.2 percent of the city limits were zoned for residential uses, approximately 31.3 percent were zoned for office, commercial, industrial or public/ institutional uses, and 0.5 percent were zoned agriculture. Approximately 3,480 acres were in designated parks (see chapter 15, Parks and Recreation).

The residential category includes residential single-family, residential multi-family, planned unit development (PUD): both mixed and residential, and traditional neighborhood development (TND). Mixed use planned unit developments usually include a portion of commercial and/or office uses within their boundaries.

There are several types of industrial zoning as well. These include corporate park, light, and heavy. Other zoning types in Greensboro include office, commercial, public and institutional, and agriculture.

Development

In 2000, Greensboro could best be described as decentralized (in Greensboro's case, multiple growth areas not concentrated around the City's downtown/core), with current growth centered in 13 areas, as depicted in the development trends map included in this chapter. A detailed land use survey is currently underway and is expected to be complete in the fall of 2001. The study will show the actual uses of the land, rather than what uses are permitted within each zoning district. One of the uses of this survey is that it will reveal information such as undeveloped acreage. The undeveloped land, in combination with non-residential acreage, will allow more accuracy in determining the number of persons per acre for the City.

Many factors influence zoning, land use, development decisions, and growth. They include environmental constraints, availability of water and sewer, development regulations, policies, and zoning codes. Other influences include consumer demand, the local and national economies, state and federal regulations and policies, population growth, and local economic development efforts. Major technological innovations, utilities' policies, citizen habits, fuel prices, resources, quality of life, transportation infrastructure, community attitudes, and taxing policies add to the list of influential factors.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Type and Tenure

In 1990, according to the United States Census Bureau, there were 80,411 dwelling units in Greensboro, with a population of 183,894. According to the 2000 Census, there were 99,305 dwelling units for a population of 223,891. According to the 1990 Census, 82 percent of Greensboro's dwelling units have been built since 1950, with approximately 42 percent built between 1960 and 1979.

In 1990, two-bedroom housing units were 50.9 percent of Greensboro's rental market (17,674 units), while three-bedroom units comprised 54.7 percent of the owner occupied units (21,981).

Both the average size of a home in square feet and the median lot size were the same in 1999 as they were in pre-1900 Greensboro, after variations during the intervening years.

Housing Sales

In Greensboro, zip code 27405 in the Northeast had the lowest sales price of homes in 2000 (\$93,874). However, when compared countywide, zip code 27260 in High Point had the lowest average sales price (\$58,648). The Lake Jeanette area (27455) had the highest average sales prices within Greensboro (\$216,257), as compared to the highest average sales price in Northwest Guilford County, which was Oak Ridge (\$261,678), zip code 27310.

According to the Housing Opportunity Index: Fourth Quarter 2000 Report, the Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC MSA had a larger share of affordable homes for households earning the area's median family income than both the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSAs.

Historic Districts

There are two types of historic districts: Local Historic Districts and National Register Historic Districts; both are found in Greensboro. Local districts are overlay-zoning districts that require a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to making any exterior changes. Exterior changes must adhere to design guidelines.

National Register Historic Districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A National Register listing places no restrictions on private property but it does make owners of historic properties eligible for federal and state rehabilitation tax credits.

Greensboro currently has three Local Historic Districts and 11 National Register Historic Districts. College Hill, Fisher Park, and Charles B. Aycock are both Local and National Register districts. However, Local and National Register boundaries are different, and the official name of the National Register district in the Charles B. Aycock neighborhood is the Summit Avenue Historic District.

Office and Industrial Space

Office

The office vacancy rate in Guilford County increased from 13.03 percent in 1996 to 15.95 percent in 2000. Geographically, over the five-year period (1996-2000), Greensboro's Central Business District (CBD), or Downtown, had more vacant office space available than the other county regions. However, its vacancy rate decreased from 21.47 percent in 1996 to 20.82 percent in 2000.

Industrial

The industrial vacancy rate in Guilford County declined from 21.70 percent in 1996 to 14.70 percent in 2000. During the years 1996-2000, Northeast Greensboro had a higher industrial vacancy rate than the other county regions. From 1998-2000, rentable industrial space was not available in Northwest Guilford County.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Greensboro's water quality and supply is controlled in large part by the geography of the area. The City contains multiple streams and lakes, but no major river or other natural water source. Due to Greensboro's geographical location at the headwaters of the Cape Fear River Basin (the "top of the hill"), with most water flowing from the City toward nearby rivers. Absorption into groundwater is limited by paved and other impervious surfaces, and runoff is accelerated by development in upstream areas.

Greensboro monitors water quality in surface streams and in the City's three water supply lakes to the north. Water quality is, for the most part, similar to that found in other urban areas. Water quality in Greensboro exceeds some state and federal standards for water quality during the hot summer months, but this is typical for many southern cities. Most pollution in our streams and lakes is non-point-source; that is, contaminants are washed into the water from streets, lawns, parking lots, and roofs, rather than being directly discharged from industry. Non-point-source pollution is difficult to control, and will require education, changes in stream maintenance, Best Management Practices (BMPs – buffer areas, vegetation, etc.), and large-area planning to control water runoff. A side benefit of these changes will be expanded habitat in and along stream basins, which are relatively barren now.

Water Supply/ Watershed

As a result of a series of state mandates, cities and counties within North Carolina have adopted ordinances with regulations that place additional restrictions on development that occurs within the drainage area for all state designated water supply watersheds. All watershed areas are not state designated water supply watersheds. A state designated water supply watershed is the entire area contributing drainage (stormwater flow) to the designated water supply reservoir or intake. These watersheds are the source of our drinking water and by limiting the amount of development we are reducing the amount of pollutants that enter into them. The minimum state standards to be enforced for each reservoir are based on a state's designation for that water supply watershed. The designation is based on the existing development pattern within the drainage area of the intake or reservoir.

The regulations concentrate on the effects of stormwater runoff on the quality of water at the intake or within the reservoir. The condition of the stormwater runoff that flows from a site to the intake or reservoir depends on the quantity of runoff and how quickly the stormwater runoff flows from the site to the intake or reservoir. These factors are directly related to the amount of built upon area (BUA) constructed on the site and the distance the stormwater must travel to get to the intake or reservoir.

There are eight state designated water supply watershed basins located within Guilford County. Each one of these watershed basins crosses two or more municipal boundaries. The regulations vary from city to county and watershed-to-watershed but must contain the minimum state standards. The watersheds located in Guilford County are classified as either WS-III or WS-IV. The regulations associated with WS-III, which are watersheds that contain an existing development pattern that is not as urban as WS-IV, are more restrictive than the WS-IV classification.

In general, the regulations become more restrictive the closer the development occurs to the intake or the edge of the water contained in the reservoir. Two overlay districts cover designated water supply watersheds. These overlay districts serve to restrict development, so as to limit the amount of pollution that enters into our reservoirs.

It is interesting to note that the majority of the City is located in the Buffalo Creek watershed (a non-state designated water supply watershed), which drains to the Haw River and is not a part of Greensboro's water supply. Greensboro's water supply comes from three City-owned lakes on the north side of the City. The water drains into the City's lakes from the west. A large portion of the Greensboro water supply watershed is within the town limits of Summerfield.

For further information on water supply and demand, please see Water and Sewer, chapter eight.

Air Quality

Ground level ozone, a colorless, odorless gas, is the pollutant that is most likely to lower air quality in North Carolina. Ozone is a problem in many areas across the United States. In 1999 and 2000, North Carolina was one of the top ten states in the country (ranking third, only behind California and Texas) in emissions of ground level ozone. It is a pollutant that is unhealthy and even harmful to breathe (especially for sensitive persons, such as children, the elderly, and those who have asthma), and it can cause damage to plant life.

Greensboro and many other cities are required to monitor air quality to meet state standards. Since 1997, the Triad region has exceeded state ozone standards multiple times. The exceedances are measured and recorded by unmanned monitors that take multiple readings per hour. An exceedance occurs when the standard is surpassed. The standard is averaged over an eight hour period, and is 0.08 parts per million.

Ozone measurements are taken between April and October every year. In 2000, the Triad listed more than 30 "code orange" ozone days. From 1998 through 2000, the month with the highest number of exceedances in the Triad region was August, generally the hottest month of the year.

Endangered and Threatened Species

In 2000, the federal and state lists showed only one Endangered species in Guilford County, the Bald Eagle. However, on the state list, there were 14 species listed as Significantly Rare

or Of Special Concern, meaning that state or federal action could be possible in the future, and six habitats listed as Special Natural Communities. Guilford County listed a lower number of Endangered, Threatened, or "Special Concern" species than any of the other counties in the study area, except for Alamance, a county smaller in size. This was perhaps due to the urbanization of the county.

WATER AND SEWER

Water Capacity and Demand

Greensboro's water capacity is limited by its geography. As stated in the Natural Environment chapter (7), Greensboro is located at the headwaters (or "top of the hill") of the Cape Fear River Basin. In addition, permitting requirements and other federal regulations make it difficult to increase capacity.

Water Supply

In the last 3 years, Greensboro has significantly expanded its ability to acquire water from other cities (up to 3 mgd from Winston-Salem and 6 mgd from Reidsville). These options will generate an increase in the City's safe yield of available water above current and projected average demand levels to 2005.

The addition of the Randleman Reservoir, which was permitted in April 2001, and is scheduled to be completed by 2005-06, will increase Greensboro's water capacity by 28 mgd or approximately 75 percent. This capacity should meet Greensboro's water needs for the next 25-35 years.

Sewer Capacity and Demand

For the same geographical reason that the water capacity is limited, the wastewater discharge capacity is limited. In fact, long-term, the City's wastewater capacity is more problematic than its water capacity, since the approval of the Randleman Dam.

By 2003, based on recent decisions to invest in the expansion of the Osborne Plant, Greensboro will have 56 mgd of sewage treatment capacity. Under current growth rates, this capacity will likely last approximately 12-15 years.

Water/ Sewer Resources

Historically, until 1998, Greensboro followed a policy of extending water and sewer service essentially wherever it was requested and feasible. Since 1998, however, the City has adopted a policy of extending water and sewer service only to areas outside the City within a limited boundary. This change is in keeping with the clear need to more effectively manage Greensboro's limited water and sewer treatment resources. [See Water and Sewer Services Area map for boundary line.]

Since 1995, Greensboro has spent or budgeted for expenditures of \$127 million in badly

needed capital improvements for water and sewer. These investments have necessitated large increases in water and sewer rates during that same period, ranging from 47% for low volume users to 278% for high volume users. Despite these increases, Greensboro's water and sewer rates remain below the average for the 13 largest cities in North Carolina.

Long term (15 years for sewer, 25-35 years for water), Greensboro will likely have reached its limit of conventional water and wastewater treatment resources. If the City is to continue to grow, alternative methods of increasing these resources will be necessary in order to service demand. Likely alternatives would involve such measures as interbasin transfers, indirect potable reuse of treated effluent (recycling), and additional (and more stringent) conservation measures.

TRANSPORTATION

Operations

The Greensboro Department of Transportation provides services to Greensboro citizens through five divisions: Business/ Parking, Public Transportation, Engineering, Planning, and Operations. Services include traffic signals and signs, transportation planning, parking, the storm drainage system, street lighting, street repair and cleaning, loose-leaf removal, snow and ice removal, sidewalks, bikeways, and public transit.

Public Transit

The Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) provides Fixed Route, Specialized Community Area Transit (SCAT) for the disabled, Flex Route, and Auxiliary Programs. Public transit ridership has increased by 14.2 percent between FY 1995-1996 and FY 2000-2001.

Downtown Parking

The parking system of the City provides both on- and off-street parking in the central business district (CBD). On-street parking is provided on both a metered and a time zone restricted basis. Surface lots and four parking garages provide off-street parking. Greensboro's Transportation Department maintains approximately 4,300 parking spaces in the CBD.

Street System

The City of Greensboro is responsible for the maintenance, expansion, and improvement of the local street system. As of June 30, 2000, the local street system includes 873 miles of paved streets and 3 miles of unpaved streets. The City of Greensboro receives funds annually to maintain, expand and improve city streets from a proportion of the state gasoline tax called the Powell Bill fund.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is responsible for the maintenance, expansion and improvements of primary and secondary State system routes within the City of Greensboro. The NCDOT is responsible for 236 miles of streets in Greensboro,

including the Interstate system, US-routes, and major State Routes.

The citizens of Greensboro recently passed a \$71.75 million bond package for street improvements in Greensboro to be spent over the next ten years, including \$51.5 million for roadway expansions and widening. Many of the roadway expansion and/or widening projects included in the bond package are State system streets that NCDOT does not plan to improve in the near future. See map for City and State roadway improvements planned through 2025.

Traffic Congestion

Heavily traveled intersections, arterial streets (corridors), and freeways are evaluated periodically to assess the traffic carrying capacity of those facilities. As shown on the 1990 Traffic Congestion map, Greensboro had 21 intersections that the Department of Transportation considered highly congested, and eight miles of congested arterial streets during the a.m. and p.m. peak travel times. As shown on the 2000 Traffic Congestion map, Greensboro had 98 intersections that rated as congested or highly congested and 40 miles of congested arterial streets during the a.m. and p.m. peak travel times.

Mode Share

In 1990, Greensboro citizens drove alone at a higher level than the nation. Greensboro citizens also used public transportation at a level much lower than the United States, but higher than North Carolina overall. Traffic congestion is a major quality of life issue in most communities, including Greensboro. Increased multi-modal use, flexible work schedules, telecommuting, and infill development, in combination with roadway widening will be needed to maintain an overall level of traffic congestion that is acceptable to the citizens of Greensboro.

Airport

The City of Greensboro's transportation needs are also served by the Piedmont Triad International Airport (PTIA). Aircraft operations and the number of passengers flying out of PTIA increased from 1996-2000, by 5.6 percent and 7.5 percent respectively. Total cargo poundage carried (US mail, and express/ freight) declined 7.0 percent.

The average number of flights per day at the PTIA began with 62 in 1993, increased steadily to the peak year of 1994 (149), and has averaged 79 flights per day between 1996 and 1999. The diminishing number of flights was caused mainly by the loss of the hubs of various airlines including Continental, Tradewinds and Eastwinds.

SOLID WASTE

In Guilford County, there are two permitted municipal solid waste disposal facilities; the Kersey Valley Landfill, which is located in the southwestern part of the County, and the White Street Landfill, which is located in the northeastern part of the County. The Kersey Valley Landfill is owned and operated by the City of High Point. The White Street Landfill is owned

and operated by the City of Greensboro.

Landfilled and Managed Waste: Greensboro

The White Street Landfill consists of approximately 900 acres, nearly all of which is owned by the City. Approximately 94 acres of the landfill site is owned by Guilford County and is leased to the City. Phase I of the landfill was closed in 1978. Phase II of the landfill was closed in December 1997 in accordance with state regulations. In May 1997, the City issued \$16 million in special obligation bonds to finance construction of the first two cells of Phase III of the landfill, of which the first cell was completed in 1997. Cell two, constructed in the fall of 2000, began accepting waste in June of 2001. Cell three will be constructed in 2003 and is scheduled to begin filling in 2004. The life expectancy for all three cells is estimated to be 9.75 years (1998-2008).

The White Street Landfill provides disposal services for municipal solid waste, land clearing and inert debris, and for construction and demolition waste. White Street is currently the only permitted construction and demolition waste site in the County. By contract with a private company, the City provides facilities for material recovery, yard waste processing, and household hazardous waste collection. The landfill and these facilities accept waste from private haulers and individuals from within Guilford County jurisdictional boundaries. The amount of landfilled waste generated increased by 38.9 percent between FY 1997-1998 and FY 1999-2000.

The City of Greensboro provides weekly curbside solid waste, recycling, bulk trash, white goods, and yard waste collection services to nearly all single-family, housing units. In addition to the residential collection program, the city provides commercial garbage collection services to approximately 2,500 businesses, multi-family dwellings (apartments, town homes, and condominiums). The commercial recycling program provides collection services to more than 1,150 businesses. Private waste hauling companies provide collection services for waste not collected by the City, primarily commercial and industrial waste, private residential communities and waste outside the city limits of Greensboro.

Of the waste generated in fiscal year 1999-2000, 90.3 percent was landfilled and 9.7 percent was managed or kept out of the landfill, mainly through yard waste and recycling programs. The amount of landfilled waste has increased from 88.4 percent in 1997-1998 to 90.3 percent in 1999-2000. The majority of this was due to the significant increase in construction and demolition waste. The amount of solid waste actually decreased from 58.3 percent in FY 1997-1998 to 45.2 percent in FY 1999-2000. In FY 1999-2000, 5.2 percent of the city's waste was recycled, down from a high of 6.3 percent in 1998-1999.

Between FY 1997-1998 and FY 1999-2000, Greensboro accounted for an average of 85.9 percent of the waste deposited at the White Street Landfill.

Waste Diversion Goals: Guilford County

According to the Guilford County Solid Waste Management Division, between FY 1994-1995 and FY 1999-2000, the percent of the municipal solid waste tons diverted from the landfill

have gone from a high of 15.09 percent in FY 1995-1996 to a low of 11.60 percent in FY 1998-1999. FY 1999-2000 showed an increase to 12.43 percent and estimates show the percentage should increase to an all-time high of 15.16 percent by FY 2009-2010.

The overall tons of managed waste that was diverted from the landfill in all of Guilford County increased by 4.7 percent between FY 1994-1995 and FY 1999-2000. It is estimated that the amount diverted will increase by another 40 percent by FY 2009-2010.

Between FY 1994-1995 and FY 1999-2000, the per capita municipal solid waste reduction for the entire County went from a high of 16.89 percent in FY 1995-1996 to a low of 8.78 percent in fiscal years 1998-1999 through 2000-2001. Estimates show that this percentage should increase to 10.81 percent by 2009-2010.

POLICE

Greensboro Crime Statistics

The Greensboro Police Department adheres to principles of community policing, highly valuing active community participation, partnerships and innovation. The department's five-year strategic plan promotes accountability at all levels and it was the blueprint for creating an infrastructure that placed as many resources as possible in a small geographic area – a trend that is expected to continue through the coming decades. The primary goal of the Police Department is to be proactive in the prevention of criminal activity and the enforcement of the law, in order to solve problems within the community.

Greensboro Police Staffing

A staff of 675 managed 234,956 calls for service in the year 2000. By 2025, those numbers are expected to reach 1,275 and 341,161, respectively.

Crime Statistics for Selected Cities

The Total Index Crimes, a combination of total violent crimes and total property crimes, increased by 2.6 percent between 1990 and 2000 in Greensboro. From 1990-2000, the lowest number of violent crimes occurred in 1990 (1,822) and the highest number in 1993 (2,224). Total violent crimes for 2000 were 1,976. During this ten-year period, total property crimes varied between a low of 12,816 and a high of 15,921. Total property crimes in 2000 totaled 13,041.

In 1999, Charlotte led in number of total index crimes at 53,413 (8,138 violent crimes and 45,275 property crimes), while Greensboro ranked fifth as compared to North Carolina cities and nearly equaled total crimes in Montgomery, AL..

FIRE

Department Statistics

The National Insurance Services Office rates local fire departments on a scale from 1 to 10,

with 1 being the best rating and 10 indicating no fire protection at all. Since 1991, the Greensboro Fire Department has maintained a Class 1 designation. Greensboro is the only community in North Carolina with a Class 1 designation, and one of only 30 such cities in the country.

From 1993 to 1999, the number of total emergency responses increased by an average of 9.1 percent. During the same period, average response time per call increased from 4.4 minutes to 5.29 minutes. Average response time for emergency medical calls (Emergency Medical Services, or EMS) over the period decreased from 5.17 minutes to 5.11 minutes. Between 1993 and 1998, the average response time for calls decreased by 15.9 percent. There was a dramatic increase of 43 percent between 1998 and 1999, due mainly to the required change in calculating response times. Starting in 1999, response times were calculated from the time the incident was reported to the time the fire apparatus was on the scene. Prior to 1999, response times were calculated from time of dispatch to on-scene. The same holds true for EMS calls.

Firefighter Comparison in Selected Municipalities

Greensboro has the highest resident-to-firefighter ratio of all the comparison cities. The average of fire calls per thousand population for all of the comparison cities was 79; Greensboro had 84.7.

SCHOOLS

School System Statistics

The Guilford County School System is the county's largest employer, with over 7,500 employees. It is the third largest school system in North Carolina and one of the top 60 in the nation. The School System includes 280 buildings, eight million square feet of space, more than 2,800 acres of land, and 660 Buses that provide transportation for students. The System includes 97 schools: 62 elementary, 18 middle, 14 high, and 3 special schools.

Enrollment

Guilford County's school enrollment is expected to increase significantly over the next ten years, from 62,426 in 2000-2001, to 66,168 in 2008-2009, an increase of 6%. During the same time period, projected enrollment growth within each grade level varies greatly: elementary school should have a slight decrease of 1.8 percent, middle school should experience an increase of 8.4 percent, and high school should see the highest increase, 17.7 percent. Schools will also experience significant racial diversity as a result of the increasing minority migration into Greensboro and High Point.

Construction Inventory

From 1980 to 1999, the district built only seven schools even though school enrollment grew dramatically. Two of those seven were special schools. Currently two new schools are under construction. District estimates project four or five new schools within the next ten years

to meet the need caused by rising enrollments in the Northeast and Northwest. Another 34 construction projects totaling \$250 million has been scheduled, including air conditioning, structural repairs, renovations, and expansions. The recent bond passage of \$200 million will fund most of these construction plans.

Business partnerships and volunteer programs are increasing each year. Almost 1,500 businesses and community groups in Guilford County, Greensboro and High Point, participate in the Partnerships in Education program. This program is designed to strengthen and enhance the quality of education. Volunteers share their time and knowledge with students in the program, which is sponsored by the High Point and Greensboro Chambers of Commerce and the Guilford County Schools. Businesses also provide apprenticeships and internships for students, part-time jobs, co-op programs, equipment, and supplies.

LIBRARY SYSTEM

Library Resources

The Greensboro Library System consists of eight branch libraries and a new Central Library, which opened in 1998. Between FY 1998-1999 and FY 1999-2000, overall library visits have increased by 17 percent. In FY 1999-2000, over two million patrons visited the libraries. Of that total, 39 percent live outside the city limits. Over half of the service area (54.5 percent) held library cards.

Library Use Measures

Between FY 1995-1996 and FY 1999-2000, patrons in the legal service area of the library system (Guilford County, excluding High Point) increased by 5.2 percent. Library card holders increased by 17.3 percent.

In recent years, there has been a trend toward increased use of libraries for Internet access and research. In FY 1999-2000, there were 191 Internet access stations in the library system compared to approximately 40 such stations in FY 1997-1998. Although library usage is increasing, circulation of books and materials has decreased from FY 1996-1997 (1.7 million) to FY 1999-2000 (1.5 million). However, the overall circulation numbers have been increasing since FY 1997-1998. In FY 1999-2000, the Central Library had both the highest circulation and the highest visits, followed by the Benjamin and Guilford Branches.

Between FY 1995-1996 and FY 1999-2000, the audiotape collection increased by 82.5 percent, followed by a 73.2 percent increase in the video collection, while the serial volumes increased by 22.5 percent. During the same time period, the adult book collection size declined by 31.3 percent, with the children's books declining by 24 percent. Other non-print materials decreased by 97 percent.

When looking at the comparison counties, in FY 1999-2000 Forsyth County had the largest operating budget and the second highest operating dollars per capita. Guilford County had the second largest operating budget and the fourth highest operating dollars per capita.

Between FY 1995-1996 and FY 1999-2000, full time staff declined by eight positions, while professional staff remained fairly constant.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Greensboro Parks and Recreation

A citizen driven Master Plan, completed in 1998, guides the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department.

The five departmental divisions provide facilities, services, and programs on approximately 3,500 acres of parkland and over 60 miles of trails. Greensboro's long time lead in the ratio of parkland to population has now been met or exceeded by Raleigh and High Point.

The recently completed master plan includes recommendations to expand existing parkland through the addition of six community parks, 16 neighborhood parks, and 20 miles of new trails and greenways over the next fifteen years. The master plan also recommends program expansion to meet the needs of the growing City by adding 36 ball fields, five swimming pools, two recreation centers, and a community center.

Strong citizen approval of the master plan was evident during the November 2000 bond referendum in which citizens approved \$34.2 million to improve Greensboro parks and recreation facilities.

Guilford County Parks and Open Space Inventory

The Guilford County Open Space Committee compiled an inventory of existing parkland and open space in 1999. The inventory did not include common property owned by residential associations, remaining parcels from highway construction, and utility rights of way. The inventory provided major open space and parkland acreage, including 7,035 acres of parkland, 5,380 acres of surface water, 5,274 acres of watershed land, 900 acres of farmland, and 784 acres of flood plain or open space.

The inventory indicated that 4.7 percent of the total acreage within Guilford County is protected by some type of government ownership or conservation easement. Guilford County has a total of 417,308 land acres, of which 19,561 (including 5,380 acres of surface water) are currently protected.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The City of Greensboro has received very favorable evaluations of credit worthiness from nationally recognized credit rating agencies on its General Obligation debt issues. Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) have given the City of Greensboro's debt instruments their highest and second highest rating, AAA and Aa1, respectively.

The City of Greensboro's current debt burden as a percentage of the legally allowed debt limit is at the lower end of the state limit. The North Carolina limit is eight percent of the

City's total property assessed valuation. In FY 1999-2000, the City's net debt percentage was 1.5 percent.

The City of Greensboro's current net bonded debt per capita has remained relatively stable during the period from FY 1994-1995 to 1998-1999, ranging from a low of \$643 in FY 1996-1997 to a high of \$822 in FY 1997-1998.

The City has maintained an undesignated fund balance (funds set aside for emergencies and to provide working capital) of nine percent of the adopted General Fund budget. The North Carolina Local Government Commission recommends that local governments maintain a fund balance of at least eight percent of the adopted General Fund budget.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes funds for projects that will be undertaken during 2001-2007. These projects will be funded primarily with the proceeds of a authorized or proposed bond sales, state and federal grants, and enterprise fund revenues.

Capital Improvement Projects Completed or in Progress

Bond-financed and other major capital projects completed, or in progress, include street and bridge projects, fire station replacement, water and sewer system upgrades, renovations of existing facilities, and landfill expansion.

- Fire Station Number 16 (merger is near completion and expected to be occupied in August 2001, at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. In addition, a \$14.5 million Public Safety Training Facility is being funded from general obligation bond proceeds issued in 1998. This project is under construction and has an anticipated completion date of 2002.
- Renovations of existing City facilities are underway, including \$2.1 million for heating and lighting upgrades and remodeling of current office space. In addition, the City acquired a property in its southeastern section to be used for expansion of the Municipal Service Center and other operations. Water Resources staff will move to the new site, which is also a potential site for a new police substation and fire station. Work has also begun on upgrades to the Historical Museum's heating and ventilation system at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million.
- Three new police service centers are planned in support of the police service district concept. The first center on Maple Street opened in FY 1999-00. The other two were included in the 2000 bond referendum.
- Over \$7.5 million in signal improvements and roadway and bridge projects were accomplished during FY 1999-2000. Completed projects include street widening and improvements on Lake Brandt Road and Lawndale Drive to the City limits, Horsepen Creek Road at Drawbridge Parkway, Stanley Road, and Hilltop Road. Four additional transportation-related projects, including widening on New Garden Road, were a u-

thorized and planned for construction. The New Garden Road project began construction in January 2001.

- Expansion of the Osborne Wastewater Treatment plant, estimated at a total cost of \$40 million, was completed in June 2001 for an additional 10 million gallons per day (mgd). The project has increased the plant's sewage treatment capacity to 30 mgd. Phase IV will increase the plant's sewage treatment capacity to 40 mgd and is expected to be completed in February 2003.
- Improvements to the Lake Daniel Reservoir, at an estimated cost of \$5.7 million are now complete. A water tank feeder main on Battleground Avenue was also completed and will improve water availability and distribution. Pursuant to the City's agreement with the City of Reidsville to purchase up to 5 mgd of water, construction of a new water main in the northern corridor is complete and improvements to the Reidsville Water Treatment plant are underway.
- In accordance with state regulations, the City's Phase II landfill site on White Street was closed and capped in December 1997. The City concurrently opened a new 25-acre lined cell as part of the Phase III expansion. Cell two began accepting waste in June 2001 and cell three is scheduled to begin filling in 2005. This expansion is being financed by \$16 million of Special Obligation Bonds issued in May 1997. The City intends to increase various fees and charges related to the operation of its solid waste system over the next few years to provide a source of funds to pay the related debt service.

Bond Referendum

In November 2000, the citizens of Greensboro approved eight bond issues. These issues included \$71.8 million for street improvements, \$2 million for public transportation, \$2.8 million for neighborhood redevelopment, \$34.2 million for parks and recreation facilities, \$9.6 million for fire stations, \$7.1 million for law enforcement facilities, \$5 million for library facilities, and \$3.5 million for the Natural Science Center.

Conclusion

The Greensboro City Data Book will be an annual community snapshot that is compiled and maintained as an invaluable source for comprehensive planning in the City. It will also fill a need in evaluating the impact of key issues at the county and regional levels.

Specifically, the 2001 City Data book provides Greensboro's first comprehensive examination of regional perspectives, demographic characteristics, economic conditions, zoning and land use factors, residential and commercial development and natural environment trends. Principal organizational data is provided regarding the following functions: water and sewer, transportation, solid waste, police, fire, libraries and parks and recreation. A description of the Guilford County School System is also included. Finally, data regarding financial conditions and future capital improvements programming is discussed.