

Section 3: Planning Area Profile

This section provides a general overview of the Eno-Haw Region which has been defined as the planning area for this Plan. It consists of the following four subsections:

- 3.1 Geography and the Environment
- 3.2 Population, Housing, and Demographics
- 3.3 Infrastructure and Land Use
- 3.4 Employment and Industry

3.1 Geography and the Environment

The Eno-Haw Region is comprised of three contiguous counties in the central region of North Carolina: Alamance County, Orange County, and Durham County. A map profiling the planning area is shown in **Figure 3.1**.

Table 3.1 shows total land and water area for the three counties and for the Eno-Haw Region as a whole.

Table 3.1: Total Land and Water Area for the Eno-Haw Region

County	Total Land Area (In Square Miles)	Total Water Area (In Square Miles)	Total Area (In Square Miles)
Alamance	430	5	435
Orange	398	3	401
Durham	290	7	297
TOTAL ENO-HAW	1,118	15	1,133

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010.

Alamance County

Alamance County comprises the Burlington, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC Combined Statistical Area. The 2012 estimated population of the metropolitan area was 153,920. Alamance County was named after Great Alamance Creek, site of the Battle of Alamance (May 16, 1771), a pre-Revolutionary War battle in which militia under the command of Governor William Tryon crushed the Regulator movement. Great Alamance Creek, and in turn Little Alamance Creek, according to legend, were named after a local Native American word to describe the blue mud that was found at the bottom of the creeks. Other legends say that the name came from another local Native American word meaning "noisy river," or for the Alamanni region of Rhineland, Germany, where many of the early settlers would have come from.

Orange County

Orange County is included in the Durham-Chapel Hill, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC Combined Statistical Area, which had a 2012 estimated population of 1,998,808. The county was formed in 1752 from parts of Bladen County, Granville County, and Johnston County. It was named for the infant William V of Orange, whose mother Anne, daughter of King George II of Great Britain, was then regent of the Dutch Republic. In 1771, Orange County was greatly reduced in area. The western part of the county was combined with the eastern part of Rowan County to form Guilford County. Another part was combined with

parts of Cumberland County and Johnston County to form Wake County. The southern part of what remained became Chatham County. In 1777, the northern half of what was left of Orange County became Caswell County. In 1849, the western third of the still shrinking county became Alamance County. Finally, in 1881 the eastern half of the county's remaining territory was combined with part of Wake County to form Durham County. Some of the first settlers of the county were English Quakers, who settled along the Haw and Eno Rivers.

Durham County

Durham County is the core of the Durham-Chapel Hill, NC Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the Raleigh-Durham-Cary, NC Combined Statistical Area, which had a population of 1,749,525 as of 2010. The county was formed on April 17, 1881 from parts of Orange County and Wake County, taking the name of its own county seat. In 1911, parts of Cedar Fork Township of Wake County was transferred to Durham County and became Carr Township. Durham County is located in the rolling Piedmont Region of North Carolina about halfway between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the beaches of the Outer Banks. Durham County has one major municipality, the City of Durham. Durham County is also home to Research Triangle Park (RTP), the largest and most successful planned research park in the United States. The park is located on 7,000 acres of North Carolina pine forest and nearly 75% of the Park's property and 95% of the corporate enterprises are located in Durham County.

Major Rivers

The Eno River, named for the Eno Indians who once lived along its banks, is the initial tributary of the Neuse River in North Carolina. The Eno River rises in Orange County and the river's watershed occupies much of Orange and Durham counties. The Eno River converges with the Flat River and the Little River to form the Neuse River at Falls Lake, which straddles Durham and Wake counties. The Eno River is notable for its beauty and water quality, which has been preserved through aggressive citizen efforts. The distances from its source to its convergence at the Neuse is approximately 40 miles, however the Eno River features significant stretches of natural preservation. Through the combined efforts of the North Carolina State Parks System, local government, and private non-profit preservation groups, over 5,600 acres of land have been protected in the Eno Basin, including Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, Eno River State Park, West Point on the Eno (a Durham City Park), and Penny's Bend State Nature Preserve (managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden).

The Haw River is a tributary of the Cape Fear River, approximately 110 miles long, that is entirely contained in north central North Carolina. The Haw River rises in the Piedmont country, in northeast Forsyth County, near the border with Guilford County just north of Kernersville. The river flows northeast, passing north of Oak Ridge and Summerfield into southern Rockingham County, passing through Haw River State Park, north of Greensboro. The river then begins to flow southeast as it moves through the corner of Guilford County into Alamance County. In Alamance County, the Haw River flows through Ossipee and passes north of Burlington, and through the unincorporated community of Carolina. It goes through the town of Haw River. It flows south and is joined by Great Alamance Creek at Swepsonville and continues on to Saxapahaw. The river forms the southeast border of Alamance County, a border shared by Orange County and Chatham County. The course of the Haw River continues southeast in Chatham County as it flows just north of Pittsboro. Approximately 12 miles southeast of the tip of Alamance County, the Haw River flows into the Jordan Lake reservoir, which is formed by the confluence of the Haw River and New Hope Creek. Four miles south of Jordan Lake dam, the Haw River joins the Deep River to form the Cape Fear River.

3.2 Population, Housing, and Demographics

A summary of population, housing, and demographic data for each of the participating counties is presented in **Table 3.2** based on data derived from the U.S. Census Bureau, along with totals and averages for the Eno-Haw Region.

Table 3.2: Demographic Data for the Eno-Haw Region

Summary of Population, Housing, and Demographics				
Value	Alamance	Orange	Durham	Eno-Haw
Population, 2013 estimate	154,378	140,352	288,133	582,863
Population, 2011 MSA totals	153,291	512,979	512,979	N/A
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	151,219	133,724	269,974	554,917
Population, percent change, April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	2.1%	5.0%	6.7%	4.6%
Population, 2010	151,131	133,724	267,587	552,442
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2013	5.8%	4.8%	7.2%	5.9%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2013	22.9%	20.5%	22.1%	21.8%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2013	15.7%	10.8%	10.6%	12.4%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	85.3%	76.1%	76.5%	79.3%
Language other than English spoken at home, 2008-2012	11.6%	15.9%	19.5%	15.7%
Mean travel time to work (minutes), 2008-2012	23	22.1	21.4	22.2
Housing units, 2013	67,473	56,093	125,001	248,567
Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	67.5%	60.0%	55.0%	60.8%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	\$136,500	\$272,900	\$179,800	\$196,400
Households, 2008-2012	60,310	51,163	109,109	220,582
Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.44	2.42	2.34	2.40
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	\$23,517	\$34,031	\$28,634	\$28,727
Median household income, 2008-2012	\$44,155	\$55,241	\$50,997	\$50,131
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	17.3%	17.4%	18.0%	17.6%
Retail sales, 2007 (\$1000)	\$1,968,813	\$1,195,285	\$3,135,341	\$6,299,439
Retail sales per capita, 2007	\$13,595	\$9,583	\$12,257	\$11,812
Building permits, 2012	358	232	2,666	3,256
Land area in square miles, 2010	430	398	290	1,118
Persons per square mile, 2010	356.5	336.2	935.7	542.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

3.2.1 Population

Durham County has the largest population among the three Eno-Haw counties with a total population of 288,133 according to 2013 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. This represents nearly half of the population of the Eno-Haw Region as a whole. The average growth rate in the Eno-Haw Region is 4.6% based on a comparison of 2010 census counts and 2013 estimates. The largest percent change among the three counties was in Durham County (6.7%) and the least amount of change was in Alamance County (2.1%). Population densities across the planning area are shown in **Figure 3.2**.

3.2.2 Housing

Durham County has 125,001 housing units according to 2013 census estimates, which represents approximately 50% of the housing stock in the Eno-Haw Region. Alamance County contains 67,473 housing units (27%), and Orange County contains 56,093 (23%). The average number of persons per household in the region is 2.4.

3.2.3 Demographics

Table 3.3 provides a detailed breakdown of additional demographic data for the planning area according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 3.3: Demographic Data for the Eno-Haw Region

Summary of Demographic Data (Based on 2013 Estimates)				
Value	Alamance	Orange	Durham	Eno-Haw
White alone	75.8%	77.0%	53.1%	68.6%
Black or African American alone	19.3%	12.2%	38.7%	23.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.4%	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%
Asian alone	1.5%	7.6%	4.8%	13.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Two or More Races	1.9%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Hispanic or Latino	11.8%	8.3%	13.5%	33.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	66.2%	70.0%	42.1%	59.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

3.3 Infrastructure and Land Use

3.3.1 Infrastructure

Alamance County

Major highways located in Alamance County include: I-40/I-85, US 70, NC 49, NC 54, NC 62, NC 87, NC 100, and NC 119. The economy in Alamance County was influenced, in its early history, from its location on the river and railroad, its modern life and economic history are influenced by its location on Interstates and near airports. Alamance County is located in north-central North Carolina halfway between (and under an hour from) two larger metro regions—the famed Research Triangle (Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill) to the east and the Piedmont Triad (Greensboro-High Point-Winston-Salem) to the west. Alamance County is connected to both regions by two Interstates, I-85 and I-40, which run concurrently through the county. Each metro also has a major commercial airport connecting Alamance County to the nation and the world with over 100 flights daily.

Given this proximity and connectivity to modern Interstates and airports, Amtrak operates a daily train between Charlotte and New York City (the Carolinian) which stops at the Depot in the City of Burlington. The State of North Carolina, in cooperation with Amtrak, operates two additional daily trains between Raleigh and Charlotte which also stop in Burlington. National bus service is provided by Greyhound and Megabus with stops at designated stops in Alamance County. City of Burlington is working to provide a municipal bus service for the citizens of Burlington with designated stops in portions of the county. Triangle Transit Authority and Piedmont Area Regional Transportation began operating a weekday bus service in the Town of Mebane on Monday, with a stop at the park-and-ride lot at Alamance Regional Medical Center’s MedCenter Mebane location, 3940 Arrowhead Blvd., and at City Hall, 106 E. Washington Street. The City of Graham is also served by Triangle Transit Authority and Piedmont Area Regional Transportation which also operates weekday service to citizens of Graham with transportation to Chapel Hill and Greensboro areas.

Orange County

Orange County’s transportation network is comprised of a hierarchy of roads that moves automobiles and provides access to land developments, railroad lines that allow freight and commuter trains to move through the county, bicycle routes that provide access to points of interest and recreational trails, and local sidewalks and pedestrian facilities that foster walking in neighborhoods, downtowns, and at commercial and employment centers. Major highways located in Orange County include: I-40, I-85, US 15, US 70, US 501, NC 49, NC 54, NC 57, NC 86, and NC 751. An estimated 68% of commuters use a car, truck, or van to get to work, with an estimated 9.5% using a carpool.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill owns and operates Horace Williams Airport, a small public use facility. In 2007, the airport had 10,800 aircraft operations with an average of 29 per day: 94% general aviation, 5% air taxi, and 1% military.

GoTriangle (formerly known as Triangle Transit Authority) provides regional bus service linking the Town of Chapel Hill to Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Duke University, NC State University, and other key regional locations. GoTriangle also contracts with Orange Public Transportation (OPT) to provide service between the Towns of Hillsborough and Chapel Hill. In addition, GoTriangle has a vanpool program for commuters that have a greater than 20-mile round-trip.

The Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, partner to provide daily fare-free bus service to routes in Chapel Hill and Carrboro through Chapel Hill Transit. Services include fixed route bus service, park and ride shuttle service for special events, shared ride feeder service to areas which do not receive regular bus service, and EZ rider service for individuals with mobility limitations. Many of the bus stops are shared with GoTriangle and provide access to the larger regional bus system.

Orange Public Transportation (OPT) operates fixed-route, demand-response, contract, and subscription bus services throughout Orange County, for both general public and human service transportation needs. OPT operates under the unofficial name "Orange Bus." Orange Public Transportation's (OPT's) service area generally involves all areas of the county excluding the Chapel Hill Transit service area. During 2015, OPT will begin providing additional fixed-route and deviated fixed route services as part of the County's Bus and Rail Investment Plan (2012) implementation.

Amtrak passenger service traverses central Orange County through the Town of Hillsborough, but currently does not stop in Orange County. There is widespread community support for a passenger train stop in Orange County. All local county jurisdictions, in early 2008, indicated their support for a train station to be located in Hillsborough and the Town of Hillsborough requested North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division, North Carolina Railroad, and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) to consider adding a stop in Hillsborough.

Durham County

Major highways located in Durham County include: I-40, I-85, I-540/NC 540, US 15, US 70, US 501, NC 54, NC 55, NC 98, NC 147, NC 157, and NC 751.

Most travel in Durham County is by private vehicle on the county's network of public streets and highways. Important arteries for traffic include NC 147, which connects Duke University, downtown, and Research Triangle Park (RTP), U.S. 15-501 between Durham and Chapel Hill, I-85, connecting Durham to Virginia and western North Carolina cities, and I-40 running across southern Durham County between RTP and Chapel Hill. The I-40 corridor has been the main site of commercial and residential development in Durham since its opening in the early 1990s. An estimated 95% of commuters use a car to get to work, with an estimated 14% of those people in carpools.

The City of Durham maintains an extensive network of bicycle routes and trails and has been recognized with a Bicycle Friendly Community Award. The American Tobacco Trail begins in downtown and continues south through RTP and ends in Wake County.

Air travel is serviced by Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU), 12 miles southeast of Durham, which enplanes an estimated 4.5 million passengers per year. Frequent service (5 flights a day or more) is available to Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York LaGuardia, New York Kennedy, Newark, Washington Reagan, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas, Houston, Miami, and Charlotte. Non-stop daily service is provided to approximately 30 destinations in the United States and daily international service is also available to London Heathrow and Toronto-Pearson.

Amtrak operates a daily train between Charlotte and New York City (the Carolinian) which stops at the Durham Transit Station in downtown Durham. The State of North Carolina, in cooperation with Amtrak, operates two additional daily trains between Raleigh and Charlotte which also stop in

Durham. National bus service is provided by Greyhound and Megabus at the Durham Transit Station in downtown Durham. GoDurham (formerly known as the Durham Area Transit Authority [DATA]) provides municipal bus service.

GoTriangle (formerly known as Triangle Transit Authority) offers scheduled, fixed-route regional and commuter bus service between Raleigh and the region's other principal cities of Durham, Cary, and Chapel Hill, as well as to and from RDU, RTP, and several of the region's larger suburban communities. TT also coordinates an extensive vanpool and rideshare program that serves the region's larger employers and commute destinations.

Duke University also maintains its own transit system, Duke Transit, which operates more than 30 buses with routes throughout the campus and health system.

3.3.2 Land Use

Alamance County

The Alamance County Planning Department oversees a number of community activities and the enforcement of many County regulations including: Subdivision Administration, Historic Properties, Comprehensive Planning, Water and Sewer Projects, Community Development, E-911 Addressing, Watershed Protection, and all matters relating to land development in rural Alamance County.

Orange County

The Orange County Comprehensive Plan is an official public document that provides the framework for long range decision making in the community. The Plan serves to guide the County's growth and development through the year 2030 by addressing the multitude of issues facing the county. The Comprehensive Plan includes components related to hazard mitigation including land use, environmental protection, and public safety. In addition, the adopted Plan serves as the statutory basis for many of Orange County's land use regulations, as well as the application of zoning districts. The Orange County Comprehensive Plan can be found at:

http://www.co.orange.nc.us/planning/compre_cpupdate.asp

The Orange County Unified Development Ordinance provides regulations to encourage compatible development within the county in a manner which will promote the health, safety, and general welfare of Orange County and its residents. Regulations contained in the Unified Development Ordinance strive to prevent and mitigate negative impacts from natural hazards throughout the county. The Orange County Unified Development Ordinance can be found at:

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/planning/Ordinances.asp>

Durham County

The Comprehensive Plan is Durham's statement of how the community desires to grow and develop. The Plan guides where and how private development should occur. It guides how the City and County should provide public facilities and services to support future growth. The Plan is long range in scope, focusing on the ultimate needs of the community rather than the pressing concerns of today. Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Plan (the Land Use Element) is available along with the complete Comprehensive Plan and maps on the City's website at:

<http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/planning/>.

3.4 Employment and Industry

Alamance County

Alamance County can be described as a "bedroom" community, with many residents living in the county and working elsewhere due to low tax rates, although the county is still a major force in the textile and manufacturing industries. The top employers in Alamance County are:

- Laboratory Corp of America, Burlington (3,200 employees)
- Alamance-Burlington School System, Burlington (3,329 employees)
- Alamance Regional Medical Center, Burlington (2,240 employees)
- Elon University, Elon Main Campus (1,403 employees)
- Walmart Stores, Inc. (3 Locations) (1,000 employees)
- Alamance County Government (956 employees)
- City of Burlington (806 employees)
- Alamance Community College (652 employees)
- Honda Power Equipment Manufacturing (600 employees)
- GKN Driveline North America Mebane Branch (500 employees)
- Glen Raven, Inc., Altamahaw Branch (500 employees)

Orange County

Orange County has a diverse workforce ranging from dairy farmers and professors; small business people and corporate executives; developers and horse breeders; carpenters and students; medical professionals and allied health providers. The top employers in Orange County are:

- UNC Chapel Hill (1,000+ employees)
- UNC Health Care System (1,000+ employees)
- Chapel Hill – Carrboro City Schools (1,000+ employees)
- Orange County Schools (1,000+ employees)
- Orange County (Government) (1,000+ employees)
- Eurosport (500-999 employees)
- Town of Chapel Hill, Inc (500-999 employees)
- UNC Physicians Network, LLC (500-999 employees)
- Aramark Food and Support Services (500-999 employees)
- Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. (250-499 employees)
- Harris Teeter (250-499 employees)
- A K G of America, Inc. (250-499 employees)
- General Electric Corp. (250-499 employees)

Durham County

Duke University and Duke University Health System are Durham's largest employers. The top employers in Durham County are:

- Duke University and Duke University Health System (34,863 employees)
- IBM (10,000 employees)
- Durham Public Schools (4,600 employees)
- GlaxoSmithKline (3,700 employees)
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC (3,200 employees)
- City of Durham (2,437 employees)
- Fidelity Investments (2,400 employees)
- Quintiles (2,400 employees)
- RTI International (2,300 employees)
- Durham VA Medical Center (2,162 employees)
- Cree (2,125 employees)
- AW North Carolina (2,000 employees)

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