

RUTHERFORD COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Life in Rutherford County and the Surrounding Areas



The Foundation Performing Arts Center

ARTS & CULTURE

The heritage of Rutherford County and the surrounding areas range from Revolutionary War sites to film locations for movies such as *Dirty Dancing*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, and *The Hunger Games*. Villages around the area offer everything from antiques to fine local crafts. Here is a sample of what you'll find:

- The Foundation Performing Arts Center at Isothermal Community College
- KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum
- Bennett Classics Auto Museum
- The Bostic Lincoln Center
- Rutherford Community Theater
- Rutherford County Arts Council
- Rutherford County Historical Society
- Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County
- Biltmore House in Asheville
- December Holiday Activities in Downtown Forest City include over one million lights, carriage rides, Santa's house, and more.



Christmas in Downtown Forest City

SHOPPING

Rutherford County is home to multiple historic Main Street shopping districts, each featuring one-of-a-kind boutiques and specialty shops. From the oldest General Store in the State to brand new innovations in custom consumer goods, the shopper is sure to find great treasures. With four large metro areas within one hour's drive, regional shopping ranges from modern malls to unique antique and craft stores.



Pavilion On Park Square

RECREATION

PARKS

Nature is the foremost attraction in the county. Located in the foothills of western North Carolina, Rutherford County is home to Chimney Rock State Park, Lake Lure, and numerous other scenic locations. Camping, kayaking, boating, fishing world-class trout streams, gem mining, or picnicking near a rushing waterfall are all great pastimes for residents and visitors alike. Ideal for hiking, biking, walking or running, the Thermal Belt Rail Trail is 12' wide, paved, and extends 13.5 miles through several of Rutherford County's communities including Ruth, Spindale, Rutherfordton, and Forest City. The trail head in Forest City provides easy access to the Pavilion On Park Square (POPS). POPS is a multi-million dollar project that was completed in 2019 and is equipped with a 2,000 seat amphitheater, covered stage, two splash pads, and a plaza with concession and restroom facilities. It is a state of the art venue!



Thermal Belt Rail Trail

SPORTS

Cheer on the local Forest City Owls, a wood-bat collegiate summer league, at McNair Field. Seeking more excitement? Within one hour of Rutherford County, you will find many sports teams, such as:

- NASCAR's Charlotte Motor Speedway
- NFL Carolina Panthers
- NBA Charlotte Hornets
- MiLB Charlotte Knights
- AHL Charlotte Checkers
- MiLB Greenville Drive (SC)
- ECHL Greenville Swamp Rabbits
- MiLB Asheville Tourists



Forest City Owls Baseball

Tryon International Equestrian Center, one of the largest equestrian show and training facilities in the country, is located 4 miles from the Rutherford County border in Polk County. Rutherford County also features seven challenging golf courses, including Forest City Municipal Golf Course, Cleghorn Plantation Golf & Country Club, Bald Mountain and Apple Valley Golf Courses at Rumbling Bald Resort, and Lake Lure Municipal Golf Course, to name a few; many more golf courses can be found in our neighboring communities.

EDUCATION

K-12

Quality education is a top priority in Rutherford County and is readily accessible through public, charter and private schools, as well as the home school network. Rutherford County Schools are comprised of four high schools, three middle schools, ten elementary schools, one pre-school center, and one alternative school. Two charter schools provide a rigorous classical curriculum preparing students for college and beyond. Additionally, a number of private schools and the home school network provide an atmosphere of academic excellence centered around faith and family.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Isothermal Community College (ICC) is a comprehensive, two-year, public institution that serves the individuals in Rutherford and Polk counties. As a member of the North Carolina Community College System, ICC has over 3,000 students attending classes at its two campuses. In addition to individual courses, ICC offers certificate, diploma, and degree programs enabling students to either transfer to a four-year institution, or acquire skills for new or current employment, as well as function effectively as responsible citizens. ICC also provides training for area business and industry, personal enrichment courses, remedial and developmental courses, and community service activities.

UNIVERSITIES

With over 100 college and university campuses within 70 miles, access to a higher education is within reach.

RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

From mountain homes to lakefront life, in-town subdivisions to rural rolling hills, Rutherford County has you covered. Looking for a townhouse or family style home? A quaint farm house, traditional or colonial designed home? Rutherford County has housing options to meet everyone's needs.

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate-quality US Highway 74 connects I-26 and I-85, serving as a corridor between three regional centers of commerce. US Highways 64 and 221 each provide access to I-40 and I-85. (See map at bottom right) Rutherford County Airport at Marchman Field is a 250-acre airport equipped with a 5,000 linear foot runway. On average, 92 aircraft operations are handled daily, including single and multi-engine aircrafts, jets, and helicopters. Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and Asheville Regional Airport are within a 60 mile drive connecting you to the world.



Rutherford County Airport

HEALTHCARE

As part of the Rutherford Regional Healthcare System (RRHS), Rutherford Regional Medical Center offers excellent hospital and outpatient care. RRHS has a large network of distinguished physicians and many programs to support and educate the community. In 2014, RRHS entered into a joint venture with Duke LifePoint to strengthen RRHS for the future and give the system new resources to enhance the health care services offered. As part of the joint venture, RRHS shifted from nonprofit to for-profit status.

The County Health Department provides a myriad of programs to assist, educate and support the community, ensuring total well-being. Numerous independent healthcare facilities complete the circle, ensuring head-to-toe care for all Rutherford County citizens.

STATISTICS

AREA

Rutherford County is 563 square miles and composed of eight municipalities: Bostic, Chimney Rock, Ellenboro, Forest City, Rutherfordton, Ruth, Spindale, and Lake Lure. Connected by US Hwy 74-Business, Spindale, Rutherfordton, and Forest City form the Tri-City area. The towns of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock are located approximately 20 miles west of Rutherfordton. Lake Lure is a 1,500 acre municipal lake with 27 miles of shoreline and offers public beach access.

ELEVATION

Rutherfordton 1,075 feet; Spindale 960 feet; Forest City 860 feet. At 806 feet, Caroleen is the County's lowest elevation. Sugar Loaf is the County's highest elevation at 3,967 feet.

CLIMATE

The average annual temperature is 58.25° F and the average rainfall is 51 inches. Rainfall is concentrated in Spring and Fall. The average level of humidity is approximately 65%. Located in the Isothermal Belt, there are approximately 200 frost-free days in the growing season and the average snowfall is 4 inches.



GEOGRAPHY

Rutherford County is situated in the foothills of Western North Carolina, and is centered one hour between Asheville, Charlotte and Greenville-Spartanburg (SC). Atlanta is 3 hours to the South and Charleston is located 4 hours to the East.

KEY WEBSITES:

www.rutherfordncdc.com
www.isothermal.edu

www.MyRutherfordRegional.com
www.FoundationShows.org

www.rutherfordcoc.org
www.visitncsmalltowns.com
www.rutherfordcountync.gov