



# Quality of Life in Rutherford County North Carolina

north carolina's  
**RUTHERFORD COUNTY**  
A Sense of Community That Makes Sense for Business

## Shopping

With four large metro areas within an hour's drive, regional shopping ranges from modern malls to quaint antique and craft shops. Tanner Companies, the makers of fine women's apparel, are also headquartered in the heart of Rutherford County.



## Education

### K-12:

Rutherford County Schools has over 10,000 students in 4 high schools, 3 middle schools, 11 elementary schools, 1 preschool center and 1 alternative school. Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy is a K-12 grade Charter School and there are 2 private schools with Trinity School and The Master's Academy.

### Community College:

Isothermal Community College has over 3,000 students attending classes at its two campuses. There are abundant standard and customized training opportunities for employees along with an abundant offering of continuing education classes.



Isothermal Community College

### Universities:

Universities with programs in Rutherford County include Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, Gardner-Webb University and UNC Charlotte. There are over 100 college & university campuses in a 70 mile radius.



Chimney Rock Park and Lake Lure

## Recreation

Nature is the foremost attraction in the county. Walking, hiking and biking trails abound, especially in the shadow of Chimney Rock Park. 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.

Two new recreational markets that have recently come into the county include equestrian activities and many new wineries.

Rutherford County also features seven challenging golf courses and many more in neighboring communities.

Within one hour of Rutherford County is the Biltmore Estate, NASCAR's Lowe's Motor Speedway, the Carolina Panthers and the Carolina Bobcats.



## Residential Growth

Tremendous residential growth and developments are evident within the county and region. The 2006 HGTV Dream Home was located in "Grey Rock at Lake Lure." Jack Nicklaus is building "Queens Gap," a community of over 1,000 lots plus golf and equestrian activities. Next door in Polk County, "White Oak Plantation," an Arnold Palmer golf course and community and "Bright's Creek," a Tom Fazio golf courses and community are being built. Both developments will have around 1,000 residential lots each.



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*The Foundation Performing Arts Center*

### Arts & Culture

The performing arts, museums, and quaint villages offer everything from antiques to fine local crafts. The heritage of this area ranges from Revolutionary War sites to film locations for movies such as "Dirty Dancing" and "The Last of the Mohicans." Here's just a sample of what you'll find:

- Shakespeare's Globe Theater
- The Foundation Performing Arts Center
- Community Concert Series
- Rutherford Community Theater
- Rutherford County Arts Council
- KidSenses Children's Museum
- Rutherford County Historical Society
- Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County
- Blue Moon Art Gallery



*Downtown Forest City*



*Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure*

### Transportation

Interstate-quality, US Highway 74 connects I-26 and I-85 and serves 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 bottom right.

Rutherford County Airport - "Marchman Field" has a 5,000 foot runway. On average 90 aircraft come through each day and 44 aircraft are based at the Field including single & multi engine aircraft, jets and helicopters. There are also two international and one regional airport within a 60 mile radius.



*Rutherford County Airport*

### Healthcare

Rutherford Hospital, Inc. offers excellent hospital and outpatient care, a large network of excellent physicians, and many programs to support and educate the community. The County Health Department also provides a myriad of programs to assist, educate and support the community, ensuring total well-being. Numerous independent health facilities complete the circle, ensuring head-to-toe care for all Rutherford County citizens.

# Statistics

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### Area:

Rutherford County, 563 sq. miles. The county is composed of eight municipalities: Bostic, Chimney Rock, Ellenboro, Forest City, Rutherfordton, Ruth, Spindale and Lake Lure. Connected by US Hwy. 74-Business, Rutherfordton, Spindale 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 a public beach access.

### Elevation:

Rutherfordton, 1075 ft.; Spindale, 960 ft.; Forest City, 860 ft. County's lowest elevation - Caroleen, 806. County's highest elevation - Sugar Loaf, 3,967 ft.

### Climate:

Average annual temperature, 59.9 F; average rainfall, 49.91 inches. Rainfall is concentrated in Spring and Fall. Average humidity, approximately 65%. Located in the Isothermal Belt, there are 200 frost-free days in the growing season and the average snowfall is 2.74 inches.



### Geography:

Rutherford County is situated in the foothills of Western North Carolina 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.rutherfordinfo.com](http://www.rutherfordinfo.com)
- [www.rutherfordtourism.com](http://www.rutherfordtourism.com)
- [www.rutherfordcoc.com](http://www.rutherfordcoc.com)
- [www.rutherfordncedc.com](http://www.rutherfordncedc.com)
- [www.rutherford.k12.nc.us](http://www.rutherford.k12.nc.us)
- [www.rutherfordhosp.org](http://www.rutherfordhosp.org)