

PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Public Services and Community Facilities

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SCHOOLS

The Plan study area includes portions of the Balls Creek and Tuttle Elementary School districts. Students in the area west of NC 16 which is the western portion of the study area are currently assigned to Tuttle Elementary, and later attend Maiden Middle School and Maiden High School. Elementary students in the remaining Plan area are currently assigned to Balls Creek Elementary, and later attend Mill Creek Middle School and Bandys High School.

In 1999, the Catawba County, Hickory, and Newton-Conover Schools systems commissioned the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to develop the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model*. This model identified and examined various factors and trends that impact student population and helps plan for future school facilities. This model was updated in 2010.



BALLS CREEK ELEMENTARY

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Balls Creek Elementary School remains under building capacity (715 students) since 2009 and will become over capacity by 2016.

TUTTLE ELEMENTARY

Data for the *Catawba County Growth Estimation Model* (2010) shows that the student population at Tuttle Elementary School is under building capacity (554students) since 2009 and will become over capacity by 2016.

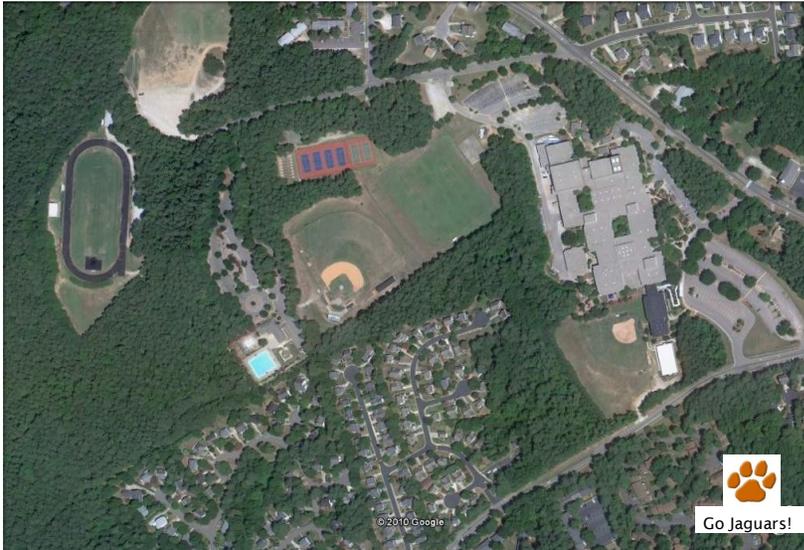
In order to accomplish certain principles and recommendations identified in the Balls Creek and Sherrills Ford Small Area Plans, the Catawba County School System should consider the Community Oriented Schools concept, explained below, if a new elementary school becomes necessary.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED SCHOOLS

In the early part of the twentieth century urban centers were rapidly developing. Schools were often the center of communities where a variety of services and amenities were in close proximity to high-density residential neighborhoods. As the country developed, suburban sprawl became a trend that helped to undermine traditional neighborhood design. The introduction of the automobile led to a more mobile society and was a major factor contributing to the development of rural communities. This concept of neighborhood schools being the center of activity played less of a role as a catalyst for growth and activity.

The Community Oriented Schools concept helps to recapture the traditional neighborhood design. It encourages educational facilities to be established using smart growth principals. This model calls for smaller schools that fit into the neighborhoods they serve, encourages community involvement at the planning stage, enables schools to act as a neighborhood anchor, and provides after hours community facilities and activities. This approach also provides opportunities for multi-use campuses with public/private services such as, a daycare, library, public safety, parks and recreation facilities, located on the same tract of land or in close proximity to the school. While traditional neighborhood schools were historically developed in urban areas, many of the principles can work around the fringes of urban centers where public infrastructure, higher density, and mixed-

use development are planned.



Community Oriented School Design

LIBRARIES

Catawba County operates a well-established library system. The Catawba County Library System operates one central library, a law library and six branch libraries. The Maiden Branch is the closest to the Plan area with the Main Branch in Newton and the Sherrills Ford branch can also be accessed by residents in the area. The Library Master Plan (2001) does not call for any additional library branches to be located within the Plan boundary.

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Although an EMS base is not located within the Plan area, the Sherrills Ford base responds to calls within the Plan area. The Sherrills Ford Base is located at the on Mt. Pleasant Road near the intersection with NC Highway 150.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Catawba County Sheriff's Department serves the plan area. The patrol division is made up of thirty-six officers among four shifts. The Sheriff's Department also operates a jail and maintains security for the court system in Catawba County. Crime prevention, investigations and civil enforcement are other functions conducted by the Sheriff's Department.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection in Plan area is provided two fire stations. The northern portion of the study area is served by the Bandys fire department. The southern portion of the Plan area is served by the Sherrills Ford Fire Department located on Slanting Bridge Road north of the NC highway 150 intersection.

The Bandys fire department is currently in the process of constructing their third station in their service district. The new station will be located within the Plan area immediately south of the intersection NC Highway 16 and Anderson Mountain Road. *See Map 8: Existing Public Use Facilities.*

WATER SERVICE

Catawba County/City of Hickory and Lincoln County provide water service to the Plan area. In some cases, the County pays for construction of the water lines while the municipalities maintain the lines. In such cases, revenues are shared between the County and the respective municipality. The major water lines in the Plan area extend along East Maiden Road, NC Highway 150 and NC Highway 16. In addition to the existing waterlines, the County in the process of extending water along NC Highway 150 from East Maiden Road west to the County line. *See Map 9: Existing/Proposed Utilities.*

SEWER SERVICE

Sewer service is not available in the Plan area; however, the County is planning to extend sewer along NC Highway 150 from Slanting Bridge Road west to the County line. *See Map 9: Existing/Proposed Utilities.*

ELECTRIC SERVICE

Electrical services in the Plan area are provided by Duke Energy.

NATURAL GAS

Piedmont Natural Gas provides natural gas utilities in the area.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principals were carried forward from the adopted/accepted Sherrills Ford and Balls Creek Small Area Plans and serve as a foundation for the goals and Plan Action Strategies (PASs).

SCHOOLS

PP- 1 Balls Creek Elementary and Tuttle Elementary Schools should continue their standing as “centers of the community.”

WATER/SEWER SERVICES

PP-2 Public water service should be expanded into additional areas of the community through public/private partnerships.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PP-3 The volunteer fire departments’ role in protecting citizens and their property and its status as essential to the fabric of the community should be maintained.

PLAN GOALS

SCHOOLS

PG-1 Base the development of any new school facilities upon the Community Oriented Schools approach using a collaborative process involving the community, key stakeholders, and officials.

PG- 2 Consider alternative school financing and ownership models.

WATER/SEWER SERVICES

- PG-3 Explore the feasibility of extending water services to Anderson Mountain for the purpose of serving future proposed industrial and/or mixed-use development. As new large-scale development occurs, developers are required to extend utility lines based upon the County’s Water and Sewer Availability Ordinance.
- PG-4 Explore the feasibility of extending sewer services to Anderson Mountain for the purpose of serving future proposed industrial and/or mixed-use development. As new large-scale development occurs, developers are required to extend utility lines based upon the County’s Water and Sewer Availability Ordinance.

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

- PG-5 Remove overhead powerline clutter by installing underground electric utilities at intersections within the Plan area.

