



USING QR CODES

Catawba County has begun incorporating QR Codes (Quick Response Codes) in its documents, business cards, websites and other items. This is being done to help make access to data easier for the public and its own employees. With the proliferation of smartphones, pads, tablets and other mobile devices capable of scanning these codes, access to data quickly and easily is just a scan away.



This QR Code is a link to a YouTube video displaying a rotating cube covered in QR Codes.

WHAT IS A 'QR CODE'?

A QR Code, or Quick Response Code, is a two dimensional barcode. Similar to standard barcodes that everyone is familiar with, it is a pattern of light and dark squares containing up to 512 characters. By

comparison, a standard barcode is only capable of handling up to sixteen characters easily. Data stored in a QR Code can range from simple text to a website address to contact information and sometimes a combination of the three.

WHAT DO I NEED?

First, you need a smartphone, pad or tablet capable of downloading an application (or 'app') that is capable of scanning a QR Code. Android based phones, the iPhone, newer Blackberries and others have this capability.

Go to the 'App Store' and search for "qrcode" and a list of apps will appear. Some are free and some require a fee.



A free app such as 'Barcode Scanner' by ZXing or QuickMark will work just fine. Download and install the app by following the onscreen instructions.

Once the app is downloaded and installed, open the

Applications Menu and select the downloaded and installed app. Some open immediately to the scan mode and some need to be selected to scan. Position the phone so that you can see the QR Code in the phone's screen and adjust the view (by moving the phone closer or farther away from the code so that the entire code appears

in the scanner window) until the app successfully scans the code and shows the results. Depending on the QR Code being scanned, the results that you get will vary.

Use the examples on this document to see the different ways to use this technology.



This QR Code is a 'vcard'. It is used to electronically pass contact information to your phone.



This QR Code is a link to the Catawba County GIS website.