

Program Focus Areas

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

Project Averages

Active and Missed

54 Missed Project Over 12 Months



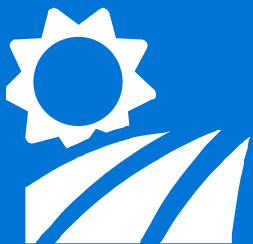
87

JOB
355



38

THOUSAND
SQUARE FEET
195K



19

ACRES
59



\$17

MILLION
INVESTMENT
\$309M

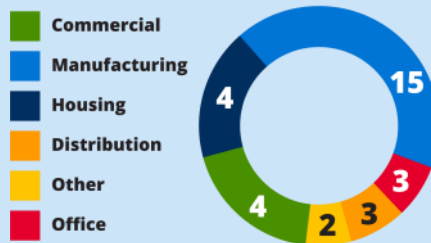
Project Activity Stats



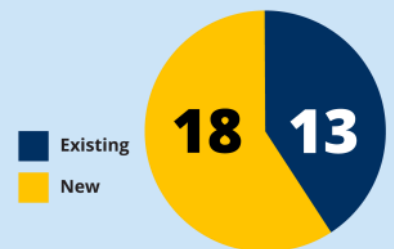
Active Projects

31

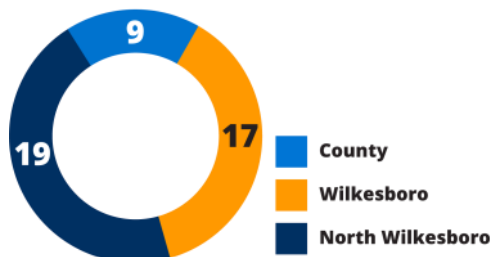
Project Industries



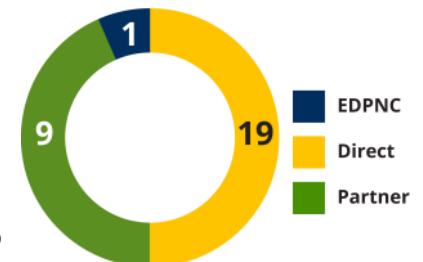
Projects by Type



Projects by Location



Projects by Source



Existing Business

Current and YTD Total
Activity since July 1, 2022



6

UNIQUE VISITS
77



2

FOLLOW UP VISITS
47

Total Visits YTD: 124
Visit Goal: 140

Program Stats



17

PARTNER MEETINGS



6

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT



47

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

Total Solutions
Provided YTD: 279

April Unemployment Rate

3.3% ↓ Down from 3.6% in March.

Regional April Rate is 3.1%.

State April Rate is 3.4%.

[High Country WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics](#)
([ncommerce.com](#))

Monthly Newsletter

Program of Work Information | EDC Announcements | Unemployment Rate

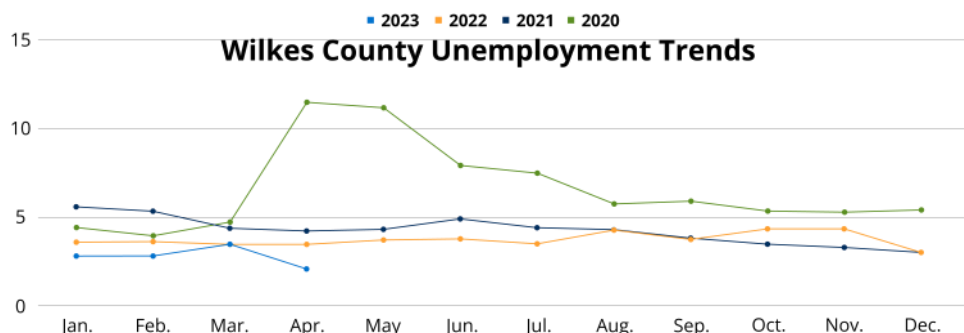
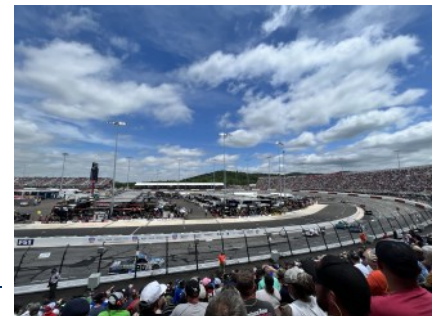
NASCAR All-Star Race Week

The NASCAR All-Star Race Week was a triumphant week for Wilkes County. The race week came together with collaborative efforts by Speedway Motorsports (SMI), Wilkes County, Town of North Wilkesboro, Town of Wilkesboro, Wilkes EDC, Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, community partners and citizens. One of several collaborative examples was the joint effort of Wilkes EDC and Wilkesboro TDA promoting Wilkes County during the All-Star Race Week through advertising opportunities offered by NASCAR. Thanks to the help of Serrano Film Company, Jared C. Shumate Media & Marketing, Dawson Films, and Created by Coffee Designs, we all delivered an excellent marketing package for the race week.

The Wilkes EDC team continued efforts by welcoming guests to Wilkes County by working with Cindy Thompson, an EDC Board Member, and Wilkes County Airport Manager, Dustin Caudill and staff, to get the airport Race Ready! Upon arrival, airport visitors could see the NASCAR All-Star Race flag flown under the American Flag, followed by a 'Welcome Race Fans' banner outside the terminal. When entering the building, they received a 2Wilkes Warm Welcome, a complimentary gift bag with Wilkes EDC and tourism information, refreshments with customized bottle labels promoting the All-Star Race Week website (created by Wilkes EDC, Wilkesboro TDA, and the Town of North Wilkesboro).

Wilkes County and Wilkes EDC provided two TV screens in the terminal, one for flight schedules and another as an advertising opportunity for Wilkes EDC. **Over 50 additional flights came through the Wilkes County Airport and the fuel sales were up by 40%**, exceeding expectations for the All-Star Race. Additionally, Samaritan's Purse provided a food truck throughout the week, graciously feeding airport staff and visiting pilots daily.

With the assistance of SMI, the University of Charlotte, and NC Commerce, an economic impact study of the NASCAR All-Star Race is being wrapped up! This study is being made possible by collaborative efforts of EDC, SMI, and both towns. We look forward to sharing and celebrating the economic results of the race soon. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for more on the All-Star Race Week!



Golden LEAF Foundation SITE Program—Awarded Wilkes EDC Due Diligence Grant

The Golden LEAF Foundation announced 11 grant awards across North Carolina for their SITE Program. **We are excited to announce Wilkes EDC is a recipient of a \$50,000 Due Diligence grant** after previously winning the Identification grant! This is the largest amount available in the Due Diligence program.

The SITE Program provides resources to help communities with three phases; *Identification*, *Due Diligence*, and *Development*. The *Identification* program identifies potential economic development sites. During the program, a team of experts identified Wilkes Industrial Park as having high potential for future development due to it already being publicly owned. This insight enabled us to proceed to the *Due Diligence* phase of the program, which focuses on publicly controlled sites. The final possible phase is *Development*, where the program provides funding to extend public utilities to publicly controlled sites or to conduct clearing and rough grading of publicly owned sites. Application can be made after completing the *Due Diligence*.

We look forward to working with the Golden LEAF team and the Town of North Wilkesboro to perform due diligence on the Wilkes Industrial Park. Scan the QR Code or click the link to read the full article.



[Golden LEAF announces \\$7 million in funding at June meeting - Golden LEAF Foundation](#)



Vision NWNC 2023

Wilkes EDC team attended the Vision NWNC 2023 conference held by the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Thursday, May 25. The conference focused on Returning and Retaining Today's Workforce. Speakers highlighted ways we could approach the training of modern workforces and the factors that drive people in the current employment market.

Several members of Wilkes County were present and spoke at this conference. Karen Barnes, Interim Director of NC Tech Paths, was part of the panel discussion for Creative Credentials. During the first breakout sessions, Chris Bekwith-Taylor, Founder & Chief Strategist for GREENstick, and Arianna Williamson, Director of Strategic Partnerships for NC Tech Paths, spoke for the Training a Digital Workforce session. Sherry Baird, Curriculum & Instructional Management Coordinator for Wilkes County Schools, was part of the Work Based Learning session panel discussion. After the Breakout Sessions, the Wilkes EDC team engaged with other organizations across the Northwestern Region during lunch and networking.

The conference concluded with its second series of Breakout Sessions, and Devin Lyall, Executive Director of Wilkes Recovery Revolution, during the Friendly Workspaces session.



Other representatives of Wilkes County included the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce, NCWorks Career Center, and Wilkes Community College.

[Vision NWNC: Returning & Retaining Today's Workforce - Boone Area Chamber of Commerce](#)





**Join Us for the Release of
the Childcare Study!**

June 29, 2023

**The Stone Center
613 Cherry St,
North Wilkesboro, NC**

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be
provided.

Please RSVP by June 23rd!

