

Program Focus Area

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

Project Averages

Active and Missed

62 Missed Project Over 12 Months



72

JOBS
267



70

THOUSAND SQUARE FEET
266K



84

ACRES
79



\$1.9

MILLION INVESTMENT
\$239M

September Unemployment Rate

3.5% ↓ from 4.8% in August
Regional September Rate is 2.9%
State September Rate is 3.8%

To learn more, visit the link below.

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

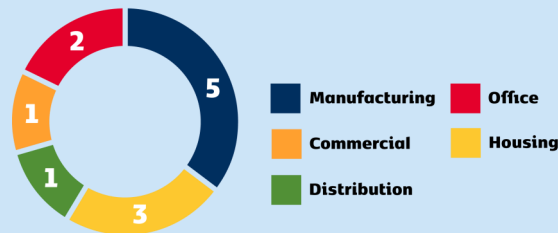
Project Activity Stats



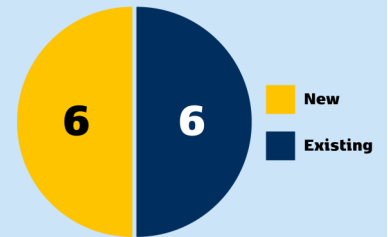
Active Projects

12

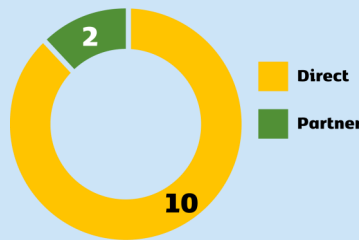
Project Industries



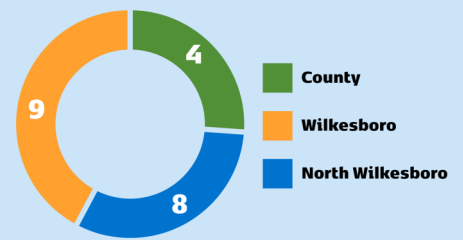
Projects by Type



Projects by Source



Projects by Location



Existing Business

Current and YTD Total
Activity since July 1, 2024



6

UNIQUE VISITS
28



1

FOLLOW UP VISITS
3

31 YTD
YTD Visit Goal: 130

Program Stats



11

PARTNER MEETINGS
37



7

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT
18



30

SOLUTIONS PROVIDED
157

The Wilkes Economic Development Corporation works closely with businesses and the community to find unique solutions to economic challenges. Since 2010, Private LEAP funds have been instrumental to ensure this mission is possible. It is time to request your help replenishing the funds to continue moving Wilkes forward.

Wilkes EDC expresses our gratitude to those who have already committed to the LEAP Forward Campaign and mission of the EDC! Below is a list of our investors to date.

Thank you to our Investors!

Visionary Investor



Strategic Investors



Cam Finley



Scott Nafe

Anonymous Donor

Community Investors

BUMGARNER SERVICES

Champion TOWING



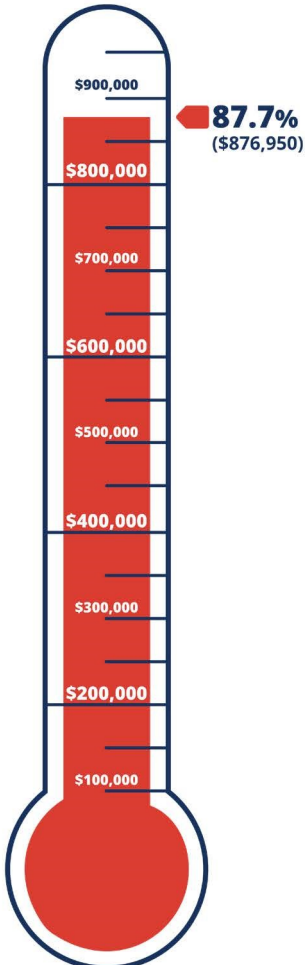
Jim Smoak



formerly known as World Wide Protective



\$1,000,000
Over 5-Years



Advocate Investors

- Anonymous Donor
- Arnold and Becky Lakey
- Blair Properties LLC/Allen Tate
- Brushy Mountain Powersports
- Carolina West Wireless
- Church & Church Lumber Co.
- Contentment
- CS Forester Benefits Group
- Dale and Michelle Isom
- Duke Energy
- ECS Southeast, LLC
- Faw Insurance
- Fortress Management Group, Inc.
- Frontier Natural Gas
- Hampton Inn Wilkesboro
- Holiday Inn Express Wilkesboro
- McNeill Chevrolet & Nissan of Wilkesboro
- North Wilkesboro Speedway
- Omega Construction
- Riverstone Land and Equipment, LLC
- Steve C. Davis, Inc.
- T&J Produce
- Transource Truck Leasing
- Wilkie Construction Company SE

Associate Investors

- Alex and Amy Blair
- BGE, inc.
- Blue Ridge Ranch
- Charlie Sink
- Eddie and Anna Holland
- Holly Minton
- Joe and Debbie Johnston
- Ron Wilcox
- Select Steel Buildings
- WCC – Small Business Center

Patron Investors

- Andrew Palmer
- Ken Noland
- Laurie Brintle-Jarvis
- Lesa Hensley
- Luke Mathis
- Mountain View Hardware, LLC
- Shelmer Blackburn

Will you invest in Wilkes County's future?

Ready to make a pledge? Visit the link or scan the QR code to invest or call (336) 838-1501.



Wilkes EDC Supports Blue Ridge Parkway Association Meeting

On October 8th, Wilkes EDC sponsored an event at the Watson Stage at Wilkes Community College in support of the Blue Ridge Parkway Association Meeting. This gathering brought together stakeholders and members of the Blue Ridge Parkway Association (BRPA), which has supported the sustainability and enjoyment of the Parkway since 1949. The Blue Ridge Parkway spans 469 miles through the Appalachian Mountains, attracting millions of visitors each year and playing a crucial role in the region's economic and cultural landscape.

During the event, LeeAnn Nixon, President of Wilkes EDC, addressed the audience, emphasizing the Parkway's invaluable role in attracting visitors, strengthening the local economy, and enhancing the quality of life in Wilkes County. Nixon expressed gratitude for the Parkway's impact and also acknowledged the community's resilience following the challenges of Hurricane Helene. She commended local residents for their spirit of support and recovery, a trait she noted is deeply rooted in the county's character.

Wilkes Tourism Development Authority (Wilkes TDA) also played a vital role in ensuring the event's success, assisting BRPA with connecting to community resource partners, securing venue spaces, and providing critical event support.

Wilkes EDC joined additional sponsors proudly sponsored the evening's dinner as part of its ongoing commitment to fostering connections with key regional partners. The event underscored Wilkes EDC's dedication to both the Parkway's preservation and the continued economic growth it brings to the community.

Click the link to learn more about the Blue Ridge Parkway Association: [Blue Ridge Parkway](#)



Wilkes EDC Reflects on NCEDA Fall Conference in Greensboro

Wilkes EDC had the pleasure of attending the North Carolina Economic Development Association's (NCEDA) 2024 Fall Conference, held in Greensboro, North Carolina, on October 21-22. Originally planned for Asheville, the conference location shifted due to the impact of Hurricane Helene, underscoring the resilience of our state's economic development community and reinforcing the conference's message of recovery and support.

Wilkes EDC's President, LeeAnn Nixon, and Marketing Manager, Francisco Martinez, represented our organization, joining peers from across the state. The event kicked off Monday with a reception, which provided networking opportunities and welcomed participants with a sense of unity and shared purpose. Wilkes EDC joined the NC Carolina Core team for a lively trivia night, offering a casual setting for engaging discussions with our regional partners.

Tuesday's agenda featured the main conference sessions, emphasizing resilience and community support. Attendees explored strategic insights into economic recovery, with the updated program including a donation drive and community service project to aid families affected by the storm in Western NC. This tangible act of solidarity highlighted the commitment of North Carolina's economic development community to not only foster growth but also offer steadfast support during challenging times. Conference-goers also participated in organizing and preparing donations for transport, showing hands-on dedication to recovery efforts.

The NCEDA Fall Conference reinforced the values of collaboration, resilience, and compassion in economic development. Wilkes EDC is proud to be part of a network that stands together in both the brightest and most challenging moments. The lessons learned and connections made over these two days will continue to inspire our work in Wilkes County, as we strive to enhance our community's growth and adaptability.

For more insights on the event, please visit the NC Carolina Core and NCEDA's posts about the conference [here](#).



Wilkes Wags & Wiggles Celebrates with Ribbon Cutting and Barktober Fest

Wilkes EDC joined the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Wilkes Wags & Wiggles, a standout in local pet care services. This special occasion coincided with their festive Barktober Fest, where community members, families, and partners gathered to enjoy a day filled with activities and camaraderie.

Wilkes Wags & Wiggles has grown significantly since their start, thanks in part to their successful partnership with Wilkes EDC. As a proud recipient of Wilkes EDC's Entrepreneur Grant Program, they've received essential support, including assistance in finding the ideal facility to meet their needs. This milestone reflects their dedication to serving the community and their success as a trusted pet care provider in Wilkes County.

Wilkes EDC President LeeAnn Nixon and representatives from area municipalities shared words of congratulations, emphasizing the importance of supporting local businesses that contribute to the community's economic growth and vibrancy.

Congratulations to Wilkes Wags & Wiggles on this meaningful milestone, and thank you for hosting an unforgettable Barktober Fest!

For more on their journey, check out Wilkes EDC's success story [here](#) or visit their [website](#).



Wilkes EDC Participates in 4th Annual Spooktacular

On October 26th, Wilkes EDC joined in the Halloween festivities at the 4th Annual Spooktacular, bringing seasonal joy and community spirit to North Wilkesboro. This year, Wilkes EDC's booth featured vibrant marketing kiosk materials provided by the Outdoor Economy Group, adding to the event's lively atmosphere and welcoming hundreds of visitors.

Wilkes EDC's participation was part of a larger community collaboration. Event coordinator Mark Cook of Cook's Sports worked closely with Mars Candy Company, one of the event's generous sponsors, to supply a whopping 60 cases of candy. Thanks to Mars' support, Wilkes EDC handed out over 4,400 candy treats to trick-or-treaters, adding smiles to the faces of children and families alike.

The Spooktacular, a much-anticipated annual event in Wilkes County, transforms the town into a family-friendly Halloween celebration with costumes, local vendors, and festive decor. This year's event highlighted the power of community partnerships in creating memorable experiences for residents. Wilkes EDC was thrilled to contribute and connect with the community, underscoring the organization's commitment to supporting events that bring people together and spotlight Wilkes County's welcoming spirit.

Click the link to see more pictures from the event: [Downtown North Wilkesboro Spooktacular 2025: Festival Fun for the Whole Family! – Welcome to Downtown North Wilkesboro Merchant Association](#)



Wilkes County 2024 Housing Study

Wilkes County's Housing Study is Available Now!

[Click Here to view the study, Housing Summit presentation and more!](#)

