

# LIVABLE MECK

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VISION.

PROGRESS REPORT 2018



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# What is Livable Meck?

Livable Meck is an engagement infrastructure—bringing people together to enhance the quality of life across our community. Livable Meck’s purpose is to coordinate, support and enact positive change by:

- ▶ Engaging residents and stakeholders in a process to guide community growth
- ▶ Facilitating collaboration among the community’s private, nonprofit and government organizations
- ▶ Measuring the livability of Mecklenburg County’s communities
- ▶ Communicating stories and progress to inspire a coalition of livable communities

## Being a Livable Meck Partner

Livable Meck Partner Organizations agree to support the plan created in 2013 and protect the quality of life in our community. Partners are encouraged to share their talents, wisdom and energy with each other in collaborative efforts and within their own business models. Partners are asked to actively engage with Livable Meck by attending events, sharing experiences through collaborative dialogue, and inviting others to become partners.

Visit [LivableMeck.com](http://LivableMeck.com) to learn more and get involved.

## Background

When the original partners – City of Charlotte, Foundation For The Carolinas and Mecklenburg County – assembled in 2012, growth projections anticipated one million more area residents by 2050. In just a few years that expectation has accelerated, and the latest projections now anticipate one million more area residents by 2030.

The goal of Livable Meck is to leverage resources to meet the challenging demands of this growth and to protect and enrich the quality of life for Mecklenburg County residents.

The more than 2,000 voices that created the Livable Meck plan established seven guiding principles of what our community will be: **WELCOMING, INNOVATIVE, CONNECTED, INCLUSIVE, PREPARED, HEALTHY and RESILIENT.**

These principles, and their associated strategies, serve as a collective road map to ensure our community’s strengths dominate the story of our remarkable growth.

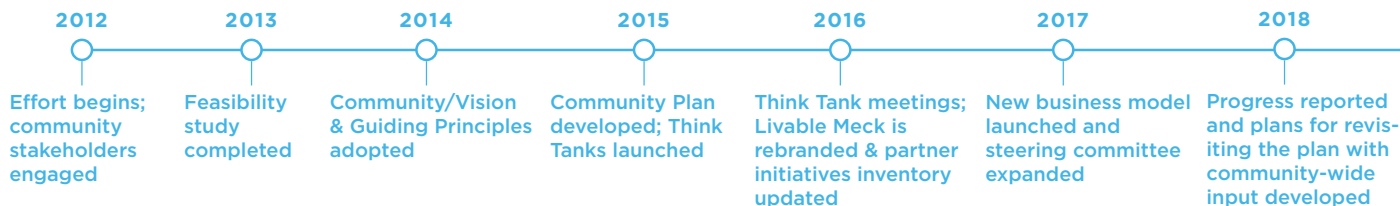
Front cover artwork: Pier on Lake Norman at Ramsey Creek Park, in Cornelius;

Speech Bubble: Students from Livable Meck’s Engagement Café on Social Captial, October 18, 2017

Back cover artwork: Little Sugar Creek Greenway at Midtown;

Speech Bubble: Swimming Lessons at Double Oaks Family Aquatic Center

## LIVABLE MECK TIMELINE



# Guiding Principles

Through the more than 2,000 voices that contributed to defining Livable Meck's shared vision, seven guiding principles were identified. These principles are statements of what our community values, guiding our specific goals, strategies and actions.

## About This Report

This report highlights collaborations and success stories that exemplify the plan's seven guiding principles.

### OUR COMMUNITY WILL BE:

 <p><b>WELCOMING</b></p> <p>Character. Entertainment. Opportunity. Safe Neighborhoods.</p> <p>P. 4</p>	 <p><b>INNOVATIVE</b></p> <p>Jobs. Entrepreneurship. Commerce.</p> <p>P. 6</p>	 <p><b>CONNECTED</b></p> <p>Engaged Residents. Transportation Choices.</p> <p>P. 8</p>	 <p><b>INCLUSIVE</b></p> <p>Community. Participation.</p> <p>P. 10</p>
 <p><b>PREPARED</b></p> <p>A Skilled Workforce. Quality Education.</p> <p>P. 12</p>	 <p><b>HEALTHY</b></p> <p>Physical Activity. Healthy Foods. Clean Environment.</p> <p>P. 14</p>	 <p><b>RESILIENT</b></p> <p>Future Well-being. Collaboration.</p> <p>P. 16, 18</p>	



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1:

# WELCOMING.

We are a hospitable destination for those seeking opportunity.

The Mecklenburg County community is characterized by a unique southern hospitality, making it a place that celebrates its history and embraces people from all walks of life.

<p><b>WELCOMING : PROFILE ORGANIZATION</b></p>	<p><b>INITIATIVE</b></p>	
<p>President James K. Polk Historic Site</p>	<p>The Slave Dwelling Project</p>	<p>Increasing awareness of local historical sites and providing opportunities to share experiences</p>



JOSEPH MCGILL

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be a slave? After a long day of work, you might retire to a simple log dwelling, tired from the day’s labor but perhaps reluctant to sleep away some of your only moments of relative peace. How might you resist or persist in a physical and emotional state of oppression?

Joseph McGill, founder of The Slave Dwelling Project, and a team of living historians strive to answer some of these questions through the evocative and educational program, *Inalienable Rights: Living History Through the Eyes of the Enslaved*.

The President James K. Polk State Historic Site partnered with The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts & Culture to bring McGill to Mecklenburg County in September 2017 for a two-night event to increase understanding of this incredibly important but often overlooked aspect of our history.



## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

- Build safe neighborhoods
- Increase access to community-based arts, science and history education
- Continue to be an inviting destination for residents, visitors and businesses
- Celebrate and integrate history, culture and diversity



The event began at The Gantt Center for an evening of dinner and dialogue. Later, a select group of participants continued the conversation around a campfire and slept in historic log cabins on the grounds of the President Polk Site. The following day, visitors were welcomed to the site for an interactive living history event that allowed them to connect with the experiences of the enslaved.

Being a **WELCOMING** community means embracing our past as an opportunity for learning and growth. The Slave Dwelling Project weekend highlighted the diversity of stories woven throughout our collective history as a community.



The President James K. Polk State Historic Site plans to continue the momentum created by this event through additional diversity programming and a future return of McGill and The Slave Dwelling Project.



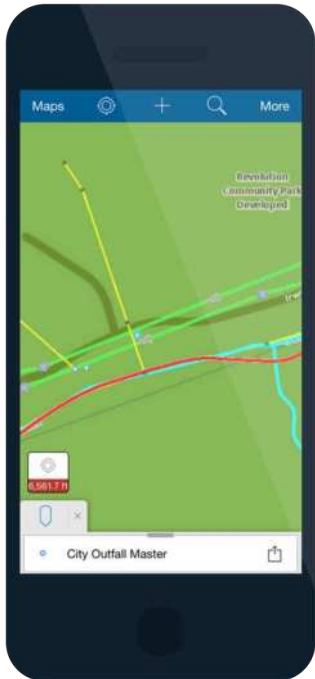
GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2:

# INNOVATIVE.

We are entrepreneurial and pioneer solutions to support a prosperous community.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg area has embraced and leveraged technology to help meet the demands of a rapidly growing community.

INNOVATIVE : PROFILE ORGANIZATION	INITIATIVE	
Land Use & Environmental Services Agency - Storm Water Services	Data collection app	Leveraging technology to protect water quality



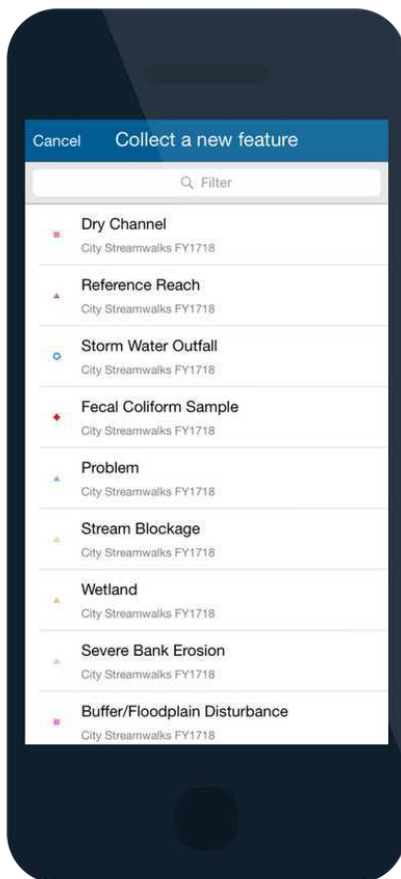
Employees with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services walk between 250 and 300 miles of local streams and waterways every year and collect hundreds of data points regarding stream and storm water outfall conditions. Until recently, this information was recorded and maintained on an outdated collection system.

With the 2017 launch of a highly effective iPhone ArcGIS spatial data platform, Storm Water Services now has easier access to key water data, as well as additional digital tools to enhance data collection and outfall inspection capabilities.

The platform, managed by Storm Water Services' Josh DeMaury, allows staff to easily geolocate points of concern ranging from stream blockages to pollution sources.

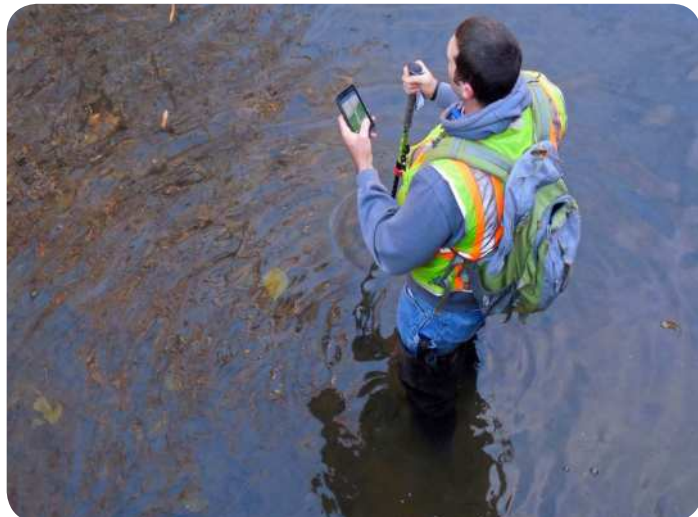
## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING AN INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY

- Make it easier for new businesses to succeed and existing businesses to flourish
- Increase global economic competitiveness
- Promote the redevelopment, reuse and rehabilitation of declining and vacant properties
- Leverage technology



The platform also offers new features—like the capability to attach and assign descriptions to images—to improve the organization’s ability to rapidly respond to environmental emergencies. Information is remotely uploaded to County servers, and the County’s Geospatial Information Services (GIS) department maintains and manages these ESRI ArcSDE geodatabases.

The use of this **INNOVATIVE** mobile data collection platform has significantly reduced the resources needed to conduct Storm Water Services’ vital work, resulting in a significant cost savings to residents, strengthening customer service and improving water quality conditions.







GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3:

# CONNECTED.

## We are physically and socially linked to one another.

As a community, we reflect on those at risk of being left behind, underserved, and misrepresented and pledge to continue to seek opportunities to connect and engage residents.

CONNECTED : PROFILE ORGANIZATION	INITIATIVE	
Foundation For The Carolinas GenerationNation	Social Capital Engagement Café	Improving partners' understanding of the benefits of social capital and improving outcomes for local youth

For those in poverty or at-risk of poverty, the bridges of success and ladders of opportunity are limited. In Mecklenburg County, this limitation is especially true. A 2014 Harvard-Cal Berkeley study on economic mobility of the 50 largest cities in the country found that Charlotte scored lowest on intergenerational mobility, or the likelihood that if you were born into poverty you would stay in poverty throughout your lifetime.

A report released in March 2017 by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force (OTF) identified strategies aimed to help address these challenges. Among them were proposals aimed at improving the following: early childhood development, college and career readiness, and family structure.

It also found that social capital—or the idea that cultivating and expanding a person’s network of people and organizations can help break the cycle of poverty—could have a positive influence on all these factors.

In collaboration with its network of individuals and partner organizations, Livable Meck selected the OTF report’s ‘Strategy U’ to be elevated for discussion in an engagement café setting.

*Ensure all children, youth and families have relationships in the community that connect them to opportunities, information and resources; broaden their horizons about what’s possible in their lives; assist in navigating through unexpected crises to stay on track; offer tangible pathways toward achieving their aspirations; and demonstrate to every child, youth and family that their contribution is vital to the success of our community.*

**STRATEGY U**  
Opportunity Task Force Report



## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- Expand capacity and increase use of sidewalks, bikeways, greenways/paved trails, bus routes and rail
- Build stronger connections across diverse population groups



**DR. MICHAEL FRIEDLAND**  
Friedland Foundation



**CHRIS JACKSON**  
CEO, Goodwill of the  
Southern Piedmont



**LORI KRZESZEWSKI, PH.D.**  
Behailu Academy

Foundation For The Carolinas, GenerationNation and Livable Meck developed and hosted a partner experience that emphasized engagement with local organizations working in the realm of social capital. The event featured a panel of social capital experts who offered their unique perspectives on how they define social capital, their personal experiences, and how community leaders can improve social capital for Mecklenburg youth. From a mentorship-scholarship program to an arts-based youth development organization, the stories were powerful examples of the positive impact social capital can have in our community.

The event incorporated affected youth, hosting 30 youth from GenerationNation and 10 from Behailu Academy, who also shared their perspectives on the state of social capital. And the event also walked the talk, seeking to foster relationships by pairing youth with leaders across interest areas (businesses, faith and education organizations, nonprofits, or government and healthcare groups).

One example of Partner Organizations committing to and following through on actions from the café includes the relationship established between the County's Air Quality Director Leslie Rhodes and student Marion Teshome. During their connections, Leslie learned about Marion's passion for improving the foster care system eventually leading Leslie to connect Marion with SAYSO – a statewide association whose mission is to work to improve the substitute care system in North Carolina.

Working intentionally to build stronger relationships across diverse populations makes residents **CONNECTED**, and can improve outcomes and foster a community that works for everyone.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4:

# INCLUSIVE.

We celebrate our differences and see them as strengths that bind us together.

For a community to be inclusive, it has to provide opportunities for all of its members to live healthy, fulfilled lives. We want to make sure Mecklenburg County is that kind of place.

INCLUSIVE : PROFILE ORGANIZATION	INITIATIVE	
Centralina Area Agency on Aging American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	Age-Friendly Mecklenburg & Age-Friendly Matthews	Engaging residents to identify needs and priorities to ensure the availability and quality of community features impacting older adults



The first wave of boomers — those age 65 or older — are already eligible for Medicare and Social Security. By 2030, the population of people 65+ will be the largest it has ever been, and that population will include a significantly large number of people in their 80s and 90s. The nation's cities, towns, suburbs and rural areas need to be preparing for this aging population now.

*A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster residents' engagement in the community's civic, economic and social life.*

AARP

## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

- Balance available housing options
- Coordinate the work of organizations addressing the needs of at-risk residents
- Expand the availability of affordable recreation and cultural services programs

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Centralina Area Agency on Aging are collaborating with Mecklenburg County and the Town of Matthews to analyze the needs of the aging population to ensure their communities offer quality living for people of all ages.

To achieve that goal, the municipalities are leading a multi-year strategic planning process to identify service needs, gaps and solutions focused on the key livability domains outlined by the World Health Organization:

- ▶ Community & Healthcare
- ▶ Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Respect & Social Inclusion
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Civic Participation & Employment
- ▶ Social Participation
- ▶ Communication & Information

The results of this work will influence future decisions related to these areas made by the Mecklenburg Board of Commissioners and the Matthews Town Council. Results also will provide direction for area businesses and support for local nonprofit organizations.

These **INCLUSIVE** age-friendly efforts involve individuals from diverse areas of expertise to identify livability solutions to support future population growth and change.







GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5:

# PREPARED.

We provide opportunities for learning and applying new skills—in school, on the job and throughout life.

Education is one of the most important investments we can make in ourselves and in our community. Without it, hope for the future is difficult to envision. Our community needs to plan how it’s going to foster learning and growing.

<b>PREPARED : PROFILE ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>INITIATIVE</b>	
REAL School Gardens	“Big Dig” at Idlewild Elementary School	Turning unused outdoor space into engaging places for learning



On a beautiful day in May 2017, REAL School Gardens assembled partners and volunteers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Target stores for a “Big Dig” at Idlewild Elementary School in East Charlotte.

This one-day garden-building event turned previously unused outdoor space into an elaborate outdoor classroom with 16 different learning features – from a weather station to a lizard lair! These features are paired with engaging outdoor lesson plans for teachers, as well as teacher training and support, to enrich learning for students in science, math and language arts.

Teachers Jill Whitesell and Jill Hayden are excited to teach students with things they see all around them. For example, they plan to use clover from the garden to help students learn skip-counting. Taking abstract concepts from inside the classroom and demonstrating them in the garden helps children understand principles and apply techniques.



## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING A PREPARED COMMUNITY

- Expand and enhance learning across all age groups
- Enhance partnerships between workforce development initiatives and employers

Idlewild Principal Larenda Denien hopes the hands-on learning will inspire teachers and help students thrive emotionally and academically.

*REAL School Gardens Partner Schools report:*

- ▶ Higher student test scores (12-15 percent)
- ▶ Increased student engagement
- ▶ Increased teacher job satisfaction and effectiveness

REAL School Gardens is advancing the Livable Meck guiding principle of **PREPARED** by:

- ▶ training teachers to harness children's natural curiosity,
- ▶ creating engaging learning spaces, and
- ▶ helping prepare students for future learning through creative and interactive experiences.





GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6:

# HEALTHY.

We protect the foundation of our community—our residents and the environment.

It's not a coincidence that health and happiness often go hand-in-hand. We want to create a culture of health and wellness in all areas of our community.

HEALTHY : PROFILE ORGANIZATION	INITIATIVE	
Sustain Charlotte	#WalkCLT	Creating a culture of health and wellness by encouraging walking as transportation



On June 2, 2017, more than 350 area residents representing 50 ZIP codes laced up their shoes and participated in #WalkCLT, which spotlighted the FreeMoreWest neighborhood of Charlotte.

Launched in 2015, this annual event hosted by Sustain Charlotte and powered by OrthoCarolina and #thesavageway is free, family friendly and open to the public. The event uses creative wayfinding signs on the ground and at eye-level, encouraging physical activity and engagement while promoting neighborhood walkability. This helps build vibrant communities while reducing harmful emissions by vehicles.

*In a country where suburban sprawl and auto-centric development often trumps pedestrian oriented neighborhoods, it is especially important to highlight the many social, economic and environmental benefits of walkable communities and advocate for safer, more adequate pedestrian infrastructure.*

**SHANNON BINNS**, Founder & Executive Director of Sustain Charlotte



## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Create a culture of health and wellness
- Protect and restore the natural environment
- Coordinate open space, greenways/paved trails, and parks planning with neighborhood accessibility



During the three-hour event, participants:

- ▶ burned a total of 108,200 calories;
- ▶ walked a collective 1,082 miles; and
- ▶ prevented 1,190 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions (by walking instead of driving).

The event also highlighted local businesses who offered special pricing for participants. As many neighborhoods transition and go through revitalization, it's important to reinforce the ease of accessing recreation, dining and other daily amenities on foot.



Sustain Charlotte is advancing the Livable Meck guiding principle of **HEALTHY** by raising awareness of the value of walkable neighborhoods and their significance to building successful communities. Look for the next event in late Spring 2018.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7:

# RESILIENT.

We carefully manage increasingly limited resources to meet the needs of an expanding population.

Our community should resolve to plan development and conserve precious resources in ways that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

<b>RESILIENT : PROFILE ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>INITIATIVE</b> Operation Sidekick	Training shelter dogs as service dogs to help veterans with PTSD and depression
American Pit Bull Foundation		



There are plenty of reasons dogs have historically been known as “Man’s Best Friend.” They are the closest species in the animal kingdom that humans connect with on an emotional level. Dogs also provide health services and healing in ways that other humans simply cannot, and this ability can be especially impactful for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Syracuse University estimates that there are nearly 50,000 veterans who call Mecklenburg County home. Staggering statistics about their mental health needs estimate that:

- ▶ Of the 50,000 Mecklenburg County veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates 40 percent are struggling with PTSD,
- ▶ N.C. veterans’ suicide rate is 37 percent compared to the national suicide rate of 17 percent, according to the VA.

Operation Sidekick seeks to address this mental health disparity by providing trained service dogs to veterans at no cost while simultaneously seeking to address shelter overpopulation and high euthanasia rates of Pit Bull dogs. In the US, these dogs are euthanized at an alarming rate of 3,000 animals per day.



## OUR STRATEGIES FOR GROWING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

- Manage zoning and development to revitalize community character and the natural environment while allowing for growth and innovation
- Manage resources wisely
- Develop community and neighborhood leaders for the future



Operation Sidekick relies on volunteer puppy raisers, trainers and community contributions to significantly decrease the cost of raising and training service dogs for veterans with PTSD. Greg, a veteran with PTSD who has an Operation Sidekick service dog, wants others facing the same struggles to know the life-saving outcome service dogs can have:

*“I’m sitting in my chair, overwhelmed with wretched despondency and crying my eyes out. A constant, insistent undertone of self-loathing and a complete and utter dissatisfaction with a lack of purpose in life is enough to push me back to that area that I don’t want to be. Yes, I’m talking about suicide.*

*She’s just...there. Beautiful brown eyes just staring up at me. No judgment. No expectation. Just there for me. She is with me and is bringing me out of my madness. She laid her head on my chest and nuzzled my face. I hugged her and cried some more, but it was a cry of relief. Words cannot express the serenity I felt at being able to release in that way. She’s just there. And that’s enough to keep me going.”*

Operation Sidekick demonstrates the Livable Meck principle of **RESILIENT** by providing practical and emotional support to protect the well-being and quality of life for those who have given so much to our country.



<p><b>RESILIENT : PROFILE ORGANIZATION</b></p>	<p><b>INITIATIVE</b></p>	
<p>Land Use &amp; Environmental Services Agency - Storm Water Services</p>	<p>Volunteers in Action</p>	<p>Planting trees to create habitats at a new ecological sanctuary</p>



Hundreds of volunteers converged to revitalize one of Charlotte’s most flood-prone areas, creating the Chantilly Ecological Sanctuary at Briar Creek in 2017. Students, scouts, park patrons, environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts spent an autumn Saturday planting nearly 1,600 native-species trees across 22 acres of floodplain along Briar Creek.

Until 2010, it was the site of the former 320-unit multi-family housing complex, Cavalier Apartments. During the 1990s until mid-2000s, several storms caused Briar Creek to flood the complex. When these apartments flooded, Charlotte Fire Department’s Swift Water Rescue was routinely dispatched to rescue residents from floodwaters rising toward the second floor of some buildings. In 2010, Mecklenburg County purchased and demolished the apartments to eliminate the risk of future flood damage for 320 families.








With Storm Water Services’ construction of the Chantilly Ecological Sanctuary at Briar Creek, the community now has a natural resource that reduces flood risk, improves water quality in Briar Creek, and provides urban wildlife habitat.

The sanctuary is included in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation’s future Greenway plans for Briar Creek. The sanctuary provides a rare urban habitat for aquatic species and wildlife, and exemplifies the County’s commitment to revitalizing community character and the natural environment for a **RESILIENT** future.



# LIVABLE MECK

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VISION.

Guiding Principles	 <b>WELCOMING</b>	 <b>INNOVATIVE</b>	 <b>CONNECTED</b>	 <b>INCLUSIVE</b>	 <b>PREPARED</b>	 <b>HEALTHY</b>	 <b>RESILIENT</b>
<b>Descriptors</b>	Character. Entertainment. Opportunity. Safe Neighborhoods.	Jobs. Entrepreneurship. Commerce.	Engaged Residents. Transportation Choices.	Community. Participation.	A Skilled Workforce. Quality Education.	Physical Activity. Healthy Foods. Clean Environment.	Future Well-being. Collaboration.
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build safe neighborhoods</li> <li>• Increase access to community-based arts, science, and history education</li> <li>• Continue to be an inviting destination for residents, visitors and businesses</li> <li>• Celebrate and integrate history, culture and diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make it easier for new businesses to succeed and existing businesses to flourish</li> <li>• Increase global economic competitiveness</li> <li>• Promote the redevelopment, reuse, and rehabilitation of declining and vacant properties</li> <li>• Leverage technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand capacity and increase use of sidewalks, bikeways, greenways/ paved trails, bus routes, and rail</li> <li>• Build stronger connections across diverse population groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance available housing options</li> <li>• Coordinate the work of organizations addressing the needs of at-risk residents</li> <li>• Expand the availability of affordable recreation and cultural services programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and enhance learning across all age groups</li> <li>• Enhance partnerships between workforce development initiatives and employers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a culture of health and wellness</li> <li>• Protect and restore the natural environment</li> <li>• Coordinate open space, greenways/ paved trails, and parks planning with neighborhood accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage zoning and development to revitalize community character and the natural environment while allowing for growth and innovation</li> <li>• Manage resources wisely</li> <li>• Develop community and neighborhood leaders for the future</li> </ul>

## LIVABLE MECK & DATA

The Livable Meck plan uses guiding principles and strategies to lead our community into the future. Livable Meck also leverages data to identify and measure quality of life issues, relevant trends and outcomes. Livable Meck uses a variety of data sources, but the primary source of information is the Quality of Life Explorer.

The Quality of Life Explorer is an interactive online tool to help neighborhoods, government leaders and staff, businesses, community organizations, new residents, and others learn more about Mecklenburg County and its diverse neighborhoods.

The Explorer features more than 80 variables across nine dimensions that reflect the community such as: neighborhood character, economics, education, engagement, environment, health, housing, safety and transportation. Visit [mcmmap.org/qol](http://mcmmap.org/qol) to use the Explorer interactive tool.

## DATA & THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: AN UPDATE ON BEING INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED.

As the internet becomes more essential to our ability to communicate and participate in the world around us, access to wireline broadband internet—or internet connectivity at a speed of 25 Mbps or greater—has become a key infrastructure. Nationally, broadband availability and access form geographic as well as social digital divides.

A September 2017 report from The Brookings Institution shows that, geographically, Mecklenburg County residents are all covered by at least one broadband provider. This means that, unlike many rural areas, all residents have the option of subscribing to broadband service. Within urbanized counties like Mecklenburg, it is typical that all residents are served by high-speed internet services.

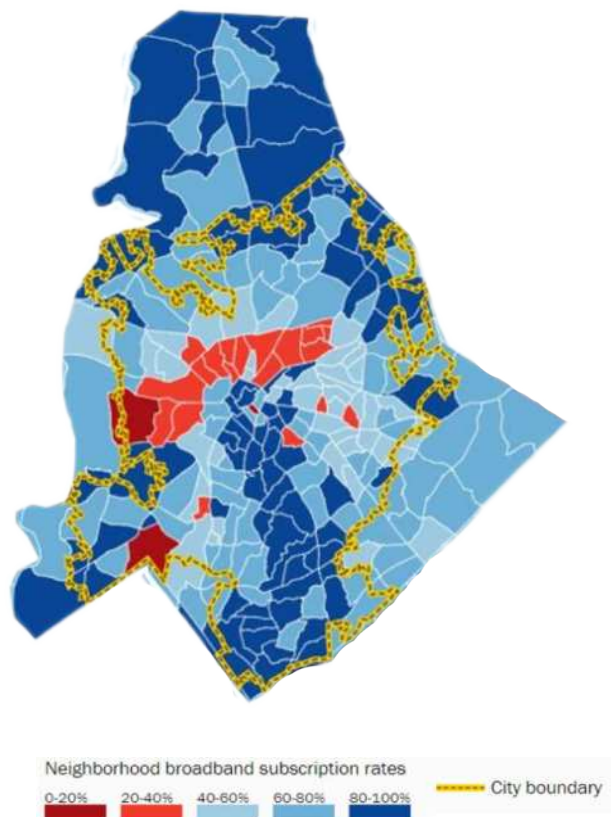
However, the fact that broadband is available does not mean everyone has access to it. For urban regions, lower broadband subscription rates are typically seen in areas of lower educational and income levels. The map on page 21 shows the wide variation of broadband subscriptions by neighborhood.

The two areas on the Mecklenburg map with the lowest percentile of broadband subscription rates represent largely commercial areas around the airport and the Arrowood Industrial Park. A band of neighborhoods with subscription rates from 20-40 percent runs from the airport along the I-85 corridor from west to east. Clear zones of very high subscription rates run from the center of Charlotte south to the County line and are clustered in north Mecklenburg.

These broadband subscription patterns closely follow the income patterns in the County. While the availability of broadband in the region is high, it is clear from the map that there is still work to be done to ensure equitable access to this increasingly vital utility.

Measurement of progress toward addressing this social digital divide by leveraging the Quality of Life Explorer tool forms the foundation for Livable Meck's data measurement strategy.

### Mecklenburg County Broadband Subscription Rates by Neighborhood



Map Source: Brookings, <http://bit.ly/2CSSLF7>



# LIVABLE MECK BY THE NUMBERS

## ENGAGEMENT CAFES IN 2017

From topics like air quality and aging, to social capital and solid waste, we were able to engage with over 270 individuals and organizations from our community.


 6


## LIVABLE MECK PARTNERS

We currently have 192 partner organizations, gaining eight new partner organizations in 2017.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

We're growing! Livable Meck has a combined total of 705 followers on Facebook and Twitter. Give us a follow if you don't already @LivableMeck!



## VIDEOS PROMOTING LIVABILITY ISSUES

We've featured 22 videos on our social media outlets highlighting livability issues in our community, with one video receiving over 3,400 views!

## NEW RESIDENTS

Our community has grown by 86,407 residents since Livable Meck began in 2012.



## LIVABLE MECK PARTNERS

AARP  
Active Charlotte Alliance  
Ada Jenkins Center  
AIA  
American Leadership Forum Charlotte  
**American Pit Bull Foundation**  
Arts & Science Council  
**Behailu Academy**  
Camino Community Center  
Cardinal Innovations  
Care Ring  
**Carolina Panthers**  
Carolina Raptor Center  
Carolinas HealthCare System  
Carolina Thread Trail  
Carolina Voices  
Catawba Land Conservancy  
Catawba Riverkeeper  
Catholic Refugee Resettlement Office  
Center for Prevention Services  
Centralina Area Agency on Aging  
Centralina Council of Governments  
Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC)  
Charlotte Area Health Education Center  
Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS)  
Charlotte Center City Partners  
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce  
Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT)  
**Charlotte Digital Inclusion Alliance**  
Charlotte Family Housing  
Charlotte Fire Department  
Charlotte Housing Authority  
Charlotte International Cabinet  
Charlotte Makerspace  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Food Policy Council  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS)  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Police Department  
Charlotte Museum of History  
Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
Charlotte Rescue Mission  
Charlotte Water  
Charlotte Works  
Child Care Resources  
Children and Family Services Center  
Circle de Luz  
Citizen Schools  
City of Charlotte Budget and Evaluation  
City of Charlotte Economic Development  
City of Charlotte Engineering & Property Management  
City of Charlotte Innovation & Technology  
City of Charlotte Manager's Office  
City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services  
City of Charlotte Solid Waste  
City of Charlotte Strategy & Budget  
City Start Up Labs  
Clean Air Carolina  
CLT Joules  
Code for Charlotte  
Community Building Initiative  
Community Care Partners of Greater Mecklenburg  
Community Link  
Council for Children's Rights  
Crescent Communities  
Crisis Assistance Ministry  
CROWN: Charlotte Reconnecting Ourselves with Nature  
CRTEC  
Customer Service Solutions, Inc.  
Davidson College  
Davidson Housing Coalition  
Davidson Land Conservancy  
Davidson Lifeline  
Discovery Education  
Discovery Place  
Duke Energy  
E2D  
E4 Carolinas  
Envision Charlotte  
F3 Foundation  
Flywheel Group  
For Charlotte  
Foresite Development, Inc.  
Foundation For The Carolinas  
Four Town Alliance  
**Friedland Foundation**  
Generation Nation  
Goodwill Industries  
Greater Charlotte Apartment Association  
Greater Charlotte Hospitality and Tourism Alliance  
Green Teacher Network  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hands On Charlotte  
Heartwood Tree Service  
Historic Charlotte  
Homeless Services Network  
Informative Technologies

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InnerVision  
 Innovation Agency  
 International House  
 Junior Achievement of Central Carolinas  
 Keep Charlotte Beautiful  
 Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful  
 Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation  
**Latin American Economic Development Corporation**  
 Leadership Charlotte  
 Learning Help Centers of Charlotte  
 Levine Museum of the New South  
 Levine Senior Center  
 LiveSmart Design  
 Matthews Chamber of Commerce  
 Matthews Free Medical Clinic  
 Matthews Help Center  
 McColl Center  
 MeckEd  
 Mecklenburg County Asset and Facility Management  
 Mecklenburg County Child Support Enforcement  
 Mecklenburg County Community Support Services  
 Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services  
 Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services  
 Mecklenburg County Health Department  
 Mecklenburg County Human Resources  
 Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency  
 Mecklenburg County Manager's Office  
 Mecklenburg County Office of Economic Development  
 Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation  
 Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission  
 Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office  
 Mecklenburg County Volunteer Fireman's Association  
 Mecklenburg EMS Agency - MEDIC  
 Mental Health America of Central Carolinas  
 Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce  
 My Aloha Paddle & Surf, Inc.  
 National Gypsum  
 NC Med Assist  
 NC Sustainable Energy Association  
 North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
 Northeastern University  
**Novant Health**  
 Packard Place  
 Piedmont Natural Gas  
**President James K. Polk State Historic Site**  
 Professional Services Industries (PSI)  
 Project for Innovation, Energy and Sustainability  
 Queen City FinTech  
 Queen City Forward  
 REAL School Gardens

REBIC  
 ReCommunity  
 Safe Alliance  
 Safe Kids Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
 Salvation Army  
 Shift  
 Sierra Club Central Piedmont  
 Southminster  
 SPICE  
 STAR Resources  
 Sustain Charlotte  
 Tech Talent South  
 Teen Health Connection  
**The Involvement Practice**  
 The Learning Collaborative  
 The Relatives  
 The Vital Form  
 Time Out Youth  
 Town of Cornelius  
 Town of Davidson  
 Town of Huntersville  
 Town of Matthews  
 Town of Mint Hill  
 Town of Pineville  
 TreesCharlotte  
 UNC - Charlotte  
 UNC - Charlotte Urban Institute  
 United Way of Central Carolinas  
 University City Partners  
 Urban Eagles  
 Urban League  
 Urban Ministry Center  
 USGBC - North Carolina Chapter  
 Ventureprise  
 Vision Ventures  
 Visit Charlotte  
 Wake Forest University School of Business  
 Wethinknext  
 Wise Transitions  
 YMCA of Greater Charlotte  
 YWCA of the Central Carolinas

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