

Vision 2020: The Comprehensive Plan for Rock Hill, South Carolina



V. Natural Resources Element

OVERVIEW

Rock Hill and York County have abundant natural resources that are often taken for granted. The Catawba River, flowing streams and creeks, a large lake used for generating power and recreational purposes, heritage trees and a wide variety of animal and plant life are just a few of the resources we enjoy. These and other physical and natural characteristics contribute to the quality of life in and around Rock Hill.

These same natural resources have attracted steadily increasing growth and development for the area. While economic prosperity is one key to our community's future, growing according to our values is critical to our quality of life. We must plan carefully for future development to avoid sprawl and remain a livable community. It is important that we recognize and acknowledge the constraints and capabilities of our land with respect to absorbing growth and still sustaining and protecting both our natural resources and our quality of life.

The Natural Resources Element provides an overview of existing conditions and needs regarding the following topics:

- Geography and Location
- Climate
- Topography
- Soils
- Hydrology
- Watershed – Catawba River Basin
- Flood Hazard
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Prime Agricultural and Forest Lands
- Plant and Animal Habitat
- Trails and Greenways
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Open Space

Natural Resources Key Facts

- RH Highest Elevation = 722ft above sea level
- RH Lowest Elevation = 480 ft above sea level
- Currently experiencing lower than average rainfall as part of a 10-year drought cycle
- RH is within the Catawba River Basin (2,322 sq miles)
- RH is located within the Charlotte Non-Attainment Area for air quality (ground level ozone levels)
- RH environmentally sensitive areas include: Lake Wylie, Catawba River, wetlands/ponds, streams, floodplains, and geographically hazardous areas