



BEATTIES FORD / ROZZELLES FERRY

CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY

A Letter of Shared Commitment and Acknowledgement

Issued by: SOL Nation and CleanAIRE NC

North Carolina is widely considered the birthplace of the environmental justice movement. This legacy was forged in a pivotal moment in 1982 in Warren County, when Black and low-income residents protested the state's decision to build a landfill for soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in their community, igniting a national conversation. It was during this time that Reverend Ben Chavis coined the term "environmental racism," highlighting how environmental harms often disproportionately impact marginalized communities. These events helped to push leaders and researchers to pay closer attention to the connection between environmental policy and social justice.

GreenPrints is rooted in the unwavering commitment to Environmental Justice (EJ). EJ means ensuring that every community—regardless of race, income, or background—has a clean, safe, and healthy environment in which to live, work, and play. Yet many communities, especially those historically overlooked or underinvested in, face higher levels of pollution, fewer trees and green spaces, and greater risks from flooding, extreme heat, and other environmental hazards. These inequities harm public health and make communities less safe and resilient.

At its core, Environmental Justice is about building a future where all communities can thrive. It is about fairness, health, safety, and opportunity for everyone—now and for generations to come.

The Power of Community Engagement

To solve environmental justice problems, the first step is to engage the communities most affected. These are often neighborhoods that have faced decades of pollution, neglect, and limited access to opportunity. To succeed, solutions need to be supported and championed by the people who live in these areas. That means involving residents in decisions, respecting their lived experiences, and making sure they have the power and resources to help shape their own future.

GreenPrints embodies this principle by focusing on actionable steps, including:

- Cleaning up polluted areas and reducing exposure to harmful chemicals near homes, schools, and parks.
- Expanding access to green spaces, safe housing, clean air, and clean drinking water in underserved communities.
- Updating policies and zoning laws that once encouraged unhealthy land use.
- Providing clear and accessible public data about environmental risks.
- Investing in local leadership and community-led projects that improve public health and safety.

Acknowledging Our Partners in Success

The GreenPrints project is a testament to the power of cross-sector collaboration and shared commitment. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following partners, without whom this ambitious endeavor would not have been possible:

- **The Knight Foundation:** For providing the critical, enabling resources that allowed for deep, sustained research and robust community engagement.
- **The Residents and Stakeholders of the Beatties Ford and Freedom/Wilkinson Drive Corridors of Opportunity:** The true leaders of this work. Your participation, candid feedback, and dedication have ensured that this project is authentic, relevant, and directly addresses the needs and priorities of your neighborhoods.
- **Businesses, Researchers, and Dedicated Individuals:** For contributing your businesses for research, the essential data that was provided and collected, technical expertise, innovative solutions, and invaluable perspectives.

The success of GreenPrints belongs to every person who contributed their time, voice, and spirit to this collective effort. Thank you for making this project a powerful new blueprint for an equitable and resilient Charlotte.

GREENPRINTS

CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY

Booker Ave
2200

Beatties Ford

“

I appreciate this opportunity for my voice to be heard.”



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with funding support by The Knight Foundation.



Where Collaboration Meets Community:

A People-First Plan For Environmental Justice



What is a GreenPrint?

A GreenPrint is a community-informed environmental impact action plan highlighting projects, programs, and/or initiatives that tackle environmental injustice and climate inequities, recognizing the disproportionate impacts experienced by historically disinvested communities. The action plans target issues that directly affect the health and well-being of these communities and will essentially function as an addendum to existing Corridors of Opportunity Playbooks and/or Road Maps, benefiting from existing relationships, resources, and expertise within the partnerships created. These plans will align with the City's existing Corridors of Opportunity program to ensure that climate action goes together with economic development and community empowerment.

How did the project evolve?

Initially, the partnership between CleanAIRE NC, Sol Nation, and the City of Charlotte's Office of Sustainability & Resilience and Corridors of Opportunity started based on a federal grant opportunity. As such, the initiative was developed specifically to create a compelling grant opportunity that would allow all the partners to work together toward environmental justice in neighborhoods experiencing environmental inequities. While the initial intent was to secure a specific grant, the value of what was heard from the community,

and the needs that were shared, created the foundation for a program that was more than a one-time grant. For that reason, the partnership has continued, leading with community and developing a plan that would allow all participants the ability to memorialize the conversations, concerns, and work. Knowing what is needed and wanted by those that live in the community will aid in conversations, additional grant applications, and continued relationship building to realize the efforts of all participants.



SECTION 02

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS

North Carolina played an important role in the early development of environmental justice. In 1982, residents of Warren County raised concerns about the planned location of a landfill containing PCB-contaminated soil in their community. This event brought national attention to the idea that environmental decisions can affect communities in different ways and helped shape early discussions about fairness, public health, and environmental protection.

Environmental Justice (EJ) means making sure that every community—no matter its location, income level, or background—has a clean, safe, and healthy environment in which to live, work, and play. Some communities continue to face higher levels of pollution, fewer parks and trees, and greater risks from flooding, extreme heat, and other environmental challenges. These conditions can affect health, safety, and quality of life.

Environmental justice is about improving conditions so that all communities can succeed, now and in the future. A key part of this work is listening to and working with the communities most affected, so that programs and investments respond to local needs and help reduce long-standing environmental and public health concerns.

For environmental justice efforts to be effective, they must be supported by the people who live in the communities most affected. This means involving residents in planning and decision-making, valuing their local knowledge, and providing opportunities for communities to help shape programs and investments that affect their neighborhoods.

Addressing environmental justice can include actions such as:

- Reducing pollution and limiting exposure to harmful substances near homes, schools, and parks.
- Expanding access to green spaces, safe housing, clean air, and reliable drinking water in communities with fewer resources.
- Updating land-use policies and zoning practices to promote healthier neighborhoods.
- Providing clear, easy-to-understand information about environmental conditions and risks.
- Supporting local leadership and community-based projects that improve public health and safety.

In Charlotte, one clear example of the city’s effort is in the Historic West End. This area was deeply affected by redlining, a discriminatory housing practice that denied Black residents fair access to mortgages, and services—causing long-term harm to health, wealth, and the environment. Today, the city and community are partnering to address those harms through initiatives focused on affordable housing, improved transit, green infrastructure, and environmental health. These efforts are part of the city’s broader commitment, outlined in the Charlotte Future 2040 Plan, to build an equitable, inclusive city for everyone. When we center communities in the process, we do not just fix environmental problems—we build trust, repair relationships, and create lasting change. That is what Environmental Justice is all about.

Summary: Major Contributors to Environmental Injustice

Targeted Redlining

Redlining denied services to racially targeted neighborhoods, leading to disinvestment from communities and forced displacement. Key players included banks, insurance companies, and government agencies like the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and the National Housing Act of 1934.

Harmful Industry in Low-Income and BIPOC Communities

Heavy-polluting industries often operate in low-income and BIPOC neighborhoods, increasing pollution exposures and health risks for these communities. Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color are 61% more likely to live in areas with unhealthy air compared to white communities (ALA, 2022).

Issues of Access to Healthcare, Healthy Food, and Green Spaces

Environmental justice highlights that impacted communities face limited access to essential services, hindering affordable healthcare and worsening health issues. These areas often lack healthy food options and greenspaces, which are vital for clean air, cooling during heat waves, and recreation.

Image credit: CleanAIRE NC - <https://cleanairenc.org/blog/2025/03/27/ej-storyboard/West End>

SECTION 03

CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

The following maps and infographs detail key environmental facts, figures and observations viewed through the GreenPrints lens of environmental justice. The data, presented graphically, illustrate the corridor’s strengths while identifying metrics that, if improved, may increase quality of life. As this section is dedicated to environmental conditions, if you would like to read more about this corridor and its strengths and opportunities, please see the [Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridors of Opportunity website](#). Additional information about this area can also be found in the [West Middle](#) and [West Inner Community Area Plans](#).

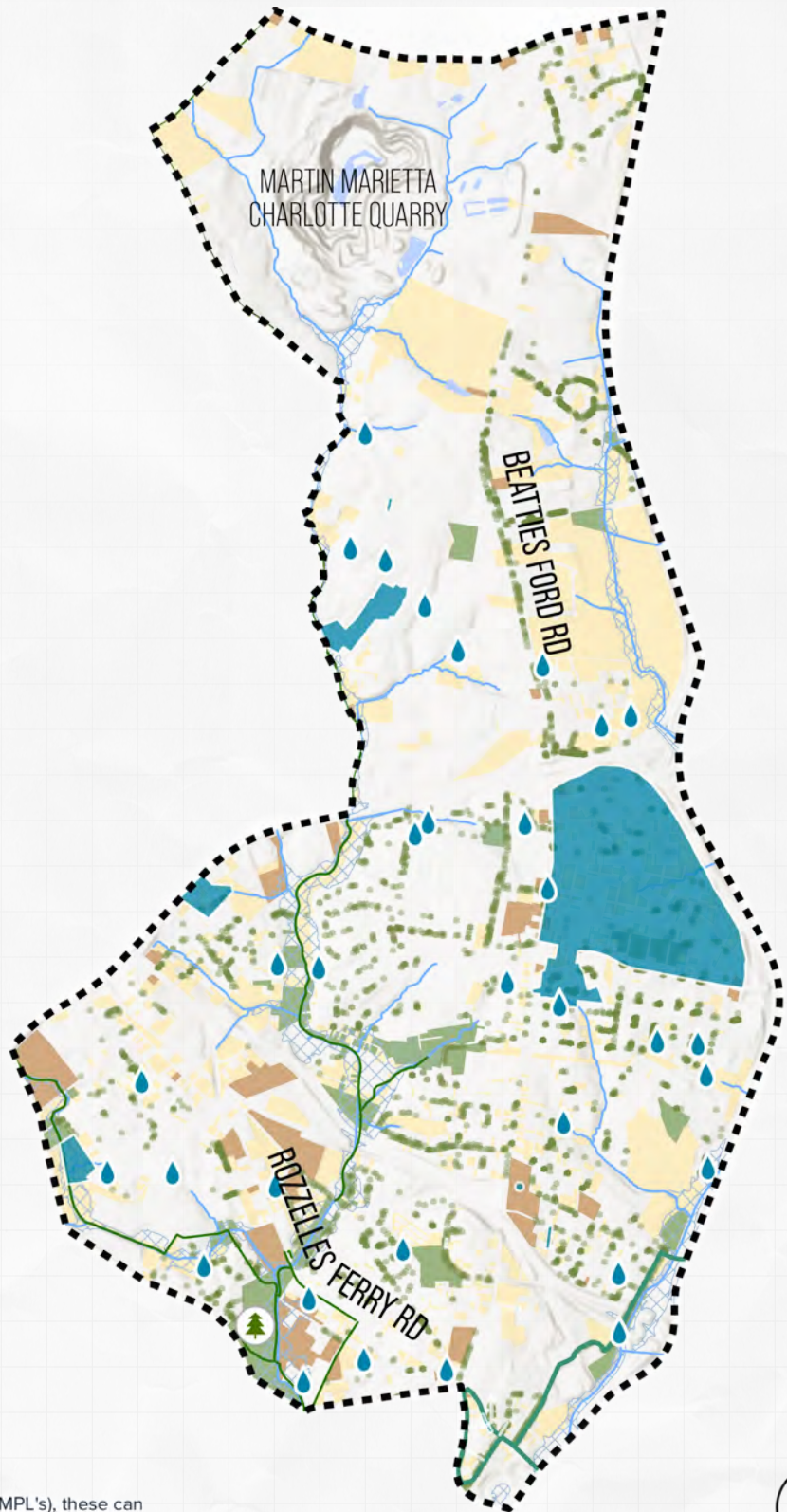
This map shows land and water features in a specific area, including parks, trails, lakes, and streams. The brown-shaded areas represent Mecklenburg Priority List (MPL) Sites, which are places identified by Mecklenburg County as having possible contamination, like old gas stations, dry cleaners, or industrial sites. These sites are important areas to review for legacy pollution, or sites where contamination may exist based on what the land has been used for in the past.

These sites are located around the intersections of major roadways, such as I-277/I-85, as well as the more industrial area along Rozzelles Ferry Rd. There are fewer MPL sites in the northern portion of the study area. Knowing where these sites are helps the community focus on cleaning up pollution and making the land safer for people and nature.

This corridor is also home to the Martin Marietta Charlotte Quarry, which is still in operation. Residents have expressed interest in understanding the potential impacts associated with the quarry site, including air quality and dust, noise, and the site’s long-term environmental footprint. As the area continues to evolve, there is a desire to proactively consider how land uses such as this one may affect overall environmental quality – both during active use and in the years after the quarry ceases operations. Ongoing conversations offer a chance to align future planning with both environmental stewardship and community well-being, ensuring the area remains livable and resilient long-term.

The Park and Recreation project highlighted in the south of the corridor (on the map as a green tree icon) is the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Improvement project. This project is currently in the engagement phase as of Summer 2025 to identify improvements to recreation amenities within the park. The blue areas and droplet icons show projects completed within the last five years or currently in progress by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Stormwater Services. These projects are primarily storm drainage improvement projects, which involve evaluating existing storm drainage systems, identifying improvements, or installation/repair of storm drainage infrastructure. Storm Water Services also conducts pollution control projects and stream & wetland restoration projects, such as the currently ongoing Lakewood Water Quality Enhancement Project in the historic Lakewood community. The largest stormwater project shown is the Lincoln Heights Storm Drainage Improvement Project, completed in 2022, which involved large-scale improvements to drainage infrastructure for the Lincoln Heights neighborhood.

- ROW Trees
- Greenways
- Urban Arboretum Trail
- Creeks/Streams
- Floodplain
- Lakes & Ponds
- Parks
- Vacant Parcels
- MPL Sites*
- Park and Rec Projects FY24-29
- Stormwater Projects, Completed and Planned



*Mecklenburg County Priority Contamination Sites (MPL's), these can include: gas stations, cleaners, manufacturing facilities, inert debris facilities, etc.



Here is a snapshot of environmental conditions, housing, and transportation in a specific community.



82% of housing units are single-family houses, 2023 (County: 53%)

53 years is the average age of single-family housing units, 2023 (County: 34 years)



5% of housing units have development-based rental assistance, 2023 (County: 2.6%)

\$1,045 is the median gross rent of renter-occupied housing units, 2021 (County: \$1,276)

In terms of housing, 82% of homes are single-family, with the average home being 53 years old, pointing to aging housing stock that may require repairs. However, only 5% of homes have received repairs through public programs, with an average investment of \$1,045 per home, suggesting limited reach of current housing support efforts.

About 45% of the area has tree canopy, showing moderate green coverage, while only 15% of streets are shaded by trees, indicating a need for more street-level greenery.

45% of land is covered by tree canopy, 2012 (County: 45%)



15% of land surface is impervious, 2023 (County: 16%)



Bicycle
Friendliness
Index, 2023
(County: 1.6)



of paved streets
have sidewalks or
53 miles, 2015
(County: .4%)



The area has a low walkability score of 1.8 out of 3, and only 0.5% of streets have high-quality pedestrian infrastructure, which highlights a need for safer and more accessible walking and biking options. Together, these stats show both strengths and gaps in the area's sustainability, affordability, and mobility.



29 boardings

per stop on average a week or 4,497 weekly boardings, 2022 (County: 50 per stop for 154,458 weekly boardings)



of homes are within a 1/2
mile of a transit stop, 2022
(County: 68%)

On the transportation side, 56% of households have access to frequent transit, and the area sees an average of 29 daily bus boardings, with 99.8% of those boardings happening within a 10-minute walk of homes. However, most people still drive, and walking or biking makes up less than 1% of all trips.


56%


of commuters travel 20 minutes or more to
work, 2021 (County: 59%)








This map shows residential zoning and housing program activity in the area. These investments, which are located mostly in the central and southern sections of the corridor near major highways like I-277 and I-77, support affordable housing development in areas with higher housing density. The map signifies other housing programs from 2016 to today, including emergency repairs, down payment assistance through House Charlotte, and single-family home repairs; shown as purple, green, and blue dots, respectively. Together, these efforts show where city investments are supporting improvements and preservation of housing for residents and where areas of investment could be more focused to support this corridor.

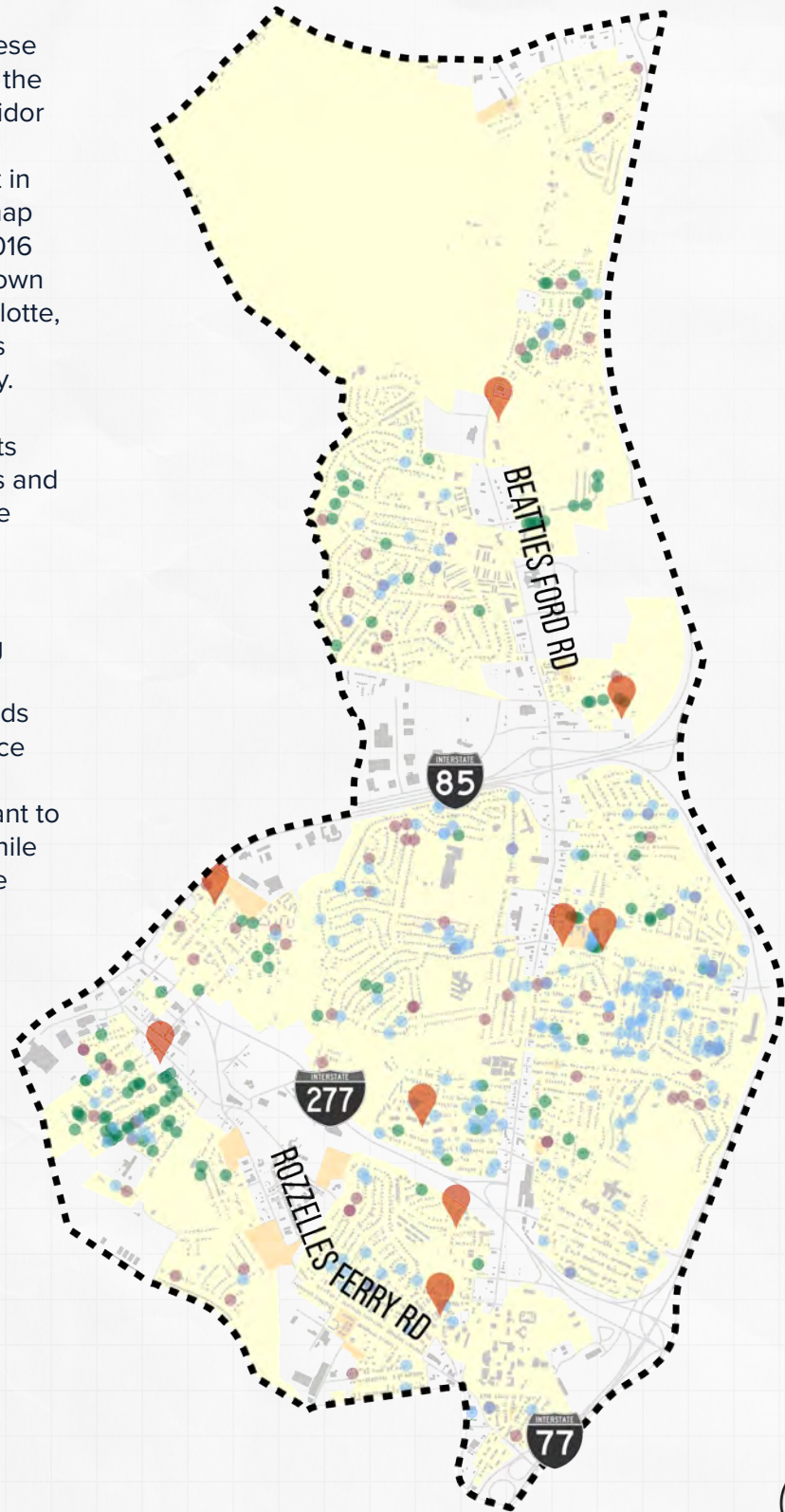
The Washington Heights neighborhood within the corridor is also part of Housing & Neighborhood Services pilot program, Staying in Place, along with neighborhoods in two other corridors. The Staying in Place initiative is a collaborative approach to provide opportunity for residents who want to stay in their neighborhoods to remain, while preserving housing affordability for future generations.

 Housing Trust Fund Investments










 Building Footprints
 Streets

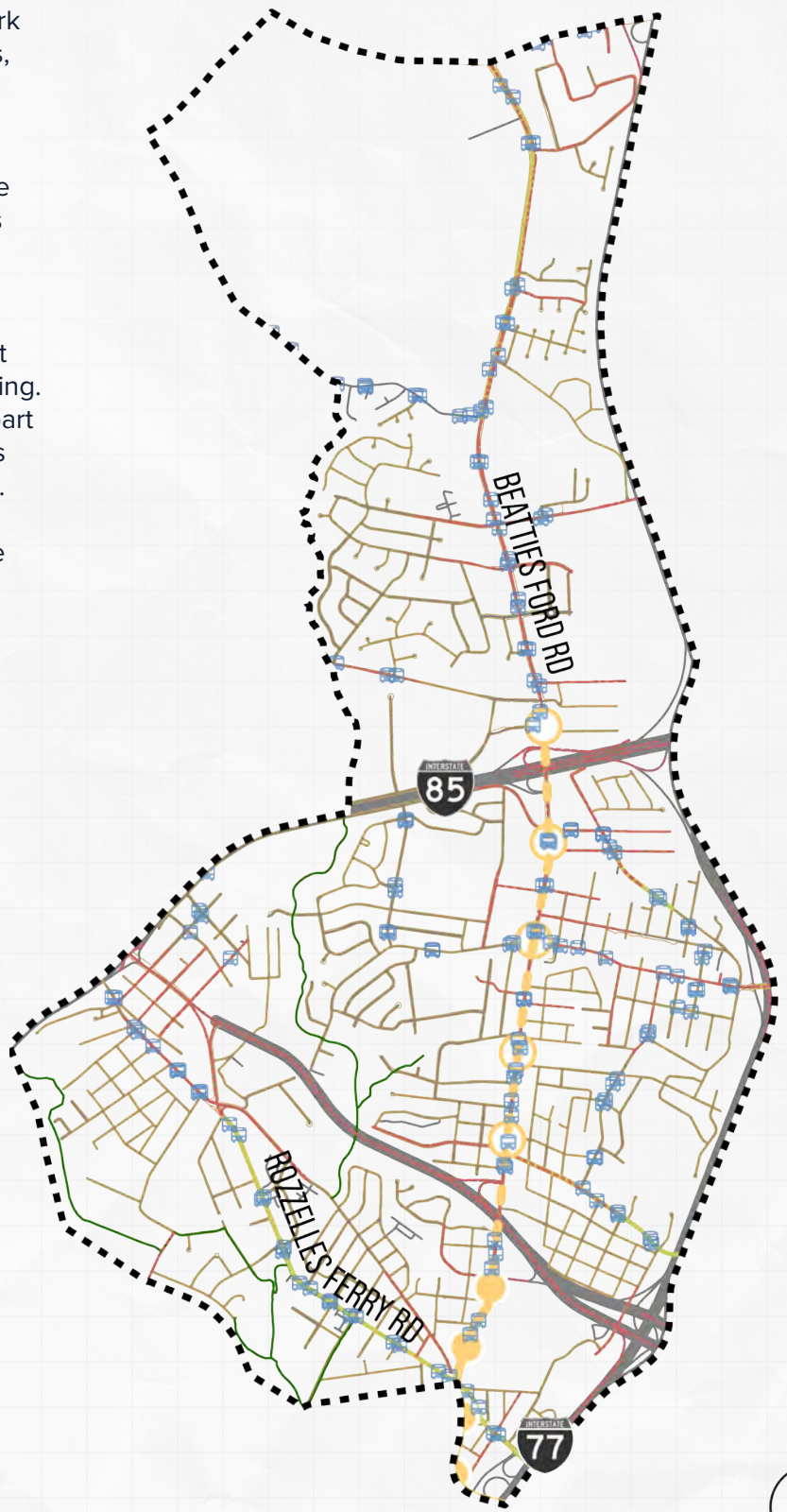
Residential Zoning
 Single Family
 Multi-Family

Housing Programs 2016 - Present
 Emergency Repair
 House Charlotte
 Single Family Rehabilitation









This map shows the transportation network in the area, highlighting streets, sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, and public transit options. Blue bus stop icons are spread throughout the map, especially along major roads. The Gold Line streetcar route runs north to south, with solid yellow lines showing the portion already in service and dashed lines showing planned future extensions. Sidewalks (in beige) and bike lanes (in light green) are found throughout the area, helping support walking and biking. Areas marked with red dashed lines are part of the High Injury Network, where crashes are more likely to result in serious injuries. Overall, the map helps identify where mobility options exist and where there are opportunities for future investment.

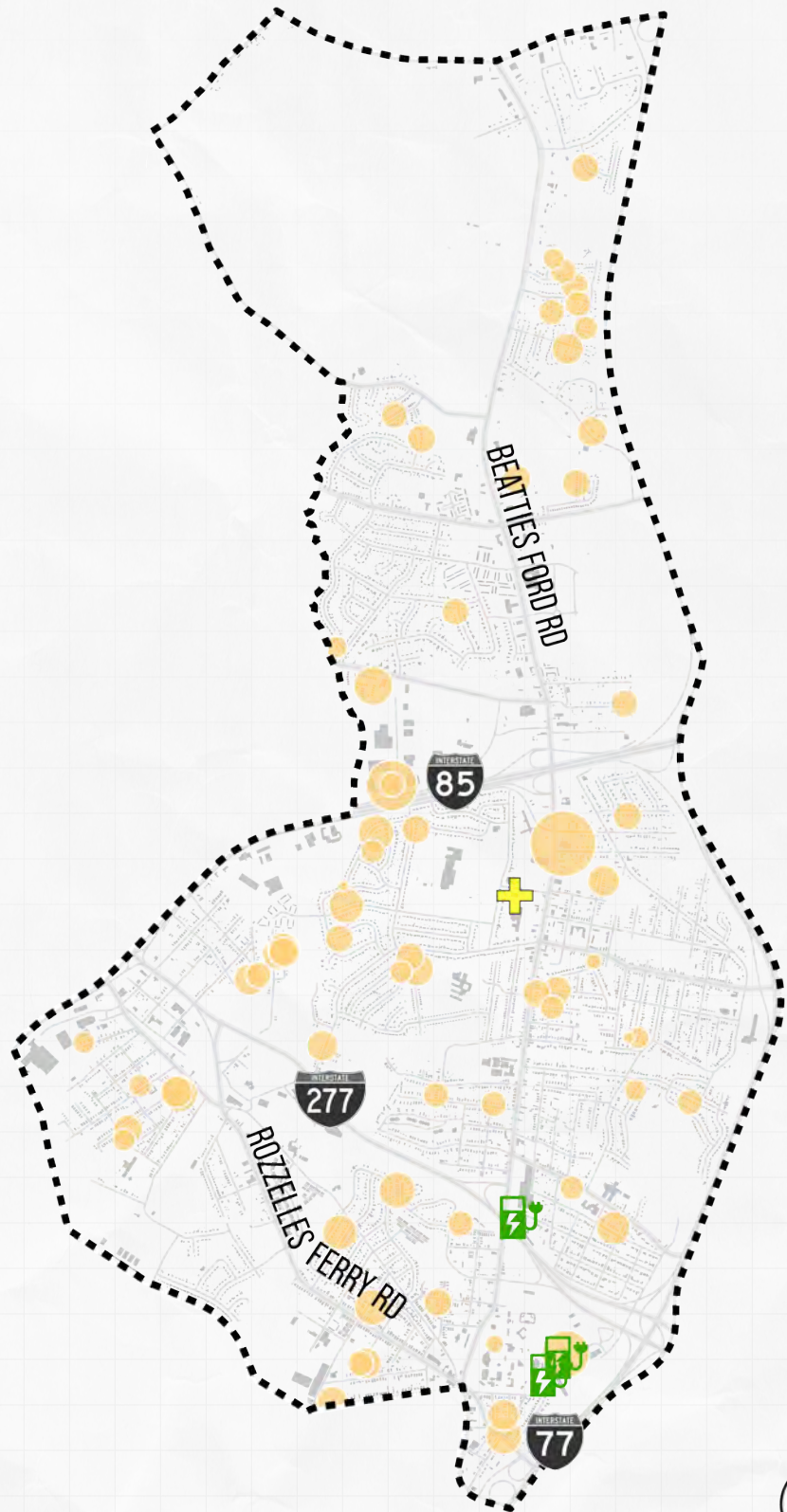
-  Bus Stops
-  High Injury Network
-  Streets
-  Major Streets
-  Sidewalks
-  Bike Lanes
-  Greenways
-  Gold Line (Future)
-  Gold Line (In Service)



This map shows the distribution of clean energy systems, solar panel sites, and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the area. The orange circles represent clean energy systems, with larger circles showing higher energy capacity in kilowatts (kW). These systems are spread evenly, with clusters near major roads like I-85, I-277, and I-77. There are also several EV charging stations, shown in green, mostly located in the southern part of the corridor where high volume roadways exist. The city solar panel system site, marked with a yellow cross, is located near the center of the area and highlights a rooftop solar panel project on Fire House 18, following re-roofing. Overall, the map highlights growing access to renewable energy and EV infrastructure, especially near dense and heavily traveled areas.



-  City Solar Panel System Sites
-  Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
-  Clean Energy Systems (kW)
5kW
-  Building Footprints
-  Streets
-  Major Roads



This map displays the Environmental Justice (EJ) metric from the Equitable Growth Framework, adopted as part of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The EJ metric measures the cumulative environmental impacts of several factors, including tree canopy, impervious surfaces, proximity to heavy industrial areas, proximity to major transportation infrastructure, and floodplains.

The metric can be viewed at three geographic scales: citywide in the Comprehensive Plan, at the community level in the West Middle and West Inner Community Area Plans, and at the corridor level, as shown here. Areas are shaded from teal (most just) to dark grey (less just) to represent combined exposure to air, noise, and water pollution. In this study area, the lowest scoring area, gray on the map, is in the southern portion of the corridor closer to major transportation infrastructure and heavy industrial uses.

The measures included within the environmental justice assessment focus on aspects of the built environment and were available during development of the Comprehensive Plan. The impact of these measures on environmental justice are outlined below:

Tree Canopy: Trees provide shade, help cool surrounding air, and reduce air pollution. A deficient tree canopy increases a community's exposure to heat and air pollution.

Impervious Surface: Hard surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground, such as asphalt and concrete, increase rates of flooding, pollute rainwater runoff, and increase urban heat. Excessive quantities of impervious surfaces increase a community's exposure to flooding, water pollution, and heat exposure.

Proximity to Heavy Industrial: The processing and manufacturing of materials/products from extraction of raw materials or the storage/distribution of hazardous materials can expose a community within proximity to air, water, or noise pollutants.

Proximity to Major Transportation Infrastructure: Road surfaces (see Impervious Surface above) and vehicle emissions can expose a community within proximity to air and noise pollutants.

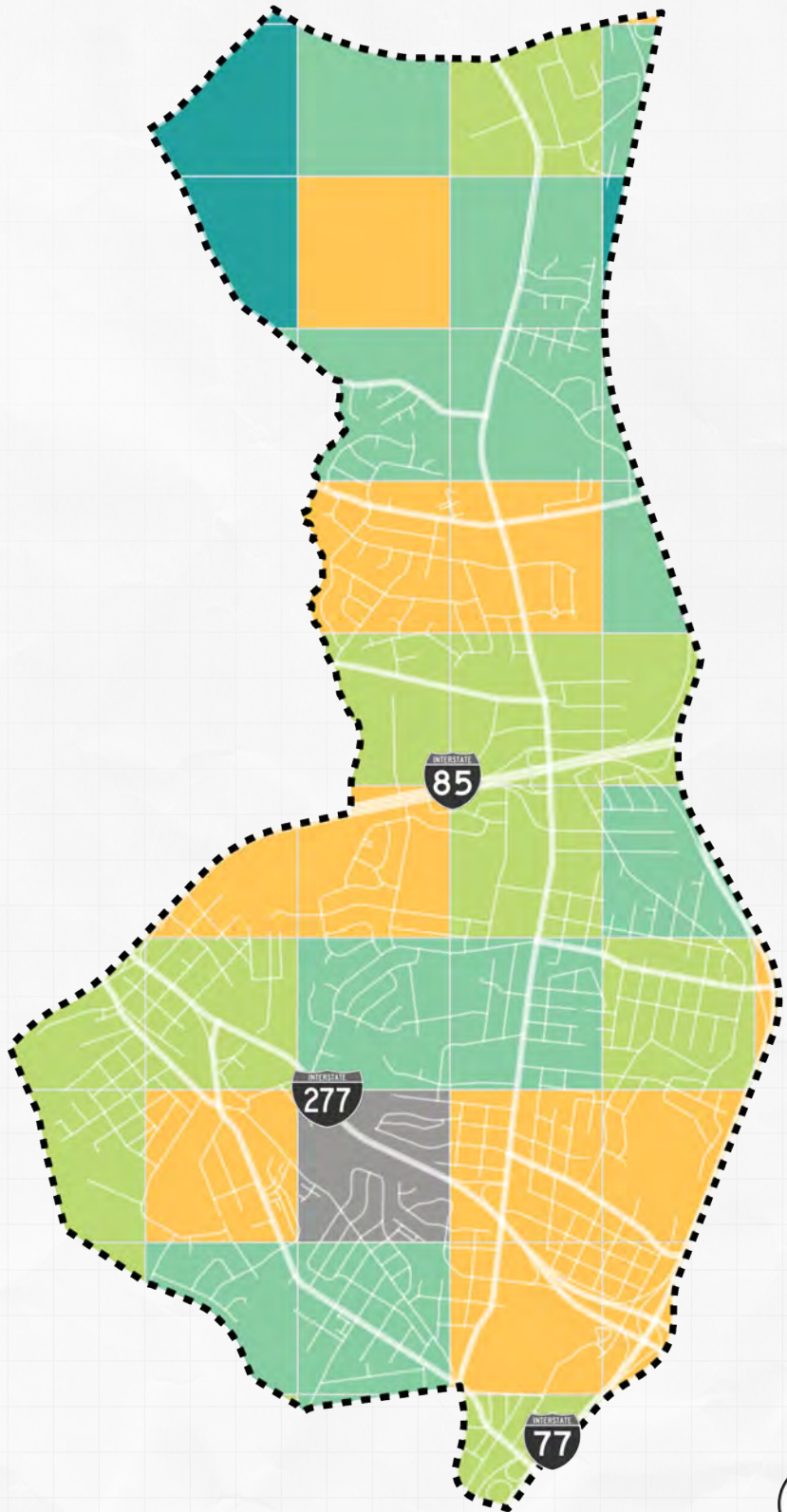
Floodplains: Flood-prone areas can expose a community to flood risks which are occurring more frequently due to climate change.

Environmental Justice 2020



Least to Most Just

- Streets
- Major Roads

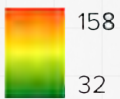




This map shows the average summer land surface temperature across the study area (an average of summer months between 2021 and 2023), using colors to represent the average temperatures.

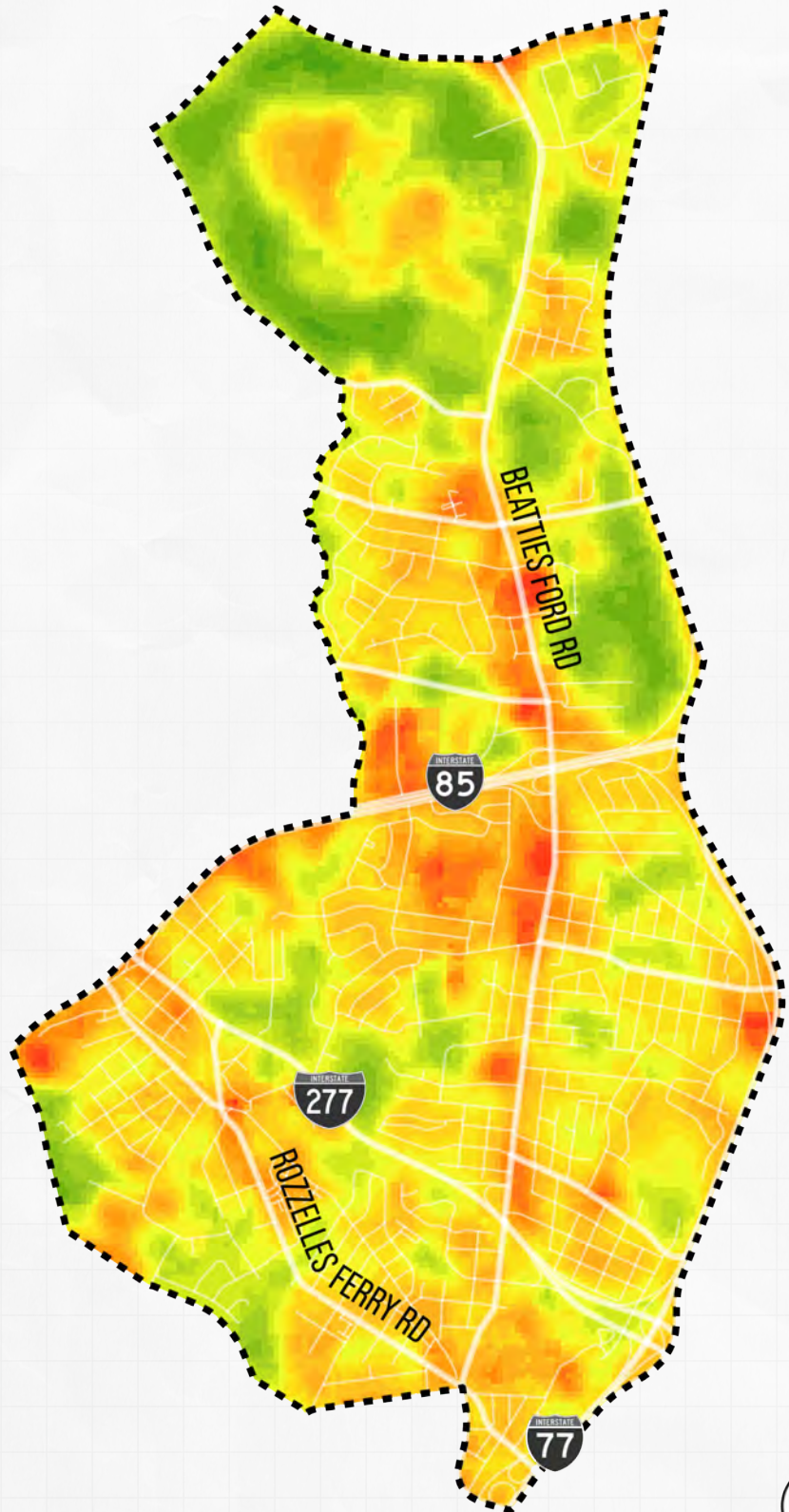
Green areas are cooler, while yellow, orange, and red areas are progressively hotter, with red representing the hottest zones. It is important to note that this data does not represent how it feels to people in the corridor, but rather the temperature of the ground. The average land surface temperature varies across the corridor, with higher temperatures primarily found along I-77, I-85, and along Beatties Ford Road.

Cooler spots are generally found in the northwestern and southwestern areas where the ground is shaded. This information helps to identify areas exposed to extreme urban heat conditions and most affected by the urban heat island effect, where environments trap heat, which can increase health risks during the summer, such as heat stroke. This map follows a similar pattern as the Environmental Justice Metric from the Equitable Growth Framework above, highlighting how connected many of these conditions are.

Summer Average Heat (F)*



-  Streets
-  Major Roads



A vibrant street scene featuring a bus stop on the left, a tree with pink blossoms in the center, and a white truck on the right. The scene is set on a sunny day with a clear sky and lush greenery.

“

[I AM] HAPPY TO SEE
AWARENESS EFFORTS IN
THE COMMUNITY.”

SECTION 04

Engagement is ...

...the heart of this process.

GreenPrints were developed based on the input of residents, as supported by the partnership team and spearheaded by the efforts of SolAIRE, a project-focused collaboration between CleanAIRE NC and Sol Nation. As this corridor is the first in the GreenPrints initiative, many of the engagement opportunities helped define the GreenPrints initiative and focus areas, as well as corridor-specific public concern and attention. Below you will see an overview of how this work has come together to inform this document.

Pre-Kickoff Meeting:

On June 6, 2024, the project team held a Pre-Kickoff Meeting with neighborhood leaders in the corridor. The focus of this meeting was to share the project overview, who has committed to working on this initiative, how the work will be completed, and request feedback on how best the project team can work with community to highlight concerns and co-create the solutions. That meeting helped ground ideas with the community and shared the integral nature of the conditions and proposed solutions – such as marrying the idea of solar panel installation with the need to ensure all homes have adequate roofing before evaluating for solar. Additionally, other areas of great concern centered around the transportation infrastructure and needs to increase access, include shading from heat and places to sit, having complete bike routes, etc.

This information helped inform the structure and the overall focus to highlight three overarching buckets of interest – Sustainable Housing

Shade Strategies, and Clean Air + Transportation.

Public Survey:

In the fall of 2024, the Project Team created an initial survey to gather information directly from the residents who live in the corridor. This survey was shared out through emails and in-person pop-ups to gain insight into major cares and concerns.

The top two topics highlighted of concern were Clean Air + Transportation as well as Sustainable Housing – consistent with the Pre-Kickoff Meeting. Urban Cooling, Legacy Pollution, and Flood Mitigation rounded out the top interests.



TIMELINE

JUNE 2024

Pre-Kickoff Meeting

OCTOBER 2024

Public Kickoff

2024-2025

FALL 2024

Public Survey

WINTER 2024 - 2025

Targeted
Surveying: SolAIRE



Engagement is the heart of this process, and GreenPrints were developed based on the input of residents, supported by the partnership team and the efforts of SolAIRE.



Public Kickoff:

On October 19, 2024, the GreenPrints project team held the Public Kickoff for the Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry corridor. The meeting was facilitated as a workshop that included a graphic notetaker to capture the conversation.

Topics covered included:

- Defining environmental justice;
- Determining the importance of environmental justice to the community;
- Highlighting key sustainability issues, new sustainability project ideas, and what the residents would like to see in their neighborhoods.

Key Issues important to Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry residents include:

- Walkability,
- Long-term planning for transportation systems,
- Impacts of the Martin Marietta Charlotte Quarry,

- Workforce training for new energy/solar opportunities, and
- Noise Pollution

New sustainability project ideas include:

- Trash collection/littering programs and infrastructure,
- Programs for pipe replacement, home energy renovations, and tree canopy program support,
- Green infrastructure throughout the corridor including bike shelter and additional trees,
- Cool asphalt and/or roofing materials, and
- Land acquisition to preserve and protect areas.

Participants acknowledged the positive investments they have already experienced in the corridor, including: access to the streetcar, home rehabilitation support from the city and For The Struggle, and a pollinator garden courtesy of Wells Fargo. Residents further refined what they'd like to see to include:

- Trash pick-up throughout the corridor along major transportation routes, such as Beatties Ford Rd.,
- Increases in home air quality monitors,
- EV charging stations for automobiles and e-bikes,
- Green infrastructure tied to bike lanes and bus shelters with shading to protect against heat,
- Land acquisition for preservation (specifically along Harrisburg and Robinson Church Rd.),
- Education and exposure to sustainability and opportunities for the youth,
- Planting and supportive maintenance for new trees and green spaces, and
- Generally addressing vandalism and public safety.

The feedback highlighted three project themes across all comments: sustainable housing, shade strategies, and clean air & transportation projects.

Targeted Surveying: SoIAIRE

After the initial outreach, it was clear that this work would benefit from a more detailed survey to gather public feedback specifically about what issues were the most pressing for residents. To do this, Sol Nation and CleanAIRE NC worked together, collectively called SoIAIRE, and developed a more community-centered approach to support sustainability in the Corridors, tying environment to the local businesses. The purpose of this effort was to:

- Inform the GreenPrints initiative,
- Refine priorities for residents of the corridor,
- Inform the existing work of Sol

- Nation and CleanAIRE NC, and
- Collect data to establish the foundation of future project implementation.

In order to accomplish this, SoIAIRE came up with a unique approach to engagement reaching people where they actively shopped. Customers were asked to participate in the survey and would receive a gift card to the local business as well as SoIAIRE t-shirts. This model resonated with the residents as they did not have to take an additional trip in order to participate. This process encouraged shopping locally, building community, and learning more about how this initiative can better reach the community. This model was successful, with

a total of 394 survey responses across the Corridors of Opportunity zip codes. For this report, we are going to focus on Zip Code 28216 and 28208 which cover the Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridor of Opportunity.

There were a total of 236 respondents specifically for this corridor, characterized by a high minority population response (90%+ across both zip codes) with just under half of all respondents renting their home. This area also showed the highest levels of community engagement across all categories, suggesting strong local awareness of advocacy.

TOTAL SURVEYS COLLECTED

394



CORRIDOR-SPECIFIC RESPONSES

236



MINORITY COMMUNITY REPRESENTED

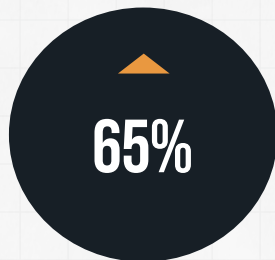
90%



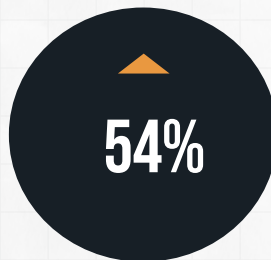
Sustainable Housing (65%) and Energy Burden (54%) were ranked as the top community concerns of high priority, highlighting significant concern about affordability, displacement, and rising utility costs. Legacy Pollution (47%) also ranked highly, indicating strong awareness of long-lasting environmental harms that impact health and well-being. It is important to note that while legacy pollution refers to the persistent contamination by industry that continues to harm the environment, persistent issues with litter, trash, and dumping were categorized within the legacy pollution bucket for the purposes of this plan due to similarity in impact.

A closer look at the data showed that there were some differences in participant priorities based upon whether they were homeowners or home renters. The results for this corridor show that homeowners held long-term sustainability of housing and energy burden as the highest priorities, while renters emphasized extreme weather and storms as the highest priorities. The fact that highest priorities were not consistent among both groups speaks to the difference of experiences across this corridor, while supporting the overall finding that all concerns measured were of a growing or high concern to 50%+ of respondents.

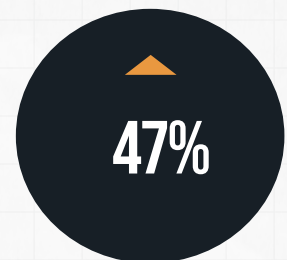
Top Three Community Priorities (High Priority) (All Issue Areas Rated as High or Growing Priority by 50%+ of Respondents)



SUSTAINABLE HOUSING



ENERGY BURDEN



LEGACY POLLUTION

Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridor of Opportunity Survey Responses

	Tree Canopy	Sustainable Housing	Solar Power	Electrification	Energy Burden	Legacy Pollution	Extreme Weather	Storms	Urban Flooding
High Priority	41%	65%	29%	32%	54%	47%	37%	34%	29%
Growing Priority	31%	19%	37%	35%	33%	35%	35%	33%	33%
Low Priority	19%	11%	22%	18%	9%	13%	19%	22%	25%
No Priority	6%	4%	10%	13%	3%	3%	6%	8%	9%



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I SUPPORT ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO USE LESS ENERGY, HAVE CLEANER AIR, AND SUPPORT SAFER GREEN SPACES.”

GREEN PRINT

ACTION PLAN

Sustainable Housing

Urban Shade

Clean Air & Transportation

Information from residents has been integrated into three buckets that highlight similarly focused action items to help address environmental injustice in the Beatties Ford/Rozzelles Ferry Corridor of Opportunity. Feedback that discusses the same type of project has been grouped together under each topical bucket. The initial key issues and new sustainability project ideas generated at the public meetings were curated against the community survey data to create the list of actions below. Please note that a full list of potential actions is included in the appendix.

Sustainable Housing: The sustainable housing bucket of projects includes those projects aimed to enhance the quality of housing in Charlotte through energy efficiency and sustainable upgrades, along with critical home repairs to enable these improvements. These projects aim to reduce energy burden, improve housing conditions, and enhance environmental sustainability for residents.

Urban Shade: Urban shade projects include those focused on enhancing urban living conditions in the city through strategic tree plantings and care and green space support. The aim of this bucket of projects is to create a cooler, greener, and more inviting environment for residents by increasing the urban tree canopy, particularly in areas with low tree canopy within the study area.

Clean Air & Transportation: Clean Air and Transportation projects are bundled together as the two are closely linked. The projects under this section focus on improving air quality, promoting sustainable transportation, and reducing the urban heat island effect in the study area by leveraging air quality monitoring, supporting the expansion and integration of sustainable modes of transportation, and promoting the electrification of facilities.

Sustainable Housing

Action	Definition
<p>Sustainable Housing Initiative: Tier 1</p>	<p>The Sustainable Housing Initiative is designed to enhance the quality of housing in Charlotte through energy efficiency and sustainable upgrades matched with critical home repairs. The program aims to reduce energy burden on homeowners who pay a disproportional amount on energy, improve living conditions, and promote environmental stewardship.</p> <p>Tier 1 of this initiative focuses upon basic home repairs and rehabilitation including roof repair, window and door repair, insulation, building envelope sealing, and/or other essential repair needs.</p>
<p>Sustainable Housing Initiative: Tier 2</p>	<p>Tier 2 of this Sustainable Housing Initiative focuses upon energy efficiency and beneficial electrification upgrades including replacement windows, heat pump HVAC systems, heat pump water heaters, induction stoves, heat pump clothing dryers, and/or other energy and water efficient appliances</p>
<p>Sustainable Housing Initiative: Tier 3</p>	<p>Tier 3 of this Sustainable Housing Initiative focuses upon roofing, specifically focused on new roofing to support solar panel installations or cool roofing options for new roof projects where substantial tree canopy reduces the energy generation potential for a roof. This specific tier was highlighted as a new sustainability idea for this corridor.</p>
<p>Workforce Training and Business Expansion Opportunities</p>	<p>Residents want to ensure that when new green technologies are being utilized and invested in within the city, that workforce development opportunities also arise to support residents with gaining these skills. Additionally, this would included support for registering businesses with Charlotte as well as M/W/SBE registration.</p>

Action	Definition
One-Day Sustainable Housing Clinic(s)	<p>To support the Sustainable Housing Initiative, it is recognized that residents and businesses alike would like some additional support accessing city programs. The purpose of these clinics would be to have one-day focused workshops to support sustainability efforts within the home. Some topics in the sustainable housing space include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DIY weatherization workshops for renters and homeowners.

Urban Shade

Action	Definition
<p>Tree Care and Maintenance</p>	<p>Residents shared various concerns about the trees, or lack thereof, in their neighborhoods. In communities lacking a tree canopy, residents are conflicted; some want trees planted, while others are nervous about property damage that could be caused by trees as well as maintenance costs for trees. There is also a concern for those neighborhoods that have a substantial tree canopy that is aging and wish to prevent canopy loss due to tree age/condition. This action would include education on tree benefits and care, and include support for the city’s Canopy Cares program.</p>
<p>Equitable Street Tree Planting Policy</p>	<p>Due to resident concerns about tree canopy, and the fact that tree canopy received 72% of survey respondents highlighting it as a growing or high priority, this action supports an update of the existing street tree planting program. The transition would move from planting street trees in City of Charlotte rights-of-way where requested by residents to planting street trees in city rights-of-way where shade and trees are needed the most. This would include education and outreach on the benefits of tree canopy.</p>
<p>Shade in Hot Spot Area</p>	<p>Residents are concerned about urban heat and the impacts to their health. While related to many other actions, this action specifically looks at how to reduce urban heat captured and provide refuge from the heat via natural and other methods. This includes shading along sidewalks, bike lanes, and bus stops as well as supporting informal cooling centers and/or other options for heat refuge, etc.</p>

Clean Air & Transportation

Action	Definition
Indoor & Outdoor Air Quality Monitors	Environmental concerns discussed with community have both indoor and outdoor air quality implications. Having air quality monitors installed before projects begin to help show trends and effectiveness of actions. Additionally, this action item includes education, such as the CleanAIRE Academy to fully understand air quality issues. Please note that while this is a separate action item, this action can be paired with any other action item to monitor associated air quality.
Roadway Maintenance Education	This item specifically refers to understanding what needs exist on city-maintained roads versus state-maintained roads. This is needed to help residents understand the differences between maintenance responsibilities, what is feasible, and help support resident advocacy for roadway conditions.
More educational resources about transportation options and greenways	Residents feel more signage is needed, as well as information on potential transportation options from points A to B to highlight available options in this corridor.
infrastructure to close walkability gaps	Residents expressed concerns over the ability to use sidewalks to get to and from places they live, work, and play. This action includes communication on and about sidewalk gaps and potential timelines to fill in those gaps.
Electric Vehicle Car Sharing programs	Residents highlighted overall connections to vehicle electrification and charging access. One program to support improved access is to support EV car sharing programs, such as the Carolina Car Share pilot at Peppertree Apartments.

Action	Definition
<p>Bicycle/E-Bicycle Infrastructure</p>	<p>Cycling infrastructure was brought up as a continued need in the area, specifically connected and shaded bike lanes, bike corrals, and charging for E-bikes as well as incentives for purchasing/receiving e-bikes with safety training.</p>
<p>Bus Stop Shelters/ Shade</p>	<p>While there are bus stops along Rozzelle’s Ferry and Beatties Ford, access to transit remains an issue residents have brought up, due to sheltering from heat, benches and seating, etc. at the bus stops.</p>
<p>City Clean Vehicle Projects</p>	<p>Residents shared overall concern about air pollution. The city is looking into anti-idling projects specifically for municipal operations within the corridor, including auxiliary power units for Charlotte Fire Dept. and Landscape Management vehicles that may need to run equipment off of trucks, as well as transitioning to electric vehicles where appropriate.</p>
<p>Emission Reduction Measures</p>	<p>An additional action related to overall air pollution concerns focuses on long idle lines typically experienced at grade schools during drop off and pick up. This action includes signs to turn off cars because students are breathing that air, students using air quality monitors to show the impact, fining cars for idling with money going back to the school, and having students holding signs during high traffic times. Specifically, residents discussed this as an issue for Oaklawn, West Charlotte High, and Northwest.</p>
<p>Trash/litter reduction</p>	<p>Many residents shared feedback about litter in their community and along the major transportation routes along with highlighting legacy pollution and related issues as one of their top three priority concerns to address. This includes issues such as litter and illegal dumping, which disproportionately burden residents and businesses. This action includes initiatives to clean up, empower, and green the Historic West End—such as the EcoRenaissance project—as well as other areas identified as needing targeted attention, focusing on environmental renewal and workforce development.</p>

Other

Action	Definition
<p>Environmental Zoning Overlay Exploration around rock quarry off Beatties Ford Road (similar to Green Zones in LA County, California)</p>	<p>A majority of residents in this corridor brought up concerns about the existing rock quarry in the area including gas blasting, dust in the air after events, housing impacts, and long term concerns over the long-term implications of the area after the quarry is decommissioned. This action would explore the creation of a green zone that could add tailored regulations or support programs for existing businesses and residents.</p>
<p>Initiate a Major Map Amendment to the 2040 Policy Map when the rock quarry reaches its end use</p>	<p>When the rock quarry reaches its end use, this action will initiate a Major Map Amendment to the 2040 Policy Map. The process will evaluate existing conditions and community input to determine an updated Place Type for the site. The new Place Type will help guide future zoning changes and capital investment decisions in the area.</p>

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**COMMUNITY-LED ACTION IS
NOT ONLY WELCOME—IT IS ESSENTIAL TO
THE SUCCESS OF THIS WORK.”**

Measuring Progress means . . .

It is time to get to work. Implementing this GreenPrint means taking the action plan and designing community-focused actions to improve environmental justice outcomes. The project team will continue to look for funding opportunities from the public and private sectors, philanthropy, and alignment of strategic priorities with GreenPrint actions to move this work forward.

The initial phase will focus on a select group of projects prioritized based on feedback throughout the engagement process. These will help show what it takes to move from planning to on-the-ground results. As the first group of projects progresses, more will be added in later phases.

Community-Driven Efforts

Community members and organizations are encouraged to take the lead in advancing projects that matter most to their neighborhoods. Throughout the engagement period, residents have shared that they may not feel that projects from other efforts have been “for them” to take action. The intent of this plan is to clearly remove those barriers. Community-led action is not only welcome—it is essential to the success of this work. The community does not need special permission to get involved — your

ideas and leadership are welcome. If you’re not sure where to start, you can reach out to the project team for help or tools to get things going. Additional outside funding opportunities will be shared when available to help grow local impact.

Timelines and Checkpoints

Each project will follow a structured timeline that outlines major steps from planning to completion. While the exact timing may vary, all projects will include:

- A launch window or expected start date
- Key milestones and checkpoints
- Community engagement or co-leadership goals
- Support needed from partners or city departments.

Annually, the project team will report out on:

- Projects started and completed
- Projects underway or delayed
- New projects scheduled for launch
- Community participation and leadership
- Total investment to date

Updates will be shared online, through community partners, in public meetings or events, and through the existing Corridors of Opportunity annual reporting to ensure transparency.

Success Indicators

Success will be measured through a mix of progress tracking and real-world outcomes. While some data points may be used, success isn’t only about data or charts — it’s about real progress. So here’s what will be used to ensure implementation is on the right track:

- Projects are moving forward,
- People are joining in,
- Money is being invested in communities,
- Community groups are leading their own efforts, and
- Barriers are coming down, and ideas are turning into action

All participants are encouraged to look for new funding opportunities along the way to help complete the work. Together, these indicators will show how the work is growing and how well it is serving the people and places most impacted.



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TO SUCCEED, SOLUTIONS NEED TO BE SUPPORTED AND CHAMPIONED BY THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THESE AREAS. THAT MEANS INVOLVING RESIDENTS IN DECISIONS, RESPECTING THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES, AND MAKING SURE THEY HAVE THE POWER AND RESOURCES TO HELP SHAPE THEIR OWN FUTURE.”

APPENDIX

Throughout the community engagement process, all community input, comments, and concerns were documented by the project team. This appendix contains additional community ideas, projects, and programs identified during the engagement process.

Action	Definition
Consistent upgrades to rental homes	Residents shared common concern that rental homes may not be routinely maintained across the city. While HUD supports inspections for multi-family housing and the city's Housing & Neighborhood Services department inspects homes for homebuyer programs, this action would include working with leasing offices to keep homes properly renovated and include sustainability measures into the inspection process(es).
Edible Landscaping	Residents expressed a desire to understand opportunities and/or barriers to making edible landscaping a viable action for some locations across the city, especially areas experiencing a food desert. Some key points to consider are that this is more about being intentional about what is planted and mixing in fruit or nut trees with existing shade tree species.
Green Space additions	Residents expressed the need for more green spaces in general to increase access for residents and potentially provide shade. This action focuses on supporting the efforts to preserve existing canopy and green spaces, such as the Urban Arboretum Trail.
Creek Restoration and Sewer Pipes	Residents would like to see more creek restorations in their communities to support improved environment and reduced flooding, knowing that this is also impacted by sewer lines in the area.

Action	Definition
<p>Noise Pollution Mitigation</p>	<p>This item is a request to study noise pollution, especially along rail lines, with a specific request to study the train horn during all hours at Rozzelles Ferry and N. Hoskins.</p>
<p>Gas Line Research</p>	<p>Residents shared concern over existing gas lines in the community, specifically natural gas pipelines off of Hoskins. This action focuses on gathering more information about these lines to inform residents .</p>

GREENPRINTS

CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY