



CATAWBA
COUNTY, NC

2010 NEWCOMERS GUIDE

*Brought to you by the Catawba County
Chamber of Commerce.*

1055 Southgate Corporate Park SW
Hickory, NC 28602

P: 828-328-6111 F: 828-328-1175

www.catawbachamber.org

Index

Vital Service	Page 3
Police Departments	Page 3
Fire Department	Page 3
Medical & Urgent Care	Page 3
Hospitals	Page 3
Utilities	Page 3
Water & Sewer	Page 4
Media	Page 4
Radio/ TV Stations	Page 4
NC Drivers License Agencies	Page 4
NC License Plates/Tag Agency	Page 4
Register to Vote	Page 4
School Registration	Page 4
US Post Office	Page 4
Municipal Offices	Page 4
Other County & State Offices	Page 5
Miscellaneous	Page 5
Schools	Page 5-6
Day Care & Child Development	Page 6
Higher Education	Page 6-7
Key Facts	Page 7
NC Driver's License	Page 7
Tags & Registration	Page 7
Voting	Page 8
Taxes	Page 8
Transportation	Page 8
Weather	Page 8
Parks	Page 9-10

VITAL SERVICES

Emergency, Police, Fire, Ambulance
 Or Rescue Units 911
 Catawba County Sheriff (828) 464-3112
 NC Highway Patrol (828) 466-5500
 FBI (828) 322-8513
 SBI (828) 294-2226
 US Marshall (Charlotte) (704) 344-6234
 Animal Control (Hickory) (828) 324-2060
 Animal Control (County) (828) 464-7686
 Catawba County Sheriff (828-464-3112
 NC Highway Patrol (828) 466-5500
 FBI (828) 322-8513

POLICE DEPARTMENTS (non-emergency)

Catawba (828) 241-4888
 Brookford (828) 322-4903
 Claremont (828) 459-9295
 Conover (828) 464-4698
 Hickory (828) 324-2060
 Long View (828) 327-2343
 Maiden (828) 428-5005
 Newton (828) 465-7430

FIRE DEPARTMENTS (non-emergency)

Catawba (828) 241-4955
 Claremont (828) 459-9296
 Conover (828) 464-1295
 Hickory (828) 323-7420
 Long View (828) 322-1311
 Maiden (828) 428-5028
 Newton (828) 695-4314

MEDICAL & URGENT CARE

Poison Control (800) 848-6946
 Bowen Primary & Urgent Care (828) 325-0950
 Catawba Valley Medical Center (828) 326-3000
 Frye Regional Medical Center (828) 325-5000
 Unifour Urgent Care (828) 267-0551

HOSPITALS

Catawba Valley Medical Center
 820 Fairgrove Church Road
 Hickory NC 28602
 (828) 326-3000
www.catawbavalleymc.org

Frye Regional Medical Center
 420 North Center Street
 Hickory NC 28601
 (828) 315-5000
www.fryemedctr.com

Utilities:**Electricity**

Duke Energy – 1 800 777-9898
www.dukeenergy.com

ElectricCities of NC, Inc.- (919) 760-6000
www.electriccities.com

Energy United (800) 522-3793
www.energyunited.com

Natural Gas

Piedmont Natural Gas - 828 322-1613 or
 1 800 752-7504
www.piedmontng.com

Telephone:

AT&T – (Claremont, Conover, Maiden, Newton, Sherrills
 Ford)
 (800) 767 2355
www.att.com

CenturyLink: (Brookford, Catawba, Long View, Hickory,
 Terrell) – (828) 328-0200
www.embarq.com

Cable:

Charter Communications
 (828) 322-2288 or 1 866 472-2200
<http://www.charter-business.com>

Internet:

AT&T/BellSouth – (Claremont, Conover, Maiden,
 Newton, Sherrills Ford)
 (800) 767-2355
www.att.com

Charter Communications

(828) 322-2288 or 1 866 472-2200
<http://www.charter-business.com>

CenturyLink: (Brookford, Catawba, Long View, Hickory,
 Terrell) – (828) 328-0200
www.embarq.com

North Carolina Wireless (828) 322-1505
www.lightleap.com

SANATION

Garbage Disposal Service (GDS) (828) 256-2158
www.republicservicesofnc.com

See Local Municipalities also

WATER & SEWER (See Local Municipalities)

MEDIA**Newspapers**

Charlotte Observer
1 800 532-5350
www.charlotte.com

FOCUS Newspaper

(828) 322-1036
www.focusnewspaper.com

Hickory Daily Record – (828) 322-4510; 1 800 876-8586
www.Hickoryrecord.com

Observer News Enterprise

(828) 464-0221
www.observernewsenterprise.com

RADIO / TV STATIONS

WFHE-FM 90.3 WFAE-FM 90.7
(800) 876-9323
www.wfae.org

WHKY-AM 1290 / WHKY-TV 14
(828) 322-5115
www.whky.com

WKVS-FM / KICKS 103.3
(828)758-1033
www.foothillradio.com

WNNC-AM 1230 / WAIZ AM 630 / WXRC-FM 95.7 THE RIDE
(828) 464-4041
www.957theride.com

WLON-AM 1050 /WCSL-AM 1590 /WZGM-AM 1350
WGNC-AM 1450/WOHS-AM 730/WADA-AM1390
(704) 735-8072
www.hrnbc.com

NC Drivers License Agencies

- 1158 Lenoir-Rhyne Blvd SE - Hickory (828) 326-9126
- Hwy 321 South – Newton (828) 466-5516
www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us

NC License Plates/Tag Agencies

- 901 Hwy 321 NW Ste 100, Hickory – (828) 328 3783
Catawba Village Shopping Center
- 803 West Conover Blvd (828) 464-6878
www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us

Register To Vote

Voter Registration – (828) 465-8440
www.catawbacountync.gov

School Registration:

Catawba County Schools (828) 464-8333
www.catawbaschools.net

Hickory Public Schools – (828) 322-2855
www.hickoryschools.net

Newton-Conover Schools – (828) 464-3191
www.nccs.k12.nc.us

US POST OFFICE

Catawba	(828) 241-1836
Claremont	(828) 459-9698
Conover	(828) 464-2073
Hickory	(828) 328-5503
Maiden	(828) 428-8609
Newton	(828) 464-4031
Sherrills Ford	(828) 478-2241
Terrell	(828) 478-2812

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Town of Brookford – (828) 322-4903
1700 South Center Street – Hickory – NC 28601
<http://www.catawba.k12.nc.us/campcatawba/brookford.htm>

Town of Catawba – (828) 241-2215
PO Box 70 - Catawba NC 28609
<http://www.catawba.k12.nc.us/campcatawba/catawba.htm>

Catawba County (828) 465-8200
PO Box 389 – Newton NC 28658
<http://www.catawbacountync.gov>

City of Claremont – (828) 459-7009
PO Box 446 – Claremont NC 28610
<http://www.cityofclaremont.org>

City of Conover – (828) 464-1191
PO Box 549 – Conover NC 28613
www.ci.conover.nc.us

City of Hickory – (828) 323-7424
PO Box 398 – Hickory NC 28603
<http://www.ci.hickory.nc.us/>

Town of Long View – (828) 322-3921
2404 1st Avenue SW – Hickory NC 28602
<http://www.ci.longview.nc.us>

Town of Maiden – (828) 428-5000
PO Box 125 – Maiden NC 28650
<http://www.maidennc.com>

City of Newton – (828) 465-7400
PO Box 550 – Newton NC 28658
<http://www.newtonnc.gov>

OTHER COUNTY & STATE OFFICES

NC Dept of Revenue (828) 327-7474
www.dor.state.nc.us

NC Employment Security Commission (828) 466-5535
www.ncesc.com

Small Business Technology & Development Center
 (828) 345-1115
www.SBTDC.org

Economic Development Corporation (828) 267-1564
www.catawbaedc.org

Social Security Commission (828) 328-3609
www.socialsecurity.gov

MISCELLANEOUS**CATAWBA COUNTY OFFICES**

Board of Elections (828) 465-8440
www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/elect

Building Inspections (828) 465-8399
www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/building.asp

Environmental Health (828) 465-8270
www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/ehmain.asp

Government Center (828) 465-8200
www.catawbacountync.gov

Planning & Zoning (828) 465-8380
www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/planning

Public Information Officer (828) 465-8464
 Tax Office (828) 465-8404
www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/tax

Dept of Social Services (828) 695-5600
www.catawbacountync.gov/dss

Health Department (828) 695-5800
www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

SCHOOLS - 2010**CATAWBA COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Dr. Timothy Markley, Superintendent
 PO Box 1010 - 10 East 25th Street
 Newton NC 28658
 (828) 464-8333 - Fax (828) 464-0925
www.catawbaschools.net

Total Enrollment:	17,573
Total Budget:	180 Million
# of Elementary Schools	16
# of Middle Schools	5
# of High Schools	5
# of Early College High Schools	1

Embracing every culture and ability is the central focus for the 28 schools of Catawba County Schools. Regardless of learning style, ethnicity, economic standing or talents – the goal of the district is to graduate caring, responsible citizens who maximize their potential.

Advanced technology; and online learning; successful competitive athletic programs; comprehensive arts (music, drama, dance, visual); exceptional children, academically gifted and Title I support programs.

In 2008, the district was recognized by the state of North Carolina for its high graduation rate of 81.2% which ranked first among large districts (12,000 + students) and seventh in the state among all schools. The district also ranked first among large districts and thirteenth among all NC schools in a John Locke Foundation survey on parent-friendly schools. Arndt Middle School was recognized by the North Carolina Governor's Office as a Real D.E.A.L. (Dedicated Educators, Administrators, and Learners).

NEWTON-CONOVER CITY SCHOOLS

Dr. Barry Redmond, Superintendent
 605 North Ashe Ave – Newton NC 28658
 (828) 464-3191 – Fax (828) 466-0063
www.nccs.k12.nc.us

Total Enrollment:	2,822
Total Budget:	\$24,857,000
# of Elementary Schools:	3
# of Middle Schools:	1
# of High Schools:	2

The Newton Health Science High School opened its first year for 2005-2006 with a mission to prepare ninth-and tenth-graders for college. They currently has an enrollment of 102 students.

In 2006 celebrated 100th anniversary of Newton-Conover City Schools.

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Lillie Cox, Superintendent
 432 4th Ave SW – Hickory, NC 28602
 (828) 322-2855 – Fax (828) 322-1834
www.hickoryschools.net

Total Enrollment:	4646
Total Budget:	\$48,000,000

Elementary Schools	5
Middle Schools	2
High Schools	1
Alternative Schools	1

Hickory Public Schools is a 3-A system with an emphasis on Academics, Athletics and Arts!

Our schools excel in academics with SAT scores above the state and the national averages and with the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program at Hickory High. Success is shown in our athletics with State Championships in eight different sports. We firmly believe that education in the appreciation for the arts are important in a child's development, maintaining our commitment to our award winning orchestra, chorale program, band and visual arts. For the 14th consecutive year, *SchoolMatch* named HPS among 16% of the nations 15,600 public school systems providing what families want most in education.

PRIVATE PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Catawba County offers a variety of private, special and alternative schools from which families can choose All schools listed below are members of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce.

Concordia Christian Day School

4 year old Preschool – 8th Grade
(828) 464-3011
www.concordialutheran.net

Conover School

Ages 3 – 21 – Accommodating the Mentally/Physically Handicapped
(828) 465-6470

Hickory Christian Academy

K4 – 10th Grade – (828) 324-5405
www.hickorychristianacademy.com

Hickory Day School

K – 8th Grade – (828) 256-9492
www.hickoryday.org

St. Stephens Lutheran School

3 year old Preschool – 8th Grade
(828) 256-2166

Tabernacle Christian School

K3 – 12th Grade – (828) 324-9936
www.tabernaclehickory.org

Tri-City Baptist Church & Christian School

K4 – 12 Grade – (828) 465-6644
www.tcbc.org

DAY CARE & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Apple Tree Academies, Inc.
(828) 328-5211

Apple Tree Academies, Inc.
(828) 464-6319

The Children's Resource Center
(828) 328-8228
www.childrensresourcecenter.org

LeGrande Learning Center of Hickory
(828) 327-4422
www.legrandelearning.com

Quality Care Child Development Center, LLC
(828) 256-4447

YMCA of Catawba Valley – Adrian L. Shuford, Jr. Branch
(828) 464-6130
www.ymcacatawbavalley.org

YMCA of Catawba Valley – Hickory Foundation Branch
(828) 324-2858
www.ymcacatawbavalley.org

HIGHER EDUCATION

Appalachian State University
PO Box 32100
Boone, NC 28608
(828) 262-2000
www.appstate.edu

Catawba Valley Community College
2550 US Highway 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602-9699
(828) 327-7000
www.cvcc.edu

Appalachian State University Greater Hickory Partnership
2760 Highway 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 324-6966
www.hmhec.org

Lenoir-Rhyne University
 625 7th Ave NE – Hickory NC 28601
 PO Box 7163 – Hickory NC 28603
 (828) 328-1741
www.lr.edu

Key Facts

POPULATION (July 2008)

Catawba County	157,097
Hickory Metropolitan MSA	363,036
Median Age	38.3
Minority Population	33,791

(2008 American Community Survey)
Includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell & Catawba Counties
Source NC Office of State Planning 2008

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Average Household Size	2.6
Households	60,564
Total effective buying income (Catawba County) 2008	\$3,076,570,000
Median household income 2008	\$ 43,009
Total retail sales (Catawba County 2008)	\$2,426 billion

Source: NC Department of Commerce, EDIS database, 2008 American Community Survey

POPULATION

Brookford	436
Catawba	741
Claremont	1,114
Conover	8,016
Hickory	40,761
Long View	4,963
Maiden	3,433
Newton	13,670
Catawba County	157,097
Hickory MSA	363,036

Includes Alexander, Burke, Caldwell & Catawba Counties

GENERAL INFORMATION

Largest City	Hickory
Total Area	413.79 sq miles
Land Area	400.4 sq miles
Elevation	1165 feet above sea level
Ave. Annual rainfall	50 inches
County Seat	Newton

GETTING YOUR NC DRIVER'S LICENSE

~All new residents of North Carolina who plan to operate a motor vehicle in this state must obtain a driver's license within 60 days of establishing a permanent residence. To apply, you must appear in person at one of the state's divers license offices and take the required tests.
 ~Motor vehicle laws vary from state to state. Therefore, you are encouraged to become familiar with North Carolina's license requirements and traffic laws by reading the DMV Driver's Handbook. A book can be obtained at your local office or online at www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us.
 ~Residents within the state have 60 days to report a change of address or name.
 ~To obtain a license for the first time, a birth certificate, Social Security Card or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) and proof of residency must be presented.
 ~Contact the local DMV Driver's License Office for a list of acceptable documents (828) 326-9126 or (828) 466-5616. www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us.

TAGS & REGISTRATION FOR YOUR VEHICLE

~Typically residents have 30 days to apply for new tags.
 ~You should obtain a NC Driver's License.
 ~Proof of liability insurance, title (if paid for), and current out of state registration card are required.
 ~If your vehicle title is held by a lien holder (usually a bank or financed company), you must furnish the lien holder's name/address and current out of state registration card.
 ~Residents within the state have 60 days to report a change of address or name.
 ~ For more information (i.e. leased vehicles, costs, etc.), contact the local NC ~License Plate/Tag Agency (828) 328-3783 or (828) 464-6878 www.dmv.state.nc.us

VOTING

To register to vote in North Carolina, a person must sign a voter declaration affirming that:
 ~You are a U.S. citizen.
 ~ You will have been a resident of North Carolina and Catawba County for 30 days before the election.
 ~You will be at least 18 years old by the next general election.
 ~You are neither registered nor will you vote in any other county or state.
 ~If you have been a convicted felon you must have your citizenship restored.
 ~Registration is handled by the Catawba County Board of Elections (828) 464-2424 or go online at www.sboe.state.nc.us

TAXES

~ (Effective 2010) For a complete list of taxes contact (828) 465-8408 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov

City/County Taxes

Property Tax	
Brookford	\$.52/\$100
Catawba County	\$.53.5/\$100
Catawba, Town of	\$.48/\$100
Claremont	\$.46/\$100
Conover	\$.40/\$100
Hickory	\$.50/\$100
Long View	\$.40/\$100
Maiden	\$.40/\$100
Newton	\$.48/\$100

Vehicle Tax	
Catawba County	\$.535/\$100

State Taxes

Corporate Income Tax	6.96%
State Income Tax	6% - 8.25%
Local State Sales Tax	8%

All property is subject to county tax plus fire or municipality tax.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving distance to Catawba County, in miles (Hickory, NC)

Charlotte NC	47
Nashville, TN	307
Baltimore, MD	357
Orlando, FL	498
Raleigh, NC	150
Chicago, IL	543
Philadelphia, PA	448
New Orleans, LA	634
Charleston, SC	217
Atlanta, GA	223
Richmond, VA	247
Washington, DC	322

Major Thoroughfares:

Interstate-40 East/West, HS Highway 70 East/West, US Highway 321 North/South, Interstate-77 North/South (within 25 miles)

Airports:

Hickory Regional Airport(828) 323-7408
Charlotte/Douglas International Airport(704) 359-4027
Piedmont Triad International Airport(336) 665-5600

Bus:

Piedmont Wagon (local county public Transportation).....(828) 464-9444

WEATHER

Catawba County is renowned for year-round beautiful weather while still enjoying all four seasons.

- The sun shines an average 210 days a year.
- Average annual snowfall 7.8 inches.
- Average rainfall is 50.7 inches.
- Average relative humidity is 74%.
- Average January low temperature is 27 degrees F.
- Average July high temperature is 87 degrees F.
- Elevation 1165 feet above sea level.

North Carolina State Symbols

Flower.....	Dogwood
Bird.....	Cardinal
Tree.....	Longleaf Pine
State Mammal.....	Gray Squirrel
State Insect.....	Honey Bee
State Rock.....	Granite
State Dog.....	Plott Hound
Precious Stone.....	Emerald
State Beverage.....	Milk
State Nickname	“The Tar Heel State”
State Color.....	Blue and Red

PARKS

Hickory City Parks – For additional information contact (828-322-7046)

Civitan Park—460 17th Avenue, NE

Featuring a picnic shelter with tables and grills, two tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, lighted softball and football field, playground, restrooms and a concession stand.

Cliff Teague Park—1125 C Avenue, SE

Featuring a tennis court, playground equipment, outdoor basketball court, and horseshoe pits.

Fairbrook Optimist Park—1560 4th Avenue, SE

Lighted softball field, playground, Restrooms, and a concession stand.

Glenn C. Hilton, Jr. Memorial Park—2000 6th Street, NW

Featuring five picnic shelters with tables and grills, two playgrounds, restrooms, gazebo, lighted and paved walking trail, nature boardwalk, 18 hole disc golf course, canoe launch, horseshoe pits, and a memorial garden.

Henry Fork River Regional Recreation Park—5655 Sweet Bay Lane

Featuring an 8000 square foot picnic shelter with a catering kitchen, restrooms and tables and grills, seven soccer fields, Alpine Tower ropes course, two playgrounds, concession stand, paved walking trail, and a canoe launch.

Hickory City Park—1515 12th Street Drive, NW

Featuring a picnic shelter with tables and grills, eight lighted tennis courts, walking, fitness and nature trails, bikeway, and restrooms.

Hickory Optimist Park—751 2nd Avenue, SW—328-1553

Featuring a picnic shelter with tables and grills, tennis court, outdoor basketball court, lighted softball field, playground, restrooms, horseshoe pits, and a concession stand.

Jaycee Park—1515 12th Street Drive, NW—322-1989

Features an outdoor basketball court, lighted baseball field, playground, restrooms, and a concession stand.

Geitner-Rotary Park—2035 12th Street Drive, NW

Features an activity building, picnic shelter with tables and grills, gazebo, paved bikeway, walking and nature trails, boat dock and ramp, fishing pier, and restrooms.

Kiwanis Park—805 6th Street, SE—322-7636

Features two picnic shelters with tables and grills, tennis court, outdoor basketball court, four lighted baseball fields, two playgrounds, horseshoe pits, walking trail, restrooms, and two concession stands.

McComb Park/Patrick Beaver Memorial Garden—421 5th Avenue Place, NE

Features a water fountain, seating area, gazebo, and a beautiful memorial garden.

Neill W. Clark Jr., Recreation Park—3404 6th Street Drive, NW

Featuring an outdoor basketball court, four lighted soccer fields, playground, horseshoe pits, and restrooms.

Neill W. Clark, Jr., Gymnasium—322-2188

Neill W. Clark, Jr., Main Building—324-6990

Southside Heights Park—1400 2nd Street, SW

Featuring a picnic shelter with tables and grills, outdoor basketball court, playground, and multi-purpose field.

Stanford Park—1451 8th Street Drive, NE

Featuring three baseball fields, restrooms, concession stand, outdoor basketball court, picnic shelter, two playgrounds, paved walking trail, and skate park.

Highland Recreation Center—328-3997

Parks and Recreation Department Administrative Office—322-7046

Taft Broome Park—115 7th Avenue, SW—327-8554

Featuring a picnic shelter with tables and grills, two tennis courts, two outdoor basketball courts, lighted

multipurpose field, playground, horseshoe pits, putting green, restrooms, and an outdoor swimming pool with a slide.

Brown Penn Recreation Center—328-4890

Brown Penn Senior Center—328-5789

Ridgeview Recreation Center—324-8007

West Hickory Park—830 16th Street, SW

Featuring an outdoor half basketball court, lighted softball field, a playground, restrooms, and an outdoor swimming pool with a slide.

Westmont Recreation Center—1316 Main Avenue Drive, NW—328-9804

Featuring two tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, playground, horseshoe pits, restrooms, and outdoor shuffleboard courts.

Westmont Senior Center—324-1200

Winkler Park—2500 Clement Boulevard, NW

Featuring a picnic shelter with grills, playground, walking and nature trails, horseshoe pits, restrooms, the Winkler Activity Center, Winkler Museum, Winkler Home Place, and L.P. Frans Stadium.

CATAWBA COUNTY PARKS**Riverbend Park**

6700 NC Hwy 16 North

Conover, NC 28613

Phone (828) 256-9157

Ranger's Mobile Phone (828) 312-1064

Open Friday - Monday only

Nov. - Feb, 8 AM - 6 PM

March and October 8 AM - 7 PM

April - September 8 AM - 8 PM

Closed Christmas Eve and Day

Riverbend Park is one of the largest non-state or federal parks in North Carolina. There are 450 acres and nearly 12 miles of trails to explore in this beautiful river basin park. You can explore a variety of wildlife habitats that range from fresh water wetlands to upland forest. Come and explore the beauty and diversity of Catawba County's natural heritage at Riverbend Park.

Recreational Opportunities

1 mile of shoreline and a 3/4 acre pond for fishing

Canoe/Kayak access to the Catawba River

Picnic areas

1,000 sq ft Meeting/Educational facility (reservations available)

20 x 45 open Picnic Shelter near river (reservations available)

Wildlife habitat viewing areas

2 acre fenced Dog Park (permit required)

7.8 miles of mountain biking trails

Bakers Mountain Park

Bakers Mountain can be seen off Hwy 127 in Mountain View. The park entrance is located on Bakers Mountain Road just off Old Shelby Road. 6680 Bakers Mountain Road
828.324.8461
828.312.4844 (Ranger Mobile)
Open Friday - Monday only
Nov. - Feb, 8 AM - 6 PM
March and October 8 AM - 7 PM
April - September 8 AM - 8 PM
Closed Christmas Eve and Day

Bakers Mountain Park is located on the highest point of elevation in Catawba County (1780 feet). The park features 189 acres of mature Chestnut Oak forest with nearly 6 miles of trail to explore. You will experience a variety of wildlife and plants that are native to the North Carolina Mountains. Come and explore the beauty and diversity of Catawba County's natural heritage at Bakers Mountain Park.

The park further preserves the County's natural heritage, and give residents another unique opportunity to marvel at the natural beauty of the Western North Carolina foothills. Patrons of Riverbend Park may be surprised by the differences in the two facilities.

Abundant wildlife, rare plants and a mixed hardwood forest comprised of mostly Chestnut Oak and Mountain Laurel make the park a refreshingly different recreation opportunity. An observation platform and gazebo are located near the top of the mountain giving hikers an excellent view of the Catawba Valley.

Recreational Opportunities

6 miles of hiking trails
Observation platform and gazebo
Picnic areas & grills
2 covered and 1 enclosed shelter
Leashed dog walking
Quarter mile paved trail - A.D.A. accessible
Educational and volunteer opportunities
Bird checklists are available

St. Stephens Park

2247 36th Avenue, NE—256-9014
Open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.
November – February: 8 AM – 6 PM
March & October 8 AM to 7 PM
April – September: 8 AM – to 8 PM
Closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Amenities

1 Acre dog park (permit required)
1/3 mile gravel surfaced walking trail

Playground
Horseshoe pits
Picnic shelter
Meeting room
Bird feeding station

St. Stephens Park, formerly a part of the City of Hickory's system, reopens for the first time since it was closed in 2005. The 9.1 acre park is located behind Clyde Campbell Elementary School off Kool Park Road at the dead end of 36th Ave NE in Hickory.

The dog park will be a very popular part of the renovated St. Stephens Park due to its location in a densely populated area of the county and close proximity to the City of Hickory. Dog owners must obtain a permit for all dogs using the enclosed dog park.

Newton City Parks – For additional information contact (828) 695-4317

Southside Park

Located West of US #Hwy. 321 Business, behind National Guard Armory
A 27 acre passive park, with a mile walking/jogging trail, open air amphitheater, numerous picnic tables, play area, two picnic shelters, two sand volleyball courts, two horseshoe pits, informal ball field, and a large open play area for soccer, kite flying, badminton, frisbee, etc.

Northside Park

East 22nd Street and College Avenue
This park area is approximately 12 acres and includes a lighted adult softball field, youth baseball and soccer fields, four lighted tennis courts, one outdoor basketball court, play area with picnic shelter and a 1/2 mile walking/jogging trail.

East Park

East "E" Street and South Ervin Avenue
This 5 acre site has a recreational athletic field for baseball, softball, and soccer, lighted outdoor basketball court, a large picnic shelter with a play area.

Westside / Jaycee Park

US #Hwy. 321 Business and West "J" Street
The park area is 9 acres and includes one lighted combination softball, baseball, football, soccer field. Four lighted tennis courts, one lighted basketball court, 1/2 mile walking trail, and a play area with a picnic shelter.

Little Brook Park

US #Hwy. 321 Business and South College Avenue
It consists of 1/2 acre. This area offers several picnic tables with a play area bordered by a stream.

Updated 3/3/2010