



# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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## Roots Day 2016 in the Smith Farm Neighborhood



On a beautiful October 15, 2016, the Community Appearance Commission of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, the Winston-Salem Vegetation Management Department, and Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful held Community Roots Day in the Smith Farm neighborhood. This year marked the 24th anniversary of the event that began in 1993 in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood.

Volunteers planted approximately 275 trees during the event. Seven different varieties of trees – Forest Pansy Redbud, Hearts of Gold Redbud, European Hornbeam, Kousa Dogwood, Black Gum, Okame Cherry and

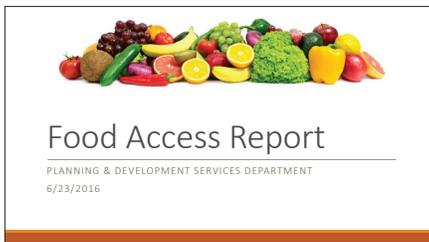
Armstrong Maple – were planted throughout the neighborhood. Over the past 24 years, volunteers have planted over 7,500 trees throughout the City of Winston-Salem in neighborhoods such as Easton, East Winston, West Salem, Sunnyside, Happy Hill, and Castle Heights.



Winston-Salem City Council Member Dan Besse welcomed the crowd of volunteers during the opening ceremony. Winston-Salem City Manager Lee Garrity and Planning and Development Services Director Paul Norby were also in attendance at the event. Pastor Tim Duncan of Sedge Garden Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Volunteers were treated to coffee, donuts, and fruit in the morning and a hotdog lunch in the afternoon. Hats and t-shirts were presented to the volunteers. The event is made possible through grant funds and donations.

## Forsyth County Food Access Report Now Available



Earlier this year, Planning staff prepared a report on food access in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The report includes mapping and analysis of current trends

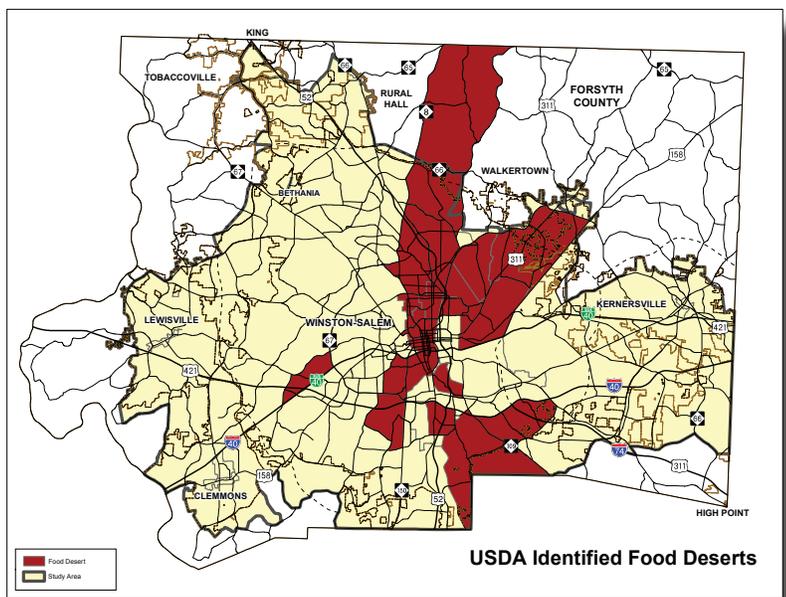
in Forsyth County, summaries progress made on accomplishing the food access goals outlined in *Legacy 2030*, and identifies successful national, regional, and local programs that encourage a more equitable food environment.

The report focuses on the most developed areas of the county: Growth Management Areas 1 (City or Town Centers), 2 (Urban Neighborhoods) and 3 (Suburban Neighborhoods). While many factors affect food access, the report focuses on specific planning-related regulations and policies that support, impede or impact food accessibility.

The report includes maps of food deserts (as identified by the US Department of Agriculture) and grocery stores and other food access sites (farmers markets, food pantries and feeding sites). The majority of food deserts are located in the central and eastern portions of the county. The report also includes land use and

planning policy recommendations that can assist in mitigating local food access issues.

A digital version of the document is available on the Planning Department's website at: [www.cityofws.org/departments/planning/publications-and-maps/publications](http://www.cityofws.org/departments/planning/publications-and-maps/publications).



# Rural Hall Area Plan Update



**RURAL HALL  
AREA PLAN  
Update**

City-County  
**Planning  
BOARD**

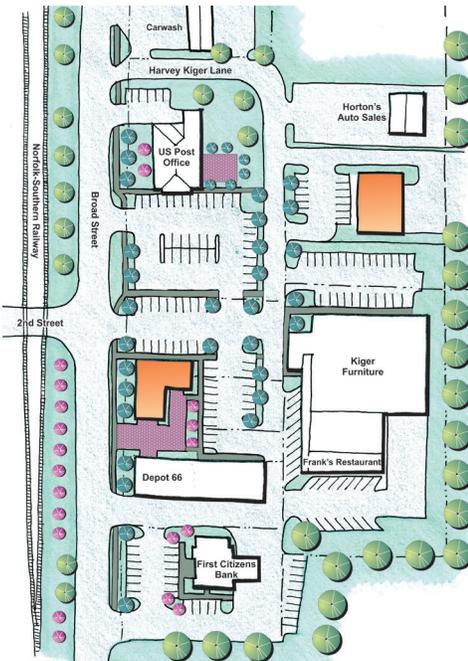
The *Rural Hall Area Plan Update* was adopted by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners in August 2016. The Rural Hall Town Council endorsed the plan and the City-County Planning Board recommended it for approval in June. The plan area includes land in the Town of Rural Hall and unincorporated Forsyth County.



More than 50 citizens participated in a series of community meetings to

gather input on the area's future. Two activity centers are highlighted in the plan: the Downtown Rural Hall Activity Center and the US-52/Bethania-Rural Hall Road Activity Center. Both were identified as areas for future mixed-use development of commercial, office and institutional uses along with various residential development types.

The Downtown Rural Hall Activity Center is largely historic in nature and is ideal for preservation and reuse. It includes the Rural Hall Depot, a Local Historic Landmark (built in 1888) that serves as a reminder of the rich history of the community. The underutilized shopping center on Broad Street could be redeveloped for new commercial uses.



Downtown Rural Hall Activity Center

The US-52/Bethania-Rural Hall Road Activity Center is the largest existing commercial center in the planning area and has the potential for improved pedestrian-friendliness and expanded uses. The plan includes a design concept for this area. A new interchange at US-52 and Bethania-Rural Hall Road in this activity center will be constructed as part of the larger Northern Beltway project. The interchange project will alleviate congestion and improve access as development continues to increase in the area.

The plan is available online at: [www.cityofws.org/Departments/Planning/Area-Plans/Rural-Hall](http://www.cityofws.org/Departments/Planning/Area-Plans/Rural-Hall)

## Want more information?

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The Planning Board is funded jointly by the Winston-Salem City Council and the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

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