

# Questions & Answers



About Charlotte's Growth Strategy,  
and the updated Centers, Corridors & Wedges Growth Framework

**QUESTION**  
**How fast is Charlotte growing?**

**ANSWER**  
Charlotte's population more than doubled between 1980 and 2008, to 675,000 people. By 2030, Charlotte is projected to add 287,000 more people and 318,000 more jobs. Charlotte's growth has come from attracting new people and jobs to the city, as well as annexation. This has resulted in a city of 288 square miles in 2008, with an ultimate land area of 376 square miles.

**QUESTION**  
**Why does Charlotte need a Growth Strategy?**

**ANSWER**  
Charlotte is expected to continue to grow, despite the current economic downturn. Charlotte needs a growth strategy to ensure that growth occurs in a way that enhances the community, sustaining Charlotte as a livable center of a growing region well into the future.

**QUESTION**  
**What comprises the Growth Strategy?**

**ANSWER**  
The City's Growth Strategy includes an overall Development Vision that Charlotte will offer a variety of options for living, working and leisure and where sustainable growth improves the quality of life. The vision is accompanied by Guiding Principles for development. Also part of the Growth Strategy is the updated Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework, as well as a number of plans, policies and regulations that address growth and development.

**QUESTION**  
**What is the basis of Charlotte's Growth Strategy?**

**ANSWER**  
The basic premise of the growth strategy, and especially of the Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework, is to guide growth into areas that can support new development or are in need of redevelopment, and away from areas that cannot support new growth.

**QUESTION**  
**What is Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework?**

**ANSWER**  
This is a concept for Charlotte's growth and was originally introduced in the early 1990s. It illustrates a generalized land development pattern, dividing the City into Centers, Corridors and Wedges. For each of these areas, general guidance for land use, transportation, infrastructure and public facilities, and environment and site design is provided.

**QUESTION**  
**Why update  
Centers,  
Corridors and  
Wedges?**

**ANSWER**  
The primary intent of the original concept was to form a stronger link between land use and transportation to make the best use of existing transportation facilities and reduce the demand for new facilities. The original document mainly addressed Centers and Corridors. The updated document expands the focus to include public facilities/ infrastructure and the environment. It also provides more specific definitions for Centers and Corridors, and more fully addresses Wedges.

**QUESTION**  
**What are  
Centers,  
Corridors  
and Wedges?**

**ANSWER**  
**Centers** are focal points of economic activity, typically planned for concentrations of compact development. Many existing "Activity" Centers have the capacity for significant new growth coupled with enhancements to the supporting infrastructure. The three types of Activity Centers include Center City (like Uptown), Mixed Use Centers (like SouthPark) and Industrial Centers (like Westinghouse).

**Corridors** are "Growth" areas accounting for five linear areas that extend from Center City to the edge of Charlotte, roughly parallel to Interstates 77 or 85 or to U.S. 74. These areas can support significant new growth and are located in three types of sub-areas that include General Corridor Areas, Transit Station Areas and Interchange Areas.

**Wedges** are areas between Growth Corridors where residential neighborhoods have developed and continue to grow. Wedges consist mainly of low density housing, as well as a limited amount of moderate density housing and supporting facilities and services.

**QUESTION**  
**How will the  
Centers,  
Corridors and  
Wedges  
Growth  
Framework  
be used?**

**ANSWER**  
Centers, Corridors and Wedges is meant to be general in nature, serving as the basis for more detailed policies, plans and regulations; infrastructure investment and capital planning; and evaluation of Charlotte's success in addressing growth issues. In addition, it provides citizens with a general understanding of the overall future development pattern for Charlotte.

**QUESTION**  
**How specific  
is the  
framework?**

**ANSWER**  
The Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Strategy does not provide specific development recommendations but instead is intended to provide general guidance when developing more specific policies and plans, such as area plans.

To review the entire updated Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework visit [www.charmeck.org/planning](http://www.charmeck.org/planning)

**CENTERS • CORRIDORS • WEDGES**

**Growth Framework**