



There's  
More to  
Living in  
Madison  
County.

# THERE'S MORE TO LIVING *in Madison County.*

SO, YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT PUTTING THE TRAFFIC JAMS, CROWDS AND KILLER PACE BEHIND YOU AND MAKING A MOVE TO MADISON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. HERE, IN THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS, NEXT TO NATURE, YOU WILL FIND THE QUIET COUNTRYSIDE AND FREEDOM YOU CRAVE AND A COMMUNITY THAT WELCOMES YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.



affordable and the quality of life richer. We're proud of our quality health care, education and cultural opportunities and our heritage. We are the capitol of traditional mountain music. Our crafts — the pottery, baskets, rugs we make — are world famous and our local theater company is a regional treasure.

And whether you want to be better connected to your community or spend more time outdoors, Madison County's for you. We've got church groups, art organizations and community service groups for you to join. Here you'll find some of America's best forests, trails and whitewater rivers to explore.

Bottom line, we think our undiscovered corner of these ancient mountains may be just the home you are looking for. We hope this brochure answers your questions about living in Madison County. But we've made it easy for you to find even more information our website: [www.madisoncounty-nc.com](http://www.madisoncounty-nc.com).

## ❧ MADISON COUNTY: *Friendly People, Friendly Communities* ❧

MADISON COUNTY IS LOCATED 15 MILES NORTH OF ASHEVILLE IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AND OFFERS ACCESS TO MAJOR INTERSTATES - I-26, I-40, AND I-81.

THE COUNTY, WHICH COVERS 449 SQUARE MILES, IS HOME TO APPROXIMATELY 20,000 PEOPLE.

THERE ARE THREE TOWNS IN MADISON COUNTY:

🌿 **HOT SPRINGS** (pop: 645) Located at the junction of the Appalachian Trail and the French Broad River, Hot Springs was once a Mecca for wealthy Southerners attracted by the hot natural springs and cool mountain air. Today, Hot Springs is a way station for hikers and a magnet for people who want to experience the therapeutic value and healing power of the springs. [www.townofhotsprings.org](http://www.townofhotsprings.org).

🌿 **MARS HILL** (pop. 1,764) The college community of Mars Hill is known for its artistic heritage and culture treasures such as the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, the Rural Life Museum and the music, arts, and craft festivals hosted by the college and town. [www.townofmarshill.org](http://www.townofmarshill.org).

🌿 **MARSHALL** (pop.840) The seat of Madison County government, Marshall maintains a progressive and competitive business climate. But the community's also succeeded in preserving a history and habits of a slower time and another way of life. [www.townofmarshall.org](http://www.townofmarshall.org).



# MADISON COUNTY BASICS:

## Health Care, Education & Community Organizations

### HEALTH CARE

**Madison County and the area offer a wide variety of healthcare options.**

- ✿ The County's enhanced 911 system is linked to the County Emergency Medical Service which offers ambulance transportation from all points in the county via its three locations in Marshall, Hot Springs, and Mars Hill.
- ✿ Madison County has access to state-of-the-art emergency health care with its helicopter link to Mission Hospitals in Asheville. The average flight to Mission Hospitals from helicopter pads in the county takes less than 10 minutes.
- ✿ A complement of medical services is available seven days a week through the non-profit Hot Springs Health Program, which employs eleven physicians and operates four fully staffed medical centers with pharmacies in the County. The program also provides home nursing services and the county's Hospice program. [www.hotsspringshealth-nc.org](http://www.hotsspringshealth-nc.org).
- ✿ New Vistas Mental Health Center, located in Marshall, offers counseling services in substance abuse, child / adult / family therapy and other family matters.
- ✿ Care for the elderly and persons with disabilities are managed at the county's two licensed nursing care facilities and eight rest homes. A licensed group-home for persons with mild retardation is located in Hot Springs, and Mars Hill has an assisted living center.
- ✿ The Madison County Health Department offers health services such as family planning and maternal and child health immunizations. Public health programs are offered to residents as needed.

**For a complete listing of all the medical personnel and facilities available, go to [www.madisoncounty-nc.com](http://www.madisoncounty-nc.com).**

### EDUCATION

**Madison County has two colleges which offer an array of adult and continuing education opportunities:**

MARS HILL COLLEGE is a Christian-based, four-year liberal arts college that has remained true to its tradition of service, learning and leadership. Founded in 1856, Mars Hill now has 1300 students in its day and evening classes and offers 31 majors through its three schools. More than 5,000 people participate each year in non-credit classes, workshops, conferences and learning vacations offered during the summer and throughout the academic year. [www.mbc.edu](http://www.mbc.edu).

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MARSHALL CAMPUS offers academic credit courses and non-college credit continuing education courses in the vocational and avocational areas. Academic credit courses lead to an A.A. or A.S. program for transfer into a four-year institution, two-year A.A.S. career programs, one-year diploma programs or certificate programs. Numerous crafts and adult education courses are also offered. [www.abtech.edu](http://www.abtech.edu).



**THE MADISON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM** is a progressive system that is student-focused, providing a comprehensive educational experience in a safe environment that equips and empowers students to be responsible citizens. The school system uses a quality-based management system that ensures continuous improvement in all aspects.

Madison County Schools all have new or remodeled facilities. They serve over 2,600 students attending one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools. All schools have met the No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress mandate, and all four elementary schools are Honors Schools of Excellence. All schools are Southern Association Accredited. [www.madison.k12.nc.us](http://www.madison.k12.nc.us)

There are a variety of daycare opportunities for pre-school age care. [www.smartstart-buncombe.org](http://www.smartstart-buncombe.org)

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Local chapters of many traditional and volunteer groups such as the Lion's Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity and League of Women Voters can be found in Madison County. In addition, the County offers the opportunity to participate in community service through local organizations, unique to the area, such as Mountain' Hopes and the Madison County Arts Council and in the programs and social opportunities offered to retirees in community centers located throughout the County.

**A sampling of Madison County volunteer experiences includes:**

MADISON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – [www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com)

MOUNTAIN' HOPES - [www.mountainhopes.org](http://www.mountainhopes.org)

For a full list of community organizations in Madison County visit the Madison County Chamber of Commerce website at [www.madisoncounty-nc.com](http://www.madisoncounty-nc.com).

## ❧ MADISON COUNTY: Mountain Music, Art & Dance ❧



SINCE 1790 WHEN THE FIRST PIONEER WALKED INTO THIS MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS WITH A FIDDLE UNDER HIS ARM, AN UNBROKEN LINE OF NOTABLE MUSICIANS AND BALLAD SINGERS HAVE FOLLOWED. TRADITIONAL MOUNTAIN MUSIC IS ONE OF MADISON COUNTY'S MOST TREASURED ASSETS. MADISON COUNTY HAS BEEN HOME TO SOME OF THE FINEST FIDDLERS AND "PICKERS" OF THE APPALACHIANS.

### MUSIC AND CRAFTS FESTIVALS

Madison County's unparalleled natural beauty provides the backdrop for a wide variety of musicians, artists, craftspeople and community events. Madison County has a long history in music and contemporary and traditional arts and crafts.

❧ **Trailfest** (*held in April each year in Hot Springs*) – Celebrate the Appalachian Trail in Hot Springs. Outdoor recreation activities planned with a music festival, local crafts and vendors, games, great food and fascinating speakers [www.trailfest.net](http://www.trailfest.net)

❧ **French Broad River Festival** (*held in May in Hot Springs each year*) – Hot Springs is known for its whitewater rafting. What better place to hold the "Riverfest"? River Rodeo, big name music and entertainment, great camping weather and more! [www.frenchbroadriverfestival.com](http://www.frenchbroadriverfestival.com)

❧ **The Bluff Mountain Music Festival** (*held in June each year on the grounds of the Hot Springs Spa and Resort in Hot Springs*) – The Bluff Mountain festival is FREE to the public and features some of the region's best Traditional and Bluegrass Music followed by an evening Square Dance until dark.

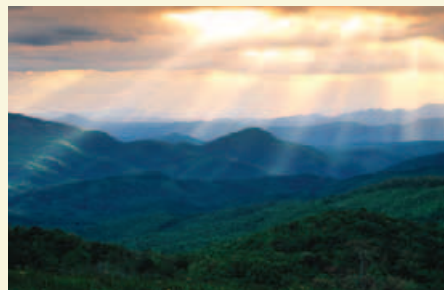


❧ **The Spring Creek Mountain Heritage Festival** (*held in July each year on Spring Creek*) – Music, old-time games, crafts, cake auction, demonstrations of spinning wool, quilting, tatting, weaving and soap making, food and door prizes.

❧ **Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival** (*held in September at Mars Hill College*) – an evening of traditional mountain music by local musicians celebrating its founder Bascom Lamar Lunsford who is known as the "Minstrel of Appalachia." [www.mhc.edu/regional/lunsford\\_festival.asp](http://www.mhc.edu/regional/lunsford_festival.asp)

## ❧ MADISON COUNTY: Jewel of the Blue Ridge ❧

THERE ARE OVER 50,000 ACRES OF NATIONAL FOREST AND WILD RIVERS IN THE COUNTY. THE PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST ALONG THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY AND THE CHEROKEE




NATIONAL FOREST WITH ITS WHITEWATER, MISTY WATERFALLS, AND WINDING FOOTPATHS FEATURE SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND RUGGED MOUNTAIN SCENERY, AND THE BEST RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.

THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL RUNS DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF HOT SPRINGS — THE TOWN NAMED FOR A NATURAL HOT MINERAL SPRING; ONE OF JUST A FEW IN THE EASTERN US.

SKIING, GOLF, FISHING, HUNTING, HORSEBACK RIDING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, HIKING, SWIMMING, CANOEING AND KAYAKING ARE ACTIVITIES RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ENJOY YEAR ROUND IN THE MILD CLIMATE.

 **Madison Celebrates Arts Festival** (*held in September each year in Marshall*) – The streets of downtown Marshall serve as a showcase to county artists' work.


 **Madison County Heritage Festival** (*held the first Saturday in October each year in Mars Hill*) – The town of Mars Hill and the Mars Hill College campus are transformed for the day. Enjoy traditional mountain music, authentic craft demonstrations, wood carving, quilts, pottery, food, lunches & baked goods, mountain crafts & gifts, animal petting area.

 **Old Mountain Arts Festival** (*held in October each year in Hot Springs*) This festival celebrates the harvest and the fall turning of the leaves. Great Bluegrass music and local Arts and crafts are offered – followed by a music jam in the evening by the fire.

## THEATER

 **The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART)** Mars Hill is home to one of the finest professional repertory theatres in the state, featuring live performances from the classics to "world premier" new works. Productions occur during the SART's June to August Summer Season. [www.sartheatre.com](http://www.sartheatre.com)


## DANCE

 **The Bailey Mountain Cloggers Folk Dance Company** was organized in 1974 by students at Mars Hill College. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers serve as ambassador of goodwill for the college and the folk dance traditions of the Southern Mountains. During their 29-year history, the Bailey Mountain Cloggers have performed throughout the United States and internationally in



Canada, Mexico, England, Scotland, Austria, and Ireland. The Bailey Mountain Cloggers Folk Dance Company has established a national and international reputation for American clog dance excellence and has multiple national championships. [www.baileymountain.org](http://www.baileymountain.org).


## FARM TOURS AND MARKETS


 **Ag Tours** – There are more than 1500 small family farms in the county. You can stay on some Madison farms in bed and breakfasts, take a farm tour, pick your own berries or Christmas trees, go horseback riding or llama trekking. You can take a class in herding, growing medicinal herbs, or purchase them on site. Madison Farms, a non-profit organization that promotes small family farms in Madison County, promotes the farms' products and offers information and access to these farms, including educational events and family visits. [www.madisonfarms.org](http://www.madisonfarms.org).


 **Madison County Farmers and Artisans Market** – Madison County is saturated with an abundance of unique cultural history and time-tested values. All of these elements are shared at the Madison County Farmers and Artisans Market (MCR&A). Each Saturday morning, vendors congregate in Mars Hill to offer a delightful cross section of the Madison County experience. Farmers, craftspeople, visual artists, and musicians display their finest for tourists and locals alike. [www.madisonfarms.org](http://www.madisonfarms.org).

 **Hot Springs Artisans' Market** – Every Saturday from 10 am – 5pm. Features crafts by local artisans on Bridge Street in Hot Springs.


[www.visitmadisoncounty.com](http://www.visitmadisoncounty.com)


 **Fishing:** Mountain trout are abundant in remote streams for fishing and the French Broad and larger streams hold bass, crappie and some muskie.


 **Golfing and Tennis:** A private golf course is located at Wolf Laurel and several public courses nearby in other counties. Tennis and swimming are popular on courts and pools in the Mars Hill area. The towns, county, and Forest Service also maintain parks for the enjoyment of the public.

 **Hiking and Biking:** 65 miles of the Appalachian Trail pass from one end of the county to the other, with many access points giving day hikers a great opportunity to walk short segments of the trail. (See also [trailplace.com](http://trailplace.com)). A variety of other hiking and biking opportunities are available as well, including a waterfall hike up Hickey Fork, loop trails out of Hot Springs that tie into the Appalachian Trail, or a short stroll to the scenic vista of Max Patch.



 **Horseback Riding:** Madison County's vast rolling hills offer the ideal environment for horseback riding. Options include sunset/moonlit rides, riding lessons, hay rides, wagon trips, buggy rides, on-site camping, guided hiking, overnight backcountry pack trips, company picnics, birthday parties, church groups, family reunions, and weddings.

 **Whitewater Rafting:** More than 25,000 people each year raft down the French Broad River — one of North Carolina's premiere whitewater rafting rivers.

 **Skiing, Snow Boarding, and Snow Tubing:** Wolf Laurel is a family-oriented ski area with fun for everyone, including slopes from beginner to expert, a snow tubing park, a ski shop, and the Wolf Laurel ski school. The Wolf is open for skiing, snowboarding and tubing from mid-December through early March.



# THERE'S MORE TO LIVING *in Madison County.*

*I*F YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A RETIREMENT OR SECOND HOME MADISON COUNTY HAS A LOT TO OFFER — SPECTACULAR MOUNTAINS AND MORE. THE TERRAIN IS A MIX OF TALL PEAKS, ROLLING HILLS AND FLAT FARMLAND — AND IT'S ALL AVAILABLE FOR HOME SITES. THE COUNTY HAS FOUR DISTINCT, MODERATE SEASONS.

**Madison County has low taxes** (.51 per one hundred) ([www.madcotax.co](http://www.madcotax.co)), zoning to protect your investment ([www.madisoncountync.org/-zoning](http://www.madisoncountync.org/-zoning)), and a number of current and planned second home and retiree developments.

**The Madison County Board of Commissioners** is the elected governing board, authorized by the State of North Carolina to exercise and discharge legislative responsibilities within the county. The three towns in the county are each governed by a mayor and a board of aldermen.

**The County offers the full slate of community services** – fire, police, trash, water, gas, Internet, cable, a new library in Marshall and lending libraries in community centers located throughout the community ([www.madisoncountylibrary.org](http://www.madisoncountylibrary.org))

**The Madison County Cooperative Extension** sponsors numerous farm related programs including the Madison County Farm Seminar, the Madison County Marketing Association, Agri-Tourism, the Madison County Farmers Market, Alternative Crops Program, Livestock Program, Master Gardner Program, Beekeepers Association, and certification courses for Landscape Technician and Plant Professional. For more information contact the Extension Office at (828) 649-2411. [www.ces.ncsu.edu/madison](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/madison)

**Licensed contractors and craftsmen** are available throughout the county including furniture designers, custom builders, lawn care,

electricians and plumbers. The Chamber of Commerce maintains a complete list on its website.

**Interested in moving to Madison County?** There's a full list of realtors and lots of other information about living in Madison County on the Chamber of Commerce website at [www.madisoncounty-nc.com](http://www.madisoncounty-nc.com).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

There's a lot going on in Madison County, and the *Community Calendar* helps citizens find new ways to connect with the Madison County community. Whether it's entertainment, events, interest groups, volunteerism, community meetings, or learning experiences, *Madison Monthly* will "shine a new light on life in our mountain home." [www.madmonthly.com](http://www.madmonthly.com). You can also turn to the *News Record and Sentinel*, the County's weekly newspaper for community information [www.newsrecordandsentinel.com](http://www.newsrecordandsentinel.com)

**Location.** Madison County is located 15 miles north of Asheville. Most residents in Madison County are no more than a 30 minute drive on four-lane highways to the Asheville Regional Airport and major shopping centers.

**Land Development & Preservation go hand in hand in Madison County.** Currently development for several planned communities is underway. For more information, visit the county's economic development Website at [www.madisoncountync.org/-development](http://www.madisoncountync.org/-development)



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