



## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

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## Community Profile

Region 2000 is a business-friendly region in the heart of Virginia, just three hours south of the Washington DC metro area. Communities that make up the Regional Commission include Amherst County, Bedford County, Appomattox County, Campbell County, Bedford City, Lynchburg City, and the towns of Altavista, Appomattox, Amherst, Brookneal and Pamplin City. The total population in 2000 of these communities was 220,600. Figure III-1 details the jurisdictions participating in the mitigation planning efforts.

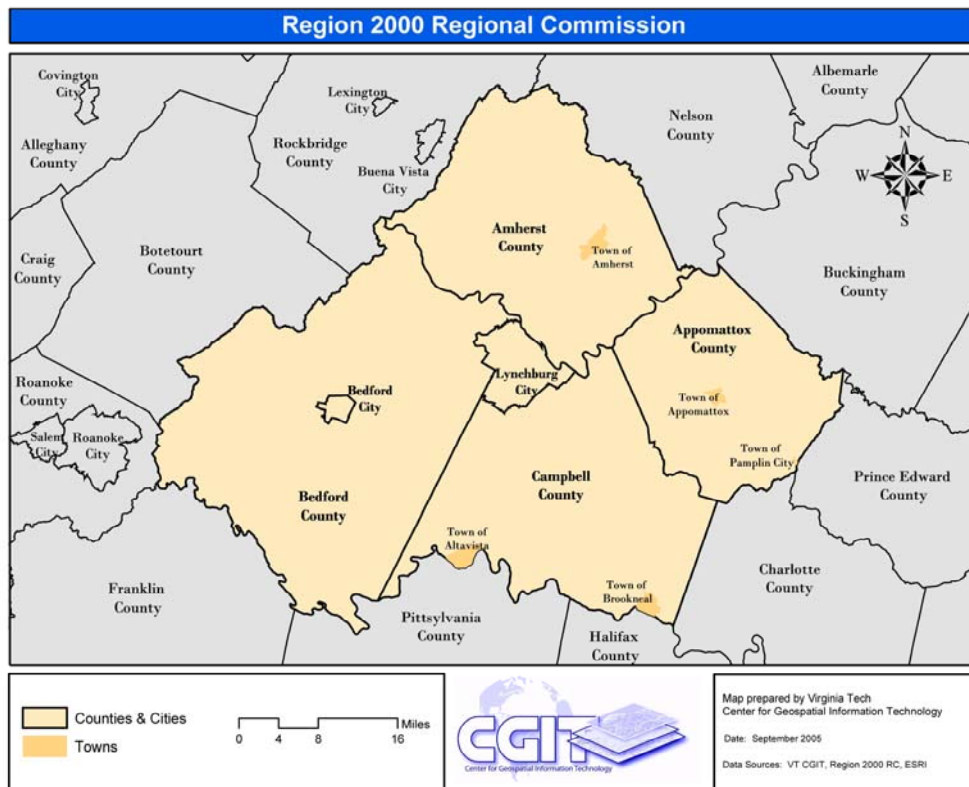


Figure III-1. Participating Jurisdictions.

Virginia Planning District Commissions (PDC) were formed in 1968 through the Code of Virginia. Title §15.2, labeled Counties, Cities and Towns of title §15.2 chapter 42 labeled Regional Cooperation Act (§15.2-4200 through §15.2-4222). The PDCs serve as a network in providing the Commonwealth with complete statewide coverage. PDCs were developed to provide both technical and service programs to the governments they serve.

In January 2001 the Central Virginia PDC was transformed into the Region 2000 Regional Commission. The main purpose of the commission is to provide economic



competitiveness on a regional scale, reduce redundancy in government, improve efficiency, enhance services, and improve implementation time for regional projects.

The region's two major U.S. highways are 29 and 460. The highways have become corridors for most of the industrial, commercial, and residential development. Primary economic categories in the region include higher education, wireless technology, manufacturing automation, nuclear energy, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and health care. Region 2000 belongs to one of the technology councils making up the Virginia Technology Alliance. The region is rich in civil war history, with battlefields, historical parks, and museums found throughout. Climate in the region is mild, with average January and July temperatures at 35°F and 71°F and annual rainfall and snowfall at 40" and 21" respectively.

### ***Amherst County***

Amherst County is located near the geographic center of Virginia just north of the city of Lynchburg. The county was created in 1761 from Albemarle County, named for Major General Jeffery Amherst a hero of the battle of Ticonderoga. It is bounded on the northwest by Rockbridge County, to the south and southwest by Bedford County, Campbell County and the City of Lynchburg and on the northeast by Nelson County. The James River borders the county on the south and east with the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains forming the western Boundary.

Amherst County had a 2000 population of 31,894. Half the population is located in the south central portion of the county near the City of Lynchburg and around Madison Heights. The Town of Amherst was incorporated in 1910 and is situated on the topographic divide separating Tribulation Creek and Rutledge Creek. The Town of Amherst serves as the county seat. As of the 2000 census, the town had a total population of 2,251. Sweet Briar College, private women's liberal arts and science college, enrolls approximately 700 students. The college, founded in 1901, encompasses 3,250 acres located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Elevations ranging from 500 feet to 4,000 feet provide the County with spectacular rolling countryside.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Amherst County entered into the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on July 17, 1978 with emergency entry on March 1, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is July 17, 1978. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 38 flood polices in force with \$1,246,823 losses paid. Amherst County plans to continue NFIP compliance.

The Town of Amherst entered into the NFIP November 2, 1977 with emergency entry on February 7, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is November 2, 1977. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The town has 2 flood



polices in force with \$128,029 losses paid. The Town of Amherst plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

Woodlands cover approximately three-fourths of the land, and most of the northwestern portion of the county is part of the George Washington National Forest. US highway 29 corridor in the eastern region of the county has become the focal point for most commercial, industrial and residential development, especially near Lynchburg City.

### ***Appomattox County***

Appomattox County is located at the geographic center of Virginia. The lack of efficient communication and the need for localized service initiated the formation of the county by an act passed on February 8, 1845. This act designated that Buckingham, Prince Edward, Charlotte and Campbell counties each would give portions of their lands as of May 1, 1845. The county consists of 343 square miles of gently rolling terrain indicative of Virginia's Piedmont Region. Appomattox County is perhaps best known in history as the site of the end of the Civil War at Appomattox Court House.

The county is bordered to the north by Amherst County, Buckingham County and Nelson County, to the south by Charlotte County, to the east by Prince Edward County and Campbell County to the west. The James River serves as the northwest border. The towns of Pamplin and Appomattox are within the county, with the Town of Appomattox being the county seat. The 2000 population of Appomattox County was 13,705, up 11.4% from the 1990 US Census.

Elevations range from 460 feet to 1,151 feet above sea level. Drainage is provided by the James River, Appomattox River, Roanoke River Drainage Area and Bent and Wreck Island Creeks.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Appomattox County entered into the NFIP on July 17, 1978 with emergency entry on February 11, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is July 17, 1978. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 6 flood polices in force with \$253,216 losses paid. Appomattox County plans to continue NFIP compliance.

The Town of Appomattox entered into the NFIP on May 25, 1984 with emergency entry on February 22, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is May 25, 1984. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The town has 0 flood polices in force. The Town of Appomattox plans to continue NFIP compliance.

The Town of Pamplin City entered into the NFIP on February 12, 1976 with emergency entry on November 11, 1974. There were no FIRMs developed for Pamplin City. They



are currently in good participating standing with the program. The town has 0 flood polices in force. The Town of Pamplin City plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

Commercial forestland comprises more than half of the county's land area and a large portion of the rest of the county is crop and pasture lands. This natural resource base has helped foster a significant forestry, wood products, and furniture industry. Most of the commercial, industrial, and residential development exists along US 460 in central and southeastern portions of the county between Lynchburg City and the Town of Appomattox.

### ***Bedford City***

In 1782 the Town of Liberty was incorporated into Bedford County, and in 1890 changed its name to the Town of Bedford. In 1912, the town became known as Bedford City. The city is situated on U.S. Route 460 in the center of Bedford County and serves as the county seat. Its 6,300 residents enjoy living in a small city with the convenience of being strategically located between the cities of Lynchburg and Roanoke, the largest cities in Central Virginia. The city's most popular attraction is the National D-day Memorial, in honor of the 19 "Bedford Boys" who died in the first minutes of the Normandy landings at Omaha Beach.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Bedford City entered into the NFIP on June 1, 1978 with emergency entry on March 12, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is April 2, 1992. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 3 flood polices in force with \$0 losses paid. Bedford City plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

The city includes 6.77 square miles in Virginia's Western Piedmont area, surrounded by mountains and beautiful Smith Mountain Lake to the South. Most of the land use is low intensity residential, pastures, and forest, with commercial and industrial development stretching along the 460 corridors in central and southern portions of the city.

### ***Bedford County***

Bedford County consists of 764 square miles located in west-central Virginia just east of the Roanoke metropolitan area. Bedford County was formed in 1754 and named for the Fourth Duke of Bedford, a British Government official. In 1839, the Town of Liberty (now City of Bedford) was established within the county limits. The scenic Blue Ridge Mountains make up the county's western border. The James River forms the northeast boundary. The 23,400-acre Smith Mountain Lake is situated to the south on the Roanoke River. Communities bordering Bedford include Rockbridge County to the northwest, Amherst County to the north and northeast, Campbell County to the east, Pittsylvania County to the south and Franklin, Roanoke and Botetourt Counties to the west.



As of 2004, the population of Bedford County is 62,700. The area has a rolling to hilly terrain with elevations from 800 feet to 4,200 feet above sea level, including the famous Peaks of Otter, Sharp Top and Flat Top, along the Blue Ridge Parkway on the county's western boarder.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Bedford County entered into the NFIP on September 29, 1978 with emergency entry on January 16, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is June 29, 1979. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 85 flood polices in force with \$155,431 losses paid. Bedford County plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

The majority of Bedford County land use is forest and pastures, with commercial, industrial, and residential development focused in Bedford City and along Routes 460 and 221. Strategically located between the metropolitan areas of Lynchburg and Roanoke, the county is home to a diversified industrial base and displays an appealing quality of life. The good mix of industry, commerce and agriculture ensures a strong, diversified economy and a positive business climate. Most of the residential growth occurs near Smith Mountain Lake and Lynchburg City.

### ***Campbell County***

Campbell County is located in the south-central Piedmont Region of Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. From its beginnings in 1781 as a frontier settlement, to its emergence as a tobacco producer and then a center for industrial manufacturing, Campbell County has continually evolved and grown with national and world changes. The county is bordered on the north by the city of Lynchburg and the James River and in the South by the Roanoke (Staunton) River. Campbell County is 115 miles west of Richmond, the state capital; 200 miles southwest of Washington, DC; and 200 miles west of Norfolk.

The Town of Brookneal, near Phelps Creek and Falling River, has been a center for commerce for the surrounding counties of Campbell, Charlotte, and Halifax since it's founding in 1802. The unincorporated Town of Rustburg serves as the county seat. Altavista is a relatively new town in southern Campbell County, incorporated in 1912. Residential and industrial growth occurred within the town boundaries until around 1960, after which the concentration of new development took place outside the boundaries. Campbell County is included in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and had a 2003 population of 60,800.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Campbell County entered into the NFIP on October 17, 1978 with emergency entry on December 27, 1973. The current effective date for the FIRMs is April 17, 1984. They are



currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 11 flood polices in force with \$501,008 losses paid. Campbell County plans to continue NFIP compliance.

Town of Altavista entered into the NFIP on August 1, 1978 with emergency entry on February 19, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is April 11, 1980. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 14 flood polices in force with \$50,215 losses paid. Town of Altavista plans to continue NFIP compliance.

Town of Brookneal entered into the NFIP on March 1, 1978 with emergency entry on January 15, 1974. The current effective date for the FIRMs is January 18, 1980. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 4 flood polices in force with \$0 losses paid. Town of Brookneal plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

The majority of the county land use is a combination of forest, pastures, and farmland. Commercial and residential development is found near Lynchburg, in the towns of Brookneal and Altavista, and along Routes 29 and 501. Four-lane primary highways and rail service provide access to markets in the eastern portion of the county. Industrial activity in the county has concentrated around the towns of Brookneal and Altavista and the northern portion of the county close to Lynchburg.

### ***Lynchburg City***

The city of Lynchburg is located near the geographic center of Virginia. In 1757, John Lynch established a ferry service on the James. The ferry service remained profitable for many years, and by the end of the American Revolution, the village at Lynch's Ferry had itself become an important center of trade. Lynch saw the possibilities of establishing a town on the hill overlooking the ferry site, and in late 1784 petitioned the General Assembly of Virginia for a town charter. In October, 1786, the charter was granted, founding the town of Lynchburg.

Located on the James River, the city has a land area of 48 square miles and is bordered on the west by the Blue Ridge Mountains and Bedford County, to the south by Campbell County, and to the North by Amherst County. The city has a population of 64,108 and is a major highway and transportation hub that has contributed to its status as a broadly diversified manufacturing center. Lynchburg is 115 miles west of Richmond, the state capital; 52 miles east of Roanoke; 180 miles southwest of Washington, D. C.; and 200 miles west of the Port of Hampton Roads. Lynchburg is the central city of the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which has a total population of 203,000. Liberty University, a private coeducational Christian university, enrolls over 7,000 students residentially and over 10,000 students in distance learning. The university, founded in





1971, encompasses 4,400 acres located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and south of the James River.

### **National Flood Insurance Program**

Lynchburg City entered into the NFIP on September 1, 1978 with emergency entry on September 18, 1973. The current effective date for the FIRMs is November 16, 1983. They are currently in good participating standing with the program. The county has 92 flood polices in force with \$3,195,912 losses paid. Lynchburg City plans to continue NFIP compliance.

### **Land Use**

Most of the city is low intensity residential, with commercial and industrial development focused in eastern portions of the city in the downtown region and along US Highways 460 and 501. The region's overall quality of life is tied directly to the health of the city's economy. The city keeps pace with changes in technology and telecommunications, attracting national and international businesses and fusing the local and regional market with the nation and the world.

### **Plan Linkage**

The Region 2000 Regional Commission encompasses a unique combination of both rural and urban life. This distinctive mix lent itself nicely in establishing the Region 2000 Steering Committee for the development of the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Section IV on the Planning Process details the development of the committee and meetings held during the plan development.