



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Amherst County, Virginia



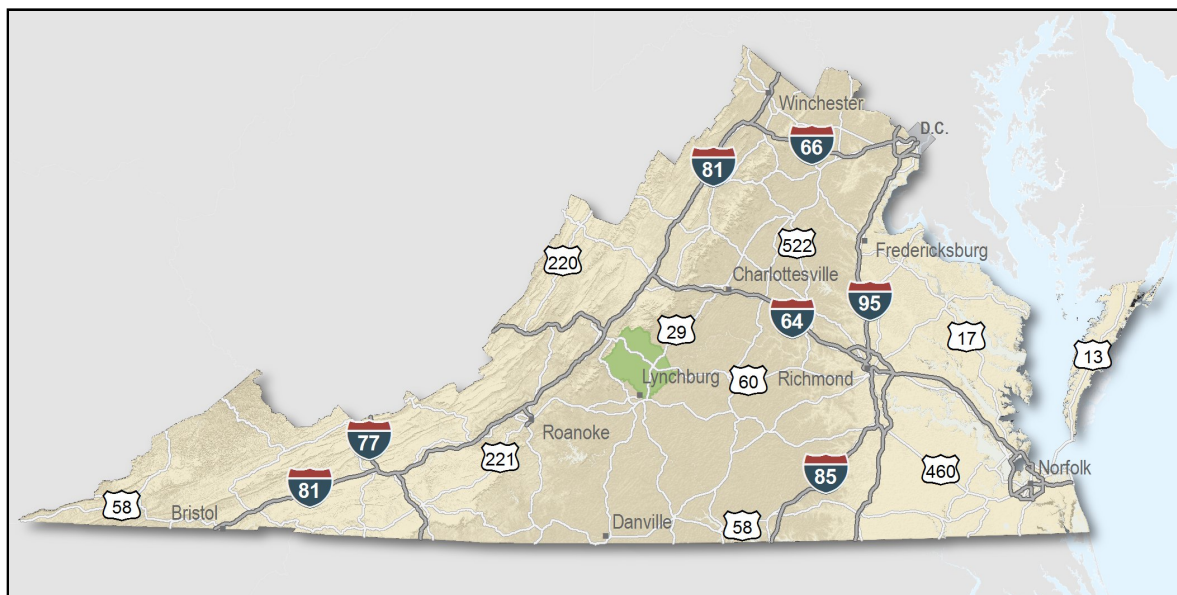
**VIRGINIA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**
www.YesVirginia.org

State Map

Only a few locations can guarantee the right combination of resources that are crucial to your business's success. Virginia's premier location offers excellent domestic and international access. Centrally located on the U.S. East Coast, 40 percent of the U.S. population is within a day's drive, and our integrated transportation system of highways, railroads, airports and seaports ensures that you can reach every one of your markets efficiently. Close proximity to Washington, D.C. facilitates contact with policy makers and the federal government system.

Virginia continues to rank among America's leading states for business by CNBC and Forbes.com. Business-first values, easy access to markets, stable and competitive operating costs, and a talented workforce all drove Virginia to the top. This unique combination of assets has encouraged businesses to prosper here for more than 400 years. Like you, they searched the world over for that convergence of resources that would help ensure their prosperity. For them, their search ended here. Chances are yours will too.

- AAA bond rating- Virginia has maintained a AAA rating since 1938, longer than any other state.
- Right-to-work law allows individuals the right to work regardless of membership in a labor union or organization.
- Corporate income tax rate of 6% has not been increased since 1972.
- Headquarters to 37 Fortune 1000 firms.
- Headquarters to 52 firms each with annual revenue over \$1 billion.
- More than 17,300 high-tech establishments operate in Virginia.
- More than 700 internationally-owned businesses from 45 countries are located in Virginia.
- Ranks third among the 50 states as a recipient of federal R&D funds.
- Streamlined permitting process.
- Recruitment training programs to help new businesses become operational faster.
- Programs at little or no cost to help businesses increase international sales.



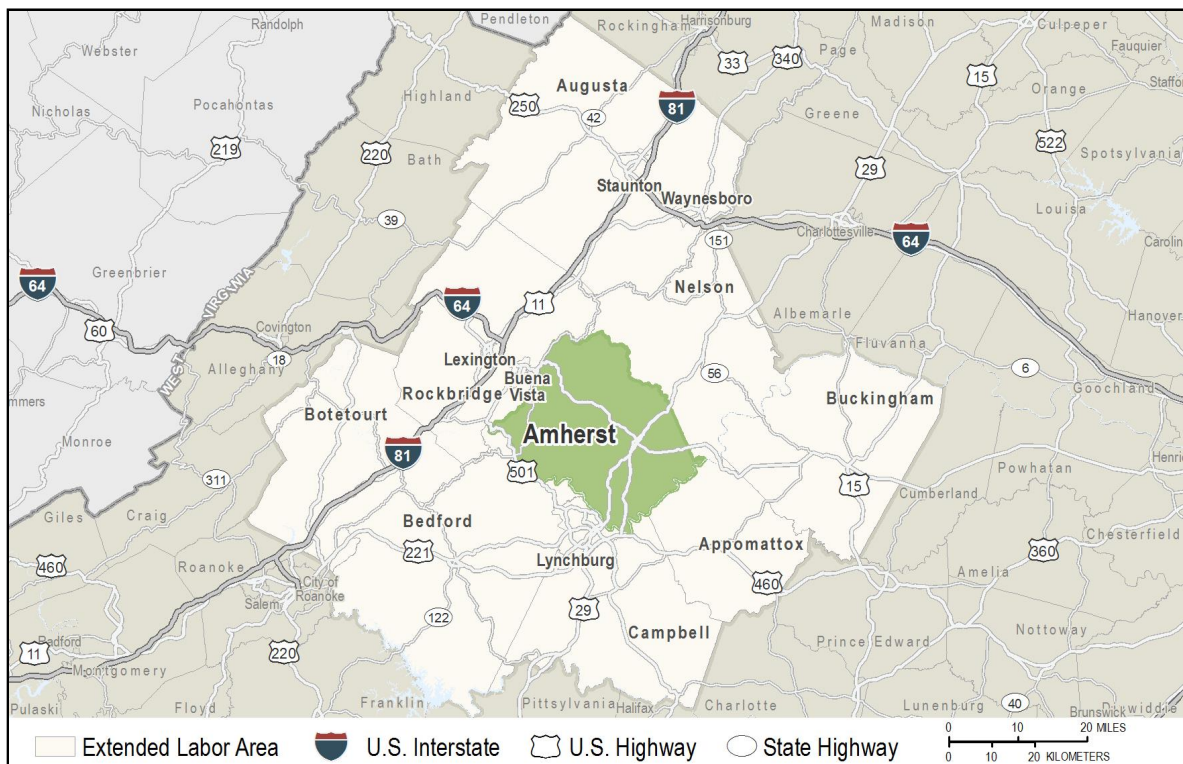
Location

Amherst County is located near the geographic center of Virginia just north of the city of Lynchburg. The James River borders the county on the south and east with the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains forming the western boundary. The Piney River comprises much of the county's northern boundary. The U.S. Route 29 corridor in the eastern region of the county has become the focal point for most commercial, industrial and residential development.

The county's pro-business attitude, well-educated workforce, diverse resources, affordable real estate, and rich quality of life all combine to provide an ideal home for companies and for their employees.

The county is part of the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Amherst County is 165 miles southwest of Washington, D.C.; 115 miles west of Richmond, the state capital; and 47 miles southwest of Charlottesville.



Labor Market

Population

Gender Distribution (2016)	Male	Female
Amherst County	48.2%	51.8%

Race/Ethnicity (2016)

Classification	Profile Area	Extended Labor Area
White	24,498	376,521
Black	5,967	58,258
Two or More	714	8,422
American Indian or Alaska Native	272	1,715
Asian	172	5,754
Pacific Islander	10	213
Hispanic (may be of any race)	752	10,528

Median Age (2016)	45 years
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Civilian Labor Force (2016)

Amherst County	15,140
Extended Labor Market Area	211,916
Total	227,056

Labor Force Participation (2012-2016)

Amherst County	58.7%
Extended Labor Market Area	58.7%

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate (January 2018)	
Amherst County	4.2%
Extended Labor Market Area	4.2%
Statewide	3.7%

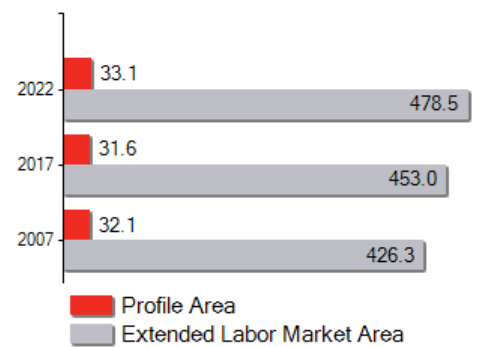
Unemployed (2016)

Amherst County	658
Extended Labor Market Area	9,022
Total	9,680

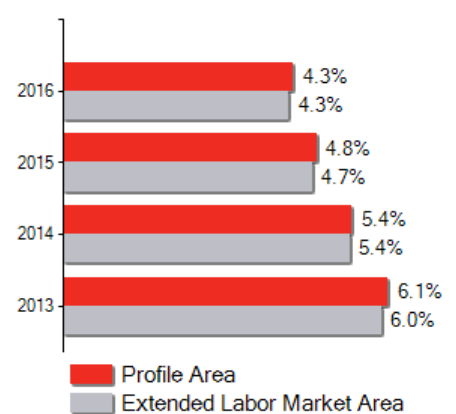
Underemployed (4th Quarter 2017)

Amherst County	1,830
Extended Labor Market Area	24,998
Total	26,828

Population in Thousands



Unemployment Rates



Labor Market

Commute Time (2012-2016)		
Worked from home	405	2.8%
Under 15 minutes	3,378	24.0%
15-24 minutes	4,716	33.5%
25-34 minutes	3,547	25.2%
35-44 minutes	887	6.3%
45-59 minutes	746	5.3%
Over 60 minutes	788	5.6%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		25

Amherst County's population is concentrated in the southern part of the county near Lynchburg and in the Town of Amherst, the county seat, in the central part of the county. The county is part of the Lynchburg MSA.

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2016-2017)	99
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2017)	1,203
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2017)	6,558
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2017)	18,814
Total	26,674

Labor Market

Career Readiness Certificate (01/01/2016-08/31/2017)

Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) assists employers by certifying that a recipient possesses core skills in applied math, reading for information, and locating information. The CRC certification is based on established Workeys® assessment tests. Virginia uses a three-tiered approach (bronze, silver, gold) to credentialing certificate holders that is based on the recipient's level of development skills.

Over 40 percent of county residents commute out of Amherst County for work.

Amherst County	66
Extended Labor Market Area	693
Total	759

Educational Attainment

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2017)	95.7%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2012-2016)	82.7%
Percentage of Amherst County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2012-2016)	18.9%

Labor Market

Employment by Sector* (3rd Qtr. 2017)		
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	61	0.7%
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0
Utilities	0	0
Construction	483	5.9%
Manufacturing	1,317	16.1%
Wholesale Trade	134	1.6%
Retail Trade	1,118	13.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	261	3.2%
Information	38	0.5%
Finance and Insurance	129	1.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	28	0.3%
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	83	1.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	N.D.	N.D.
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	134	1.6%
Educational Services	N.D.	N.D.
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,109	13.5%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	83	1.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	614	7.5%
Other Services	214	2.6%
Total Government	1,999	24.4%
Federal Government	49	0.6%
State Government	740	9.0%
Local Government	1,210	14.8%
Unclassified	39	0.5%
Total	8,192	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

*By Business Establishment

"For 15 years, the GLAD Manufacturing Company has been very pleased to have its second-largest North American plant located in Amherst County. The county has both the infrastructure and workforce that makes doing business in this area a pleasure. Amherst County is a place where people take pride in the work they do, and we reap those benefits every day. It is a place where local officials support business growth and want to work with businesses as a partnership. The GLAD Manufacturing Company is proud to do business here, and looks forward to many years of continued success in Amherst County."

Matt Roeser, Plant Manager

Labor Market

Major Employers

Manufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
Buffalo Air Handling Co.	Air handling equipment
England's Stove Works Inc.	Wood Burning Stoves
Glad Manufacturing Co.	Plastic bags & wraps
Greif Brothers Corp.	Containerboard
Hermle Black Forest Clocks	Clocks, Furniture
Lynchburg Steel	Structural steel
Quality Archery Design	Archery Equipment
S&S Machine, Truball	Metal Fabrication, Archery Equipment
Shibuya Hoppmann Corp.	Packaging machinery

NonManufacturing

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>
Central Virginia Training Center	Residential facility for the intellectually disabled
H.T. Hackney	Wholesale Distributor
Old Dominion Job Corps	Residential Training Programs
Sweet Briar College	Women's College

Amherst is blessed with a diverse employment base. Local major employers include the courthouse and county/school board complex, Clorox (plastics), Hermle Black Forest (clocks), Buffalo Air Handling (air handling machinery) industry, Greif Brothers (paper/liner board), and Sweet Briar College.

Labor Market

Union Activity (10/1/2015 - 10/1/2017)

Petitions filed for decertification	0
Petitions filed for representation	0
Petitions filed for raid	0
Elections won by union	0
Elections won by company	0

Labor Market

Estimated Earnings (May 2016)

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Median Wage</i>	<i>Mean Wage</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Mean Salary</i>
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$10.75	\$11.25	\$22,353.58	\$23,393.60
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$16.02	\$16.52	\$33,304.53	\$34,370.31
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$18.22	\$20.35	\$37,886.58	\$42,341.84
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$17.81	\$18.57	\$37,035.01	\$38,625.38
Team Assemblers	\$14.41	\$14.48	\$29,989.56	\$30,133.51
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$27.04	\$29.09	\$56,253.39	\$60,504.29
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$16.82	\$17.26	\$34,983.78	\$35,911.57
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$18.78	\$20.77	\$39,078.81	\$43,207.65
Office Clerks, General	\$12.82	\$13.74	\$26,675.05	\$28,581.44
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$14.12	\$14.49	\$29,374.82	\$30,135.54
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$10.93	\$11.37	\$22,727.50	\$23,666.91
Customer Service Representatives	\$12.63	\$13.89	\$26,279.89	\$28,883.68
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$15.86	\$16.73	\$32,991.54	\$34,793.77
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$22.67	\$24.12	\$47,159.21	\$50,170.42
Electrical Engineers	\$54.85	\$52.41	\$114,096.00	\$109,024.70
Computer User Support Specialists	\$20.99	\$22.18	\$43,655.85	\$46,137.82
Software Developers, Applications	\$43.99	\$46.72	\$91,504.02	\$97,192.00
Accountants and Auditors	\$30.63	\$32.55	\$63,724.47	\$67,700.04
Management Analysts	\$31.34	\$37.65	\$65,186.74	\$78,316.54
Human Resources Specialists	\$24.93	\$28.35	\$51,862.04	\$58,973.38

Per Capita Personal Income (2016)

\$34,351

Median Family Income (2012-2016)

\$58,404

Education

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2017)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Elementary	6	1,952
Middle	2	913
High School	1	1,190

Central Virginia Community College has a satellite branch in Amherst County and offers the Early College program for Amherst County High School students.

Student Teacher Ratio (FY 2016)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	10:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2016)
\$10,901.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2017)
95.7%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2016-2017)
71.9%

Advanced Programs (2016-2017)

Governor's Schools

Central VA Governor's School For Science and Technology

Governor's STEM Academies and Health Academies

Lynchburg Regional Governor's STEM Academy

Governor's School Enrollment	10
Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	174
Students taking 1 or more AP Exams	92
Students taking 1 or more Dual Enrollment Courses	94

Workforce Development Facilities

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Lynchburg Workforce Center	Satellite Center
Region 2000 Career Center	Comprehensive Center

Education

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2017	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Liberty University	75,044
Central Virginia Community College	5,128
Lynchburg College	2,808
Washington and Lee University	2,227
Virginia Military Institute	1,722
American National University - Lynchburg Campus	1,090 [‡] [◊]
Southern Virginia University	808
Randolph College	684
Virginia University of Lynchburg	370 [◊]
Miller-Motte Technical College - Lynchburg Campus	340 [◊]
Sweet Briar College	322

[‡] Enrollment figures are for all campuses.

[◊] Fall 2016 Enrollment

Serving over 4,600 students in seven elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school, our graduates are well prepared for future success in their chosen path of college, the workforce, or military.

Transportation

Interstates

Name	Distance
I-81	5.2 miles (8.4 km.)
I-64	5.8 miles (9.3 km.)
I-581	35.2 miles (56.7 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways

Highway 130	Highway 151	Highway 210	Highway 29	Highway 501
Highway 60				

Commercial Air Service

Lynchburg Regional Airport, Lynchburg -- 32.5 miles (52.3 km.)

American Eagle	
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Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, Charlottesville -- 63.1 miles (101.6 km.)

American Airlines	Delta Connection	United Airlines
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Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, Roanoke -- 67.7 miles (109.0 km.)

American Airlines	Delta Air Lines	United Airlines
Allegiant Air		

Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, Weyers Cave -- 70.8 miles (114.0 km.)

ViaAir	
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Note: Within a 75-mile drive of the center of the locality.

The county is bisected north to south by US Route 29 running from Washington, DC, (three hours north) to Greensboro, NC, (two hours south) and east to west by US Route 60 running from Richmond (two hours east) to Lexington (one hour west).

Transportation

General Aviation Service	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Falwell Airport, Lynchburg	2,932 ft (894 m)

Freight Rail Service	
CSX Transportation	
Norfolk Southern Railway Company	

Seaports	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	215.0 miles (346.0 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Virginia and any other seaports within 100 miles.

Other Ports of Entry	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Washington - Dulles	154.5 miles (248.6 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Washington - Dulles and any other port of entry within 100 miles.

Amherst County has a strong employee work ethic with a traditional right to work environment and excellent workforce training.

Utilities



Utilities	
Electric	American Electric Power
Electric	Central Virginia Electric Cooperative
Natural Gas	Columbia Gas of Virginia
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Telecommunications	Verizon-Virginia
Telecommunications	Comcast Business Communications
Telecommunications	Lumos Networks
Water	Amherst County Public Service Authority
Water	Town of Amherst
Waste Water Treatment	Amherst County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Town of Amherst
Solid Waste Disposal	Amherst County Sanitary Landfill

Electric service is provided by American Electric Power and Central Virginia Electric Cooperative.

Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions — 4th Qtr 2016 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	\$1,727,235.0
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$214,433.0
SunTrust Bank	\$200,557.6
WoodForest National Bank	\$4,854.5
Carter Bank & Trust	\$4,505.5
Bank of the James	\$574.5
First National Bank	\$439.1

Amherst is served by numerous banking institutions with expertise in business lending.

Government and Taxes

Government

Amherst County has a County Administrator and a five-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances.

The town of Amherst is the county seat. There are no other incorporated towns in the county.

Taxes

Localities in Virginia collect a 1% sales tax. They do not tax other items taxed at the State level.

Counties and cities in Virginia are separate taxing entities. Therefore, a company pays taxes to either a county or to a city.

If a company is located in a town, it pays town and county taxes except for utility taxes which are paid only to the town and the license tax which is paid only to the town unless town law permits the additional collection of a county tax.

Manufacturers pay real estate, machinery and tools, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes.

Nonmanufacturers pay real estate, tangible personal property, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes. They also may pay either a merchants' capital or a license tax.

Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Amherst) [pdf](#)

Non-Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Amherst) [pdf](#)

Amherst County has a County Administrator and a five-member Board of Supervisors.

Community Facilities

Adjacent Lynchburg offers two major hospital facilities for Amherst County residents. Lynchburg General Hospital and Virginia Baptist Hospital collectively offer 768 beds and comprehensive medical services for the region. The University of Virginia Hospital is located in Charlottesville approximately 50 miles away.

Ten physicians and three dentists have offices established in the county. More than 200 physicians and 70 dentists representing more than 30 medical and surgical specialties serve the metropolitan area.

The Amherst County Health Department operates two public health clinics and provides nursing home care. Private nursing and extended care is available at two locations in the town of Amherst. Additional nursing and extended care facilities are located in nearby Lynchburg.

More than 50 churches representing most of the leading Protestant and Catholic denominations are located in Amherst County. A Greek Orthodox church and a Jewish synagogue are located in Lynchburg.

Amherst County residents are served by public libraries in the town of Amherst and in Madison Heights.

Seven shopping centers are available in Amherst County offering residents a wide variety of retail goods and services including department stores, supermarkets, furniture stores, appliances and many others. In addition, adjacent Lynchburg provides substantial shopping and entertainment options including a regional mall and numerous neighborhood retail centers distributed throughout the city.

Taxes in Amherst County are low, compared to the nation and Virginia. Each locality sets its own rates. There are no special taxing districts within local jurisdictions.

Lifestyle

Sweet Briar College is a major cultural center for the community. The college sponsors many concerts, lectures, and dramatic productions that are available to the general public. An annual tennis camp operated by Dennis Van der Meer is hosted by the college and draws participants from county residents and students from across the nation. The Lynchburg Fine Arts Center and other local colleges add to the cultural offerings within the region including art galleries, dance studios, theater, and musical entertainment.

The Amherst County Recreation Department directs a comprehensive countywide recreation program consisting of team sports, public park facilities, and special interest classes. The three Buffalo River Watershed Lakes covering over 400 acres at the base of the mountains provide a breathtaking setting for canoeing, fishing, and picnicking. The George Washington National Forest has numerous mountain streams with championship trout fishing along with excellent hunting opportunities featuring deer, turkey, and small game. The Appalachian Trail offers scenic and challenging trails for hikers. The Blue Ridge Parkway features dramatic views for the motorist along with historic sites and public camping areas.

Winton Country Club offers members excellent dining, swimming, and golf facilities. Its 18-hole championship golf course is also open to the public. The Izaak Walton league operates a private club in the county including swimming, camping, and picnicking facilities. Poplar Grove, a premier golf course designed by Sam Snead, is also located in the county. Wintergreen Resort, in adjoining Nelson County, showcases excellent winter skiing in addition to year-round vacation amenities.

The climate is mild with an average temperature in July of 75 degrees and 34 in January. Annual precipitation is 43 inches, and there are 112 clear days a year.

Lifestyle

(continued)

Amherst County hosts several traditional annual festivals including the Garlic, Apple, and Sorghum Festivals and Monacan Indian Pow Wow, which draw thousands of patrons each year. The Amherst County Historical Museum, located in the town of Amherst, offers both permanent and temporary exhibits of historical events and artifacts relative to the county's history.

Amherst is home of Poplar Grove Golf Course, ranked #8 best new upscale public course in 2005 by Golf Digest.

[Lynchburg MSA Profile](#)

[Lynchburg Region Profile](#)

[Amherst County](#)

[Virginia's Region 2000 Economic Development Partnership](#)