

# Anniston Snapshot

A Summary of Conditions and Trends

One City, One Vision  
Community-driven Strategic Plan  
Anniston, Alabama

October 10, 2013

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# Anniston Snapshot

## A Summary of Conditions and Trends

This report is a profile of conditions and trends in Anniston. It will be used along with community input by the One City, One Vision Steering Committee to shape recommendations for the city's strategic plan. The report draws from existing data, studies, plans and other reference material that is readily available. It is organized into three parts:

### 1. People

Anniston's population characteristics and demographic trends.

### 2. Place

Anniston's physical characteristics, both built and natural.

### 3. Prosperity

Economic conditions and indicators of future prosperity.

*Anniston's prosperous early history has followed the trend of many industrial cities struggling with changing economic and social forces since the mid-twentieth century. But those trends don't define Anniston's future. A number of cities with similar challenges have taken positive action and begun to stabilize after decades of decline. Understanding the current situation and the opportunities that exist has to be the first step. Here is a summary of key issues and potential opportunities described in this report.*

## KEY FINDINGS

### Challenges

#### people

- Declining population
- Declining family households
- Older, aging population
- Declining youth and young adult population

#### place

- Abundant vacant land and vacant housing
- Limited commercial development
- Older housing
- Limited recent housing development

#### prosperity

- Lower education and high school graduation rates
- Proportionally small workforce
- Higher unemployment
- Lower incomes
- Higher crime

### Opportunities

- There has been population growth elsewhere in the County and region
- The new bypass creates potential for new development
- There is abundant developable land in the city
- The former Ft. McClellan
- Anniston's location and natural setting is an asset
- The city has abundant park and recreational amenities
- Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods have qualities that are attractive to a growing market
- Historic preservation efforts can encourage economic development
- Education rates are improving
- Unemployment is declining

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# 1. People

Anniston's demographic trends reveal daunting challenges. The city has experienced five decades of population and household decline, with families and younger people leading that decline. While Alabama maintained steady growth, much of that growth has occurred at the edges of urban areas. Older cities were stagnant or lost population. In that way Anniston is similar to cities nationwide that thrived in the early part of the 20th century, and struggled with economic and social change in the second half of the 20th century.

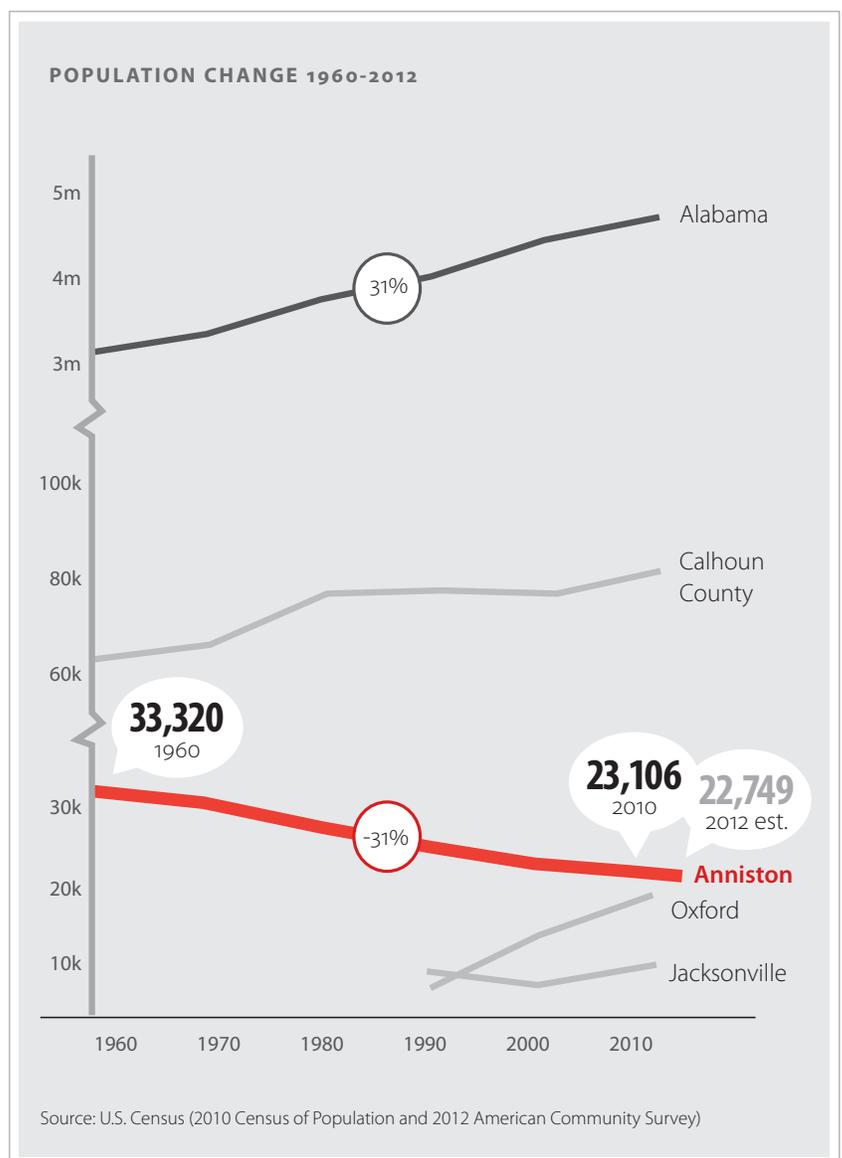
## POPULATION

### Long trend of population decline in

**Anniston.** Since its peak in the 1960s with over 33,300 residents, Anniston's population has declined every decade. The 2010 Census recorded 23,106 residents, which is a loss of about 31% of its residents since 1960. The city's current population (2012) is estimated to be 22,749. The rate of decline was highest between 1990-2000. Since the year 2000, the average annual rate of population change (-0.48%) was slower than previous decades. In comparison, the State of Alabama has grown every decade adding about 31% to its population since 1960.

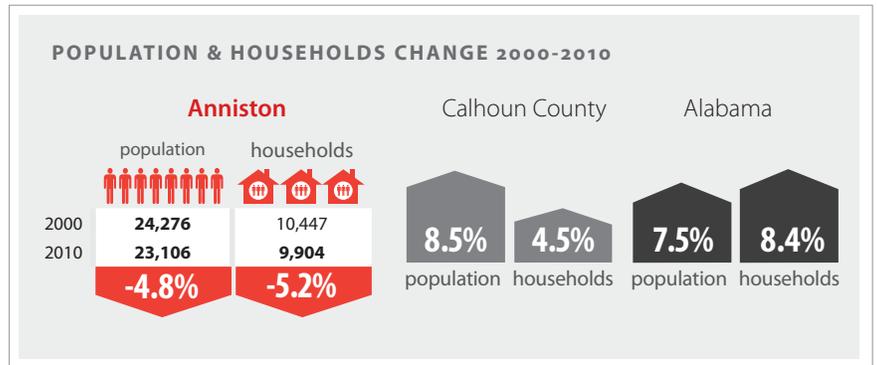
### Recent growth elsewhere in Calhoun

**County.** While Anniston's population began declining in the 1960s, other parts of the County continued to grow until the 1980s. The County's population declined during the 1980s and 1990s. But, since the year 2000, the County has grown by about 7,500 people (8.5%), a slightly better growth rate than the State overall (7.5%). The City of Oxford, south of Anniston (with direct access to Interstate 20) and the City of Jacksonville to the north, (home to Jacksonville State University), account for much of the County's recent growth. These two cities have each grown by 45-50% in the past decade.



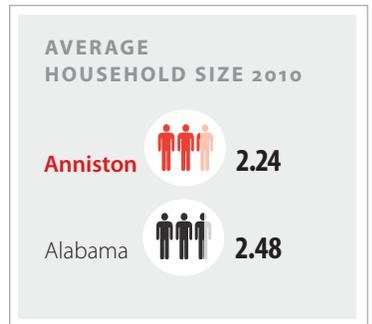
### Households declining along with population.

While the total population in Anniston declined -4.8% from 2000-2010, the number of households declined at a slightly greater rate of -5.2% to 9,904. While these numbers are similar they are a contrast to national trends. Nationwide, the number of households has generally grown faster than the population – in some areas even increasing while population declines, due the average family size getting smaller and more young people (particularly women) living alone for longer than in the past. Alabama’s population is consistent with the national trend, the population in the state grew 7.5%, while the number of households increased 8.5% during that time.



### Smaller household size in Anniston

On average, there are 2.24 people in each Anniston household, which is smaller than the average size of households in Alabama (2.48). More than 35% of households within Anniston are single-person households, compared to 27% in Alabama.

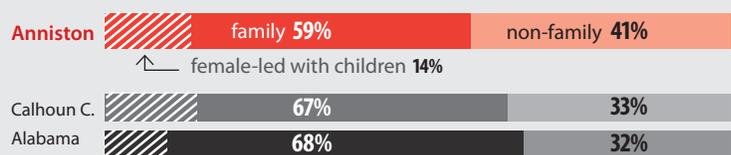


### HOUSEHOLDS CHANGE BY TYPE, ANNISTON 2000-2010

	1-person households	2-person households	3-4-person households	families with children*
2000	3,631	3,433	2,667	6,416
2010	3,594	3,218	2,386	5,841
	-1%	-6%	-11%	-14%
	families with children aged (6-17)	husband-wife families with children*	female-led households with children*	female-led households with children under age 6
2000	479	2,720	2,518	279
2010	431	1,961	2,474	336
	-24%	-28%	-1.5%	20%

\*children under the age of 18

### PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE 2010



Source: U.S. Census (2010 Census of Population and 2012 American Community Survey)

### Fewer families in Anniston.

Households of all sizes declined in Anniston from 2000-2010, but single-person households declined at the lowest rate (-1%). Three- and four-person households declined by -11%. Family households with children under the age of 18 decreased -14%. Families with children between the ages of 6-17 declined -24%.

### Growing proportion of female-led households with children.

While the total number of families with children decreased -14% from 2000-2010, the decline was greater among husband-wife families with children (-28%) than among single women with children (-1.5%). The only family group that grew during the decade was female-led households with children under the age the of 6 (which added 57 households, an increase of 20% from 2000). Overall female-led households with children make up 14% of Anniston’s households, versus 10% within all of Alabama.

#### what is a household?

A person or group of people living together in one housing unit.

#### what is a housing unit?

A house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms or single room, which are intended as separate living quarters.

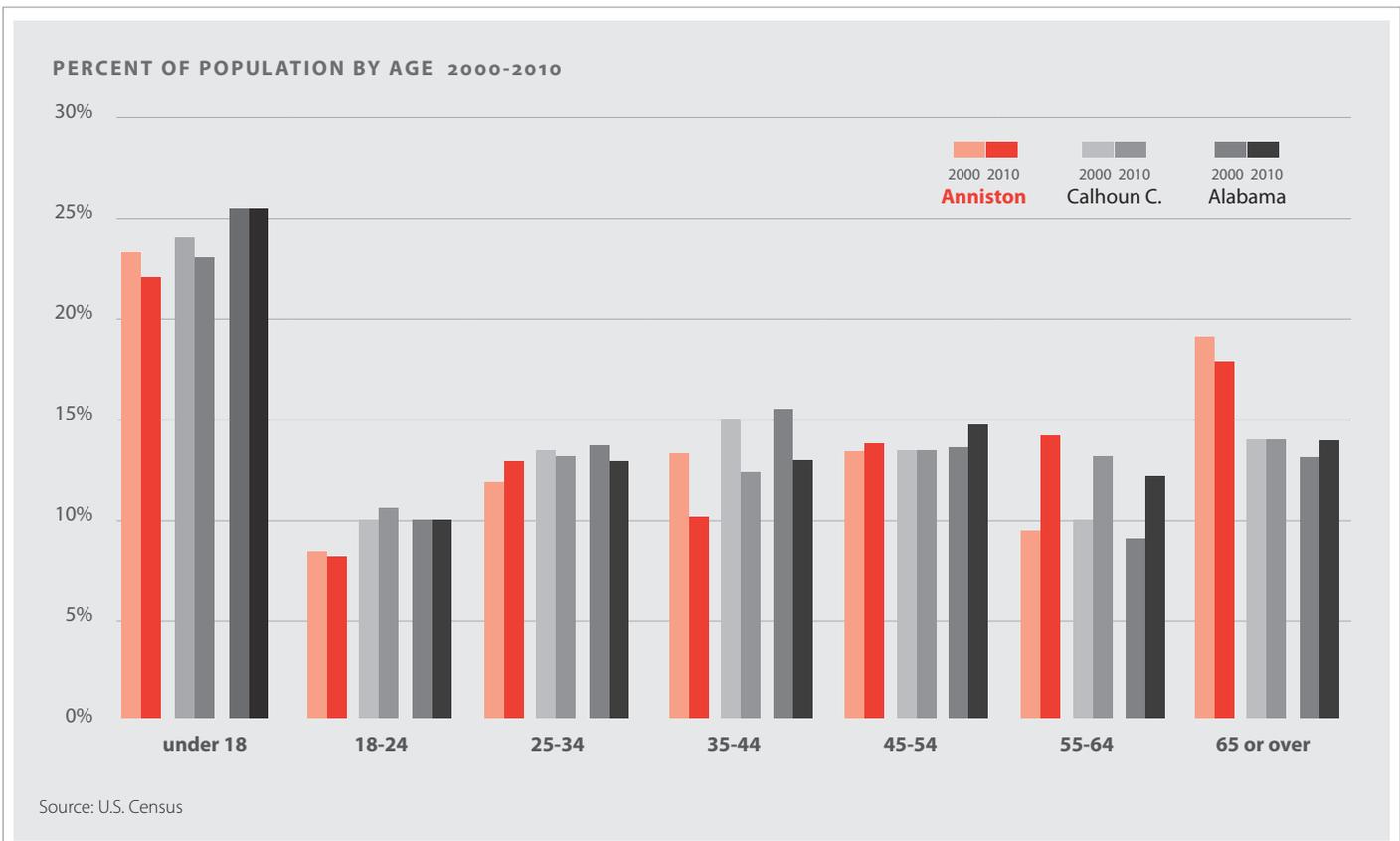
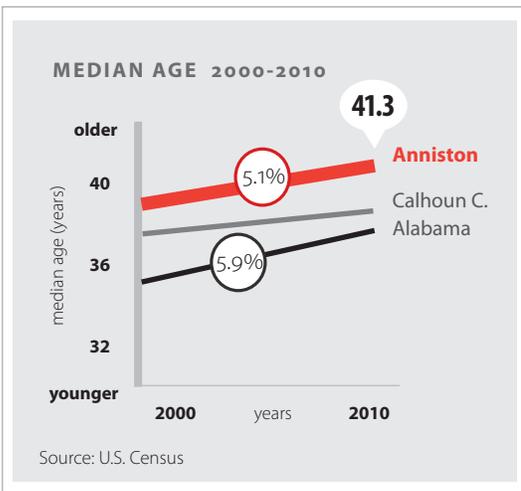
#### what is a family household?

A group of two or more people living together in a housing unit who are related by birth, marriage, adoption, etc. Family households can also include people that are not related to that family (foster children).

## AGE

**An older, aging population.** Anniston's population is somewhat older compared to Alabama overall and is aging at a similar rate with state. In 2010, the median age in Anniston was 41.3 years versus 37.9 for Alabama. In 2000, that median age was 39.3, while in Alabama it was 35.8.

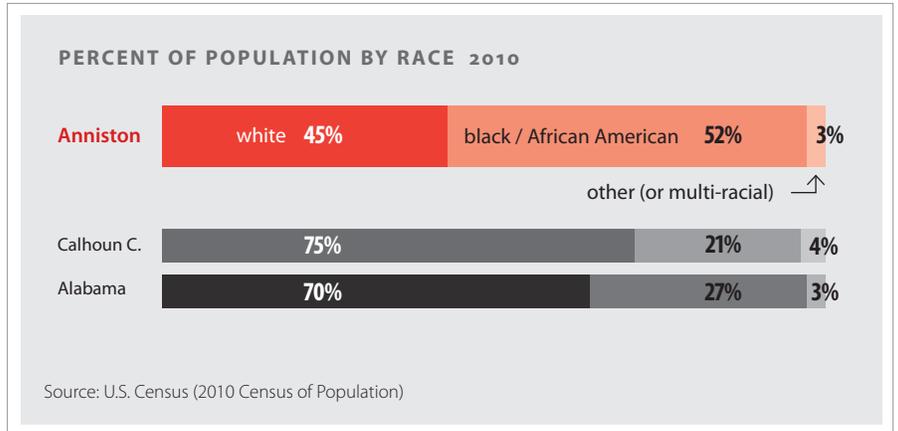
**Fewer young people, more "boomers" and seniors.** Compared with the State of Alabama, young people under the age of 18 and those 18-24 years-old represent a smaller (and declining) proportion of the population in Anniston. The proportion of 25-34 year-olds is similar to the State overall but, interestingly, this group grew in Anniston (both in numbers and as a percent of the population) between 2000-2010, while it declined in Alabama overall. However, the greatest decline between 2000 and 2010 was in the 35-44 year-olds. The decrease in the under 24 year-old and the 35-44 year-old populations from 2000-2010 is likely related to the significant decline in families with children (see pg. 5). Meanwhile, "baby boomers" (those aged 45-64) and seniors (aged 65 and over) represent a larger proportion of Anniston's population.



## DIVERSITY

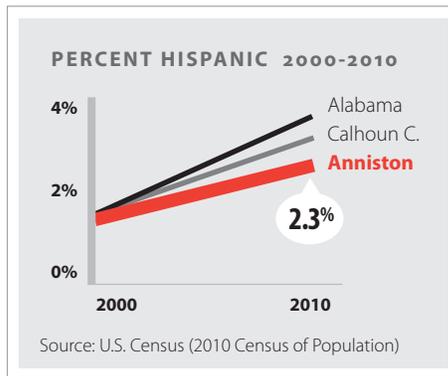
### Large proportion of African Americans.

Approximately 45% of Anniston's population identifies their race as "white", while 52% identify themselves as "black" or African American, and 4% identify as another race or multi-racial. This racial mix is in contrast to Calhoun County, which is 75% white and 21% black or African American. In comparison, 70% of Alabama's population is white.



### Small but growing Hispanic minority.

Hispanics (people of hispanic origin of any race) represent a smaller proportion of Anniston's population (2.3%) compared to the county (3.3%) and state (3.7%). That group is growing, but the rate of growth is slower in Anniston. In 2000, Hispanics represented 1.6% of the population in Anniston, the county and the state.



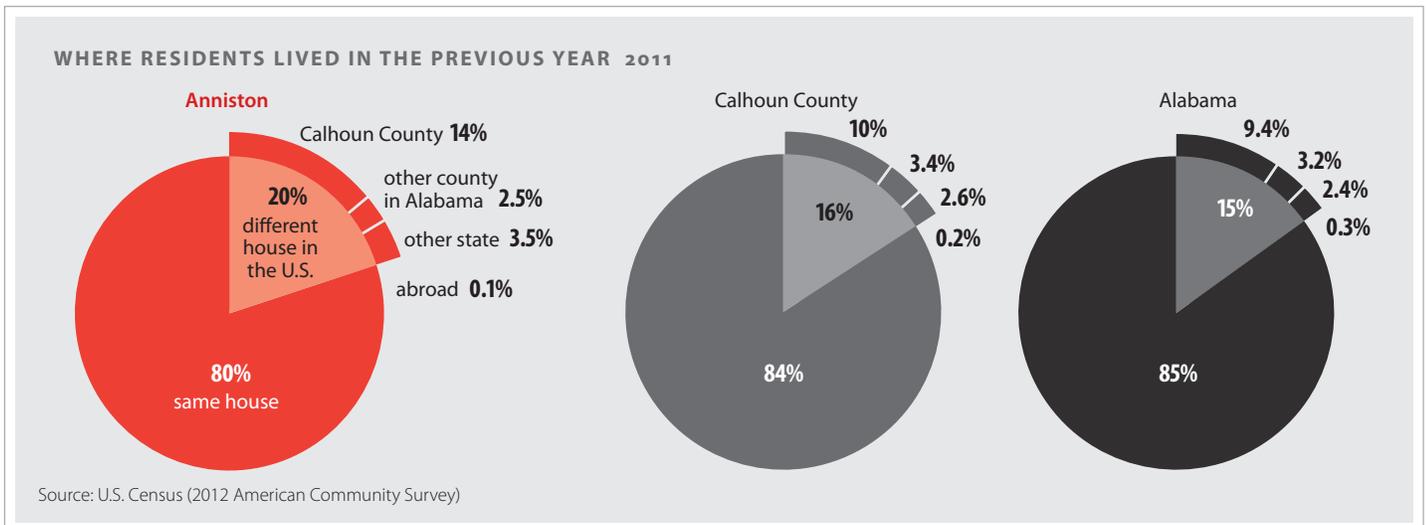
### Race and Ethnicity.

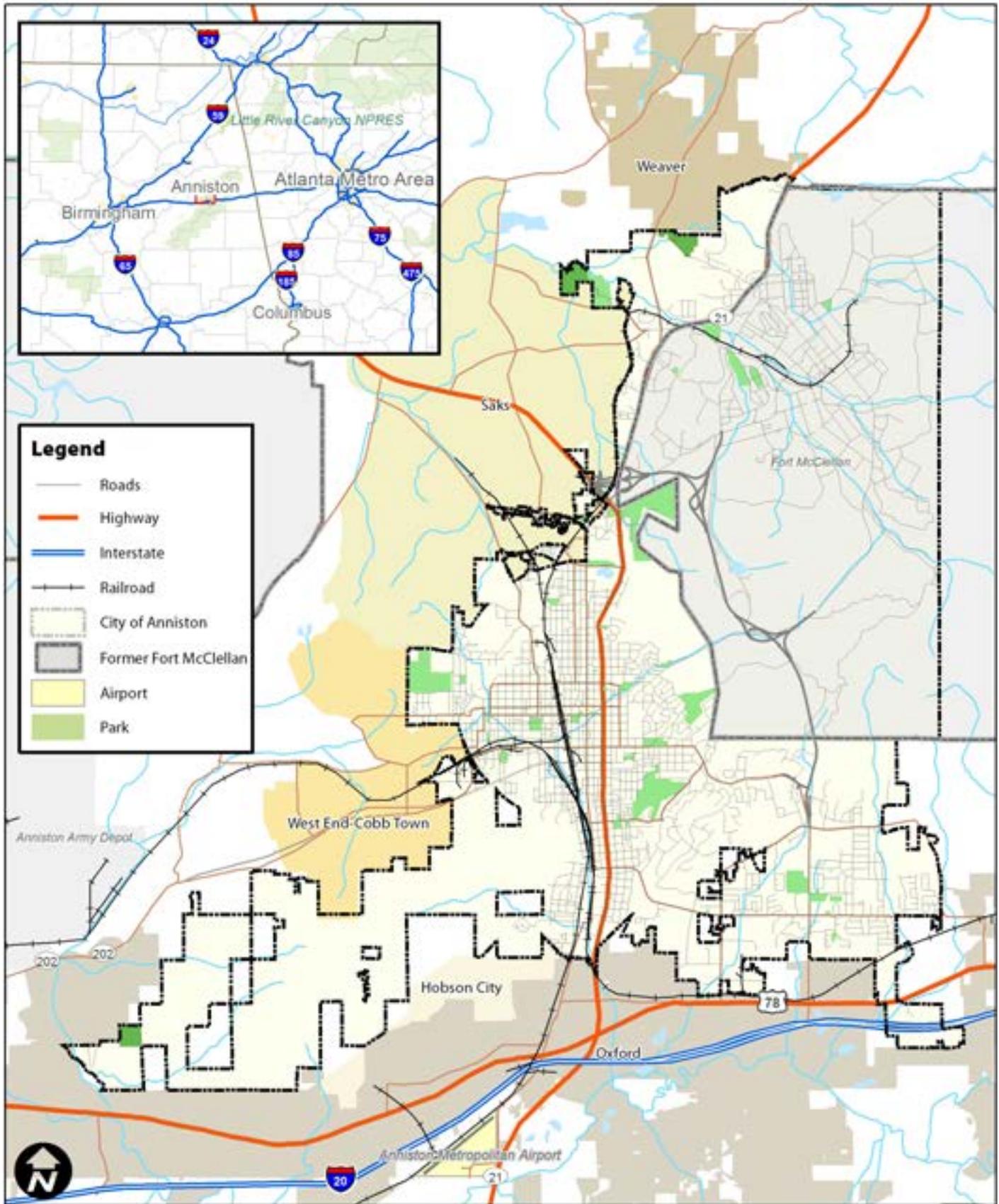
Ethnicity and race are sometimes – but not always – synonymous. For example, the Census Bureau considers "Hispanic or Latino" to be an ethnic designation, but it considers "African American" to be a racial designation. A person may identify with one or both. An ethnicity is often a social classification whereas race is primarily defined by physical characteristics. According to the Census, a hispanic person might identify their race as "white," "black" or "other."

**Few foreign-born residents.** Foreign born residents (whether U.S. citizens or another nationality) make up 2% of Anniston's residents, a smaller proportion compared to the state and county (each 3%). However, this number is growing. About 20% of the foreign born population came to Anniston since 2000.

### Citizens change addresses relatively frequently.

As of 2011, approximately one in five Anniston residents (20.5%) lived in a different house the previous year. 14% lived in another house in Calhoun County, while 2.5% lived outside of Calhoun County but within Alabama, and 3.8% lived in a different state. That rate of mobility is significantly higher than Alabama and the U.S. overall.





## 2. Place

Anniston's physical characteristics are among its valuable assets. The city is located between two major metropolitan areas in a unique natural setting. It's early prosperity and deliberate planning formed a built environment with elaborate buildings, fine neighborhoods and homes, attractive streets and designed landscapes. But Anniston's current conditions somewhat conceal the city's remaining assets. While many properties are vacant, underutilized or in disrepair, there remains a viable stock of buildings, many with historic character. The city's traditional development patterns anchored by downtown are a good foundation for creating a desirable place. The new bypass and former Fort McClellan land present tremendous opportunities for development in the city. With maintained public parks and expanding recreational assets, Anniston remains quite livable.

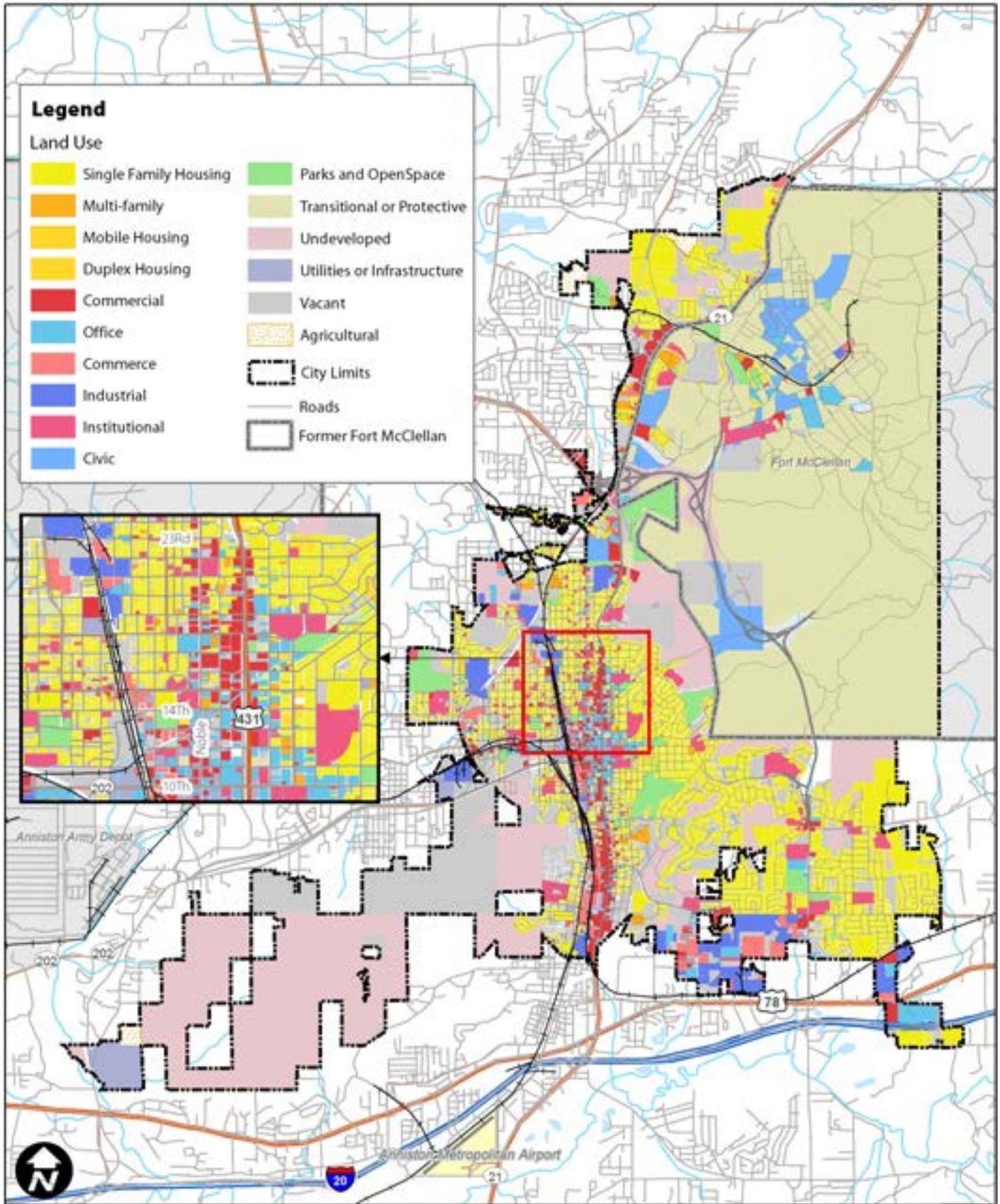
### ANNISTON'S CONTEXT

**Close to nature, not far from major cities.** The county seat of Calhoun County and second largest city in the ten-county East Alabama region (behind Gadsden), Anniston is conveniently located within an hour-and-a-half drive to both Birmingham and Atlanta. Nestled at the southernmost part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Anniston's setting and natural resources have helped define the city's character and drive its historic growth. The nearby Talladega National Forest and Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge (part of the former Fort McClellan) are home to diverse plants and wildlife (including several rare or endangered species).

**Large land area for the population.** Anniston's land area is currently about 45 square miles. The former Fort McClellan, which was annexed into the city in the late 1990s, accounts for about 17 square miles (about 38%) of the city. A large area of the Fort McClellan land is undeveloped. Without including the McClellan land, the city's population density is 825 people per square mile (somewhat low). Including McClellan, the population density is about 505 people per square mile.

**Traditional development patterns remain.** Most of Anniston was developed before World War II and retains a traditional street grid with small blocks and buildings close to the street. The city also has retained many historic buildings that contribute to its character. However, like many cities, surface parking has replaced countless buildings in the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods while sprawling suburban development has consumed land at the city's edge – though at a relatively slow pace.

**Indirect Interstate access.** Interstate 20, which connects Birmingham and Atlanta, runs just south of Anniston through the City of Oxford. The location of I-20 is significant because Alabama cities rely heavily on sales tax revenue from retail in their boundaries. Much of the area's recent retail growth has occurred along I-20 and benefitted Oxford, while Anniston has seen little retail growth. Anniston's main corridor, Quintard St. (U.S. 431) links I-20 with Downtown and contains most of the city's commercial activity.



**Historic resources and initiatives.**

Despite significant volume of demolition that occurred primarily from the 1960s through the 1980s and failure of historic preservation to gain popularity in Anniston, the city still retains a wealth of historic resources. In a time when people are increasingly seeking authentic, unique places, there is tremendous opportunity for the city to leverage their historic assets. The city has seen some positive preservation efforts with the renovation of the Southern Railway Depot, the Noble Streetscape Project (which encouraged local business owners to refurbish storefront facades),

sensitive renovations of several private residences, and designation of parts of McClellan as a historic district. A 2007 report titled describes opportunities for Anniston to leverage historic preservation for economic revitalization.

**A bypass brings opportunity.** The area’s Eastern Bypass, largely funded by the Federal economic stimulus package of 2009, is nearing completion. The 9.1-mile bypass will make additional land available for development in the city. Development plans call for a new commercial area near the junction with U.S. 431 (McClellan Blvd.)

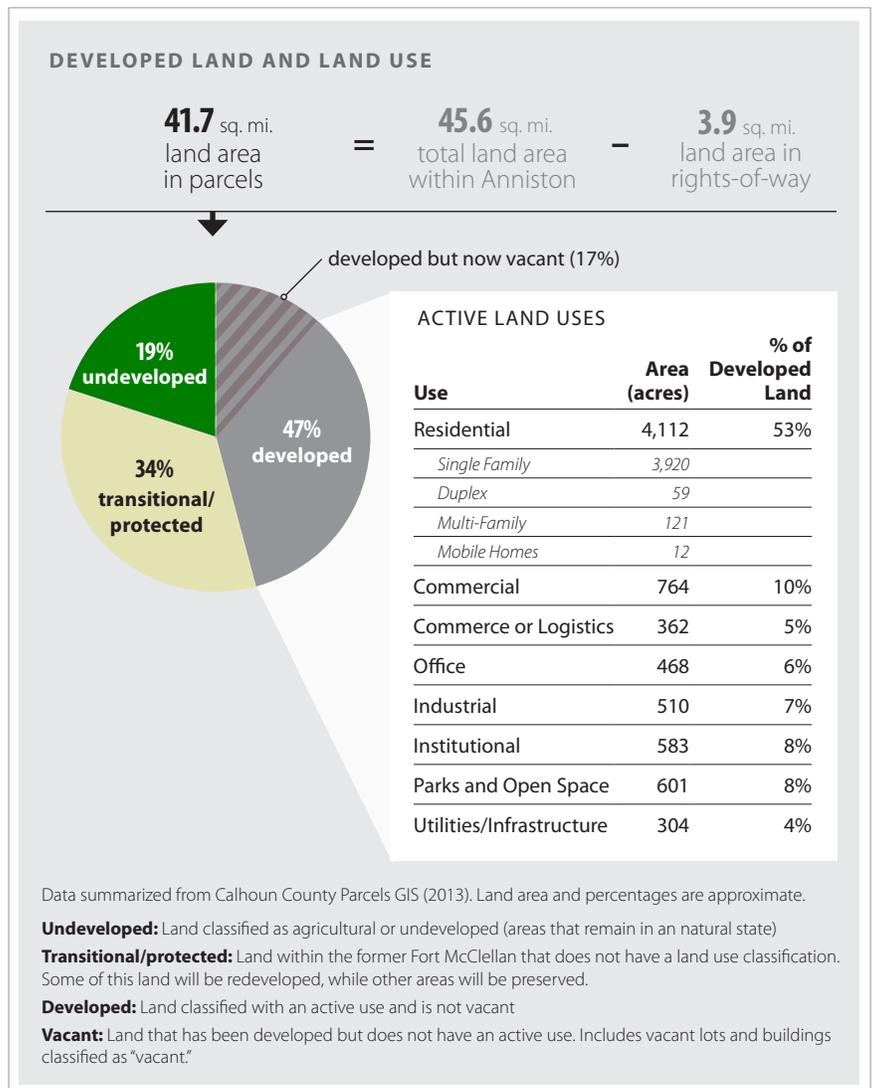
**LAND USE**

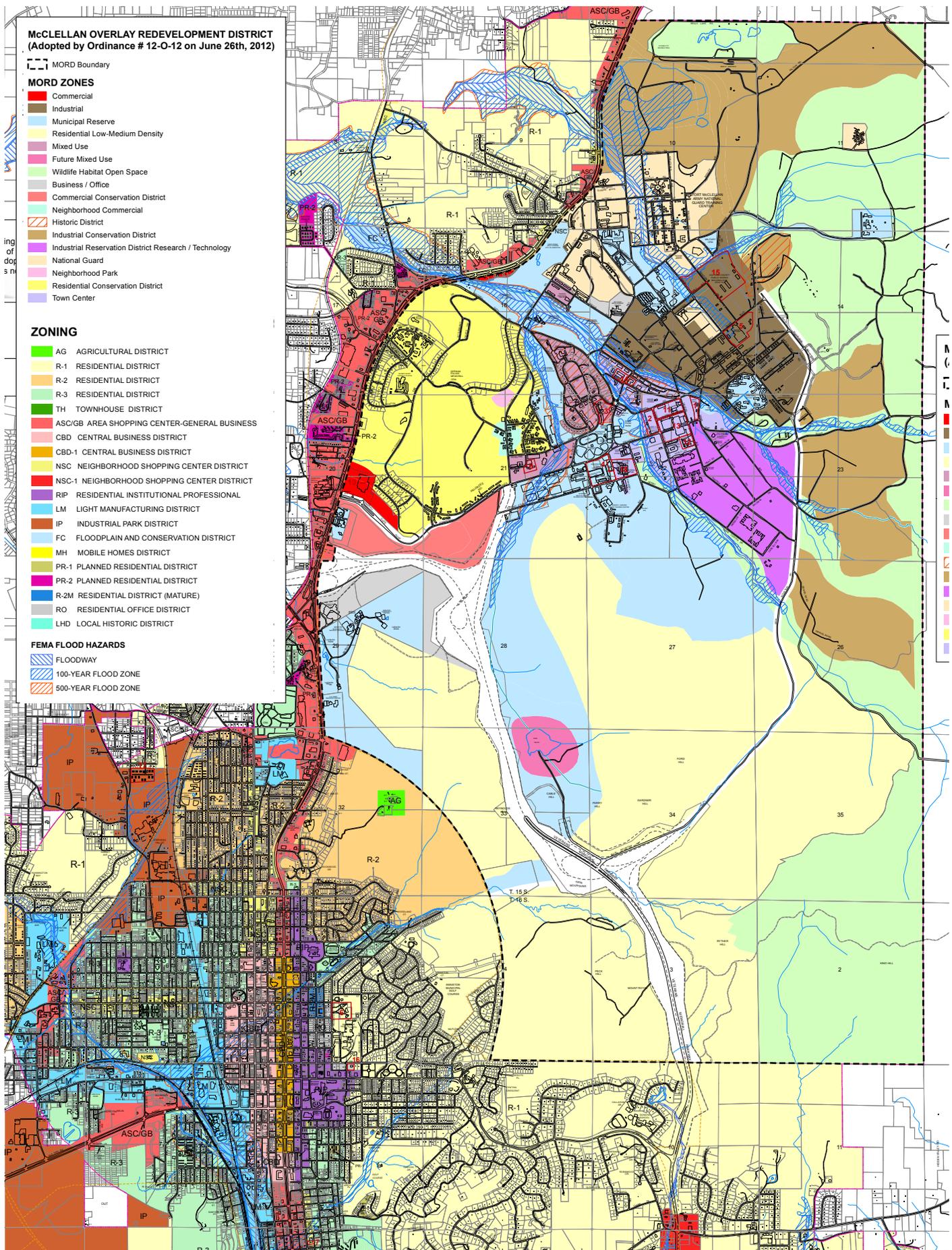
**Large areas of undeveloped land.**

Less than half of the city’s land area has been developed (47%, 19.5 square miles). Another 19% of Anniston’s current land area is undeveloped – either forest, farmland, or other land in a natural state (excluding parks). The remaining 34% of the city could not be classified as either developed or undeveloped due to its status as former Federal land (fort McClellan) and is considered “transitional or protected land.” It is expected that some of former Federal land will be protected from development, while other areas will be developed/redeveloped in the future.

**Residential land is the dominant land use.**

Of the various developed land uses within the city, residential land dominates. Over half (53%, 4,111 acres) of the city’s developed land area is residential. Of the residential development within the city, 95% is occupied by single-family homes, 3% is classified as multi-family, 2% duplex and less than 1% is classified as mobile housing.





**Development plans for McClellan.** A zoning overlay ordinance adopted in 2012 depicts future plans for the redevelopment and preservation of the former Fort McClellan. The map on the facing page shows that large areas of the eastern and southern portions of the site are designated for conservation. To the north of the site is the National Guard Training Center. At the center of the site is the mixed-use McClellan Post historic district, areas designated industrial, research/technology reservation district, and town center.

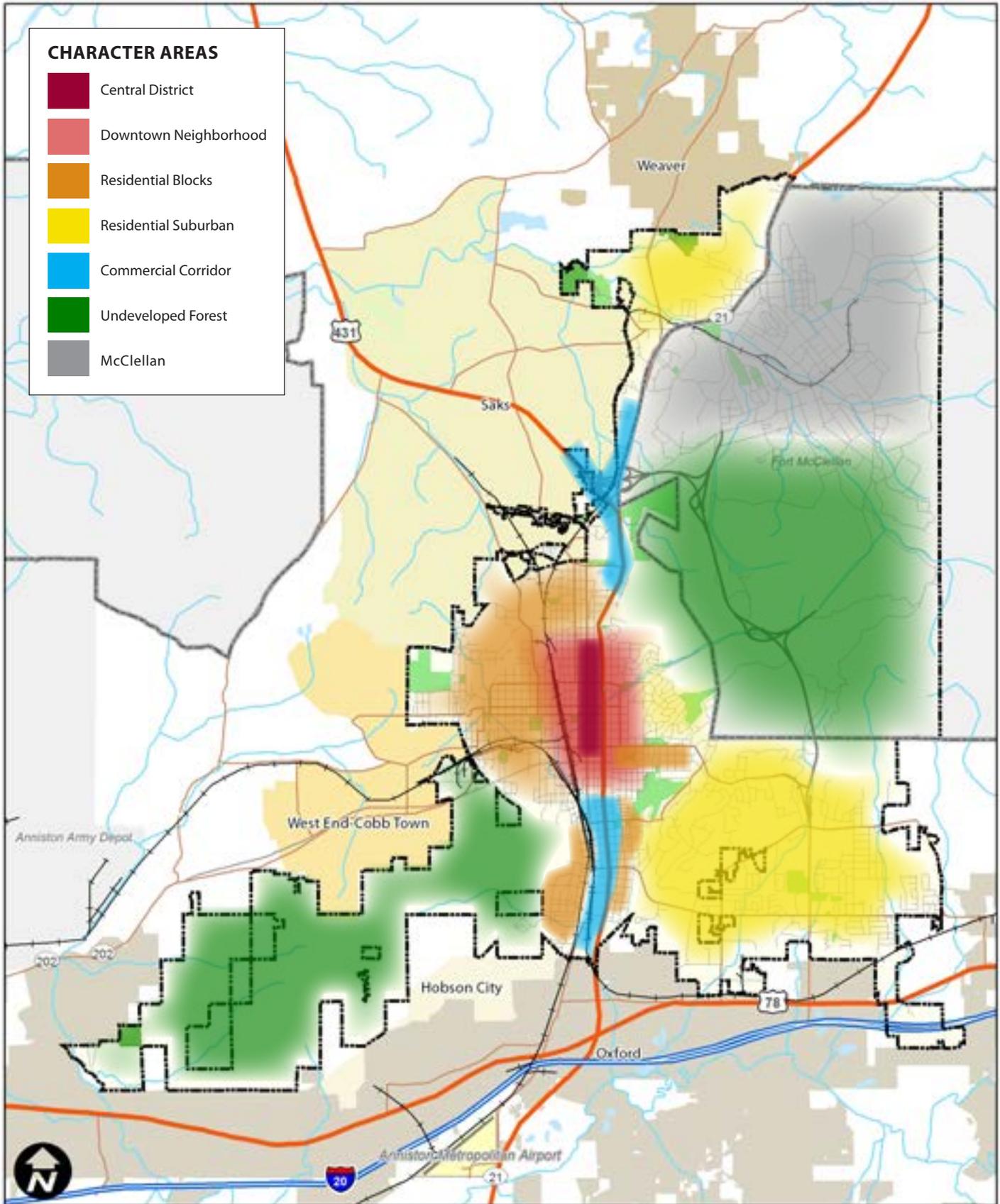
**Park and recreation needs.** A 2001 Recreation Master Plan inventoried the City's parks and recreational offerings. It identified a number of specific improvements with cost estimates for each of the city's parks. It also defined a hierarchy of recreational facilities that included regional, community, and neighborhood parks to more efficiently service the needs of the system as well as the people of Anniston. However, the Plan also recommended closures of some facilities, which created turmoil among the city's various wards. Most of Master Plan's recommendations were not implemented.

**Total park land above a national benchmark.** The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) sets a "target of excellence" of between 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 persons in urban areas. Based on its 2010 population and the 2001 Recreation Master Plan inventory (589 acres), Anniston has approximately 25.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Regional Parks account for 352.2 acres. Community Parks (which are intended to each have a community center with complete indoor recreation possibilities) account for 82.4 acres. There are twenty-five parks considered as candidates for neighborhood parks, collectively representing 154.3 acres.

**Growing network of trails.** Anniston has an abundance of recreational trails. Coldwater Mountain is a 4000-acre tract of land owned by the State of Alabama's Forever Wild organization and managed by the State Lands Division. It is presently being developed into a world class destination trail system for mountain bikers, trail runners, and hikers. The city is also home to the Alabama's largest rail-to-trails project, Chief Ladiga Trail, which links downtown Anniston to Atlanta.

**Support for pedestrian and bike planning.** In support of the Calhoun Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) 2012 Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update the city of Anniston has considered a resolution to:

- Evaluate, plan and support neighborhood subdivision and corridor subdivision development to include bicycle and pedestrian access.
- Consider bicycle and pedestrian operating characteristics in the design, evaluation and planning of street improvements and upkeep.
- Develop an education program to promote bicycle use and safety with public safety and education departments.
- Ensure interconnection of new facilities with neighborhoods, corridors and destinations that are safe and an enhancement to a quality of life.
- Develop a program and capital expenditure inclusion for bicycle parking racks and facilities in areas of multimodal points, neighborhood and commercial centers, neighborhood and regional parks, pathways, greenways and other areas of influence for bicycle support to the transportation network.

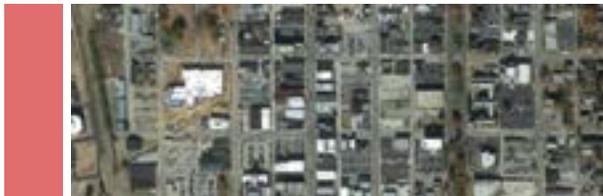


## CHARACTER

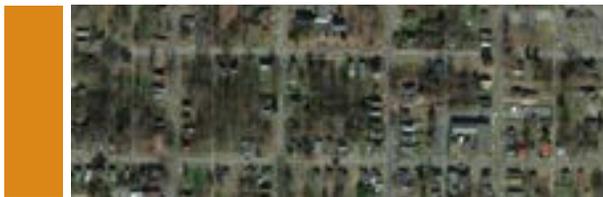
Different parts of Anniston have distinct character that is defined by physical characteristics like lot sizes, density, street pattern, block size and connectivity, and building design. Using these traits, the city's neighborhoods, districts and corridors have been classified into seven character areas. The locations of these areas are shown on the map on the facing page. While the borders of these areas are approximate (and often gradual), the character assessment generally shows how the city has developed over time.



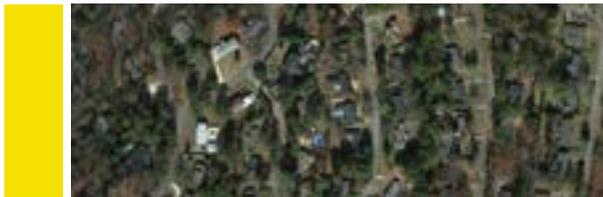
**Central District.** The core of Anniston's downtown along Noble Street, which is characterized by multiple story buildings placed close to the street with a mix of uses. This area has some of the largest and oldest buildings in the City. The district has a commercial orientation.



**Downtown Neighborhood.** Surrounding the Noble Street core, the downtown neighborhood contains a great diversity of uses (commercial, civic, institutional, residential) and building types. There is a grid street network with buildings oriented to the street. Surface parking occupies a large proportion of land in downtown.



**Residential Blocks.** The residential block zone surrounds much of the downtown neighborhoods and commercial corridors to the south. It is characterized by its grid street network, making it well-connected to downtown and more walkable than newer suburban areas. The area has relatively small blocks and some of the oldest housing stock. There is a greater integration of parks and civic uses compared to suburban areas.



**Residential Suburban.** The newer residential areas primarily to the southeast and far north of the city that have a characteristic suburban pattern. These areas are mostly single-family residential, with homes on larger lots, with deeper set-backs along curved streets. Rather than maintain the grid street network, each neighborhood street tends to connect to one or two higher volume arterials.



**Commercial Corridor.** Extending south to Interstate 20 and north along McClellan Blvd., the commercial corridor character areas are oriented to mostly single-story commercial buildings are set back from the street behind large areas of surface parking. The commercial corridor is the least walkable development type.



**Undeveloped Forest.** To the far southwest and northeast of the city's center there are several large areas of undeveloped forest. While some of this land may be developable, much has been designated to be preserved for environmental or recreational purposes.



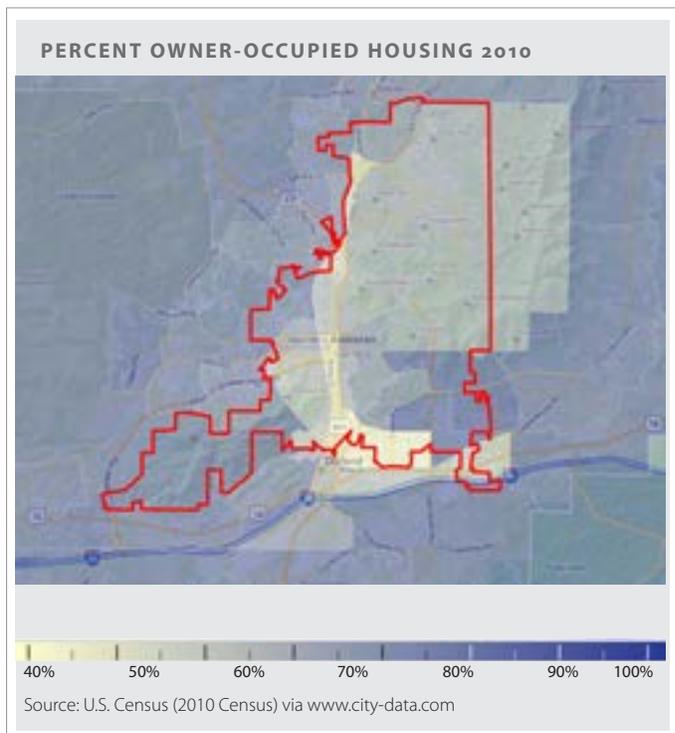
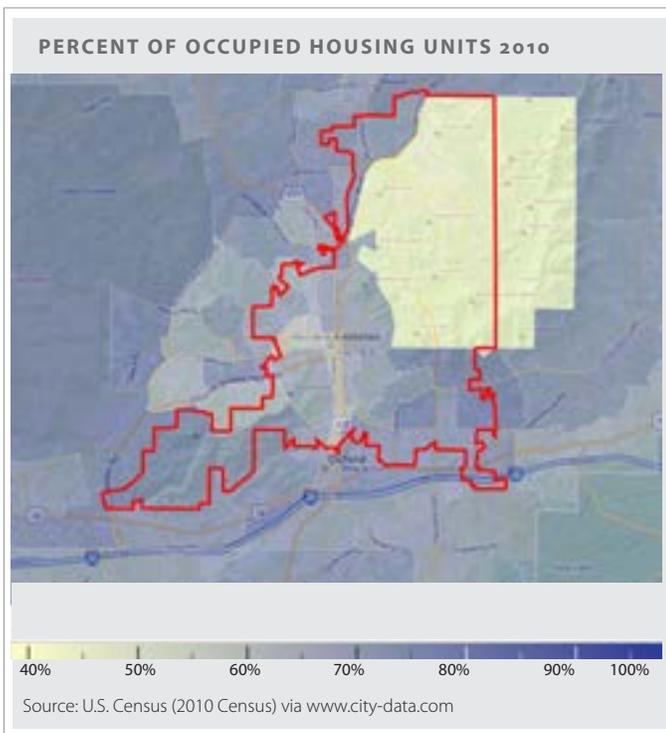
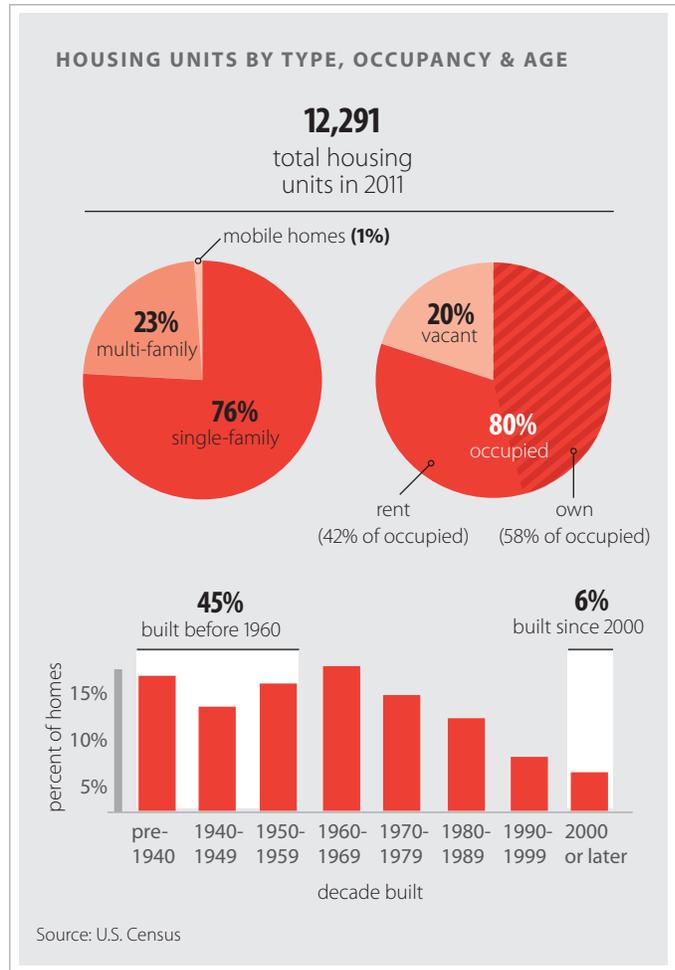
**McClellan.** The grounds of the former Fort McClellan maintain a distinct character type based on their military legacy.

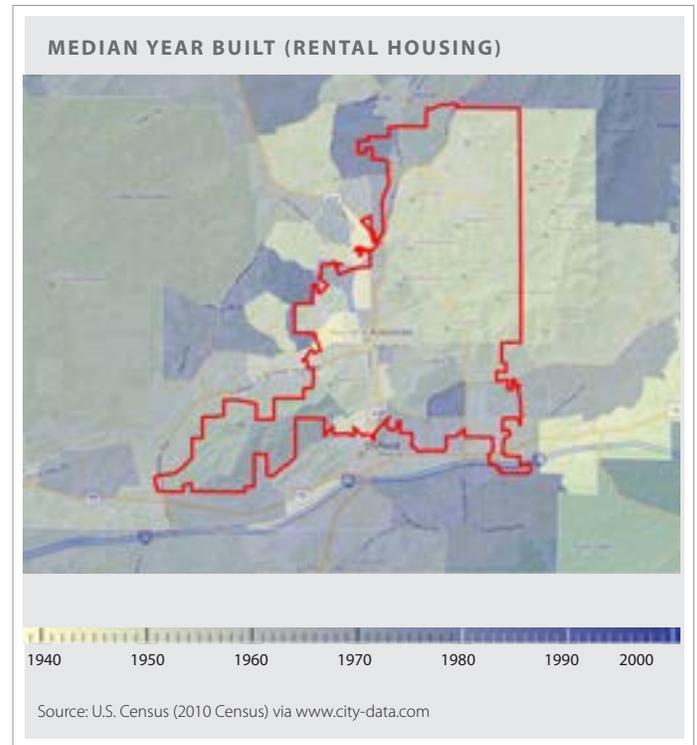
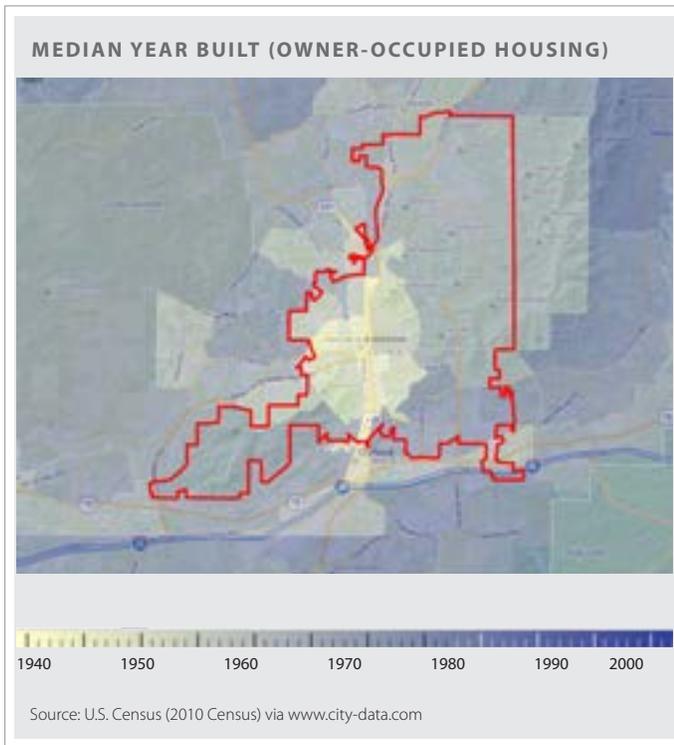
## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

**Mostly single-family housing.** As of 2011, there are 12,291 housing units in Anniston. Approximately 76% are single family units, 23% multi-family units and 1%, mobile homes.

**Significant amount of vacant housing.** Approximately 80% of Anniston’s housing is occupied, leaving about 2,504 units (20%) vacant. Most of the vacant housing is in West Anniston, where over 30% of homes are vacant (the Fort McClellan area also has a high percentage of vacant housing, but the total amount housing there is relatively low).

**Larger proportion of owner-occupied than renter-occupied housing, but low for Alabama.** Of Anniston’s housing that is occupied, about 58% (5,700 units) is owner-occupied and 42% (4,100 units) is rental. In comparison, 70% of Alabama homes are owner-occupied. The areas that are mostly rental housing are along Quintard Blvd., West Anniston and the city’s southern edge.

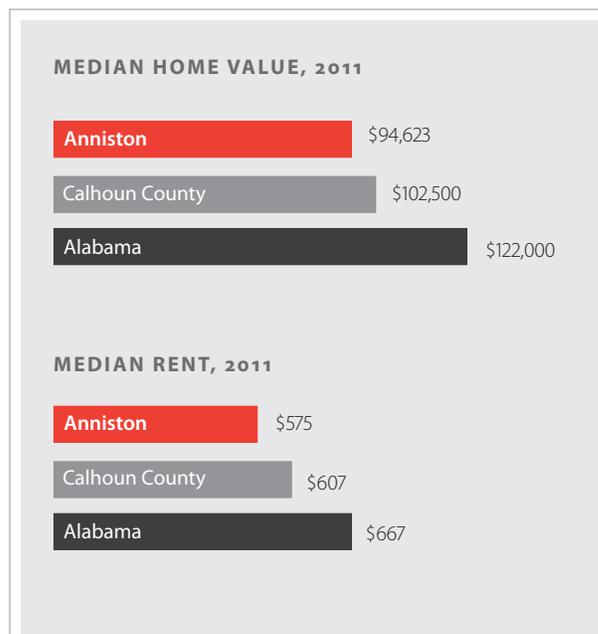




**Very slow rate of recent housing growth, particularly single-family.** Since the year 2000, 208 permits have been issued for new single-family homes in Anniston. 2007 saw the most new construction permits when 39 permits were issued. Since 2008, there have been between 1-6 permits per year. Data on other types of building permits was not readily available. However, the 2010 Census identified 735 total residential units in Anniston built since 2000, which suggests that there were more multi-family units built than single family since that time.

**Older housing.** Since new home construction has been slow in recent years, most of the city's housing stock is older. Approximately 45% of housing units were built before 1960. Approximately 17% of homes were built during the 1960s. Since then, each decade added a smaller amount of housing. Homes built since 2000 account for 6% of the city's housing stock (about 735 units).

**Relatively affordable housing.** The median rent in Anniston is \$575 (in 2011), while the median home value is \$94,623. In comparison, the median rent is \$607 in Calhoun County and \$667 in Alabama. The median home value is \$102,500 in Calhoun County and \$122,700 in Alabama.



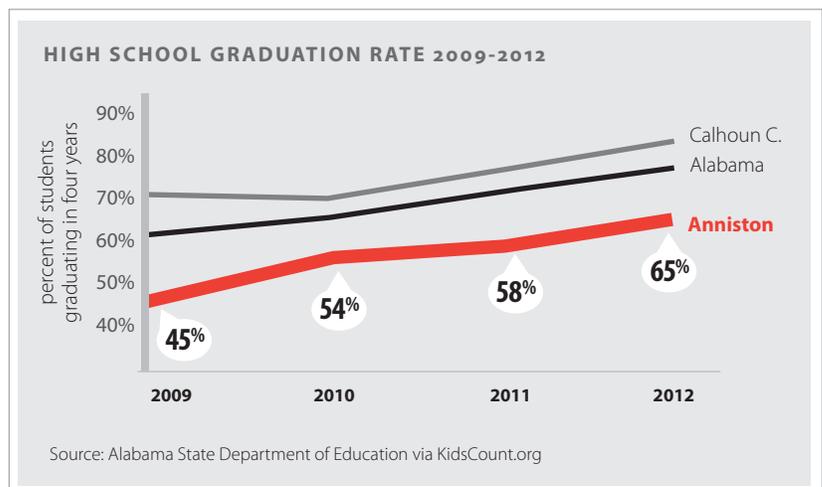
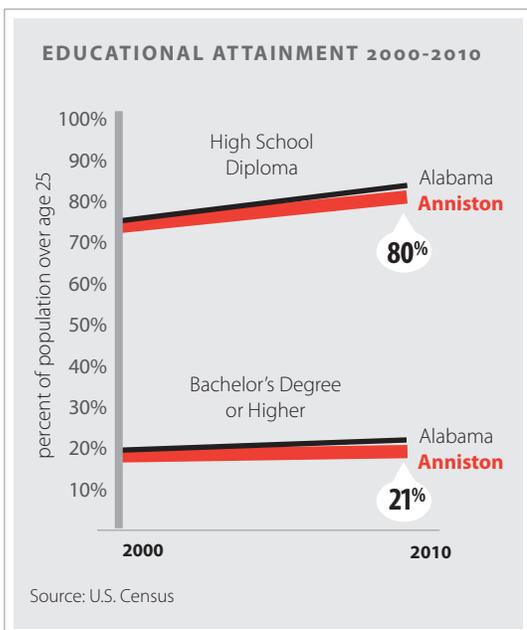
# 3. Prosperity

Anniston's statistics related to its prosperity reveal significant challenges to be overcome. Chief among these concerns is the community's relatively low performance in education. While the graduation rate has slowly improved, the school's performance is a clear area of concern for residents and city leadership, alike. Other statistics related to the labor force and income tell similarly challenging stories but are also showing signs of slow improvement.

## EDUCATION

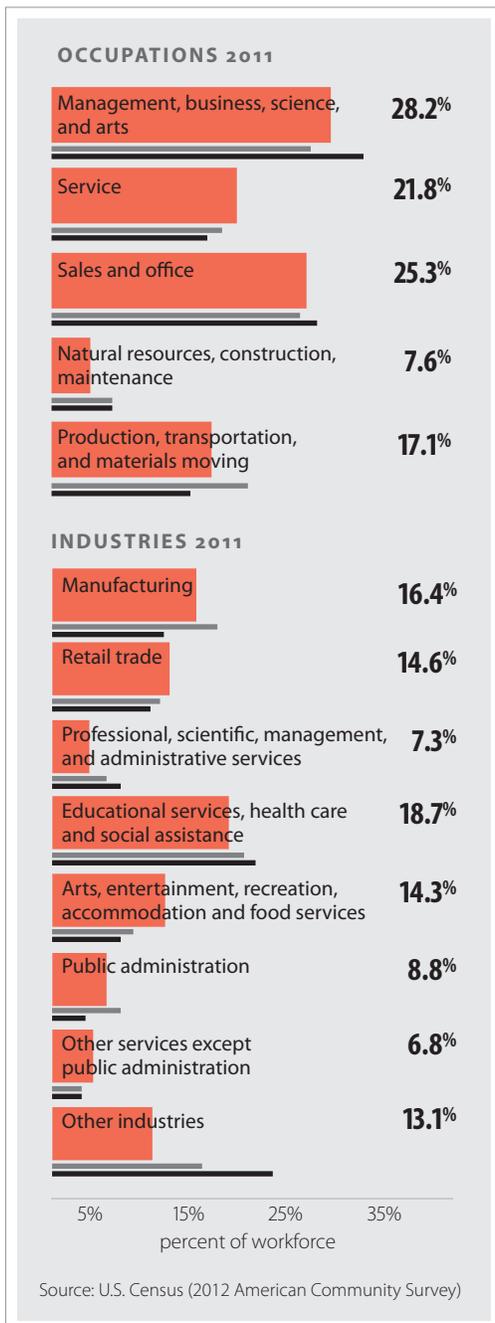
**Increasing educational attainment reflects Alabama trends.** The percentage of Anniston residents over the age of twenty-five with a high school diploma or equivalency increased from 74% to 80% between 2000-2010. This improvement is mirrored in Alabama, which saw an increase from 75% to 81%. Likewise the proportion of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased from 19% to 21% from 2000-2010 (19% to 22% in Alabama). In contrast, 89% of the U.S. population have a high school diploma and over 30% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**Relatively low high school graduation rate, but improving.** The high school graduation rate for Anniston City Schools in 2012 (for freshmen that entered in 2009) was 65%. While that rate is lower than Alabama's 75% average, it was an improvement from 2011 when the rate was 58%. In fact, Anniston's graduation rate has been improving every year since 2009, when the rate was 45%. Within Calhoun County Schools the 4-year graduation rate was 81% in 2012 and 78% in 2011. The State of Alabama most recently averages a 75% graduation rate. The manner in which graduation rates are calculated changed in 2009, so older statistics are not directly comparable.



## EMPLOYMENT

**Smaller working population.** About 54% of Anniston residents 16 years of age or older are in the labor force – a lower proportion than the state (60%) and national average (65%). That rate is slightly higher than in 2000, when about 52% of Anniston residents were counted among the labor force. This smaller working population is related to the high proportion of seniors citizens in Anniston.



### Higher unemployment rate, but improving.

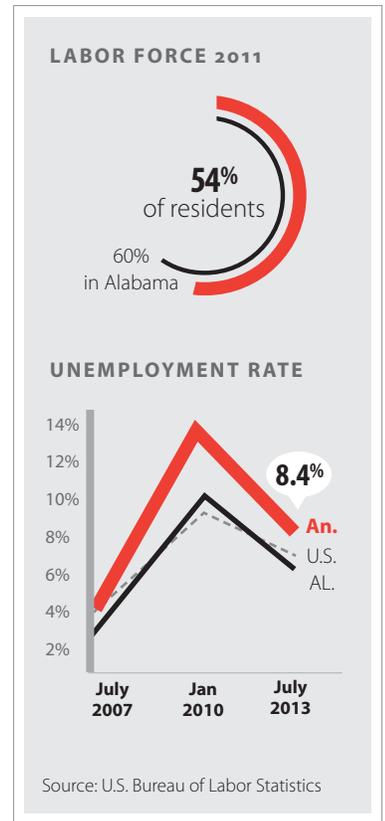
Since the 2007/2008 recession, Anniston's unemployment rate has averaged a couple of percentage points above that of the U.S. and Alabama. At its peak in 2010, it was nearly 14%. Current unemployment figures from July 2013, show an improvement with 8.4% unemployed in Anniston. Overall, the State of Alabama has greatly reduced unemployment, which is now at 6.4% while the national unemployment rate is 7.6%.

### More residents employed in service occupations.

A larger proportion of Anniston's workforce is employed in service occupations (21.8%) compared to Alabama overall (16.7%). There is also a larger proportion of people employed in production, transportation, and materials moving occupations (17.1% versus 15.3% in Alabama). Retail occupation is similar to the state at about 25%. The city has relatively fewer people employed in management, business, science and arts occupations (28.2% versus 32.3% for Alabama).

### Anniston's major industries include retail, manufacturing, and entertainment/recreation/accomodation/food services.

While "educational services, health care and social assistance" employs the largest share of Anniston's workforce (18.7%) that industry is smaller in Anniston than in Alabama overall (21.9%) and nationwide (23.1%). The city's other major industries that employ proportionally more people than average include manufacturing (16.4%), retail trade (14.6%), and the industry group "arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services" (14.3%).

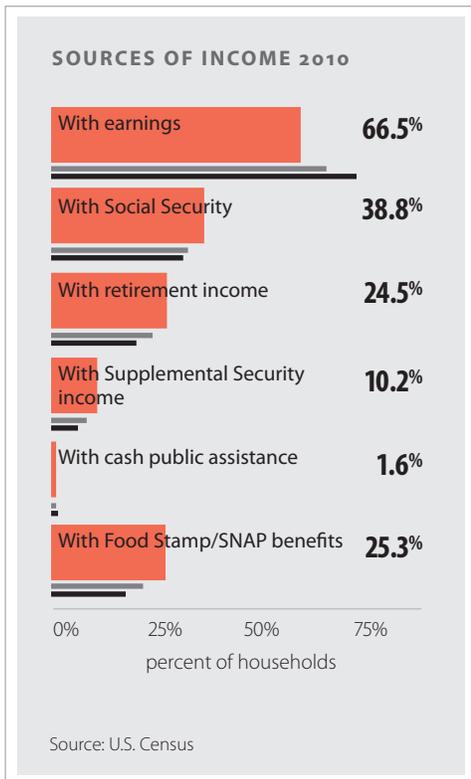
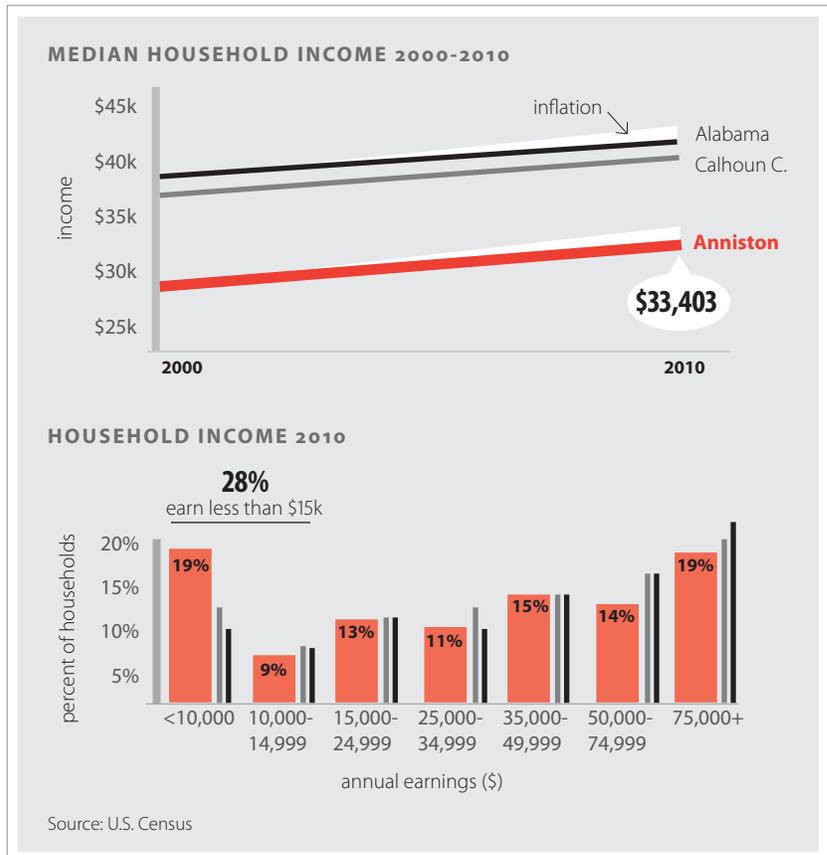


### What is the labor force?

People over 16 years of age who are not students, retirees, stay-at-home parents, people in prisons or other restricted institutions, and people with jobs with unreported income. Discouraged workers who no longer report themselves as unemployed are not counted in the labor force.

## INCOME

**Lower incomes in Anniston.** Anniston residents earned an average of \$20,506 in 2010, just slightly ahead of county residents (who earned an average of \$20,415) and slightly behind Alabamians (who earned an average of \$23,032). The City's median household income is \$33,403, well below that of the county (\$38,909) and about 20 percent below that of the state (\$41,973). Income in Anniston is also growing slightly slower than Alabama overall. While the median household income increased 23% in Alabama since 2000, it only climbed 22% in Anniston and elsewhere in Calhoun County. That income growth is slower than the rate of inflation from 2000-2011 (which is about 25%).



### Large number of very low income households.

Anniston has a large proportion of households that earn less than \$10,000 per year (19% compared to 10% in Alabama). Households who earn less than 14,999 make up 28% in Anniston. While households earning closer to the median (\$15,000-74,999) make up 54% in Anniston compared to 68% in Alabama.

### Fewer people with earned income in Anniston.

A relatively low 66.5% of Anniston residents receive income from employment earnings, compared with 74% of all Alabamians. There are more Anniston residents collecting social security (38.8%) and/or retirement income (24.5%), which is consistent with the age of the city's population. Also about one-in-four (25.3%) Anniston residents receive Food Stamp/SNAP benefits.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

**High rates of violent crime.** Statistics from 2011 published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) show that Anniston has an average of 910.8 violent crimes per 100,000 people. Compared to a Alabama's rate of 420 violent crimes per 100,000 people, and the US average of 213.6 violent crimes per 100,000, Anniston's rate is high. The biggest contributor to Anniston's violent crime rate is the number of assaults at 1,266.5 per 100,000 people. For a city of its size, the rate of murders (47.4 per 100,000 people) and rapes (90.5 per 100,000 people) are also high. The overall violent crime rate in 2011 was lower than any of the previous ten years. The rate was highest during 2008 and 2009 (above 1,200 violent crimes per 100,000 people).

**High rates of property crime.** Statistics from the FBI show that Anniston has a similarly high rate of property crime, including burglaries, thefts, and arson. The overall rate in 2011 was 1,079.4 per 100,000 people.

**Higher rates of disease within Calhoun County.** County health data (from 2011, published in 2013) shows that Calhoun County has much higher rates of chronic disease. Compared to Alabama overall, residents of Calhoun County are 27% more likely to die from lower respiratory disease, 24% more likely to die from heart disease, and 6% more likely to die from any form of cancer. These higher rates of disease can be partially attributed to the relatively older age of the population.

**Factors contributing to high disease rate and lower life expectancy in Calhoun County.** According to the Centers for Disease Control, the average life expectancy in Calhoun County is 73 years, which is considerably lower than the national average of nearly 77 years. There are several indicators that explain the high rates of disease and lower life expectancy in the County:

<b>Diabetes Rate</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
<b>Obesity Rate</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
<b>High Blood Pressure</b>	<b>33.2%</b>
<b>Smoker</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
<b>No Exercise</b> (less than once per month)	<b>29.2%</b>
<b>Few Fruits or Vegetables</b> (less than five servings per day)	<b>81.9%</b>

