The 16-county expansion of Regional Growth Mapping and Forecasting into the Greater Triangle and Rocky Mount region includes Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Wilson Counties. This phase is the third in a series that will eventually encompass the entire state; the first phase focused on 24 counties in the Southern Piedmont/Charlotte Metro region, and the second phase focused on 19 counties in Western North Carolina. Regional-level research findings are summarized on this page, with county-level results to follow.

**Findings for the 16-County region:**

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 16-county region has a total land area of 7,937 square miles.
- According to the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, the population in the 16-county region increased nearly 90 percent between 1976 and 2005, from 1,043,700 to 1,982,027 people, respectively.
- Development, or the number of acres converted from natural and agricultural land to developed land, increased nearly 570 percent between 1976 and 2005, at an average rate of 21 acres per day.
- Total developed acres increased from 39,743 acres in 1976 to 264,883 acres in 2005.
- Development in the 16-county region outpaced population growth over 6-to-1 between 1976 and 2005.
- In 1976, 0.8 percent of the region was considered developed and 99.2 percent remained undeveloped.
- In 1985, 1.1 percent of the region was considered developed and 98.9 percent remained undeveloped.
- In 1995, 2.1 percent of the area was considered developed and 97.9 percent remained undeveloped.
- By 2005, 5.2 percent of the area was considered developed and 94.8 percent remained undeveloped.
- Researchers forecast an additional 393,925 acres of development in the 16-county region by 2040, a 150 percent increase in developed acres, at an average rate of 31 acres per day.
- Total developed land in the 16-county region is forecast to increase to 13.0 percent of the region by 2040 with 87.0 percent remaining undeveloped.
- The population of the 16-county region is projected to increase from 1,982,027 to 3,773,254, a 90 percent increase, between 2005 and 2040.
- In 1976, the individual need for land, also called per capita land consumption or “development footprint,” in the 16-county region was 0.04 acres per person.
- In 2005, per capita land consumption in the 16-county region had increased to 0.13 acres per person, a 225 percent increase from 1976.
- By 2040, per-capita land consumption in the region is forecast to increase to 0.17 acres per person, a 31 percent increase from 2005.