



## Location and Geography



Catawba County is located in the western part of the State of North Carolina in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and covers 405 square miles (656.10 Km). The central county of North Carolina's fourth largest MSA (estimated 2009 population – 365,364), Catawba County's estimated 2009 population of 157,002 includes the inhabitants of its eight municipalities. These municipalities include Brookford, Catawba, Claremont, Conover, Hickory, Long View, Maiden, and Newton.

Catawba County's three lakes and its location in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains exert a strong influence on the County's climate and ambience. The County is sheltered by mountains that moderate winter temperatures and provide refreshing summer breezes. Elevation ranges from 705 to 1780 feet, averaging 995 feet. Its average year round temperature is 68.8 Fahrenheit (20.4 Celsius). Its three large lakes are strikingly backdropped against the wooded shorelines. Lake Hickory covers 4,100 acres (1,659 hectares) and 272.1 miles of shoreline (169 Km), Lake Lookout Shoals covers 1,270 acres (514 hectares) and 39.1 miles of shoreline (63 Km), and Lake Norman covers 32,510 acres (13,157 hectares) and 520 miles of shoreline (837 Km).

2009 Estimated Populations	
Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton M.S.A	365,364
Catawba County	157,002
Town of Brookford	439
Town of Catawba	755
City of Claremont	1,123
City of Conover	8,110
City of Hickory	41,149*
Town of Long View	5,002*
Town of Maiden	3,466
City of Newton	13,819

\* - includes population living in City or town limits, but outside of Catawba County

Source: 2009 Population Estimates, Western Piedmont Council of Governments; US Census Bureau