

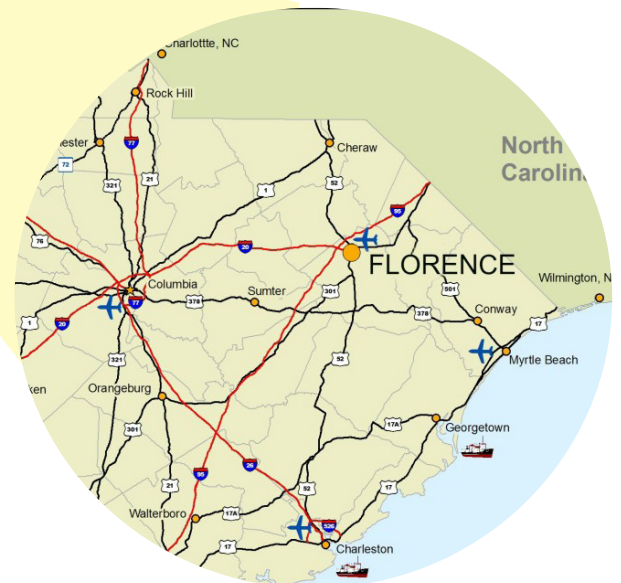
# Florence County, South Carolina



## Location

Florence County is strategically located at the intersection of I-20 and I-95, the major north/south thoroughfare on the east coast. Located exactly half-way between Miami and New York, Florence County provides excellent access to markets and is in close proximity to direct interstate connections with I-26 and I-77.

The City of Florence attracts travelers from the nation's busy eastern corridor. Its strategic location, coupled with recently expanded air service offered by its regional airport, allows Florence to maintain its role as a transportation hub for the Southeast.



Originally established as a transportation hub in the mid-1800s, Florence's proximity to railways, ports, and airports, combined with South Carolina's warm summers and mild winters draw people and businesses here.

Within the City of Florence, visitors can be immersed in culture among the numerous art galleries, studios, and lively downtown. Those seeking outdoor adventures can play a round of golf, walk the Florence Rail Trail, travel the 66-mile paddling trail or visit historic sites. Culinary treats include local breweries, 30 varieties of peaches grown at the McLeod Farm, BBQ fare, or getting your Pecan Trail passport stamped.

Darlington Raceway is a speedy drive from Florence for race fans.

Locals will find leading, world-class health care at McLeod Health, Hopehealth, or the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health Florence Medical Center.



FULL LIFE. FULL FORWARD.  
**FLORENCE**  
SOUTH CAROLINA

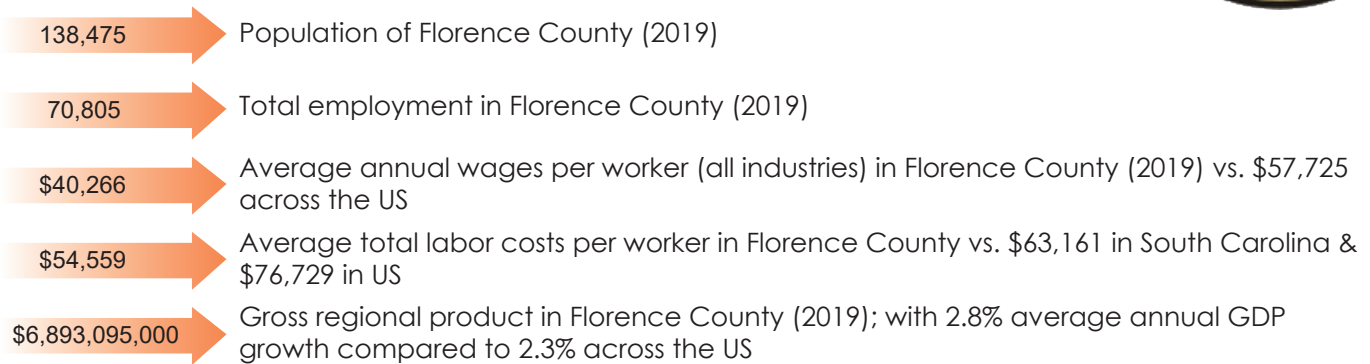
# Florence County, South Carolina

*Global Reach with a Southern Touch*

Florence County's recently approved **\$22M bond** and land acquisitions provide a tremendous amount of opportunity.



## By the Numbers:



## Targeted Industries:



### Agribusiness/Food and Beverage

With a rich agricultural history and prime location for distribution, Florence County is the perfect place for food and beverage manufacturers to grow.

### Logistics and Distribution

Florence County's location grants industries access to 30 major US markets via ports, railways, interstate, and air.



### Advanced Manufacturing

Florence County's emphasis on technical training and education provides a wide range of talent for manufacturing and assembly industries.

# Florence County, South Carolina



## Automotive

A booming workforce and easy access to major interstates make Florence County an excellent option for the automotive industry to park its business.

## Metals

Home to world class metal companies, Florence County provides businesses with access to highly-skilled workforce and railways that make transportation a breeze.



## Plastics and Fibers

With a convenient location and local investment in workforce training, plastics and fibers operations thrive in Florence County.

## Headquarters/Office

With low cost of living and low cost of operations, Florence County is an ideal destination for global industries and their employees to work and live.



## Businesses That Call Florence County Home:



# Life in Florence County.....



The cost of living in Florence County is **12.9% lower** than the national average.

Located an hour and a half from popular **Myrtle Beach**.



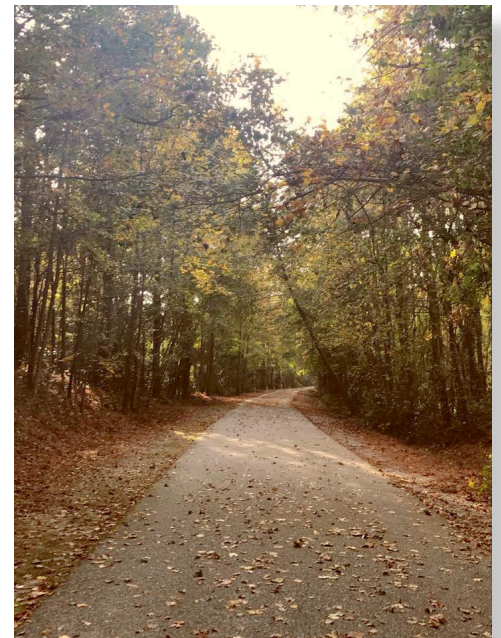
## For the outdoor enthusiast:

**Florence Rail Trail:** Walk, run or cycle through Florence's trail system and experience the beauty of the outdoors. You can even grab a cup of coffee from local coffee shop, Bean Bar, or a brew from local brewery, Local Motive, at one of the entrances to the rail trail.

**Moore Farms Botanical Garden:** On the property of Lake City native philanthropist and entrepreneur Darla Moore, the Moore Farms Botanical Garden is a dynamic 65-acre property. A blend of beautiful flowers, plants, meadows and pine forests, the farm is home to innovative horticultural research, educational programs and numerous community events throughout the year.

**Lynches River County Park:** This County-owned 676 acre park features a splash pad, archery range, hiking trails, canopy trails, an environmental discovery center and more!

**Woods Bay State Park:** This 1,590-acre state park is just one of the 47 facilities run by the South Carolina State Park Service. Located in the community of Olanta, Woods Bay features a 1,150 foot boardwalk, from which visitors can observe alligators and a cypress tupelo swamp. A canoe trail offers paddlers the chance to see the famed Carolina Bays, elliptical depressions in the earth with unique habitats.



# Life in Florence County.....

## **For the art and history lover:**

**Art Fields:** Since 2013, Art Fields has attracted artists from around the Southeastern US to the week-long celebration and competition. The event takes over Lake City, with up to 400 works of art featured on street corners, in businesses, and on the sides of buildings downtown. More than \$140,000 in cash prizes are awarded, and the event attracts thousands of visitors each year.

**Florence Center:** Concerts, sporting events, expositions, and social gatherings are all held year-round at the 10,000 seat arena that has over 75,000 square feet of multipurpose space and a 14,500 square foot ballroom.



**FMU Performing Arts Center:** Home to the Florence Symphony Orchestra and various entertainment throughout the year, you are sure to find a show that interests you at this \$34 million state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2011.

**Florence Little Theatre:** Since 1923, the theatre has served as a destination for theatrical entertainment and community involvement. From Les Miserables to Jesus Christ Superstar, entertainment abounds at this community theatre.

**Florence County Museum:** Check out the region's local history and art from local creative talent including William H. Johnson, a Florence, SC native and 20th Century African-American artist.

## **For the foodie:**

**Downtown Florence:** Home to various dining, retail, residential, municipal, and business establishments, downtown Florence is a must-see stop while in Florence County. Visit the year-round City Center Farmers Market for locally grown produce and meats or check out one of the many community events held on the weekends downtown.



**Downtown Lake City:** Downtown Lake City boasts a variety of dining, art, and retail establishments. From clothing and antiques to country cooking and decadent desserts, you'll find that and more in downtown Lake City. Visitors are sure to stumble upon one of the various art murals or public art exhibits while exploring downtown.

**SC Pecan Festival:** With over 250 vendors, this one-day festival brings over 50,000 people to downtown Florence to celebrate one of South Carolina's favorite nuts, the pecan.

# Life in Florence County.....

## **Education Abounds**

Florence County is home to five K-12 school districts and offers numerous opportunities for higher education.

Ranked among the best colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report, Francis Marion University has numerous undergraduate programs that have been recognized for excellence, including nursing, business, and engineering. FMU strives to provide a superior education to its students.

*Based on the results of the 2021-2022 U.S. News and World Report "America's Best Colleges"*



**Francis Marion University**



Florence-Darlington Technical College is a two-year community college in Florence offering programs in fields such as nursing, welding, computer technology, and more. The college has over 85 programs available including diplomas, certificates, and degrees. FDTC partners with businesses in the region to design academic programs that are directly applicable to real-world jobs.

**Florence-Darlington Technical College**

A division of Florence-Darlington Technical College, the SiMT houses the most advanced additive manufacturing center and 3D virtual reality production studio in the region and the only commercially available direct-to-metal 3D printer in the Southeast. Working closely with FDTC, staff engineers routinely help design products, manufacture precision parts, and produce virtual training experiences.



**Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technology**