

# Livability Factors Report

## Livability Factors

The AARP Public Policy Institute created a Livability Index, which provides an indicator score that is meant to assist communities in determining how livable their community is in relation to seven primary categories: housing, neighborhoods, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. This is one tool that can be used to measure how the combination of policies and the built environment create a livable and inclusive community for residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Therefore, this index is a great indicator of which aspects of a community are doing well and areas where a community can seek to improve its rating. For these reasons, the Livability Factors will be integrated throughout the Comprehensive Plan to help guide policy recommendations.

▼ FIGURE 1 AARP LIVABILITY CATEGORIES

Source: AARP LIVABILITY INDEX



HOUSING



NEIGHBORHOOD



TRANSPORTATION



ENVIRONMENT



HEALTH



ENGAGEMENT



OPPORTUNITY

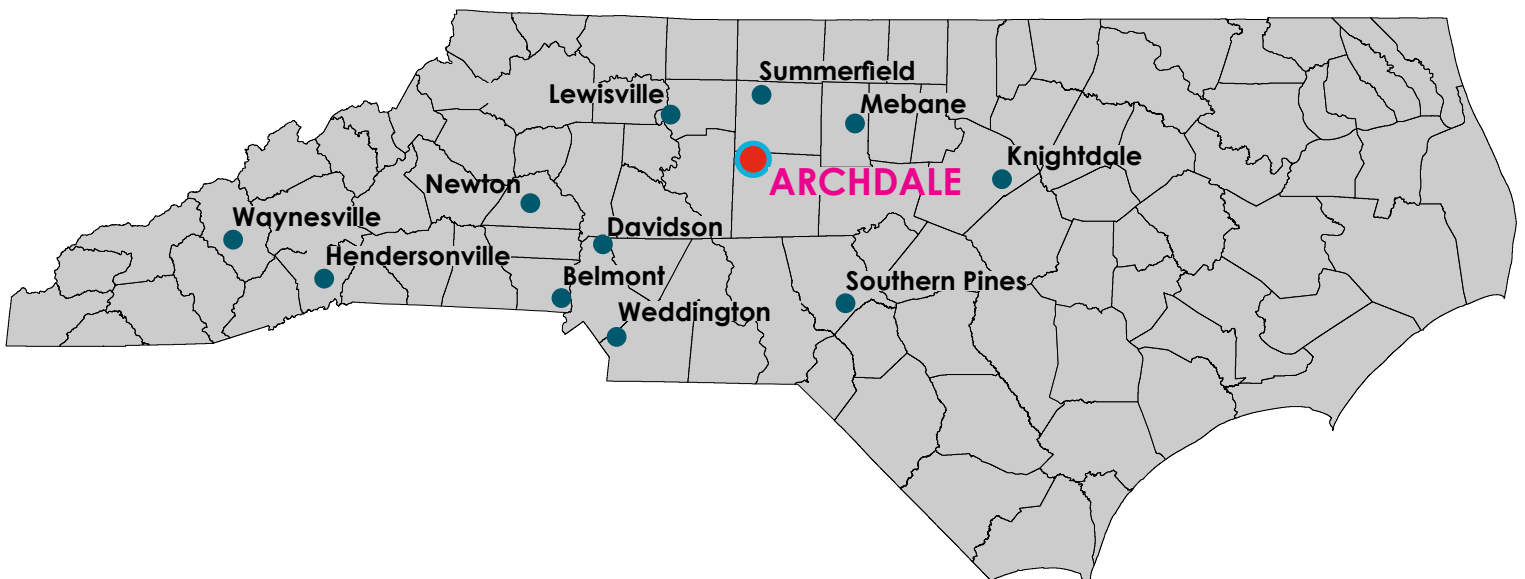
This report examines how Archdale compares to neighboring communities along the I-85 corridor (Trinity, Thomasville, High Point, Jamestown, and Greensboro) in the Piedmont Triad, as well as the state as a whole. The report also compares Archdale to similarly sized peer communities across the state - identifying high scoring communities that can be looked to for ideas about how to improve local ratings. The high-scoring communities that were used as benchmarks for this second piece of analysis are shown below on the map in Figure 2.

The Piedmont Triad region is generally considered to have “average livability” with a regional average of 51 (on a 1-100 scale) in the overall livability category. Archdale’s overall livability rating of 48 is comparable, albeit slightly lower, than the regional average. Notably, Archdale’s score in the “opportunity” category is the highest among the other cities in the region and compares favorably to peer communities across the state. The city’s rankings in the engagement and housing categories were also above average. The lowest ranked categories were environment, health, and transportation, while the city’s score in the neighborhoods category, which measures the accessibility of grocery stores, parks, and similar amenities was slightly below average, though comparable to other cities in the region.

It should be noted that there are inherent errors in the national data sets used in developing the Livability Index that may have varying impacts on communities’ scores (such as missing data). These errors will typically affect most communities equally, especially when comparing communities within a state or sub-region of a single state, and so they tend to be mitigated by having the same positive or negative impact on the scores of geographic peers.

The following pages of the report explain each category and demonstrate how Archdale ranks against its regional neighbors and statewide peer communities

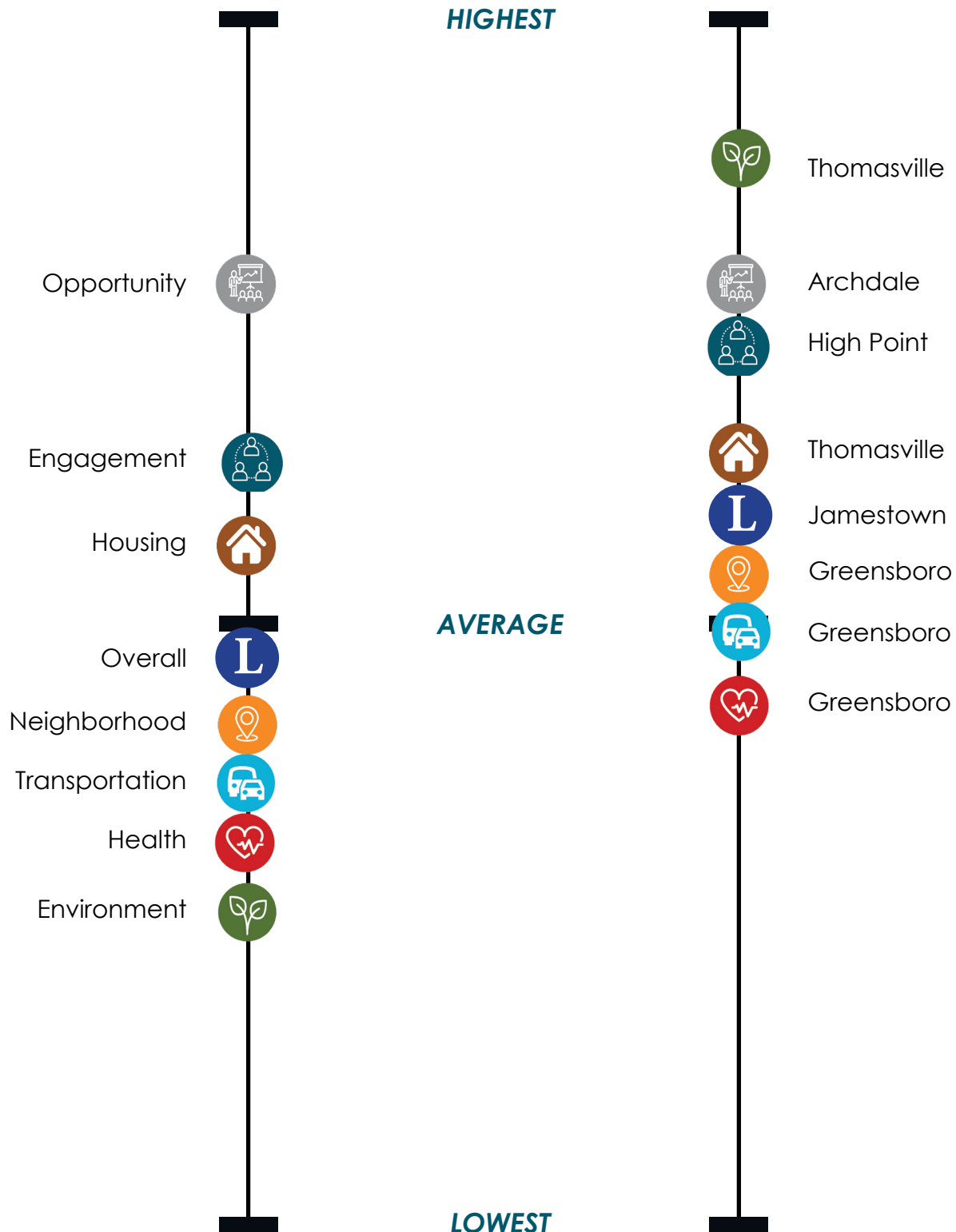
▼ FIGURE 2 NORTH CAROLINA PEER COMMUNITIES



# AARP LIVABILITY INDEX

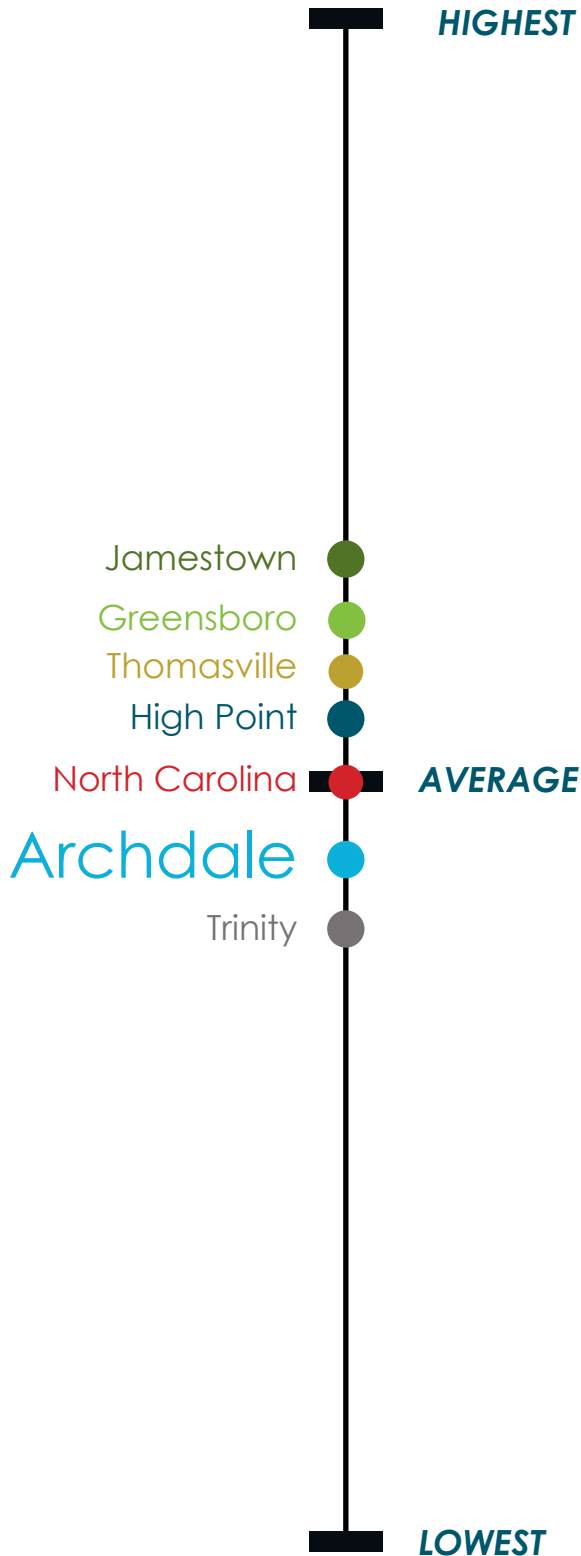
## Archdale's Scores

## Top Regional Scores

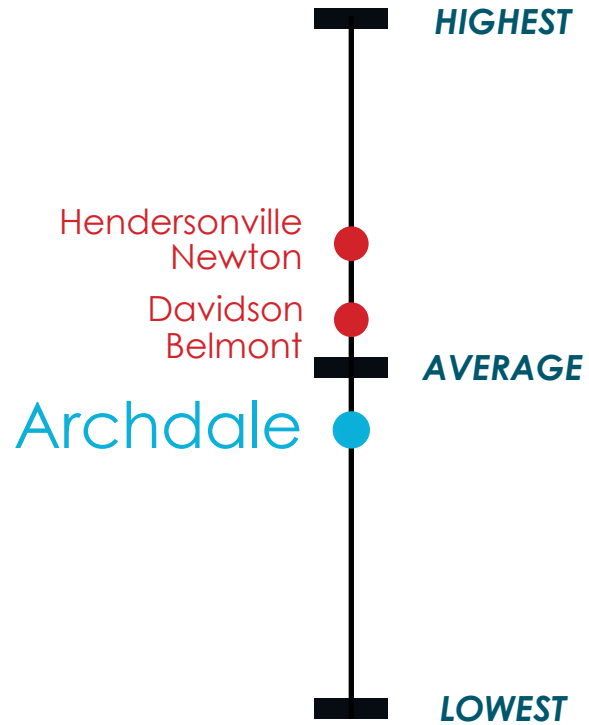


# L OVERALL LIVABILITY

▼ FIGURE 3 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 4 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



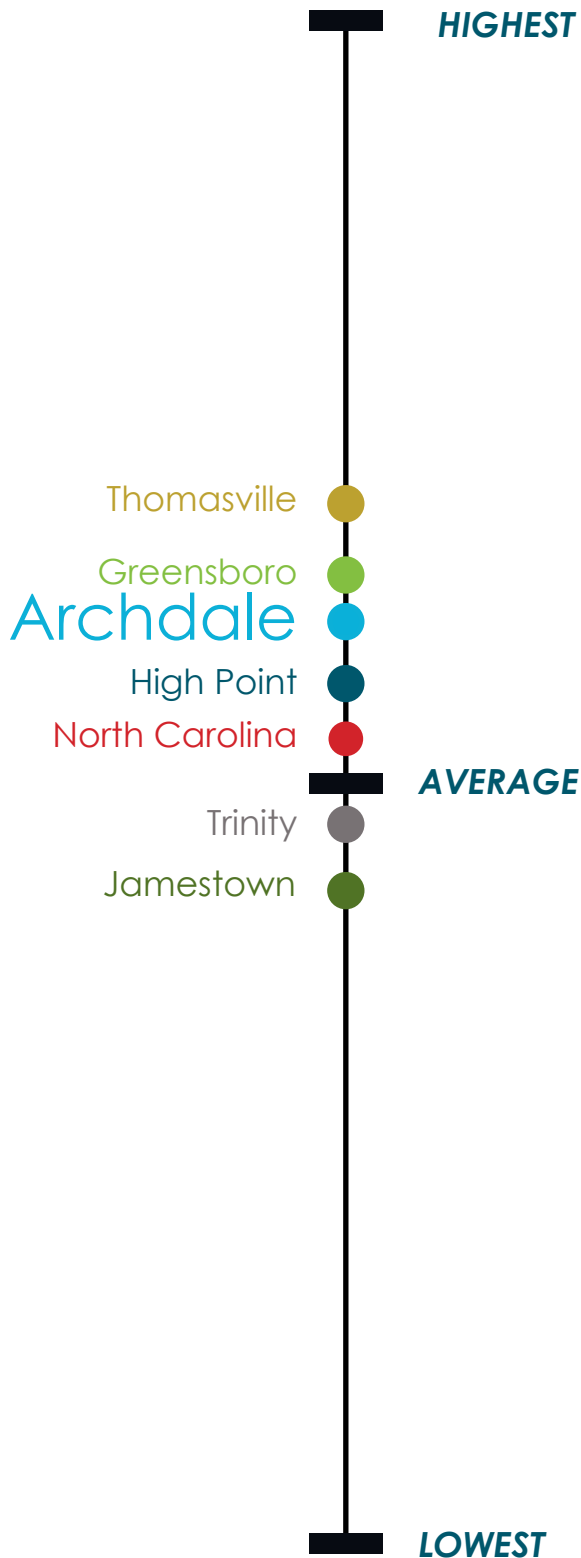
## Overall Livability

The graphic on the left identifies how Archdale scores in overall livability in comparison with other cities in the region. While Archdale is doing better than Trinity, it's overall score is below the remainder of the other cities. In order to provide context on the overall standing of the state, North Carolina's score is shown below and the highest scoring comparable cities are shown in the bubbles above. It should be noted that comparable cities were identified as those which have populations between 10,000 and 16,000 in the State of North Carolina. The following pages are set up in a similar fashion related to the seven primary categories of the Livability Index.

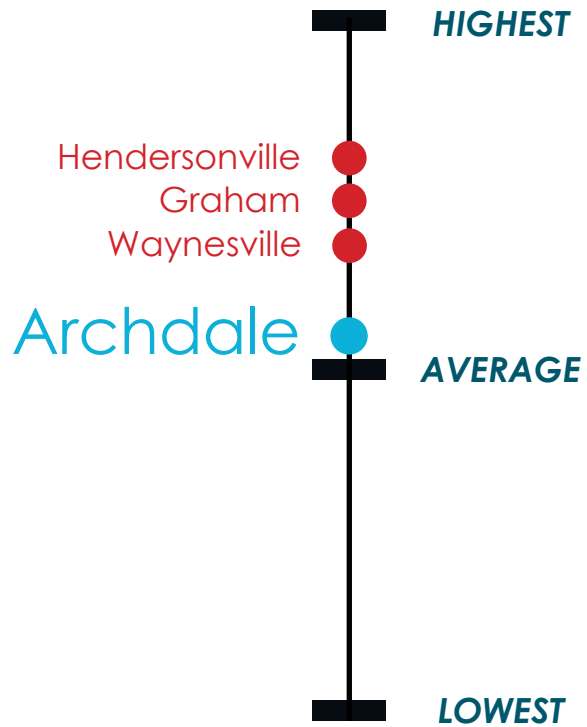


# HOUSING

▼ FIGURE 5 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 6 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



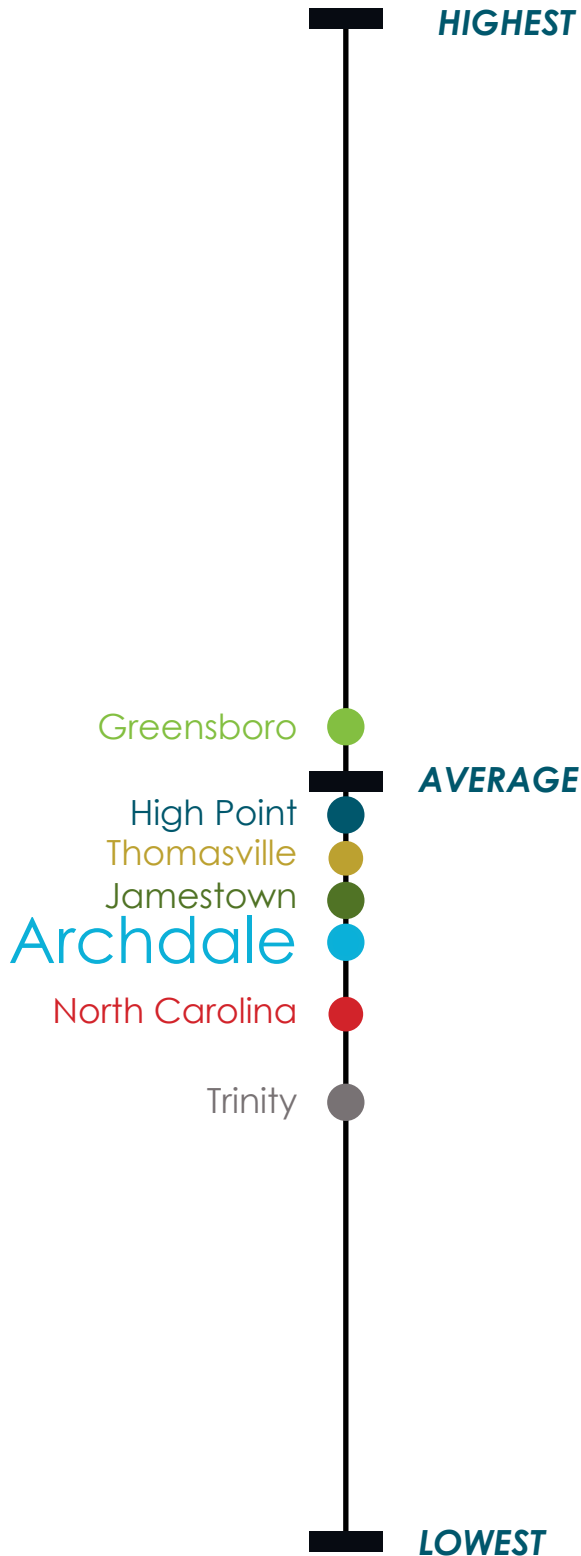
## Housing

The AARP Livability Index defines housing livability by examining housing accessibility, multi-family availability, housing affordability, the cost burden of housing, and subsidized housing. Archdale does fairly well in this category, scoring slightly above the national average and comparable to the region. Of particular note are the two indicators that Archdale scores in the top third of the country: housing affordability (cost) and housing affordability (subsidized housing). It is clear by reviewing census data on housing that the City has been making improvements in this regard, particularly with respect to housing occupancy and vacancy rates.

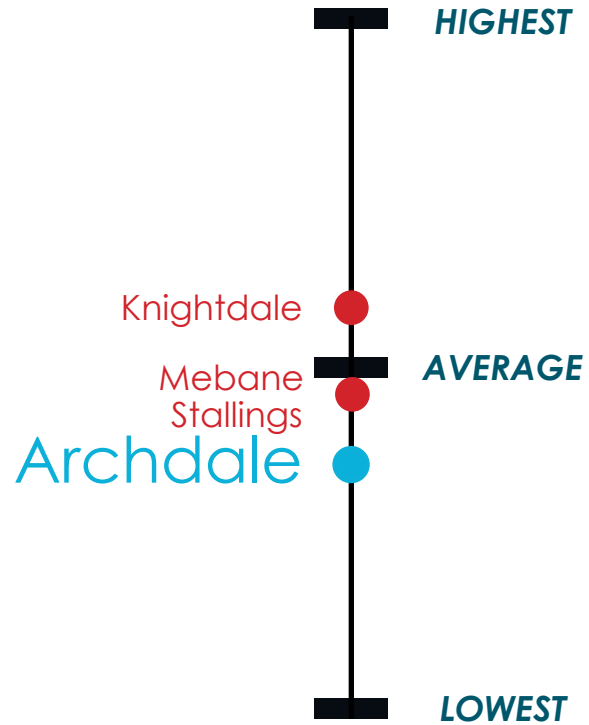


# NEIGHBORHOOD

▼ FIGURE 7 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 8 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



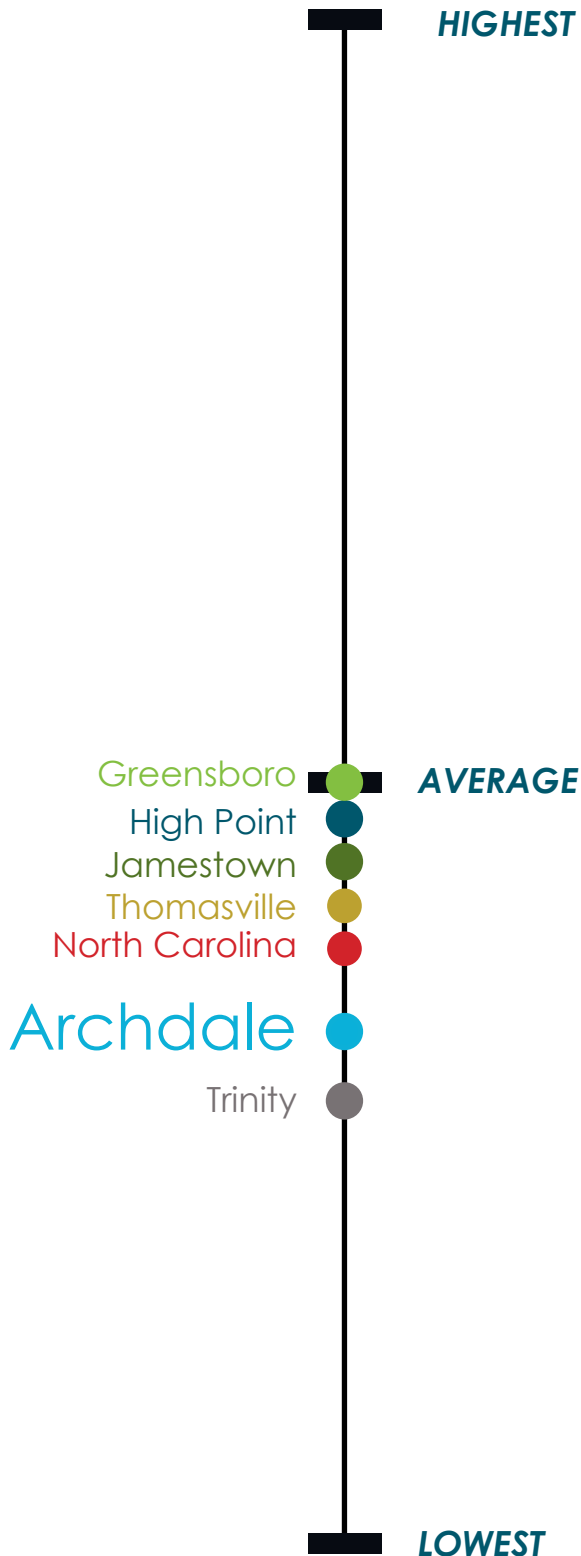
## Neighborhood

The neighborhood indicator evaluates proximity to destinations such as grocery stores, farmers' markets, libraries, and parks. Per AARP, Archdale has a neighborhood score of 46 (50 is average). This is higher than Randolph County and Trinity, though below or equal to the remainder of the region. While this is important to review, it should be noted that we believe Archdale's score for this category should be higher than indicated by AARP. The data sets provided to conduct the livability index do not include details on Archdale's Library or Creekside Park. These two variables alone would have a relatively substantial increase in the overall score for this category.

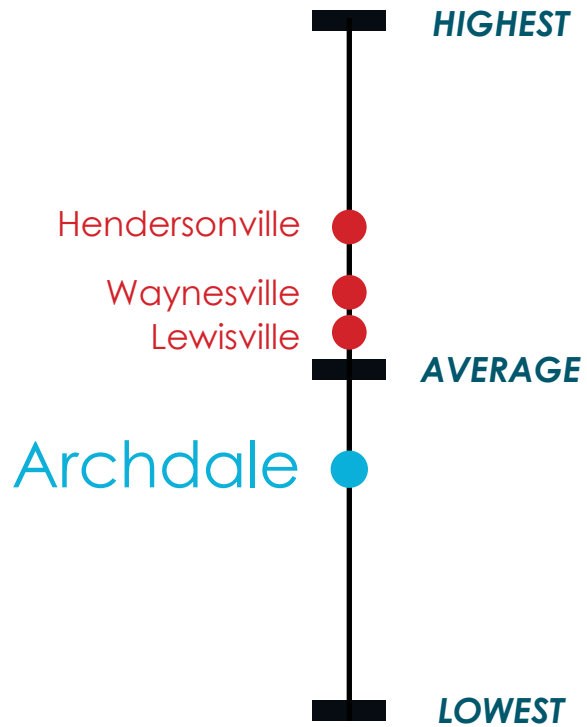


# TRANSPORTATION

▼ FIGURE 9 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 10 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



## Transportation

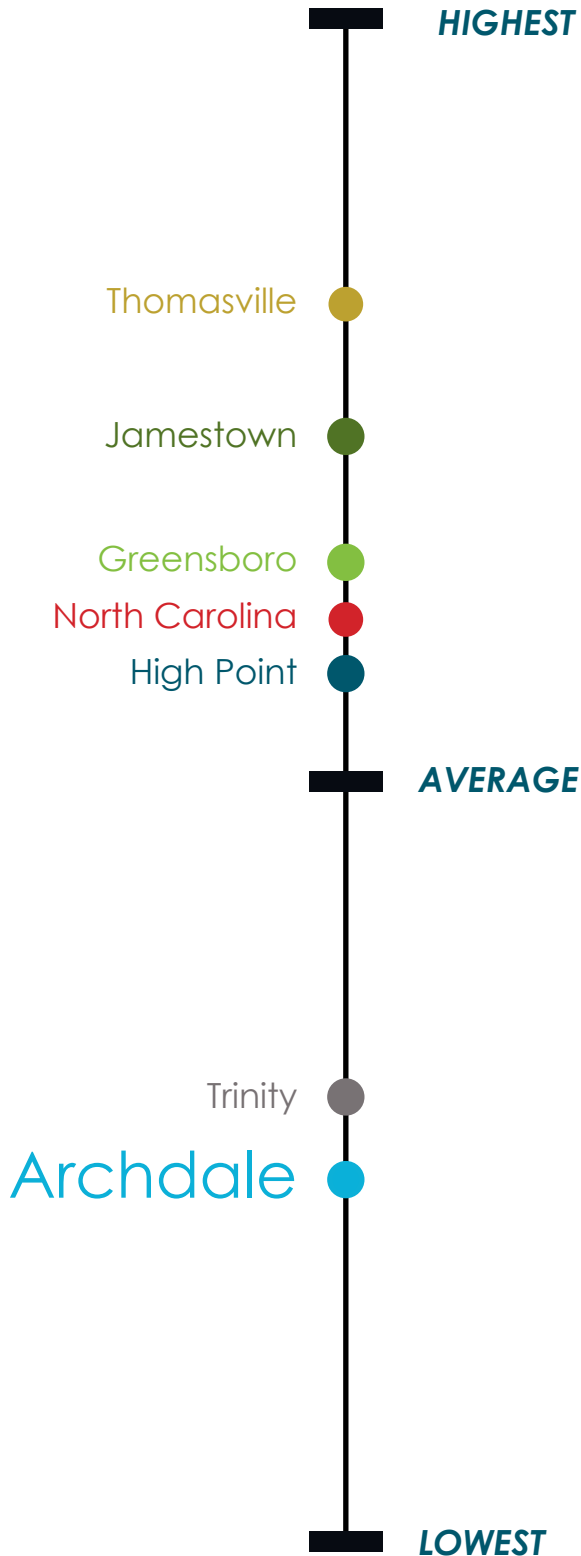
When examining transportation scores, the AARP analyzes transit frequency, ADA stations and vehicles, walk trips, congestion, household transportation costs, speed limits, and crash rates. In comparison to the country and region, Archdale fairs relatively poorly in this category. It's important to note that much of this is because there are no public transportation options in the City. This alone reduces Archdale's score by 30%. Further, many plans include recommendations to enhance pedestrian access, reduce speeds, and increase roadway safety.



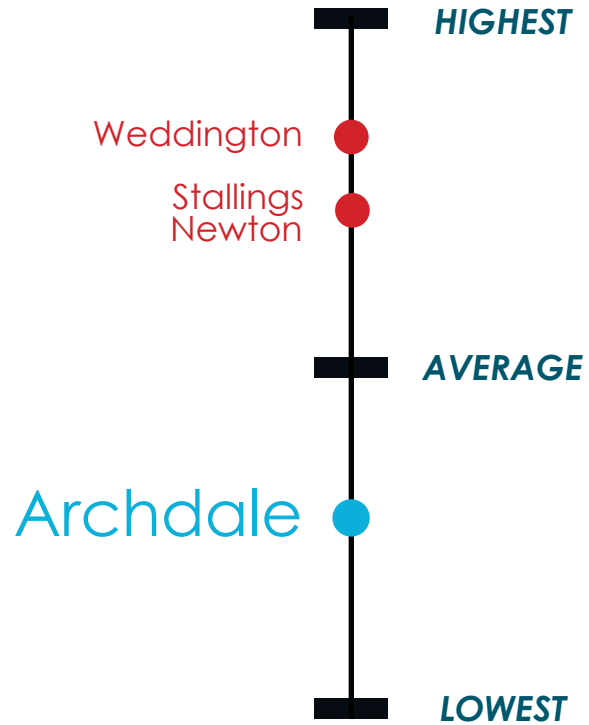


# ENVIRONMENT

▼ FIGURE 11 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 12 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



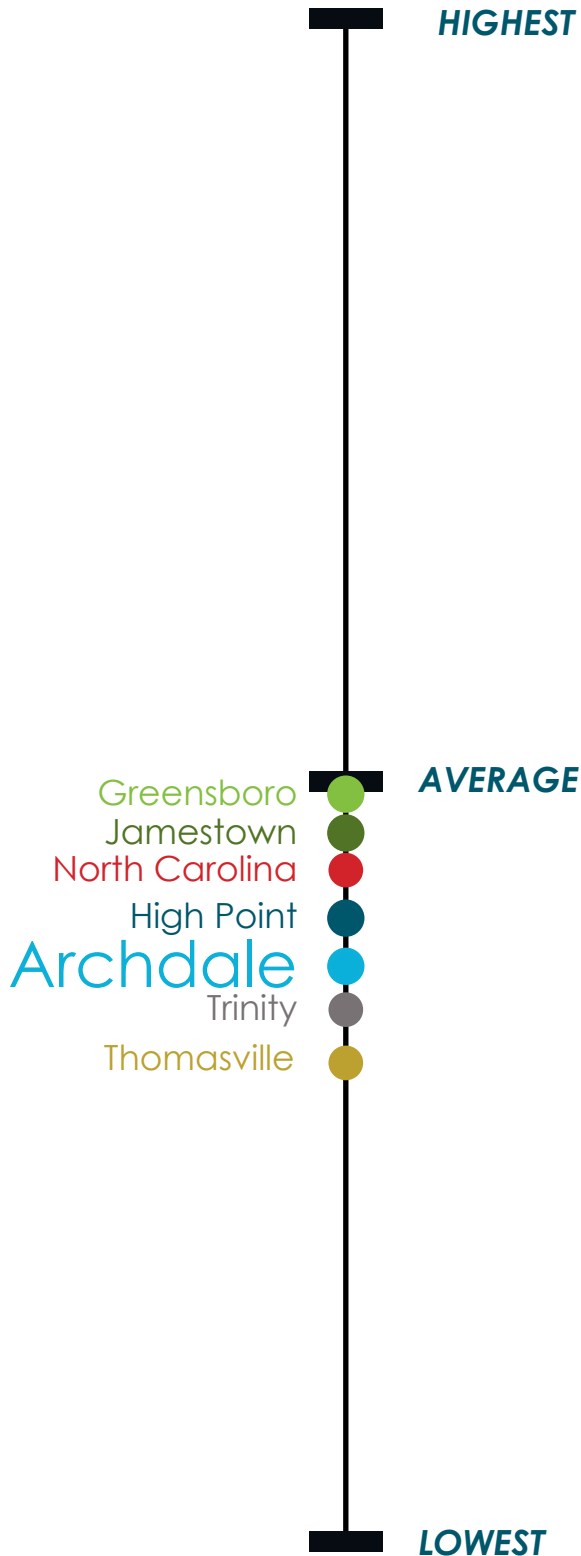
## Environment

The AARP Livability Index reviews environmental livability based on drinking water quality, regional air quality, near-roadway pollution, and local industrial pollution. This indicator is one that Archdale and much of the region do poorly on. However, based on a limited number of locations where environmental data is collected, we believe this is an indicator that may not necessarily be accurate. While Archdale falls in the bottom third of the country in terms of drinking water quality, near-roadway pollution, and local industrial pollution, there is missing data on regional air quality.

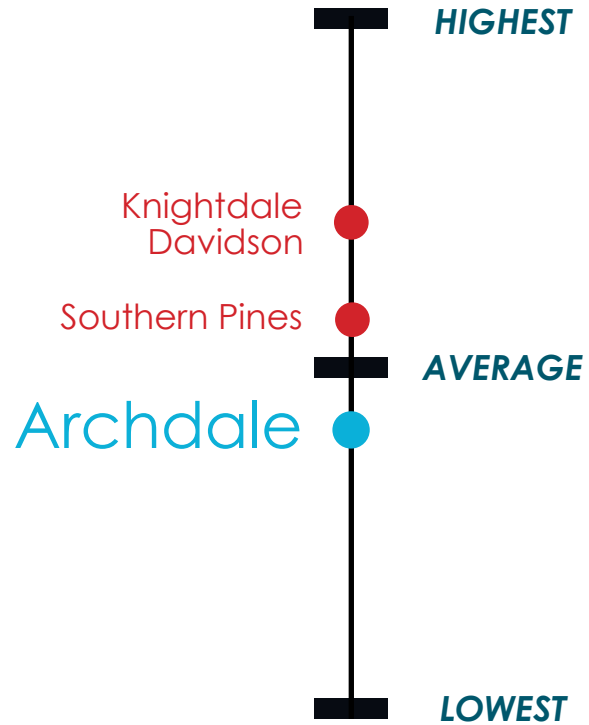


# HEALTH

▼ FIGURE 13 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 14 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



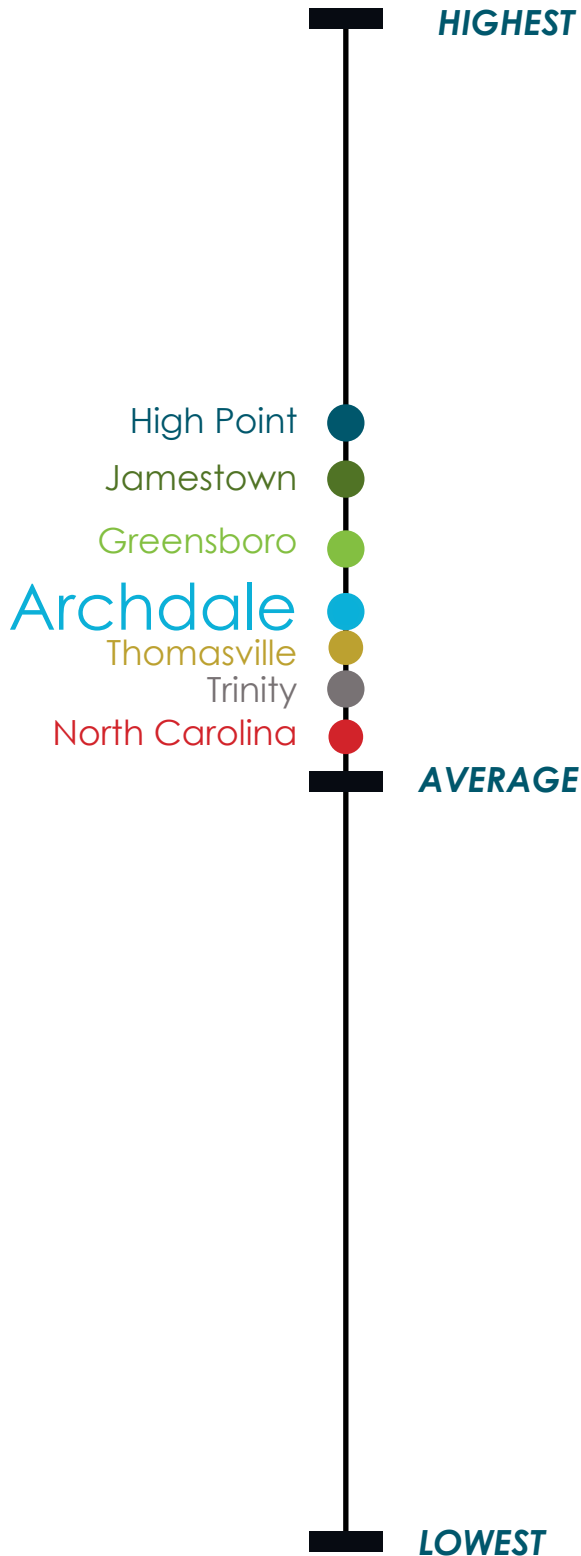
## Health

The AARP Health Livability Index score is based upon population characteristics which include smoking prevalence, obesity prevalence, access to exercise opportunities, health care professional shortage areas, preventable hospitalization rates, and quality of health care (patient satisfaction). According to the AARP, Archdale falls in the bottom third of the country in terms of all these indicators, except preventable hospitalization rate, in which it is in the middle third. Archdale's score is comparable to the directly adjacent region, though below the State's average.

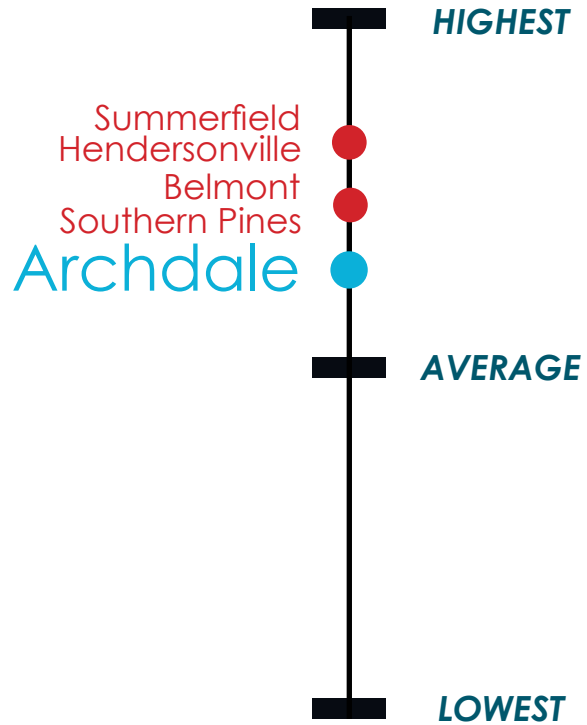


# ENGAGEMENT

▼ FIGURE 15 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 16 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



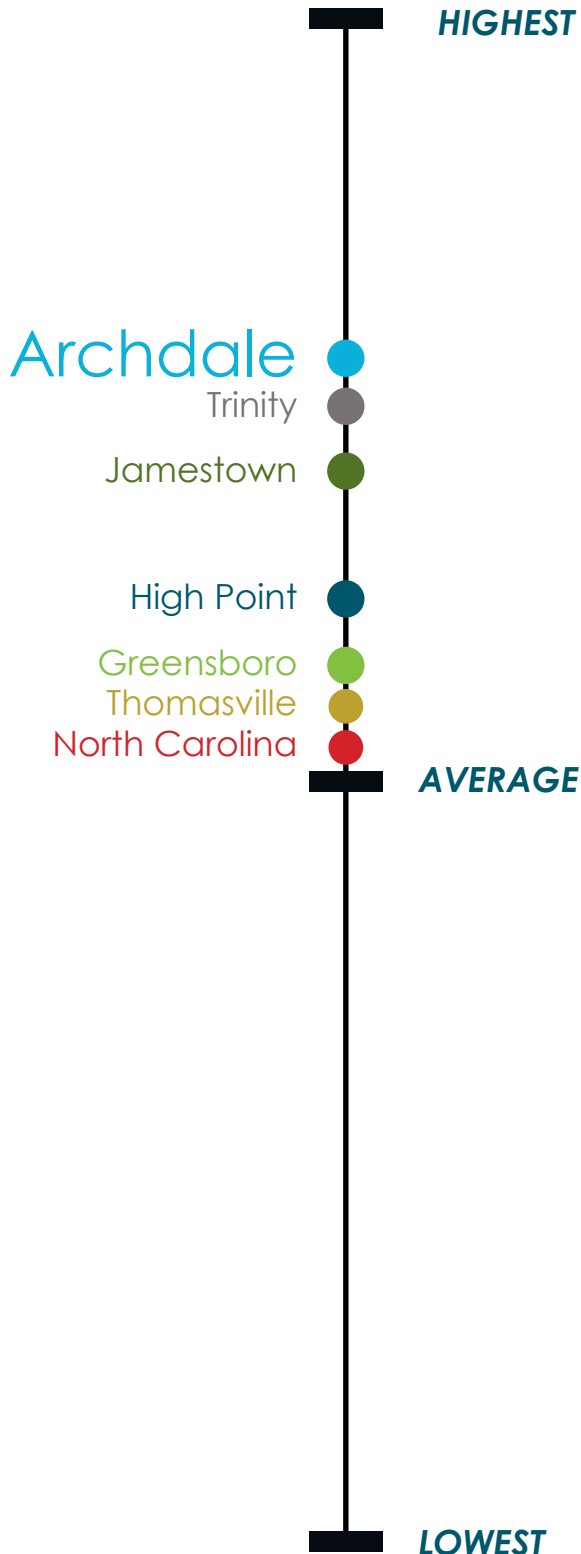
## Engagement

Engagement is examined by reviewing internet access, civic engagement (voting rate), and opportunity for civic engagement. When breaking this category down to these metrics, Archdale does well with internet access and opportunities for civic engagement. However, they fall into the middle third of the country in terms of voting rate, social involvement, and cultural / entertainment institutions. The desire to have more civic opportunities has been expressed in previous plans, including the 2020 Strategic Plan. This shows that increasing involvement in the community, potentially through some form of civic / cultural venue, is something the City may want to work towards.

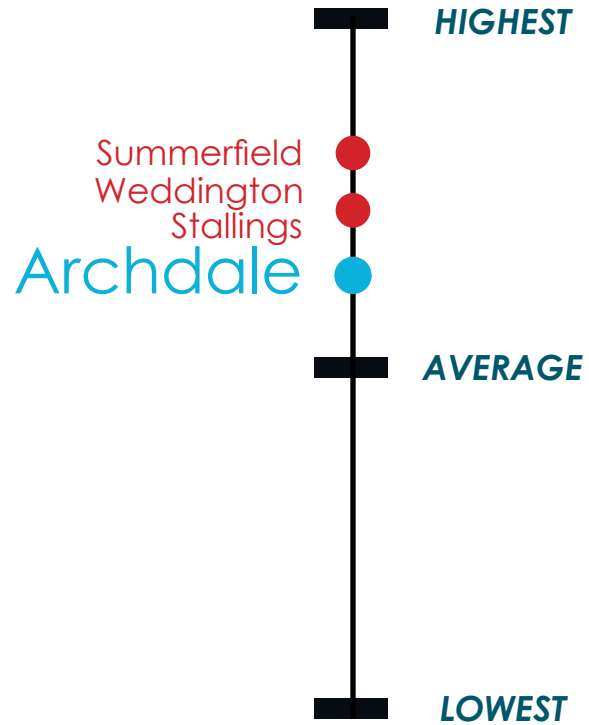


# OPPORTUNITY

▼ FIGURE 17 REGIONAL COMPARISON



▼ FIGURE 18 HIGH SCORING PEER CITIES



## Opportunity

The AARP Livability Index defines opportunity by examining income inequality, jobs per worker, high school graduation rate, and age diversity. This indicator is one that Archdale scores very high in. Randolph County has the same score but no municipality in the region scores as high as Archdale. We view this as a positive asset for the community, as the statistics that lead to opportunity are hard to manufacture. While many of the factors which Archdale scored lower in can be remedied by providing infrastructure or services, opportunity is a great basis to build a community and is something that would be harder to improve if it were lower.