

# GET THE FACTS

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## DEVELOPMENT MORATORIUM

### What is a moratorium?

A moratorium is a **pause**, a timeout from all of the large-scale developments that are overwhelming our community and our beloved mountains.

A moratorium is like stopping to look both ways before crossing a busy highway. With a moratorium, we can catch our breath and plan for the future, giving **local people** a voice in how we grow.

Many cities and counties, including Macon, Jackson, and Union Counties in NC have used a moratorium as a tool for to give local people a chance to plan for the future of our communities.

A moratorium is a way to prevent overdevelopment and irresponsible development, protecting our environment and our economy for the long-term.

### Why do we need a moratorium?

Our mountain communities are being developed faster than ever before. Developers are flocking to Western North Carolina from Atlanta, Charlotte, New

York, Florida, and all over the US. Nobody knows what the impact of this level of development will be--we have never developed at this rate before.

**What is the price of overdevelopment?** Local residents are already seeing the effects of this “gold rush.” Runoff and mudslides. Traffic and air pollution. Straining community resources such as emergency services and schools. Clear-cut ridgetops and McMansions sprouting up like mushrooms overnight.

**Who pays the price of overdevelopment?** We do. Our air, water, and land, our tourist economy, and our mountain communities can not afford overdevelopment. We need a moratorium until we’ve had a chance to plan and regulate growth.

Citizens are demanding that Asheville City Council and the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners develop reasonable rules to protect our mountains, our air, our water, and our homes from overdevelopment. Until those rules are in place, we are asking our elected officials to enact a **moratorium** on certain types of development.

### **What types of development would be affected?**

A moratorium would apply to large-scale, steep-slope, and ridgetop development.

A moratorium would **not** stop all construction or put people out of work. All permitted work would continue, all single family homes would go ahead. Only new large-scale and slope/ridge developments would be put on hold. And the hold would last only until we have reasonable development laws and enforcement in effect.

**A moratorium is a **pause to plan**, a chance for local people to decide how we are going to grow.**