

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Summer 2016

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Infrastructure update

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Parks and Recreation Guide

BY THE NUMBERS...

Total budget:

\$169 million

(Includes General Fund and all fee-based enterprise funds)

General Fund only:

\$105 million

1029

regular, full-time employees
(more than half are in Police and Fire)

City of Wilmington 2016-2017 adopted budget

The City Council approved the 2016-2017 budget in June. The budget was built around supporting the six City Council focus areas of Create a Safe Place; Foster a Prosperous, Thriving Economy; Promote Culture, Arts and Public Spaces; Support Efficient Transportation Systems; Engage in Civic Partnerships and Provide Sustainability and Adaptability. With these principles in mind, the highlights of the budget include:

- No property tax increase
- Core services maintained
- Strong savings (fund balance) for emergencies of more than \$31 million
- Continued funding for 5-year infrastructure improvement plan, Transportation Bond projects
- Funding for 3 additional police officers, and 2 shifted from civilian to active officers

- Staffing for WPD Real Crime Center and other non-sworn positions
- Expanded funding for programs for at-risk youth
- Additional funding for Code Enforcement and associated clean-up efforts in targeted areas
- Additional funding for affordable housing, including home ownership and home repair programs as part of effort to expand stock of affordable housing and maintain existing affordable housing
- Monthly stormwater fee increase of 43¢ – from \$7.23 to \$7.66 for the average home

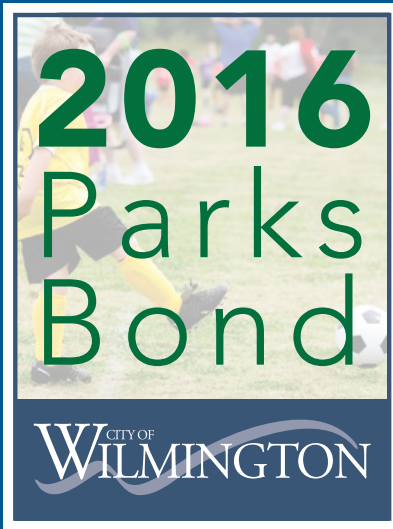


Water Street Deck

Work is now underway to move utilities on this site, in preparation for demolition of the obsolete parking deck. Demolition, which should begin later this year, will make way for construction of a multi-story mixed use development including parking, residential and retail space. In addition, it will maintain access to Bijou Park and re-connect Chestnut Street to Water Street, while providing public space at the at the foot of Chestnut Street. Some highlights include:

- 25,633 square feet of commercial space including retail shops and restaurant and bar space, primarily on the ground floor
- Approximately 170 residential units (for sale and/or lease)
- 409 parking spaces, a minimum of 174 of which will be reserved for public use. The city's cost to construct the new parking facility is estimated at \$19.7 million, not to exceed \$20.7 million
- Residential units will "wrap" the parking deck on the Water Street side, masking view of the parking from Water Street
- The facility will not exceed current zoning height restrictions of 132 feet





Parks Bond to be included on Nov. 8 election ballot

As part of the Nov. 8 general election, City of Wilmington residents will have the opportunity to vote on a parks bond for additional facilities as well as improvements at existing facilities. While only \$30.4 million would be borrowed, the city would leverage existing funds to complete an entire package of projects worth \$38 million. In the most recent citizen survey and neighborhood planning meetings, citizens ranked parks & recreation programs as very important.

Fifteen projects are proposed, including development of the city's northern waterfront park with a large concert venue, a new soccer complex, expansion of Olsen Park, and safety improvements. **Learn more at www.wilmingtonnc.gov.**

Downtown Infrastructure

The work to improve Riverfront Park and Water Street, at the foot of Market Street and behind the Federal Courthouse, is moving on-schedule. New water and sewer lines are nearly in place and the new bulkhead is being installed. This section will open with a completely new streetscape in November, 2016. The area behind the Federal Courthouse also has new water and sewer and will open in November. The streetscape along this portion, however, will not be complete until US Coast Guard bulkhead repairs are complete in this block.

Construction of a new 243-foot section of Riverwalk is underway behind the Brooks Building. The \$700,000 construction project also includes water lines and lighting, as well as some shoreline stabilization beneath the Brooks Building. It will re-open in October or November of this year. Pedestrians and Riverwalk traffic should continue to use the sidewalk on the east side of Water Street in the area between Market and Dock streets.

Stormwater

Work to improve drainage in the Brenda/Clearbrook Drive area was completed in June. The \$400,000 project began in January and involved replacing aging and undersized drainage pipes and cleaning and improving drainage ditches. In addition, two large drainage pipes were installed under Brenda and Carolyn drive as part of the project.

Stormwater crews have finished the installation of a new drainage pipe along Pine Grove Drive. The covered pipe replaces a ditch that, due to its proximity to the road and continued soil erosion, was posing a hazard for motorists and pedestrians.

Crews have completed work on the Shinnwood Road Culvert Replacement, which involves replacing an existing 24" culvert under Shinnwood Road with a larger 42" culvert. The existing culvert was undersized and failing, which was causing significant flooding of the roadway and residential properties during heavy rain events.



Transportation Bond update

- Fairlawn/Gleason/Clover/McClelland Sidewalks: The city will be installing nearly a mile of sidewalks that will provide connectivity from North Kerr Avenue, through several neighborhoods to Princess Place Drive. This will provide a safe pedestrian route within this neighborhood. Construction is slated for early 2017.
- Crosswalks at Wilshire Blvd & Kerr Avenue: Slated to begin work in August of this year
- Crosswalks at Wilshire Blvd & College Road: Slated to take place in early-mid 2017, in conjunction with NC DOT paving of College Road
- College Road Trail: 1.3-mile multi-use path along the west side of South College Road from Holly Tree Road to 17th Street/Waltmoor Drive, where it will connect to a recently completed section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail. Design is underway and construction is slated for the first half of 2017

New WPD facility planned

The City plans to purchase 46 acres of land adjacent to Maides Park from the Wilmington Housing Authority (WHA) for a variety of purposes. The purchase will be for the appraised value of \$1.01 million.

Planned uses for the property include:

- A training facility approximately 30,000 square feet that would include a police substation and a secure, indoor firing range that would have no noise impact to nearby neighborhoods;
- A facility approximately 10,000 square feet that would house the Wilmington Fire Department's Training and Logistics divisions, including a fire truck driving simulator, physical fitness facilities and space that could be used for training by other city departments;
- A possible expansion of Maides Park, which borders this property; the city is currently considering a \$38 million parks bond that would include is a new gym and multipurpose room at Maides Park as part of the city's ongoing youth violence reduction efforts;
- Right-of-way access for the NC Department of Transportation's proposed extension of Independence Blvd from MLK where it currently intersects with Randall Parkway. There are no definite plans for the extension at this time.

Funding for the land is included in the city's Capital Improvement budget; funding for construction will be recommended in next year's budget.

More details about the police training facility

The city has looked at approximately 40 locations to relocate the range since 2010. This site had several unique benefits:

- Opportunity for additional police presence in the neighborhood
- Provides a significant public investment in revitalizing a central city neighborhood
- Indoor range allows for no environmental impact from ammunition and no noise impact to nearby neighborhoods
- Indoor range allows for a smaller footprint
- Reduced travel times for officers
- Reasonable purchase price



Cross-City Trail

The eastern end of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail, along Eastwood Road and Wrightsville Avenue, is nearly complete. A new segment is already in place along Wrightsville Avenue, running from Canal Drive to Summer Rest Road. This includes a connection with Stokley Road and pedestrian crossings at the Wrightsville/Eastwood, Eastwood/Canal and Wrightsville/Stokley intersections.

The second phase of the project, which is underway now, will connect the new path on Wrightsville Avenue from Summer Rest Road to the Wrightsville Beach drawbridge and includes a new walkway under the bridge that will connect to the commercial area and restaurants on Airlie Road. The last remaining small section to complete the entire 15-mile trail is located at Kerr Avenue and Randall Parkway and will be finished when the NCDOT's Kerr Avenue widening project wraps up in 2018.

City cleans up another targeted area to help reduce crime

In June, city crews collected 10.5 tons of large trash items in the Longleaf Park area that were either illegally dumped or left in the right-of-way for pick up. The Wilmington Police Department and the city's Code Enforcement staff are working jointly with solid waste crews to clean targeted areas as part of a wide-scale effort to address and help prevent crime. In February, an area between 7th and 13th street was cleaned.

During this clean-up, crews cleaned 117 properties and distributed information to educate homeowners, landlords and tenants on the proper disposal of trash and bulky items such as furniture and electronics. The city will pick up bulky items by appointment free of charge for city trash customers.

WPD officers also patrolled the area to help answer any questions from residents. While the effort was a short-term fix, the city will focus on educating property owners and enforcing public nuisance regulations as part of a long-term solution to help address the "broken window" theory that more crime occurs in dilapidated or poorly maintained areas.



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General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information 341-7800
 Emergency 911
 Police/Non-Emergency 343-3600
 To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood, see wilmingtonnc.gov/police
 Fire/Non-Emergency..... 341-7846
 Parks and Recreation 341-7855
 Parks Hotline 341-7852
 Street Maintenance..... 341-7879
 Parking..... 762-5678
 Zoning..... 254-0900
 Trash pickup/Recycling..... 341-7875
 Stormwater 341-4646
 Cape Fear Public Utility Authority 332-6550
 Code Enforcement 341-3266

Look for the for information

Want to receive this newsletter by email?

In an effort to save money and trees, citizens can sign up to receive this newsletter by email instead of direct mail. If you are interested, please email the city with your name and regular mailing address to: newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, see the city's web site at: wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8, the city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council meetings are replayed:

~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's website, live or on-demand. From the front page, simply click on "online videos." Then, select the program you want to watch.

City information at your fingertips

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