

# CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Summer 2018

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South College Road Trail

## Special insert:

City's Downtown Riverwalk

## New city budget

The Wilmington City Council approved the 2018-19 budget in June. This year's budget addresses top citizen priorities identified in the 2017 Citizen Survey, such as infrastructure and public safety. For example, the budget includes \$59 million to help maintain streets, sidewalks and other public infrastructure over the next five years. The budget also includes funding for the 2014 Transportation Bond, the 2016 Parks Bond and additional funding for affordable housing and public safety. Highlights:

- Core services maintained
- Tax rate increase of 1.5-cents (\$33 more per year for a home valued at \$220,000)
- Continued funding for:
  - 2014 voter approved Transportation Bond projects
  - 2016 voter approved Parks Bond projects
  - Continued 5-year Infrastructure Improvement Plan projects
  - Public portion of River Place project (redevelopment of old Water Street parking deck)
- Service expansion for maintenance and upkeep in high visibility areas such as the Riverwalk and mowing and tree trimming in public rights-of-way
- Funding to make pay more competitive for operational positions such as public safety personnel, stormwater and solid waste workers
- Strong savings (fund balance) for emergencies of more than \$32.7 million
- Increased funding for affordable housing
- Expanded funding for programs for at-risk youth
- Parking fee increases to help fund improvements in parking decks, while also increasing free parking in the decks from 1 hour to 90 minutes
  - On-street parking from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per hour
  - Monthly fees increases for downtown parking decks

 For more information, visit [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget)

## BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL BUDGET:

**\$190.6**  
MILLION

(Includes General Fund and fee-based services)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

**\$106.5**  
MILLION

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES:

**1,042**

(More than half of all city employees in police and fire services)

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



## WHERE THE MONEY GOES



2017-18 General Fund

## What your \$ pays for

Each year, the city's employees provide a variety of services to help maintain the community and keep it safe. These services are paid for with property tax dollars, user fees and state funding. The following statistics provide a few examples of what citizens received for their money in the 2017-18 budget:

WPD calls for service: **186,668**

WFD response calls: **13,482**

Trash picked up: **48 million lbs.**

Acres of city-maintained parks, greenways and athletic facilities: **744**

Miles of streets maintained: **410**

Miles of sidewalks maintained: **410**

Potholes repaired: **6,817**

Miles of manually cleaned ditches: **210**

Number of street lights maintained: **9,901**

Number of traffic signals maintained: **222**

Number of signs maintained: **18,700**



## Empie Park Renovations

The city has begun a \$1 million project to make improvements to Empie Park. The project will consist of five additional tennis courts, new lighting, 61 additional parking spaces and new sidewalk connections to the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail. The parking lots will also be connected, allowing entry and exit access from either Wrightsville Avenue or Park Avenue. The project is expected to be finished in late fall, and no closures are scheduled for the park, the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex or the Cross-City Trail.

## Inland Greens

The Inland Greens Park and Golf Course is now fully open. The \$2.7 million project culminated last month with a grand opening of the 9 hole par-3 golf course. The facility, which is fully open to the public, also includes a 3/4-mile walking trail, bocce courts, a picnic shelter, and bike racks. Golfers can request tee times by calling **910-765-7459** or by visiting [www.inlandgreensgolf.com](http://www.inlandgreensgolf.com).



## Public Park coming to Echo Farms

The City of Wilmington and New Hanover County have partnered to purchase 14 acres of land in Echo Farms for a public park. The \$1.7 million land purchase will be split evenly between the city and the county.

### Key highlights:

- New Hanover County will assume responsibility for all operations and maintenance of the park.
- New Hanover County will pay 60 percent of the cost for the development and construction of the first two phases of the park, with the city paying 40 percent. The county will fully fund the final three phases.
- By June 2020, the first two phases totaling \$2.1 million are expected to be complete:
  - Repairs to tennis courts and pool
  - Construction of a new tennis and pool building with restrooms and changing areas
  - Construction of a 3/4-mile walking trail
- The final two phases will start no later than June 2023 and will include:
  - Five new tennis courts
  - A playground

This project allows the city and county to secure green space at an affordable rate while the land is still available. There is only about 10 percent—or just over 2,800 acres—of buildable land left inside Wilmington's city limits.

According to the most recent citizen survey and feedback received from citizens while putting together the city's comprehensive plan, residents place a high priority on green space and walking trails.



For more information, visit [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/EchoFarms](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/EchoFarms)



## Shipyard Fire Station

The Wilmington Fire Department's newest station is nearing completion. What will be Station 5, located at 680 Shipyard Boulevard, will replace the current Station 5 located at 1502 Wellington Avenue and Station 6 located at 3939 Carolina Beach Road. The new site is strategically located to allow the new station, along with remaining existing stations, to provide the same level of service currently provided while also updating aging facilities that can accommodate today's larger fire trucks. The new station will also house WFD's regional HazMat team, currently located in the Pine Valley fire station. Construction on the \$3.4 million station is expected to be complete this fall.



## South College Road Trail

Crews are busy grading and making other improvements to the site of the future South College Trail, a 2014 voter-approved transportation bond project. The 1.3-mile trail will run from Holly Tree Road to 17th Street/Waltmoor Drive, where it will connect on the southern end to the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail. The north end will eventually connect to the Greenville Loop trail, a future project. The trail should be open to the public by the end of the year.

## Construction begins on new public safety training facility

In September, construction will begin on the new 30,000 square-foot Haynes/Lacewell Police and Fire Training Facility. The building, named in honor of Sgt. Edward Haynes of the WPD and Capt. Eric Lacewell of the WFD, will be located on a portion of a 46-acre tract in the Hurst Street/Princess Place Drive area near Maides Park.

The property will have several purposes. The WPD space will house a police report-taking office and a secure, indoor firearms training range that is expected to have no noise impact to nearby neighborhoods. In addition, there will be space for classrooms, a driving simulator, a firearms/use of force simulator, indoor and outdoor K-9 training areas, and a mat room for physical techniques training. WPD will also host future Citizen's Academy classes and other community events at the facility.

The WFD space will house the department's training and logistics divisions and a simulator to train staff on strategy and tactics to battle structure fires. There will also be space that could be used for training by other city departments.

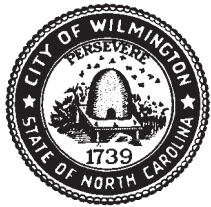
Construction of the \$9.1 million facility is expected to be complete in fall, 2019.





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 Wilmington, NC 28402

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 TTY 711

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 Margaret E. Haynes, Mayor Pro-Tem  
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 Clifford D. Barnett, Sr.  
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**The Public Information Report** is published by the City of Wilmington. Comments or suggestions? Contact us at 910-341-0833, send an email to [newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov) or mail us: Communications Office, P.O. Box 1810, Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

**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](http://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

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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](mailto: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](http://wilmingtonnc.gov)

**City Council Meetings on GTV8**

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8, the city channel on Spectrum 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**

- [www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov)
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