

# WILMINGTON 2015-16 Progress Report

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2017: Special Progress Report

## Check inside

Learn more about major projects completed last year and find out what's coming up this year.



## Your city at work: By the numbers

1234

Each year, the city's 1,000 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. Following is some information that illustrates what citizens received for their money in 2016, as well as projects coming up this year.

### Public Safety (calendar year 2016)

- WPD-190,372 annual calls for service
- WFD-13,914 response calls

### Streets (calendar year 2016)

- Lane-miles of roadways maintained: 800
- Miles of sidewalks maintained: 439
- Potholes repaired: 6,013

### Solid Waste (calendar year 2016)

- Trash picked up: 27,647 tons (55,294,440 lbs.)
- Recycling picked up: 6,964.5 tons (13,928,986 lbs.)
- Yard waste picked up: 14,382 tons (28,764,680 lbs.)

### Stormwater (FY 2015-16)

- Miles of ditches cleaned (manual): 40
- Bi-annual private retention pond inspections: 351
- Tons of street sweeping debris collected: 2,861
- Miles of streets swept: 10,045
- Storm pipe cave-in repairs: 219

### Parks & Landscaping

- 443 acres public parks maintained

(41 public parks)

- 193 trees planted
- 21 acres of landscaped areas and greenways (18 locations)
- 300 acres of athletic, recreational facilities
- More than 9 acres of city-owned lots (24 locations)
- Approximately 71 miles of rights-of-way (107 locations) within the city
- Approximately 66 miles of rights-of-way (28 locations) for the NCDOT
- Approximately 13 miles of 127 alley locations
- Approximately 5 miles of medians (17 locations)
- 24 traffic speed reduction devices
- 55 dog waste stations throughout the city
- 35 playground units

### Traffic Engineering

- 9,881 streetlights maintained
- 213 traffic signals (41 city-owned; 172 state-owned)
- 61 miles of cable for traffic signal system
- 19,000 street and traffic signs

## Wilmington at-a-glance

City population, 2015:  
115,933

Median age, 2015: 34.9

Gender, 2015:  
Female 52.9%  
Male 47.1%

Race 2015:  
72.2% White  
18.7% Black  
2.1% American Indian/  
Asian/Other  
5.6% Hispanic/Latino

City land area:  
52.9 square miles

8th largest city in NC

Source: US Census Bureau, American FactFinder



## 2015-2016 Improvements At a glance

### Convention Center Hotel

Construction began this year on the \$36 million privately owned Embassy Suites hotel next to the Wilmington Convention Center. The 186-room, full-service hotel includes a full-service restaurant, roof-top bar, pool and additional meeting space. The hotel is expected to be open in late 2017.



### Street Improvements from 5-year Plan

Last year, crews completed a \$1.26 million project to repair 2.9 lane miles of 41st Street as part of the city's 5-year infrastructure improvement plan. Crews also repaved portions of Independence Boulevard and Cardinal Drive, bringing the total lane miles paved to 61¼ so far for the 5-year plan.

### Sidewalks Repairs

The city has completed work to replace or repair damaged sections of sidewalk and handicap accessible ramps in several areas throughout the city, including several sections in the downtown area. In total, more than 2,300 square yards of sidewalk have been replaced and or repaired.



### LED Lights

The city has converted more than 5,500 streetlights so far to environmentally friendly LED lights. When conversion of all 8,000 street lights in the city is completed, the city estimates a cost savings of more than \$200,000 per year and an electricity savings of almost 900,000 kilowatt hours.

## 2015-2016 Stormwater drainage improvements At a glance



### Bradley Creek

The city completed a \$4.9 million project to install major drainage improvements to the South Branch Bradley Creek/Michelle Drive area in 2016. Work included replacing major stormwater drainage systems and stream restoration for part of the south branch of Bradley Creek. The improvements will help with flooding that occurs in the area during heavy rains and will also help improve the quality of stormwater flowing into Bradley Creek.

### Wisteria/Clearbrook

The City of Wilmington completed the first phase of a \$5.4 million, two-phase drainage improvement project in 2016 in the Wisteria/Clearbrook area. The improvements include replacing drainage culverts and restoring streams and wetland areas near Patricia and Clearbrook drives. The project will alleviate flooding, provide greater access for the city to perform long-term maintenance and help clean up the water quality of stormwater runoff entering Hewletts Creek.



## 2015-2016 Public Safety Improvements At a glance

### WPD Continue Efforts to Prevent Crime

Along with efforts that led to historic lows in violent/property crimes in 2016, the Wilmington Police Department continued efforts to improve community relations and additional efforts to prevent crime. The WPD continued their youth outreach efforts and partnered with non-profits such as the Boys and Girls Club, area churches and the YMCA. They offered sports programming at various locations, including the city's community centers, and also targeted programs directly to young women, such as Port City Super Girls.

In addition, the WPD partnered the city's Code Enforcement and Solid Waste divisions to clean up targeted areas as part of a wide-scale effort to address and help prevent crime.



During the clean-ups, crews will clean up trash or bulky items such as furniture and electronics visible to the neighborhood and then educate homeowners, landlords and tenants on proper disposal. WPD officers also patrol the area to help answer questions from residents. While the initial efforts in an area provide a short-term fix, the city focuses 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.

Lastly, the WPD has completed installation and is now operating a "real time" crime center as another way to combat and prevent crime. The center is located at the WPD Headquarters on Bess Street. These types of centers that gather multiple sources of data in real time and provide expanded information to officers BEFORE they arrive at a call for service are now being implemented in larger cities across the country.



In the 2016-17 budget, the city provided additional funding for the center, which is designed not only to assist officers during calls for service, but also help keep officers safe.

## 2015-2016 Service Improvements At a glance

### Joint Recycling Effort Off to a Good Start

The city has partnered with New Hanover County and now disposes recycled material at the county's new recycling center. In 2016, city customers recycled almost 14 million pounds, an annual increase for the fourth year in a row. Diverting trash from the landfill is not only better for the environment, but saves the city money. The number of city customers who choose to recycle has increased from less than half to more than 80 percent since the city began offering large rollout recycling carts in 2012.



### Home Ownership

This year, the city provided additional funding for affordable housing, including home ownership and home repair programs as part of an effort to expand the stock of affordable housing and maintain existing affordable housing. The city also joined with New Hanover County to form a citizen-based committee charged with finding ways to improve affordable housing. The committee is expected to have recommendations ready for consideration this spring.

## Water Street parking deck redevelopment

The old Water Street deck is now closed and crews are preparing for demolition after completing underground utility work. Construction will begin in the next several months on the redevelopment project, called Riverplace. It includes private and public parking, residential units and retail, as well as opening up Chestnut Street and Bijou Park to pedestrian traffic and providing better connectivity to Front Street.



## 5-year Plan

Work to repave 3.7 lane miles of Floral Parkway/Audubon Boulevard/39th Street is expected to begin later this year. It will be the last project to be completed by the city's \$41 million, 5-year infrastructure improvement plan that began in 2012.

## New fire station

Work to build a new 10,774-square-foot fire station on Shipyard Boulevard is expected to begin this spring. The new station will replace the current Station 5 located at 1502 Wellington Avenue and Station 6 located at 3939 Carolina Beach Road. The property is strategically located to allow this new station, along with remaining existing stations, to provide the citizens of Wilmington with the same level of service currently provided while also updating aging facilities in stations that can accommodate today's larger fire trucks. Construction is expected to take one year to complete.



## Transportation Bond

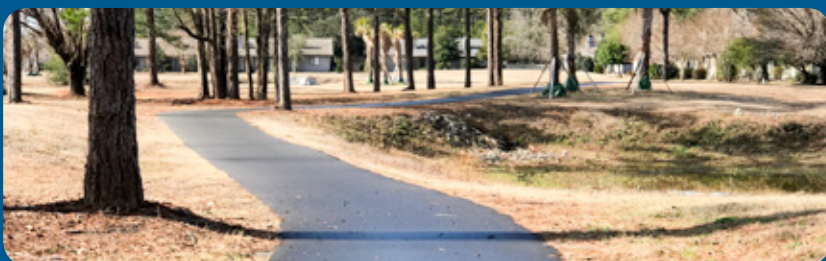
The city has been busy working to get several voter-approved transportation bond projects underway and many others are under design. Projects expected to begin this year include:

- The 1.3 mile-multi-use trail on the west side of College Road, connecting Holly Tree Road and South 17th Street
- New sidewalks along Delaney Avenue from Wellington Avenue to Glen Meade Road
- New sidewalks along Oleander Drive from Wooster Street to Mimosa Place
- Wilshire Boulevard/College Road crosswalks installed in conjunction with the NCDOT repaving of College Road this spring



## Inland Greens

A \$718,500 project to refurbish 9 holes of the old 18-hole Inland Greens golf course and create a passive park on the front-nine holes will begin next month. Park amenities will include fitness equipment, park furnishings and a playground. In 2015, the city completed \$1.2 million in drainage improvements and installed a walking trail. The project is expected to be completed by this summer.



## Beasley Road bridge replacement

Work is expected to begin this spring to replace the bridge on Beasley Road as part of a planned \$4 million drainage improvement project in the Brookshire/Beasley area. The bridge span will be increased from 15 feet to 50 feet, and the new bridge will be 10 feet wider than the existing bridge. Construction is expected to take approximately six months to complete. Other stormwater projects planned for this year include:

- Brookshire/Beasley – this portion of the project in the Brookshire Lane/Waltmoor Drive area is expected to get underway later this year following completion of the Beasley Road bridge replacement
- Greenville/White Avenue – \$1.2 million project
- Wisteria/Clearbrook Phase 2 – \$2.5 million project