

# WILMINGTON 2016-17 Progress Report

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

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*

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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 2017, as well as projects coming up this year.

### Public Safety (calendar year 2017)

- WPD-186,155 annual calls for service
- WFD-13,728 response calls

### Streets (calendar year 2017)

- Lane-miles of roadways maintained: 800
- Miles of sidewalks maintained: 439
- Potholes repaired: 6,435

### Solid Waste (calendar year 2017)

- Trash picked up: 23,486 tons (46,972,460 lbs.)
- Recycling picked up: 6,998 tons (13,996,020 lbs.)
- Yard waste picked up: 10,153 tons (20,305,580 lbs.)

### Stormwater (FY 2016-17)

- Miles of ditches cleaned (manual): 37.44
- Bi-annual private retention pond inspections: 362
- Tons of street sweeping debris collected: 2,000
- Miles of streets swept: 10,574
- Storm pipe cave-in repairs: 182

### 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

- 9,927 streetlights maintained
- 215 traffic signals
- 61 miles of cable for traffic signal system
- 19,000 street and traffic signs

## Wilmington at-a-glance

City population, 2016:  
117,525

Median age, 2015: 35.4

Gender, 2016:  
Female 52.9%  
Male 47.1%

Race 2016:  
72.3% White  
18% Black  
3.7% American Indian/  
Asian/Other  
6% Hispanic/Latino

City land area:  
52.9 square miles

8th largest city in NC

Source: US Census Bureau, American FactFinder





## 2016-2017 Improvements At a glance

### Riverwalk Completed

After more than 30 years and \$33 million, the city has completed the 1.75-mile Riverwalk in downtown Wilmington. Construction of the Riverwalk has taken place in sections since the early 1980s. The northernmost sections were recently completed and the Riverwalk now stretches from the foot of Nun Street on the south end to the Isabel Holmes Bridge on the north end.



### Transportation Bond Projects

Slated to open in April, the **Love Grove Bridge** over Smith Creek will connect the neighborhood to 23rd Street, providing a much-needed second access. The construction is being done in a way that protects the sensitive wetlands and will feature a sidewalk and decorative railings.

Almost a mile of **sidewalks in the McClelland Drive/Fairlawn Drive neighborhood** have been installed. The sidewalks provide residents with a safer walking and biking alternative within the neighborhood as well as connectivity to nearby commercial areas on North Kerr Avenue and Princess Place Drive. The new sidewalks are on McClelland Drive, Fairlawn Drive, Clover Road and Gleason Road.

The city has also completed a new section of **sidewalk along Delaney Avenue** from Wellington Avenue to Glen Meade Road, providing safer and easier pedestrian movement in this busy area of medical-related businesses.



Love Grove Bridge



Fairlawn Sidewalks

### Stormwater Improvement Projects



Beasley Road Bridge

The **Beasley Road bridge** was replaced as part of a larger \$4 million drainage improvement project in the area. The \$603,000 project involved the construction of a modern concrete structure with a span 35 feet longer and 10 feet wider than the former bridge.

Crews installed 860 feet of 30-inch **drainage pipe along Englewood Drive**. This project is adjacent to two much larger projects in the Brenda Drive and Wisteria/Clearbrook neighborhoods that were completed in 2016.

**Drainage improvements along Lancaster, Westchester and Wallington roads** were installed, including a new culvert under Lancaster Road.

Three **aging metal culverts on Beech Street** were replaced with one much larger culvert, doubling the capacity of stormwater it can currently handle.

### Street Improvements From 5-year Plan

In September 2017, crews completed the repaving of Glen Meade Road between Canterwood Road and Marlwood Drive. In August, a portion of Medical Center Drive was repaved between 17th Street and Wisteria Drive.

Crews are almost finished repaving approximately 4 lane-miles of roads on Floral Parkway, 39th Street, Audubon Boulevard and Peachtree Avenue. The area also received some drainage improvements. The project began in November 2017.

A \$2.2 million infrastructure improvement project in the Pine Valley area is almost complete. The project includes drainage improvements and repaving 2.8 lane-miles on portions of Semmes Drive, RL Honeycutt Drive and all of Donald E Gore Drive.



### Convention Center Hotel

Construction of the \$40 million privately owned Embassy Suites hotel next to the Wilmington Convention Center was completed in late December, 2017 and the hotel is now open. The 186-room, full-service hotel includes a full-service restaurant, roof-top bar, pool and additional meeting space.



## 2016-2017 Public Safety Improvements At a glance



### WPD Gets Top National Rating

The WPD was awarded the Gold Standard Assessment accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 2017. This is the highest rating the department can receive and met all of the standards assessed and reviewed by a team of outside law enforcement professionals from around the country.

"This accreditation reaffirms our commitment to protecting the citizens of our community through traditional and innovative policing strategies," WPD Chief Ralph Evangelous said. "We are very proud to be among the top law enforcement agencies in the country."

### Crime Rate Continues to Drop

According to Wilmington Police Department statistics for 2017, the city's crime totals are at historic lows. Overall crime is at its lowest since at least 1993 when factoring in population growth, which has more than doubled since that time. Crime in the Central Business District downtown is at its lowest since 2002.

However, homicides both locally and nationally have risen over the past year, much of that connected to gang-related violence. In response, the city has continued to work with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney on a multi-pronged approach on both enforcement and prevention efforts.

The city has allotted additional funding for anti-violence initiatives over the last few years, including more staffing to keep community centers open longer, expanded funding for non-profit agencies that provide services to at-risk youth, expanded youth jobs programs and partnerships with area non-profits.



## 2016-2017 Service Improvements At a glance

### LED Lights

The city continues to see reduced energy usage at the MLK Recreation Center and the Davis Center at Maides Park after energy-saving LED lights were installed in 2017. LED lights were also installed in the city's Market Street parking deck and will soon be installed in the Second Street Parking deck. The new lights reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs, as well as improve lighting.



### Electronics Recycling

City trash customers are taking advantage of the city's curbside e-waste collection. The city will pick up televisions, computers and monitors curbside for no additional charge by appointment. In 2017, city trash customers recycled 85 tons of electronics.



### Recycling

In 2017, city residents recycled almost 14 million pounds (7,000 tons). Because city trash customers were **RECYCLING MORE and THROWING AWAY LESS**, there was a 15 percent reduction in the amount of trash put in the landfill last year.



## Transportation Bond

**Central College Trail:** Construction is expected to begin in early 2018 and be completed this fall. This project will provide a 1.3-mile multi-use path along the west side of South College Road from Holly Tree Road to 17th Street, where it will connect to the recently completed section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail.

**Eastwood Road:** This project includes construction of a median with traffic signals and u-turns at designated locations along Eastwood Road between Cardinal Drive and Military Cutoff Road to help improve traffic flow and safety. The portion of Eastwood Road between St. Marks Catholic Church and Rogersville Road will be constructed this year.

**Sidewalks:** Construction is expected this year to fill in sidewalk gaps from Wooster Street to Mimosa Place and on Oleander Drive from Pine Grove Road to College Road.



## 5-year Plan

This year, the city plans to pave almost 14 lane miles as part of the city's five-year plan to make repairs to streets and other public facilities. Five cents on the city's tax rate have been set aside to fund the plan and cannot be used for anything else. The plan was refunded in this year's budget.

Streets to be repaved include:

- Portions of Brookshire, Yorkshire and Nottingham lanes and Common Way in Pine Valley East;
- Several streets in the Windemere neighborhood;
- Nixon, 10th, McRae, and Nun streets downtown;
- Castle Street between South 3rd Street and South 8th Street;
- Greenfield Street between South 3rd Street and South 17th Street.

## WPD/WFD Training Facility

Construction will start later this year on a \$9 million training facility for police and fire personnel on Hurst/Princess Place Drive area. The 30,000 square feet will include a police substation and an indoor firing range expected to have no noise impact to nearby neighborhoods, as well as a fire truck driving simulator, physical fitness facilities and space that could be used for training by other city departments.



## River Place on Water Street

The old Water Street parking deck is being demolished and underground utility work has been completed, clearing way for construction of the mixed-use redevelopment project called River Place. The project will include 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. Construction will begin this spring and is expected to be completed in 2020.



## North Waterfront Park

The city has contracted with a firm to oversee design and construction of the park. A nationally known landscape architecture firm is in the process of designing the park and another company has been selected to operate the park's performance venue.

By coordinating all of these services in the design of the park, the city expects to streamline development and construction. Design is expected to take about a year, with construction expected to begin late this year and take about a year to complete.

