

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2018

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2017 Annual Progress Report



River Place

Work on a transformative project for downtown is now underway. The public/private partnership is one of the largest projects in which the city government has ever been involved.

What's happening: Work has begun on the next phase of infrastructure improvements beneath Water Street, including replacing aging water and sewer lines beneath Water Street from Chestnut Street to just beyond Grace Street. This work is being done now to coordinate with the construction of the nearby River Place project, which is expected to begin this spring. In addition to new water and sewer lines, the project involves drainage improvements, new sidewalks, new pavement and lighting. All businesses in the vicinity will remain open.

The River Place project, slated for completion in late 2019, involves construction of a multi-story mixed use development including parking, residential and retail space where the old Water Street Parking Deck

was located. The new development will maintain access to Bijou Park and reconnect Chestnut Street to Water Street, while providing public space at the foot of Chestnut Street. Some highlights include:

- 25,633 square feet of commercial space, including retail shops and restaurant space, primarily on the ground floor
- Approximately 171 residential units
- 403 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 an estimated \$20 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

 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/waterstreetdeck

Check the back

Want to find out how to receive this newsletter by email or learn more about the city online? Check out the back page to find out more.



Inland Greens

The 9-hole golf course at Inland Greens is slated to open early this summer. The clubhouse renovations are complete, as well as park amenities, including bocce courts, a picnic shelter, bike racks, and tree plantings. The \$3.2 million project has already seen extensive drainage improvements and installation of a 3/4-mile walking trail, which is open to the public.




COOL JOBS: Learn more about the Boxing Center

Marae Lindquist joined the City of Wilmington in 2015. She started part-time at Halyburton Park and was quickly promoted to recreation coordinator at the city's Boxing Center. Currently, she provides personal training and runs fitness classes.

"I really like working at the Boxing Center because I get to see people grow and change," says Marae. "I'm always helping people work out or teaching a fitness class and I just love to see people get comfortable with working out and staying in shape."

The Boxing Center is located at 302 S. 10th Street and is open to the public. Memberships are \$52 a year for city residents or \$86 a year for non-city residents.

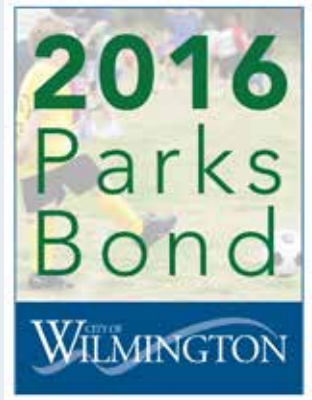
 910-341-7872

New Gyms Under Design

Progress is being made on projects approved by voters in the 2016 Parks Bond. The design contract has been approved for new gymnasiums/multipurpose rooms for the Derick G. Davis Community Center at Maides Park and the MLK Community Center at Robert Strange Park. Design work will begin this spring.

The new gymnasiums/multi-purpose rooms will provide additional safe places for programs for local youth, adults and seniors at these two city facilities.

Work on two other bond projects is also underway. A security assessment of recreational facilities is ongoing and panic buttons and cameras will be installed soon in a limited number of facilities. Re-stripping of parking lots at selected facilities will also begin soon.



Market Street Parking Deck Receives LED Lighting

The city has replaced lighting in the Market Street parking deck with energy efficient LED lights. The new lights will reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs, as well as improve lighting for those using the deck. The \$80,000 project is expected to pay for itself in 3-5 years. The city plans to install new LED lighting in the city's 2nd Street parking deck later this year.

Investing in our future

5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Floral Pkwy/Audubon Blvd Paving Project Nears Completion

Crews are almost finished work on a project to repave almost 4 lane miles of roads on Park Avenue, Floral Parkway, 39th Street, Audubon Boulevard and Peachtree Avenue. Crews are also replacing curbs and gutters and making storm drain improvements.

The project, which began in November 2017, is 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. According to the 2017 Citizen Survey, maintenance and infrastructure needs are a top priority for city residents.

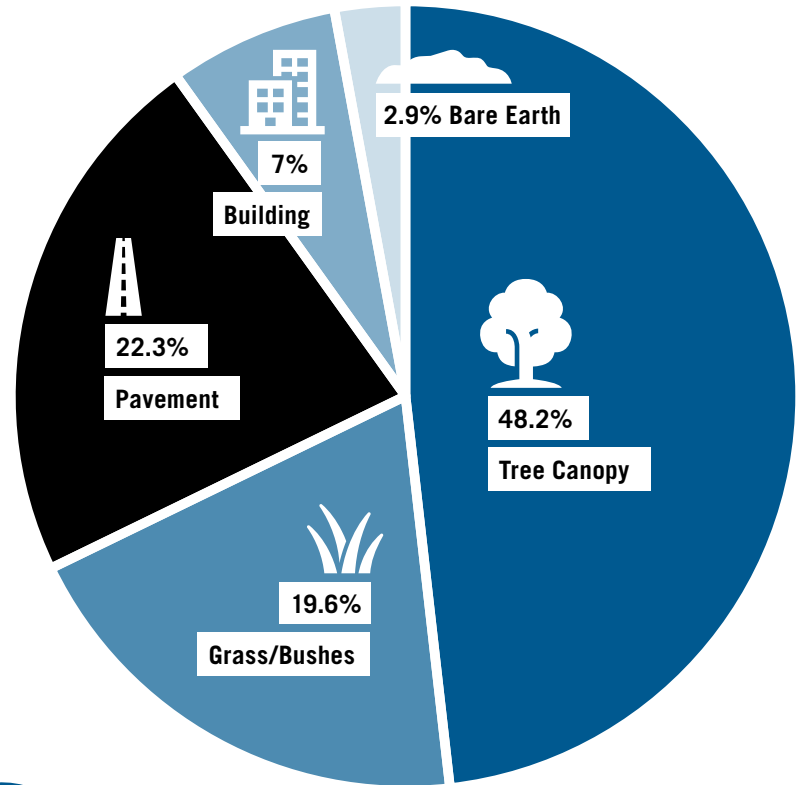
City Takes In-Depth Look at Tree Canopy

Wilmington is one of two cities selected by the NC Forest Service to participate in a federal study to look at how urban trees can be used to improve the quality of our local waterways. Two public meetings were held to gather input about where trees should be planted to help reduce stormwater runoff and forestry experts have compiled extensive data using satellite imagery and other technology to determine what the city's current tree canopy looks like.

Trees not only help prevent erosion and cool the city, especially where there is a lot of asphalt, they also help slow the flow of rainwater during storms and absorb a lot of that rainwater, which helps keep the stormwater system from overflowing untreated into our local waterways.

The experts are wrapping up the study now, using the data to make recommendations about ways the city can protect and enhance its urban forests for improved stormwater management and clean water. The recommendations will also be considered as the city re-writes its outdated land development regulations this year.

CITY OF WILMINGTON: LAND COVER



DID YOU KNOW?

A typical street tree can intercept an estimated 760 to 4000 gallons of rainwater per tree per year, depending on the species.



#GreenInfrastructure

City Offers Rental Rehabilitation Incentive Loan Program

The issue

In the Wilmington area, it's no secret that renters are challenged to find affordable housing. The estimated average wage for renters in Wilmington is \$12.44 per hour, enough to comfortably afford a rent of \$647 per month. In Wilmington, the median rent is \$854 per month. Clearly there is a need for rental housing that is more affordable to working households in Wilmington.

One solution

One way the city is trying to address this issue is by offering loans of up to \$100,000 at zero percent interest to repair or retrofit existing homes to get them ready for affordable rental housing, as well as building on vacant lots, usually surrounded by existing homes.

The loan is targeted to developers, investors, non-profits, or others interested in providing affordable rental units. The intent of the program is to bring badly deteriorated or dilapidated housing units back into the rental housing stock, as well as filling in small, vacant lots that make good use of the limited space we have left to build on.



Details

All potential units must be vacant;

Borrowers must keep the rental unit/s for affordable housing for up to 20 years;

Credit score of at least 680 is required; rents will be based on federal guidelines established for the HOME program.

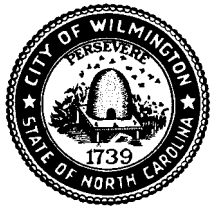


www.wilmingtonnc.gov/loans or 910-341-7836



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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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