

# WILMINGTON 2017-18 Progress Report

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Winter 2019: 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*

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 2018, as well as projects coming up this year.

### Public Safety (calendar year 2018)

- WPD-179,695 annual calls for service
- WFD-14,010 response calls

### Streets (calendar year 2018)

- Lane-miles of roadways maintained: 800
- Miles of sidewalks maintained: 439
- Potholes repaired: 6,840

### Solid Waste (calendar year 2018)

- Trash picked up: 25,019 tons (50,038,000 lbs.)
- Recycling picked up: 6,846 tons (13,692,000 lbs.)
- Yard waste picked up: 10,701 tons (21,402,000 lbs.)
- Electronics pickups/stops: 2,034

### Stormwater (FY 2017-18)

- Miles of ditches cleaned (manual): 55.16
- Bi-annual private retention pond inspections: 368
- Miles of streets swept: 10,543
- Storm pipe cave-in repairs: 171

### Parks & Landscaping

- 443 acres public parks maintained (41 public parks)
- 254 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
- 36 playground units

### Traffic Engineering

- 10,181 streetlights maintained
- 220 traffic signals
- 61 miles of cable for traffic signal system
- 19,000 street and traffic signs

## Wilmington at-a-glance

**City population, 2017:**  
119,045

**Median age, 2017:** 36.0

**Gender, 2017:**  
Female 53.1%  
Male 46.9%

**Race 2017:**  
72.1% White  
17.9% Black  
3.7% American Indian/  
Asian/Other  
6.3% Hispanic/Latino

**City land area:**  
52.9 square miles

**8th largest city in NC**

Source: US Census Bureau, American FactFinder



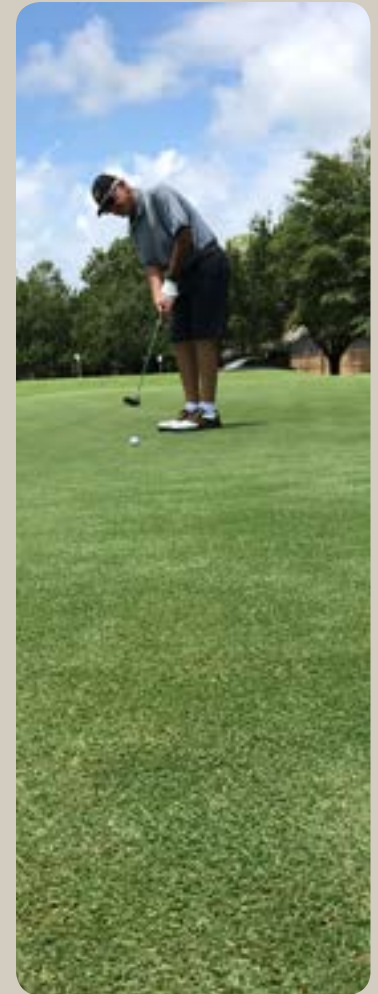
## Progress on the voter-approved 2014 Transportation Bond Projects

- New crosswalks at two intersections on Wilshire Boulevard have been installed to allow for safe pedestrian crossings at Kerr Avenue and South College Road.
- The Love Grove bridge opened in April and is one of the largest of the 38 projects approved by voters in the 2014 Transportation Bond. The \$5 million two-lane bridge crosses Burnt Mill Creek to One Tree Hill Way and features a sidewalk for additional connectivity to the neighborhood. Prior to the installation of the new bridge, the only access to the neighborhood could be blocked by train traffic.
- The 1.3-mile South College Trail is nearly complete.



## Inland Greens Park and Golf Course

The Inland Greens Park and Golf Course opened this summer. The \$2.7 million project features a 9-hole, par-3 golf course, a clubhouse, ¾-mile walking trail, bocce courts, picnic shelter, playscape and bike racks. Golfers can request tee times by calling 910-765-7459 or by visiting [www.inlandgreensgolf.com](http://www.inlandgreensgolf.com).



## Progress on the voter-approved 2016 Parks Bond Projects

- Design for the North Waterfront Park is complete, cost estimates have been prepared and permit acquisition is underway. The city has kicked off a corporate sponsorship campaign with the goal of raising \$4 million to close the gap between the cost estimate of the preferred design and the available \$20 million project budget.
- Panic buttons were installed at several recreational facilities and offices.
- Improvements at Robert Strange Park include improved lighting, security mirrors and alarms on gym doors.
- Security cameras were installed at the MLK Center, the Boxing & Fitness Center, the Fit For Fun Center, Robert Strange Park and Maides Park.
- Duke Energy installed improved lighting at Maides Park.



## River Place

2018 saw the completion of the foundation and first few floors of the River Place mixed use project on Water Street. New water and sewer lines were also placed beneath Water Street adjacent to the site as part of a phased project up and down Water Street.

The River Place development is a public private partnership that will transform a central block in downtown Wilmington. The new development consists of a pair of 13-story brick buildings that will include parking, residential condos, shops and restaurants.





## Cleaning up Neighborhoods

The Wilmington Police Department continues to work with staff from the city's Recycling and Trash Services and Code Enforcement offices to clean up problem areas. The program is designed to combat the "Broken Windows Theory," which suggests that run-down properties with trash heaps in front are correlated with higher rates of crime. Targeted areas are identified and the city reaches out to residents in the area, including specific properties that are in need of cleanup, to provide education about how to properly dispose of materials and what to do about illegal dumping. City trash crews also provide courtesy pickup of trash and bulky debris located in the right-of-way. Several neighborhoods, comprising a total of 23 census tracts, were targeted in 2018.



## Empie Park Improvements

Renovations at the Althea Gibson Tennis Complex at Empie Park are wrapping up. When complete later this winter, the park will feature five new tennis courts with new LED lighting, 61 new parking spaces and new sidewalk connections to the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail.



## Paving city streets

This past year, the city paved almost 16 lane-miles of roads in Wilmington. Since the program began in 2012, the city has paved more than 84 lane-miles in total. Last year, crews completed paving in the Pine Valley, Audubon, Pine Valley East, Glen Meade, and Tanbridge/Brettonshire neighborhoods, as well as on Nun Street.



## Echo Farms

In June of 2018, the city and New Hanover County announced an agreement to purchase 14 acres of land for \$1.7 million for a public park in Echo Farms. This project came on the heels of the Echo Farms golf course going out of business, after which residential development was proposed. While development will still occur in the vicinity, the 14-acre park will provide much-needed open space for this part of town.

Development of the first two phases of the park, consisting of tennis courts, a pool and a clubhouse with restrooms and changing areas, are expected to be complete in mid-2020.

## City's sustainability efforts

Sustainability and energy efficiency continues to be a priority for the city. Progress in 2018 included:

- Installing energy efficient LED lighting in city buildings that will reduce lighting electricity use by approximately 57%, saving over \$21,000 annually. This includes installing LED lighting at the 305 Chestnut Street office building. Since the installation was completed, the city has reduced energy usage by 27,724 kWh and will save an estimated \$2,500 per year just from that one building.
- Environmentally friendly features have been incorporated into the design and construction of new city facilities, including the Haynes-Lacewell Police and Fire Training Facility, the new Shipyard Boulevard Fire Station (#5) and North Waterfront Park.
- Award of a \$30,000 state grant which allowed the continued expansion of the city's recycling infrastructure in the downtown central business district.
- LED lighting retrofit of the Market Street Parking Deck has resulted in significant energy savings.





### Public Safety Training Facility

Work has begun on the Haynes/Lacewell Police and Fire Training Facility. The 31,000 square-foot 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/Princess Place Drive area near Maides Park. The property will serve a number of purposes, including an indoor firearms training range, classrooms, K-9 training area, driving simulator and mat room for physical training. Construction of the \$9.1 million facility is expected to be complete early next year.

### Water Street improvements

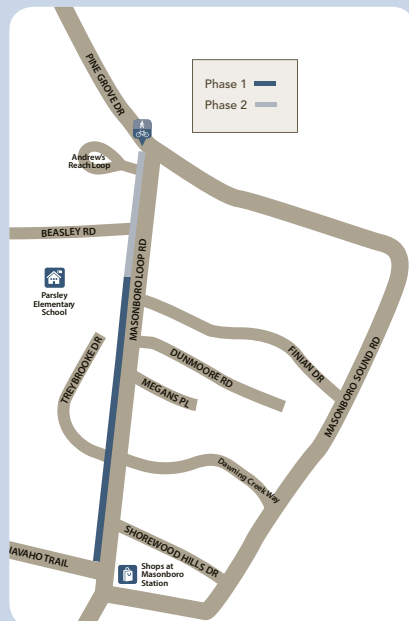
This involves the placement of new water and sewer lines beneath Water Street and streetscape improvements on the surface. Work is already completed between Market and Princess Streets and nearly complete between Chestnut and Grace Streets. The next phase involves the section from Grace Street up to almost Red Cross Street. It will be followed by the final section, between Princess and Chestnut streets. This entire project is expected to begin this summer and take about one year to complete. Replacing aging infrastructure on Water Street is needed to accommodate coming growth to the area and is a partnership between the city and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority.

### USCG bulkhead

The US Coast Guard will begin to repair the bulkhead underneath Riverfront Park early this year. This work is similar to bulkhead work the city already completed near the foot of Market Street and is needed to stabilize the shoreline as well as Riverfront Park. Much of the work will be performed from a barge in the river but a portion of Riverfront Park will be closed until the project is complete in the spring of 2020.

### Shipyards Boulevard Fire Station

The Wilmington Fire Department's future Station 5, located at 680 Shipyards Boulevard, is expected to open in March. The \$3.4 million, 11,500-square-foot station will also house WFD's regional HazMat team, currently located in the Pine Valley fire station.



### 2014 Transportation Bond projects

#### Masonboro Loop Trail

The \$3 million, 1.4-mile, highly-anticipated Masonboro Loop Trail Transportation Bond Project is expected to begin this summer.

Construction of the trail will occur in two phases. Phase 1 will build the trail from Navaho Trail to Beasley Road and is expected to take about eight months to complete. Phase 2 will build the trail from Beasley Road to Pine Grove Drive and take about four months to complete.

#### Oleander Drive Sidewalks – Pine Grove Drive to College Road

The Transportation Bond includes \$157,000 to install approximately 750 linear feet of sidewalk on Oleander Drive between Pine Grove Drive and College Road to provide a consistent sidewalk network in this commercial area. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

Future Transportation Bond projects in the area include installing sidewalks from Hawthorne Road to 42nd Street and from Wooster Street to Mimosa Place. Sidewalks in these areas will maximize existing public investment by making connections to sidewalks already in place and will provide walking/biking as another way for several neighborhoods and large apartment complexes in the area to reach commercial areas, getting cars off congested roads.