

WILMINGTON CURRENT

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WILMINGTON
CITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT
SPRING 2026**

BUILDING A MORE CONNECTED FLOOD MONITORING NETWORK

The City of Wilmington is working to create a comprehensive flood monitoring network through funding from Duke Energy and partnerships with UNCW and NCDOT. New gauges were installed in flood-prone areas near Smith Creek, Hewletts Creek, Greenfield Lake, Motts Creek, and Barnards Creek. There will be seven gauges in Wilmington, with another three planned for installation this year in Bradley Creek and Whiskey Creek.

These devices provide early warnings when heavy rain or storm surge pushes water past safe thresholds, giving residents more time to move vehicles, protect property, or evacuate, if needed.

They also help identify which streets are becoming impassable, reducing the risk of drivers getting stranded, and aid public safety and utility repair vehicles in making informed decisions on road safety.

City residents can access the data and set their own alerts on the Flood Inundation Mapping & Alert Network at fiman.nc.gov. ■



The flood gauge on the Love Grove Bridge, installed at the confluence of Smith Creek and Burnt Mill Creek, is one of seven locations where water levels are being monitored in the city.

RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM GUIDES FUTURE PLANNING

The City of Wilmington has recently been selected to participate in the North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP), which is helping coastal cities prepare for the rising risks of storms, flooding, and other coastal hazards. This program enables the City to focus on neighborhoods, public infrastructure, and natural areas, and identify projects that can be quickly moved into design and construction.

Building a more resilient City of Wilmington requires careful, thorough planning efforts using sound, locally relevant data. As part of the RCCP, the City of Wilmington has been awarded \$85,000 in technical resources to support Phases 1 and 2 of the program. Running from September 2025 through September 2026, these phases include community engagement and flood risk assessment, followed by the development and prioritization of resilience projects to guide future engineering and implementation.



The RCCP team hosted an open house in April for residents to learn more about the program's goals and to share challenges they face with coastal hazards.

The City has teamed up with UNCW, Cape Fear River Watch, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Wilmington Downtown Inc., Voyage, New Hanover County, and Cape Fear Council of Governments to provide insight that will guide the planning work needed to shape practical solutions for Wilmington.

To help guide a roadmap for future projects, the RCCP team received input from residents through an online survey and pop-up events held through April. ■

 [Learn more: \[wilmingtonnc.gov/resiliencyplanning\]\(http://wilmingtonnc.gov/resiliencyplanning\)](http://wilmingtonnc.gov/resiliencyplanning)



SPRING CLEANUP CHECKLIST

As spring arrives, it's the perfect time to refresh your home and shared community spaces. From free mulch and seeds to cleanup opportunities and safe cleaning reminders, here are a few ways to pitch in and help keep Wilmington looking its best.

✓ Refresh Your Yard

Starting at 8 a.m. on the last Friday of each month, the City hosts **Free Mulch Fridays**, with recycled tree trimmings converted to mulch, available to area residents. Last fall, more than 300 cubic yards (or about 30 dump trucks) of mulch were given away, and there's more to be shared this spring at the Legion Stadium overflow lot (2149 Carolina Beach Road).

✓ Spruce Up Your Garden

Looking to spruce up your garden? The City's **free seed library at Maides Park** offers more than 60 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, with all the necessary growing instructions conveniently included on each package. Stop by 1101 Manly Ave. to pick some up!



SAVE THE DATE Second Saturday Cleanups

Cape Fear River Watch hosts monthly cleanups, encouraging volunteers to help pick up litter and clean up watersheds from 9 a.m to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.



Learn 
more



Remember to Cleanup Safely

As outdoor cleaning ramps up, please remember not to use harsh chemicals. When it comes to pressure washing or vehicle detailing, what goes down the drain matters. Soapy, dirty washwater, full of things like oil, grease, and chemicals, can flow straight into storm drains and end up in our creeks, harming wildlife and water quality. That's why the City asks residents to **stick to plain water rinses or commercial car washes** when cleaning vehicles and for businesses to either skip chemicals or properly capture and dispose of washwater. ■

HEALTHY HOMES

Since 2023, the City's Healthy Homes program has worked to make homes safer and healthier for local families. Through a \$1.5 million grant, the program assessed 92 homes and completed critical health and safety improvements in 50 households, addressing the eight principles of a healthy home and tackling issues such as mold, pests, and safety hazards. After exceeding its goals ahead of schedule, the program wrapped at the end of 2025.

Although the grant funding has been fully expended, the need for Healthy Homes services remains. The City will continue to support these efforts using local resources and is exploring the creation of a Healthy Homes Coalition. This coalition would bring together established providers and agencies to collectively promote Healthy Homes principles and deliver a coordinated range of services, with each partner contributing specialized expertise to meet community needs more effectively. ■



The City's impact is best told by the residents who experienced these Home Health Hazards interventions firsthand.
← Scan to hear their testimonials.

INTRODUCING THE NEW WETLANDS GUIDE

The City's Heal Our Waterways Program recently partnered with North Carolina State University's Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering on a water quality improvement grant funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Grant Program.

Several green infrastructure projects were installed near Clear Run Branch in the Bradley Creek Watershed, including a constructed wetland that replaced a retention pond behind University Commons. To help educate surrounding property owners and developers about the benefits of installing constructed wetlands, the partnership also created a "Constructed Wetlands Development Guide."

This approachable guide explores the key differences between retention ponds and constructed wetlands, including the environmental and community benefits they provide. Because no two man-made wetlands look the same, the guide highlights a variety of wetland projects in Wilmington and across North Carolina for inspiration. Developers and property owners can also find a "one-stop shop" of local and statewide resources to address specific design questions, measure water-quality benefits, and, in some cases, identify and apply for green infrastructure incentive programs.

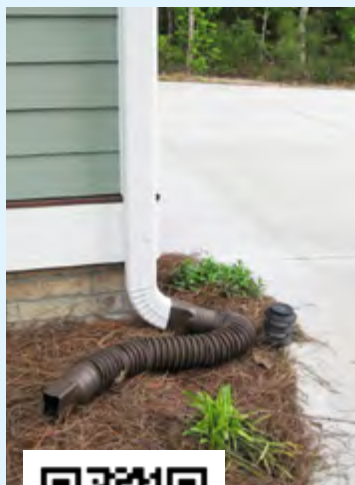
To read the Constructed Wetlands Development Guide and other green infrastructure resources, visit the Heal Our Waterways Learning Library. ■

 wilmingtonnc.gov/LearningLibrary

REDIRECTING RAIN

Stormwater runoff carries pollution such as bacteria from pet waste, fertilizer, pesticides, and litter straight to our waterways, untreated. Residential properties and businesses can play a significant role in reducing polluted runoff flowing from their properties. And the best news is, the solution is often simple and inexpensive.

Rerouting downspouts onto a lawn or landscaped areas allows stormwater to soak into the ground naturally, rather than allowing polluted runoff to flow into creeks and waterways. As a bonus, plants prefer mineral and nutrient-rich rainwater over treated tap water. If you redirect downspouts into a rain barrel, you can use the stored water to water your plants or wash your car. Rerouting a downspout can reduce polluted runoff from your yard by up to 50%. ■



Watch a video tutorial on how to reroute your downspout.

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES



River Road & Independence Boulevard Roundabout

The River Road and Independence Boulevard roundabout is now open, marking a key milestone in improving safety and traffic flow along one of Wilmington's fastest-growing corridors. Completed in early 2026, the \$2.42 million project also adds pedestrian crossings and new sidewalks, supporting safer, more connected travel for all users.



Fifth Avenue Streetscape Improvements

Fifth Avenue between Greenfield Street and Market Street has been transformed into a safer, more connected corridor, improving mobility and linking downtown to Greenfield Lake. The \$15.75 million project added bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, and ADA upgrades, while replacing critical water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure in partnership with CFPWA.



Riverlights Fire Station 6

Riverlights Fire Station 6 is now open, expanding fire protection and emergency response capacity in one of Wilmington’s fastest-growing areas. The \$9 million facility serves Riverlights, Echo Farms, and the surrounding areas, and is uniquely designed with modern apparatus bays and an aesthetic that reflects the surrounding neighborhood.



Olsen Park Phase 2 Improvements

Olsen Park has been expanded to better support both active recreation and community use. This \$1.93 million joint project with New Hanover County added pickleball courts, a multi-purpose field, a three-quarter-mile trail, and additional parking, enhancing access and amenities across the park.



Wrightsville Avenue Sidewalk & Connectivity Project

Work is underway to transform Wrightsville Avenue between Independence Boulevard and Hawthorne Drive into a safer, more connected corridor. The \$6.03 million project will close sidewalk gaps, provide a new roundabout, add signalized pedestrian crossings, add ADA-accessible crossings, and improve connections to neighborhoods, transit, and the Cross-City Trail.



Operations Facility

The City is constructing a new Asset & Property Management facility at 111 Melton Road to support the stewardship, maintenance, and operation of Wilmington’s public spaces and assets. The \$11.97 million facility will improve efficiency, replace outdated structures, and provide space for equipment, urban forestry operations, and staff, with completion expected in early 2027.



Kenan Fountain Restoration

Restoration work has resumed on the historic Kenan Fountain at Fifth Avenue and Market Street, bringing the landmark closer to full operation. The project, which began in late 2025, is focused on repairing and restoring the structure, with completion expected this spring.



Affordable Housing Initiatives

Starway Village has transformed a former vacant site into a vibrant community providing 278 affordable housing units for Wilmington’s workforce. As the largest public-private affordable housing partnership in North Carolina, the development supports residents earning 60% or less of the Area Median Income and reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to expanding access to housing and strengthening neighborhoods.

Building on this momentum, the City also celebrated the groundbreaking of Avenue Flats, a 184-unit affordable housing development serving households earning between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income. Developed in partnership with Blue Ridge Cascade and New Hanover County, the project reflects continued collaboration to expand housing opportunities across the community. ■



COMMUNITY AT PLAY



Fit For Fun, Accessible for All

The City recently installed new playground equipment at the Fit for Fun Center, creating a more accessible play space for families. The previous playground, installed in 2002, had been heavily used and was not ADA accessible. Modern playgrounds are typically recommended for replacement after 15–20 years.

The project was supported by funding from the North Carolina Accessible Parks Program, which helps communities improve recreation opportunities for people with disabilities. Informed by community input during the design process, the new playground is now open and includes ADA-accessible features, expanded play surfacing, and updated fencing. Thank you to everyone who voiced support for the grant to make it happen! ■

Supporting the Special Olympics

The 2026 Polar Plunge in Kure Beach brought the community together to raise \$133,500 for the New Hanover County Special Olympics. The funds fully support all the organization’s programs for the year, including 27 sports, five dances, two countywide event days, unified programming, social events, and local, regional, and statewide competitions, all offered at zero cost to the athletes.

The Special Olympics also recently held Spring Games, bringing together athletes of all ages from across the county to compete in a variety of adapted events. More than 50 City employees volunteered during one of three days as part of an organizational effort to give back to the community in the month of April. ■



A Greener Wilmington Takes Root Through Shared Efforts

The City continues to expand Wilmington’s urban tree canopy through new plantings and strong community partnerships. More than 600 street trees were planted last fall to replace aging and diseased trees, featuring a diverse mix of urban-tolerant species.

Community efforts are also making an impact. During TreeFest, **6,396 native seedlings** were distributed to residents, while the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees provided more than **5,300 trees** across 26 species, marking its busiest season yet.

Together, these efforts are helping strengthen Wilmington’s urban forest for years to come. ■



Find out more about Wilmington’s Urban Forestry Master Plan





New Mural Brings Color and Highlights Community at Maides Park

Last fall, the City unveiled a new mural at Maides Park, giving the outdoor basketball courts a vibrant look.

The mural was designed by artist Kalin Devone, a former Wilmington resident who approached the City with the idea and volunteered her time and resources to help bring it to life. Devone traveled to Wilmington each weekend for four weeks to complete the project.

Working with City staff and the community, Devone developed artwork that reflects the culture and pride of the Maides Park community. Not only did the community make the final decision among three designs, but more than 40 residents signed up for volunteer paint sessions, helping apply finishing touches to the mural.

Now complete, the colorful courts serve as a vibrant focal point while supporting the City's efforts to enhance public spaces and strengthen neighborhood connections. The Maides Park mural joins a growing collection of public art across Wilmington, with additional projects planned, including new murals at Sherriedale Morgan Fitness Center and Greenfield Skate Park. Community painting days continue to give residents a chance to help shape the City's evolving public art landscape. ■

Exploring One of Wilmington's Rarest Treasures

Did you know Venus flytraps only grow naturally within a 70-mile radius of Wilmington? This makes our community one of the only places in the world you'll find them in the wild.

Each spring, that uniqueness comes to life at the Stanley Rehder Carnivorous Plant Garden at Piney Ridge Nature Preserve, where wetlands fill with pitcher plants, sundews, and the region's native flytraps.

The garden, a partnership between the City of Wilmington and the N.C. Coastal Land Trust, offers a truly one-of-a-kind experience right here at home. ■



SAVE THE DATE

The N.C. Coastal Land Trust invites the community to experience this local treasure firsthand at the 16th Annual Flytrap Frolic, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. Visitors can explore the garden with guides, enjoy plant-themed games, arts and crafts, face painting, and educational tables from local partners. Ethically sourced Venus flytraps will also be available for purchase while supplies last.



In October 2025, the City dedicated Baseball Field No. 1 at Robert Strange Park to Sam Bowens, a trailblazing athlete whose journey from Wilmington to the Major Leagues inspired generations.

GREENFIELD PARK MARKS 100 YEARS OF MEMORIES

Last November, the community celebrated the 100th anniversary of Greenfield Park, marking a century of recreation, community connection, and memories for Wilmington residents. The centennial festivities highlighted the park's history, ongoing importance, and vision for the future.

The celebration began with a ceremony featuring remarks from the Rotary Club, REV Credit Union, and the Cape Fear Garden Club. A special time capsule was dedicated, preserving today's stories, photos, and memories for future generations. Residents contributed printed photos and other items that capture the people, places, and moments that have defined Greenfield Park over the past 100 years.

Following the ceremony, families enjoyed a variety of activities for all ages, including a free Centennial Concert at the Greenfield Lake Amphitheater.

As we look to the future, the City's 2024 Greenfield Park Master Plan will help guide improvements across the 250-acre historic park and 90-acre lake, ensuring it continues to serve the community for generations to come. ■



1925

GREENFIELD PARK

2025

A Look Back at Greenfield Park History

Greenfield Park has been home to a number of unique attractions and community traditions over the years:

Topsy, The Elephant

Topsy, a 4-ton circus elephant, escaped after a performance in October 1922 and roamed Wilmington for hours, startling residents as she moved through neighborhoods, damaged property, and waded into Greenfield Lake before eventually being captured.

The Greenfield Park Zoo

Once located near the lake, the Zoo was a longtime attraction for visitors before closing around 1980.

The Greenfield Limited

The park once featured a miniature train that took visitors on scenic rides around Greenfield Lake.

The Showboat

In the mid-20th century, a replica riverboat cruised through Greenfield Lake beneath the cypress trees, offering a unique experience for families.

Boat Races

The lake was once the site of exciting boat races and remains a favorite spot for canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boating today.



Read the Greenfield Park Master Plan here





A CENTURY ON THE FAIRWAYS

WILMINGTON'S MUNI TURNS 100



For 100 years, generations of golfers have walked the fairways of the Wilmington Municipal Golf Course, a place where the game is simple, the history runs deep, and the experience feels timeless.

Originally built in 1926 and designed by legendary golf course architect Donald Ross, “Muni” has long been a cornerstone of Wilmington’s recreational landscape. Unlike many modern courses built for carts and distance, the Muni remains a walker’s course at heart, a place where the journey between greens and tees is short, and the rhythm of the game feels just as it did a century ago.

If you want to “go back in time” and experience golf as it was truly meant to be, Muni is a must-play.

Over the decades, the course has evolved while staying true to its roots. A major renovation in 2014, led by Ross design expert John Fought, restored the course to its original strategic vision while modernizing it for today’s game. Expanded, elevated greens, repositioned bunkers, new tee boxes, and refined playing strategies for each hole brought new life, and new challenges, to a beloved classic.

The irrigation system also received an upgrade, with twice as many sprinkler heads around the greens, enabling more precise watering and resulting in major turn improvements around each green. An additional 40 sprinklers were added in key areas.

This landmark upgrade marks the “new” era for Muni, which remains today. Muni offers a rare balance: approachable for beginners yet demanding enough to test even the most experienced players. Its signature Ross-style greens have doubled the total square footage over the old greens and include more subtle slopes and pin positions. Also, the course can offer many degrees of challenge based on which positions are chosen for play. It’s a course where no two rounds feel quite the same, and where golfers of all skill levels can find both enjoyment and challenge.

Beyond the design and playability, the Muni’s true legacy lies in its approachability. As one of the few municipal courses designed by Donald Ross, it stands as a point of pride for the community, a place where the game of golf is open to everyone. ■

Save the Date: Celebrating 100 Years

On Sept. 19, the City will celebrate this milestone with a special centennial event and tournament honoring the course’s past, present, and future.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with a program featuring remarks from local leaders and special guests, highlighting the course’s rich history and lasting impact. Following the program, the Mayor will take the ceremonial first shot on Hole 10, officially kicking off a community scramble tournament. Members of the public will be invited to enter a lottery for a spot to play in the tournament. Keep an eye on the City’s social media channels for an announcement this summer on how to sign up.

The celebration will continue into the evening, with live music from the Cruise Brothers from 4 to 7 p.m., bringing players, families, and fans together to mark the occasion.

 [Book a tee time today at wilmingtonmuni.com](http://wilmingtonmuni.com)





Stronger Together: Advancing Regional Emergency Response

When the Wilmington Fire Department first introduced the Blue Card Incident Command System in 2015, it was part of a larger effort to strengthen how emergency scenes are managed, and ultimately, to keep firefighters safer. Supported by an initial grant, the program introduced a standardized incident command approach, providing officers with a clear, consistent framework for decision-making in high-pressure situations.

At its core, Blue Card is built around a systematic size-up process and an “8 Functions of Command” model, helping crews quickly assess conditions, deploy resources, and manage complex fireground operations. The training is rigorous, requiring approximately 50 hours of online coursework followed by an in-person simulation lab where officers put those skills into practice.

What began as a Wilmington initiative has since grown into a local collaboration. Over the past decade, the Wilmington Fire Department has trained departments across the region, including Leland and Pender County Fire, as well as others across the state, reaching roughly 500 firefighters, and creating a shared language and approach to emergency response. ■

“It’s been an honor to help train departments across our region using the Blue Card system. When we respond together, having everyone operate from the same playbook enables consistent fireground command and control and a more seamless response for the public we serve. Thanks to the grant that made this possible, we’ve been able to strengthen not just our department, but the safety of our entire community.”

– FIRE CHIEF J.S. MASON



SAVE THE DATE

The Wilmington Fire Department’s Junior Fire Academy returns this summer. A free, week-long experience where rising 9th–12th graders learn life-saving skills and get hands-on firefighter training. Applications are open now for sessions June 22–26 and July 27–31.



2025 WFD BY THE NUMBERS

17,990

CALLS FOR SERVICE

123

STRUCTURE FIRES

22

RECRUITS GRADUATED

36

LIFE-SAVING EXTRICATIONS

284

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

7,223

FIRE INSPECTIONS BY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Building Confidence and Camaraderie

Wilmington Police Department female officers are working to empower local women one class at a time. In May 2023, the WPD launched its Women’s Self-Defense Classes, which have surged in popularity and become a safe space for learning situational awareness and techniques for women to fight back when needed.

The free classes are held monthly in four three-hour sessions and are open to the public with registration. Led by a team of seven officers (Cpl. Ari Wilkins, Cpl. Cardiellea Barksdale, Cpl. Kasey McGrath, Officer Lynn Hartley, Officer Sierra Crane, Officer Sherry Donelson, and Officer Elizabeth Kendall), the training begins in the classroom before moving to hands-on instruction, where participants learn everything from basic stances to escaping dangerous situations. WPD also partners with the Rape Crisis Center during the course to share resources and support.

“We see a big difference in confidence from day one to day four. It’s the best part of my job.” Cpl. Wilkins said of the course.

Day one focuses on situational awareness, including understanding personal space and recognizing when something feels off. The message is simple: you do not have to be nice or allow someone into your space if you feel uncomfortable. The goal is to build confidence and help women feel safer in everyday moments, from walking the dog to grocery shopping.

A close-knit group themselves, the officers inspire classes of up to 16 women to embrace camaraderie as well.

“People have said, ‘We get to see you as officers, but you’re real people, too,’” Wilkins recalled. “They’ve told us, ‘We feel safer knowing you’re on the streets.’”

And that’s exactly the message Wilkins wants to send.

The last two days of the program, women learn a number of self-defense moves from stand-up fighting and escaping sexual assault scenarios to how to correctly fall and stand back up.



Learn more and apply here



Officers also share their experiences using certain moves, both on the job and in real life, to show they do work.

“A lot of people come forward with stories,” Wilkins said. “And we share our own personal stories as well.”

On the final day, with consent from everyone involved, male officers are brought in for scenario-based training. The request to involve male officers came from several participants’ evaluations, in which they expressed a desire to test their moves against male strength in real-world scenarios.

Held at the Haynes Lacewell Training Facility, the classes are open to any woman over 18, and Wilkins said they’ve seen a full range of ages attend, up to 70. Registration fills up quickly, accepting a maximum of 16 women at a time, and a background check is required. Anyone not selected is put on a waitlist for the following class. ■

SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Create safe boundaries
- Never wear two headphones when out walking or running
- Don’t be too distracted by your phone or device; look up and around at all times
- Trust your gut. Most of the time it’s right. A woman’s intuition is an amazing thing!



2025
WPD BY THE
NUMBERS

136K

CALLS FOR SERVICE

25K

HOURS OF FORMAL TRAINING COMPLETED

41

NEW RECRUITS HIRED

40

RIDE-A-LONGS HOSTED

MORE THAN 50

STUDENTS MENTORED DURING COP CAMP

SAVE THE DATE: COP CAMP

The Wilmington Police Department hosts two sessions of Cop Camp each summer: one for New Hanover County students in fifth and sixth grade and one for students in third or fourth grade. Each session is weeklong and runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The camp is designed to provide children with opportunities to interact positively with law enforcement personnel and to participate in recreational activities, field trips, educational experiences, and a community service project.



Learn more and sign-up here



WILMINGTON 101 2026 COHORT

Nearly 30 participants participated in this year's Wilmington 101 program, which gave residents an inside look at City operations. The six-session program provided opportunities to meet City staff, tour key facilities, and explore how local government supports daily life in Wilmington.

Throughout the program, sessions highlighted key services such as public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and more. Applications for Wilmington 101 2027 will open this fall. ■

 Learn more at wilmingtonnc.gov/wilmington101



WILMINGTON 101



TRIVIA GAME

DID YOU KNOW?

1

Approximately how many lane miles of City-owned streets are maintained by the City of Wilmington?

- A) 600
- B) 800
- C) 1,000
- D) 1,200

2

How many miles of sidewalk does the City of Wilmington maintain?

- A) 365
- B) 420
- C) 500
- D) 535

3

How many parks does the City of Wilmington maintain?

- A) 36
- B) 42
- C) 48
- D) 55

4

Approximately how many traffic signals does the City of Wilmington operate and monitor?

- A) 150
- B) 200
- C) 225
- D) 250

5

How many fire stations does the City of Wilmington have?

- A) 10
- B) 8
- C) 12
- D) 15

6

How many sworn officers does the Wilmington Police Department have?

- A) 250
- B) 280
- C) 300
- D) 320


THE STATE OF WILMINGTON'S WATERWAYS

2025 UNCW SURFACE WATER QUALITY REPORT

The State of Wilmington's Waterways UNCW Surface Water Quality Report is a summary of the current health and condition of the major creeks and waterbodies that fall within Wilmington's city limits. UNCW water quality sampling information was provided by lead scientist for the Wilmington Watershed Project, Dr. Michael Mallin, of the UNCW Center for Marine Science.

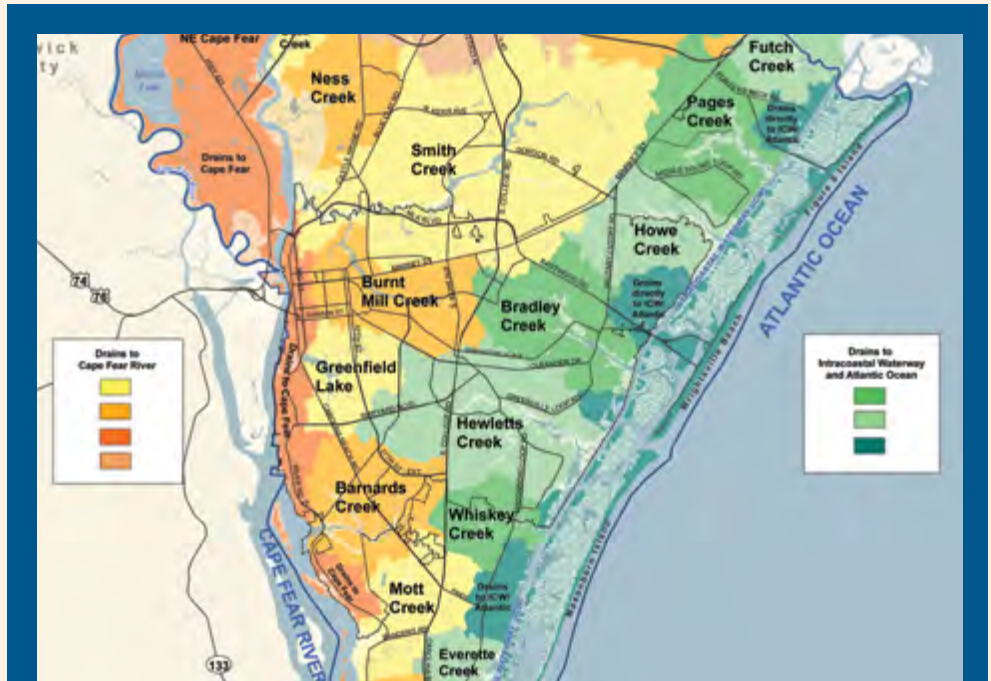
The water quality sampling summary is based on data collected between the months of **January-December 2025** and is presented from a watershed perspective, regardless of political boundaries.

The summary describes each watershed by size, state classification, state status, reason for impairment, and UNCW sampling summary. The goal is to identify and reduce the number of pollutants in local waterways, improve water quality and aquatic habitats, and analyze the effectiveness of stormwater control measures. The results of the water quality testing can also lead to additional watershed restoration projects.

 Find your watershed at wilmingtonnc.gov/watershedmap



View the
Stormwater
Report
←



UNCW KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Greenfield Lake continues to host nuisance algal blooms, although fewer than the previous year.
2. The tributary creeks of Jumping Run Branch and Squash Branch, continue to load high fecal bacteria and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) into the lake. Additional funding is being pursued to rehabilitate the lake.
3. Upper Barnards Creek, Bradley Creek and Burnt Mill Creek also had high fecal coliform bacterial counts.

The City's Heal Our Waterways Program focuses on improving water quality in Hewletts and Bradley Creeks specifically to address these issues, and the City's stormwater outreach campaigns educate the public on watershed restoration efforts citywide.

PROTECTING GREENFIELD LAKE'S WATER QUALITY



The City recently added three AquaRealTime water quality sensors to Greenfield Lake. This technology supports the City's ongoing efforts to protect and improve local water resources.

The solar-powered sensors provide round-the-clock data of key water quality parameters, including water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and algae levels.

Water quality data is transmitted 24/7 and enables City staff to track patterns and trends over time. This allows the development of maintenance plans to address potential issues in the lake. This is especially important for proactively identifying algal blooms and other water quality issues before they become emergencies.

Data collected from the sensors is accessible via an online dashboard to City partners, including UNC-Wilmington, Cape Fear Community College, and Cape Fear River Watch. This partnership allows staff, educators, and researchers to stay informed about the condition of Greenfield Lake. ■

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK



A weekend winter storm in February brought the heaviest snow Wilmington has seen in nearly 35 years, with some areas receiving up to a foot. City employees worked around the clock to keep streets clear, respond to emergencies, and support the community.

For two days, City crews brined, plowed, salted, and sanded more than 100 miles of roadway, while Fire and Police responded to hundreds of calls for service. The STING

Unit helped identify icy areas, enabling resources to be deployed where they were needed most.

From maintaining essential services to ensuring public safety, City staff remains committed to keeping Wilmington safe and moving during challenging weather conditions. ■

If you attended Azalea Fest, you know how much traffic it brings downtown and how quickly trash can pile up. Most years, roughly 9 tons of trash are collected during the festival alone. City staff like Chris Freeman work throughout the weekend to keep it under control.



While crowds fill the streets, he's already on the next block checking cans, swapping bags, and keeping things from overflowing. It's a constant loop, Friday through Sunday, making sure downtown stays clean no matter how busy it gets.

Freeman is one of many solid waste services operators who collect yard waste across Wilmington and help keep neighborhoods looking their best. It's work that often goes unnoticed, but it makes a difference every day. ■



CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The City of Wilmington's Commission on African American History held its youth recognition awards banquet in February, honoring five local students: **Amir Johnson, Beautiful Dorm, Elijah Nash, Nessie Nash, and Niko Melvin**. Students are nominated for leadership achievements and accomplishments that make a meaningful impact on the community. Congratulations to these outstanding students! ■

WOMEN'S LUNCH

Councilmembers and City of Wilmington employees attended the New Hanover County Women's Commission Annual Luncheon celebrating Women's History Month, where Councilmember Cassidy Santaguida served as a featured panelist.




Pictured above: Rachel Schuler, Martha Wayne, Jen Clift, Tracy Corle, Lauren Edwards, and councilmembers Salette Andrews, JC Lyle and Chakema Clinton-Quintana

CITY LAUNCHES UPDATED HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

As attainable housing remains a top priority, council recently established the new City of Wilmington Housing Affordability Advisory Committee to work with city staff developing a comprehensive housing affordability plan and updating initiatives and policies. The committee will work to create and preserve housing that is affordable and continue the work of the former joint City/County Workforce Housing Advisory Committee, which was disbanded in 2025.

The goal of the new 13-member, Council-appointed committee is to recommend, in an advisory capacity, new procedures, programs, or promotional opportunities that support affordable options.

Interested in joining a board or committee? There is a wide range of boards, commissions and committees on which citizens of our area can serve. The participation of residents in the City of Wilmington government takes many forms and is an integral part of the decision-making process used in improving city services to residents.

 **To view a full list of boards, commissions, and committees and apply to participate, visit wilmingtonnc.gov/boards**



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PAY ONLINE?

The City of Wilmington offers online payment options for City invoices, including rent/leases, retiree insurance, police service fees, trash stickers, parking tickets, and more, through its payment portal.

Residents can also pay invoices in person on the first floor of Skyline Center, 929 N. Front St., over the phone by calling 910.343.4745, and by mail to P.O. Box 1810 Wilmington, NC 28402. ■

MEET THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

The City of Wilmington is governed by a nonpartisan City Council consisting of a Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and five Councilmembers elected by the entire city. In addition to meeting twice every month (typically the 1st and 3rd Tuesday), Councilmembers also serve on several boards and committees and represent the city at numerous community functions.



Mayor
Bill Saffo



Mayor Pro-Tem
Kevin Spears



Councilmember
Salette Andrews



Councilmember
Chakema
Clinton-Quintana



Councilmember
David Joyner









Councilmember
JC Lyle



Councilmember
Cassidy Santaguida

STAY CURRENT

Stay up-to-date with what's happening in the city:

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-  @cityofwilm
-  wilmingtonnc.gov
-  @cityofwilm
-  cityofwilmington
-  910.341.7800



Subscribe to the
Weekly E-newsletter



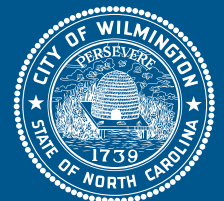
Contact Us

CITY COUNCIL

City Council meetings are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Meetings are streamed live on:

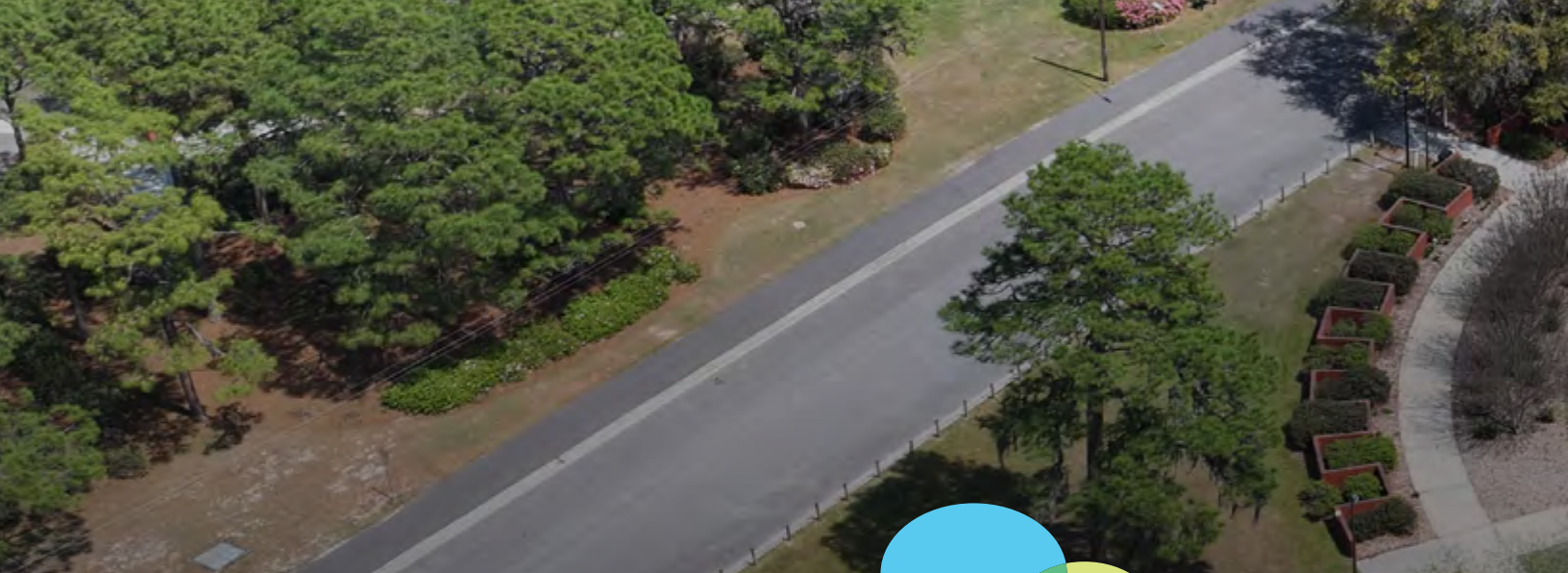
- GTV8 (Spectrum channel 8)
- wilmingtonnc.gov/gtv (view previous meetings on-demand)
- youtube.com/user/cityofwilmington





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Your Voice.
 Your Park.

Your Wilmington.



A GENERATIONAL INVESTMENT IN WILMINGTON'S FUTURE PARK SPACE

The City of Wilmington has purchased approximately 25 acres off Greenville Loop Road, marking a major milestone in expanding access to green space and outdoor recreation for the community. The \$9.75 million acquisition was made possible through a strategic partnership, including a \$7.75 million grant from the New Hanover Community Endowment and \$1 million contributions from both the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County. With the land now secured, the City is beginning a public engagement process to shape the park's design, amenities, and overall vision, with the future park expected to open within the next five years.

This time-sensitive acquisition in a rapidly growing area supports the City's 2022 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. Located next to Bradley Creek Elementary School and near the Greenville Loop multi-use path, the site expands access to recreation and strengthens connectivity across Wilmington's network of parks and green spaces. The property's mix of wooded areas, open space, and wetlands will help guide a design that balances conservation with thoughtfully planned amenities, shaped through community input to reflect long-term needs and stewardship. ■



We want to hear from you! Take our digital survey using the QR code or online at wilmingtonnc.gov/parkproject

