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Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, March 1 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Thursday:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf>

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

Strategic Planning Retreat Next Week

Reminder that Council will meet for the annual planning retreat next **Friday** and **Saturday** at the **Greg Poole, Jr. All Faiths Chapel** at **Dix Park**, 1030 Richardson Drive.

Continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 each day, and the retreat will start at 9:00. The retreat agenda materials and other logistical information will be forthcoming.

INFORMATION:

Healthy Food Opportunities - Produce Project

Staff Resource: Ken Hisler, Parks, 996-4823, kenneth.hisler@raleighnc.gov

In April 2021 City Council approved a recommendation by the Economic Development and Innovation Committee that included direction to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department to create a

pilot Farmer's Market program. The original goal was to implement in the fall of 2021. As summer progressed, dedicating resources to the research and development of the pilot program became increasingly difficult.

As the COVID pandemic persisted with the increased impact attributed to the delta and omicron variant, staff has experienced significant difficulty in its ability to recruit and retain personnel needed to sustain operations.

Recognizing that the need for healthy food options is a primary component to community health, staff has identified and entered into a program partnership with a local produce delivery service, Produce Project <https://www.produceproject.org/> where extra food is donated to local non-profit organizations. The goal was simple, find a way to provide fresh, affordable produce into communities where that is lacking. The program kicked-off in December 2021 and is housed at John Chavis Memorial Park. After ten-weeks there is much evidence of the positive impact this program is having on the community. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which contains additional information.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Special Events Office, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the February 15 Work Session

Integrated Pest and Invasive Species Management on Greenways (Mayor Pro Tem Stewart)

Staff Resource: Sally Thigpen, Parks, 996-4115, sally.thigpen@raleighnc.gov

At the February 15, 2022, City Council Work Session Greenway Master Plan Update, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Stewart requested information regarding the use of herbicides and invasive species management along greenways. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) promotes environmentally sensitive landscape pest and vegetation management by using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and reducing overall herbicide use while preserving landscape assets and protecting the health and safety of the public and employees.

What is Integrated Pest Management? The use of a combination of methods to prevent pest damage that requires an understanding of pests, their life cycles, habitats, and natural enemies. The IPM program employs a comprehensive approach including biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control.

The use of herbicides is just **one** of the tools used to maintain safe and beautiful parks and trails for the public to enjoy. Whenever possible, the team uses cultural methods and best practices to control pests that reduce or eliminate the need for chemicals.

Policy Highlights

- The Parks pesticide management policy far exceeds State requirements. Every application is documented through the work order system *CityWorks*.
- All qualified applicators are licensed and hold a Public Operator Pesticide License issued by the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.
- Applications are made with a trained spotter to control the area, put out signage and redirect the public until the product is dry.
- Only general use herbicides under EPA label requirements are permitted. The Label is the Law!
- Applicators are required to complete a rigorous internal training process in the classroom and field as well as required continuing education.
- All chemicals and application sites are pre-approved with controlled purchase and storage.

On greenway trails specifically, qualified applicators are restricted to herbicides that are labeled for use near riparian areas. These targeted applications maintain visibility, provide a safe transition from trail surface to structures, minimize weeds in landscaped parking lots and extends the reach of staff resources. Vegetation is predominantly maintained using mechanical methods including mowing/pruning with hand tools and small equipment.

For invasive plant management, herbicides are a vital tool in controlling invasive plants and reestablishing desirable native plant communities. Most control along the greenway is accomplished through volunteers and ambitious staff tackling removal manually with hand tools. Stump treatments must be applied to prevent aggressive plants immediately growing back and reinfesting the area. Thoughtful, targeted application of herbicide for invasive plant management eventually reduces herbicide use as native habitats are restored. Once an acceptable threshold is obtained, early detection and rapid response efforts are employed with more manual and mechanical options. Kudzu, Privet, Wisteria, Bamboo, English Ivy, Tree-of-Heaven and other invasive plants can be hazardous to trail users, detrimental to forest, meadow, and wetland health, and detract from the natural beauty of the greenways. Areas with widespread infestations of invasive plants cannot be reasonably controlled without responsible herbicide application. Find more information in the [Invasive Species Program Report \(usgovcloudapi.net\)](https://usgovcloudapi.net) and ways to volunteer at [Invasive Species Program | Raleighnc.gov](https://Raleighnc.gov)



**February 2022 Walnut Creek Trail: Volunteer restoration tree planting
(Volunteers planted 100 oaks and sycamores after removing and treating invasive Privet)**

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the February 15 City Council Meeting

“Dooring” Ordinances for the Protection of Bicyclists (Councilmember Knight)

Staff Resource: Michael Moore, Transportation, 996-3030, michael.moore@raleighnc.gov

Robin Tatum, City Attorney, 996-6560, robin.tatum@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council requested a report regarding the status of “dooring” ordinances in the City, following media reports of a bicyclist fatality in Chapel Hill that resulted from a motorist opening a car door into the bicyclist’s path.

Raleigh does have a current “dooring” ordinance. In 2013, Council considered an item to update the City Code to reflect new language and rules regarding bicycle regulations. The updates were proposed as part of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission annual action plan. Council adopted Ordinance No. (2013) 239 amending the City Code to add a new Section 11-2137 – “Limitation on Opening Motor Vehicle Doors Into Traffic” as part of the Traffic Code. The ordinance passed by unanimous vote, except for two Councilmembers that were absent and excused. The Code reads as follows:

“It shall be unlawful to open the door of a motor vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving motor vehicle or bicycle traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.”

The ordinance is applicable to both typical bike lanes adjacent to curbside parking and parking-protected bike lanes and cycle-tracks.

(No attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Oscar Carmona, Director
From	Ken Hisler, Assistant Director
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	February 22, 2022
Subject	Healthy Food Options - Produce Project, John Chavis Memorial Park

The City of Raleigh Strategic Plan includes multiple initiatives focused on food security and the availability of healthy food options for all residents of our communities. These initiatives include:

- GNR Initiative 1.3: Identify opportunities to eliminate barriers and increase education to encourage urban agriculture.
- SV&HC Initiative 4.3: Work with community partners to implement and support strategies that enhance food security

In April 2021, City Council approved the recommendation by the Economic Development and Innovation Committee that included direction to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) to create a pilot Farmer's Market program.

"The Committee also recommends that Council direct staff to develop the next steps for a pilot program using City parks for neighborhood healthy food access with farmers' markets..."

It is also understood the pilot program would begin in Fall 2021 at one park location; however, staff is encouraged to explore the possibility of having the farmers' market pilot program at 2 park/community center locations."

With guidance provided by City Council, PRCR created an internal team to research procedures and protocols. Regrettably, [COVID](#)'s impact on continuing operations with a 20% - 25% vacancy rate for full-time staff and 40% for part-time staff has limited the available resources that could be dedicated to developing a Farmer's Market. It is important to note that PRCR already has a market that is delivered in partnership with the Downtown Raleigh Alliance (DRA) at Moore Square.

Recognizing that the need for healthy food options is a primary component to community health, PRCR refocused its resources to leverage existing community

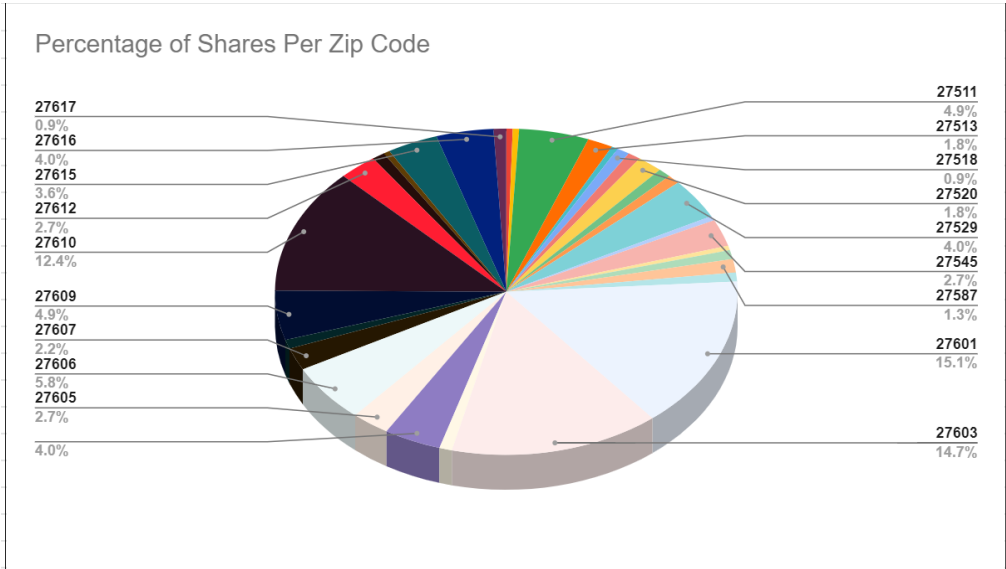
partners to address this challenge. Our goal remains to offer affordable, fresh produce in a community where there are limited options.

In December 2021, PRCR began a partnership with the Produce Project <https://www.produceproject.org/>. This is a fresh produce delivery service where extra food is donated to local non-profit organizations. Based out of John Chavis Memorial Park, you can purchase an \$18.00/week “share” of fresh produce that can be picked up at the park. If there are items you don’t want and/or you don’t need that week, the extra is donated to local non-profit organizations.



Collaborating with the Produce Project team we were not sure what to expect the first week. There was minimal promotion and a total of seven “shares” were sold, but, the holidays likely played into the low volume of activity. Moving into 2022, word is spreading, and we are averaging 45 “shares” per week over the past four weeks.

As we plan to introduce additional marketing efforts, there is evidence that goals are being achieved. Over a 10-week period there have been a total of 247 “shares” purchased. Of those purchased, 42%, or 95 of the “shares” have been purchased by people who live in the 27601, 27603, 27610 zip codes. To further benefit these communities, nearly ½ ton of fresh produce has been donated to local non-profit organizations that include the Helping Hand Rescue Mission and Catholic Parish Outreach. Lastly, the Produce Project provides an extra 2 “shares”/week to help anyone who walks in and needs assistance.



We are encouraged by the results that have been achieved. Now that a foothold has been secured, we intend on amplifying our marketing efforts. We already promote through typical PRCR methods. Working with City Communications we now have a co-branded flyer that we will begin to distribute through PRCR facilities and our many community partners. Our next step will be to gain coverage from local media organizations.

Going back to the origin of why this effort was initiated, we realize there are many communities that have limited access to healthy food. Working with the Produce Project, and other internal partners, we are seeking to identify what it would take to replicate this opportunity to serve communities from additional PRCR facilities.

JOHN CHAVIS MEMORIAL PARK

NEW - Fresh Produce Pick-Up



"EAT GOOD AND SHARE GOOD" WITH THE PRODUCE PROJECT AND RALEIGH PARKS

Raleigh Parks is partnering with The Produce Project to provide a pickup location for fresh produce at John Chavis Memorial Park. The Produce Project offers shares of fresh produce at a third of the cost.

HOW IT WORKS

1. You order an \$18 produce share at [produceproject.org](https://www.produceproject.org).
2. Pick up your share at John Chavis Memorial Park on Thursdays from 3 p.m.-8 p.m.
3. Keep the produce you and your family need from your share, and leave the rest to be donated locally.
4. Each week, hundreds of pounds of fresh produce are received by food-insecure families.

John Chavis Memorial Park
Historic Carousel Building
720 Chavis Way
Raleigh, NC 27601

raleighnc.gov/parks



Raleigh
Parks

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, February 25 – Thursday, March 3

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

No permitted special events are scheduled at this time.

Other Upcoming Events

[Hurricanes vs. Blue Jackets](#)

Friday, February 25
PNC Arena

[Downtown Raleigh Home Show](#)

Friday, February 25 – Sunday, February 27
Raleigh Convention Center

[Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens Workshop](#)

Saturday, February 26
Walnut Creek Wetland Park

[NC State vs. North Carolina](#)

Saturday, February 26
PNC Arena

[Eddie B's Teachers Only Comedy Tour 21-22](#)

Saturday, February 26
Fletcher Opera Theater

[Dancing with the Stars – Live Tour 2022](#)

Sunday, February 27
Memorial Auditorium

[Hurricanes vs. Oilers](#)

Sunday, February 27
PNC Arena

[Nickelodeon's JoJo Siwa D.R.E.A.M. The Tour](#)

Tuesday, March 1 (rescheduled from May 19, 2020)
PNC Arena

[Eagles](#)

Wednesday, March 2
PNC Arena

[Pieces of Gold – Wake County Public Schools](#)

Wednesday, March 2
Memorial Auditorium

[Social Equity Book Club: Wilmington's Lie](#)

Thursday, March 3
Virtual

Public Resources

[Pilot Text Alert Program](#): Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#): A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

[Online Events Calendar](#): View all currently scheduled events that impact City streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.