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### **Budget Work Session – Monday, June 5 - 4:00 P.M.**

Reminder that Council will meet on **Monday** in a scheduled budget work session at **4:00 P.M.**

The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

### **Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, June 6 - 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/Public>

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

**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](mailto:mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov) by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

## INFORMATION:

### Drop-In Youth Program

*Staff Resource: Dale Neal, Community Engagement Office, 996-2721, [dale.neal@raleighnc.gov](mailto:dale.neal@raleighnc.gov)*

The Office of Community Engagement has partnered with Raleigh Parks to offer the “Drop-In Youth Program” to City departments hosting public events and meetings during evenings and weekends. The purpose of the program is to reduce barriers to participation and attendance for families with children, while also increasing the participant diversity. By offering on-site activities for youth, parents and caregivers can attend and fully participate in meetings hosted by city departments. The age for the program participants is five years to 12 years old (school-age youth); the community meeting or event must be held at a City of Raleigh facility; and , finally, the department requesting the youth activities support will be responsible for the cost of the staff delivering the activities.

*(No attachment)*

### Weekly Digest of Special Events

*Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, [sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov](mailto:sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov)*

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

*(Attachment)*

## Council Member Follow Up Items

### General Follow Up Item

#### Riparian Buffer Requirements (Council Member Harrison)

*Staff Resource: Wayne Miles, Engineering Services, 996-3964, [wayne.miles@raleighnc.gov](mailto:wayne.miles@raleighnc.gov)*

Council inquired via e-mail about increasing the City’s creek/stream/waterbody setbacks. The council member also referred to the Urban Transition Buffers adopted by the town of Cary as part of the inquiry. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing information regarding the current State of North Carolina Neuse River riparian buffer rules, the Cary Urban Transition Buffers, and the City of Raleigh natural resource buffers.

*(Attachment)*

## Follow Up from the May 16 City Council Meeting

### **Community Group Access to Community Centers (Council Member Harrison)**

Staff Resources: Tiesha Hinton, Office of Community Engagement, 996-2707, [tiesha.hinton@raleighnc.gov](mailto:tiesha.hinton@raleighnc.gov)  
Stephen Bentley, Raleigh Parks, 996-4784, [stephen.bentley@raleighnc.gov](mailto:stephen.bentley@raleighnc.gov)

During the meeting, Council requested confirmation that community groups can access meeting space for no cost at PRCR facilities. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to the request.

*(Attachment)*

### **Public Comment – Follow-up with Kim Holmes (Mayor Baldwin)**

Staff Resource: Tige Phyfer, Planning and Development, 306-2235 [tige.phyfer@raleighnc.gov](mailto:tige.phyfer@raleighnc.gov)

During the meeting staff was requested to provide a zoning review. Kim Holmes spoke about 3401 Hillsborough Street, a property that is adjacent to her own. The property is zoned IX-3 (Industrial Mixed Use), a zoning district that allows a wide range of Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial uses. It has been owned by Duke Energy or its predecessor, Carolina Power and Light, since 1974. The current office and utility uses on the property are permitted in the IX-3 zoning district. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) requires “Neighborhood Transitions” between mixed-use and residential zoning districts. Neighborhood Transitions are intended to buffer, screen, and attenuate noise from more intensive uses of land by requiring landscaping and additional setbacks.

Since the uses on the property predate these UDO provisions, they are not applicable until the property redevelops or expands significantly. Planning and Development staff conducted property research, followed by a site visit on May 22, 2023, and did not find any evidence of UDO violations. Staff discussed with Duke Energy personnel the nature of the concerns raised by the adjacent property owner and offered to assist with any potential resolutions involving the activity occurring near the adjacent residential properties.

*(No attachment)*

### **Public Comment – Follow-up with Kris Door (Council Member Patton)**

Staff Resource: Emma Liles, Parks, 996-4871, [emma.liles@raleighnc.gov](mailto:emma.liles@raleighnc.gov)

At the meeting, public comment was received raising a number of questions related the Forest Ridge Park project funded through the 2003 Parks Bond, the Neuse River Park project funded through the 2022 Parks Bond, and greenway improvements to serve the Wakefield area. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing details on the history and current status of these projects.

*(Attachment)*

# Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 2 – Thursday, June 8

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
[specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov) | 919-996-2200 | [raleighnc.gov/special-events-office](http://raleighnc.gov/special-events-office)

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## Permitted Special Events

### [First Friday Fayetteville Street](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Friday, June 2

Event Time: 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Morgan Street and Martin Street, and Hargett Street between Salisbury Street and Fayetteville Street will be closed from 6:00pm until 11:59pm. Market Plaza and Exchange Plaza will also be used during this time.

### [Morning Times' First Friday Market](#)

Hargett Street

Friday, June 2

Event Time: 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 6:00pm until 11:59pm.

### [Race 13.1 Raleigh](#)

North Hills & Raleigh Greenways

Saturday, June 3

Event Time: 7:00am - 11:00am

Associated Road Closures: Rowan Street between Gates Street and Six Forks Road will be closed from 4:00am until 12:00pm. Roads will be closed and greenways will be used for the Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K from 7:00am until 11:00am. Note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event and [view routes](#) for more information.

### [Run for Love 5K](#)

Dorothea Dix Park

Saturday, June 3

Event Time: 9:00am - 10:15am

Associated Road Closures: Goode Street between Lake Wheeler Road and Biggs Drive will be closed from 7:00am until 11:00am. Roads will be closed for the 5K from 8:50am until 10:15am. [View route](#) for more information.

### [Raleigh's International Food Festival](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Saturday, June 3

Event Time: 11:00am - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Hargett Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Martin Street and Davie Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 6:00am until 11:59pm. Exchange Plaza will also be used during this time.

### [Flight Day with Y Guides](#)

Dorothea Dix Park, Big Field

Saturday, June 3

Event Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Biggs/Barbour Drive between Goode Street and Blair Street, and Blair Street between Barbour Drive and Umstead Drive will be closed from 9:00am until 4:00pm. The Big Field will be used from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

### **Black Flea Market**

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, June 4

Event Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Union Station Plaza will be used from 12:00pm until 6:00pm every Sunday through 10-29-23.

### **Raleigh Night Market**

City Market

Wednesday, June 7

Event Time: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Parham Street between Martin Street and Wolfe Street, and Wolfe Street between Blount Street and Blake Street will be closed from 3:00pm until 10:00pm.

## **Other Upcoming Events**

### **Summer Music and Eats Series**

Friday, June 2

John Chavis Memorial Park

### **First Friday Market & Movie – Mamma Mia!**

Friday, June 2

Moore Square

### **First Friday Raleigh**

Friday, June 2

Downtown Raleigh

### **CC & Co Gala**

Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4

Memorial Auditorium

### **Dermot Kennedy**

Saturday, June 3

Red Hat Amphitheater

### **Holly Springs School of Dance**

Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4

Fletcher Opera Theater

### **Moore Square Market – Grilled Cheese Day**

Sunday, June 4

Moore Square

### **Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers**

Tuesday, June 6

Meymandi Concert Hall

### **Les Claypool**

Wednesday, June 7

Memorial Auditorium

### **TLC, Shaggy, En Vogue, Sean Kingston**

Wednesday, June 7

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

# Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 2 – Thursday, June 8

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
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## Judy Collins

Thursday, June 8  
Fletcher Opera Theater

## Dix Hospital Staff & Families – Interpretation Workshop

Thursday, June 8  
John Chavis Memorial Park Community Center

## 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.

# Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Rich Kelly, PE, Director Engineering Services
From	Wayne Miles, PE, Stormwater Program Manager Ben Brown, PE, Development and Mitigation Manager Lauren Witherspoon, Development Inspections Supervisor
Department	Engineering Services
Date	June 1, 2023
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: April 10, 2023 E-mail Creek/Stream/Waterbody Buffer Requirements in Raleigh

## Background

On April 10, 2023, Council Member Harrison inquired via e-mail about increasing the City’s creek/stream/waterbody setbacks. CM Harrison also referred to the Town of Cary’s Urban Transition Buffers as part of the inquiry. This memo provides information regarding the current State of North Carolina’s Neuse River riparian buffer rules, the Town of Cary’s Urban Transition Buffers, and the City of Raleigh’s natural resource buffers.

## State-Mandated Buffer Rules

The City of Raleigh lies entirely within the Neuse River Basin. In 1997, Neuse River riparian buffer rules were adopted by the State of North Carolina in response to water quality issues related to excessive nutrients in the Neuse River estuary. The purpose of the Neuse River riparian buffer rules is to maintain and protect existing riparian buffers and provide nutrient removal function to mitigate nutrient-related water quality degradation in estuaries and other downstream waterbodies. The NC Division of Water Resources (NCDWR) enforces the riparian buffer rules within the City of Raleigh’s jurisdiction (within the city limits and the extra-territorial jurisdiction, or ETJ).

Riparian buffers are applied to surface waters (intermittent streams, perennial streams, lakes, ponds, reservoirs and estuaries) that are depicted on the USGS topographic map or the Wake County Soil Survey. These two sources of information are utilized when applying buffers because the USGS topographic map generally underestimates the number of surface waters that are present on a property and the Wake County Soil Survey generally overestimates the number of surface waters on a property. When a landowner or other affected party believes that the sources (listed above) have

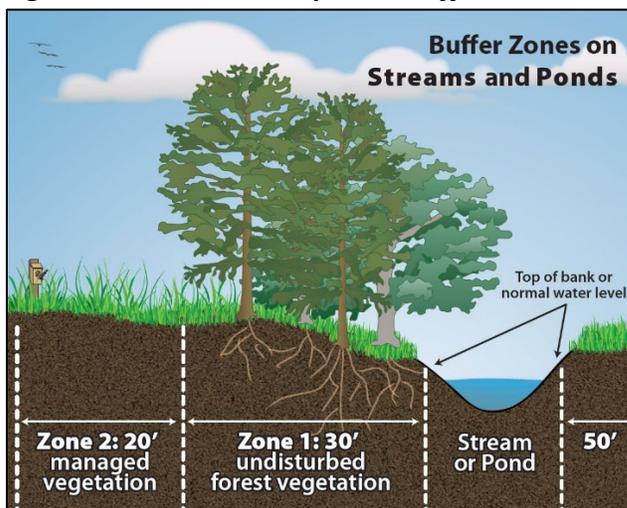
inaccurately depicted surface waters or the specific origination point of a stream, he/she can request a buffer determination be made in the field by the NC Division of Water Resources.

The Neuse River riparian buffer rules define the riparian buffer as extending 50 feet from the top of the bank and consisting of two (2) zones: Zone 1 and Zone 2 (see Figure 1).

Zone 1 is the first 30 feet measured outward/perpendicular from the top of the bank of the stream channel. This zone is to remain in an undisturbed (protected) except as provided for in the Table of Uses in 15A NCAC 02B .0714 (Rule). A full copy of these rules may be found [here](#).

Zone 2 is the latter 20 feet measured outward from Zone 1. This zone is allowed to be a managed area with grading deemed allowed providing existing vegetation in Zone 1 is not compromised, stormwater runoff is managed in compliance with the Rule, and disturbed areas are stabilized and revegetated. Zone 2 shall remain undisturbed (protected) except for this managed area allowance and as provided in the Table of Uses in the Rule.

**Figure 1. Neuse River Riparian Buffer Zones – State-Mandated**



### **Town of Cary-Mandated Buffer Rules**

In 2007, the Town of Cary adopted General Urban Transition Buffers (UTB) in the Neuse River Basin to further protect natural resources in the Town of Cary' ETJ. This UTB is considered Zone 3 and extends 50 feet beyond the State's 50-foot buffer, creating a cumulative 100-foot buffer for all USGS mapped intermittent and perennial streams (see Figure 2).

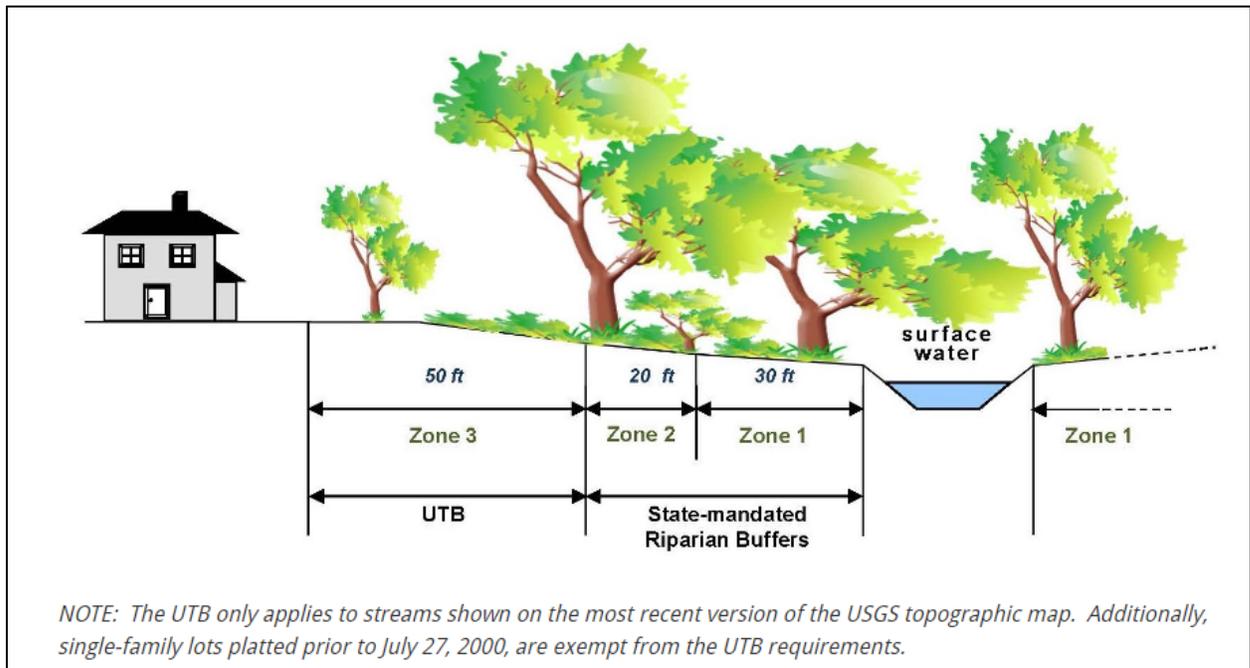
Zone 3 consists of a stable, vegetated area that is generally undisturbed; however, it can be managed similarly to the State-Mandated Zone 2 buffer. Zone 3 shall be protected except for this managed area allowance as well as a table of uses similar to those established by the State.

In addition to General UTBs, Cary also requires Specialized UTBs in the Neuse River Basin when in the Swift Creek Watershed. These Specialized UTBs are as follows:

- Low Density Development – If a development is considered low density, a Specialized UTB 30 feet wide shall be established adjacent to all perennial surface waters including perennial streams, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds if depicted on the USGS topographic map.
- High Density Development – If a development is considered high density, a Specialized UTB 100 feet wide shall be established adjacent to all perennial surface waters including perennial streams, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds if depicted on the USGS topographic map.

When applicable, these Specialized UTBs shall overlay General UTBs, as opposed to being situated adjacent to General UTBs.

**Figure 2. Town of Cary Neuse River Riparian Buffer Zones – State-Mandated + Urban Transition Buffers (UTB)**



<https://www.carync.gov/services-publications/water-sewer/stormwater-management/urban-transition-buffers>

### City of Raleigh-Mandated Buffers

The State-mandated and NCDWR-enforced 50-foot Neuse River riparian buffer rule applies to properties within the City's ETJ with a USGS or Wake County Soil Survey mapped surface water feature.

In addition to these buffers, the City requires Natural Resource Buffers within five (5) overlay districts.

In the Falls Watershed Protection Overlay District (-FWPOD) (See Figure 3 below), the Swift Creek Watershed Protection Overlay District (-SWPOD) (See Figure 4 below) and the Conservation Management District (-CM), Natural Resource Buffers are required along primary and secondary watercourses.

Natural resource buffers along primary watercourses must meet the following standards:

- The buffer must be a minimum of 60 feet wide along each side of the any watercourse draining 25 or more acres.
- The buffer must be a minimum of 35 feet wide along each side of any watercourse draining 5 or more acres but less than 25 acres.
- The buffer must be a minimum of 35 feet wide along each side of any watercourse which is a stream draining less than 5 acres.
- In the event that the property or subdivision contains impervious surface lot coverage in excess of 24% in a secondary reservoir watershed protection area, the buffer shall be no less than 100 feet wide along each side of the watercourse.

Unless part of a primary watercourse natural resource buffer, the secondary watercourse natural resource buffers consist of one or more of the following:

- Lands within special flood hazard areas (SFHAs) that adjoin primary watercourse natural resource buffers; or
- Lands with slopes 15% or greater, adjoining a primary watercourse natural resource buffers or a SFHA.

In the Urban Water Supply Watershed Protections Overlay District (-UWPOD) (See Figure 5 below) natural resource buffers shall be established along primary and secondary watercourses and shall meet the following standards:

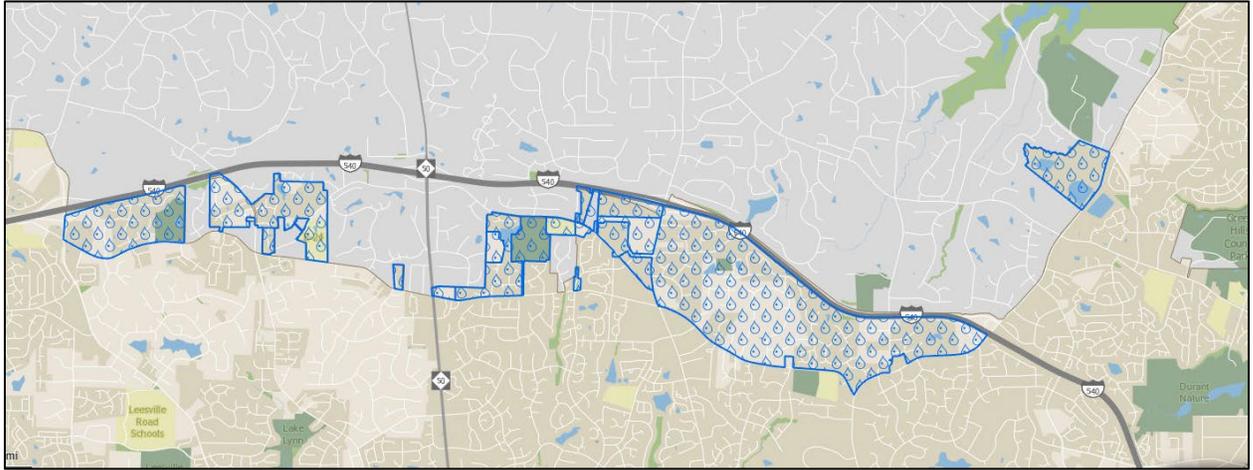
- A minimum 30-foot wide natural resource buffer is required for all perennial waters depicted on the USGS topographic map.
- A minimum 100-foot wide natural resource buffer is required for all new development activities that exceed:
  - Two dwelling units per acre or 20,000 square foot lot excluding roadway right-of-way; or
  - 24% lot coverage for all other residential and nonresidential development.

In the Metro-Park Overlay District (-MPOD) (See Figure 6 below) natural resource buffers shall be established as primary tree conservation areas and shall meet the following:

- The primary tree conservation area must be a minimum or 50 feet wide along each side of any watercourse drainage 25 or more acres.

- The primary tree conservation area must be a minimum of 25 feet wide along each side of any watercourse draining 5 or more acres but less than 25 acres.

**Figure 3: Falls Watershed Protection Overlay District (-FWPOD) -** 



**Figure 4: Swift Creek Watershed Protection Overlay District (-SWPOD) -** 

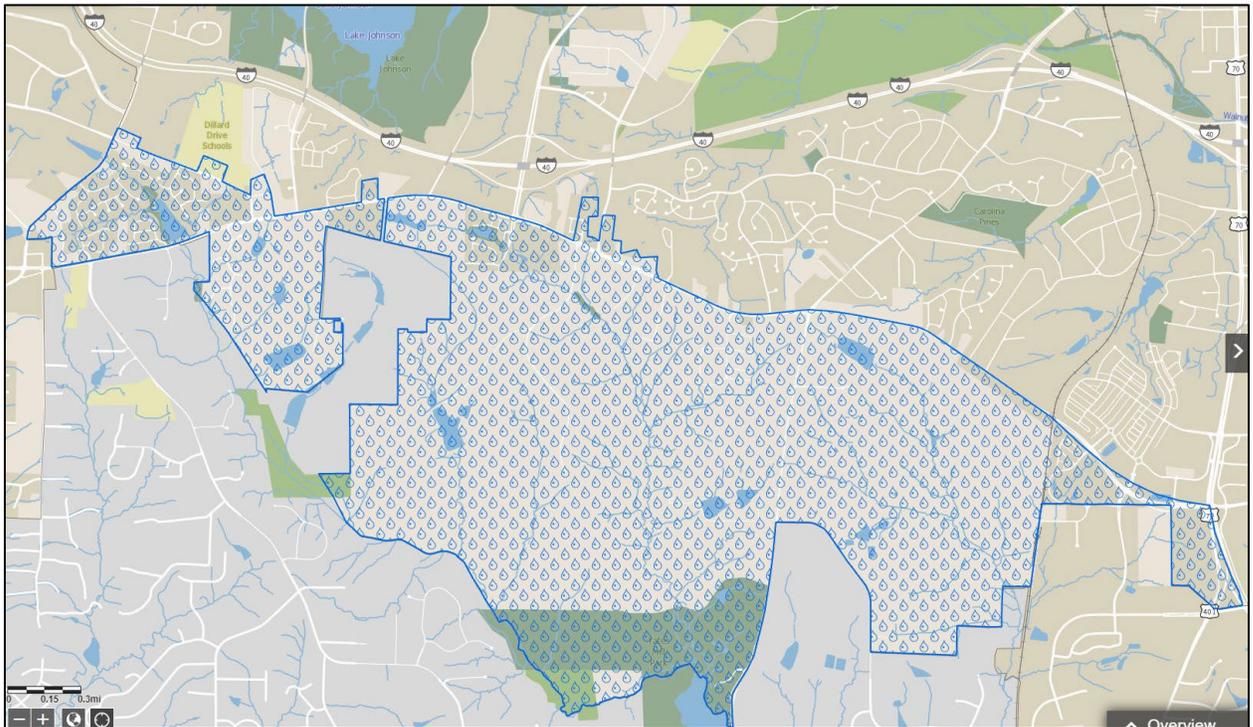
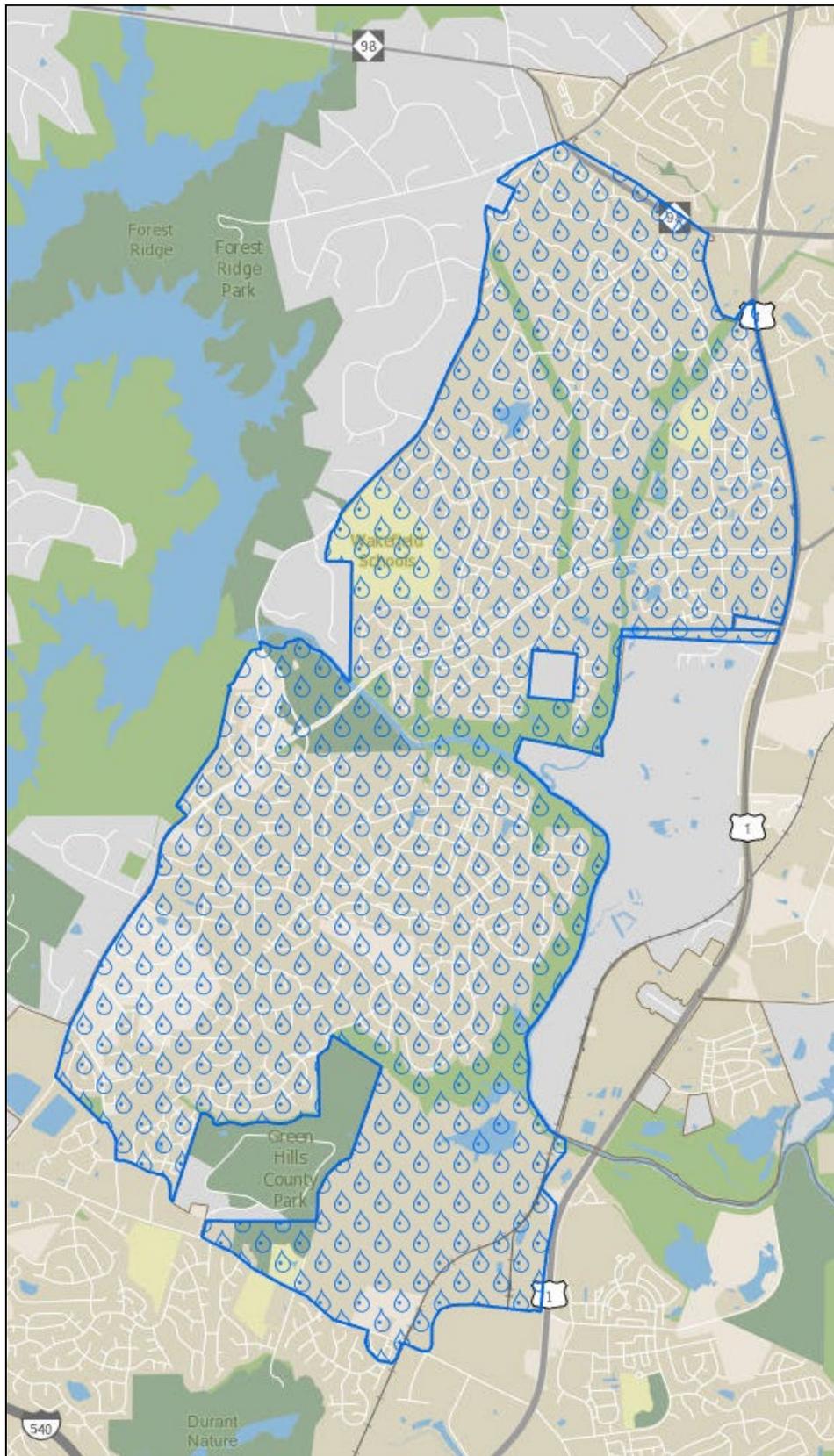
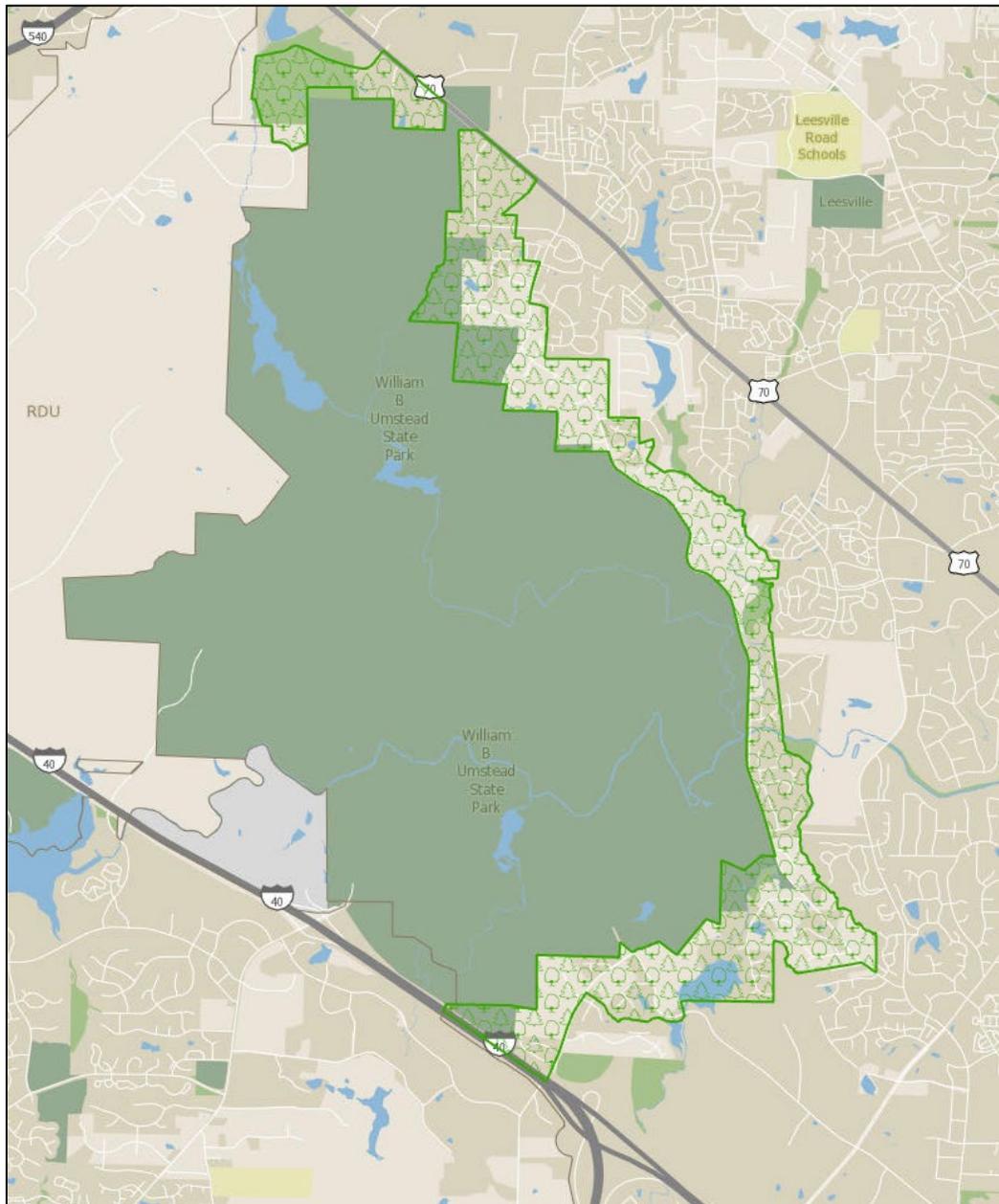


Figure 5: Urban Water Supply Watershed Protections Overlay District (-UWPOD) - 



**Figure 6: Metro-Park Overlay District (-MPOD) -** 



### **Potential Expansion of City Stream Buffers**

If the city were to consider increasing buffer widths beyond the Neuse River riparian buffers throughout the ETJ (the City's planning jurisdiction), it is recommended that the following be considered prior to proposing this change:

- The desired additional buffer width and the amount of developable land that this would affect within the City's ETJ.
- The use standards for the riparian buffer as compared to state rules.
- Variances that are approved by the State of NC for the Neuse buffer rules and how the City would consider a variance to the new riparian buffer.
- The impact on compliance staff resources for plan review and inspections.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Tansy Hayward, Deputy City Manager
From	Tiesha Hinton, Community Engagement Manager Stephen Bentley, Director
Department	Office of Community Engagement and Raleigh Parks
Date	June 2, 2023
Subject	Community Group Access to Community Centers

During the City Council Retreat in January of 2023, Community Engagement staff shared a menu of options to encourage more in-person meetings, establish a community group focused registry, and ultimately build out the office’s portfolio of engagement options. The framework included immediate options (0-6 months), short-term options (6-12 months), and long-term options (1-3 years). City Council acted on one of the immediate options during the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and authorized staff to allow Citizen Advisory Councils access to five community centers, free of charge, beginning March 1, 2023, until the Engagement Network is established.

The Engagement Network, a short-term option (6-12 months) will support a network of civic organizations that extend beyond place-based interaction and will provide resources for groups that are/were formed around similar interest, values, cultures, and social ties. Examples of these community groups are self-identified, grassroots, interest-based, topic focused, affinity groups, small non-profits, student groups, and citizen advisory councils. The Engagement Network will include:

- Assistance from The Office of Community Engagement with requests for city staff participation and coordination of meetings
- Free meeting space up to 8 times per year at pre-determined community centers, access will be provided during normal business hours and based on availability.
- Capacity building (setting SMART goals, templates, strategic planning tools, etc.)
- Community partnership and collaboration
- Two mailings during the first year in the Engagement Network
- Free access to equipment for meetings (tables, chairs, projector, and projection screen)

Resource limitations, staff capacity, and potential budgetary impacts were also shared during the retreat and are listed below:

- Development of a registration process and vetting mechanism for community groups
- Additional full-time positions to develop and implement the Engagement Network and the other framework options

In the proposed FY 24 budget, one Community Relations Supervisor and one Community Relations Analyst have been added to establish the Engagement Network and efficiently sustain the office's workload. Pending budget adoption, both positions will be advertised, and staff will work diligently to recruit and onboard our new team members late summer/early fall. It is anticipated that the Engagement Network will be available before the end of the calendar year. The proposed budget also includes \$5,000 to support the efforts of the Community Engagement Board.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director
From	Emma Liles, Capital Project Manager
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	June 2, 2023
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: May 16, 2023 Meeting Forest Ridge Park

At the May 16, 2023 meeting of the Raleigh City Council, public comment was received raising a number of questions related the Forest Ridge Park project funded through the 2003 Parks Bond, the Neuse River Park project funded through the 2022 Parks Bond, and greenway improvements to serve the Wakefield area.

### **2003 Parks Bond: Forest Ridge Park**

The 2003 Parks Bond included approximately \$6.25M to fund the Environmental Assessment, Master Plan, and initial phase of development of Forest Ridge Park, a 587-acre site on Falls Lake. The master plan for Forest Ridge Park was developed through a consensus-based community planning process, and was adopted by City Council in 2006.

Park master plans are long-range planning documents, intended to establish a conceptual framework to guide future development of a park, which may occur in phases over the course of several decades. The full master plan for Forest Ridge Park includes dozens of elements across several different activity areas, including an Adventure Education & Retreat Center, Overnight Lodge, Lakeside Center, Camping Area, Multi-Use Activity Areas, and Forest Ridge Park South. At the time of plan adoption in 2006, the preliminary construction cost estimate for full implementation of the Forest Ridge Park master plan was over \$17,000,000.

Especially for large parks such as Forest Ridge, it is necessary to prioritize which elements of the overall master plan are implemented first, given the funding available. The Forest Ridge Park master plan includes a prioritization of major park elements, intended to broadly define a phased approach to long-term development of the park. This approach allows the park to evolve over time, with individual elements implemented as funding becomes available while still maintaining continuity and cohesiveness with the long-range vision and goals of the master plan.

The first phase of park development focused on implementing features from the Multi-Use Activity Areas within the high priority category. These features include a welcome center, playground, picnic shelters, restrooms, multipurpose field, and trails. In the years following initial development funded by the 2003 Parks Bond, staff have continued to implement additional master plan features through the construction of several miles of hiking trails, mountain bike trails, wildlife gardens, and a seasonal disc golf course.

Several elements identified as high priority in the Forest Ridge Park master plan were outside of the scope of funding available through the 2003 Parks Bond, such as development of Forest Ridge Park “South” and a 10’ Paved North/South Greenway Connector.

### **2022 Parks Bond: Neuse River Park**

The 2022 Parks Bond includes approximately \$11.5M for planning and development of Neuse River Park, an 84-acre site along the Neuse River immediately downstream of Falls Dam. Development of this park site, as part of an outdoor recreation hub including Forest Ridge Park and the Neuse River Greenway, is identified as an Action Item in the 2014 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan.

Projects identified for funding under the 2022 Parks Bond were vetted through extensive community outreach and input, including: seven public meetings of the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board; five public open house events; numerous community meeting presentations hosted across the city; online review via an interactive community message board; newsletters and social media communication; and multiple City Council discussions and deliberations between March 2021 and July 2022.

The master plan for Neuse River Park will be developed through an intensive community engagement and collaborative design process, which is scheduled to begin in Fall 2023. The master plan process will determine community priorities for this park, and will establish a vision for design and development of park features throughout the entire 84-acre property. Although it is anticipated that improved public access to the Neuse River will be one feature of the master plan, the nature and scope of any such improvements is yet to be determined.

Currently, Raleigh Parks is conducting a Situation Assessment for the Neuse River Park project. A Situation Assessment is an analysis of the local and historical context around a project, to help staff determine the best way to effectively engage the community in a collaborative process. The Situation Assessment process also includes the formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG), which is a membership-specific committee of citizens and stakeholders that provides oversight of the project planning process and ensures that decisions include a broad representation of the general community and those impacted by the project.

Additional information on the current status of the Neuse River Park project, as well as an application for serving on the Community Advisory Group, can be found at <https://publicinput.com/NeuseRiverPark>.

### **Park and Greenway Improvements in the Wakefield Area**

Since the 2003 Parks Bond, the City of Raleigh has completed numerous park and greenway projects in the vicinity around the Wakefield Area in northeast Raleigh focused on enhancing connectivity, promoting outdoor recreation, and preserving natural spaces. Notable projects include:

- Neuse River Greenway: The Neuse River Greenway is a significant project that was completed in 2015. This expansive 26-mile greenway stretches along the Neuse River from Falls Dam to Johnson County, providing a scenic pathway for walking, jogging, and cycling. It offers a connection to various parks and recreational facilities, creating a continuous trail system for residents to enjoy.
- As the Wakefield Trail was originally constructed in 2006, a portion of it was repaved in 2021. The improvements were made to the most critical sections of trail in need of repair which extended 1/2 mile from Rosalie Street to London Bell Drive. Improvements include a new 8' wide trail, sub-base beneath the asphalt, improvements to drainage, new safety signage, and accessible ramps.
- The Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park is a serene nature park established near Falls Lake in 2006. It was established to protect and showcase the area's natural beauty while providing educational and recreational opportunities. The park features diverse ecosystems, including forests, meadows, and wetlands, and offers several miles of trails for hiking, nature walks, and birdwatching. The Wilkerson Nature Center serves as an educational hub, providing interactive exhibits, programs, and workshops to promote environmental awareness.
- Abbotts Creek Park is also located in the vicinity of Wakefield and was established in 2015. This project is a collaborative effort between Raleigh Parks, Wake County Government, and Wake County Public School System as the site is also home to Abbotts Creek Elementary School and is adjacent to Green Hills Park, which is owned & operated by Wake County Parks. The Abbotts Creek Park is home to the Abbotts Creek Community Center, a remarkable 26,000-square-foot facility that not only provides a host of amenities for visitors but also showcases a commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness.

### **Wakefield Small Area Study - Connectivity Recommendations**

The Wakefield area is located in northeast Raleigh approximately 12 miles from downtown Raleigh and directly adjacent to the neighboring town of Wake Forest. Raleigh annexed this area in the 1980s. Most of the residential and commercial

development in the area was built between 2000 and 2010. The [Wakefield Small Area Study](#) provides recommendations for multimodal transportation and streetscape improvements, including a proposed multiuse path along Old Falls of Neuse Road and a proposed 8'-10' sidepath along Falls of Neuse Road. The Implementation Strategy chapter of the Wakefield Small Area Study provides additional details on recommended capital improvement projects, beginning on page 64 of the document.