



IN THIS ISSUE

Update and Report on the Invasive Species Program
19th Annual Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange on September 15
Raleigh Parks Plan – Project Update and Upcoming Community Engagement
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Wake County and City of Raleigh Land Use and Growth Coordination (Council Member Jones)
Five-Year Rezoning Request Trend Report (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)
Rezoning Process Enhancements (Council Member Harrison)
Public Hearing Scheduling Strategy (Council Member Patton)
Public Comment – Speeding and Gunfire – Fox Hollow Drive (Mayor Baldwin)
Citizen Advisory Councils and PRCR Facilities (Council Member Harrison)

INFORMATION:

Update and Report on the Invasive Species Program

Staff Resource: Brian Smith, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources 996-4789 brian.smith@raleighnc.gov

In September of 2015, the City created the Invasive Species Program (Program) in response to community concerns about the presence of invasive plants in neighborhood parks. The Program Coordinator position was housed under Raleigh Parks' Volunteer Services Program and accomplished the work by leveraging relationships with community groups, volunteers, and internal and external government agency partners. Since 2015, nearly 5,000 volunteers have contributed over 12,500 combined hours at a value of roughly \$350,000 to the removal of invasive species.

Included with realignment of work groups within Raleigh Parks in Spring 2023, the Invasive Species Program is now housed under the Land Stewardship Program as part of the new Parks and Natural Resources

Division. Interviews are in process to fill the vacant Program Coordinator position, with the goal of onboarding the successful candidate as soon as possible early this fall.

Raleigh Parks invites City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board to participate in an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Project on October 7th, 9am – 12pm at Walnut Creek Wetland Park, with a rain date of October 21st (This is a private event, to register email Mary Owens at – Mary.Owens@Raleighnc.gov). Should patrons inquire about broader opportunities, they can be pointed to <https://raleighnc.gov/parks-volunteer> under the “**Upcoming Events**” heading as well as sign up for the monthly volunteer newsletter.

(Attachment)

19th Annual Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange on September 15

Staff Resource: Holly Gallagher, Housing and Neighborhoods, 996-6936, holly.gallagher@raleighnc.gov



The Neighborhood Enrichment Services Division is hosting the [19th annual Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange](#) on September 15 from 5-8 p.m. at Carolina Pines Community Center. The event celebrates Raleigh's amazing neighborhoods and brings our community together. At the grassroots level, the event helps people of every age and background become more active in their neighborhoods and the wider Raleigh community. This year, attendees will enjoy a spoken word performance, acrobatics, reggae music, a kids art lab, free food trucks (for the first 250 to arrive), and an interactive, DEI-focused session. It is a free, family-friendly event with no registration required.

(No attachment)

Raleigh Parks Plan – Project Update and Upcoming Community Engagement

Staff Resource: TJ McCourt, Parks, 410-4362, thomas.mccourt@raleighnc.gov

Raleigh Parks is kicking off the first phase of community engagement for the [Raleigh Parks Plan Update](#) project. Throughout the month of September, you will find us at community events all around the city (and

online!) having conversations to learn more about what the people of Raleigh value most in our parks, greenways, nature preserves, and recreation programs.

Join us for *Pizza in the Park* at John Chavis Memorial Park on September 20th to learn more about the Raleigh Parks Plan, share your ideas for the future of Raleigh's open space system, and get to know Raleigh Parks staff over a slice of pizza! We will be hosting a lunchtime workshop (12pm-2pm) and an evening workshop (6pm-8pm), so we hope to see you there!

Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which includes additional project details and a full schedule of upcoming community engagement events.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 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 March 7 Council Meeting

Wake County and City of Raleigh Land Use and Growth Coordination (Council Member Jones)

Staff Resource: Bynum Walter, Planning and Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council asked Planning and Development for information on rezoning case review coordination with Wake County Public School System (WCPSS). Raleigh Planning and Development has ongoing coordination with Wake County Public Schools. The primary shared effort is an annual population forecast from Planning and Development staff to inform WCPSS capital planning. In April, Planning and Development staff met with WCPSS staff to discuss opportunities for additional collaboration. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response.

(Attachment)

Follow up from the April 18 Council Meeting

Five-Year Rezoning Request Trend Report (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)

Staff Resource: Bynum Walter, Planning and Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested a report on zoning trends of the past five years. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response.

(Attachment)

Follow up from the June 20 Council Meeting

Rezoning Process Enhancements (Council Member Harrison)

Staff Resource: Bynum Walter, Planning and Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested an update from Office of Community Engagement efforts to review the community meeting process associated with rezoning applications and currently convened by the applicant. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared that summarizes completed and ongoing rezoning process improvements.

(Attachment)

Public Hearing Scheduling Strategy (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Bynum Walter, Planning and Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested staff to review practices for managing public hearing caseloads and balancing the number of hearings on a given meeting agenda. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response.

(Attachment)

Follow up from the August 15 Council Meeting

Public Comment – Speeding and Gunfire – Fox Hollow Drive (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resource: Chief Estella Patterson, RPD, 996-9985, estella.patterson@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Ms. Nikki Thompson provided comment about a concern with vehicles speeding and gunfire being heard along Fox Hollow Drive. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to these comments.

(Attachment)

Citizen Advisory Councils and PRCR Facilities (Council Member Harrison)

*Staff Resources: Tiesha Hinton, Office of Community Engagement, 996-2707, tiesha.hinton@raleighnc.gov
Stephen C. Bentley, Raleigh Parks, 996-4784, stephen.bentley@raleighnc.gov*

During the meeting, Council requested that staff follow up with additional information related to the Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC) use of Raleigh community centers. Staff from multiple departments have been working diligently on opportunities for the potential use of community groups with Raleigh's 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). The Council acted on one of the immediate options during the February 7th 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 selection of these five specific centers was based upon several factors including, the extent of paid usage/rental revenues, minimized impact of PRCR programming, opportunities to use centers that have limited use, CAC meeting times, and room availability. Those five approved community centers are:

- District A
[Eastgate Neighborhood Center](#)
4200 Quail Hollow Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
- District B
[Abbotts Creek Community Center](#)
9950 Durant Rd.
Raleigh NC, 27614
- District C
[Roberts Neighborhood Center](#)
1300 E. Martin St.
Raleigh NC, 27610
- District D
[Powell Drive Neighborhood Center](#)
740 Powell Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606
- District E
[Glen Eden Neighborhood Center](#)
1500 Glen Eden Dr.

The purpose of the Engagement Network is to support a network of civic organizations that extend beyond neighborhoods and place-based interaction. It 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. Staff also took these factors into consideration when recommending the five

approved community centers to City Council in January. Once other community groups have the opportunity to join the Engagement Network and benefit from its offerings, it is likely that the list of approved Raleigh Parks facilities may need to be expanded. Space will be provided based on availability after schedules for existing programs and services are established.

The Engagement Network will include:

- Assistance from The Office of Community Engagement with requests for city staff participation and coordinating meetings.
- No cost access to meeting space at pre-determined community centers, up to 8 times a year. Approved groups will still need to complete the Raleigh Parks reservation application.
- Capacity building (setting SMART goals, templates, strategic planning tools, etc.)
- Community partnership and collaboration
- Two mailings during the first year in the network
- Access to city equipment

Resource limitations, equity related to other organizations, and potential budgetary impacts were also shared during the retreat, which included developing a registration process and vetting mechanism for community groups. Raleigh Parks develops programming schedules 6 months in advance in order to allow for community outreach for City run programs. The remainder of the Raleigh Park community center space availability is then made available for rentals. These rentals provide critical revenue to the City to offset general fund support.

The need for additional staff to create and implement the Engagement Network and other framework options was also expressed during the retreat. The office was allocated two additional positions in the FY 24 budget and is currently in the process of bringing on additional staff who will further develop and support the establishment of the Engagement Network. Staff is committed to getting the network up and implemented in a balanced way that is equitable, continuing the opportunities for the City to provide health/wellness programs, learning opportunities, creative life initiatives, as well as space for community engagement.

(No attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Brian Smith, Natural Resources Superintendent
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	September 1st, 2023
Subject	Update – Invasive Species Program

In September of 2015, the City of Raleigh created the Invasive Species Program which was housed under Raleigh Parks’ Volunteer Services Program. The Invasive Species Program (Program) was created in response to department and community concerns about the presence of invasive plants in neighborhood parks. The initial focus of the Program per citizen interest and City Council support was on four neighborhood park locations: Fallon, Cowper, Cooleemee and Marshall Park with the ability to expand efforts from there.

The main goals of the Program are to identify infestations, prioritize and prescribe maintenance plans, remove invasive plants, conduct restoration plantings, educate staff and the public, and monitor the effects of removal and restoration efforts. The full-time Program Coordinator accomplishes this work by leveraging relationships with community groups and volunteers, internal partners within the City of Raleigh, and external partners or contractors such as: AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Conservation Corps NC, COR Housing and Neighborhoods, American Conservation Experience, and Conservation Funds’ Park with a Purpose program. Summer crews have been employed through our award-winning work with multiple Youth Conservation Corps groups in 2020, ’21, ’22, and ’23. This 2023 summer alone for example, the Conservation Corps of NC’s Dix Park Youth Conservation Corps crew of 8 delivered nearly 300 hours of invasive species work. The Partnership Raleigh Conservation Intern Program crew (a Housing and Neighborhoods program implemented in partnership with Parks) worked on invasive species removal for almost half of their projects, which translated to almost 700 hours spent at 10 different parks and greenway sites across the City.

Strong collaborative relationships across multiple units within the Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (i.e. - Nature Preserve site staff, Greenway Vegetation

Unit, and Park Maintenance Crews) extend the reach of the Program and make the following outcomes possible:

- 100% increase in volunteer engagement within the first three years.
- By 2018, restoration plantings had taken place in all the original four properties, but invasive management is a constant cycle. Once restored, it must be monitored and maintained.
- The Program expanded from focusing on the original 4 properties to 39 properties by 2023, with a total of 41 properties evaluated.
- 168% increase in acreage focused on during invasive projects annually since FY2016. (Increase from 1,113 acres in FY16 to 3,000 acres in FY21)
- Since 2015, nearly 5,000 volunteers have contributed over 12,500 combined hours at a value of roughly \$350,000 to the removal of invasive species.

Included with realignment of work groups within Raleigh Parks in Spring 2023, the Invasive Species Program is now housed under the Land Stewardship Program as part of the new Parks and Natural Resources Division. Raleigh Parks has a stewardship responsibility to maintain and enhance the thousands of acres under its purview along with the associated ecosystem benefits and citizen experiences they provide. The Program plays a vital role in this stewardship. While the Program will continue to work closely with the Volunteer Services group, this shift benefits the Program and the community to better align with City and Departmental goals and provides increased internal operational support and access to resources. Interviews for the Invasive Species Coordinator vacancy are in process, with the goal of onboarding the successful candidate as soon as possible early this fall.

With the successful candidate on board, some near-, mid-, and long-term Program goals include:

- Revisit locations where the Program has previously worked to understand, update, and account for re-occurring maintenance needs as they relate to Program capacity for management of additional acres.
- Prioritize potential treatment targets based on Program capacity and criteria such as the need for protection of sensitive habitats or species, creating site lines for public safety and park user experience, restoring treated areas with native plantings, providing high quality habitat equitably across COR, etc.
- Continue to provide education and information on invasive species to the public as well as the ongoing coordination of Conservation Corps and volunteers.
- Continue growth of partnerships to advance the goals of the City and provide volunteer opportunities for Raleigh's citizens.
- Explore additional external funding to increase the amount of Program work that can be delivered by contractors.

The work of invasive species management is an ongoing process that requires monitoring and maintenance once initial control is achieved. To that end, Raleigh Parks invites City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board to participate in an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Project on October 7th, 9am – 12pm at Walnut Creek Wetland Park, with a rain date of October 21st (This is a private event, to register email Mary Owens at – Mary.Owens@Raleighnc.gov). Should patrons inquire about broader opportunities, they can be pointed to <https://raleighnc.gov/parks-volunteer> under the “**Upcoming Events**” heading as well as sign up for the monthly volunteer newsletter. Most invasive species removal projects are held in the spring and fall to take advantage of the cooler temperatures. These projects are a great opportunity for hands-on learning and to work alongside staff to make an ecological impact on our parks and trails.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director
From	TJ McCourt, Planning Supervisor
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	September 1, 2023
Subject	Raleigh Parks System Plan Update

Raleigh’s current [Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan](#) was adopted in 2014. This plan is a supplement to the City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan, and establishes the long-range vision for the development, delivery, and strategic direction of Raleigh Parks’ sites, programs, and policies.

A lot has happened since this plan was adopted nearly a decade ago, and the [Raleigh Parks Plan Update](#) project will ensure that Raleigh Parks continues to remain aligned with evolving community needs and values.

Below is a timeline of project milestones and goals for each step of the plan’s development, as well as a schedule of upcoming community engagement events.

For project updates and to get involved, please visit us at engage.raleighnc.gov/raleighparksplan!

Project Milestones

Phase 1, September-October (Identifying Needs): The first phase of the Parks Plan update will begin with conversations with key stakeholders and the broader public to understand how needs for the system have changed over the past 10 years. You can find us at existing events around Raleigh, at Pizza in the Park on September 20th, and also online!

Phase 2, November-December (Visioning): During this phase, we will work with the community to craft a shared vision for the future of Raleigh Parks. It has been nearly a decade since the last Parks Plan, so we will start by sharing a progress report based on the goals we set back in 2014. From there, we will work together to establish guiding principles for how Raleigh’s park system, recreation programs, and related policies should evolve over the next 10 years (and beyond!).

Phase 3, January-February (Taking Action): The updated Raleigh Parks Plan will be both comprehensive and actionable. During this phase, we will work with community members and city leaders to set priorities & define specific initiatives that will move us toward our shared vision for the future. We will create a concise Action Plan that will be our roadmap for creating a more equitable, inclusive, and interconnected park system.



Upcoming Community Engagement

Raleigh Parks is kicking off the first phase of community engagement for the [Raleigh Parks Plan Update](#) project. Throughout the month of September, you will find us at community events all around the city (and online!) having conversations to learn more about what the people of Raleigh value most in our parks, greenways, nature preserves, and recreation programs.

Join us for *Pizza in the Park* at John Chavis Memorial Park on September 20th to learn more about the Raleigh Parks Plan, share your ideas for the future of Raleigh’s open space system, and get to know Raleigh Parks staff over a slice of pizza! We will be hosting a lunchtime workshop (12pm-2pm) and an evening workshop (6pm-8pm), so we hope to see you there!

Our first mini-survey is now live! Visit engage.raleighnc.gov/raleighparksplan to take our survey and share your thoughts on what you value most about Raleigh’s park system.

We will also be doing Raleigh Parks Plan outreach at community events throughout September and October, so keep an eye out for us and come say hi if you see our table! In addition to the scheduled events below, we will be conducting intercept surveys and hosting pop-up tables at various community centers, grocery stores, churches, libraries,

and other community hubs around town!

Date	Event	Location
September 10 th	Black Farmer's Market	Southeast Raleigh YMCA
September 15 th	Raleigh Neighborhood Exchange (RNEX)	Carolina Pines Community Center
September 22 nd	Movie Night at Peach Road Park	Peach Road Park
September 30 th	Ready, Set, School Community Playdates	Green Road Community Library
September 30 th	Criss Cross Mangosauce (Hispanic Heritage Month)	Green Road Community Library
October 8 th	Moore Square Market	Moore Square

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, September 1 – Thursday, September 7

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

Permitted Special Events

[Morning Times First Friday Market](#)

Hargett Street

Friday, September 1

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

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

[African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh and Wake County](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Saturday, September 2 & Sunday, September 3

Event Times: 11:00am - 10:00pm on 9-2-23; 12:00pm - 10:00pm on 9-3-23

Associated Road Closures:

- Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 6:00pm on 9-1-23 until 11:59pm on 9-3-23
- Martin Street between Fayetteville Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 12:00am on 9-2-23 until 11:59pm on 9-3-23
- Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and Hargett Street, Davie Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street, and Martin Street between Fayetteville Street and S. Salisbury Street will be closed from 3:00am on 9-2-23 until 11:59pm on 9-3-23
- South Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 6:00pm until 11:00pm on 9-2-23 and 9-3-23

[Black Flea Market](#)

Raleigh Union Station Plaza

Sunday, September 3

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, September 6

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.

[Hopscotch Music Festival](#)

City Plaza & Moore Square

Thursday, September 7 - Saturday, September 9

Event Times: 4:00pm - 11:00pm on 9-7-23 & 9-8-23; 1:00pm - 11:00pm on 9-9-23

Associated Road Closures:

- Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 6:00pm on 9-6-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23
- Martin Street between Salisbury Street and Fayetteville Street will be closed from 8:00am on 9-7-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23
- Martin Street between Blount Street and Person Street will be closed from 6:00am on 9-9-23 until 2:00am on 9-10-23

Other Upcoming Events

[September First Friday Market & Movie Night: Back to the Future](#)

Friday, September 1
Moore Square

[Intocable Evolución Tour](#)

Friday, September 1
Memorial Auditorium

[First Friday Raleigh](#)

Friday, September 1
Downtown Raleigh

[Historic Exhibit Opening and Programming for South Park and East Raleigh Neighborhoods](#)

Saturday, September 2
John P "Top" Greene Park

[Formosa Melody Music Center: Modern Taiwanese Folk Music and Dance](#)

Saturday, September 2
Fletcher Opera Theater

[The 5 Seconds of Summer](#)

Sunday, September 3
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Disturbed](#)

Wednesday, September 6
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Caamp](#)

Wednesday, September 6
Red Hat Amphitheater

[Honoring the Forgotten through Public Art: Dialogue on Community with Kayla Coleman & Kenseth Armstead](#)

Thursday, September 7
North Carolina Museum of Art

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 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	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Bynum Walter, AICP, Assistant Director Alicia Thomas, Senior Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	August 25, 2023
Subject	Wake County Public School System and City of Raleigh Zoning Coordination

In March 2023 Council Member Jones asked Planning and Development for information about review coordination with Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) on rezoning cases. Staff has drafted this memo in response to Council Member Jones' inquiry.

Raleigh Planning and Development has ongoing coordination with WCPSS. The primary shared effort is annual population forecast from Planning and Development staff to inform WCPSS capital planning.

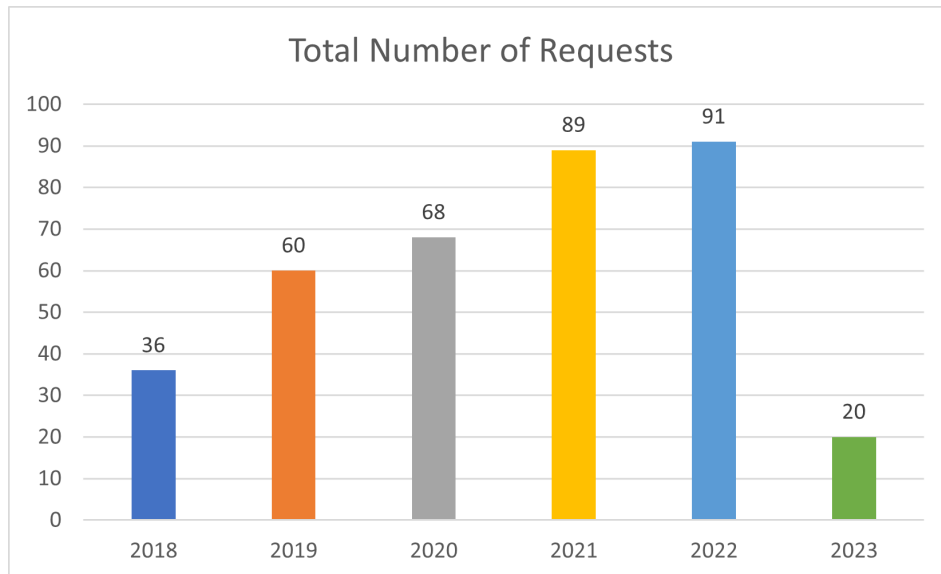
On April 21, 2023, Planning and Development staff met with WCPSS staff to discuss opportunities for additional collaboration. Due to the large volume of all types of development transactions in Raleigh, the County anticipates limited utility in receiving information on a case-by-case basis. WCPSS staff specifically noted that given the wide range of development outcomes from a rezoning request, notice of these requests was not necessary. WCPSS did have two suggestions for additional points of collaboration:

- The school district is interested in land throughout Wake County, particularly in the northeast, in tracts of land of 20 acres or more for new school sites. WCPSS is interested in knowing when land is available for development, particularly if an owner is (or is about to be) in the entitlement process. Staff is assessing methods for establishing a predictable process for sharing this information with WCPSS. Staff will commit to providing information to WCPSS of preliminary conversations with developers of large sites (+/- 40 acres or more).
- Potential quarterly or biannual reporting of permitting or certificate of occupancy data to supplement the annual population forecast. This is information that Planning and Development has previously transmitted to WCPSS. Staff is meeting with Wake County GIS staff in August for further discussion and to establish a system of transmittal.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, Director
From	Bynum Walter, Assistant Director Ray Aull, Technology Supervisor Robert Tate, Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	September 1, 2023
Subject	Rezoning requests 2018-2022

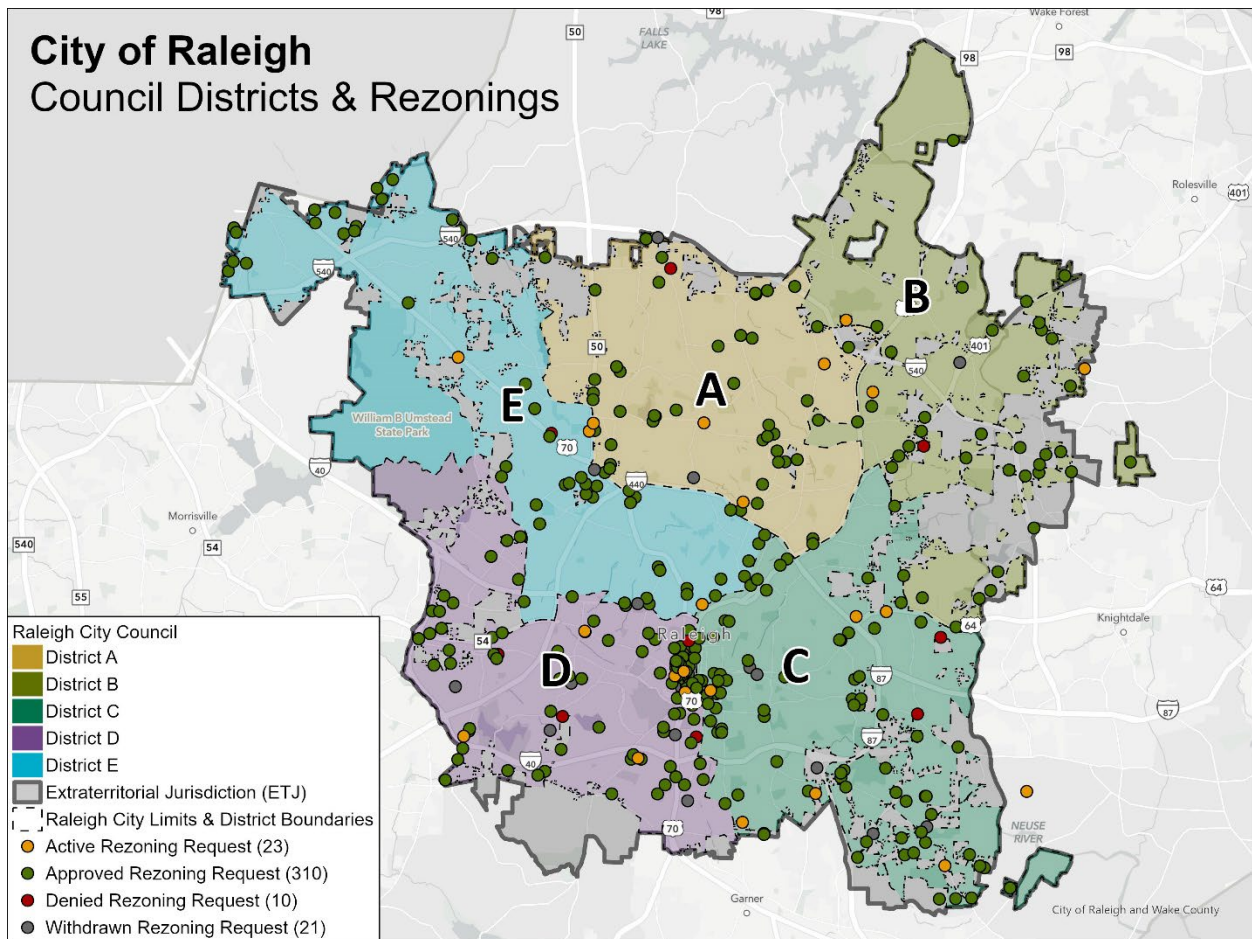
Background

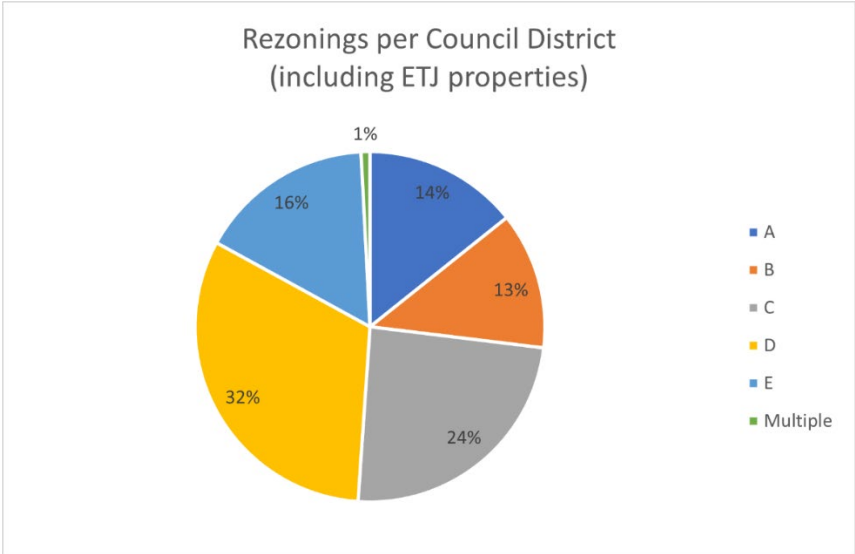
During the April 18 City Council Meeting Councilmember Branch requested an analysis of rezoning requests since 2018. This report reviews rezoning requests of the past five years (January 2018- April 2023). Since 2018 there have been a total of 364 rezoning requests received by Raleigh Planning and Development. Rezoning request volume in 2021 and 2022 represented a 10-year high.



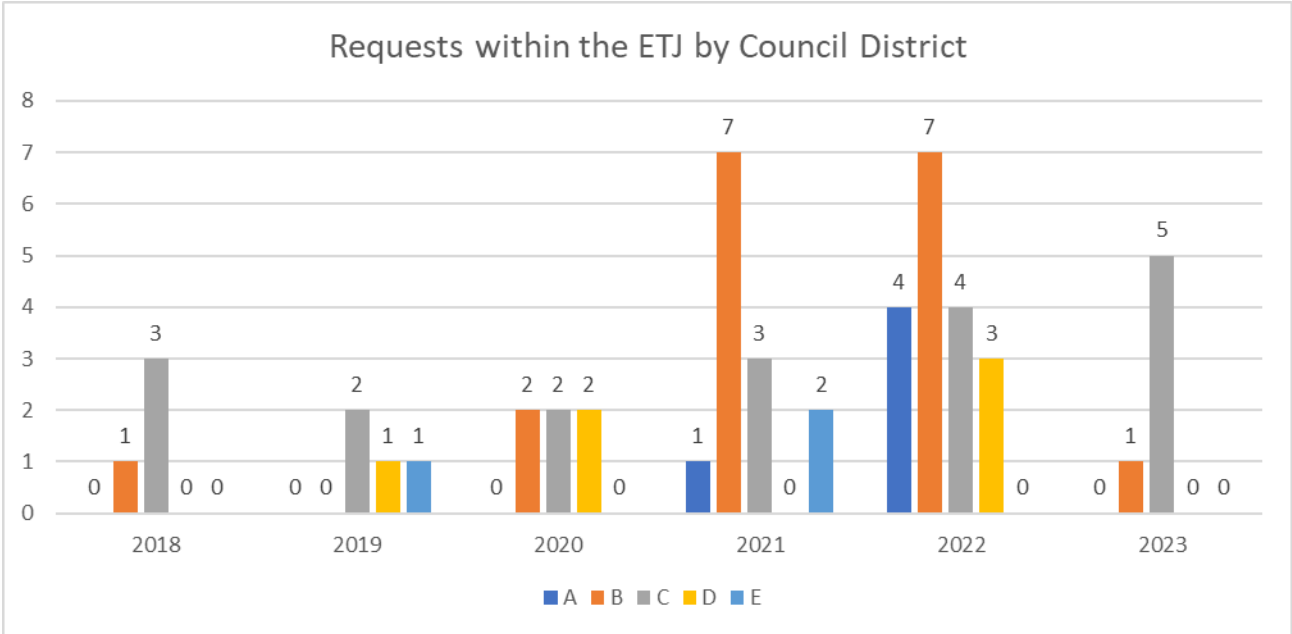
Location of Rezoning Requests: Most requests located in Districts C and D, which include the Downtown area.

During the past five years, council districts C and D received the most requests, roughly 24% and 32% respectively of total rezoning requests. Together, Council Districts C and D were the location of more than 55% of total rezoning requests. These council districts are seeing a higher percentage of rezoning requests because their area includes downtown Raleigh’s central business district, the area of Raleigh most in-demand for all types of habitable space. During the same period council districts A, B, and E respectively received 14%, 13%, and 16% of total rezoning requests. The remaining 1% of requests were in more than one council district. In 2023 there continues to be a trend where council district D remains the most active district with 35% of total rezoning requests through April of this year.





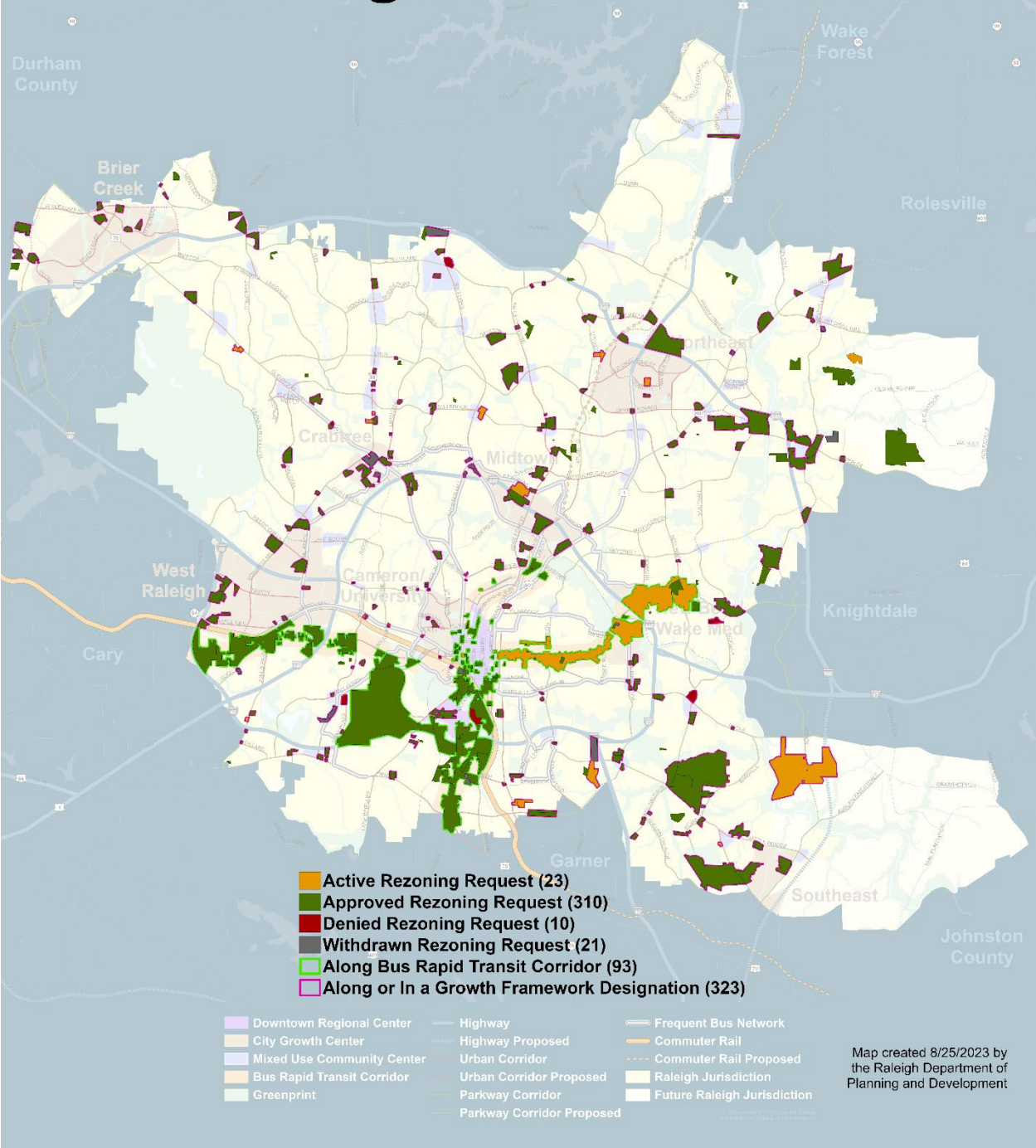
Raleigh’s Planning Jurisdiction comprises properties within the Raleigh corporate limits as well as those within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). Beginning in 2020 there has been an increase of rezoning requests for properties within the ETJ. Years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 received 6, 13, 18, and 6 requests respectively. Though there is some degree of uncertainty about which district each individual request will be added to, for the purposes of this report they were assigned based on relative location to respective districts.



Vision for Growth: Rezoning Requests are Following Growth Framework Map

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan lays out a vision for where growth should happen in Raleigh. Specifically, the Growth Framework Map illustrates a vision to direct a full 60 percent of future growth into downtown and a series of seven city growth centers, four Bus Rapid Transit corridors, and over 40 mixed-use community centers, connected via a network of parkways, frequent bus service routes, and urban streets. Additionally, of this 60 percent allocation of the city's projected growth, half is envisioned to be accommodated within the four Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. Over the past five years, rezoning requests have followed this vision with about 90% of rezoning requests located in one of the preferred growth areas. Rezoning requests in the BRT corridors have been numerous (93) but only about 30% of rezoning requests in preferred growth areas were in BRT corridors. However, the growth goal specific to BRT corridors was adopted early in 2021 as part of CP-3-20 Equitable Development Around Transit. Application of the Transit Overlay District in the Western and Southern BRT corridors and pending application of the overlay in the New Bern Avenue BRT corridor supports the more newly adopted growth vision for BRT corridors. The high volume of rezoning requests in preferred growth areas suggests that during the development of the next comprehensive plan, the city may wish to consider city-initiated rezoning to establish greater by-right development opportunities to support growth in preferred areas and reduce the volume of rezoning requests which could in turn be expected to lower development costs in Raleigh.

Map F-2: Growth Framework Rezoning Requests Since Z-1-2018



Patterns in Types of Rezoning Requests: Increase in High Density Residential and Mixed Use Districts Greater than 20 Stories

Staff also evaluated rezoning requests by type per year. In the chart below, residential district requests are grouped by Future Land Use Map designations, while mixed use district requests are grouped by height; special districts are grouped together. Three types of rezoning requests have remained steady over the five-year period:

- Rural and Low Scale Residential (5-13%)
- Mixed use District up to Five stories,
- Mixed use District 7 – 12 stories (8-14%)

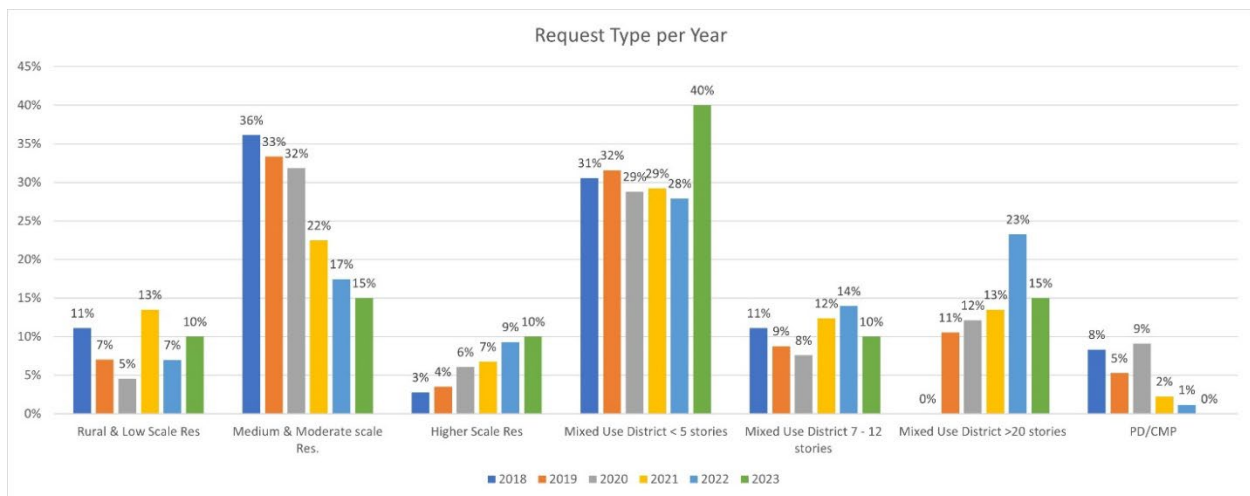
Two types of rezonings have decreased during the same period:

- Medium and Moderate Scale Residential
- Special Districts (PD/CMP).

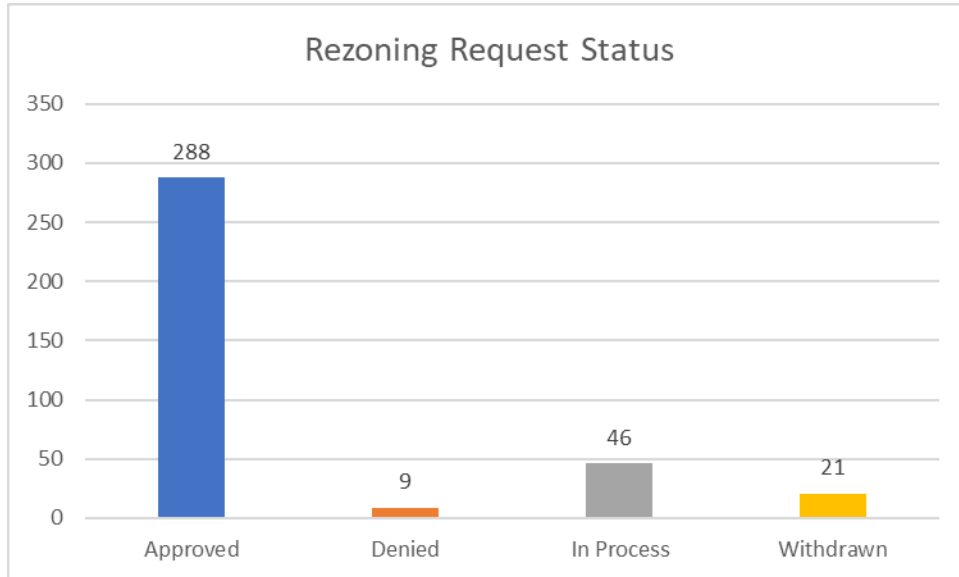
Two types of rezoning have increased during the same period:

- Higher Scale Residential
- Mixed Use District of 20+ stories

The shift away from Medium and Moderate Scale Residential to Higher Scale Residential and Mixed Use District of 20+ stories, suggests a rebalancing of the mix of building type in Raleigh. The city’s inventory of development, long dominated by single-family homes, is being supplemented by a more diverse range of building and construction types.

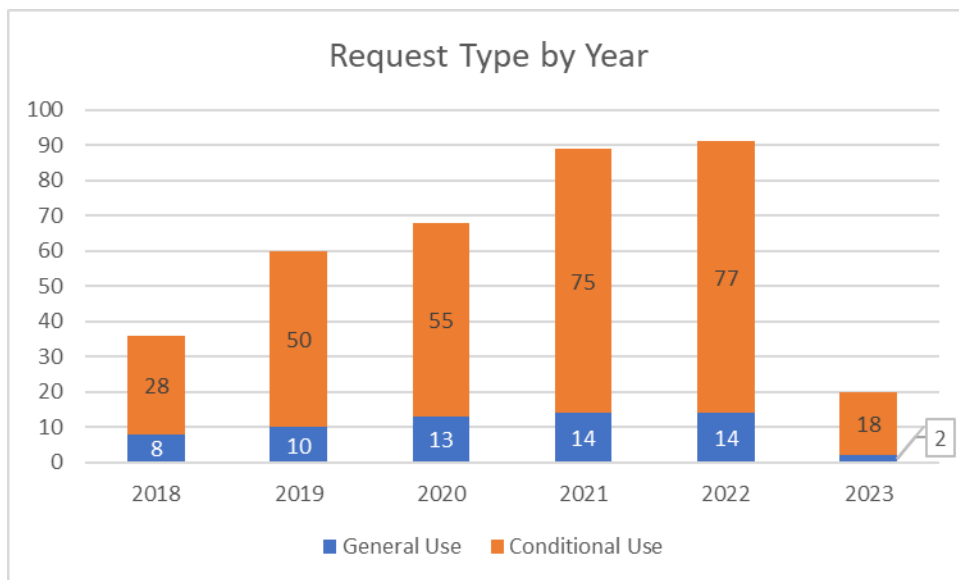


As of April 2023, roughly 10% of requests of the past five years remain active. Of decided cases of the same period 6% were withdrawn, 3% were denied, and 81% were approved. Generally, the percentage of approved and withdrawn requests per council district followed a similar trend as total rezoning requests per council district.



More Rezoning Requests Have More Conditions

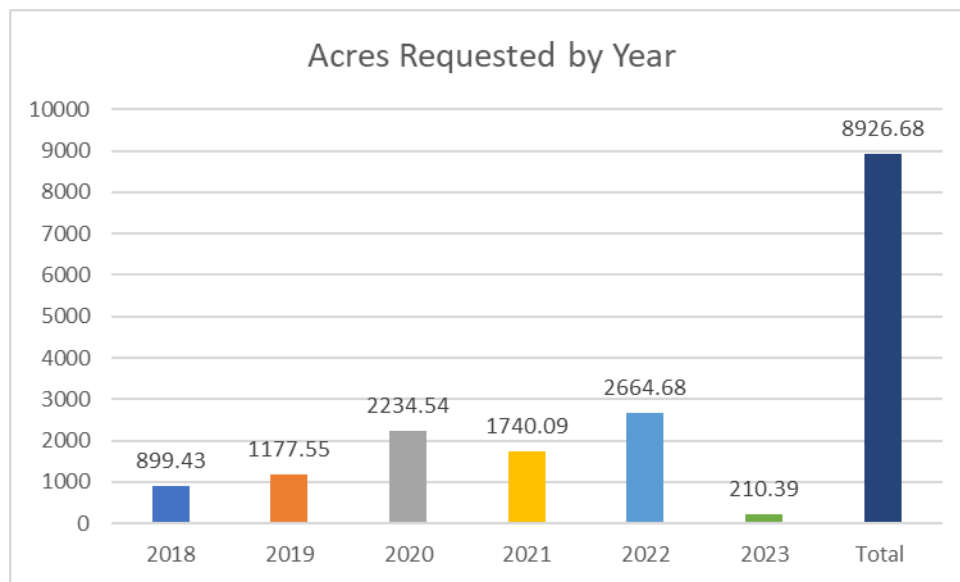
As rezoning requests have increased over the past five years the number, but not percentage, of general use rezoning requests has also increased. General use rezoning means that development on the subject parcel is regulated exclusively by the Raleigh Unified Development Ordinance without additional owner self-imposed zoning conditions. The chart below displays the total number of rezoning requests submitted by type of request during the five-year period.



Acres Rezoned: 3% or less of City Considered for Rezoning Each Year

Raleigh encompasses about 150 square miles or 96,000 acres. During 2022 with the highest number of rezoning requests covering the most acres (2,665) about 3 percent of the city was considered for rezoning. This highwater year included three city-initiated requests across about 1,800 acres to apply the Transit Overlay District in BRT Corridors.

Generally, an increase in rezoning requests can be correlated to an increased number of acres requested. 2021 appears to deviate from that trend by having fewer acres of land being requested than 2020. However, there were two rezoning requests in 2020 that comprised nearly 1,500 acres contributing to nearly half of the acres requested that year. The rate of rezoning requests to increase development capacity seems reasonable given the recent and projected population growth trends in Raleigh.



To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Tiesha Hinton Bynum Walter, AICP Assistant Director
Department	Office of Community Engagement Planning & Development Department
Date	August 25, 2023
Subject	Rezoning Process Improvements

Background

During the June 20 council meeting, CM Harrison requested an update from the Office of Community Engagement about efforts to review the community meeting process associated with rezoning requests and currently convened by the applicant.

During the first few months after the Community Engagement Office was created, staff held about 20 meetings with community members and organizations to introduce the office, its scope, and to learn from residents about their community engagement needs.

A consistent theme from community members was a desire for the city’s rezoning processes to be enhanced. On February 1, 2022, the office gave a presentation to council which included ideas to explore around the rezoning process, Community Engagement and Planning & Development worked together to develop the areas for exploration.

The chart below shows the feedback received from community members and the staff-initiated response to help address their concern(s).

Community Feedback	Staff Approach/Action
Additional education about the rezoning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the Raleigh Planning Academy (Complete) • Raleigh Neighborhood College (Ongoing; Planning & Development attends and presents) • Informational handout (In Progress) • Develop an educational video that explains the rezoning process (In Progress)

Concerns that some applicants interact with some neighborhoods differently than others; Inconsistent messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a consistent structure for neighborhood meetings with baseline expectations (In Progress) • Best practices guide for neighborhood meetings (In Progress)
Requests for more education on what can and should be asked during neighborhood meetings; A need for more simplified language that explains items related to rezoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational handout (In progress)
Rezoning signage (size and connectivity to advertised project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing staff assessment of potential technology options.
An interest in receiving feedback on comments shared in neighborhood meetings and/or portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First neighborhood meeting report is published when rezoning request is filed. • Second neighborhood meeting report is published with rezoning request's first appearance in front of Planning Commission. • All portal comments are visible to the public. • Community Connectors program created to provide consistent community representation at first neighborhood meetings (Complete)
Requests for Planning & Development staff to lead the neighborhood meeting instead of developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impacts to city resources. Community Connector pilot ongoing.

About the Planning Academy

Planning and Development launched Planning Academy in June 2022 with a first cohort of 25 participants. Since then, three more sessions have been completed. Enrollment has increased to 30 participants per academy and total enrollment to-date is about 100 citizens. Participants are asked to complete an assessment of their Planning Academy experience; feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The department offers two models for the academy:

1. Weeknights – This option is offered three times a year. Four classes are scheduled one night a week for four weeks and included a shared meal each week.
2. Weekends – This option is offered once a year. Slightly longer classes are scheduled for Friday evening and Saturday morning, each of the two classes includes a shared meal.

Planning Academy is scheduled next for September 15-16 in the weekend format and October 11-November 8 in the weeknights format.

Planning Academy offers residents an understanding of the role planning plays in building communities and empowers them with the knowledge of how and when residents can be involved in planning processes. It aims to empower residents on the best ways to navigate the process of land development and community planning, including rezoning. Participants learn best practices for engaging with staff and their neighbors on rezoning and large-scale projects in their neighborhoods.

About Community Connectors

Planning & Development began using Neighborhood Ambassadors to support community engagement for individual projects in 2020. These are paid, part-time positions that work with staff to expand the city's engagement reach. The program was enlarged and rebranded in 2021 as Community Connectors and includes community engagement for projects, the Public Project Community Support Fund (PPCSF), and rezoning first neighborhood meetings. In its current incarnation Community Connectors is a joint effort between Planning & Development and the Office of Community Engagement. Initially, 10 Community Connectors (2 per council district) were hired to support the rezoning process and five were hired to help with PPCSF.

Community Connectors are residents who are trusted voices in the community who help expand the reach of Raleigh's engagement efforts. Community Connectors are natural relationship builders, eager to share information, committed to finding solutions, bring their lived experience and engage positively and professionally with the public. In the context of rezoning neighborhood meetings, they serve as a liaison between the community and staff. They have been active in the rezoning process since January and initial assessments indicate that they are successfully improving the experience for residents with the rezoning process. Staff continues to monitor the effectiveness of Community Connectors.

In-Progress Rezoning Process Enhancements

Planning and Development is developing additional resources to improve residents' understanding and experience of the rezoning process, including a new informational handout, three educational videos, and a how-to guide for applicants about how to host effective neighborhood meetings. Each of these new resources is expected to be available before the end of the calendar year.

The new informational handout combines content from two earlier fliers to present information about the steps in the rezoning process, opportunities for public input, and common associated terms, as well as guidance about how to read the nomenclature of a zoning district. A draft of the handout is in final review.

Three informational videos are also in development. The first, “What is Zoning?”, describes the meaning and purpose of zoning. The second, “What is Rezoning?”, explains the rezoning process in basic terms. The third and final video, “How Can I Get Involved?” highlights opportunities for residents to participate in each stage of the rezoning process. Staff has developed scripts and is currently working to record and edit the videos.

Additionally, staff is developing a how-to guide for neighborhood meetings, with advice for applicants about best practices. The initial guide for neighborhood meetings was developed during the pandemic and focused on virtual meeting practices. This new and updated version will emphasize techniques and strategies for effective in-person meetings to help applicants improve their hosting skills. Staff is in the process of drafting this document.

Potential Further Enhancements

Staff continues to evaluate additional means to enhance the rezoning process to make it more meaningful for community participants. Informational signage and neighborhood meeting format have been identified by the community as two aspects that could be improved upon.

Staff is working with Community Engagement and Raleigh Communications to assess and evaluate sign options. While there are parameters established by the Unified Development Ordinance, there potential to use QR code or other technology to make more direct connections between online resources and the event or topic being noticed.

Applicants hosted 343 neighborhood meetings during 2021-2022 and 92 meetings so far this year. Shifting hosting responsibilities from the applicant to staff or some other third-party facilitator would require an increase in allocation of city resources. Neither Community Engagement nor Planning and Development currently have the staff capacity to take on this task without additional resources. Similarly, a third-party facilitator other than staff would also have significant costs. Impacts from facility costs could also be expected. Community Engagement and Planning and Development continue to evaluate options for modifying the neighborhood meeting format. The pilot program of Community Connectors attending neighborhood meetings is ongoing. Results of the pilot will inform any staff recommendation about changes to the neighborhood meeting format.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Bynum Walter, AICP, Assistant Director
Department	Planning and Development
Date	August 25, 2023
Subject	Managing Public Hearing Schedules

During the June 20, 2023 meeting, City Council requested that staff revise the strategy for scheduling public hearings for rezoning requests, annexation petitions, text changes, comprehensive plan amendments, street closings, and other matters that would ensure that Council has ample time to review and consider each item before action. This memo provides a proposal for City Council’s consideration.

New City Council Meeting Strategy

Beginning in September, City Council meetings will follow a new pattern:

First Tuesday 1:00 pm afternoon and 7:00 pm evening meetings	No public comment. Public Hearings possible at both sessions.
Second Tuesday 7:00 pm evening meeting	New public comment opportunity. No public hearings.
Third Tuesday 1:00 pm afternoon meeting	Public comment and public hearings (no change).

Proposed Method for Suggested Public Hearing Dates

In response to the new meeting strategy, staff proposes the following framework for scheduling public hearing items going forward:

- Continue to consider the totality of public hearing items when suggesting dates for additional public hearings, including items continued from previous meetings.
- Continue to direct items with less resident interest to afternoon meetings.
- Strive to limit number of rezoning public hearings to no more than eight for first Tuesday meetings.
- Strive to limit number of rezoning public hearings to no more than four for third Tuesday meetings in recognition that public comment combined with numerous public hearings in a single council meeting results in a meeting length that is unwieldy for the public.
- There may be times when the volume of rezoning requests results in a number of public hearings being scheduled that is out of step with the goals stated above. In those instances, staff and council will need to work together to determine whether to prolong

the rezoning process by scheduling public hearings farther in the future or plan for heavier agenda volumes in the short-term. Prolonging the rezoning process is likely to prompt concerns from the development community and also makes it more difficult for the community to follow the process and sustain participation.

Proposed Change to Report of the Planning Commission

Staff requests that the City Council consider an additional change to meeting logistics related to the Report of the Planning Commission. Currently, items that the Planning Commission makes a recommendation about appear on the very next Council agenda. These agenda items must be prepared in less than 48 hours to be published in the upcoming Council Agenda. The reporting schedule currently follows this pattern:

Planning Commission Meeting	City Council Agenda Publication	City Council Meeting
Second Tuesday	Subsequent Thursday (2 days)	Third Tuesday (Typically 7 days)
Fourth Tuesday	Subsequent Thursday (2 days)	First Tuesday (Typically 7 days)

Staff suggests that the timing of the Report of the Planning Commission be adjusted so that there is more time to prepare agenda items to be included in the Report of the Planning Commission. The resulting new reporting schedule would follow this pattern:

Planning Commission Meeting	City Council Agenda Publication	City Council Meeting
Second Tuesday	Subsequent Thursday (16 days)	Third Tuesday (Typically 21 days)
Fourth Tuesday	Subsequent Thursday (16 days)	First Tuesday (Typically 21 days)

Staff anticipates that this adjustment should result in more accurate and complete information appearing in the Report of the Planning Commission section of City Council agendas but would likely engender concerns from the land development industry, due to additional time being added to the zoning review process.

Legacy Method for Suggested Public Hearing Dates

Through July 5, staff had previously used these considerations to suggest public hearing dates:

- **Annexation petitions** are generally recommended for afternoon public hearing during the City Council’s next regularly scheduled second meeting/third Tuesday meeting. The notice requirements for annexation are limited and a public hearing scheduled during one can meeting can be advertised accordingly in advance of the subsequent meeting. Annexation petitions generally garner limited community interest. A notable exception to this practice is to schedule any concurrent annexation and rezoning petitions for public hearing at the same meeting, which may result in an evening public hearing for an annexation.

To be eligible for annexation a parcel must be: 1) located in the City’s extraterritorial jurisdiction, 2) adjacent to existing corporate limits, or 3) City Council has already granted an exception to adopted annexation resolutions.

Apart from 2022, there have been no more than about 30 annexation petitions/year for the past ten years and therefore minimal need to limit the number of annexations scheduled for public hearing during any single meeting. During 2022, 41 annexation petitions were received and many of those within a short period. As a result, there was an unusually large number of annexation items in front of City Council in the last quarter of fiscal year 2023. Going into the June/July scheduling period, staff took the initiative to recommend public hearing dates across more meetings to avoid a glut of annexation public hearings being scheduled for a single meeting.

- **Rezoning requests** are generally recommended for public hearing at least four weeks in the future to allow adequate time to meet mailed notice requirements. Based on community conversation during the required neighborhood meeting(s) and Planning Commission review, staff recommends an afternoon public hearing for requests that have generated little to no interest. Items of greater community interest are recommended for evening public hearing. **Staff strives to limit the number of rezoning public hearings to no more than eight per Council meeting.** During 2021 and 2022, Raleigh saw record high number of rezoning requests of about 90 per year. To provide timely public hearings, there have been meetings with more than eight rezoning public hearings. Volume of the last two years represents a 10-year high. There are only a dozen outstanding requests from 2020-2022 yet to be decided by Council and the number of rezoning requests made during 2023 are projected to be about 25% fewer than last year or the year before.
- **Text Changes** are generally recommended for public hearing during the City Council's next regularly scheduled second meeting/third Tuesday meeting. The notice requirements for text changes are limited and a public hearing scheduled at one meeting can be advertised accordingly in advance of the subsequent meeting. Based on community conversation during engagement portal and Planning Commission review, staff may recommend an evening public hearing for text changes that have seen higher levels of community interest.
- **Comprehensive Plan Amendments** are generally recommended for public hearing at least four weeks in the future to allow adequate time to meet mailed notice requirements. Based on community conversation during Planning Commission review, staff recommends an afternoon public hearing for requests that have generated little to no community interest. Items of greater community interest are recommended for evening public hearing.
- **Other items** that require public hearings include (but are not limited to) street closures, the city's annual budget, and documents associated with the city's housing plans and spending. Staff considers the totality of public hearing items when suggesting dates for additional hearings.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Estella Patterson, Chief of Police
From	Scott Oosterhoudt, Deputy Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	August 30, 2023
Subject	Council Response – Concerns of Speeding and Gunfire on Fox Hollow Drive

This memo responds to the Mayor’s request for information concerning the ongoing activity on Fox Hollow Drive. This request stems from statements made by Mrs. Nikki Thompson, a resident of the Fox Hollow community, during the public comment portion of the Tuesday, August 15, 2023, Council Meeting.

During Mrs. Thompson’s comments, she reported that vehicles are speeding on Fox Hollow Drive when children play in the area. She requested that speed bumps be installed on the street to slow the traffic to a safer speed. She also remarked about gunfire occurring near the same location on at least two occasions per month. Police personnel spoke with Mrs. Thompson on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 12:18 PM. She talked about the vehicles passing through the area at high rates of speed and requested that speed bumps be installed to mitigate the problem. She also spoke of the shots fired in the area and hoped to install a camera to record the incidents. Deputy Police Chief Oosterhoudt provided his cell phone number to Mrs. Thompson so she could call if she observes things that are out of the ordinary.

Fox Hollow Drive is in the police department’s Southeast District and borders Wake County property just to the south of the residences on Fox Hollow Drive. The street is approximately 2/10 a mile long and contains 28 lots facing Fox Hollow Drive. The 34 homes on Fox Hollow Drive are duplexes (some residences are on side streets but face Fox Hollow Drive).

Year-to-date (January 1, 2022, through August 24, 2022, and January 1, 2023, through August 24, 2023) crime statistics for Fox Hollow Drive were reviewed for the most frequently reported incidents. The most frequently occurring incidents in 2022 were miscellaneous/all other non-offense incidents (14). The next highest reported incidents were Mental Commitments (5) and shots fired (5). No aggravated assaults with a firearm occurred on Fox Hollow Drive in 2022. During 2022 (YTD), there were 74 calls for service on Fox Hollow Drive.

During 2023 (YTD), the most frequently occurring reported incidents were vandalism (9) and shots fired (6). There were three aggravated assaults on Fox Hollow Drive in 2023, one involving a firearm (shots fired into an occupied dwelling, minor injuries). During 2023 (YTD), there were 59 calls for service on Fox Hollow Drive. There were no reports to the Emergency Communications Center or to the Police Department for speeding on Fox Hollow Drive in 2022 or 2023.

In 2023, a feud between criminal street gang members residing in the Fox Hollow Drive and Ferret Court area and criminal street gang members in the Camden Street and Martin Street area escalated to gunfire on Ferret Court in the Kentwood Community, and on Camden Street. Numerous subjects

involved in this feud have been identified and charged with various crimes. Police personnel continue to investigate crimes related to these groups.

Police Department Traffic Enforcement Unit officers and Southeast District Patrol Officers have been urged to increase enforcement of speeding violations in the Fox Hollow area. Detectives will continue investigating the illegal possession of firearms and assaults involving firearms with the intent to prosecute suspects with the full force of the law.