

IN THIS ISSUE

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program Award from HUD
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program – Upcoming Public Meetings
Solid Waste Services Bins Transformed into Art - Classy CART Creations
Survey Work Around Lake Wheeler:
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project (Council Member Harrison)
Preservation Revolving Fund (Mayor Pro Tem Forte)
Invasive Species Program Update (Council Member Jones)
City of Raleigh's Participation in the Biophilic Cities Network (Mayor Cowell)

INFORMATION:

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21; Lunch Work Session at 11:30 - Lunch Will be Provided

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** in the **Council Chamber**. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the BoardDocs electronic agenda system:

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

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

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 pull from the consent agenda for discussion, please e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. the day of the meeting.

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program Award from HUD

Staff Resource: Nicholas Dula, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-6935, nicholas.dula@raleighnc.gov

On Monday, the City received approval for loan guarantee assistance under the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD will provide the City a guarantee of up to \$14,200,000 in principal for loans made to further equitable investments in economic, housing, and community development activities.

The City intends to use these funds to finance affordable housing projects, economic development initiatives, and other eligible real estate development projects that produce a public benefit.

Section 108 funding opportunities will be advertised through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process, and the City has established a loan review committee to evaluate project proposals. More information about the Section 108 funding opportunities will be posted on [the City website](#) in the coming weeks.

(No attachment)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program – Upcoming Public Meetings

Staff Resource: Sean Driskill, Transportation, 996-4088, sean.driskill@raleighnc.gov

In Spring 2023, the Vision Zero Program was awarded a \$1,000,000 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) planning grant for the development of a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP). In Spring 2024, WSP was the selected engineering firm through a competitive selection process to aid the city in the creation of this plan. Development of the CSAP has now been underway for approximately 8 months, with completion anticipated in late Fall 2025. Some highlights of the plan's scope are:

- Development of a “High Injury Network” and “High Risk Network”, both of which will help to optimize the use of Vision Zero’s resources.
- Identification of several high-priority safety projects across the city, along with recommendations for safety countermeasures at various locations.
- Collaboration with Raleigh Police Department and Emergency Services to identify and develop effective traffic enforcement strategies and resource needs.
- Identification of Raleigh schools with the highest transportation safety risks and development of a safety toolkit to address these risks.
- Identification of opportunities in changes to policies, resource allocation, and legislation that would improve transportation safety.
- Preparation for future funding opportunities, including the SS4A Implementation Grant.

Staff now look to gather input from community members through a robust public engagement effort designed to reach a broad audience. Beginning in late January, a series of Public Meetings will be held across Raleigh, one for each of the five City Council districts; all events will be from 4:30 – 7 p.m. :

1. Tuesday, **January 28**; Barwell Road Community Center (District C); 5857 Barwell Park Drive
2. Wednesday, **February 5**; Green Road Community Center (District A); 4201 Green Road
3. Monday, **February 17**; Carolina Pines Community Center (District D); 2305 Lake Wheeler Road
4. Tuesday, **February 25**; Laurel Hills Community Center (District E); 3808 Edwards Mill Road
5. Wednesday, **March 5**; Abbotts Creek Community Center (District B); 9950 Durant Road

Each meeting will highlight plan progress, seek public feedback, and provide an educational opportunity for those wanting to learn more about the Vision Zero Program. A survey will be provided to attendees and made available through other channels, including social media, flyers, and the Vision Zero webpage. The survey will remain live until March 19 and can be shared and accessed through the following link:

<https://publicinput.com/x1083>

(No attachment)

Solid Waste Services Bins Transformed into Art - Classy CART Creations

Staff Resource: Whitney Schoenfeld, Office of Special Events, 996-2204, whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov

Classy CART Creations is a project aimed at transforming ordinary trash bins into one-of-a-kind works of art. Funded by the City of Raleigh's Office of Special Events and managed by Artsposure in collaboration with Solid Waste Services and Raleigh Arts, this initiative creates a fleet of artistic waste receptacles for the City's large-scale festivals and events. The carts, identical to the green City of Raleigh residential trash carts, will be used exclusively at downtown Raleigh's largest events. By showcasing artwork on these bins, the project enhances their visual appeal, makes them easily identifiable, and improves their functionality for event attendees. This project not only benefits events and supports Solid Waste Services but also helps local businesses by ensuring their own bins remain available for business use.

An open call for artists was issued, and 36 local artists were selected including our very own Solid Waste Services employee, Shawn Jones. Each artist received a \$500 stipend for their work. 18 of the 36 artful carts made their debut at one of Raleigh's biggest and most iconic festivals, First Night Raleigh on New Year's Eve 2024! The second wave of 18 carts will make their debut at Artsposure in May 2025.

Below are photos of several of the initial 18 carts.

Classy CART Creations 2024:



Artwork by: Henry McCarthy



Artwork by: Justin Keishing



Artwork by: Natasja Brezenski

(No attachment)



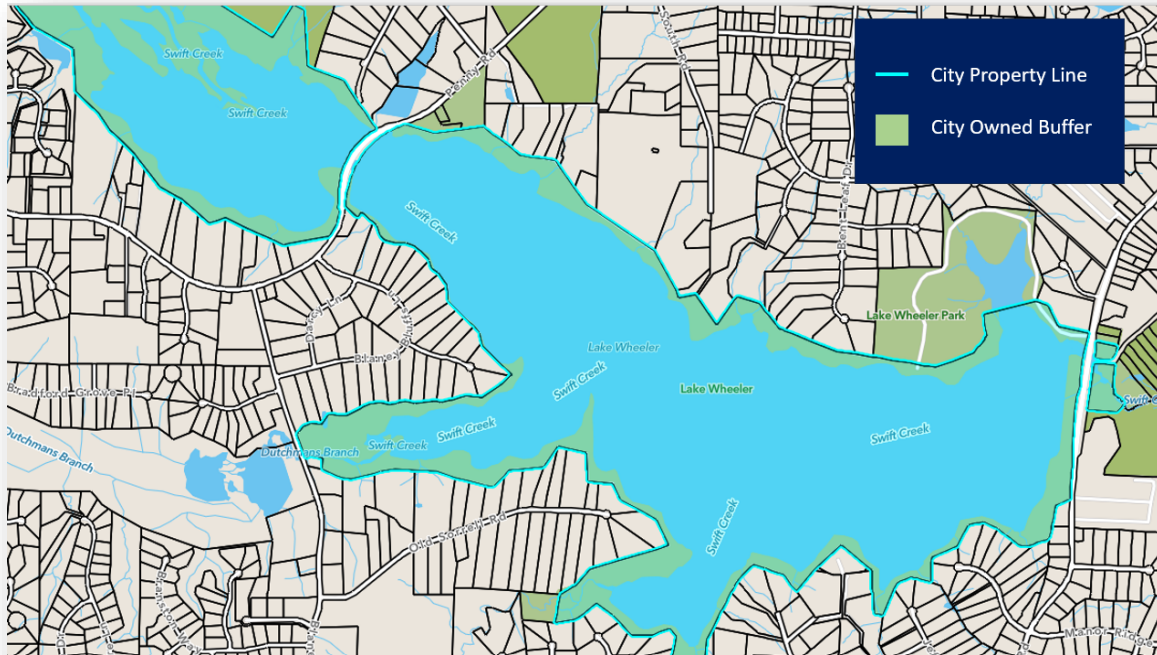
Artwork by: Mayanthi Jayawardena

Boundary Survey Work Around Lake Wheeler

Staff Resource: Edward Buchan, Raleigh Water, 996-3471, edward.buchan@raleighnc.gov

Raleigh Water staff is planning on conducting a survey around Lake Wheeler to confirm the City property line and collect topographical data. The survey work is part of a larger effort to increase the storage capacity of both Lake Wheeler and Lake Benson through the installation of new gate structures at the respective dams. The additional storage will increase the available water supply and help meet future water supply needs.

The surveyor will also be installing permanent markers to clearly delineate the City's property line, which will be similar to hiking trail markers. Letters will be sent to the residents who own property adjacent to the City owned property around the lake before any survey work is initiated. However, the survey work may upset some of the property owners who are unclear about their property boundaries and believe they have direct access to Lake Wheeler. Raleigh Water will also work with Wake County staff to help answer any questions if they are contacted about this work and the impacts of the survey.



(No 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 January 7 Council Meeting

Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project (Council Member Harrison)

Staff Resource: Lisa Schiffbauer, Raleigh Parks, 996-4785 lisa.schiffbauer@raleighnc.gov

During the presentation of the Walnut Creek Trail Improvement project, CM Harrison highlighted recent incidents along the greenway system. The Council Member requested a staff report on greenway safety initiatives, as well as updates related to the 2021 Greenway Safety Report, which staff had mentioned during the discussion.

The City continues to prioritize safety and usability across its greenway system, highlighted by recent updates to the Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project. Enhancements include realigning trails for better visibility, upgrading boardwalks to durable concrete, and simplifying navigation to improve user experience.

Systemwide safety initiatives since 2021 have added lighting to tunnels, widened paths, improved signage, and implemented safety education campaigns. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department has expanded its presence to enhance greenway security. Ongoing maintenance, including vegetation control and infrastructure repairs, reflects the City's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all greenway users. The attached memo outlines detailed safety improvements associated with both the Walnut Creek project as well a number of safety initiatives that have been completed systemwide.

(Attachment)

Preservation Revolving Fund (Mayor Pro Tem Forte)

Staff Resources: Tania Tully, Planning and Development, 996-2674, tania.tully@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, on the recommendation of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission, Council authorized the use of the Preservation Revolving Fund for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Bill and Betty Weber House at 1514 Delmont Drive. In discussing this item, Council requested additional information about prior requests and how equity may be incorporated in the future. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum outlining the history of the fund and future outreach efforts.

(Attachment)

Invasive Species Program Update (Council Member Jones)

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

During the Meeting Council requested information on the ongoing invasive species program in Parks, and how we plan to handle ongoing issues once a park site has undergone remediation. Over the past year staff completed an inventory of previous invasives species projects, developed a new standardized mapping scheme, and formalized a project prioritization approach. In July of 2024, the Invasive Species Program was funded \$500K for the creation of a Master Services Agreement that allows for contracted invasive plant removals and revegetation with native species by approved land management contractors. The available funding significantly increases the ability of the program to address larger invasive species removal projects. To date in FY25 the Invasive Species Program has worked with approved vendors to plan and execute a dozen invasive species projects, encumbering approximately \$181,000 of the allocated funding. With funding, mapping, and prioritization tools in place, project planning is ongoing and on track to spend the total \$500K by the end of FY26.

Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared with additional information on the program.

(Attachment)

Biophilic Cities Network (Mayor Cowell)

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

During the meeting staff was requested to provide an update on COR's participation in the [Biophilic Cities Network](#) (BCN) including the program, program goals, and tree status. A recent request from CM Patton also inquired about staff communication surrounding our BCN participation and how as an organization we are aiding in advancing as a biophilic city.

Included with the *Update* materials is a presentation providing context on biophilia as a concept and touches on the network itself. The network is primarily a venue for information sharing and exchange, with CORs primary goals in participation being access to the meetings/presentations and connection to practitioners in similar roles bringing experience and perspective on the opportunities and challenges they face in their cities. The biophilic-related initiatives COR delivers on (e.g. – land/habitat management, tree conservation, stormwater management, invasive species control, climate action, equity, and inclusion etc.) that are detailed in the attached report are the result of policy priorities set by City Council and included in our guiding documents.

How is this [COR's Biophilic Cities membership] information shared across all City departments?

As the application was being prepared, information on biophilic related plans, programs, and policies was solicited from multiple departments that were thought to have potential contributions. The main examples received and included in the application came from Raleigh Parks, Sustainability, Engineering Services (mainly Stormwater), and Raleigh Water. Each year when the annual report is being prepared, a message is sent to staff engaged in work related to BCN issues along with a copy of the reporting form and examples from previous years and an ask to forward the request to additional staff who may have information to contribute. In soliciting information for the attached 2024 report, staff from Planning, Raleigh Water, Parks and Recreation, Engineering Services, and Sustainability were the primary recipients, with a request to forward to colleagues who may have relevant information to submit.

We took advantage of the opportunity to meet with Dr. Beatley this year when he returned to Dix Park to give another lecture. COR staff from the departments mentioned above were invited to spend time with Dr. Beatley prior to his lecture and discuss examples of other cities who have successfully incorporated biophilic principles into documents like their comprehensive plans as COR embarks on an update to its own comprehensive plan. Roughly a dozen staff with representatives from Raleigh Parks, Engineering Services (Stormwater Div), and Planning attended this dialog with Dr. Beatley.

Is any training for staff addressing this goal?

There is no specific training related to COR's membership in BCN, but the Natural Resources Unit in Raleigh Parks has been developing and delivering trainings to increase staff knowledge and capacity for managing natural resources on city property (e.g. – the use of prescribed fire, identification of herpetofauna, inventory of insects, etc.) which align with and are informed by the [Biophilic Cities Indicators](#). Speaking to the mention of the network and goals, departments and individual staff prioritize work based on the policy priorities set by City Council and those laid out in our guiding documents like the Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan. The outcomes and outputs of those department and staff level goals are what are highlighted in the BCN annual report and facilitated COR's membership at the outset. Our BCN membership is essentially an opportunity for information sharing and connection to other cities.

How as an organization are we aiding the City in advancing as a Biophilic City?

There are myriad examples of COR investments, actions, and leadership related to the biophilic city indicators provided in the attached reports. Some of those examples include large initiatives like the 2022 Parks Bond that is improving access to nature through new parks and greenway segments, as well as habitat improvement in specific cases like the Smokey Hollow project, and with multiple additions of green stormwater infrastructure in the other bond projects. The Invasive Species Program is currently investing \$500K using contractors to help remove invasive species and the Urban Forestry Program has multiple efforts focused on tree planting in underserved communities and urban heat islands. There are also pieces of the Community Climate Action Plan aimed at improving climate equity by building community resilience to the impacts of climate change that align with BCN indicators. The coordinated efforts between the Stormwater Division in Engineering Services and Raleigh Parks to plan, construct, and maintain green stormwater infrastructure with a focus on the habitat those devices provide is another great example of proactive steps COR is taking that are advancing COR as biophilic City.

(Attachments)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 17 – Thursday, January 23

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

Permitted Special Events

[45th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March](#)

Fayetteville Street District & Capital District

Monday, January 20

Event Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Edenton Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 10:00am until 12:00pm. The following roads will be closed from 10:50am until 12:00pm for the march; note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured during the event and see below for turn-by-turn details:

- Start at Edenton Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street
- Left onto Salisbury Street
- Left onto Morgan Street
- Right onto Fayetteville Street
- Cross Lenoir Street
- Cross through Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts parking lots
- Cross South Street for disassembly in front of performing arts center

Other Upcoming Events

[Vegas Golden Knights vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Friday, January 17

Lenovo Center

[Po' Ramblin' Boys – PineCone](#)

Friday, January 17

Fletcher Opera Theater

[The Music of Paul Simon, James Taylor, & Neil Diamond – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, January 17 & Saturday, January 18

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Artist Reception: January/February Gallery Exhibitions](#)

Saturday, January 18

Sertoma Arts Center

[California vs. NC State](#)

Saturday, January 18

Lenovo Center

[Shen Yun Performing Arts](#)

Saturday, January 18 & Sunday, January 19

Memorial Auditorium

[City of Oaks Challenge](#)

Saturday, January 18 – Monday, January 20

Raleigh Convention Center

[King Day](#)

Monday, January 20
John Chavis Memorial Park

[The Rink](#)

Through Monday, January 20
Red Hat Amphitheater

[New Year, New Career Job Fair](#)

Tuesday, January 21
NCWorks

[Part-Time Job Fair](#)

Tuesday, January 21
The Chapel at Dix Park

[National Day of Racial Healing Event](#)

Tuesday, January 21
John Chavis Memorial Park

[River Cane Wetland Park Invasive Plant Removal](#)

Thursday, January 23
River Cane Wetland Park

[Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Thursday, January 23
Lenovo Center

Public Resources

[Event Feedback Form](#): Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome 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	Stephen C. Bentley, Director
From	Lisa Schiffbauer, Senior Engineering Supervisor
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	January 15, 2025
Subject	Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project and Greenway Safety Update

At the January 7th City Council meeting, during the review and approval of the Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project, CM Harrison highlighted recent incidents along the greenway system. The Council Member requested a staff report on greenway safety initiatives, as well as updates related to the 2021 Greenway Safety Report, which staff had mentioned during the discussion.

The following memo outlines safety improvements associated with the Walnut Creek project, in particular, as well a number of safety initiatives that have been completed systemwide.

Walnut Creek Greenway Trail Improvements

The Walnut Creek Trail, a vital section of the Capital Area Greenway System, stretches from Lake Johnson to the Neuse River. The ongoing Walnut Creek Trail Improvement Project focuses on enhancing the segment between Lake Wheeler Road and Sunnybrook Road through a series of strategic upgrades aimed at improving safety and convenience for trail users. Key improvements include establishing more direct connections, extending unobstructed sightlines, and replacing timber decking with concrete on five boardwalks.

Currently, the Walnut Creek Trail along Water Works and Fayetteville Streets requires users to navigate roadway and adjacent sidewalks with multiple turns. While signage mitigates some confusion, this alignment can be challenging for users. The bond project addresses this by adding a standard asphalt trail through the area, simplifying navigation, and providing a seamless and user-friendly connection.

Meanwhile, a significant safety enhancement involves the realignment of the trail west of Rose Lane. The current path, which winds through a wooded area with a heavily sedimented boardwalk, will be rerouted along a cleared sewer easement. This new alignment will feature a straight, on-grade asphalt path, eliminating the need for a boardwalk. The updated design provides an open, unobstructed view of the trail ahead, minimizes secluded areas, and increases visibility for users, fostering a safer and more welcoming environment.

Lastly, two boardwalks will be fully replaced and three others will have their decking upgraded. Replacing timber with concrete will greatly improve traction, particularly during wet conditions,

while also reducing long-term maintenance needs. Upon completion, all five boardwalks will feature durable concrete surfaces, offering enhanced safety and reliability for trail users.

Systemwide Greenway Safety Improvements

Over the last three years, Raleigh Parks has delivered on a number of initiatives and recommendations from its 2021 Greenway Safety Report. These efforts include capital improvements, safety initiatives, and ongoing maintenance programs.

Completed Capital Improvements

Significant progress has been made in several areas identified in the report:

1. **Tunnel Lighting:** Lighting has been installed in all unlit tunnels along the Walnut Creek Trail and nearly all other unlit locations throughout the system. Additional incandescent lights have been replaced with Light Emitting Diodes (LED) fixtures operating 24/7. One tunnel remains unlit under Wade Avenue along the Reedy Creek Trail, however, staff is in discussions with relevant parties to update the lighting in this tunnel.
2. **Crabtree Creek West:** Completed the Crabtree Creek Greenway in 2024, providing a direct and safe connection to the eastern boundary of Umstead State Park.
3. **Crabtree Creek Structure 106 Realignment:** Trail realignment at Capital Boulevard has been finalized, providing safer trail connectivity with protective delineators and green road markings.
4. **Lake Lynn and Lake Johnson Loops:** Path widening and resurfacing has been completed, enhancing safety and visibility.
5. **Pavement Markings:** High-use areas now feature centerline striping and other safety cautionary markings to reduce user conflicts.

Ongoing Initiatives

- **Signage and Wayfinding:** Regular updates have improved directional and informational signage, with new destination signage designed to enhance user experience and wayfinding. Funding to implement the new destination signs has been proposed in the FY 2026 CIP budget.
- **Safety Education Campaigns:** Multiple initiatives, including *Better with A Buddy*, *Kindness in Motion*, and *Treasure Our Trails*, have promoted trail safety and etiquette through social media, signage, educational events, and other outreach efforts. Safety education campaigns are ongoing.

Maintenance and Operations

Routine maintenance continues to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for all users of the greenway system. This includes regular tunnel cleaning, pressure washing, and vegetation control to keep pathways clear and accessible. Addressing traction issues has been a priority, with the application of traction tape and the installation of metal strips on stair treads to enhance safety. Greenway Maintenance also conducts thorough inspections of all structures twice a year and assesses the trails annually. Additionally, following wind or flood events, inspections are performed to document damage and identify new issues caused by inclement weather.

Since 2021:

- 85 structures have been washed to address traction issues, covering 3.32 miles at a total cost of \$85,015.
- 970 structure repair work orders have been completed, including the installation of traction strips on multiple staircases, amounting to \$708,361 in total costs.
- 212 vegetation encroachment work orders have been completed, involving the removal, trimming, or spraying of vegetation in order to improve sightlines and prevent accidents. This effort has totaled \$323,040 in costs.
- Construction repairs have addressed a variety of issues, including asphalt and bollard repair, shoulder repair, erosion control, and drainage improvements. These efforts encompassed 507 work orders and incurred a total cost of \$1,196,908.

Greenway Maintenance's dedication to these activities underscores its commitment to enhancing safety and ensuring a positive experience for all users.

Raleigh Police department Initiatives

In support of the City's Strategic Plan, the Raleigh Police Department (RPD) collaborates with other City Departments to promote a safe and vibrant atmosphere throughout the City of Raleigh.

In Fiscal Year 2022, a dedicated unit of six sworn officers and one sergeant was introduced to enhance public safety within parks and along greenways. PRCR and RPD continue to work collaboratively, improving ways to directly and creatively increase safety, enforcement and outreach within the park and greenway system.

Conclusion

The outlined accomplishments demonstrate the City's commitment to improving greenway safety and usability. Looking forward, we will continue prioritizing funding, collaborating with stakeholders, and incorporating user feedback to maintain and enhance these essential community assets.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Tania Tully, Historic Preservation Supervisor
Department	Planning and Development
Date	January 17, 2025
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: January 7, 2025 Meeting Preservation Revolving Fund

At the January 7, 2025, City Council meeting, on the recommendation of the Raleigh Historic Development Commission, City Council authorized the use of the Preservation Revolving Fund (Fund) for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Bill and Betty Weber House at 1514 Delmont Drive. In discussing this item, Mayor Pro Tem Forte requested additional information about prior requests and how equity may be incorporated in the future.

Preservation Revolving Fund Overview

The City Preservation Revolving Fund was created by the Council in response to recommendations in the Historic Preservation Element of the 1989 Comprehensive Plan. Monies are lent to assist in providing bridge financing for historic preservation projects; loan repayment reimburses the Fund and makes those dollars available for future projects. The Fund acts as a reserve and is available to respond to opportunities and threats to Raleigh historic properties when they arise.

The Fund was capitalized at a rate of \$50,000 per year from fiscal year 1993 through fiscal year 1997 for a total of \$250,000. In 2019 it was increased by \$25,000 when Housing and Neighborhoods directed its portion of a multi-agency loan repayment to the Preservation Revolving Fund. Prior to the loan for the Weber House, the Fund balance was \$275,000. Payment of the \$215,000 Weber House loan is due in 2028. The balance is now \$60,000.

Preservation Revolving Fund Use Request Process

There are two major considerations for evaluating requests to use the Preservation Revolving Fund – historic significance and financial stability.

The Fund’s primary use is to support preservation projects such as stabilization, rehabilitation, or relocation to avoid demolition. The property or building must either be a designated Raleigh Historic Landmark or eligible to be designated as such. If the property is not a Landmark, the formal request must include a draft historic designation

report that illustrates the property’s special significance in terms of its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological and/or cultural importance. To protect this historic significance, the requestor must file an application for landmark designation prior to fund disbursement. An additional requirement of the Fund is that the historic character of the property be secured through historic preservation covenants. These covenants are held by a historic preservation nonprofit and run with the property in perpetuity.

Financially, the request must include the project budget and how the funds would be used. The requestor must provide sufficient collateral to support the amount of the loan and evidence to demonstrate the ability to repay the loan. Previous loans from the Fund have ranged between 18 months and 3 years interest-free, with the full amount due at loan maturity. A provision for an extension with monthly payments and an interest rate of prime +1% is available. Loans are secured by a promissory note and deed of trust.

Historic Preservation staff guide requestors through the process and collect documents. If the property is not already a Raleigh Historic Landmark, staff help the requestor with a draft report. Prior to placement on a Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) agenda, City staff review the request to ensure the financial standards are met. RHDC’s role is to determine if the house or building subject of the request has the requisite historic and architectural significance to justify use of City monies. If the RHDC deems it to be so, then a recommendation is made to City Council that use of the funds be authorized.

Preservation Revolving Fund Use Prior Requests

In the roughly 30 years since creation there have been numerous potential and approved fund requests, with six loans executed. Of these six, four were either for properties related to Black history, owned by people of color, or both.

Building Name Historic Significance	Current Address	Loan Year	Purpose	Loan Amount
Plummer T. Hall House; Raleigh Historic Landmark; Black history	814 Oberlin Road	1995	Stabilization and rehabilitation	\$58,594
Roger-Bagley-Daniels-Pegues House; Raleigh Historic Landmark; Black history	125 E. South Street	2002	Rehabilitation	\$75,000
Gethsemane Seventh Day Adventist Church; Prince Hall Historic Overlay District; Black history	501 S. Person Street	2012	Rehabilitation and tornado damage	\$91,000 (Requested \$120,000)

Building Name Historic Significance	Current Address	Loan Year	Purpose	Loan Amount
Crabtree Jones House; Raleigh Historic Landmark	3108 Hillmer Drive	2014	Purchase lot for relocation; prevent demolition	\$100,000
Lustron House; Eligible for Raleigh Historic Landmark Designation; All metal kit home	314 Haywood Street	2017	Disassembly, relocation, foundation; prevent demolition	\$100,000
Plummer T Hall House; Raleigh Historic Landmark; Oberlin Village; Black history	814 Oberlin Road	2019	Rehabilitation and repairs	\$175,000

The following requests were either not supported by RHDC or approved by City Council without execution of the loan:

Building Name Historic Significance	Current Address	Request Year	Purpose	Amount Requested	RHDC Endorsement
Norwood House; Moore Square HOD	226 E. Martin Street	1993	Relocation; rehabilitation	\$50,000	Yes
Briggs Hardware Building; Raleigh Historic Landmark	220 Fayetteville Street	1997	Rehabilitation	\$100,000	Yes
All Saints Chapel; Raleigh Historic Landmark	110 S. East Street	2006	Relocation; prevent demolition	\$141,000	Yes
McGee House; Blount Street HOD	411 N. Blount Street	2011	Rehabilitation	?	No
Weber House; Raleigh Historic Landmark eligible; Modernist Architecture	606 Transylvania Avenue	2023	Relocation; prevent demolition	\$275,000	Yes

Building Name Historic Significance	Current Address	Request Year	Purpose	Amount Requested	RHDC Endorsement
Weber House; Raleigh Historic Landmark eligible; Modernist Architecture	1514 Delmont Drive	2025 (anticip ated)	Rehabilitation and reconstruction	\$215,000	Yes

Challenges and Opportunities

To date, the availability and use of the Preservation Revolving Fund has been shared via rhdc.org, preservation non-profits, RHDC, the RHDC Newsletter and City preservation staff. Although the Fund is offered as possible assistance to all projects as they become known, it is reasonable to assume that there have been projects where the owners were unaware of the option. As can be seen in the above charts, not all projects that preserve places important to Raleigh’s Black history were owned by people of color. Another challenge to use of the Fund is when a historic building, such as the Ligon House, is owned by a private property owner that chooses not to use the Preservation Revolving Fund or sell to a group who would.

Staff recommends expanding outreach efforts. Execution of a well-developed engagement plan would improve the program and lead to more equitable disbursement of funds. The engagement will have an emphasis on raising awareness of the Fund among people of color. It is anticipated that the plan would include a presence on the City’s website. Information about the Preservation Revolving Fund, its requirements and request process will be clearly explained. For increased transparency the webpage would include lists of prior loans along with active loans and maturity dates. Given the revolving nature of the Fund, the plan should include a provision for multiple campaigns depending on availability of funds. One of the challenges is that the current Fund even when there are no active loans, limits the number of projects that can be assisted at a time. There will need to be careful consideration given to highlighting the Fund when monies are all lent.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Brian Smith, Natural Resources Superintendent
Department	Park, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	January 17, 2025
Subject	Invasive Species Program Update

During the January 7th Council Meeting Council Member Jones requested information on the ongoing invasive species program in Parks, and how we plan to handle ongoing issues once a park site has undergone remediation.

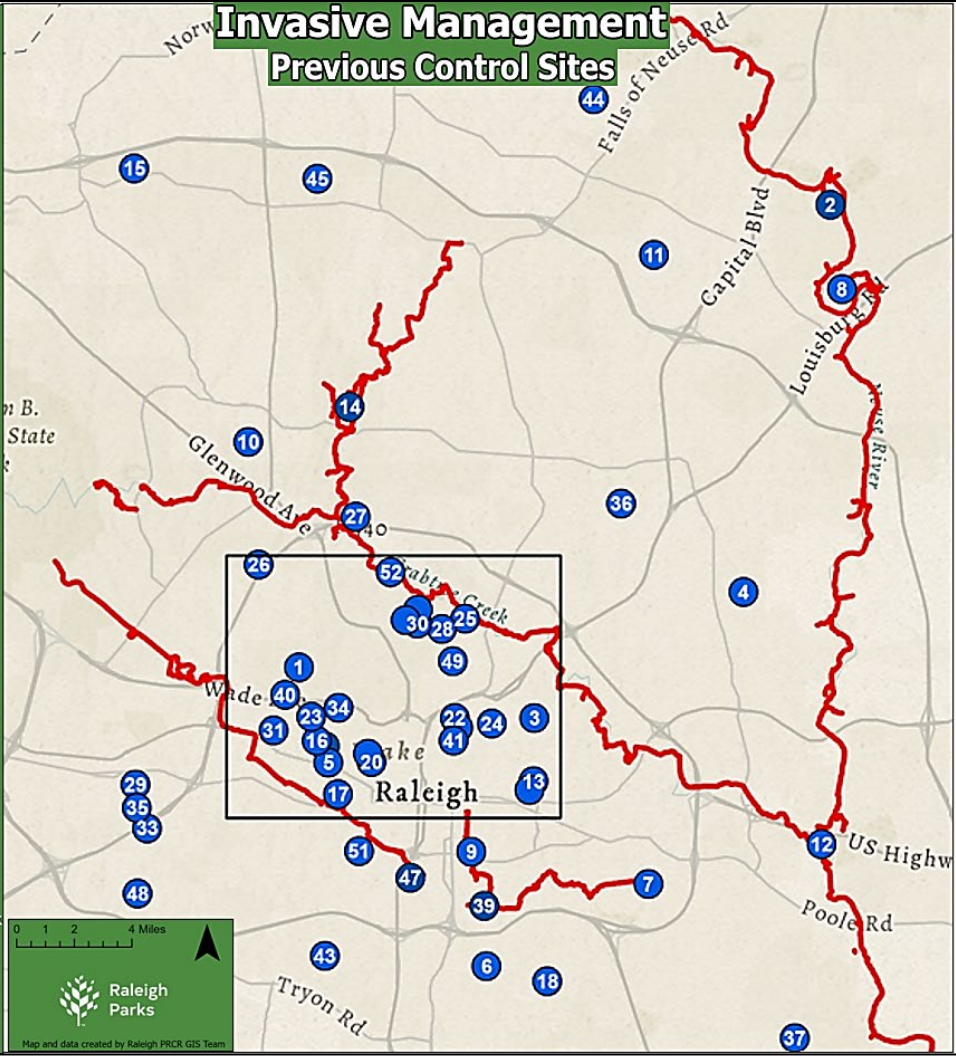
Over the past year, the Raleigh Parks Invasive Species Program (ISP) has made progress on several priorities related to invasive species management. A new ISP Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator were hired in late 2023 and early 2024. One of the first priorities for these staff was sorting through and organizing a large amount of previous invasive species data including locations and treatment information for past projects. A standardized structure for using GIS to map invasive plant populations throughout the Raleigh Parks and Greenways system was also developed (See map below). The mapping system has been important for prioritizing, planning, and tracking invasive species management actions. In January of 2024 an inter-Divisional group consisting of Raleigh Parks staff was formed to help control invasives species. This group, the Natural Resources Task Force (NRTF), successfully completed 10 management projects over the course of the year, many of which focused on invasive species management. In July of 2024, the Invasive Species Program was funded \$500K for the creation of a Master Services Agreement to utilize contractors for invasive plant removal. This funding has significantly increased ISP’s capacity to address larger projects and conduct maintenance in previously treated areas. To date, 4 invasive plant management vendors are under contract and a dozen projects are in process, with nearly half of the funding already committed. Given the extent of invasive species project opportunities across city properties, a prioritization scheme has been formalized to guide management efforts and focus on sites most in need of invasive species control. The prioritization criteria include considerations for ecological impact, resource availability, equity of service, and the logistics of continued maintenance for sites where invasives species control has been implemented.

Once a site is prioritized for invasive species management and initial treatment is done, evaluation of vegetation response is made and plans for future management are developed. For most projects, the goals will include the revegetation of the project area with native plants, to help prevent the reestablishment of invasive plants. However, there may be several additional management steps needed before an area can be replanted, including additional invasive species control. The need for additional treatment depends on the efficacy of the initial treatment, the presence of invasive plant seeds in the seedbank, and the proximity to other invaded areas that may continue to encroach into the project area. Based on these factors, ISP coordinates with Raleigh Parks District staff to determine if the resources needed for follow-up management of the site are available. A multi-year action plan can then be developed to address the continual management needs for the site that will include strategies for revegetation. The funding for contractors discussed above provides an effective way to implement and adhere to these management plans such that once a site receives treatment, it does not revert to its previous conditions. The use of volunteers to assist with invasive species control has always been central to this program. For example, in FY '24 1,107 volunteers contributed 3052 hours of service. While use of volunteers and reliance on internal staff will always be important to the success of these invasive species control efforts, the impact in the continued success and maintenance of previously treated sites that these increasing funding is having on the capacity of the Invasive Species Program is important and will last the department at least two fiscal years. Staff will then assess the utilization of contractors and consider funding in future years.



Invasive Management Previous Control Sites

- Treated Greenway Trail
- 12 Anderson Point
- 44 Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve
- 45 Baileywick
- 37 Barwell Road
- 6 Biltmore Hills
- 10 Brookhaven
- 43 Carolina Pines
- 42 Charlotte H Green
- 5 Compiegne
- 51 Dorothea Dix Park
- 11 Durant Nature
- 20 Edna Metz Wells
- 28 Fallon
- 13 Fisher Street
- 49 Five Points Center for Active Adults
- 50 Forest Ridge
- 26 Glen Eden
- 36 Green Road
- 8 Horseshoe Farm
- 40 Hymettus Woods
- 16 Isabella Cannon
- 29 Jackson
- 34 Jaycee
- 9 John Chavis Memorial Park
- 53 Joslin Garden
- 33 Kaplan
- 25 Kiwanis
- 48 Lake Johnson
- 46 Lake Wheeler
- 52 Lassiter Mill
- 3 Lions
- 4 Marsh Creek
- 22 Marshall
- 23 Mayview
- 24 Meadowbrook
- 41 Mordecai Annex
- 47 Mount Hope Cemetery
- 27 North Hills
- 19 Pender Street Park
- 31 Pollock
- 32 Poplar Spring
- 35 Powell Drive
- 17 Pullen
- 21 Rose Garden & Little Theatre
- 18 Sanderford Road
- 14 Shelley Lake - Sertoma
- 38 Smallwood
- 15 Strickland
- 2 Thornton Road Property
- 39 Walnut Creek Wetland Park
- 30 West Lake
- 1 Windemere Beaver Dam
- 7 Worthdale



Biophilic Cities Network





Outline

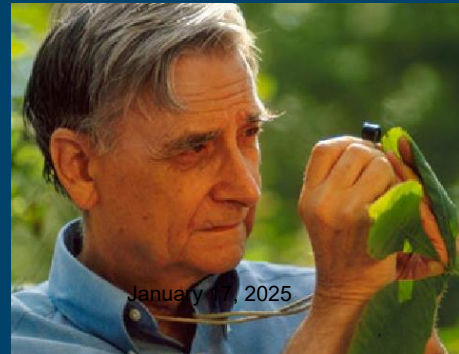
- What is Biophilia?
- Biophilic Cities Network
 - Membership
 - Engagement
 - Performance measures
 - What's next?
- Pollinator examples

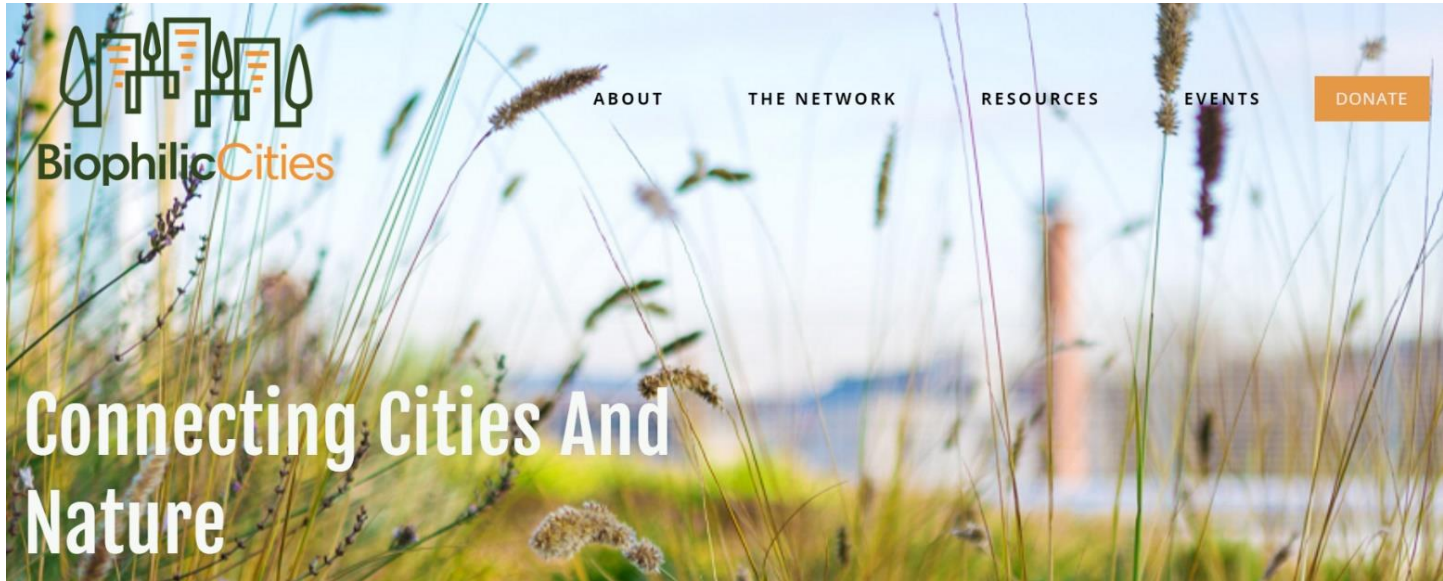


What is Biophilia?

“The innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Innate means hereditary and hence part of ultimate human nature.”

E.O. Wilson





Biophilic Cities

strive to connect us to nature through planning, programming and operations



Raleigh

Raleigh was formally accepted into the Biophilic Cities Network on April, 22, 2022

Earth Day!





Raleigh

Current Biophilic Cities

- Arlington, VA
- Austin, TX
- Barcelona, Spain
- Birmingham, UK
- Curridabat, Costa Rica
- Edinburgh, Scotland
- Edmonton, Canada
- Fremantle, Australia
- Miami-Dade County, FL
- Milwaukee, WI
- Norfolk, VA
- Panama City, Panama
- Phoenix, AZ
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, OR
- **Raleigh, NC**
- Richmond, VA
- Reston, VA
- San Francisco, CA
- Singapore
- St. Louis, MO
- Toronto, Canada
- Visakhapatnam, India
- Victoria – Gasteiz, Spain
- Washington, DC
- Wellington, New Zealand



Performance Indicators



Natural conditions, qualities, infrastructure

- *Number of registered monarch waystations*
31 registered + 60 pollinator habitats

Biophilic engagement, participation, activities, and knowledge

- *Participation in nature-based education programs*
30,470
- *Volunteers for nature-based activities, programs, and services*
6,725 volunteers & 19,496 hours of service



Raleigh

Performance Indicators



Biophilic institutions, planning and governance

- *Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program projects*
30 Rainwater Rewards Program Projects

Human health/well-being indicators

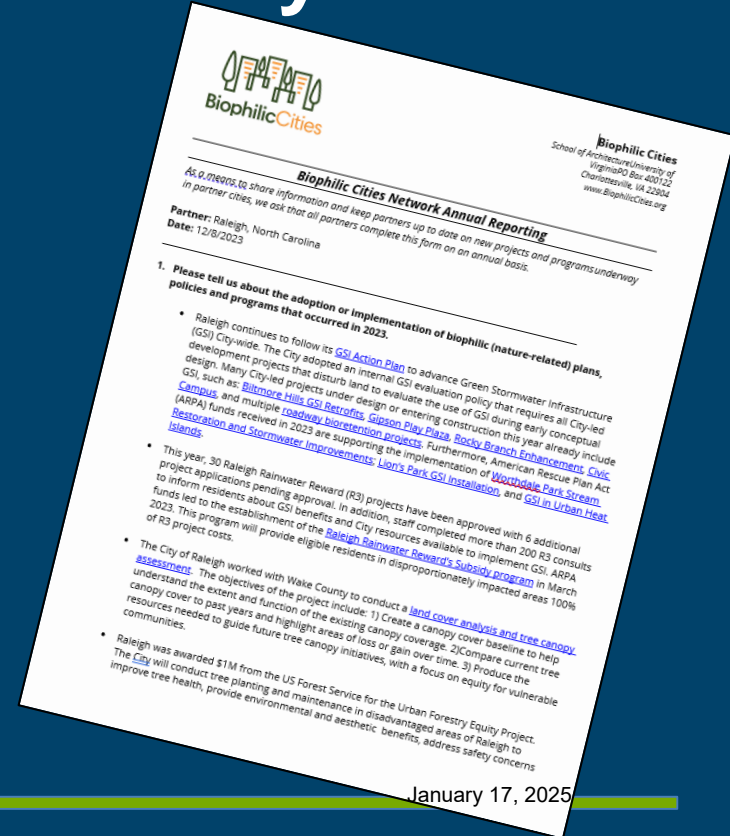
- *Percent of population within half-mile distance of a greenway or park trail*
48% of Raleigh residents



Raleigh

City of Raleigh BCN Summary 2023

- Street Tree Equity Project
- Community Gardens
- Year of the Trail
- Conservation Corp Initiatives
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure policy



City of Raleigh BCN - 2024

- Cross Dept effort to reduce invasive species planting
- Investment in invasive species removal
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure partnership
- "Lights Out" initiative with Wake Audubon





Raleigh

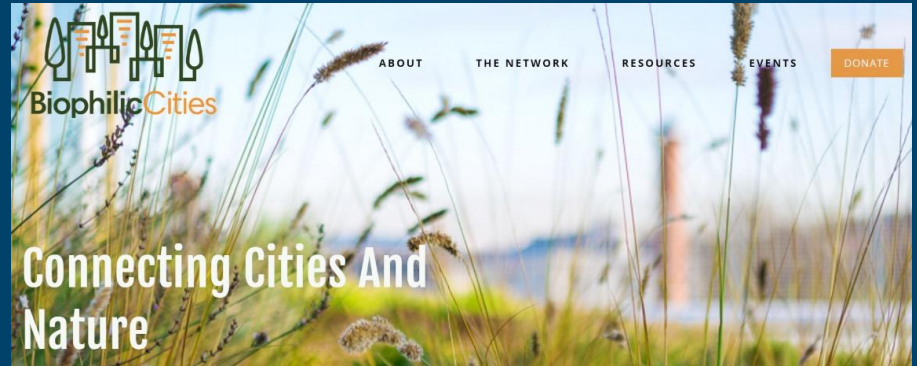
Pollinator Examples

- Bee City USA
Community Collaboration
- Monarch Waystations
30+ Registered Stations
- Pollinator Protection on Parks and Greenways
60+ sites throughout the system
Establishment of Maintenance Guide



Summary

- BCN engagement
- Performance measures
- COR Coordination

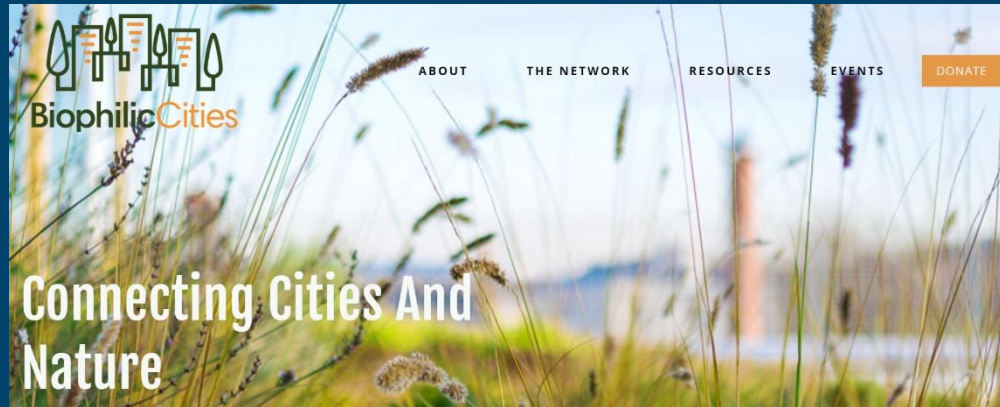


Biophilic Cities - strive to connect us to nature through planning, programming and operations



Raleigh

Questions?



Biophilic Cities Network Annual Reporting

As a means to share information and keep partners up to date on new projects and programs underway in partner cities, we ask that all partners complete this form on an annual basis.

Partner: City of Raleigh, NC

Date: 12/4/24

- 1. Please report on the measurement of biophilic city indicators. What are the indicators that the city are measuring, and what are the metrics for measurement? For those partners that have not previously identified biophilic city indicators or for those that would like to update identified indicators, please select at least one indicator from [five identified categories](#).**

See attached metrics report.

- 2. Please tell us about the adoption or implementation of biophilic (nature-related) plans, policies, and programs that occurred in 2024.**

- The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) adopted the *Management of Natural Areas on City of Raleigh Property* plan which outlines PRCR's responsibility, role, and approach in stewarding public trust natural resource assets. This effort was undertaken as part of PRCR's pursuit of accreditation under the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. In addition, a site-specific natural resource management plan was also adopted for Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve.
- Raleigh updated its [Stormwater Design Manual](#) in 2024 which emphasizes and encourages the use of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). There is also a study underway to explore stormwater utility fee credits to further incentivize above-and-beyond GSI on private and public property.
- The City's [Watershed Studies and Plans](#) incorporate water quality modeling and identify opportunities for water quality improvement projects, including GSI. Watershed studies underway in 2024 include Pigeon House Branch, Rocky Branch and Central Walnut Creek, and Marsh Creek watersheds. In 2025, the City plans to initiate a GSI Master Planning task to further prioritize GSI implementation.
- As part of the continued investment and policy focus on GSI, a cross Department maintenance crew is being built. The new crew is funded by Stormwater and housed in the Parks and Recreation Department under the Natural Resources Unit. The new crew will specifically

address the specialized long-term maintenance needs of GSI devices in accordance with the goals of the Stormwater Office, while also maximizing their habitat value and opportunities for these devices to act as public amenities in alignment with Parks and Recreation goals.

- Raleigh's [Invasive Species Program](#) is investing \$500K through a master services agreement with multiple vendors to control invasive species. Projects are prioritized and selected based on a list of criteria like the level of threat to native biodiversity, the potential for improving habitat, improvement to sightlines for safety and/or aesthetic value, project value, and equitable distribution of the investment across the city.
- Year two of the [Street Tree Equity Project](#) was completed. Over 700 street trees have been planted in Raleigh to help address urban forest equity and reduce heat island impacts in vulnerable communities in Raleigh.
- Urban Forestry staff updated the [Possible Street Tree List](#) available on its [Tree Planting website](#) to specifically identify and include more native species that can be used as street trees.
- Staff completed more than 238 consults to inform residents about GSI benefits and City resources available to implement GSI. The pilot [Raleigh Rainwater Reward's Subsidy program](#), funded previously with ARPA funding, will continue providing eligible community members and groups with 100% cost-share for GSI thanks to a grant award from the Office of Sustainability's Climate Action fund. Eligibility criteria has been expanded City-wide, and includes nonprofits, places of worship, and residential properties (with additional income and rental qualification requirements).
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department continued growth of its [Community Gardens Program](#). Two community gardens were built in 2024 with 42 volunteers working over 179 hours for a combined value of \$5800.
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department developed and adopted a Standard Operating Procedure for the use of chainsaws and powered pole saws to facilitate the safe and effective use of these tools in Raleigh Parks, Nature Preserves, and Greenways properties. The adoption of the new policy facilitates increased effectiveness of stewardship efforts in our natural areas by providing clarity on the trainings, PPE, and experience needed to use these tools in the performance of land management tasks.
- During Pollinator Week, sponsored by the Xerces society, over 750 pollinator plants grown in the City's greenhouse and nursery were given away along with information and materials to educate the public on the importance of pollinator conservation.
- The Raleigh Parks Nature Preserves and Programs Team increased access and inclusion of their natural areas and programs by evaluating, identifying, planning, and implementing opportunities for their spaces to be more gender and culturally inclusive. Outcomes under this effort included translation of selected materials into non-English languages, hosting events that helped amplify the voices, stories, and histories of underrepresented communities, and partnering on programming for safe birding practices with Outdoor Afro, the Raleigh LGBTQIA+ Center, Field Inclusive, and the Wake County Audubon Society Chapter.

- In the spring of 2024, City of Raleigh Parks partnered with [Project EverGreen to enhance the landscape at Sanderford Road Park](#) to make it more biodiverse. Project EverGreen coordinated donors and landscape professionals who volunteered their time, talents, and resources towards the project. Over 1,000 Plants were installed for \$30,000 worth in estimated project value, and \$20,000 Estimated Value of Volunteer Time. Our partners and donors for this project include Project EverGreen, Ruppert Landscape, Professional Grounds Management Society, and NC State University.

3. Please tell us about plans and commitments for 2025. Specifically, how will the city use the network as a resource to further its biophilic planning and design aspirations?

Raleigh will use our BCN membership to coordinate with the team and partner city representatives to leverage their knowledge and experience related to the items listed below. Specifically, model ordinances from partners cities and review of draft documents would be valuable on multiple projects listed here.

- Raleigh staff and members of its Sustainability, Wildlife and Urban Trees Committee are working on [Leaf Out: Goals and Guidance for Trees on City Property](#). This project and forthcoming plan will set forth a clear vision for preserving, enhancing, and nurturing Raleigh's urban tree canopy. The primary goals—Protection, Expansion, and Stewardship—are key to our sustainable urban development strategy, ensuring that Raleigh's urban forest will thrive, now and for future generations.
- Raleigh will complete the Street Tree Equity project that will have planted 1000 street trees in vulnerable communities in Raleigh.
- Raleigh received a \$1M grant to prune, plant, and remove hazardous trees in over the next 4 years in federally identified underserved communities.
- Raleigh will begin implementation of an Inflation Reduction Act Grant to improve urban forest health and improve ecosystem services in Raleigh.
- A [Bio-energy Recovery Project](#) is scheduled to be completed in early 2025. This new system will produce green energy through the production of biogas and will use an advanced anaerobic digestion process to treat the biosolids, wastewater byproducts, which will reduce the overall biosolids amount by around 50 percent when compared to the historical system.

4. Please review your [partner city page](#) and provide us with updated text, images, and links.

The partner page has been reviewed and is up to date.

THANK YOU!

Please share the completed form and any links, data, or attachments with JD Brown (jdbrown@biophiliccities.org)