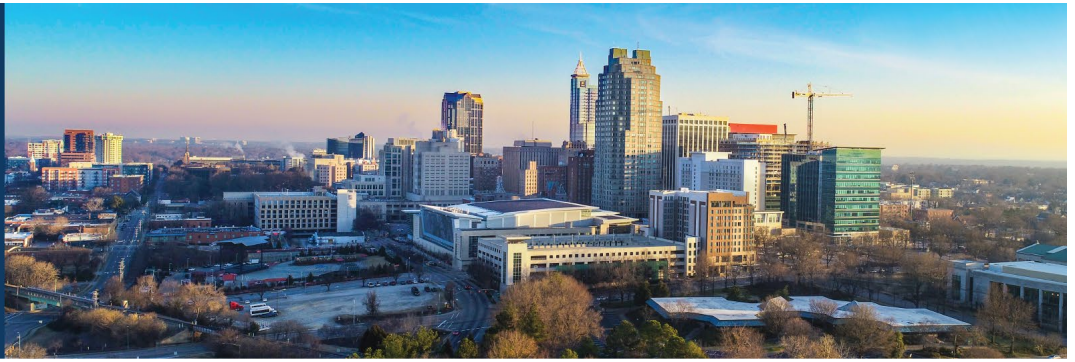


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2025-25

June 20, 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan Update
Annexation Practices and Growth Policy
Weekly Digest of Special Events

Council Follow Up Items

FY2026 Council Budget Questions (Council Member Patton)
Community Gardens (Council Member Lambert-Melton)

INFORMATION:

Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan Update

*Staff Resource(s): Dhanya Sandeep, Planning and Development, 996-2659, dhanya.sandeep@raleighnc.gov
Dylan Bruchhaus, Planning and Development, 996-4631, dylan.bruchhaus@raleighnc.gov*

At the regular meeting on November 11, 2024, Council authorized staff to negotiate contract with the top consultant team selected through the RFQ process, to lead the Fayetteville Street Streetscape planning process. The funding for the consultant was approved by Council on May 7, 2024. On December 20th, a contract was successfully executed with a team led by McAdams and including SWA Balsley as the design lead. The project kicked off in early January 2025, with the Phase 1 efforts focused on existing conditions analysis. A draft existing conditions report was submitted to the city in mid-April. City staff led and hosted several outreach efforts with the downtown community, businesses, key stakeholders, event organizers, and the DRA as part of Phase 1 efforts, to introduce the project and gather preliminary ideas.

Subsequently, the consultants prepared draft concept recommendations and presented to City staff in mid-June. The first community open house was held on June 16th, at the Raleigh City Museum from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The consultant team presented an overview and draft concepts in two slots, followed by open house format with boards and staffing that allowed for additional discussion. Around 75 people attended the event and shared feedback, excitement and thoughts about refreshing Fayetteville Street. Additional surveys, Ask-a-Planner events, and pop-ups are planned over the next few weeks to gather additional

feedback. A Council agenda item or work session is planned after the summer break to provide Council an overview of the draft recommendations and for staff to receive further guidance on the priorities and funding options. The engagement survey can be found at <https://engage.raleighnc.gov/b26735> where residents can provide their feedback. Staff will then use this information to guide the final refreshed streetscape design for Fayetteville Street. Included with the *Update* materials is a summary of the project timeline and the June 16th Open House presentation.

(Attachments)

Annexation Practices and Growth Policy

Staff resource(s): Bynum Walter, Planning and Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

Staff is conducting a comprehensive review of the City's annexation practices and associated growth policies. The purpose of this review is to ensure alignment with municipal service commitments within corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). These efforts were prompted by recent process changes related to annexation petition review and requests for utility extension and connection. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum summarizing staff efforts.

(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

General Follow Up

FY2026 Council Budget Questions (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Sadia Sattar, Budget and Management Services, 996-4273, sadia.sattar@raleighnc.gov

Following presentation of the Proposed FY2026 operating and capital budgets on May 20, Council has requested further information on a variety of topics. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared with staff responses from departments Citywide to questions posed by Council. A clarification on the annual property tax and fee impacts for a median value home in the City is also provided.

(Attachment)

Follow up to the June 3 Council Meeting

Community Gardens (Council Member Lambert-Melton)

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

At the meeting, Council requested an update on the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (Raleigh Parks) Community Garden program. Guided by the FY2021-2025 Strategic Plan, Raleigh Parks welcomed the opportunity to establish a community garden program. Doing so provided another opportunity to positively impact community health and wellness. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum providing an overview on the history of the program and direction of City initiatives.

(Attachment)



Summary of Fayetteville Street Streetscape Planning Process Timeline

Procurement Timeline

- 08/23/2024 - 09/16/2024: RFQ Open for Solicitations
- 09/16/2024 - 09/23/2024: Selection Panel Review and Short-Listed of Firms
- 09/25/2024 - 09/26/2024: Interview of Short-Listed Firms
- 09/30/2024: Selection Panel Discussion for Preferred Firm
- 10/01/2024: McAdams Notified of Selection
- 10/01/2024 - 12/06/2024: Contract and Scope Refinement
- 11/06/2024: Negotiation and Authorize Consultant Contract at City Council (Item F.3)
- 12/20/2024: Contract Executed

Deliverables

- 04/17/2025: Existing Conditions Report and Site Analysis
- 05/21/2025 - 06/12/2025: Draft Recommendations and Design Standards

Completed Outreach and Engagement Events

- 03/03/2025: Downtown Rundown
- 03/10/2025: DTR Independent Shops
- 03/20/2025: Stakeholder Meeting #1.0
- 03/20/2025: Stakeholder Meeting #1.5 (canceled due to no attendance)
- 05/09/2025: Event Organizer Stakeholder #1.0
- 05/13/2025: Event Organizer Stakeholder #1.5
- 05/27/2025: DRA Concept Design Discussion
- 05/29/2025: Stakeholder Meeting #2.0
- 05/29/2025: Stakeholder Meeting #2.5 (canceled due to no attendance)
- 06/12/2025: DRA Executive Board Meeting
- 06/16/2025: Open House #1

Ongoing Events

- 06/16/2025 - 07/01/2025: Survey #1

FAYETTEVILLE STREET STREETScape PLAN

Preliminary Concept Presentation

June 16, 2025



Raleigh



McADAMS

swa

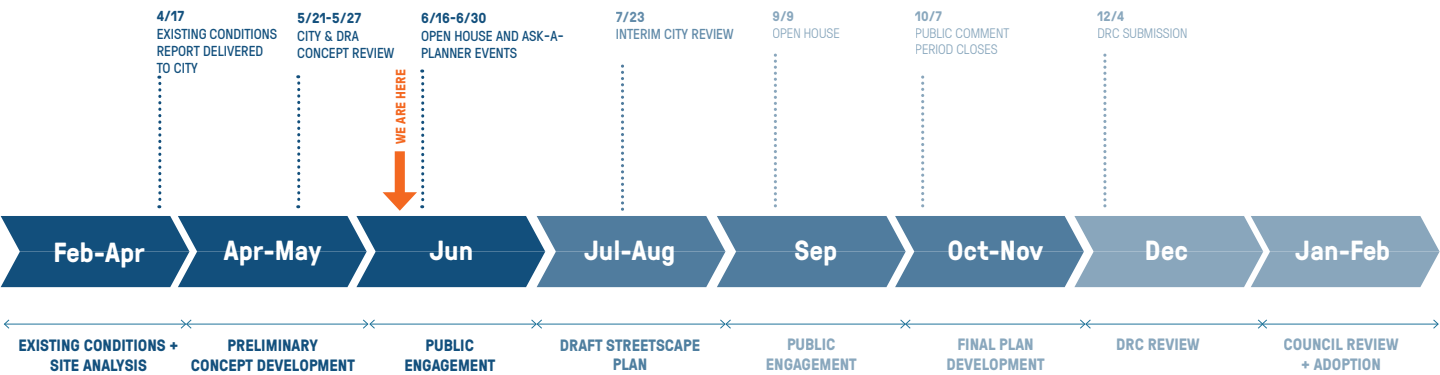
Project Area



Building on the DRA Economic Development Strategy



Project Schedule



Project Objectives

EMBRACE FLEXIBILITY

Eliminate physical and regulatory barriers that hinder outdoor dining and other activities that could help enliven the streetscape and City Plaza.

Project Objectives

BRING A FRESH TAKE

Refresh the aesthetics of the streetscape – less formal and rigid and more contemporary, playful, and green while maintaining Fayetteville's ceremonial function. Emphasize public safety and comfort.

Project Objectives

FOSTER PUBLIC REALM VITALITY

Create energy and attractions that will lure visitors and businesses to Fayetteville Street and keep it activated 24/7.

Project Objectives

CELEBRATE RALEIGH, NC

Integrate public art and other specialty elements that celebrate Raleigh and North Carolina's culture and history.

Project Objectives



MAKE IT REAL

Create a regulatory plan that will enable incremental improvements to the streetscape. Identify capital improvement projects that the City should undertake to provide consistency and enable private actions.

Design Methodology



Subtract

Remove barriers and obstacles that limit use such as planter walls, benches, news kiosks and urns.



Add

Introduce public art, wayfinding and signage, interactive public seating, and additional planting to enhance placemaking.



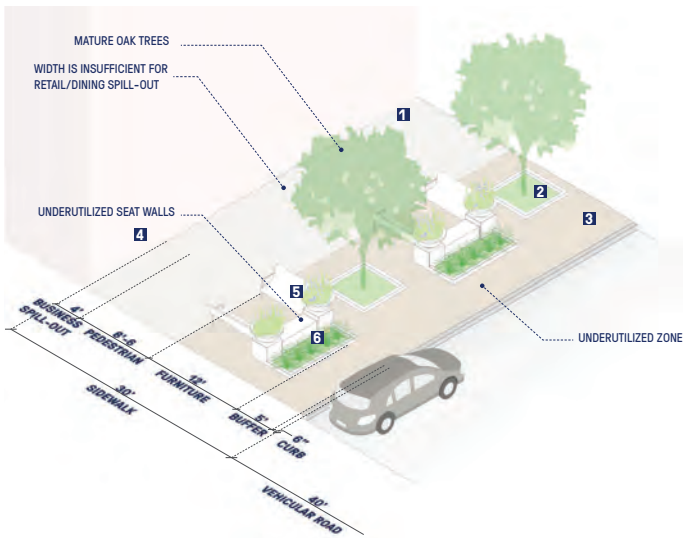
Refresh

Consider enhancements to existing elements such as pavement, plant material, lighting, and furnishings for a refreshed, contemporary aesthetic.

Test Fits

Typical Streetscape - Existing Condition

The typical dimension of the sidewalk from property line to the curb is 30 feet. This includes a 4' business spillout area, 8'-6" walk zone, 12' furniture zone including the street trees, and 5' buffer zone. Many of the businesses along Fayetteville have indicated that the 4' spillout area is insufficient for outdoor dining. Further, the arrangement of benches and walls in the furniture zone discourages use, particularly for outdoor dining and other sidewalk activations.



1 The 4' maximum permissible spill-out zone for retail and dining is insufficient.



2 Tree planting conditions vary. Most have open planters but there are a few occurrences of a tree grate.



3 The 5' wide strip between the curb and planters is unused.



4 There are stretches of inactive commercial facades.



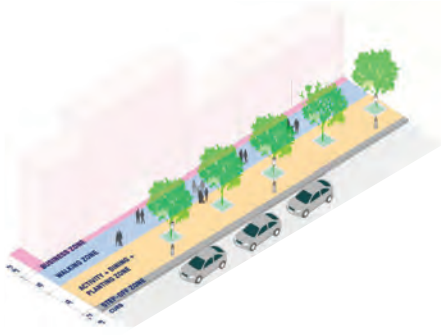
5 Benches are not placed at consistent intervals.



6 The seat walls are underutilized and adjacent planters are often not maintained.

Test Fits: Typical Streetscape

Test Fit A



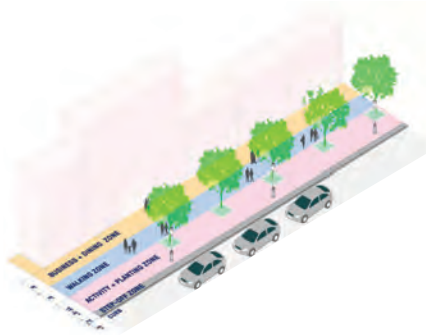
PROS:

- + Large activity zone for programming and outdoor dining
- + Walking zone is 10' wide
- + Similar to existing paving configuration
- + Existing trees are preserved and protected

CONS:

- Outdoor dining is not adjacent to building doors; F&B service has to cross walking zone
- Outdoor dining is close to the curb

Test Fit B



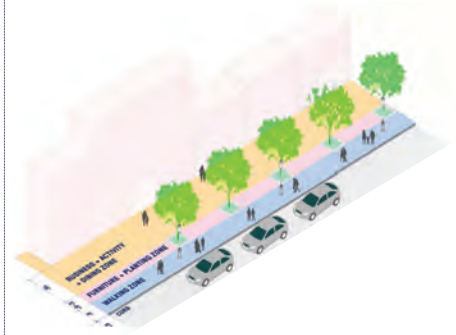
PROS:

- + Outdoor dining close to building doors; F&B service does not have to cross walking zone
- + Existing trees are preserved and protected

CONS:

- Activity zone is smaller than A and C
- Walking zone is less than 10' wide
- Buildings that do not have F&B could have large void/dead space between the walking zone and building

Test Fit C



PROS:

- + Outdoor dining close to building doors; F&B service does not have to cross walking zone
- + Existing trees are preserved and protected
- + Wide space for programming and outdoor dining

CONS:

- Parallel parking step-off zone is a part of the walking zone
- Walking zone is less than 10' wide
- Walking zone is obstructed by street lights
- Retail building frontages and doors are far from walking zone
- Narrowest furnishing and planting zone

Test Fits: Typical Intersection

Test Fit A



PROS:

- + Existing curb and infrastructure remain
- + Lowest cost option
- + Keeps construction limited to pedestrian areas

CONS:

- Does not announce the intersection as a special place
- Least amount of space for pedestrians
- Least amount of emphasis on the pedestrian experience

Test Fit B



PROS:

- + Existing curb and infrastructure remain
- + Medium cost option
- + Helps promote the pedestrian experience and creates a special place at each intersection

CONS:

- Technically the same amount of space for pedestrians as A, but feels larger due to continuous paving application

Test Fit C



PROS:

- + Adds space for pedestrians
- + Promotes the pedestrian experience and creates a special place at each intersection

CONS:

- Existing curb and infrastructure altered
- Most expensive option

Test Fits: Typical Mid-Block Crossing

Test Fit A



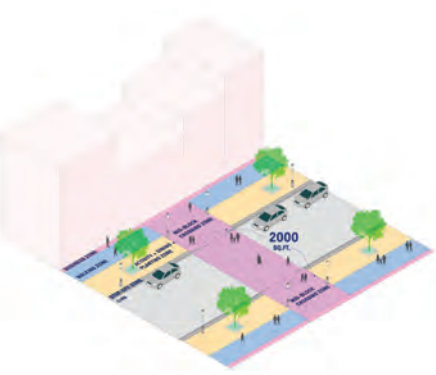
PROS:

- + Existing curb and infrastructure remain
- + Lowest cost option
- + Keeps construction limited to pedestrian areas

CONS:

- Does not announce the intersection as a special place
- Least amount of space for pedestrians
- Least amount of emphasis on the pedestrian experience

Test Fit B



PROS:

- + Existing curb and infrastructure remain
- + Medium cost option
- + Helps promote the pedestrian experience and creates a special place at each mid-block crossing

CONS:

- Technically the same amount of space for pedestrians as Option A, but feels larger due to continuous paving application

Test Fit C



PROS:

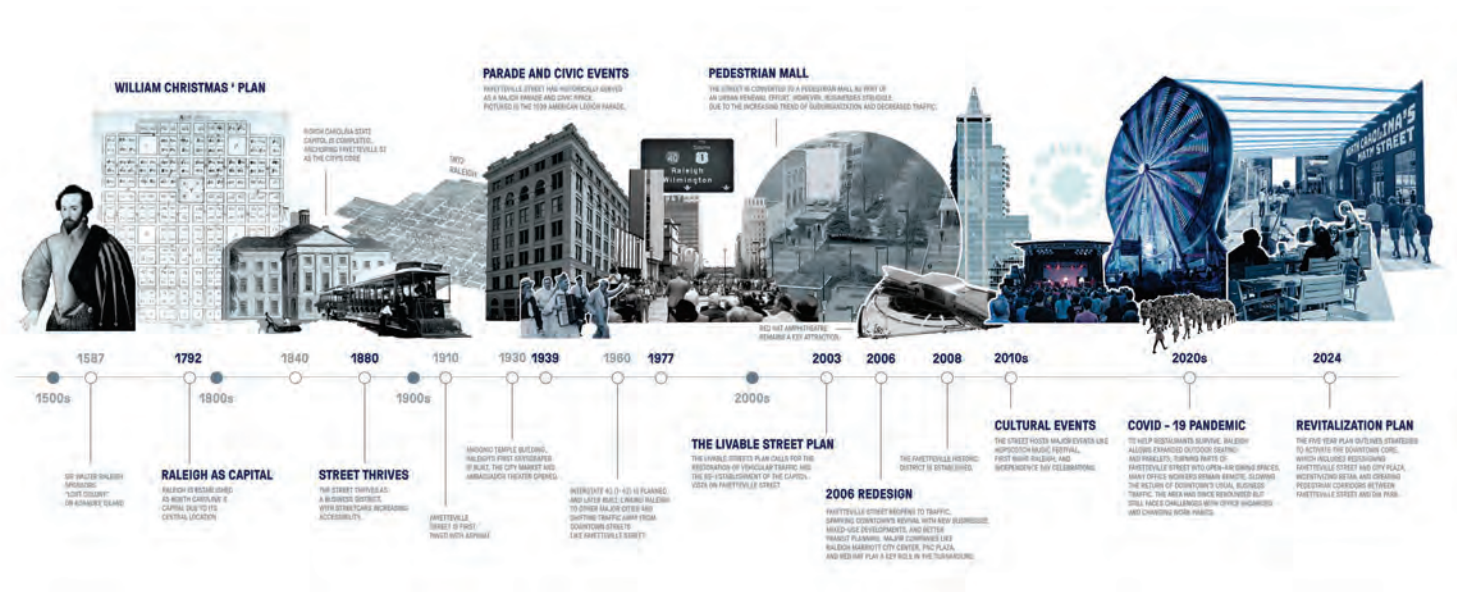
- + Adds space for pedestrians and creates raised crosswalk
- + Promotes the pedestrian experience and creates a special place at each mid-block crossing

CONS:

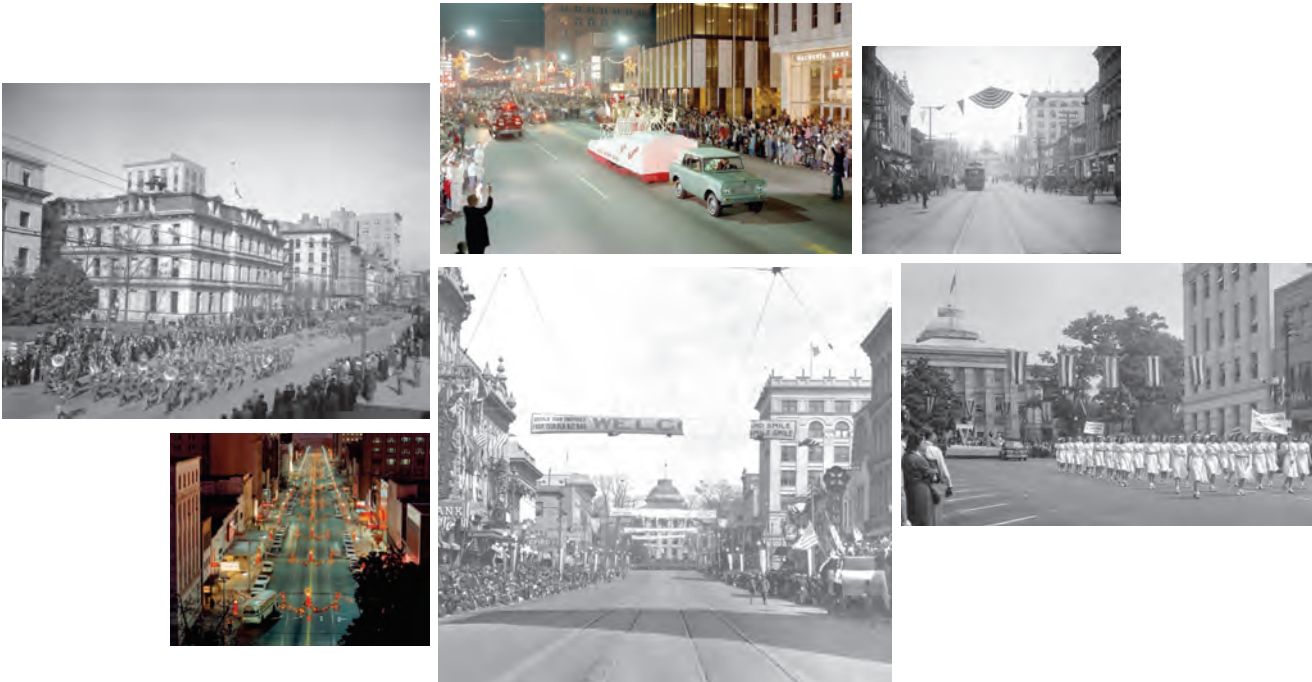
- Existing curb and infrastructure altered
- Most expensive option

Concept Options

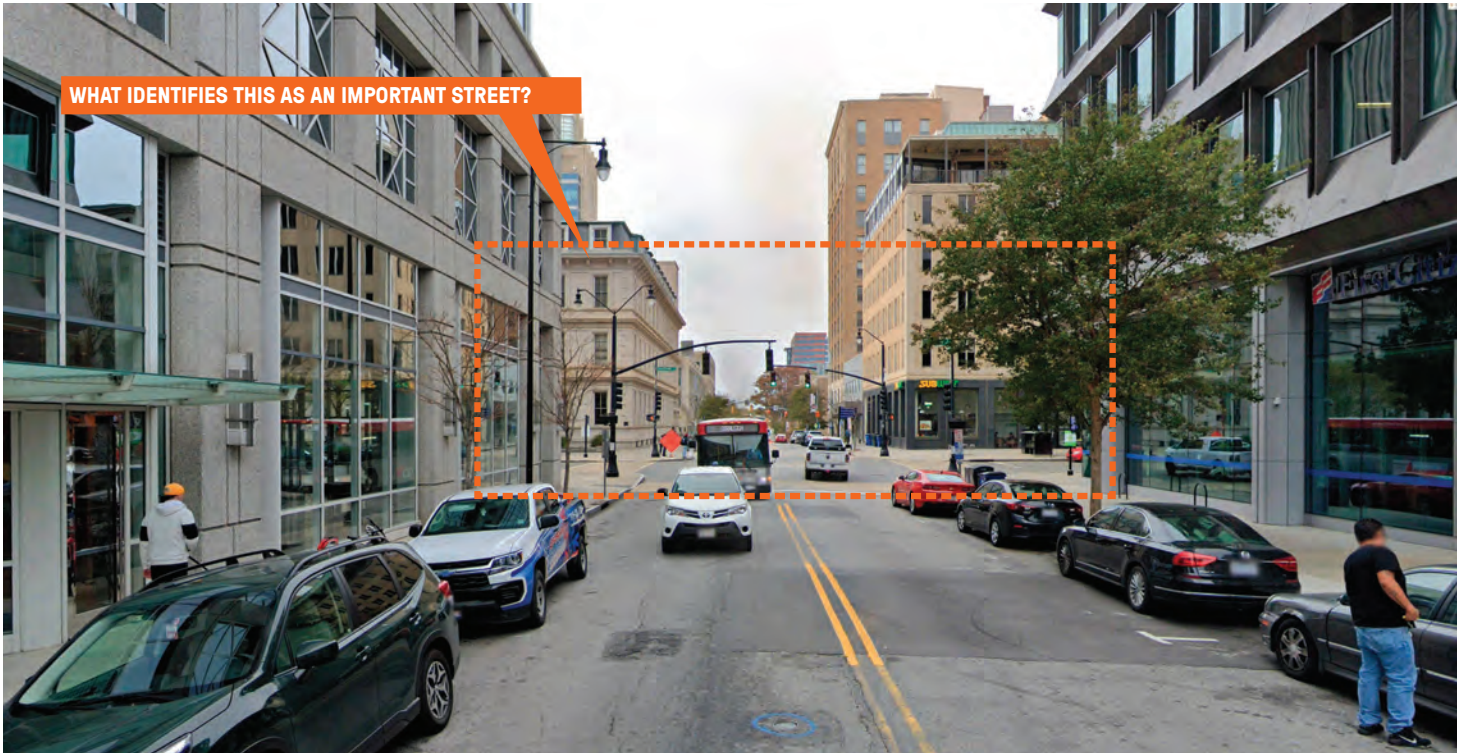
Fayetteville throughout History



A Space for Procession, Ceremony, and Celebration

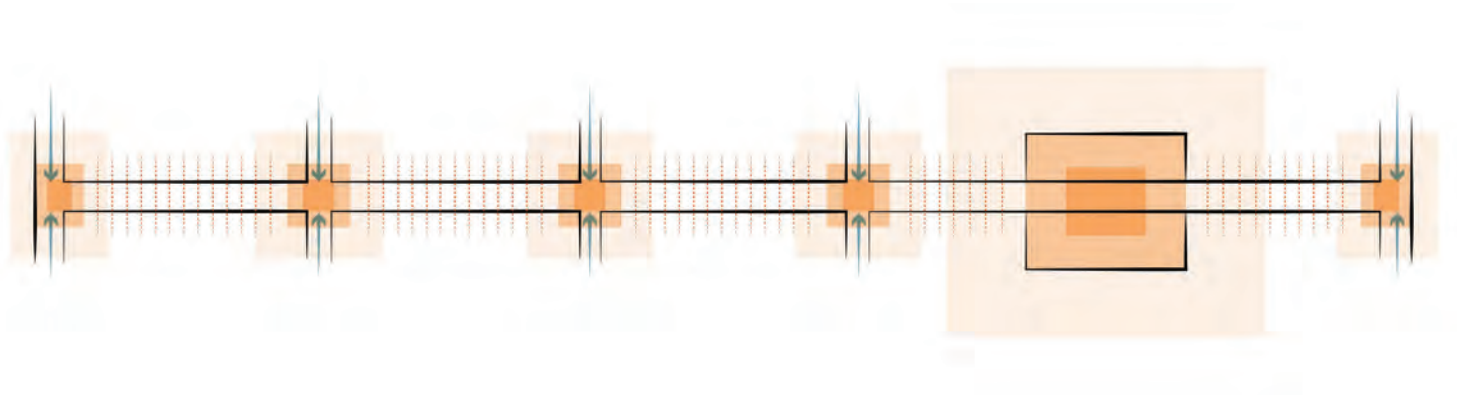


Existing Condition: Fayetteville Not Visually Prominent



Westward view on Martin Street looking toward Fayetteville Street

Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Concept 1: Procession & Celebration

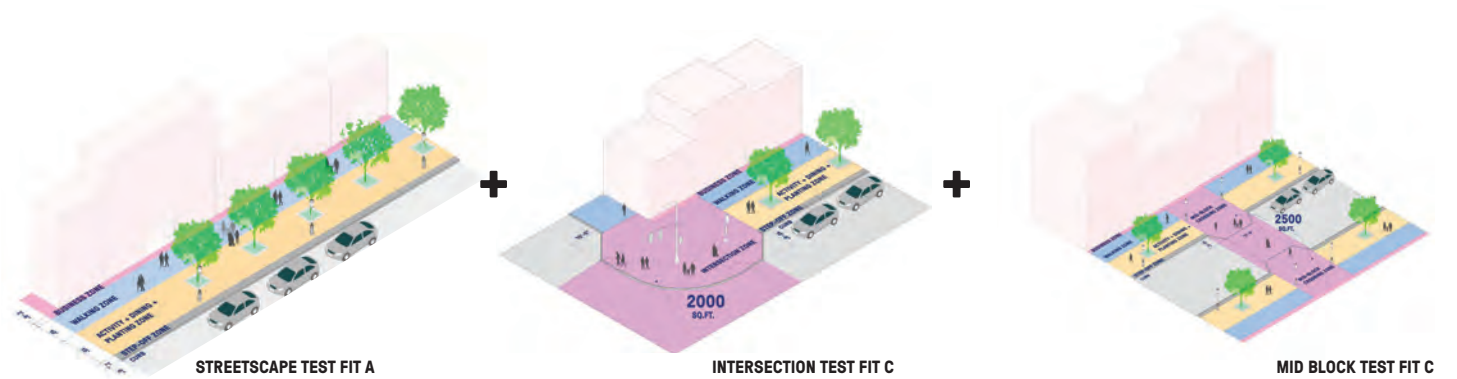
Streetscape Procession



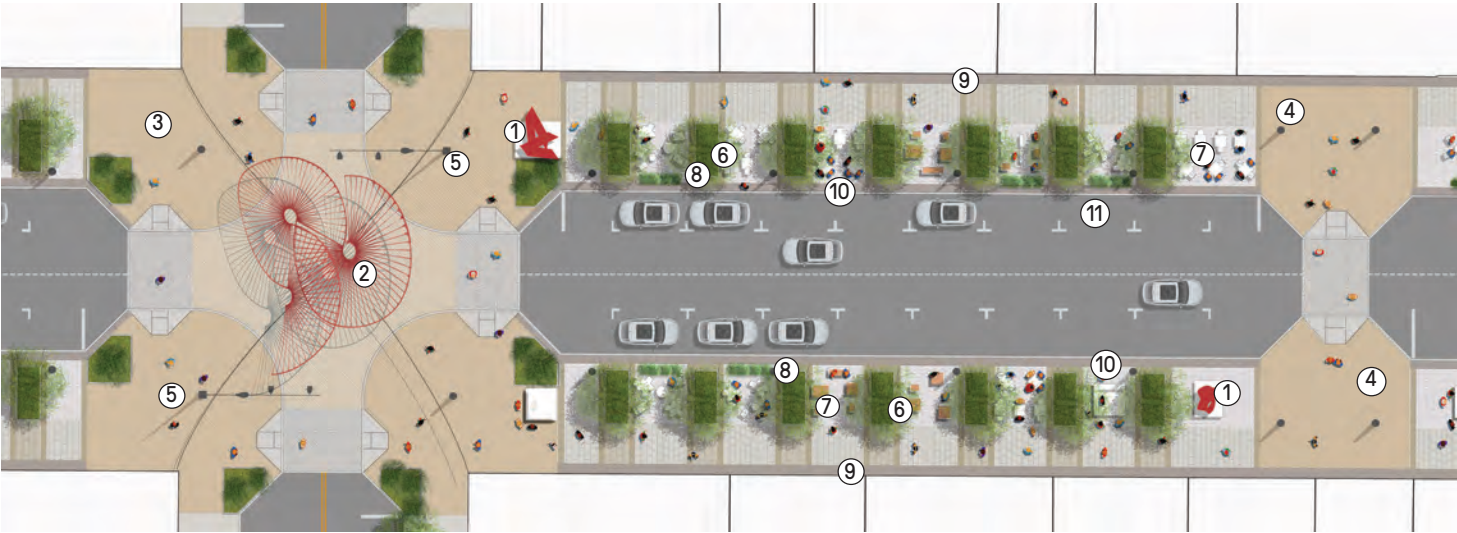
Intersection Celebration



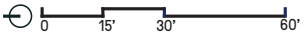
Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



- 1 Sculpture covering existing utilities
- 2 Overhead sculpture
- 3 Enhanced intersection paving
- 4 Enhanced mid-block crossing paving
- 5 Existing traffic light
- 6 Existing street tree
- 7 Site Furniture
- 8 Reorganized tree well with planting
- 9 Building frontage zone
- 10 Step-off zone
- 11 Parallel parking



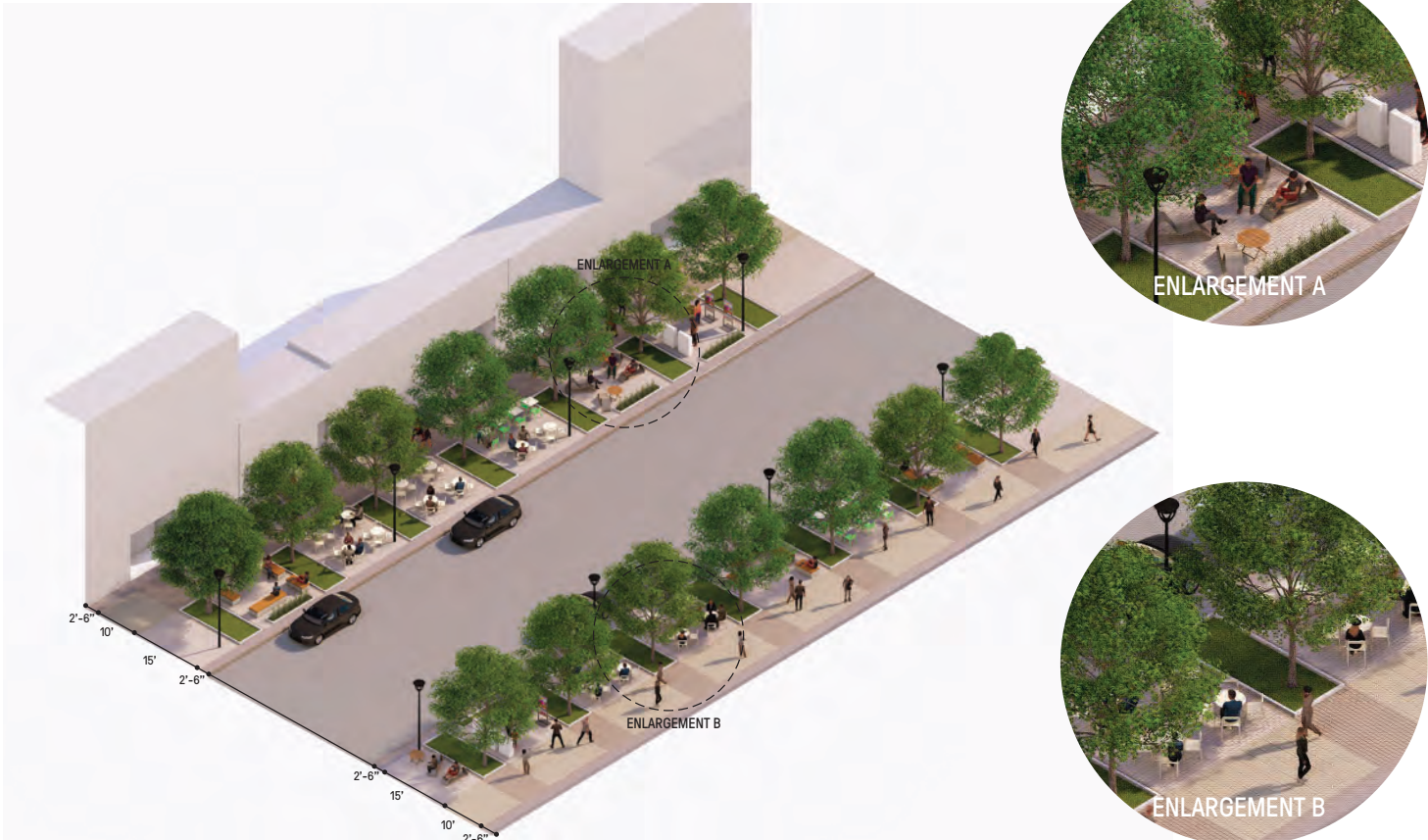
Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



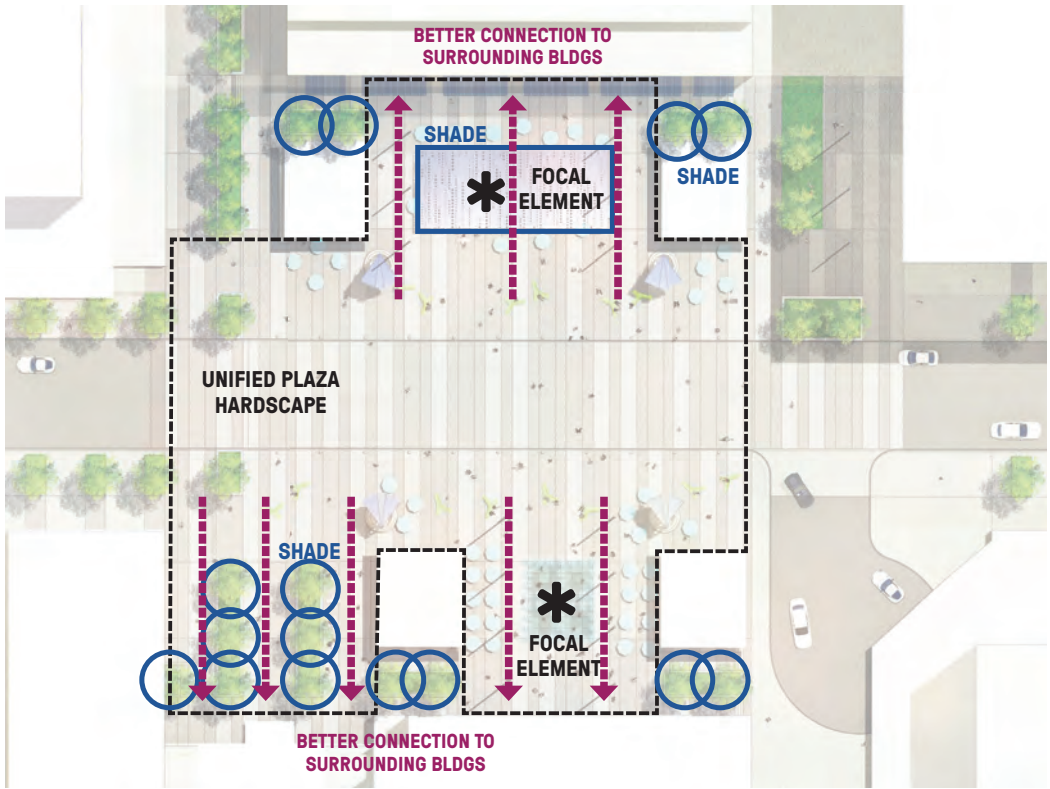
Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



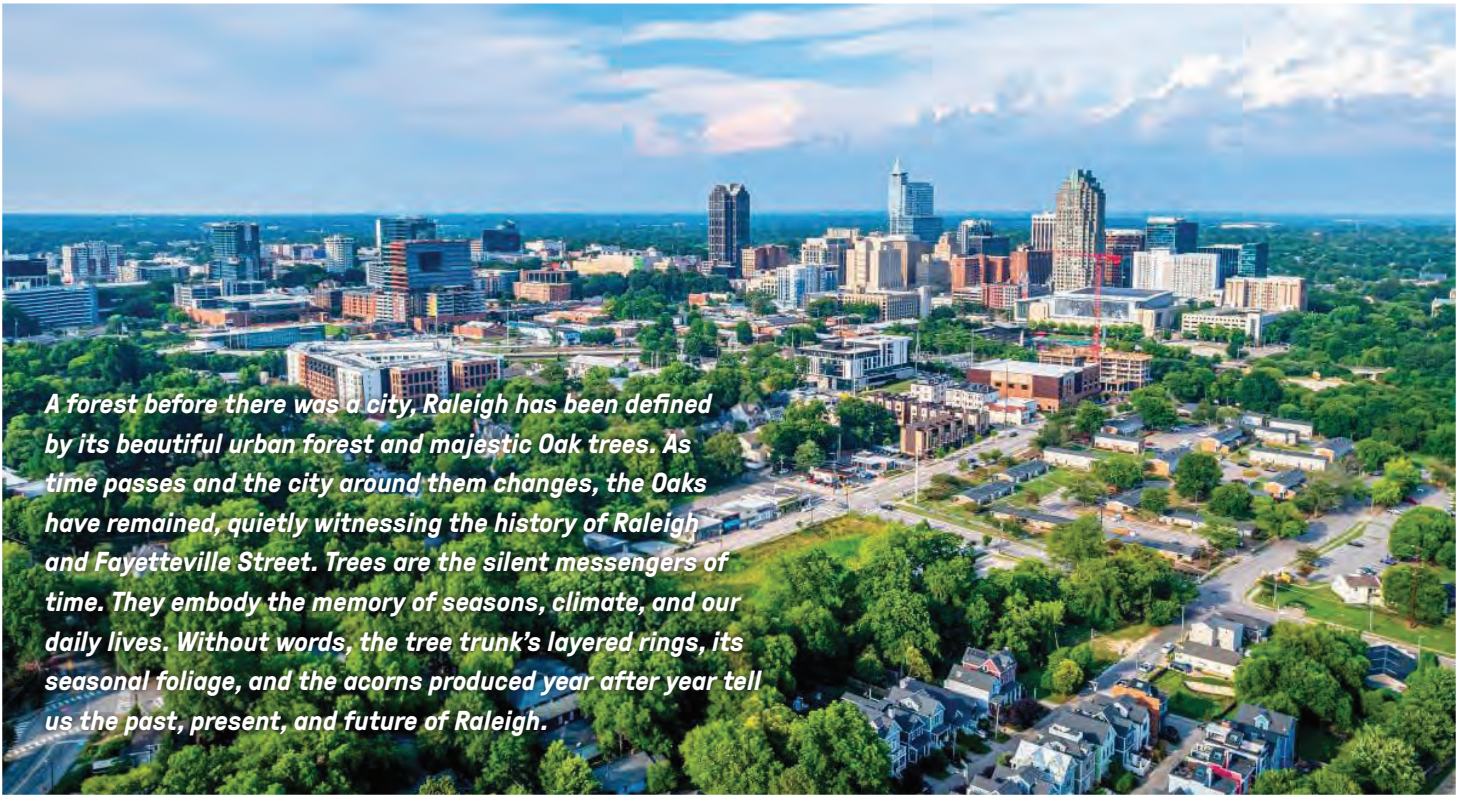
Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Concept 1: Procession & Celebration



Raleigh: The City of Oaks



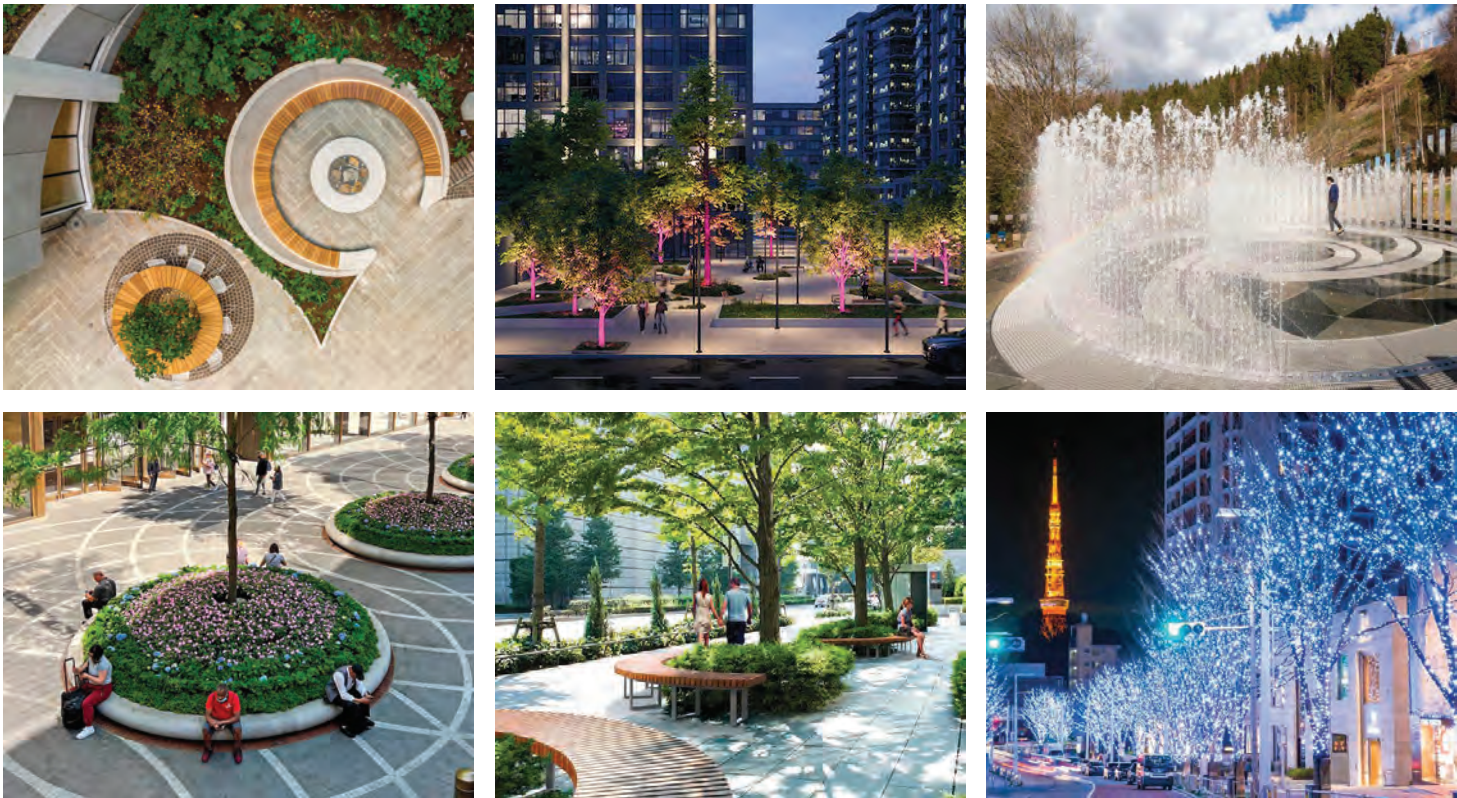
A forest before there was a city, Raleigh has been defined by its beautiful urban forest and majestic Oak trees. As time passes and the city around them changes, the Oaks have remained, quietly witnessing the history of Raleigh and Fayetteville Street. Trees are the silent messengers of time. They embody the memory of seasons, climate, and our daily lives. Without words, the tree trunk's layered rings, its seasonal foliage, and the acorns produced year after year tell us the past, present, and future of Raleigh.

Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks

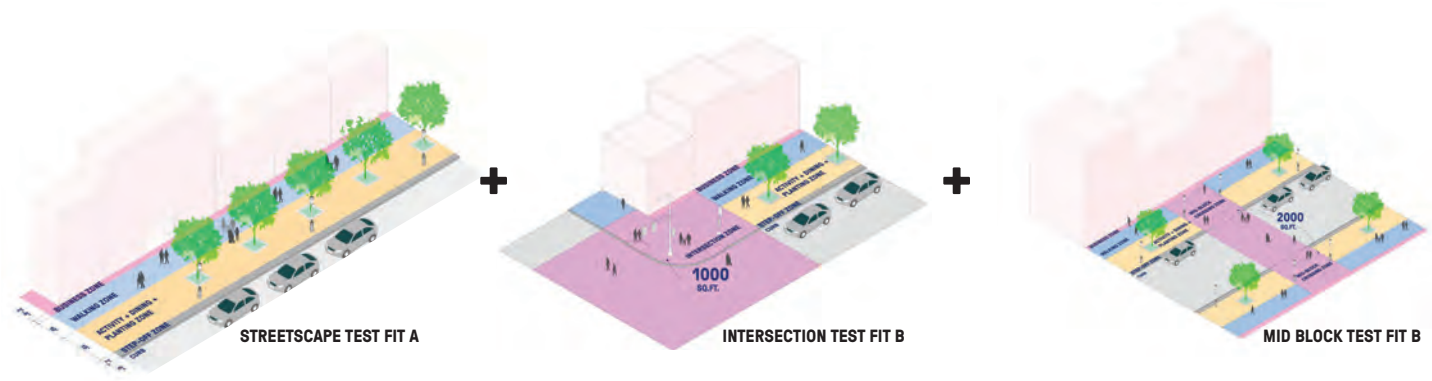
Abstracting the oak tree's anatomy



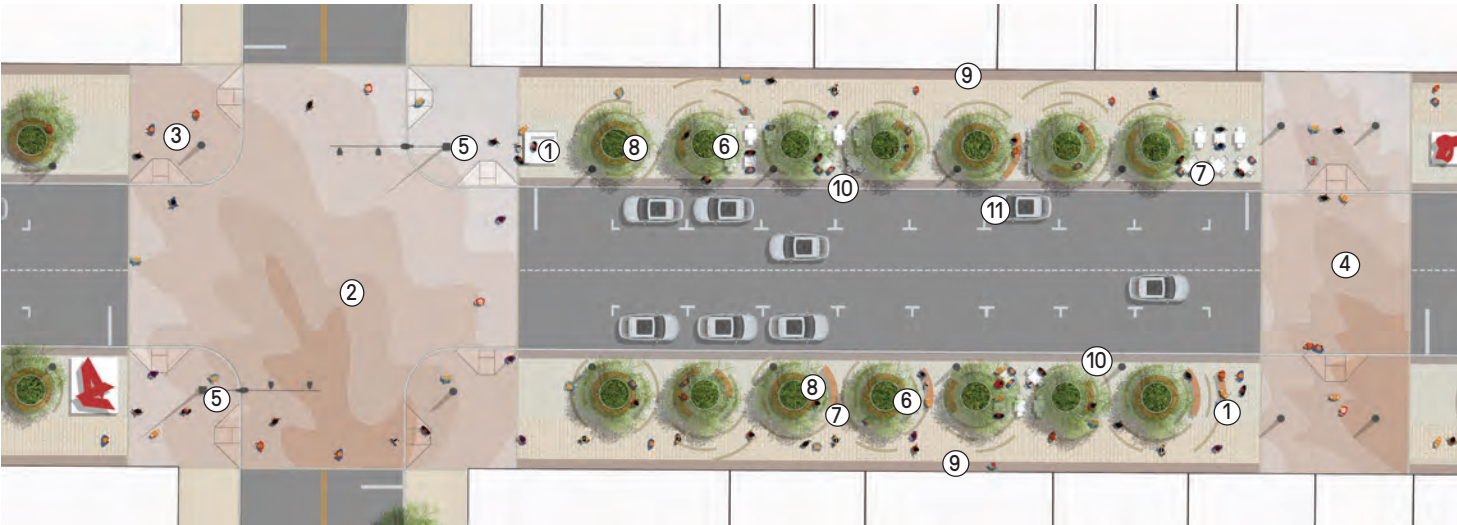
Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks

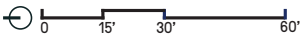


Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks

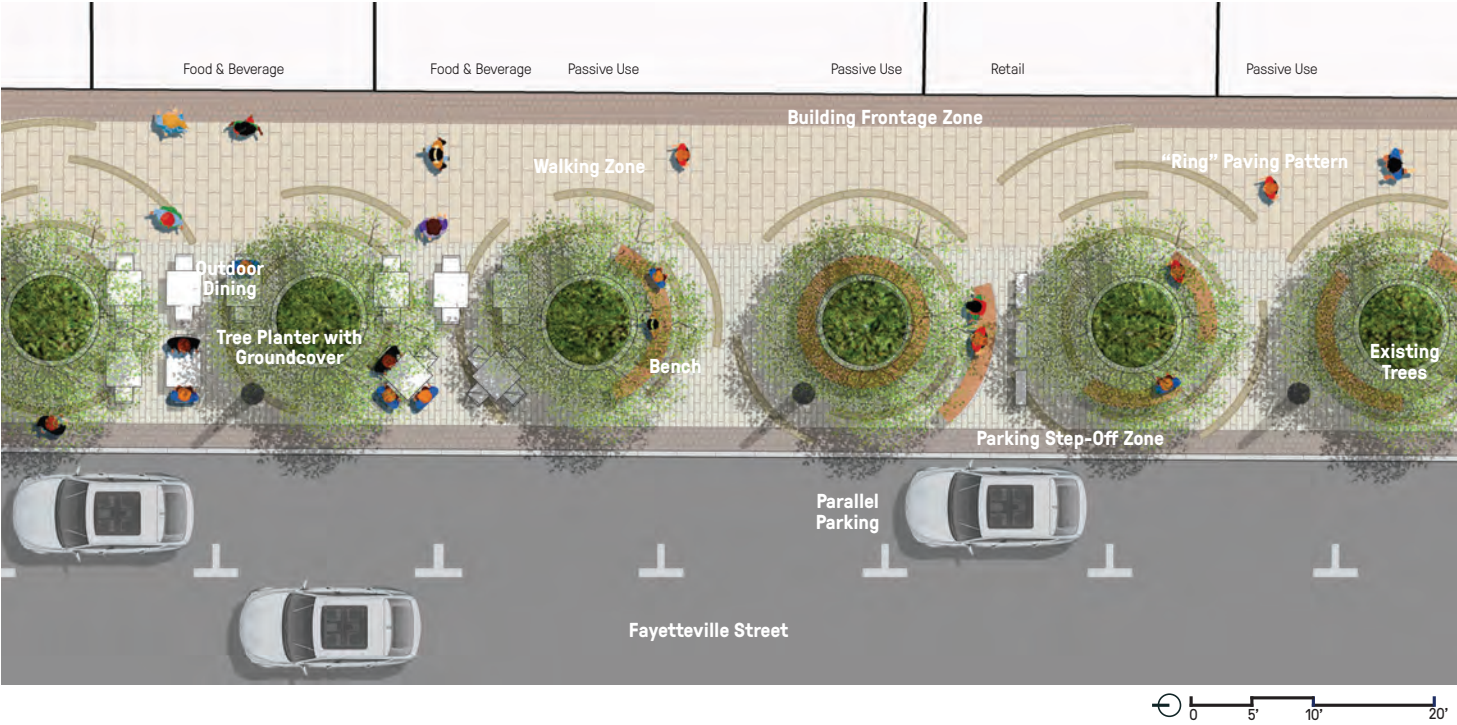


- 1 Platform seating cover existing utilities
- 2 Abstracted oak leaf paving
- 3 Enhanced intersection paving
- 4 Enhanced mid-block crossing paving
- 5 Existing traffic light
- 6 Existing street tree
- 7 Site Furniture
- 8 Reorganized tree well with planting

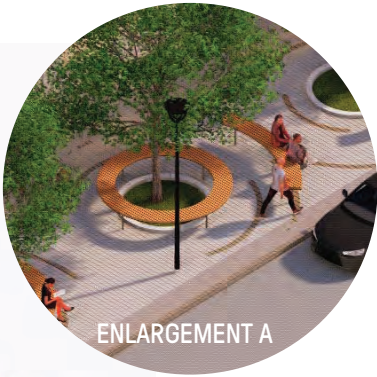
- 9 Building frontage zone
- 10 Step-off zone
- 11 Parallel parking
- 12 Circle bench



Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



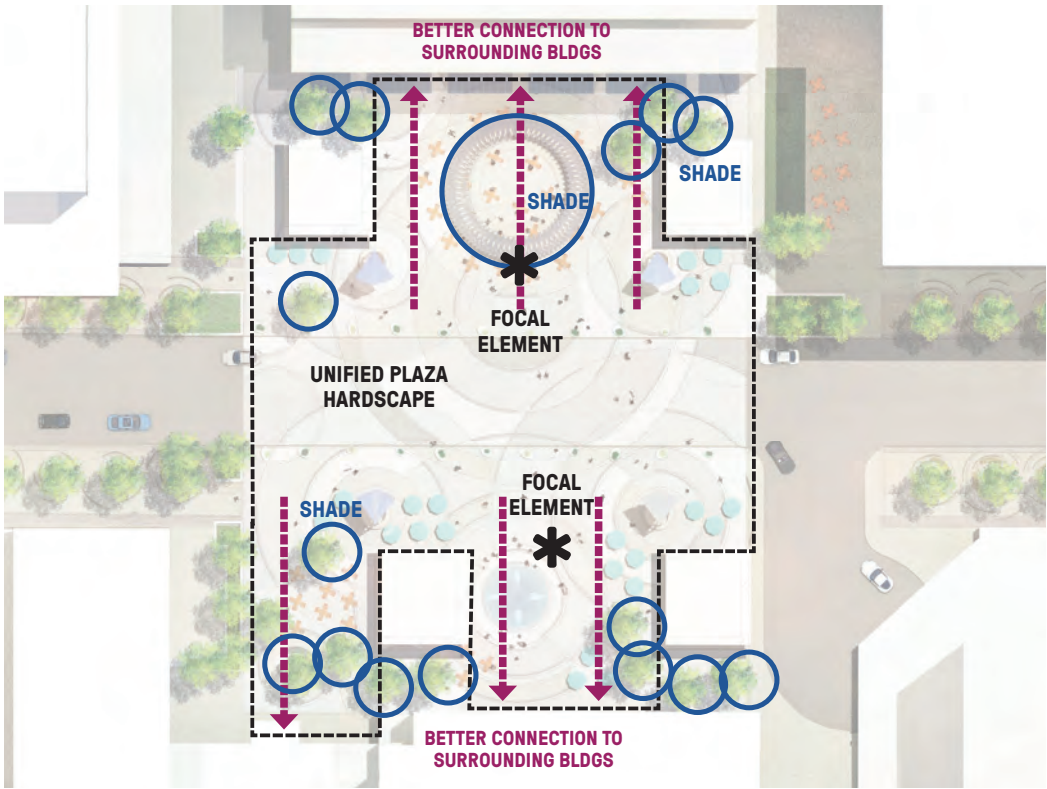
Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



Concept 2: Exalting the Oaks



Comparison of Concepts

CONCEPT 1: PROCESSION AND CELEBRATION

TYPICAL STREETScape AND INTERSECTION

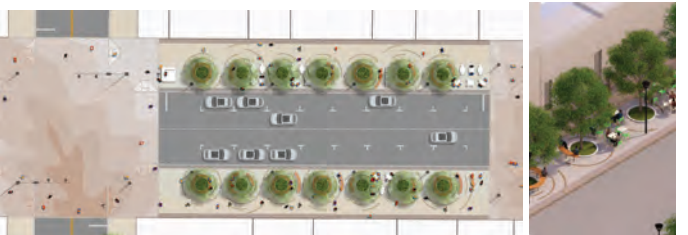


CITY PLAZA



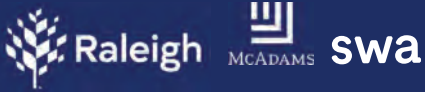
CONCEPT 2: EXALTING THE OAKS

TYPICAL STREETScape AND INTERSECTION



CITY PLAZA





To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Matthew Burns, CZO, Senior Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	June 17, 2025
Subject	Annexation Practices and Associated Growth Policies

Planning and Development is conducting a comprehensive review of the City's annexation practices and associated growth policies. The purpose of this review is to ensure alignment with municipal service commitments within corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). These efforts were prompted by recent process changes related to annexation petition review and requests for utility extension and connection. This memo summarizes the practices and policies of the status quo.

Recent Council Actions

During their January 2025 retreat, City Council received a staff presentation about Smart Growth and Annexation in Raleigh's jurisdiction. After the presentation, Council expressed interest in having staff evaluate the City's annexation practices and associated growth policies to ensure alignment with utility service commitments.

At their February 4, 2025, meeting, City Council adopted Ordinance No. (2025) 710 which aligned City code with the recently adopted Public Utilities Design Manual. The ordinance amended the city code section which addresses the extension of and connections to the City's water and sewer utility systems.

At their May 7, 2024, meeting, City Council adopted a new Sewer-Only Account Management Policy which established stringent eligibility criteria and notes that sewer-only connections are prohibited except in the case of public health concerns where a failing septic system cannot be reasonably repaired or replaced. The updated policy also increased the deposit requirements from one to three years of sewer service charges prior to connection.

Deferred Annexations and Petition Submittal Timing

Simultaneously, Planning and Development in coordination with Public Utilities and with guidance from the City Attorney's Office received new policy direction in February 2025 concerning both deferred annexations and the timing of annexation petition submittals during the development review process.

The new guidance for deferred annexations is based on Ordinance No. (2025) 710 which updated city code to align with the Public Utilities Design Manual. Single-service connections are only allowed in the instance of evidenced well or septic system failure. Connection to a second service requires submittal of another petition requesting full annexation into the city. Requests for single-service connection where failure does not exist or is not evidenced require submittal of a petition for full annexation into city limits. Single-service sewer connections are subject to contract requirements by public utilities regardless of annexation petition status.

The new guidance for the timing of annexation petition submittals resulted from an interpretation of existing city code and ordinances. Administrative Site Review and Preliminary Subdivision approvals may occur prior to annexation but must include conditions indicating that Council action for annexation is required prior to issuance of building permits, Site Plan Reviews, and utility extensions or connections. Annexation petition submittal is always required for utility extension or connection inside or outside of the city's ETJ.

City Resolutions and Ordinances

There are several adopted resolutions and ordinances which establish city practices for annexations, both within and outside of its jurisdiction, or utility connections.

Resolution No. (1993) 208 – Utility Extensions Outside Corporate Limits

This resolution requires any developer who wants to connect a property outside of the corporate limits to City utilities to submit an annexation petition to City Council. It states City Council is to review the request for consideration of annexation and determine whether annexation is to be initiated on a case-by-case basis.

Resolution No. (2013) 837 – City Participation in Public-Private Water and/or Sewer Extensions Outside City Limits

This establishes criteria for City participation in the provision of water and/or sewer extensions outside its corporate limits. It requires the requested utility extension be in a long-range Utility Service Area plan, or resolve a health or environmental issue; promote the orderly expansion of the utility system; and provide economic benefit to the City and serve the public. For sewer service extensions, it disallows or prohibits the installation of sewer pump stations to preserve the integrity of the sewerage basin. It also requires the property owner to negotiate right-of-way acquisition from private owners for any utility extension.

It also establishes standard requirements of the property owner be incorporated into any public-private agreement for utility extension: the submittal of an annexation petition; engineering or design of the utility extension at the owner's expense; payment of any extension or right-of-way costs; a minimum six-month period between contract execution and City acquisition of any right-of-way necessary for extension; reimbursement to the city of any right-of-way costs; and holding a public hearing prior to approval of the agreement.

Resolution No. (2022) 380 – Annexation Petitions Outside the ETJ

This resolution states that it is City policy not to accept annexation petitions for property outside of existing ETJ or an area formally being considered for ETJ extension. It allows several exceptions to the policy be considered on a case-by-case basis for potential annexation sites outside the ETJ:

- Emergency water or sewer connection for existing developed property;
- Property in Durham County identified in the Raleigh-Durham annexation agreement;
- Property between 540 and Strickland/Falls of the Neuse where development will meet watershed policies;
- Property in an adjacent city's ETJ which will be transferred to Raleigh by means of an amendment to an annexation agreement;
- Publicly owned land;
- Any parcel split by ETJ boundary at the time of adoption of the resolution;
- Property adjacent to contiguous city limits and adjacent or in close proximity to existing utility lines;
- Property adjacent to satellite city limits, in an area formally being considered for ETJ extension within five years, and adjacent or in close proximity to existing utility lines.

Ordinance No. (2025) 710 – Alignment of City Code and the Public Utilities Handbook

This ordinance requires water and sewer lines meet City standards prior to connection and/or dedication to the City. It also allows exceptions for existing dwellings:

- Emergency water-only connections only in case of well failure, if sewer is not available, and a sewer easement is dedicated;
- Emergency sewer-only connections only in case of septic failure, and subject to the City's Sewer-Only Account Management Policy.

This ordinance amended City Code Section 8-2063, Approval of Outside Extensions and Water and Sewer Lines Required and repealed Section 8-2065, Fee in Lieu of Construction. The ordinance was written to align the code with the recently adopted Public Utilities Design Manual (adopted November 19, 2024, and effective January 18, 2025). The code section which was revised addresses the extension of and connections to the City's water and sewer system outside of corporate limits. The revisions limit connection to only one of the City's utility systems (water or sewer) to existing residential dwellings that have well problems or septic system failure and removed certain exemptions for those connections. The updates adopted with the new ordinance aligned with Public Utilities' sewer-only account policy which went into effect on May 7, 2024.

Comprehensive Plan Policies

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan addresses municipal growth and expansion across several sections. Beginning in Section 2: Framework, the [Map F-2: Growth Framework](#) which

shows where the city encourages infill and mixed-use development and defines priority corridors based on transportation function and adjacent land uses. It establishes the vision for how Raleigh should grow in and around transportation corridors while accommodating anticipated residential growth and job opportunities.

Comprehensive Plan policies are used as criteria to evaluate requests for rezoning or annexations. Sections with major policies related to citywide growth include [Section 3: Land Use](#) and [Section 9: Public Utilities](#). The former addresses infrastructure, annexation, the ETJ, and urban service areas:

Table 1: Major Policies in Section 3: Land Use
LU 2.4 Large Site Development
LU 2.6 Zoning and Infrastructure Impacts
LU 3.1 Zoning of Annexed Lands
LU 3.2 Location of Growth
LU 3.3 Annexation Agreements
LU 3.4 Infrastructure Concurrency
LU 3.5 Watershed Management

The latter goes into more detail about infrastructure adequacy and standards, access and connection to water and sewer systems, and emergency connections:

Table 2: Major Policies in Section 9: Public Utilities
PU 1.1 Linking Growth and Infrastructure
PU 1.2 Infrastructure Maintenance
PU 1.3 Infrastructure Standards for Development
PU 1.4 Addressing Insufficient Utilities
PU 1.5 Sizing of Water and Sewer Lines
PU 1.6 Full Cost Pricing
PU 2.1 Utility Extension Outside the City
PU 2.2 Utility Extension Beyond Raleigh's Jurisdiction
PU 2.3 Emergency Utility Extension
PU 2.4 Water and Sanitary Sewer Installation
PU 2.5 Water and Sanitary Sewer Access
PU 2.6 Re-use Water Infrastructure

Other Comprehensive Plan sections which reference citywide growth, services, and infrastructure include [Section 10: Community Facilities and Services](#), which addresses facility distribution, growth projections, solid waste services, public safety, and emergency response. More broadly, [Section 14: Regional and Interjurisdictional Coordination](#) lists policies which support cooperation between the City and regional partners on transportation infrastructure and investment, land use and growth, economic development, and protection of natural resources such as watersheds.

Section 16: Area Specific Guidance also presents more detailed policies for growth, infrastructure, and utilities in specific regions of the City. Most relevant are the watershed areas of [Falls Lake](#) and [Swift Creek](#). The Falls Lake plan addresses zoning, density, impervious surface, and utility extension in the primary and secondary watershed areas. The Swift Creek plan is a direct analogue to the Swift Creek Land Management plan and interlocal agreement with policy guidance for land uses, density, impervious surface limits and public utilities. Both plans include policies about emergency utility extensions within the watershed.

Voluntary Annexation Eligibility

Per the City's adopted area plans, resolutions and ordinances, and its annexation authority granted by North Carolina state law, staff has prepared a map identifying areas of the city which are currently eligible for voluntary annexation (attached). Note that this map does not guarantee eligibility for annexation. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis by City of Raleigh staff in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and adopted city policy. Ultimately, all petitions for voluntary annexation must appear at public hearing before City Council for approval or denial.

Today, Raleigh comprises 138,924 parcels or about 153 square miles. The area eligible for annexation includes 10,001 parcels or about 36.44 square miles. The area currently eligible for voluntary annexation represents about an 23.8% potential increase in the corporate limits of Raleigh. Raleigh has added an average of 0.8 square miles (512 acres) per year through voluntary annexation over the past 10 years.

North Carolina State Law [2024-57](#), adopted in December 2024, prohibits local governments from initiating any down-zoning without the consent of the property owner. The law defines down-zoning as any zoning ordinance which affects an area of land by decreasing the development density, reducing permitted uses, or creating any type of nonconformity outside of a residential zoning district. Due to the down-zoning clause, expansion of ETJ is currently not available to municipalities in North Carolina. City initiated annexation has been impractical since 2011.

Reflecting Raleigh Events

As part of the Reflecting Raleigh Comprehensive Plan update, staff held the last of its series of Community Conversation events centered on [infrastructure and services](#) in May and June of 2025. The May 29 event featured keynote speaker Joe Minicozzi who

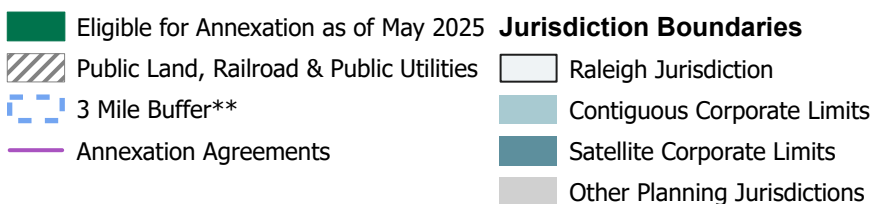
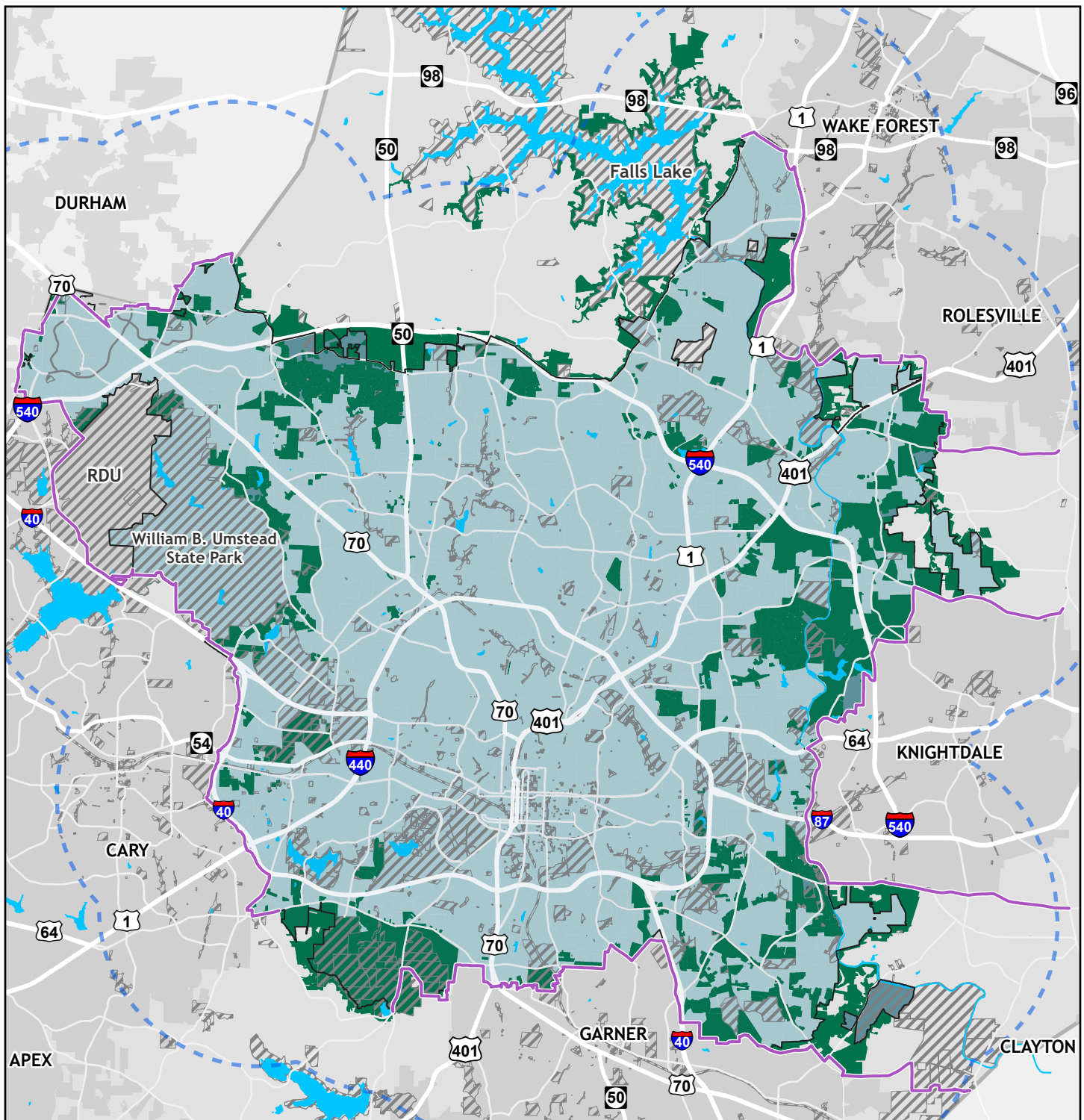
presented on [municipal service provision and economics](#) followed by a staff-led panel discussion about balancing Raleigh's growth and providing adequate services. On June 5, Raleigh Planning Director Pat Young presented a [State of the City presentation](#) focused on growth, development patterns, and public services. Following his presentation, staff facilitated a tabling event with members of the public to identify their priorities for city services and future growth. Short-term, the feedback received will inform upcoming changes to the city's growth strategy and current Comprehensive Plan; longer-term, it will inform Reflecting Raleigh's plan development phase which will begin summer of 2025.

Next Steps

Planning staff is providing this summary of existing annexation practices and growth policy as a reference resource for City Council. Moving forward, staff will be developing recommendations and options for changes and amendments to annexation practices and growth policy for City Council's consideration. Planning and Development will be coordinating with Public Utilities, Fire, Solid Waste and other city departments ensure alignment across the organization.

Following analysis and interdepartmental review, staff will present City Council with a range of strategy options. Options will include different approaches to managing growth through policy and map amendments and will allow Council to select its preferred direction. Staff anticipates presenting additional information on this topic during the September 16, 2025, City Council work session.

Annexation Eligibility*



*This map is for illustrative purposes only, and does not guarantee eligibility for annexation, as eligibility for annexation is determined on a case-by-case basis by City of Raleigh staff.

**Noncontiguous property must be within three miles of primary corporate limits to be eligible for annexation into the City of Raleigh, per NCGS Chapter 160A, Article 4A, in addition to conforming with all other criteria laid forth by Article 4A and Resolution 2022-380 with the City of Raleigh.

Prepared by City of Raleigh Planning and Development, 06/18/2025

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 20 – Thursday, June 26

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

Permitted Special Events

[Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan: Ask-A-Planner](#)

Exchange Plaza

Friday, June 20, Tuesday, June 24, & Thursday, June 26

Event Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm on 6-20-25, 6-24-25, & 6-26-25

Associated Impacts: No roads will be closed for the event. Exchange Plaza will be used from 11:15am until 1:15pm on 6-20-25, 6-24-25, and 6-26-25.

[Out! Raleigh Pride](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Friday, June 20 & Saturday, June 21

Event Time: 6:00pm - 10:00pm on 6-20-25 & 12:00pm - 7:00pm on 6-21-25

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 12:00pm on 6-20-25 until 11:00pm on 6-21-25. Hargett, Martin, and Davie streets between Salisbury and Wilmington streets will be closed, and Market and Exchange plazas will be used from 4:30am until 11:00pm on 6-21-25.

Other Upcoming Events

[Summer Solstice Sunrise Yoga](#)

Friday, June 20

Dix Park, Gipson Play Plaza

[Annual Fair Housing Conference 2025](#)

Friday, June 20

McKimmon Center

[NCMA Outdoor Films at Moore Square: *Piece by Piece*](#)

Friday, June 20

Moore Square

[Ali Siddiq](#)

Friday, June 20

Memorial Auditorium

[Kidz Bop Live](#)

Friday, June 20

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[The Driver Era](#)

Friday, June 20

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Dreamin' in Color](#)

Through Saturday, June 21

Raleigh Convention Center

Black History Trolley Tour

Saturday, June 21
Mordecai Historic Park

Juneteenth Storytelling Festival

Saturday, June 21
Latta University Historic Park

Flatland Cavalry & Ian Munsick

Saturday, June 21
Red Hat Amphitheater

The KickBack Sneaker Expo

Sunday, June 22
Raleigh Convention Center

North Carolina Bridal & Wedding Expo

Sunday, June 22
Raleigh Convention Center

Renaming Reception

Sunday, June 22
John P. "Top" Greene African American Cultural Park

Summer Concert Series

Sunday, June 22
Pullen Park

Ninja Kidz Live

Tuesday, June 24
Memorial Auditorium

2025 State FFA Convention

Tuesday, June 24 – Thursday, June 26
Raleigh Convention Center

311

Wednesday, June 25
Red Hat Amphitheater

Triangle Business Journal 40 Under 40

Wednesday, June 25
Fletcher Opera Theater

The Midweek Market

Wednesday, June 25
Moore Square

Lunch Box Lecture

Thursday, June 26
City of Raleigh Museum

The Color Purple

Through Sunday, June 29
Raleigh Little Theatre

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 20 – Thursday, June 26

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

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 & 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 Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Ryan Bergman, Assistant City Manager
From	Sadia Sattar, Budget and Management Services Director
Department	Budget and Management Services
Date	June 20, 2025
Subject	Council Follow-up Items – FY2025-26 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget

Below is a summary of questions that have been received from City Councilmember Megan Patton to seek additional information about the City Manager's FY2026 adopted budget.

Furthermore, the proposed budget book contained an error showing annual property tax and fee impacts for a median value home in the city. Staff has provided a clarification below.

1. How much interest did we pay last year on our general debt?

ANSWER: In FY2024, the City paid \$21,176,076 on interest for existing debt issued to support general government activities. The interest paid is published annually in the City's Annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (ACFR). The FY2024 report is linked below, and the General Fund figure is available on page 7 (page 68 of pdf). The City's ACFR can be obtained here: [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024](#).

For the current fiscal year (FY2025), the City budgeted \$27.9M for interest on existing debt issued to support general government activities.

2. \$16.6 M in income on investments. Is that primarily retirement, OPEB, etc.? Or what are the primary sources of the investments that are producing this income?

ANSWER: The City utilizes a sophisticated process for our investment portfolio to invest in financial instruments guided by North Carolina General Statute 159-30. The City's portfolio provides budgetary stability and predictability for investment income. The investments include US Treasury bonds and Government Agency bonds, NC municipal bonds, commercial paper, and liquidity accounts. The investment portfolio is expected to generate \$16.6M of interest income in the FY2026 General Fund budget.

Interest income earned on the City's Other Post Retirement Benefits (OPEB) investments is recorded within the City's OPEB fund. Annually as required by the state, the City contributes employer contributions towards the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERs).

3. Have we given consideration to where we might be able to insource the services offered by these orgs/non-profits to stretch our dollars farther?

ANSWER: Annual Council-approved grants to external agencies with either a 501(c)3 or a 501(c)6 status are intended to address quality of life and civic engagement activities and goals of the City. The City's investments in the nonprofit sector realize substantial returns as external agencies leverage grant funding to gain additional individual, business, and foundation support and activate community responses to quality-of-life issues and goals. Whenever public tax resources are used for these purposes, it is important for the intent of the grant to be clear, the deliverables to be defined and documented, the utilization of the funding to be clearly accounted for, and for the City department/office administering the grant to provide direct oversight to the external agency to ensure that public funds are used as intended.

FY2025 has marked a period of transition in the City's External Agency Grant programs (i.e., Arts, Human Services, and Community Enhancement Grants). Budget and Management Services hired a new Grants Program Manager to provide support to the External Agency Grant programs in September 2025, roughly one month prior to the FY2026 grant cycle kickoff. In addition, administration of the Human Service Agency grants transitioned from the Department of Economic and Social Advancement to the Housing and Neighborhoods Department in late 2024. Due to departmental reorganization, oversight of the Community Enhancement Grant program also shifted in FY2025.

With new staff and departmental realignments in place, FY2026 affords staff an opportunity to assess opportunities for insourcing services offered by these organizations in advance of the FY2027 External Agency Grants cycle.

4. Do we have a process for reassessing legacy grant recipients? term limits or any other mechanism that ensures the partnerships are still fruitful, serving on our vision for the city, etc.

ANSWER: For the Human Service Agency Grant programs, Legacy Grant recipients are Human Services grantee organizations that have historically received support by City Council and receive additional General Fund support. The Housing and Neighborhoods Department is responsible for providing management and oversight of the combined funding totals for Legacy Organizations as a part of the Human Services Agency Grant program.

As currently designed, the performance reports are submitted twice a year, in January and July. The performance is measured by the number of service units they planned for in their application and how many they end up delivering. They are reimbursed as a

percentage of this ratio applied to their allocated funding. For example, if the total award = \$100 for 100 planned units of service, and the organization only provides 75 units, then they only receive \$75.

In the past two years, the Community Enhancement Grant (CEG) program has focused on funding 4 CEG nonprofits (\$50,000/subrecipient). The \$200,000 allocation has been divided equally among recipients, supporting a consistent and efficient funding formula.

Applicants can apply for and receive CEG funding for two consecutive years. This is documented in the Request for Proposals (RFP) and on the City website. After two consecutive years of applying and receiving funds, the applicant is no longer eligible for funds. Staff have tracked applicants for the last four cycles to include as part of the assessment, noting which organizations have applied multiple times, which have applied multiple times and received funding, and which have applied multiple times and not received funding.

Raleigh Arts multi-year agreements are detailed in Attachment One.

- 5. TIGs – based on my math if TIGs can make up 2% of the property tax levy, we can fund up to \$8.5M in TIGs this upcoming FY (if relevant applications came in, etc.). Do I have that right?**

ANSWER: Yes, that is correct. The tax levy for the FY2026 property tax is 2% of \$427,353,000, which equals \$8,547,060.

- 6. Office of Strategy and Innovation – Are there specific examples, even anecdotally, of specific work this team has done with other departments that benefited residents either directly or indirectly? “Because of our event with [department], they were able to [launch a new service/gain efficiencies/etc.]”**

ANSWER: The City of Raleigh’s Office of Strategy & Innovation (OSI) is a one-of-kind team that boldly drives organization-wide strategy, catalyzes public-private-community partnerships, and empowers public innovators. In FY2025, OSI partnered with departments to enhance City services, develop pilots, and increase staff innovation skillsets. A selected list of highlights include:

Strategic Plan Support (Partnership with Digital Inclusion Program)

OSI support for the EDI 4.2 strategic initiative resulted in a \$300,000 grant from the NC Department of Information Technology for the Digital Inclusion Program to pilot new digital literacy events and expanded mobile device distribution events. Day to day, youth engage in a variety of activities to learn digital skills, practice public speaking skills, and offer basic digital literacy and technical support to residents. Our residents shared countless stories about the impact of this work: “I am so grateful for all the assistance...I don’t feel ashamed to come in here and ask for help because I am treated with such dignity and respect.” By 2026, the Digital Inclusion Program expects to host 70+ digital inclusion events, distribute 250+ devices, and reach more than 550 additional residents.

Raleigh Impact Lab (Support for 15 departments)

OSI developed and led **trainings & workshops** open to all City staff resulting in introductory innovation trainings, 2 topical workshops based on internal department requests, and 2 mindfulness 2-day trainings. Key benefits to staff include:

- **Increases in 9 key innovation skills and mindsets**, ranging from 13%-43% in scores from baseline to follow-up.
- **Increases in emotional intelligence and resiliency**, including reported ability to: remain calm in challenging situations (92%); bounce back from setbacks (92%), ability to address systemic or organizational challenges (92%).
- *Comments from staff include the following:*
 - *“As a relatively risk-averse person, I started this program with the impulse to say “no” first, figure it out second, and come back to it with my own organizational strategy third. This program provided an environment that taught us how to take risks in a way that was supported, structured, effective, and efficient--I could say “yes” first in so many different ways and work from there. Learning this Design Thinking method filled in so many blanks for me regarding both addressing the actual needs of the community and working through a safe and supportive way of practicing actionable and applicable innovative ways of solving problems!”*
 - *“This was a gift to myself.”*
 - *“[I recommend] making this course part of COR supervisor training, required to be taken within 2 years of taking on a supervisory or managerial role.”*

Greenway Innovation Project (Partnership with Parks, IT, Stormwater, and Transportation)

OSI brought together cross-departmental staff to apply creative problem-solving strategies to improve the resident experience on the greenways. Staff members produced 130+ brainstormed solutions, **tested 20 prototypes with Raleigh residents and staff**, and presented **6 solutions** to the PRCR director, with **100% of these solutions advancing for further pilot testing**.

This project included resident engagement sessions, which were extremely well received: 100% of participants were satisfied with their engagement and would participate again in the future. One resident said: “I’m so impressed to see the City of Raleigh, not only reaching out to engage residents, but to generate future plans based off that feedback AND communicate it back in a fresh way and in a creative location.” The project resulted in designating a 1-mile section of the Crabtree Creek Trail between Kiwanis Park and Atlantic Avenue the **Greenway Innovation Corridor** where the City is continuing to test emerging practices and technologies intended to improve trail user experience and safety, for example Glow-in-the-Dark Centerline Markings to test effectiveness in improving trail user safety in low-light conditions, primarily within one hour of sunset.

DMV Site Project Steering Group Support (Partnership with Community Engagement)

OSI supported the Community Engagement Department on the Former DMV site project by facilitating a Project Working Group (PWG) session and guiding the group through a design-thinking process. OSI helped analyze and synthesize data from community surveys, case studies, and market scans, and designed interactive activities to help the group identify and prioritize community needs. OSI recommended that the group further narrow the priority areas and begin assessing the feasibility of potential ideas for the site.

City Hall Transition Process (Partnership with CMO, Engineering Services, Finance, Communications, Customer Experience, and IT)

OSI led a cross-functional team through a reverse scheduling process to align on high priority tasks, dependencies, and needs for the move into the new City Hall. Led two workshops and compiled a **Gantt chart of 152 tasks** covering now until October 2027 across teams.

Entrepreneur Support – Impact Partner Grants

In FY2023-2025, **OSI invested \$275,000 in nineteen (19) businesses to:**

- Serve 200+ business owners and job seekers
- Host 100+ education/training events
- Deliver 200+ hours of professional development
- Create/retain 25 jobs and 1,700+ employment hours
- Help businesses secure \$1.2M in contracts/funding

The FY2025 grant cycle funds entrepreneurship and workforce development, including helping kids build a hot sauce business from farm to table, certifying a new generation of doulas in maternal and natal care, connecting college students to start up internships, teaching construction skills, and upskilling current entrepreneurs, in English and Spanish, to help grow their businesses.

Artist in Residence (Partnership with Raleigh Arts and Community Engagement)

The Documentarian in Residence, StoryShed Studio, is working with the DMV Site Project Working Group and other community groups in the New Bern area to collect and share stories, including oral history interviews. Their residency plan was approved by the Public Art and Design Board on January 28, 2025. The approved plan included workshops, outreach to the community through Ike Kiosks and surveys, and collaborative projects. “Your Voice, Your Story: Oral History Workshop” in June 2025.

Smart Raleigh Program (Partnership with Parks and IT)

The Smart Lighting & Outdoor Wi-Fi Pilot Project at Peach Road Cultural Center piloted the installation of four Signify Smart Lights with associated sensors and dashboard and the deployment of Meraki Wi-Fi Access Points resulting in:

- **Energy Savings** and a lower dimming schedule reduced energy (and CO2) utilization—4,493 less units of CO2
- **Notification of problems** and outages on a performance management dashboard
- **Enhanced safety** through the dimming and illumination of lighting triggered by motion or noise
- **Digital Equity:** Ability to easily deploy Outdoor Wi-Fi with average of 689 “clients” using the Wi-Fi monthly.
- **Identification of Resident Needs:** Project identified high need for WIFI access by Spanish Speaking residents—generally over each month between 50%-60% of the logins were from the Spanish page each month.

7. Is the partnership with Great Raleigh Cleanup continuing into the next FY?

ANSWER: City staff secured funding for two years to pilot The Great Raleigh Cleanup program, from June 12, 2024 through June 9, 2026 (\$97,500 each year).

8. Is the e-bike funding ongoing? This was one of our most popular initiatives.

ANSWER: We are in the process of finalizing a grant for an additional \$80,000 from the Bloomberg Philanthropies. This grant provides an additional 48 low-income vouchers and 16 standard vouchers. Given the “uneven adoption” (persons awarded a voucher but then not using them, nor notifying us that they’ve declined to use them), we haven’t identified ongoing funding available for the program past the Bloomberg grant we’ve just received. We planned to see how the adoption process all balances before proceeding further.

9. We’ve heard some request for a virtual option for Citizens Leadership academy. Would we consider running a virtual option periodically?

ANSWER: Staff offered two virtual semesters of Citizens Leadership Academy during Covid, and they were difficult to facilitate due to the high level of interaction and collaboration needed for the course. A virtual platform is offered for Raleigh Neighborhood College because the goal of that course is to provide information. Citizens Leadership Academy is focused on application and works better in person.

10. Can I hear more about the Neighborhood Navigators program?

ANSWER: Neighborhood Navigators is an engaging video series that promotes local pride by spotlighting the unique features of Raleigh’s neighborhoods, residents, and amenities. Through visually captivating storytelling, the series highlights the diverse communities where residents live, work, and play. This initiative is available to neighborhoods that are part of the Community Engagement Department’s Raleigh Neighborhood Registry. The goal is to give communities the opportunity to tell their own stories — sharing why they chose to live there, what makes their neighborhoods strong, and how unity and local assets build a sense of belonging.

How it works: To participate, interested community members must complete an online application, providing details about themselves and their neighborhood. Once

submitted, the Neighborhood Enrichment team reviews the application and schedules a site visit. If selected, the team collaborates with Raleigh Television Network to schedule and produce the video shoot. The entire process takes approximately 60 days from application to video release. This program aligns with the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) model, which many neighborhoods are already practicing. ABCD is also taught in the Citizen Leadership Academy, a capacity-building program led by the Neighborhood Enrichment team.

Impact so far: To date, Brentwood and Method neighborhoods have been featured. Upcoming features include Worthdale and more neighborhoods to follow. Neighborhood Navigators is more than just a video series — it's a platform for communities to celebrate their identity, showcase their strengths, and inspire others to think deeply about what makes a neighborhood thrive.

11. I notice there is an anticipation of workers comp claims in the year ahead. If this only related to growth in headcount? Or are there other factors?

ANSWER: Workers' Compensation claims are projected to increase in FY2026, which is consistent with claim trends over the past few fiscal years. Risk Management and Human Resources staff confirmed the projection and attributed the increase to filling vacancies and workforce expansion.

12. P 283 – the CIP shows \$30M for PeopleSoft in year three. Is that correct?

ANSWER: \$30 million in capital funding is planned for FY28 for the replacement of PeopleSoft. The City will use these funds to implement a new enterprise resource planning software (ERP).

13. Is discussion of credit card fees coming back to us?

ANSWER: Staff is reviewing credit card fees including reviewing technology capabilities and policies. Staff expect to share credit card fee recommendations with Council in Fall/Winter.

14. Stormwater – With home insurance fees on the rise, what would be needed to further lower our CRS score?

ANSWER: Below is an explanation of how the points system works that determines a community's Community Rating System (CRS) class. As noted previously to City Council, Raleigh Stormwater's plan is to become a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) in the next 3-4 years. Being a CTP can make it easier to provide the necessary documentation to improve our CRS class given the improved access to technical resources and data. FEMA encourages CTPs to align their initiatives with CRS point-generating activities to maximize benefits as described in more detail below.

Achieving the below will require one additional Stormwater staff FTE and additional consultant funding that will be proposed in future budget requests to City Council.

Raleigh's Current CRS Class: 5

Class 5 Flood Insurance Discount: 25%.

Each improvement in class earns an additional 5% off NFIP policy premiums. Our next goal is to achieve Class 4, which would receive a 30% flood insurance discount. (For reference Class 5 is tied for the second-best CRS rating in NC (only Charlotte has a better CRS class rating in NC - a 2 that receives a 40% discount).

1. To Achieve Class 4, Raleigh Must Earn a Minimum of 3,000 Points

Current Credits: 2,579

We are currently short of the required points to move to Class 4. To address this, we are developing two key initiatives:

- **Program for Public Information (PPI):**
The PPI will serve as a credit multiplier for many of our current activities. It is a comprehensive outreach and public education program that requires the formation of a committee and recurring annual meetings.
- **Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA):**
A detailed RLAA will be developed later this year, which will provide valuable additional credits toward our goal.

2. Develop a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan:

Summary of Key Plan Components:

1. **Assessment & Characterization:**
Define watershed boundaries, identify natural features and land use patterns, inventory water resources, and analyze community demographics and pollution sources.
2. **Goal Setting & Problem Definition:**
Establish broad environmental goals such as water quality improvement and flood risk reduction; identify specific issues and challenges.
3. **Management Strategies & Implementation:**
Recommend best practices, outline actionable implementation plans including timelines, funding sources, responsible parties, and performance monitoring.
4. **Public Involvement:**
Promote community participation and stakeholder engagement through outreach activities.
5. **Additional Considerations:**
Secure necessary funding, maintain adaptability for evolving challenges such as climate change or new data.

Progress Update:

Raleigh Stormwater is working towards the development of a Watershed Management Plan that covers all watershed areas within the City's ETJ. Given the magnitude of surface and subsurface stormwater infrastructure present throughout

the City, watershed plans are being developed per individual drainage basin with results and recommendations feeding into Stormwater's Citywide Capital Improvement Program. Two watershed plans have been completed to date with two additional studies currently in progress. This is a considerable effort that must be completed before we can improve our class rank.

3. Pursue Credit for Activity 610 – Flood Warning and Response

We are working towards earning CRS credit for Activity 610 by developing a comprehensive **Flood Warning and Response Plan**. Progress includes:

- Draft plan presentation to the Emergency Management Working Group on 6/6/25
- A tabletop exercise is scheduled for this fall
- Develop of an After-Action Report to guide final plan updates
- Submission of the revised plan to the City Council for adoption

Completing this process will secure the needed credits under Activity 610.

4. Address Dam Failure Threat – Activity 630 (Dams)

To meet CRS credit requirements under Activity 630, Section 631.b, we will need to develop a detailed **Dam Failure Analysis**, including:

- Maps showing areas that would flood in the event of a failure of each high-hazard-potential dam
- Descriptions of affected building types (residential, commercial, etc.) and critical facilities

We will coordinate with Raleigh Stormwater's Dam Asset Manager, Ben Lingley, to compile and prepare the necessary documentation for submission.

15. cursory assessment of the success of Bringing Neighbors Home? How many of the residents are still housed, etc.

ANSWER: As of Friday, June 6, out of the 50 Pilot participants:

- **The encampment at Dix Park was successfully decommissioned on January 31, with no incidents.** All individuals living at the camp were connected to service providers and housing resources, and no one was trespassed during the process.
- **41 households** have successfully transitioned into stable housing since enrolling in the Pilot.
- **28 individuals (56%),** a higher percentage than the community-wide rate of approximately 30%, are overcoming chronic homelessness, which is defined by both a disabling condition and long-term homelessness. This group faces significant additional challenges due to extended periods of homelessness, often requiring extra support and resources to secure stable housing.
- **Caseworkers** are actively supporting 9 participants in developing their housing plans, helping to identify potential housing options and assisting with rental applications.

- **6 participants** have secured full-time employment since obtaining housing, reflecting a positive trend in workforce engagement. Caseworkers are also working closely with the **41 participants** who report a disability to explore supported employment opportunities, ensuring that all participants have access to job options that match their needs and abilities.
- **Support staff** are hosting weekly support groups, fostering a strong sense of community and empowerment among participants. They've also welcomed guest speakers to facilitate workshops on important topics such as financial literacy, nutrition, and employment counseling.
- **Participants** report significant improvements in overall well-being, and some have reconnected with their children and other family members, strengthening their social and emotional support networks.
- The Pilot has also provided a roadmap for **community-wide coordination**, outlining the partners and resources needed to achieve functional zero and effectively decommission encampments across the City. The effort has informed our community-wide unsheltered homelessness planning process and has forged **new and vital partnerships** in addressing unsheltered homelessness.

Additionally, this month Housing and Neighborhoods will release the Health Homes Improvement Funding RFP. This RFP makes approximately \$100,000 available to qualified agencies to help eligible homeowners remain safely in their homes through preventative maintenance and essential repairs. Funding for this program was approved by City Council in May 2024 as part of the broader strategy to address homelessness, recognizing the impacts of housing instability. By investing in critical home repairs for low-income homeowners this RFP aims to preserving existing housing and prevent displacement.

16. Projections of new AH units is 450, down by more than half (more that '23 and 24') – Is that primarily due to market conditions, cost of construction?

ANSWER: Rental units are typically counted when the project receives the final Certificate of Occupancy (CO). Many projects awarded financing immediately before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic experienced increased costs and construction delays, and this is why you see low numbers in the Performance Indicators table on page 196 for FY '23 and FY '24. As construction pipelines returned to a more predictable pace after the pandemic, more projects were completed and received their COs. We anticipate 6- 7 projects will receive their CO by the end of the end of June 2025, and that is why you see the spike in units as the backlog of delayed projects finally get finished. When looking at the projects currently in the development pipeline, we project closer to 450 units will be complete in the upcoming fiscal year as the pandemic related construction backlog has been resolved.

17. P 289 – No funds are allocated to Homeowner Rehab in the coming year.

ANSWER: Homeowner rehabilitation programs will not receive any additional funding from the sources listed on page 289. We currently anticipate homeowner rehabilitation programs will be financed with any remaining funds rolled over from FY2025 in addition to FY2026 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and FY2026 2020 Affordable Housing Bonds funds

18. SWS – projections show that more landfill trash and less recycling will be collecting in the year ahead, which is the opposite of what we’d want to see. To what do you attribute that?

ANSWER: Solid Waste Services recognizes the declining trend in recycling collection tonnage over the past five years. For budget consistency, we adhered to the traditional trend analysis methodology used in past years for projections with a conservative approach. This declining trend does not align with our mission statement, and the exact cause of this decline remains unknown. Discussions with our recycling partner and outreach/education staff suggest that public education provides the best opportunity to reverse this trend. In FY2025, we partnered with City Communications to develop a robust communication plan utilizing recycling audit data to address this issue and others. We are committed to reversing this trend.

19. Parking fund – Is the discussion of rates or other mitigation coming back to us soon?

ANSWER: At the February 18, 2025 Council meeting, City Council directed staff to continue the two-hour free parking program until the end of calendar year 2025. Staff will return to Council with findings and program recommendations in Fall 2025.

20. Union Station Division budget increased by 42%. Is that attributed to the extra position in the budget highlight section?

ANSWER: Union’s Station’s General Fund-100 budget increased by 42 percent over FY2025 Adopted Budget because the budget for a \$145,000 contract budget was moved from the Transit Fund-410 to the General Fund-100. Since this contract is not directly related to Transit Operations and supports rental property management at Union Station, this change more accurately tracks expenditures with their programmatic use. The new position is in Transit’s GoRaleigh Access program and will provide for an additional customer service technician to assist with calls.

21. “Percent of Utility Cuts Repaired within 4 Days” – Is 4 days the industry standard? Is there desire to decrease that time in coming years?

ANSWER: This is not an industry standard for utility cut repairs; this is the City of Raleigh established best practice for repair work performed for Raleigh Water crews. This goal is set for permanent pavement repair; most Raleigh Water projects will include a temporary repair to ensure safe street travel while awaiting permanent repair. In cases when a temporary repair is not possible, Transportation works directly with Raleigh

Water to make the final repair prior to reopening the street to the public. This standard only applies to work completed by city work crews because utility cut repairs provided by Raleigh Water contractors and other private utility owners, such as natural gas, are the responsibility of the contractor.

Staff strive to efficiently and effectively provide this service; additional resources would be needed to decrease time.

22. P 297 – funds for NTMP in the upcoming year?

ANSWER: The FY2025 Capital Budget included \$3.28 million for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program to be used over FY2025 and FY2026; therefore, additional funding is programed in FY2027.

23. When do the Poo Powered buses come online?

ANSWER: Transit's Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses are currently in service providing near zero emissions using CNG. Raleigh Water's BioEnergy plant recently finished commissioning the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) production facility for the GoRaleigh bus fleet. Over the next few weeks, Raleigh Water will be working to start up full RNG production.

24. P 300 – BRT Triangle Town Facilities – can I have more information about this?

ANSWER: This item identifies funding from the Wake Transit Plan for the BRT Triangle Town Center Corridor in the amount of \$3,500,000. The project will start preliminary design and environmental documentation for the Northern BRT project once the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) is identified through the ongoing Northern Corridor Major Investment Study.

25. Are we monitoring online extremism, particularly for signs that it will turn into offline violence?

ANSWER: The analysts and detectives at the Raleigh Intelligence Center are using social media tools to identify potential threat language that may indicate violence in our community. The software programs we are assessing provide real-time information based on keywords and publicly available data. These programs vary in cost and capabilities. Over the past few years, the Police Department has tested Penlink Tangles, Shadow Dragon Horizon, and Skopenow. However, budget considerations remain a critical factor, as these software solutions continuously evolve, while individuals with malicious intent frequently adapt to conceal their online activities. We are currently using two of these software programs on a trial basis for the next 60 days.

26. Police – Not projecting any decreases in crime in the coming year. Why is that?

ANSWER: The Raleigh Police Department acknowledges the complexity of crime trends and does not provide projections for crime numbers, as numerous variables influence these rates. Factors such as weather, opportunity, economic conditions, population growth, and geographic location each contribute significantly. Our focus is on identifying areas within the city that may be more susceptible to an increase in criminal activity. To

address these concerns, uniformed officers are directed to prioritize both enforcement and community policing efforts in these targeted locations. Furthermore, the department employs intelligence-led policing and evidence-based data to help identify individuals who may represent a potential risk to our community. Additionally, it is essential to understand that crime patterns can be cyclical, often mirroring the community's reaction to varying levels of criminal activity.

27. Am I understanding that there is no funding for invasive species removal until '27-28?

ANSWER: The FY2025 Capital Budget included \$500,000 for invasive species removal and is intended to be spent over several fiscal years. Staff anticipate needing to replenish invasive species removal funds in FY2028; therefore, additional funding is not programmed until FY2028. Since FY2025 was the first time PRCR has programmed funding in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for contractual services for invasive species removal, PRCR wanted to establish a cash flow and spend rate process and not budget additional funds if existing are unspent. If existing funding is on track to be fully spent in FY2026, PRCR can adjust the CIP to allocate funds in FY2027.

CLARIFICATION:

The FY26 Proposed Budget book chapter *Property Tax and Resident Costs*, incorrectly listed the annual impact of property taxes and fees for a median value home in the city. The table showed a \$4.33 or 0.3 percent increase due to conflating annual property tax and monthly fee increases. The correct increase is \$52, or 2.2 percent as can be seen in the table below. The error has been fixed in the FY26 Proposed Budget book.

Annual Costs	FY25 Annual	FY 26 Annual	\$ change	% change
Property Tax	1,390	1,390	-	0.0%
Solid Waste Fee	289	311	22	7.7%
Water and Sewer Fee	641	664	23	3.6%
Stormwater Fee	92	99	7	7.5%
Total Annual Fees/Taxes	\$2,412	\$2,464	\$52	2.2%

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
From	Stephen Bentley, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	June 20, 2025
Subject	Arts Multi-Year Agreement Information

Overview

Raleigh Arts manages annual grant programs and multi-year agreements that include funding. Each of the four arts organizations with whom the City has multi-year agreements have different histories with the City and were developed across different city departments between 1939-2009.

In 2011 the City Manager's Office put Raleigh Arts in charge of managing all arts-related multi-year agreements, which included Carolina Ballet, the North Carolina Symphony, Raleigh Little Theatre and Theatre in the Park, as well as the only other annual arts-related funding contract still handled by another City department, funding for the nascent African American Cultural Festival.

Since that time, Raleigh Arts has worked to create a more consistent approach to handling multi-year agreements that also aligns with established Raleigh Arts Commission Grant Program requirements, Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts rental contracts, City funding requirements, Raleigh Arts and City Strategic Plan goals. Because the four arts multi-year agreements don't expire at the same time, revisions have been implemented on a rolling basis. The final contract to be revised will be for North Carolina Symphony's, which expires in 2030.

While these four nonprofit arts groups benefit from multi-year contracts with the City, the City benefits in return. For example, Carolina Ballet's multi-year agreement provides \$250k in operating support funding and use of the Martin Marietta Center with an annual average value of ~\$240k. However, the ballet pays all labor and equipment rental costs during performances, as well as rental fees for extra dates in the Martin Marietta Center. As a result, for FY24 the ballet paid the City \$760k in return for \$490k of support, netting the City \$270k. In addition, Carolina Ballet performances help activate downtown Raleigh and bring in tax revenue as ticket holders patronize local restaurants, bars, retail businesses and hotels. According to Americans for the Arts' Arts

& Economic Prosperity economic impact calculator, the annual economic impact of Carolina Ballet audiences attending its 78 performances each year translates into \$2.8 million in local spending at those businesses and supports 40 FTE jobs with local businesses like waiters, shop clerks, etc.

On the other hand, Raleigh Little Theatre's (RLT) partnership with the City dates back to 1939, when this community theatre group put together a collaborative initiative between the City, the federal government's Works Progress Administration and itself to build the facility and amphitheatre it still uses today. The City provided the land; the federal Works Progress Administration provided the labor, and RLT provided the construction materials. RLT typically fundraises for major capital improvements, such as the additions of a black box theatre and Sutton Theatre lobby space, covering about 50% of construction project costs. As a community theatre, RLT also fills a need for performing arts-based recreation programming within PRCR by providing both theatre classes and theatre-making opportunities for residents. Just as a resident can join a game of pick-up basketball or swim in a City pool free of charge, residents can walk through the door of RLT to join in theatre making either backstage or onstage free of charge. To that end the theatre's multi-year agreement stipulates that its programming must align with both PRCR System Plan and Raleigh Arts Plan goals in addition to articulating specific program requirements.

Multi-Year Agreements

There are no "Legacy" grant recipients in Arts. The longstanding relationships the City has with four arts organizations that were developed and continue in service of two goals:

1. Economic development tools in the revitalization of downtown Raleigh and to attract tourism dollars to the City as a destination (Carolina Ballet and North Carolina Symphony)
2. Public-private partnerships that provide community-based performing arts programming through the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, freeing the department from managing and paying the expenses for such programming itself. (Raleigh Little Theatre and Theatre in the Park).

These agreements combine the use or leasing of specific City facilities with annual operating support funding.

Annual Operating Support Funding

Arts multi-year agreements provide annual operating support to each organization using two different strategies.

For Carolina Ballet and North Carolina Symphony, the relationships were developed via City Council's Budget and Economic Development Committee, now the Economic Development and Innovation Committee, and the resulting use and operating support agreements were written by the City Manager's Office. Annual funding was set at a specific amount in each contract, remaining flat throughout the contract terms.

Raleigh Little Theatres and Theatre in the Park's contracts are lease and operating support agreement, as both organizations utilize and help maintain entire City buildings. The operating support funding provided those two organizations specifically covers facility-related expenses, such as utilities, janitorial services, etc. The amount of funding is determined by periodic analyses of those costs for each organization combined with a look at inflation rates, etc. For example, funding was held steady through the COVID-19 pandemic but increased for FY23 as the theatres resumed full programming and staff considered the impact of inflation.

Term Limits & Funding Best Practices

Each contract has a term at the end of which both parties have an opportunity to decide whether or not to continue their relationship. Each contract also includes clauses that enable the City to break the agreement should an organization not comply with the terms and conditions contained therein.

If the term limits question is about limiting the number of years a nonprofit organization can receive grant funding, it should be noted that short-term funding is generally considered contrary to grantmaking best practice. There are certain situations in which short-term funding to nonprofits is advised, such as capital improvement projects and capacity building grants. However, when nonprofit organizations can only find grant funding that lasts for a couple of years, they wind up constantly revising ongoing programs and developing new ones to bring grant dollars through the door. The result is mission drift, decreased community impact and both financial and organizational instability.

Grantmaking best practice focuses on long-term, consistent funding to nonprofit organizations with operating support funding seen as the ideal. The Raleigh Arts Commission's grant program and the arts multi-year agreements are all structured to align with grantmaking best practice.

Agency Monitoring and Reassessment

Raleigh Arts staff monitor multi-year agreement organizations' programs and finances annually to ensure compliance with contract terms and conditions, as well as community and City benefit. Reporting requirements, including the submission of an annual audit report, are written into each contract to support the monitoring process.

In the year before a contract expires Raleigh Arts staff assesses the strength of arts programming provided and overall organizational sustainability and works collaboratively with the Martin Marietta Center. Working with the City Attorney's Office, new contracts are revised to incorporate changes to City funding requirements, Raleigh Arts Commission grant requirements and Martin Marietta Center rental requirements. Final agreements are presented for approval to City Council due to the scope of support, as well as to adhere to public notice rules for lease agreements in the case of Raleigh Little Theatre and Theatre in the Park.

As part of the ARPA funded arts, culture and community infrastructure strategic planning project, Raleigh Arts will be looking at, among other things, how best to create a City facility usage program for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, including standardizing the development and implementation of multi-year agreements and public-private partnerships.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen C. Bentley, Director
From	Ken Hisler, Assistant Director
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	June 18, 2025
Subject	Community Gardens Update

At the June 3, 2024, City Council meeting, Council Member Jonathan Lambert-Melton requested an update on the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department (Raleigh Parks) Community Garden program. This memorandum will provide an overview on the history and direction of city initiatives.

History of Community Garden on City Park Properties

The Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Strategic Plan included two initiatives that directed City of Raleigh staff to address urban agriculture and food security:

- Growth and Natural Resources (GNR), Initiative 1.3: *"Identify opportunities to eliminate barriers and increase education to encourage urban agriculture."*
- Save, Vibrant and Healthy Communities (SV&HC), Initiative 4.3: *"Work with community partners to implement and support strategies that enhance food security throughout the city."*

This memorandum will focus only on the outcomes of SV & HC 4.3. GNR 1.3 was operationalized through the leadership of the Office of Sustainability and Planning and Development Services Department which focused on removing barriers for private property owners.

In the Raleigh Park system two master plans with community gardens were adopted by the City Council in 2017 (Barwell Road Park) and 2018 (Walnut Creek Wetland Park) contain community gardens. In 2021, Raleigh Parks staff established a few teaching beds at Abbotts Creek Community Center. Leveraging the guidance of the 2021-2025 City of Raleigh Strategic Plan, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding authorized by City Council, the master planning efforts and staff, has established the initial stages of a City of Raleigh community garden program.

Here is a list of accomplishments over the last three years:

- January 2022 – Construction commences for the community garden at Barwell Road Community Park.
- January 2023 – Phase 1 of the “Food Forest” at Walnut Creek Wetland Center was established.
- March 2023 – Request for Proposal (RFP) advertised to establish a partnership to provide consultation and guidance to city staff on how to implement a community garden program. Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFFS) was selected as the preferred partner.
- February 2024 - Barwell Road community garden, phase 1 opened. March 2025 phase 2 opened
- August 2024 – Eastgate community garden opened

Current Status and Direction of Community Gardens

While the relationships with each community are unique, the constant, is the success of the garden is owned by the community with some limited supported by City staff. To ensure the community is supported, in FY25 Raleigh Parks reallocated a permanent part-time employee to support this effort.

Framing the general responsibilities to create and operate the garden, the city provides the space infrastructure and limited supplies needed to construct and maintain (e.g. planter beds, tools, shed, etc.). Once constructed the day-day management of the garden is operated by the community. At this point in time there are no additional funds from the AARPA program to fund additional community gardens.

On a parallel path, Raleigh Parks has embraced the guidance provided by the prior Strategic Plan and recently adopted Raleigh 2024 Parks System Plan to promote health and wellness at the neighborhood level. This has resulted in teaching beds being installed at several parks (list provided). At these locations, staff provide instructional programs though structured classes or include as part of camp and after-school programs

- Marsh Creek Park
- Millbrook Exchange Park
- Ralph Campbell Neighborhood Park
- Peach Road Park
- Sanderford Road Park

Where are we Headed

Staff has accomplished much over the past four (4) years. The effort continues as we are actively introducing edible landscaping at Marsh Creek Park as we pursue a

partnership for the creation of an urban farm. At Walnut Creek Wetland Center, we have a design for the next phase of the teaching garden that builds on the “Food Forest.” As we begin FY26 staff will develop a plan on what aspects can be implemented through volunteers and limited operating funds since the AARPA funding is no longer available.

Programmatically we have the following priorities for the upcoming year:

- Establishment of a Community Gardens landing page on the Raleigh Parks website for gardens on parks sites and connect it to the web page for community gardens on private property which already exists.
- Use lessons learned from the Barwell Road and Eastgate gardens to create a formal community garden operating agreement template and look at criteria for where community gardens are appropriate and where they are not.
- Continued collaboration with communities for potential volunteer opportunities.