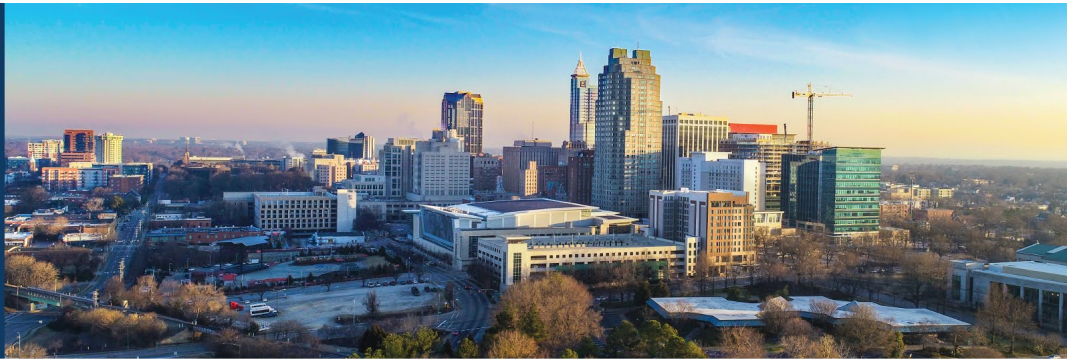


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2026-28

July 17, 2026

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No Council Follow Up Items This Week

INFORMATION:

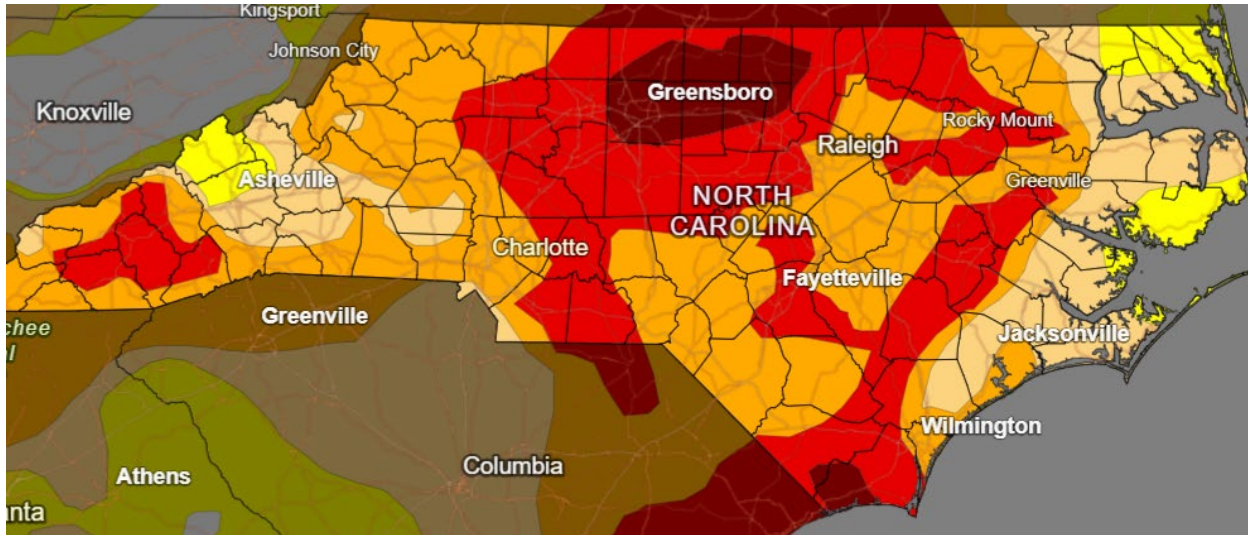
Drought Status Update

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

An updated drought map was issued on July 14, and the Falls Lake watershed saw some improvement, with most of it being designated in a D3-Extreme drought condition compared to the previous D4-Exceptional drought condition. This was due to rainfall events over the past 2 weeks which did provide some significant rainfall in the watershed area. Falls Lake is currently 5.25 feet below full pool, with approximately 65% remaining in the Water Supply Pool according to the US Army Corps of Engineers (as of July 14). Scattered and isolated rainfall events are predicted to occur this weekend and through Monday. Meteorological models continue to suggest central NC could receive average or slightly above average rainfall for the next 2 weeks. Longer term, this area is expected to receive an average amount of rainfall, although it is unclear how a strong El Nino signal will impact rainfall frequency and intensity for central NC.

Based on daily water pumpage data this week, the average demand was 59.65 million gallons per day, which represents a meaningful reduction compared to demands in June (~67 million gallons per day). Demands for Tuesday and Wednesday were around 63.5 million gallons, which suggests there was less irrigation impact than previous weeks.

To date, 2,080 warning letters, eight \$50 civil penalties and two \$200 civil penalties have been issued.



(No Attachment)

Dix Park Commission Meeting

Staff Resource: Stephen Bentley, Raleigh Parks, 996-4824, stephen.bentley@raleighnc.gov

At the January 20, 2026, Raleigh City Council meeting, the City Manager was authorized to execute Memorandum of Agreement #3 (MOA) with the Dix Park Conservancy. As a part of this MOA, an improved advisory and governance structure for the park was recommended called the Dix Park Commission. This spring the City Council, Conservancy, NC State and Department of Agriculture all approved their appointments to the new Dix Park Commission. To ensure that City Council is informed of the Commission's work, Raleigh Parks staff agreed to share the monthly Commission agendas with Council. The Commission held its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, July 14 at 9:00 AM at Historic John Chavis Memorial Park. A [link](#) to the meeting agenda and back up materials is available for reference, and Raleigh Parks staff is available for any questions.

(No Attachment)

Program Partnership Update – Lake Johnson Pool and Wolfpack Elite

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

At the October 21, 2025 City Council meeting, Raleigh Parks received approval and support to enter into a partnership agreement with Wolfpack Elite at Lake Johnson Pool. The core of this partnership is to provide a space that allows for year-round community use, program delivery, and competitive training access for the Raleigh community. Providing quality aquatic spaces to recreate, socially, programmatically, or competitively, is essential in the development of important life skills. Utilization of resources from both agencies will maximize the opportunity to provide successful programs, access, and services. To begin renovations to the pool and pool house, the Lake Johnson pool will close for the 2026 season at the end of business Sunday, August 23, 2026. Raleigh Parks staff will work with its business office staff as well as city-wide communications staff on messaging and to contact any known, regular users.

Staff recognizes that this early closure may be an inconvenience for some patrons and appreciates the community's patience and understanding as we make these long-term improvements. During the closure, pool patrons are encouraged to visit the Raleigh Parks other outdoor aquatic facilities, including Biltmore Hills Pool, Ridge Road Pool, and Longview Pool, which will continue operating according to their seasonal schedules. Included with this week's *Update* materials is a staff memo providing additional information on the upcoming renovations.

(Attachment)

Program Partnership Update – East Coast DIY Skatepark Foundation

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

During the public comment session of the March 11, 2025, City Council meeting, eleven (11) representatives from the Raleigh skating community read statements calling on the Council to dedicate land for a DIY skate park as the Graveside Skate Park—a DIY park located on private property on Mid Pines Drive—was closed to make way for residential development. They cited Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and Asheville as examples of municipalities dedicating land for such parks and asserted the facilities would be constructed and maintained by the skateboarding community. They maintained that the parks also serve as gathering places for artists, families, fosters diversity and inclusion, etc. and that such parks would allow the skateboarders the freedom to design and build the facilities as skateboarding skills and tricks evolve. Several individuals suggested that a little-used area of Jaycee Park would be an ideal place for a DIY skate park.

Stemming from the message to City Council, Raleigh Parks began the conversation with the skaters on the possibility to establish a partnership that would provide a space for recreational skateboarding. Working collaboratively, utilizing resources from both agencies, the goal was to establish a permanent space that allows for year-round use for the Raleigh community. Offering quality skate park spaces to recreate socially, programmatically, or competitively, is essential to foster and develop a healthy community.

Raleigh Parks is excited to share with City Council that earlier this month, a partnership agreement was executed with the East Coast DIY Skatepark Foundation to establish a skatepark at Jaycee Park, in the location that was previously occupied by for the recycling convenience center. Establishing this partnership is a true testimony of what can happen when groups are willing to engage in open, candid dialogue about what it will take to achieve a common goal, where in the end, everyone benefits. Over the summer staff will work with DIY leadership to develop a project scope and schedule.



(No Attachment)

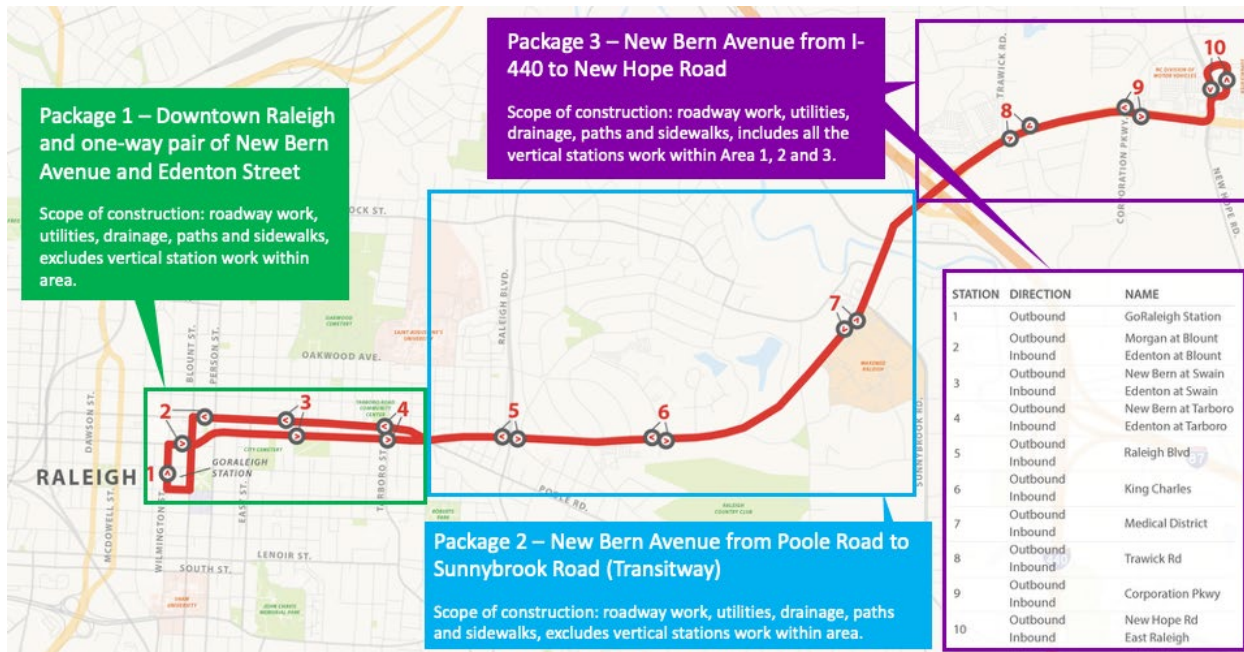
Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) New Bern Avenue Construction Update

Staff Resource: Sam Brewer Sam.Brewer@raleighnc.gov

Melanie Rausch Melanie.Rausch@raleighnc.gov

Construction of the first Wake Bus Rapid Transit corridor along New Bern Avenue began on February 2, 2026, following issuance of the Notice to Proceed for Construction Package 1 (CP1). The CP1 contractor, Rifenburg North Carolina, LLC, has focused on underground utility work from East Street to Tarboro Street. This work includes replacing aging water and sewer infrastructure and relocating utilities required for the project. In the coming weeks, CP1 operations will continue eastward toward Bloodworth Street.

The Notice to Proceed for Construction Package 2 (CP2) was issued on June 22, 2026, to Fred Smith Company. CP2 activities began with installation of erosion control measures throughout the corridor. Starting the week of July 20, crews will begin removing trees, stumps, and vegetation within the right-of-way from Poole Road to Sunnybrook Road. This work will create a noticeable change in the median and will prepare the corridor for construction of median-running bus-only lanes, as well as a multi-use path and sidewalks on both sides of New Bern Avenue. A short video explaining these upcoming activities will be released sometime early next week.



Advertisement for Construction Package 3 (CP3) is anticipated by late summer 2026, with bid award and Notice to Proceed expected by the end of the calendar year. Service for the New Bern Avenue BRT corridor is anticipated to begin in 2030.

(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)

To	Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Ken Hisler, Assistant Director - Recreation Billy Aubut, Manager - Recreation
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	July 17, 2026
Subject	Project Schedule – Lake Johnson Pool/Wolfpack Elite Partnership

Summary

Raleigh Parks, in partnership with Wolfpack Elite, Inc will commence with renovations to Lake Johnson Seasonal Pool beginning Monday, August 24, 2026. Seasonal pool operations will end at the close of business Sunday August 23, 2026. This will allow the renovation efforts to maximize optimal weather conditions necessary for successful completion of the project by converting the pool from seasonal to year-round access.

Background

On October 21, 2025 City Council authorized the execution of a License Agreement between Wolfpack Elite, Inc and the City of Raleigh, with the objective of Wolfpack Elite providing the capital funding needed for renovation of the existing pool at Lake Johnson Park including but not limited to replacement of the existing 25 yard x 25 meter pool with a heated pool that is accessible for year round public use. In coordination with the renovation of the pool the City will invest in renovation of the pool house.

It is in the mutual interest of both organizations to improve and upgrade the existing Pool Complex. Working together, we will provide a space that allows for year-round community use, program delivery and competitive training access. Providing quality aquatic spaces to recreate socially, programmatically, or competitively, is essential in the development of important life skills. Execution of this partnership will foster and further develop a healthier community as desired in the Raleigh Parks 2024 System Plan.

Project Execution

The agreement was fully executed in December 2025. Since then, the City and Wolfpack Elite have been aggressively working to complete the necessary planning, bidding,

permitting and contract execution needed to complete renovation of both the pool and pool house. The time needed to complete the renovation of the pool is estimated at eighty (80) days. The contract for the pool house renovations will allow for those improvements to happen on a parallel path. Staying on target the pool materials were delivered to Lake Johnson in the first week of July.

As noted, the renovation of the pool is estimated at eighty (80) days. It is essential that we maximize warm weather conditions as some aspects of construction (e.g. concrete installation, rubber surface, pool sealants, etc.,) are dependent upon air temperatures remaining above freezing. To safeguard this concern, Lake Johnson Pool will end its summer season, Sunday August 23, and both the pool and pool house renovation projects establish a start date of Monday August 24.

Operational Context

Raleigh Parks seasonal pool operations are divided into three seasons; pre-season (Memorial Day weekend through end of traditional WCPSS school year or 2nd week of June), season (3rd week of June – 2nd week of August) and post-season (3rd week of August – Labor Day weekend). During the pre and post seasons, pool operations are modified to account for students still in school and the availability of lifeguards, both high-school and college aged.

For reference, our 2026 pre and post season is as follows. During the “season” we are essentially open every day beginning as early as 9:00 am, Sundays at 1:00 pm.

Pre-season:

- Saturday, May 23 & 30, June 6 & 13: all pools 10:00 am-6:00 pm
- Sunday, May 24 & 31, June 7 & 14: all pools 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day): all pools 10:00 am -4:00 pm
- June 1 – June 10 (Mon & Wed): Lake Johnson and Biltmore Hills 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
- June 2 – June 11 (Tues & Thurs): Longview and Ridge Road 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
- June 5 & 12 (Fri): all pools 4:00 pm-6:30 pm

Post-season:

- August 17-23 (all pools)
 - Monday – Friday: 3:00 pm-7:00 pm
 - Saturday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm
 - Sunday: 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
- August 24-August 30
 - Monday & Wednesday: *Lake Johnson and Biltmore Hills 4:00 pm-6:30 pm (*Lake Johnson would be closed)
 - Tuesday & Thursday: Longview and Ridge Road 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
 - Friday: All pools 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
 - Saturday: All pools 10:00 am-6:00 pm
 - Sunday: All pools 1:00 pm-6:00 pm

- August 31-September 7
 - Closed: M-Th - Aug. 31-Sep. 3 – All Seasonal Pools
 - Friday: All pools 4:00 pm-6:30 pm
 - Saturday: All pools 10:00 am-6:00 pm
 - Sunday: All pools 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
 - Monday, September 7 (Labor Day): all pools 10:00 am -4:00 pm

Evaluation of data

Understanding how the public accesses our seasonal pools, we see a reduction in attendance. Using 2025 attendance data from Lake Johnson reveals the following:

- Pre-season :Before June 14, 1037 gate admission visits / 56 Membership Visits
- Season: June 14 - August 16, 6672 gate admission visits / 1004 membership visits
- Post-season: August 17 – September 1, 650 gate admission visits / 109 membership visits

Opportunity

It is recognized the community will be disappointed by the loss of access for the last two (2) weeks of the season. To address the concern, we will extend memberships for those patrons known to visit Lake Johnson pool. This would include adding additional passes to those with a “punch pass” or extending annual memberships by one (1) month. Raleigh Parks aquatic staff will be working between August 24 and Labor Day to prepare the bathhouse for the renovation project, staff will be prepared with single admission passes for anyone who arrives to swim during those times.

We are expecting to be operational for Wolfpack Elite use of the pool by January 1, 2027. This should allow us to consider opening for seasonal recreational access earlier than Memorial Day in 2027.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, July 17 – Thursday, July 23

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

Permitted Special Events

[GalaxyCon Raleigh](#)

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street

Thursday, July 23 – Sunday, July 26

Event Time: Thursday, 2pm – 1am; Friday & Saturday, 10am – 1am; Sunday, 10am – 8pm

Associated Road Closures: W. Cabarrus Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. McDowell Street will be closed from 10:00am to 10:00pm on 7-22-26, 1:00pm to 8:30pm on 7-23-26, 9:00am to 8:30pm on 7-24-26 and 7-25-26, and 9:00am to 6:30pm on 7-26-26.

Other Upcoming Events

[Phish](#)

Friday, July 17

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Lindsey Stirling](#)

Friday, July 17

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Sensory-Friendly Sunflowers](#)

Friday, July 17

Dix Park, Sunflower Field

[One Thread Dance Workshop](#)

Saturday, July 18

City of Raleigh Museum

[Designing Dix Hospital: The Past, Present & Future](#)

Saturday, July 18

Dix Park, The Chapel

[Tangled Vows](#)

Saturday, July 18

Fletcher Opera Theater

[World Cup Final Watch Party](#)

Sunday, July 19

Moore Square

[Vishal-Sheykhar – The Superhit Tour](#)

Sunday, July 19

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

[Summer Concert Series](#)

Sunday, July 19

Fred Fletcher Park

[Death Cab for Cutie](#)

Wednesday, July 22

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Guns N' Roses](#)

Thursday, July 23

Carter Finley Stadium

[Live After 5](#)

Thursday, July 23

Seaboard Station

[Buju Banton & Stephen Marley](#)

Thursday, July 23

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Downtown Raleigh Restaurant Week](#)

Through Sunday, July 26

Downtown Raleigh

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.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.