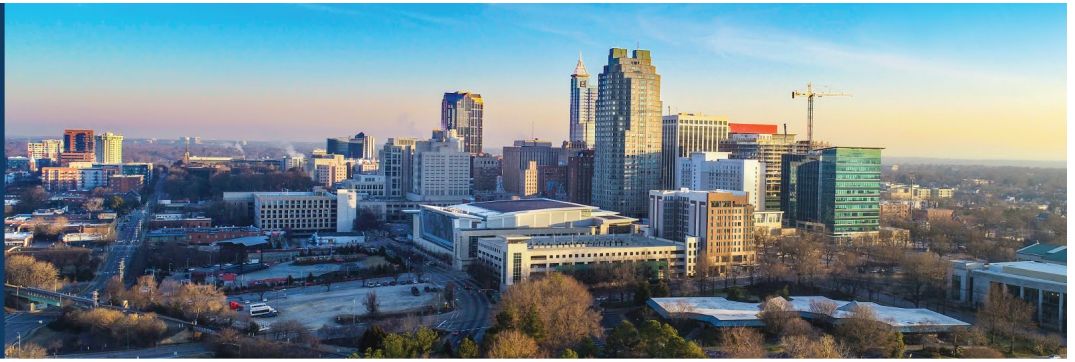


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2026-39

October 2, 2026

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Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, October 6 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Thursday:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

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

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail to mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Program Update

Staff Resources:

Melanie Rausch, Transportation, 996-2291, melanie.rausch@raleighnc.gov

Gabriel Wilkins, Transportation, 996-3648, gabriel.wilkins@raleighnc.gov

As the designated sponsor for the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, staff continue to advance the implementation of core BRT corridors identified within the Wake Transit Plan. This update details construction packages, design milestones, and immediate public engagement schedules. Additionally, included with this week's *Update* materials is a postcard with information about upcoming open houses.

Corridor Status Updates

New Bern Avenue BRT

The New Bern Corridor has been systematically divided into three distinct construction packages to streamline execution:

- **Construction Package 1:** Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued on February 2, 2026. Current operations are focused on critical water and sewer utility infrastructure upgrades between Blount Street and Tarboro Road.
- **Construction Package 2:** NTP was issued on June 22, 2026. Active site work includes vegetation clearing and grading operations between Raleigh Boulevard and Sunnybrook Road.
- **Construction Package 3:** Formally advertised for bids on September 25, 2026. This scope encompasses all civil work outside the I-440 beltline alongside vertical station construction corridor-wide.

Southern BRT

The Southern BRT Corridor project is progressing toward its 60% design phase:

- **Council Presentations:** Formal briefings detailing the 60% design elements will be presented to the Raleigh and Garner City Councils in Fall 2026.
- **Community Outreach:** Public engagement windows are scheduled for Spring–Summer 2027.
- **Federal Compliance:** Risk reviews and coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are slated for Spring–Summer 2027.

Western BRT

The Western BRT Corridor has successfully achieved its 30% design milestone. To solicit public feedback on these preliminary concepts, a comprehensive public engagement window will open from October 7 through October 20, 2026.

Staff will host three in-person open houses featuring printed design maps and subject-matter experts available to address community inquiries:

- **October 7, 2026:** Method Community Center
- **October 14, 2026:** Pullen Community Center
- **October 20, 2026:** Downtown Cary Park

For individuals unable to attend an in-person event, formal feedback channels and project documentation remain accessible online:

- **Online Survey:** Project materials and design feedback questionnaires are available via the [Wake BRT Western Corridor Survey](#) on the Public Input platform.
- **Project Webpage:** Comprehensive updates, alignment maps, and station details can be reviewed at the official [Raleigh BRT Webpage](#).

Marketing and outreach efforts for this engagement period include physical postcard mailings to adjacent properties, transit stop signage for existing riders, social media updates, newsletters, and staff attendance at four additional community events from August through November.

Northern BRT

The Northern BRT Corridor project recently completed key alignment approvals:

- **Endorsements:** Preferred alignments were endorsed by the Raleigh City Council on May 19, 2026, and approved by the CAMPO Executive Board on September 16, 2026.
- **Procurement:** A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for preliminary design services and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation was published on September 21, 2026.
- **Timeline:** Contract award and the subsequent initiation of NEPA and design activities are projected for early 2027.

(Attachment)

Western and Southern BRT Corridor Station Area Planning: October Open Houses

Staff Resources:

Matthew Burns, Planning/Development, 996-4641, matthew.burns@raleighnc.gov

Hannah Reckhow, Planning/Development, 996-2622, hannah.reckhow@raleighnc.gov

Since 2023, Planning and Development has been working with Transportation and consultants to create station area plans for the neighborhoods surrounding the Western and Southern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. These projects - [Western BRT Station Area Planning](#) (SAP) and [Southern BRT SAP](#) - are in the final phase of engagement in Fall 2026. Planning and Development, with support from Transit, will host open houses in October 2026; included with this week's *Update* materials is a staff memo providing additional information.

(Attachment)

Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Staff Resource: Sarah Shaughnessy, Planning/Development, 996-2234, sarah.shaughnessy@raleighnc.gov

The attached memorandum provides a monthly progress update on [Reflecting Raleigh](#), the process for developing the Next Comprehensive Plan. Planning and Development provided an update on the project to City Council at their fall retreat on September 19. The presentation highlighted community priorities identified during phase 1 of the project and recommendations from the Civic Assembly and Technical Teams compiled in phase 2. This input has shaped the plan's vision, thesis, principles, and priorities. The Cost of Growth study, currently underway as part of Reflecting Raleigh, will provide additional quantitative information to help staff and Council understand tradeoffs and balance these priorities.

(Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

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

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from September 1st Council Meeting

Overgrown Vegetation/Trees In and Into Public Rights-of-Way (Council Member Silver)

Staff Resources: Charles Craig, Parks, 996-4844, silas.craigIII@raleighnc.gov

Jess Brandes, Housing/Community Dev., 996-4278, jess.brandes@raleighnc.gov

Kenneth Ritchie, Transportation, 996-4112, kenneth.ritchie@raleighnc.gov

Tiesha Mosley, Community Engagement, 996-2707, tiesha.mosley@raleighnc.gov

During the September 1, 2026 regular meeting, a concern was raised by Council related to overgrown vegetation/trees in and into the public rights-of-way creating hazards for pedestrians and cyclists, especially from vegetation/trees that has overgrown from private property. A staff report is included outlining statutory and ordinance requirements governing such situations, how such situations are mitigated when identified, and considerations for elevating this concern within the community.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from September 15th Council Meeting

Code Enforcement and Prairie Grasses (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Bryce Abernethy, Housing/Community Dev., 996-2444, bryce.abernethy@raleighnc.gov

The attached memorandum provides follow-up from the September 15, 2026 City Council Meeting regarding information on code enforcement policies and the use of meadow, prairie grasses, and other groundcovers for water conservation.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from September 19th Council Retreat

New Housing Production Dashboard (All Council)

Staff Resource: Samantha Smith, Housing/Community Dev., 996-6950, samantha.smith@raleighnc.gov

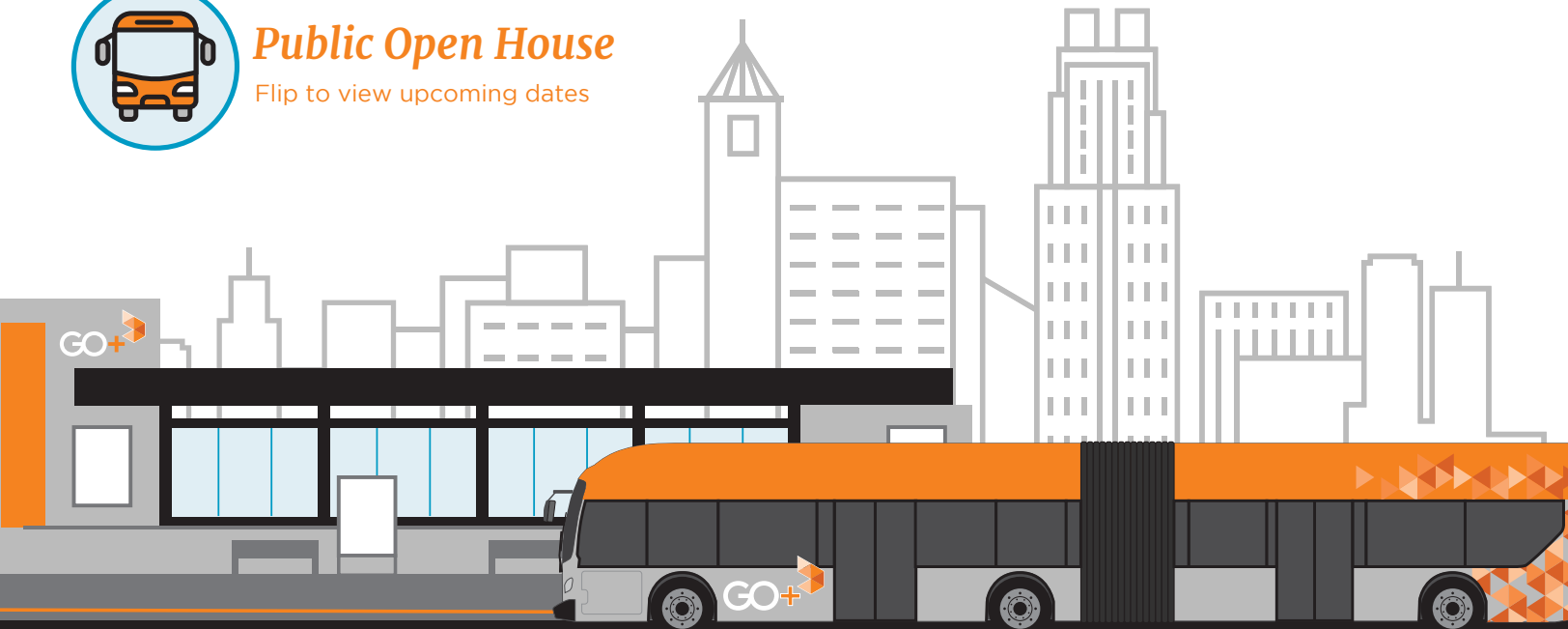
During the September 19th Council Retreat, staff were asked to provide the link to the Housing & Community Development Department's new Housing Production Dashboard. The tool is an interactive public tool designed to give residents clear insight into affordable housing development, investments, and trends across Raleigh. Through its interactive map and charts, the dashboard consolidates years of housing data, allowing users to explore where affordable homes have been created or preserved, view development activity by year and program, and see how funds from the 2020 Affordable Housing Bond are being utilized. The Housing Production Dashboard will be updated on quarterly basis and [can be accessed here](#).

(No Attachment)



Public Open House

Flip to view upcoming dates



*Join us: Public Open House for the
Western Bus Rapid Transit Project*



A Quicker Connection between Raleigh and Cary is on the way!

Join us at an upcoming open house to learn about Bus Rapid Transit, see the latest plans and design updates, and share your feedback.

+ Method Park
October 7 | 5 -7 pm
Method Community Center

+ Pullen Park
October 14 | 5 -7 pm
Pullen Community Center

+ Downtown Cary Park
October 20 | 5 -7 pm
Downtown Cary Park Academy Pavilion

GO+
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para Español



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To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning Director
From	Matthew Burns, Planning Supervisor Hannah Reckhow, AICP, Planning Supervisor
Department	Planning and Development
Date	September 23, 2026
Subject	Western and Southern BRT Corridor Station Area Planning – October Events

Overview

Since 2023, Planning and Development has been working with Transportation and consultants to create station area plans for the neighborhoods surrounding the Western and Southern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. These projects - [Western BRT Station Area Planning](#) (SAP) and [Southern BRT SAP](#) - are in the final phase of engagement in Fall 2026.

October Engagement Events

In October 2026, the project team will hold open house events to refine the draft recommendations and solicit feedback from the public. The draft recommendations are for first-and-last mile projects to improve connectivity near proposed BRT stations. The open house events are being advertised by mailings to property owners and residents as well as website and social media engagement.

Southern BRT SAP event details:

- Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Carolina Pines Community Center
- Thursday, October 15, 2026, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Walnut Creek Wetland Park (Neuse River Room)

Open house events for the Western BRT corridor will combine engagement for Western BRT design and station area planning and offer an opportunity for participants to weigh in on both topics.

Western BRT SAP event details:

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Method Park
- Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Pullen Park

In addition to public open houses, the SAP project team, with support from Transportation and Transit staff, are holding focus group meetings to review the draft recommendations. These focus group meetings are targeted toward Community Leader groups; bicycle and pedestrian advocates; transit riders; and corridor businesses and aim to receive feedback from these unique viewpoints.

Next Steps

After the third phase of engagement this fall, the project team and consultant will incorporate feedback into a set of final recommendations and a final report. The final project recommendations will be presented to the City Council to begin review and the adoption process. Staff anticipates presenting the recommendations and final report in Spring of 2027.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director
From	Sarah Shaughnessy, AICP, Principal Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	October 2, 2026
Subject	Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Overview

Raleigh’s Comprehensive Plan serves as the city’s long-term vision for the built environment. [Reflecting Raleigh](#) is the process of developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on sustainable and equitable growth, aligning adopted city plans and priorities, and enhanced community engagement.



This memorandum provides a recap of the information shared with City Council at their fall retreat. The presentation highlighted community priorities identified during phase 1 of the project and recommendations from the Civic Assembly and Technical Teams compiled in phase 2. This input has shaped the plan’s vision, thesis, principles, and priorities. The Cost of Growth study, currently underway as part of Reflecting Raleigh, will provide additional quantitative information to help staff and Council understand tradeoffs and balance these priorities.

Where We’ve Been: Phases 1 and 2

Reflecting Raleigh began in August 2024, with the City’s first Affordable Housing Summit. This event kicked off a year of public engagement activities including a series of community conversations on topics important to the Raleigh Community.

In addition to these events, staff attended or hosted 91 events across the city. Five themes emerged from this engagement:

- Continued community education & engagement
- Smart growth through strategic density & connectivity
- Housing affordability, variety, & supply
- Sustainable development & infrastructure
- Preservation & distribution of natural resources

Phase 2 built on these themes. Raleigh's first Civic Assembly convened to learn about and provide recommendations for how neighborhoods should grow around transit. Five teams of subject matter experts provided technical guidance on advancing community priorities through policy, actions, and regulations.

To date, Reflecting Raleigh has reached over 12,000 people. The project is on track to reach three percent of Raleigh's population, a gold standard for public engagement for comprehensive plans. City Council and the public can read more about engagement activities and takeaways in the [full phase 1 report](#) and the [full phase 2 report](#).

Where We are Now: Ongoing Work in Phase 3

Raleigh's next comprehensive plan will be an online, printable resource, with a vision for how Raleigh should grow over the next two decades and clear implementation strategies for advancing priorities identified in Phases 1 and 2.

Driving this vision is the idea that Raleigh will **Grow where it counts**, by concentrating growth and investment where it creates the most value for the city and the people who live here.

The Cost of Growth and Facility Fee Studies currently underway will inform how we advance this vision in alignment with four plan principles:

- Fair access
- Safety & connectivity
- Environmental resilience
- Fiscal responsibility

Across seven priority areas:

- Complete communities and housing choice
- High-frequency transit and multimodal mobility
- Mixed-use centers and corridors
- Right-sized infrastructure and community services
- Parks and public facilities
- Natural resources and open space networks
- Regional connections and opportunity

Where We're Going: Phases 4 and 5

Beginning early next year, staff will seek public feedback on the completed plan in a variety of ways, both online and in person. Guided by the Public Participation Playbook and Reflecting Raleigh's engagement framework, Phase 4 engagement will focus on translating the plan's vision and priorities

into concepts that residents can relate to, showing how prior input has been incorporated, and offering opportunities for input on specific plan content. Staff will continue to share information with City Council over the next 3 phases through these monthly updates as well as regular touchpoints at public meetings and in other presentation venues.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 2 – Thursday, October 8

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

Permitted Special Events

[Raleigh Wide Open](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3

Event Times: 3:00pm – 11:00pm 10-2-26; 12:00pm – 11:00pm 10-3-26

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Hargett Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Martin and Davie streets between Salisbury and Wilmington streets will be closed from 6:00pm on 10-1-26 until 3:00am on 10-4-26.

[First Friday @ The Times](#)

Hargett Street

Friday, October 2

Event Time: 7:00pm – 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: E. Hargett Street between Fayetteville and Wilmington streets will be closed from 5:30pm until 11:59pm.

[The Cupcake Run at Brier Creek](#)

Brier Creek & Arco Corporate Drive

Saturday, October 3

Event Time: 8:00am – 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: The route will be closed from 7:50am until 10:00am. Note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event, and [view the 5K route map](#) for more details.

[Falling for Local](#)

Dix Park

Saturday, October 3

Event Time: 11:00am – 6:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Blair Drive between Centennial Parkway and Umstead Drive, Barbour/Biggs Drive between Goode Street and Blair Drive, and Umstead Drive between Hunt Drive and the 101 Blair Drive parking lot will be closed from 9:00am until 8:00pm. Big Field will also be used during this time. Parking at Dix Park will be limited. [View information on shuttles and alternative ways to access the park](#) for more details.

[Beyond the Bluegrass](#)

Hargett Street

Saturday, October 3

Event Time: 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: E. Hargett Street between Fayetteville and Wilmington streets will be closed from 12:00pm until 11:45pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[First Friday Raleigh](#)

Friday, October 2

Downtown Raleigh

[Anupam Kher & Swaroop Sampat Live](#)

Friday, October 2

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

Heroes Off Duty Comedy Tour

Friday, October 2
Fletcher Opera Theater

Washington Capitals vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Friday, October 2
Lenovo Center

First Friday Market & Movie: Ghostbusters

Friday, October 2
Moore Square

The Music of Pink Floyd with The Machine – NC Symphony

Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3
Meymandi Concert Hall

NC State Football vs. Louisville

Saturday, October 3
Carter-Finley Stadium

Indigo Girls with Linda Perry

Saturday, October 3
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

Moving Raleigh Historic Trolley Tour

Sunday, October 4
Mordecai Historic Park

Weezer with The Shins & Silversun Pickups

Sunday, October 4
Lenovo Center

Dermot Kennedy with Jonah Kagen

Sunday, October 4
Red Hat Amphitheater

Movie Series: Toy Story 5

Tuesday, October 6
Pullen Park

Bleachers Forever with This is Lorelei

Tuesday, October 6
Red Hat Amphitheater

Vancouver Canucks vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Thursday, October 8
Lenovo Center

Movies in the Garden: Hocus Pocus

Thursday, October 8
RLT's Stephenson Amphitheatre

Jazz in the Square

Thursday, October 8
Moore Square

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 2 – Thursday, October 8

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

Curtain Call from Beyond: Theatre Haunts & History Tours

Through Thursday, October 29
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

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 Took 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.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Michael Moore, Assistant City Manager Paul Kallam, Transportation Director
From	Charles Craig, Raleigh Parks Assistant Director Jess Brandes, Housing & Community Development Assistant Director Kenneth Ritchie, Transportation Assistant Director Tiesha Mosley, Community Engagement Director
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Housing and Community Development, Transportation, Community Engagement
Date	October 2, 2026
Subject	Overgrown Vegetation in and into Public Rights-of-Way

This memo provides background information on the regulatory frameworks and operational processes that govern responsibility for maintenance of vegetation in and into the public right-of-way.

Statutory and Ordinance Requirements

Maintenance of plantings and overgrowth in and into the City's public rights-of-way are a collaborative effort between the city and residents. Depending on whether the subject plantings are trees or other species will dictate which code governs maintenance and which department is the lead on the mitigation and enforcement processes.

Trees (Raleigh Parks)

Right of Way Trees: Raleigh Municipal Code Chapter 8 Section 9-8003- Creation of the Position of The Urban Forester- This section lays out that the Urban Forester shall direct, regulate and control the maintenance of trees on all City-owned or City-controlled street rights-of-way.

Private Trees: Raleigh Municipal Code Chapter 8 Sec. 9-8006 Trees to Be Maintained; Responsibility of Owner - This section outlines that the owner of the property on which the tree originates is responsible for preventing encroachment into the public street or spaces so as not to interfere with the safe passage along the public way (see examples below). This section also grants the authority of the Urban Forester to order its removal by the property owner. If the owner doesn't respond or act upon within 15 days of

notification, the Urban Forester has the authority to enter the property and perform the work and charge the cost back to the property owner. In addition, enforcement of the City code allows for the property owner to be subject to civil penalties for noncompliance.



Example of private trees encroaching into the public right-of-way

Non-Tree Plantings (Housing Code Enforcement)

Bushes and Grass: Raleigh's Health Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code (Sec 12-6002) regulates the enforcement, among other things, of any shrub, bush, vine or grass that is encroaching upon the sidewalk, the parkway, or the curb or edge of the pavement of any abutting street (see example below).

The Health, Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code requires Code Enforcement staff to notify owners of identified public nuisance violations by first class mail and posting on the property. The property owner is given 10 days to resolve the violation, before a nuisance abatement process can begin. Nuisance abatements are completed by the Transportation Department and private contractors.

City of Raleigh Municipal Code also identifies in Section 12-1037 that "It shall be the duty of all occupants or tenants of improved property and of the owners of all vacant property in the City to keep sidewalks, parkways and gutters clean, and to do such cutting, sweeping and scraping as may be necessary to keep such sidewalks clean and free from weeds, grass, snow, ice, dirt and trash, and to render the same passable, comfortable, and sightly, and the gutter next to and along each sidewalk open and free from obstruction, for the full width of their respective fronts."



Example of overgrown vegetation encroaching into the public right-of-way

Complaint and Mitigation Process

As with the governing ordinances being differentiated based on whether they are associated with trees or other plantings, the leadership on mitigation and enforcement is also differentiated based on planting type.

For tree-based complaints, Urban Forestry staff from the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources department address tree encroachments on a complaint basis. Staff inspect the site and determine if the encroaching tree is causing safety concern or is affecting visibility. If pruning is required, the property owner is sent an order of compliance to remove the encroaching tree or branches. Staff typically seek to have the issue resolved through voluntary compliance through notifications and conversations to avoid issuance of violations and civil penalties. Staff only conduct work on private property to address the most significant concerns related to imminent tree failure and work done in coordination with Housing and Community Development property abatements.

For all plantings other than trees, Code Enforcement staff in the Housing & Community Development department addresses complaints via the Ask Raleigh complaint system and phone calls directly to the Code Enforcement Office. Code Enforcement also handles referrals from the Transportation Department for visual obstructions within the public right of way. Public nuisance observations can also be completed by staff; however, these issues are mostly identified and addressed via complaints or requests.

After nuisance abatement, a bill is generated for costs incurred by the City of Raleigh and sent to the property owner. Any costs for work completed in the public right of way are referred to Finance.

Outreach Considerations

Maintaining the City's public right-of-way is founded on a partnership between the city and private property owners. To help uplift this critical partnership, City staff are working on an educational communications campaign to highlight the importance of maintaining landscaping and plantings both in and into our public right-of-way, both public and private responsibilities for such maintenance, and resources available to support the community's engagement on these efforts. Additionally, the City's Tool Share program (<https://raleighnc.gov/community/services/raleigh-tool-share>) is exploring options that will assist residents with maintaining trees and planting.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Emila Sutton, Housing and Community Development Director
From	Bryce Abernethy, Housing Manager
Department	Housing and Community Development, Code Enforcement
Date	October 2, 2026
Subject	Code Enforcement and Prairie Grasses

At the September 15 City Council meeting, CM Patton requested information on whether code enforcement policies should be updated as the City encourages the use of meadow, prairie grasses, and other groundcovers for water conservation.

Response: The code’s language already accommodates the use of prairie grasses and other ornamental groundcovers for environmental and conservation purposes. No changes to the code are necessary at this time, as the policy is flexible and supports sustainable landscaping.

Current Policy Overview

The City of Raleigh’s Health, Sanitation and Public Nuisance Code governs enforcement related to high grass and groundcover. The code is enforced by the Housing and Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Division, with specific definitions and exceptions relevant to alternative groundcovers.

Key Definitions

- **Ornamental grasses:** The code explicitly defines “ornamental grasses” to include true grasses (*Gramineae*), sedges (*Cyperaceae*), rushes (*Juncaceae*), hardy bamboos, and others.
 - While types of *Gramineae* grasses are not specifically defined in the code, this class is encompassed by many different varieties of prairie grasses native to North America. Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, and Indian Grass are a few examples.
- **Weed:** Defined as any undesired, uncultivated plant.

Enforcement and Exceptions

The code prohibits “dense growth of weeds or grasses, other than ornamental grasses, over eight (8) inches in height” in certain locations (e.g., within 100 feet of a street or

dwelling). One exception is that ornamental grasses—including prairie grasses—are specifically excluded from this prohibition. This means that prairie grasses and similar groundcovers are permitted under the current code, provided they are not a focal point for other nuisances (such as harboring pests or obstructing sidewalks). Enforcement focuses on nuisance conditions, not the presence of tall ornamental grasses.

Recommendation

Continue to educate residents and staff about the existing exceptions for ornamental and prairie grasses. Monitor implementation and revisit policy only if enforcement issues arise.