

Manager's Update

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INFORMATION:

Business Engagement and Opportunities Program: FY25-26 Annual Report

Staff Resource: Lekesha Shaw, Economic/Social Advancement, 996-6958, lekesha.shaw@raleighnc.gov

The Business Engagement and Opportunities Program (BEOP) has released its Annual Report, highlighting FY26 accomplishments for small, emerging, growing, and under-capitalized businesses.

This year, BEOP achieved significant operational and business engagement milestones, strengthening support for small and local businesses and expanding program reach across the community. Their engagement specialist connected with more than forty firms to share BEOP resources, City contracting opportunities, and partner offerings. The team worked to implement a new data management system to better track City spending with businesses, developed a dashboard for key performance metrics, and added updated language to the procurement policy encouraging and guiding staff to engage small and local businesses for contracts under \$30,000.

The BEOP team also led and supported numerous events for the business community, including workshops, conferences, and networking events. Highlights included the inaugural 8-week bilingual Raleigh Business Bootcamp, which produced 36 graduates, and the 27th Annual Small Business Conference & Expo, which engaged 375 participants and 68 exhibitors.

This report presents BEOP's achievements in broadening access to public contracting for small, emerging, growing, and under-capitalized businesses. To learn more, please visit [BEOP Annual Report](#).

(No Attachment)

Small Business Development Division: FY25-26 Annual Report

Staff Resource: Mark Weldon, Economic/Social Advancement, 996-3139, mark.weldon@raleighnc.gov

The Small Business Development (SBD) Division has released its Annual Report, highlighting key accomplishments from FY26. Notable milestones include launching Employee Ownership Raleigh, producing SBD's signature event Legal Lift, and partnering with Southeast Raleigh Promise to establish the new Rock Quarry Road Business Alliance.

In addition to building a growing resource library for small businesses, SBD increased direct outreach through new District Walks, Office Hours, a monthly newsletter, and an expanded Partner Event Calendar. The team also engaged with Business Alliances, Entrepreneurial Support Organizations, and other partners, participating in 160 activities that provided resources and learning opportunities for local businesses, a 79% increase over the prior year.

SBD awarded \$225,908 in Building Upfit Grants (leveraging \$4.09M in upfits) and \$50,000 in Façade Rehabilitation Grants. For the first time, both grants were fully integrated onto a single platform, simplifying the application process for small business owners.

The SBD team is proud to support aspiring entrepreneurs and the more than 20,000 small businesses that call Raleigh home. These businesses help drive the local economy and contribute to the distinctive character that makes our city great. To learn more, please visit [SBD FY26 Annual Report](#).

(No Attachment)

Information on the Annual Homelessness Memorial

Staff Resource: Erika Brandt, Housing/Community Development, 996-6975, erika.brandt@raleighnc.gov

Staff would like to provide information to Council Members about the annual Homelessness Memorial held in honor of those experiencing homelessness who have passed away during the year.

Each year, the community gathers on the longest night of the year, the winter solstice, to honor the neighbors we have lost who experienced homelessness. During the memorial, each person's name is read and those gathered take time to reflect on their lives, the challenges they faced, the obstacles they overcame, and the strength and dignity they carried. As attendees remember those no longer with us, it is an opportunity to renew our collective commitment to ending and preventing homelessness and to working toward a community where everyone has safety, stability, and a place to call home.

The memorial is put on by Wake County, with planning support and coordination from many community partners including the City of Raleigh Housing and Community Development Department. As the event nears more information, including the time and location, will be made available on Wake County's website: <https://www.wake.gov/events/homelessness-memorial>.

(No Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

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

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

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from September 2026 Council Retreat

Publication of Anti-Displacement Report, *Keeping Raleigh Home* (All Council)

Staff Resource: Liz Doherty, Housing/Community Development, 366-3267, liz.doherty@raleighnc.gov

During the September 2026 Fall Retreat and in previous Council work sessions, Housing & Community Development staff briefed Council on housing anti-displacement tools and strategies and indicated a comprehensive summary report would follow. Because displacement can show up in different ways, anti-displacement is best understood not as a single policy, but as a set of coordinated strategies. In Raleigh, those strategies are organized around four core pillars: increasing housing supply and choice, preserving existing affordable housing, targeting investment to areas experiencing pressure, and supporting stability and prevention. A fifth category—Supporting Systems and Community Partnerships—provides the foundation necessary to sustain these pillars.

The resulting report, titled *Keeping Raleigh Home*, is now published on its dedicated website and can be accessed here: [Keeping Raleigh Home: Anti-Displacement Tools and Strategies | Raleighnc.gov](#).

(No Attachment)

Follow Up from October 6th Council Meeting

Neighborhood Retail and Connectivity (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Matthew Klem, Planning and Development, 996-2672, matthew.klem@raleighnc.gov

As requested by Councilmember Branch during the October 6, 2026 City Council meeting, staff are providing a memo as part of this week's *Update* materials regarding the improvements at Biltmore Hills Park, including the new tennis court construction project and the feasibility study for improvements to the existing tennis courts.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 23 – Thursday, October 29

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

Permitted Special Events

[Boyer Street Connect – Community Fall Festival](#)

Boyer Street

Saturday, October 24

Event Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Boyer Street between Pettigrew Street and St. Augustine's Avenue will be closed from 9:00am until 2:30pm.

[Revista Latina – Day of the Dead](#)

Fayetteville Street District

Sunday, October 25

Event Time: 12:00pm – 4:30pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Martin Street and the south end of City Plaza and Davie Street between S. Salisbury and S. Wilmington streets will be closed from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

[Trunk or Treat](#)

McDonald Lane

Wednesday, October 28

Event Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Associated Road Closures: McDonald Lane between Oberlin and Colonial roads will be closed from 4:00pm until 7:00pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[Steve Lacy](#)

Friday, October 23

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Breaking Benjamin](#)

Friday, October 23

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[The Music of John Williams: Star Wars & More – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24

Meymandi Concert Hall

[Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead](#)

Friday, October 23 – Sunday, November 8

Raleigh Little Theatre

[Solid Waste Services 2026 Shred + Dead Event](#)

Saturday, October 24

Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services Facility

[Raleigh Black History Walking Tour: Coffee & Donuts](#)

Saturday, October 24

Pope House Museum

Raleigh Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, October 24
Carolina Pines Park

American Mahjong Tournament

Saturday, October 24
Five Points Center for Active Adults

Chocolates & Trains

Saturday, October 24
Raleigh Union Station

Stream Cleanup

Saturday, October 24
Worthdale Park

Lenoir-Rhyne vs. NC State Basketball

Saturday, October 24
Lenovo Center

NC State Fair

Through Sunday, October 25
NC State Fairgrounds

Boston Bruins vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Tuesday, October 27
Lenovo Center

Victoria Monét

Tuesday, October 27
Red Hat Amphitheater

Transportation & Treats

Thursday, October 29
Marsh Creek Community Center

Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Thursday, October 29
Lenovo Center

Trunk-or-Treat

Thursday, October 29
Lions Park

Chaos Choir: Dark | A SEEK Raleigh Project

Thursday, October 29
Fred Fletcher Park

Curtain Call from Beyond: Theatre Haunts & History Tours

Through Thursday, October 29
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

Dracula – Carolina Ballet

Through Sunday, November 1
Fletcher Opera Theater

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, October 23 – Thursday, October 29

City of Raleigh Special Events and Hospitality
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.

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 Niki Jones, Assistant City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Jacqueline Roberts, Capital Projects Manager
Department	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)
Date	October 23, 2026
Subject	Biltmore Hills Park Improvements update including Tennis Facility Expansion and Existing Court Renovation

Biltmore Hills Park is a community park in south Raleigh offering a variety of recreational amenities, including a community center, courts and athletic fields, a playground, a seasonal pool, a picnic shelter, and supporting infrastructure such as parking, a comfort station, and stormwater facilities. The 2022 Parks Bond includes the expansion of the tennis complex at Biltmore Hills Park to provide increased and enhanced tennis training, as well as drop-in and tournament play opportunities for the youth and adult populations in southeast Raleigh.

2022 Parks Bond Tennis Improvements

Approved Project Scope:

- Construction of 8 new tennis courts with lighting
- Improvement of site accessibility
- Reconfiguration and addition of parking
- Public art
- Implementation of green stormwater infrastructure

Recent Engagement and Communication Related to the Bond Project:

- June 3, 2026, Project update at Biltmore Hills Community Meeting
- June 9, 2026, Project update at South Citizen Advisory Council
- July 14, 2026, Project update at South Citizen Advisory Council

Project Timeline:

Construction contract for the bond project was executed in August 2026. The project is currently under construction, anticipating Fall 2027 completion.

United States Tennis Association (USTA) Partnership:

USTA is routinely partnered with across park projects to consult and apply for available USTA regional and national grants. USTA has consistently been engaged with on the current tennis improvements project and will continue to be engaged on the Biltmore Hills Feasibility Study, along with other future projects.

After more than a year-long application process with project design revisions, three USTA grants have successfully been awarded for the 2022 Parks Bond Tennis Improvements Project. The following funds are to be reimbursed to The City upon project completion:

- USTA National: \$200,000
- USTA Southern: \$100,000
- USTA State (NC): \$10,000
- Total Grant Funds = \$310,000

Project Budget:

- \$6.75m from 2022 Parks Bond
- \$1.9m from previous Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds
- \$100,000 from Raleigh Water Stormwater Assistance GSI program
- Total budget: \$8.75M
- Total budget with USTA grants: \$9M
- Total encumbered and expensed: \$6.8M including engagement, professional services, public art and construction contracts
- Estimated remaining budget: \$2M

The remaining budget is intended to cover utility work and potential unforeseen construction change orders, the feasibility study of the existing courts and programming space, as well as other expenses associated with the next phase of improvements.

Project website: <https://raleighnc.gov/projects/biltmore-hills>

Project spending tracker: [2022 Parks Bond Spending Tracker](#)

Partnership Agreement with Ebony Racquet Club

In anticipation of the bond project Raleigh Parks initiated conversation to renew the partnership agreement with Ebony Raquet Club. This agreement defines the relationship, roles and responsibilities of both agencies to maximize the access for the youth of Raleigh to participate in the sport of tennis. This partnership provides a space where Ebony Racquet Club (ERC) and the City will collaborate to promote and increase tennis participation in Southeast Raleigh, with ERC using Biltmore Hills Park as the base of its operations. This partnership will provide a space that allows for year-round community use, program delivery and competitive tennis programs for the Southeast Raleigh community.

Key points of the partnership include daily no-cost use of up to 6 courts, allowing ERC to offer the following activities while retaining 100% of revenue generated.

- Junior group instruction, private instruction, league practices, matches and tournaments (up to nine (9) junior tournaments using up to eight (8) courts per event)
- Adult group and private instruction, league practices, matches and possibly adult tournaments

In addition to the activities listed, ERC will be authorized to use the shelter adjacent to the courts at no cost as well as having no-cost access for Indoor meeting space at Biltmore Hills Community Center two times per year for up to two hours each occurrence, during regular operating hours

This partnership is truly unique for Raleigh Parks in that a third-party organization is provided with no-cost use of space while also retaining all revenue generated by the activities delivered by the organization. Recognizing the routine, annual and capital expense associated with maintaining the physical space, it is standard practice for rental fees to be assessed or revenue shared.

The agreement is in its final stage of review by ERC.

Existing Tennis Courts and Programming Space Feasibility Study

Beyond the 2022 Parks Bond tennis courts expansion project, the existing eight tennis courts and space to support tennis programming at Biltmore Hills are being evaluated for improvement options through a feasibility study. The goal is to address aging facilities and better support current and future users. The assessment focuses on the condition of the existing courts and options for full renovation or replacement, while exploring opportunities to enhance the overall user experience through upgraded facilities and the creation of dedicated indoor space to support tennis operations and the expanded tennis program at Biltmore Hills Park.

Feasibility Study Project Scope:

- Reconstruction of 8 existing tennis courts
- Upgrade of court fencing
- Addition of space to support tennis programming and operations
- Cost estimates to inform funding resources for design, permitting and implementation
- Coordination of lighting upgrade which is included in planned Capital Improvement Program

Feasibility Study Project Timeline and Community Engagement Process:

- August 9, 2026, award of consultant contract
- September 22, 2026, Focus Group kick-off to review site analysis and explore preliminary options
- September 2026-Early 2027, Site Assessments and Concept Development
- February 2027, South Citizen Advisory Council and Focus Group joint review of draft concepts
- Spring 2027, Final draft concept and cost estimates
- Spring 2027, Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) review, hearing, and recommendations

- Spring 2027, City Council review and consideration
- Spring 2027, Final Feasibility Study delivery

Focus Group Membership:

- South Citizen Advisory Council (SCAC), Davon Murray & Brandi McNeill
- Ebony Racquet Club, Pamela Hankerson
- Shaw University Tennis Team, Sunday Enitan
- Biltmore Hills Neighborhood Association, Nicole Sullivan
- Friends of Biltmore Hills, John Smith
- Partners for Environmental Justice, George Jones & Sarah Brim

Current Activities:

- Inspection of stormwater pipes under the existing courts was completed early September 2026. Findings proved things are in good condition, eliminating the need for allocated funds to address stormwater pipe issues.
- Geotechnical field testing work has been completed, with findings available for review by the end of October. These findings will provide an understanding of the existing conditions for the court foundations, to better inform final concepts for the feasibility study.
- Four proposed locations for tennis programming and an operation facility were reviewed with the Focus Group and narrowed down to two locations, including an expansion of the existing community center and a stand-alone facility. Based on this feedback, the consultant is working to develop initial concepts for further community review.

Existing Park Improvements:

As previously presented to the community, Raleigh Parks continues to invest in the remaining baseball field to offset the loss of the smaller field. Completed improvements include

- upgraded field lighting
- playing surface enhancements
- provision of a portable pitching mound
- installation of a batting cage
- installation of a new scoreboard
- installation of an equipment storage shed

Renovation of the existing comfort station will be completed concurrently with construction of the new courts.

Existing court resurfacing was planned to occur with the completion of the new courts. This will be reconsidered as we determine the appropriate future steps for the courts. Court lighting grades are planned with funding identified in the Raleigh Parks Capital Improvement Program. These efforts will be coordinated with the result of the feasibility study of the existing courts and introduction of space to support tennis programming.

Over recent years, Parks and Stormwater collaborated with Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) to implement a series of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) improvements at Biltmore Hills Park to minimize stormwater runoff impacts around the park.

Biltmore Hills Park Master Plan Update

In fall 2025, the Biltmore Hills Park Master Plan Update project was launched to incorporate the adjacent 7.6-acre undeveloped property located at 1105 Cross Link Road. The Biltmore Hills Park Master Plan Update establishes a long-term vision for the expansion parcel. The plan identifies how the new property can strengthen the entire park, improve connections among existing and proposed destinations, and respond to the priorities expressed by residents and community partners.

Community Engagement Process:

The project team provided multiple opportunities for participation throughout the planning process. These opportunities included:

- Public meetings and open houses
- Online community surveys
- Focus-group discussions
- Online project information
- Meetings with community leaders and stakeholder groups
- Interactive activities used to evaluate park programs, design values, and concept alternatives
- Review of the draft master plan before final adoption

Each phase of engagement built on the previous phase. Early activities focused on understanding existing conditions, community experiences, and desired park improvements. Later activities asked participants to respond to design alternatives, evaluate proposed park spaces, and help refine the final master plan.

Together, these participation opportunities created a clear record of community priorities and provided the direction needed to develop a park plan that reflects the people, history, and future of South Raleigh.

Master Plan Update Project Timeline:

- Fall 2025 – Winter 2026, Site analysis and geotechnical investigation
- January 2026, Initial public input open house and online survey
- February 2026, Project introduction at South Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council
- February-March 2026, Development of alternative concepts
- April 2026, Alternative concepts review, including a public open house, focus group review, online survey, and presentation at South Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council
- June 2026, Draft Master Plan focus group review

- July 2026, Draft Master Plan review at South Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council
- July-August 2026, Draft Master Plan community review and online survey
- September-November 2026, PRGAB Parks Committee review
- November 2026, PRGAB review, hearing and recommendations
- December 2026-January 2027, City Council review and consideration pending PRGAB review and recommendation