



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023
CARY, NORTH CAROLINA



CARY MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBERS



Mayor
Harold Weinbrecht



Mayor Pro Tem
Don Frantz



Councilmember
Lori Bush



Councilmember
Ryan Eades



Councilmember
Jennifer Bryson Robinson



Councilmember
Jack Smith



Councilmember
Carissa Kohn-Johnson

On the cover: Recap of activities in Cary during FY 2023.

AS I REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR, I'M AMAZED BY HOW MUCH WE ACCOMPLISHED AS A TEAM. THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR HAS BEEN A REMARKABLE JOURNEY FILLED WITH BOTH TRIUMPHS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

This report gives us the opportunity to reflect on the year, commemorate both significant and minor accomplishments, and enhance our understanding as we progress toward realizing our collective vision for Cary's future.

This past year continued to demonstrate Cary's unwavering commitment to improving and maintaining infrastructure and sustainability. Several projects were initiated to improve our roadways, expand green spaces, and promote eco-friendly practices. These investments will ensure that Cary remains a beautiful, well-connected, and sustainable place to call home.

Some of our proudest moments from this fiscal year include:

- Launching the inaugural Non-Profit Capacity Building Program cohort
- Hosting world-class sporting events such as The Soccer Tournament, NCAA D1 Women's Lacrosse, and ACC Tennis Championship
- Continued development and urbanization of downtown
- Rollout of the new Cary brand
- Formalizing our food-waste recycling drop-off service
- Continuing our commitment to public safety with new staff and initiatives

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support in our efforts to uphold our exceptional service standards while enhancing Cary's standing as a world-class community. I hope you enjoy this reflection of the past year as much as I did.

Live Inspired,

Sean R. Stegall

Sean R. Stegall
Town Manager



IN MOVING CARY FORWARD

CARY SNAPSHOT

180,388
POPULATION

7TH
LARGEST MUNICIPALITY
IN N.C.

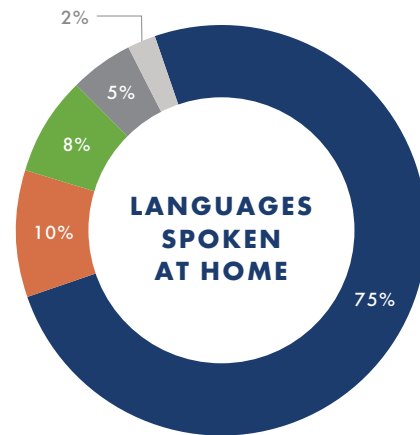
150TH
LARGEST MUNICIPALITY
IN U.S.

\$123,857
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

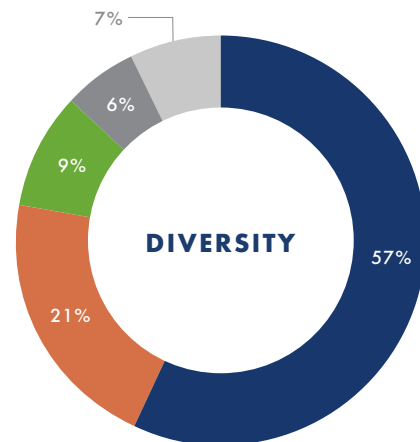
477
SIDEWALK MILES
MAINTAINED IN FY 2023

95
MILES OF GREENWAY

168
OF TREES ADDED
ON PUBLIC LANDS IN FY 2023



- ENGLISH: 75%
- ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER LANGUAGES: 10%
- OTHER INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES: 8%
- SPANISH: 5%
- OTHER: 2%



- WHITE: 57%
- ASIAN: 21%
- AFRICAN AMERICAN: 9%
- HISPANIC: 6%
- OTHER: 7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2016–2020) American Community Survey

IMAGINE CARY COMMUNITY PLAN

UPDATED MASTER PLANS

Departmental and subject specific master plans are developed with technical expertise and community input. Once adopted by the Town Council, they become part of the Imagine Cary Community Plan and incorporated in the plan for reference. Developing and executing master plans help ensure that Cary is meeting, exceeding, and addressing the needs of the community as it grows, changes, and becomes more diverse.

The following list identifies the major master plans within the Imagine Cary Community Plan, and the date it was last updated or expected completion dates for plans currently being reviewed.

PLAN	STATUS (AS OF JUNE 30, 2023)
BICYCLE PLAN	In Process – Complete summer 2024
CARY RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITY MASTER PLAN	In-Process – Complete winter 2024
CHATHAM JOINT LAND USE MASTER PLAN	Updated 2021
HISTORIC PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN	In-Process – Complete winter 2025
OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN	In-Process – Complete summer 2024
PRCR MASTER PLAN	In-Process – Complete summer 2024
SOLID WASTER MASTER PLAN	Phase 1 complete – Phase 2 begins winter 2024
STORMWATER MASTER PLAN	Planned update in FY 2025
TENNIS COURTS MASTER PLAN	In-Process – Complete winter 2024
URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN	In Process – Complete winter 2024
WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN	Planned update in FY 2025

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'23

FINANCIAL
HIGHLIGHTS

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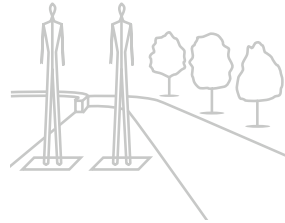
SHAPE

23



LIVE

11



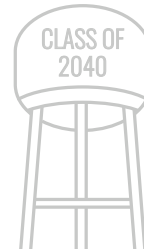
MOVE

27



WORK

17



SERVE

33



ENGAGE

19



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2023

'23

The FY 2023 fiscal year ended as of June 30, 2023, and no unusual financial activity occurred during the year. Staff are working to finalize the accounting for FY 2023 and will submit the audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by the State’s statutory deadline.

The following page summarizes the General Fund’s activity for the past five years. The General Fund is Cary’s largest operating fund and had an FY 2023 budget of \$268 million.¹ The General Fund receives revenue from several sources. The two largest revenues, in this fund, are property tax and sales tax which account for 64% of the General Fund’s budget. Property tax revenue has 2% growth, which is around \$2.5 million and

consistent with previous years. Sales tax however, has continued to outperform historical growth patterns and is expected to end the year 9% higher than FY 2022.²

General Fund expenditures, as of the last fiscal quarter, increased 13% compared to last year. Most of this increase is driven by operations, as there were several planned factors that impacted operations this year. Initiatives in Marketing and IT, personnel costs, and inflation all contributed to the 13% increase in General Fund expenditures. In addition, supply chain issues last year delayed the purchase of several vehicles until FY 2023 which also was a factor to the increase in General Fund expenditures.

¹The information in the financial section are unaudited and will vary from the results in the FY 2023 ACFR. The information in this report is limited to the information available at time of publication.

²Sales tax is distributed by the N.C. Department of Revenue about two and a half months after the month when taxable sales occurred.



GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

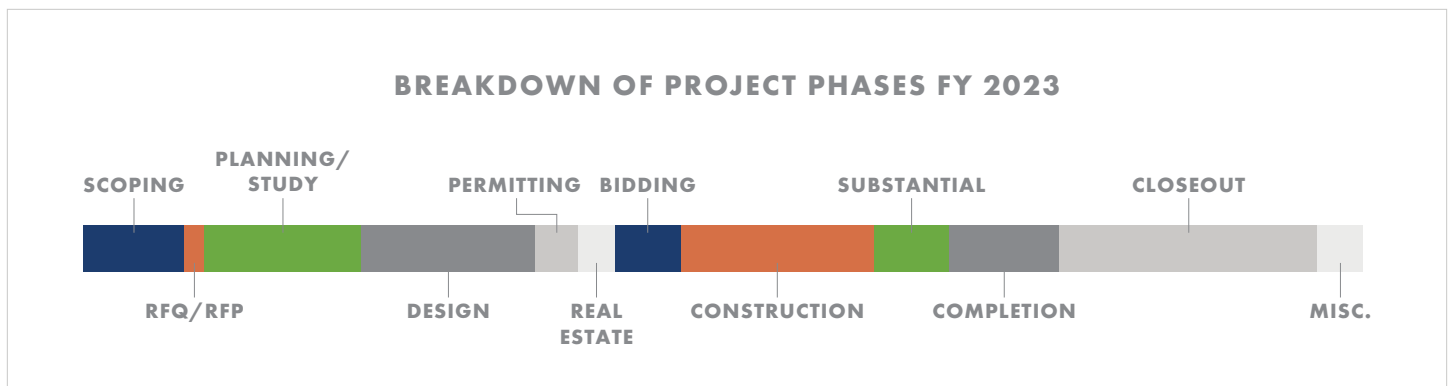
	ACTUAL FY 2019	ACTUAL FY 2020	ACTUAL FY 2021	ACTUAL FY 2022	UNAUDITED ACTUAL FY 2023
PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 94,482,047	97,059,900	116,669,579	116,938,159	119,370,904
SALES TAXES	36,382,033	37,752,049	43,543,986	52,350,407	57,056,910
OTHER TAXES & LICENSES	2,679,688	2,418,913	2,056,281	2,989,230	2,993,545
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	12,031,005	11,677,829	13,697,732	11,732,434	9,993,489
PERMITS & FEES	5,504,354	4,463,068	5,001,111	6,027,511	4,682,664
SALES & SERVICES	19,882,409	18,215,022	16,792,456	21,544,078	24,577,009
INTEREST	3,821,307	3,960,215	(7,225)	(3,760,436)	1,360,204
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	2,580,248	3,242,825	2,327,140	2,293,601	2,136,317
OPERATING REVENUES	177,363,091	178,789,821	200,081,060	210,114,984	222,171,042
NONOPERATING REVENUES	3,559,520	1,790,932	19,705,399	2,505,495	164,269
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 180,922,611	180,580,753	219,786,459	212,620,479	222,335,311
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	28,279,697	28,918,783	32,368,433	37,672,880	45,829,581
PUBLIC SAFETY	49,221,200	53,471,204	52,895,509	58,703,715	67,208,128
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)	\$ 47,286,474	48,189,298	43,575,668	52,292,839	59,659,142
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE	15,426,049	15,186,312	14,857,466	16,485,265	16,044,248
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	140,213,420	145,765,597	143,697,076	165,154,699	188,741,099
NONOPERATING EXPENDITURES	31,478,202	34,384,407	69,522,544	54,408,836	60,460,227
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 171,691,622	180,150,004	213,219,620	219,563,535	249,201,326
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	9,230,989	430,749	6,566,839	(6,943,056)	(26,866,015)

CAPITAL PROGRAM

In FY 2023 there were 564 active capital projects. The total budgeted amount for these projects is \$1,139,996,628. In these 564 projects \$678,960,631 has been spent. The breakdown of the projects by type, funds expended, and by phase of development is seen in the figures provided below.

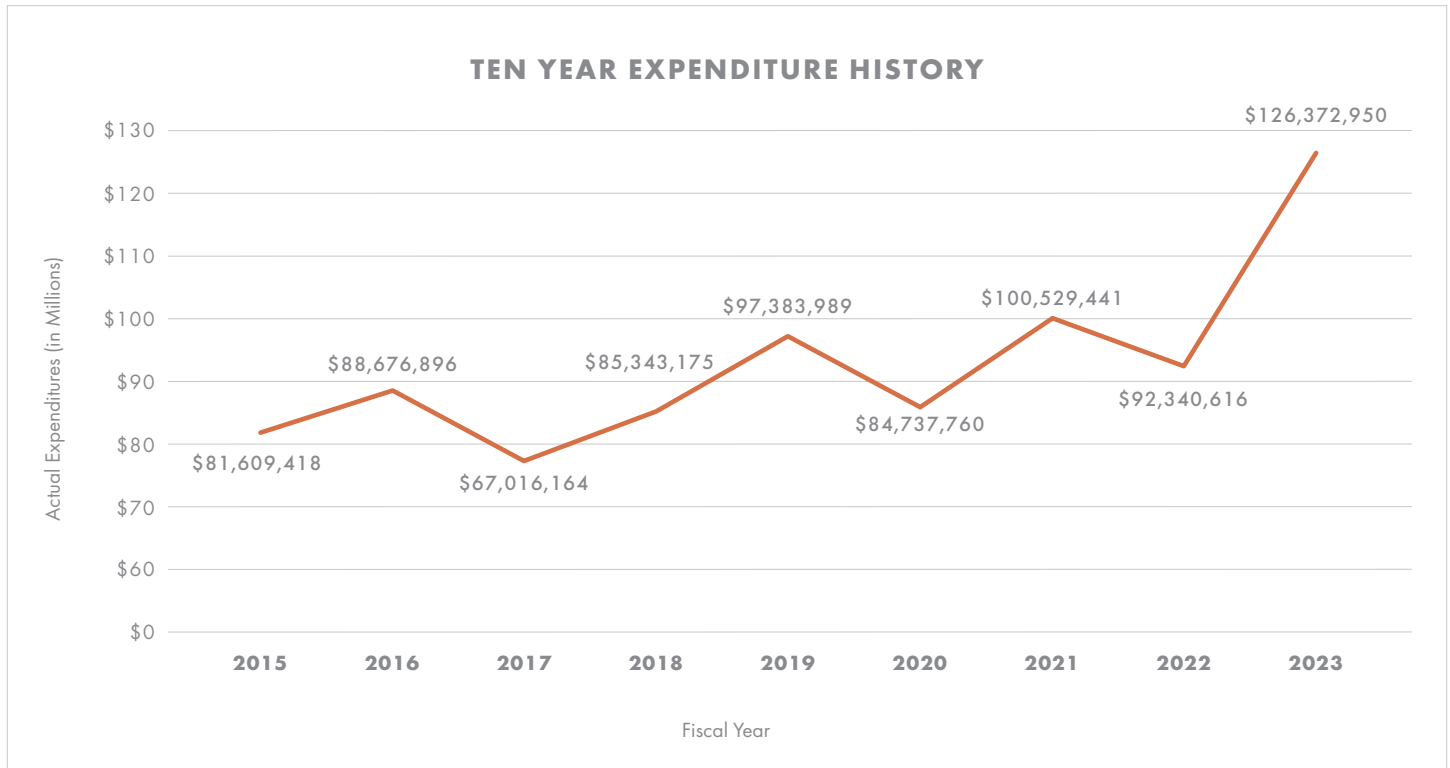
BUDGETED REVENUES, ACTUAL EXPENDITURES, AND COUNT OF PROJECTS

	BUDGETED REVENUES	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	COUNT OF PROJECT NUMBER
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 55,123,305	\$ 22,887,988	110
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	18,156,033	10,467,787	99
SEWER	16,126,588	23,970,575	116
WATER	15,477,009	7,539,707	104
PARKS & RECREATION	11,721,937	54,238,058	117
DOWNTOWN	9,142,699	6,729,498	15
FIRE	6,317,506	191,410	9



TOP BUDGETED CAPITAL PROJECTS

	PROJECT TYPE	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	PROJECT BALANCE	PROJECT PHASE
CARPENTER FIRE STATION ROAD WIDENING	Transportation	\$ 23,083,500	2,442,772	20,640,728	Real Estate
GOCARY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY	Transportation	36,200,000	1,648,694	37,551,306	Design
CARY PARKWAY SIDEWALK	Transportation	7,010,000	1,019,535	5,990,465	Bidding
FY 2023 STREET IMPROVEMENTS	Transportation	7,719,040	922,588	6,796,452	Construction
FIRE STATION REHABILITATION	Fire	3,251,608	432,905	2,818,703	Design
FY 2023 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS	Water	4,481,090	236,139	4,244,951	Design







LIVE

FOSTERING STRONG
NEIGHBORHOODS





GROWING HOUSING DIVERSITY IN CARY

NEW RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

FISCAL YEAR	PERMIT COUNT	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUE
FY 2019	880	3,493,721	\$ 191,636,112
FY 2020	741	2,944,945	198,202,965
FY 2021	948	3,559,579	261,583,614
FY 2022	811	2,807,361	202,627,102
FY 2023	349	1,433,867	134,980,948

RESIDENTIAL ALT/ADD PERMITS

FISCAL YEAR	PERMIT COUNT	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUE
FY 2019	1,431	504,538	\$ 46,357,970
FY 2020	1,547	897,727	49,635,267
FY 2021	1,856	995,141	71,550,978
FY 2022	1,869	717,645	82,076,854
FY 2023	1,623	668,205	90,545,817

EXISTING RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

FISCAL YEAR	PERMIT COUNT	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUE
FY 2019	6,138	1,805,170	\$ 109,981,074
FY 2020	6,578	1,902,280	95,717,844
FY 2021	7,530	2,171,306	118,704,528
FY 2022	7,850	1,743,421	131,344,168
FY 2023	7,554	1,592,999	163,026,464

TOP HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN FY 2023

SUBDIVISIONS	PERMIT COUNT
CARPENTER SQUARE	85
THE COURTYARDS AT WEST CARY	75
ESTATES AT WEDDINGTON	39
JAMES GROVE	23
CORBINTON AT KILDAIRE FARM	19



HOUSING DIVERSITY

FISCAL YEAR	DETACHED DWELLINGS	TOWN-HOUSES	MULTI-FAMILY UNITS	TOTAL
FY 2019	601	279	560	1,440
FY 2020	489	252	197	938
FY 2021	573	375	1,442	2,390
FY 2022	278	535	1,107	1,920
FY 2023	198	149	966	1,313



NEW MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS

FISCAL YEAR	PERMIT COUNT	NUMBER OF UNITS	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUE
FY 2019	12	527	736,139	\$ 48,518,038
FY 2020	5	197	266,253	18,617,540
FY 2021	39	904	2,221,984	309,147,450
FY 2022	16	1,107	1,635,915	132,669,851
FY 2023	24	966	1,954,098	249,962,213



HOUSING STORIES

NON-PROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING



In the spring, leaders from ten Cary community development nonprofits completed Cary’s first Nonprofit Capacity Building program in partnership with the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits. The program enabled the nonprofits to strengthen their foundational management skills through classes on topics including strategic communications, fundraising, board governance, and financial management, allowing them to focus their resources on the services and support they bring to Cary residents. Empowering our nonprofits through capacity building opportunities is a key initiative of the Cary Housing Plan. This was an opportunity to support established relationships with many nonprofits and create new connections.

921 SE MAYNARD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



In preparation for breaking ground in 2024, Cary’s partner, Laurel Street Residential, has been making significant progress on the 921 SE Maynard Rd mixed-income housing development. The first of its kind to be constructed on Cary-owned land, 64 of the 126 units will be made available to families earning below 30%–80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The development will be National Green Building Standard Silver certified, feature a public greenway connection between Ryan Road and SE Maynard Road, preserve 42% of the total site for green or natural area, and provide easy access to Cary downtown and future bus rapid transit. Upon completion, the development will provide high-quality, new housing units to Cary.





SENIOR HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

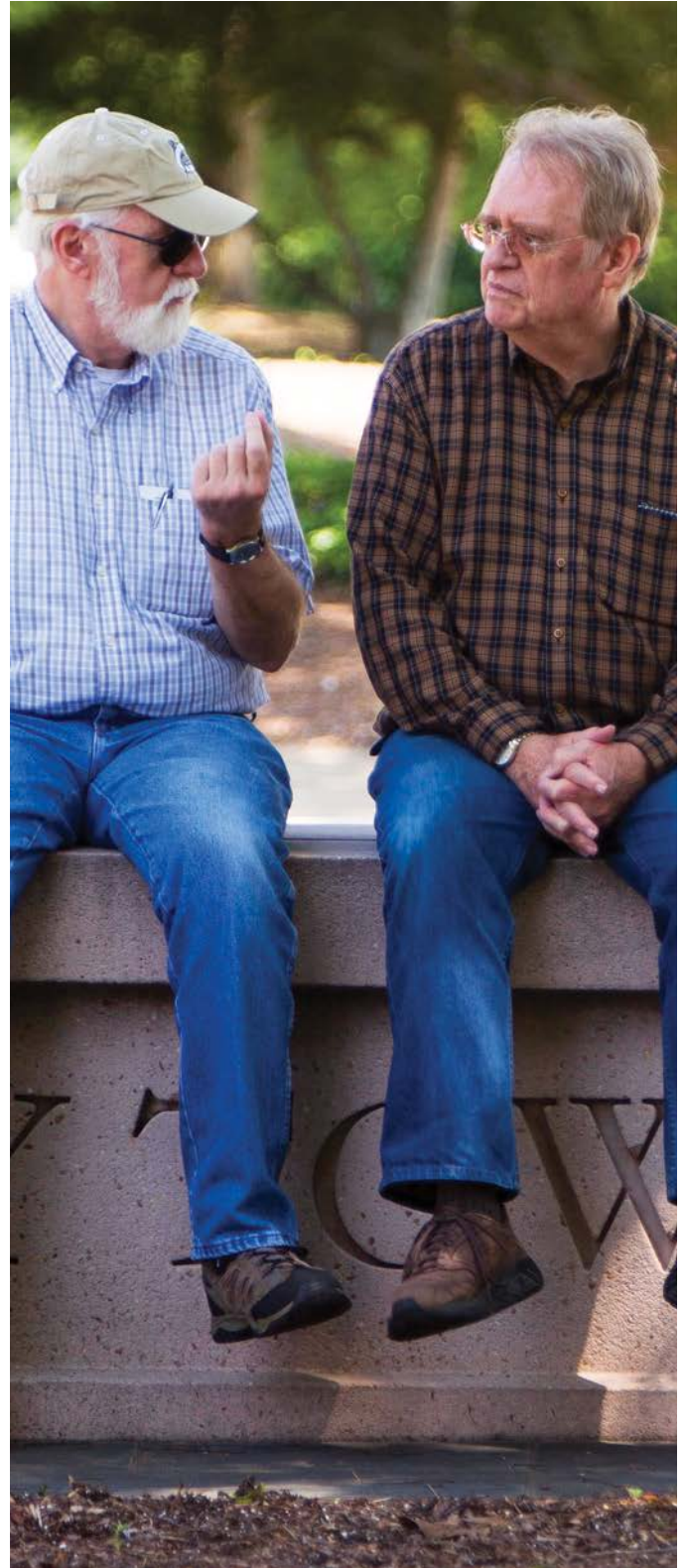


In the spring, the Housing and Community Partnerships team convened members of Cary Town Council, staff, the Senior Advisory Board, Wake County staff, and several community partners to discuss the needs, opportunities and existing resources for affordable senior housing options in Cary. The 2021 Cary Housing Plan acknowledged the need to increase support of diverse senior housing options and this event was a powerful catalyst for forging industry connections and supporting further discussion on how Cary can and should increase its investment in this space.

CARY ACCOLADES

#3

BEST PLACE TO BUY A HOUSE
BY NEWS & OBSERVER





A photograph of two construction workers at a site. The worker on the left is wearing a white hard hat with 'WGS' on it, a high-visibility vest, and jeans, walking towards the right. The worker on the right is wearing a red hard hat with 'CSI' on it, a high-visibility vest, and jeans, walking away from the camera. The background shows a construction site with a brick building and a blue sky. A green diagonal graphic element is on the right side of the image.

WORK

ASSURING
CONTINUED
PROSPERITY





WORKFORCE GROWTH



28

RIBBON CUTTINGS



3.3%

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
AS OF JUNE 2023**



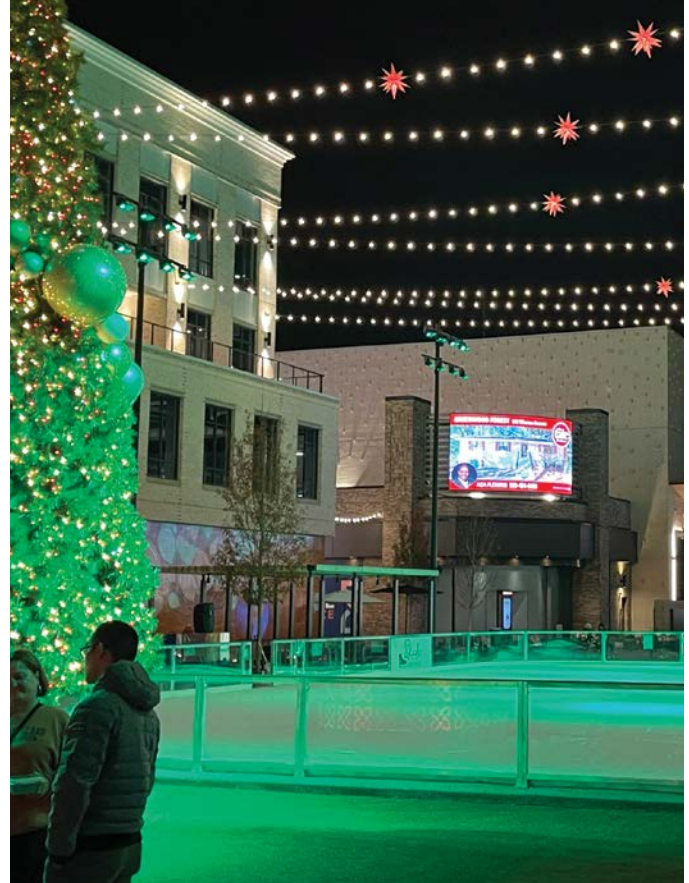
735

JOBS WERE CREATED

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Notable workforce expansions and business development:

- MetLife expanded their workforce
- Proto Labs expanded with a new 100,000 square foot facility
- Fenton opened phase one
- Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate opened a new Cary office downtown
- The Walker Apartments opened
- Howdy's Ice cream and GiGi's Playhouse opened at The Walker
- Good Day Cary retail store opened downtown
- BB'S Crispy Chicken concept opened in Parkside Commons





ENGAGE

EXPERIENCING THE CARY COMMUNITY





NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

Cary hosted The Soccer Tournament (TST) on June 1–4. This event was the first of its kind and sparked a lot of energy around Cary and the sport of soccer. There were around 35,000 tickets sold among the seven sessions hosted over four days. The tournament was broadcast across Peacock, YouTube, CNBC, and NBC for 63 hours (for the 63 games played). The event was superb across the board, and a tremendous boost to Cary and the region in terms of economic impact and branding. The convention and visitor’s bureau is estimating a \$1.7M economic impact to Cary and Wake County. A huge thanks goes out to all the staff who spent many hours making this event a success across Police, Public Works, Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources, Legal, Town Manager’s Office, Town Council, and many other departments.

Cary hosted the NCAA Division I Women’s Lacrosse National Championship at WakeMed Soccer Park. It was the first time Cary has hosted the event and also the first time high-level college women’s lacrosse has been played at WakeMed Park. Teams traveled from Northwestern University, University of Denver, Syracuse University, and Boston College. There was also a strong local crowd that helped pack the stadium to 7,709 for Friday night semifinals and 6,705 on Sunday for the finals. Northwestern raised the trophy for the 8th time as champions.

Annual community celebrations included Diwali, Halloween, Veterans Day, Heart for the Holidays, Hanukkah Menorah Lighting, Kwanzaa celebration, winter holiday festivities, Spring Daze, Earth Day, Memorial Day, and events at Good Hope Farm.





PARKS AND RECREATION NOTABLE FACTS AND FIGURES



39
PARKS



13
STAFFED FACILITIES



2,688
PARK ACRES



24
PLAYGROUNDS



20
PARKS WITH TRAILS



CARY ACCOLADES

#3

**FENTON'S RATING IN THE
TOP 10 RETAIL CENTER EXPERIENCES
BY AL URBANSKI, CHAIN STORE AGE**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

IVEY-ELLINGTON HOUSE



The Ivey-Ellington House was relocated to a new location at the former library site. There is a colorful fence wrap surrounding the property that features new Cary colors and architectural details of the house. The site will remain active throughout the rehabilitation process.

NANCY JONES HOUSE



In FY 2023 Town Council unanimously adopted an ordinance designating the Nancy Jones House as a Cary historic landmark. Built in 1803 and Cary's oldest known residential structure, the Nancy Jones house is historically significant for its Federal style architecture. In addition, the house has been visited over the years by numerous NC governors and even President James K. Polk. Further supporting Council's initial action to preserve this piece of Cary history, rehabilitation of the interior and exterior of the house is planned to begin in 2024.





SHAPE

**GUIDING
COMMUNITY
GROWTH**





PERMITS, ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS/DEV PLANS/REZONINGS



89

DEVELOPMENT PLANS
APPROVED



12%

REZONING
CONVERSIONS



10

REZONINGS
APPROVED

NEW NON-RESIDENTIAL

- 31 permits
- 505,478 square feet
- \$42,255,796 construction value

NON-RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS

- 873 permits
- 3,902,084 square feet
- \$122,108,095 construction value

9,372

PERMITS IN ALL

9,226,543

SQUARE FEET

\$696,439,775

CONSTRUCTION VALUE



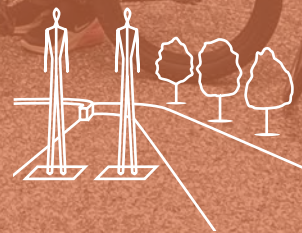
TOP NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS COMPETED IN FY 2023

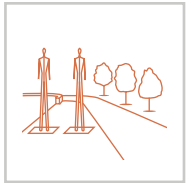
PROJECTS	SQUARE FEET	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION VALUE
ATRIA CARY SENIOR LIVING	197,952	\$ 32,528,416
BEE SAFE STORAGE	90,220	3,497,853
WASTE MANAGEMENT TRANSFER STATION	40,522	30,495,000
MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH	13,045	7,650,000
EAGLES SERVICE STATION	9,804	1,099,153
AMBERLY ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN	8,134	1,976,250
AUTOZONE AUTO PARTS	7,795	763,000
IVYBROOK ACADEMY	6,417	1,177,000
7-ELEVEN	6,287	1,500,000
BOJANGLES	4,550	971,716
FENTON ACCESSORY BUILDING	3,645	1,502,000
CHASE BANK	3,299	1,900,000
FIFTH THIRD BANK	2,452	1,500,000





MOVE
PROVIDING
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES





TRANSPORTATION



477
**SIDEWALK MILES
MAINTAINED**



95
**GREENWAY MILES
MANAGED**



214
BUS STOPS



BIKE LANE MILES

125

ON ROAD BIKE LANES

2.5

SEPARATED

25

STRIPED

27

SHARED-USE ROUTES

69

SIGNED BIKE ROUTES



CASSI IN CARY'S BOND PARK



1,718
TOTAL RIDERS SERVED



494
TOTAL TRIPS



86%
UPTIME

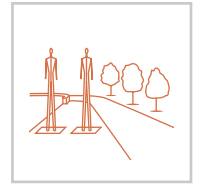
CASSI

During a 13-week period from March 6 through June 2, 2023, Fred G. Bond Metro Park was the site of an exciting demonstration in autonomous vehicle technology. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) partnered with Cary to bring an all-electric, driverless shuttle to Bond Park. The Connected Autonomous Shuttle Supporting Innovation (CASSI) ran a 1.6-mile, four-stop route from the Cary Senior Center to Bond Park Community Center on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the pilot.

Teams across multiple departments at Cary collaborated with NCDOT and Beep to plan and launch the pilot. Cary invested significant funding and staff resources to meet requirements for the shuttle's route, storage location, and charging equipment. Cary upfitted their carpentry shop adjacent to the Cary Senior Center stop into a suitable shelter and charging location for the shuttle by purchasing and installing charging equipment, a Wi-Fi cradle point, and HVAC upgrades. Cary designed, fabricated, and installed signs along the route and at the stops, including A-frame signs with information about the pilot and a Quick Response (QR) code that linked to Cary's webpage for the project. Cary facilitated events with Cary Town Council,

media, and citizens, and delivered numerous marketing and communications efforts in collaboration with NCDOT and Beep through various channels (e.g., webpages, news releases, and social media). 311 was also utilized to keep the public informed about the project.





YEAR OF THE TRAIL



The State legislature designated 2023 the Year of the Trail in celebration of North Carolina as the Great Trails State. Cary is a greenways leader in North Carolina with over 95 miles of paved trails. Cary celebrated the Year of the Trail with bike rides, walks, and activities along the greenways engaging the citizens, celebrating accomplishments, and building awareness of this community amenity.

CARY ACCOLADES

#5

**BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN U.S.
BY HOMESNACKS**

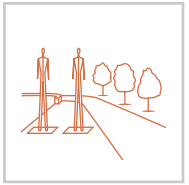
GREEN BIKE LANES



Cary received authorization from the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to use "green paint" to designate locations on roadways where bicyclists are expected and in areas where bicyclists and other traffic may have potentially conflicting or crossing movements. The green colored pavement within a bike lane increases visibility, identifies potential conflict areas and indicates priority to bikes in conflict areas. Utilizing the green color throughout the bike network is important to promote a clear understanding for all modes of transportation. As Cary continues to grow and connect the bike network, staff will consider the use of this "green treatment" as applicable with the goal of providing a safe and comfortable ride for all modes of transportation.

GOCARY EXPANDS REGIONAL SERVICE

Regional transit connections continued to expand with the launch of GoApex Route 1 in late July. This free service, operated by GoCary, is available 6 AM - 10 PM, Monday thru Saturday.



BIKE PLAN KICK-OFF AND CITIZEN FOCUS GROUP

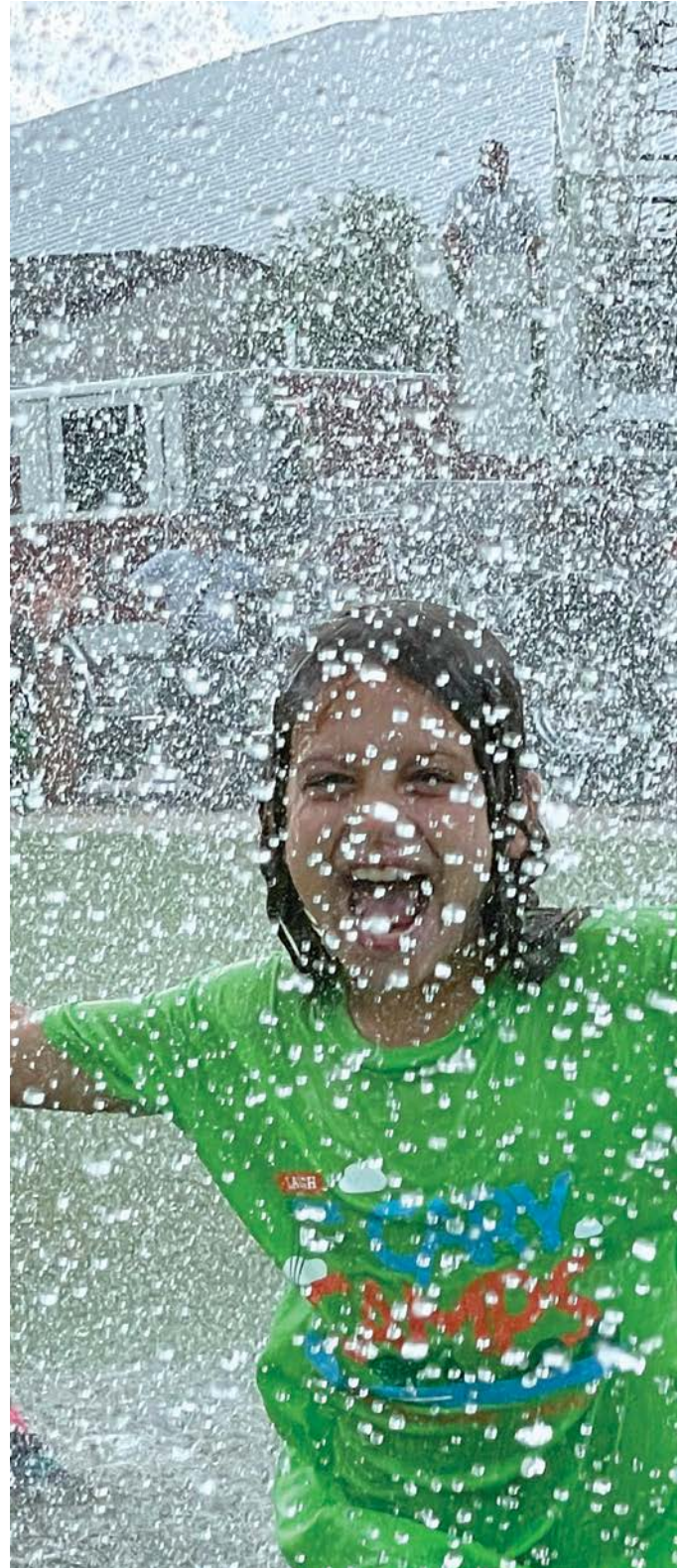


Cary's Bike Plan kicked off in the spring of 2023 and the project team has been actively engaging stakeholders in Phase 1 of the project with a series of events, bike rides, and online mapping and public surveys. In addition to public outreach, the Bike Plan Focus Group, a citizen-based group, has met monthly, discussing various topics such as network analysis, engagement opportunities and bicycle facility design and comfort. Currently underway is the review of our decision-making documents and the development of a draft network map and design guidance for building a safe, connected and comfortable bike network.

CARY ACCOLADES

#7

**BEST PLACES FOR MILLENNIALS
TO LIVE IN THE NATION
BY COMMERCIALCAFE,
RALEIGH-CARY METRO**







SERVE

MEETING
COMMUNITY
NEEDS

Triangle
DISABILITY & Accessibility
Services





NATURAL RESOURCES

COUNT ME IN, CARY!

Earth Day was the official launch of the Count Me In, Cary! Stewardship strategies for a sustainable future. This campaign and community participatory survey educated and generated interest, engagement, and citizen input about concerns and willingness to act on topics such as supporting the environment and/or reducing CO2 emissions. The campaign also included a working group of community leaders and Dorcas Ministries and established the designation of climate ambassadors throughout Cary. Environmental health is a key priority for Cary and is consistent with the strategy outlined in the Imagine Cary Community Plan.



NATURAL AREAS,
OPEN SPACE & TRAILS



WILDLIFE
& NATIVE SPECIES



URBAN & COMMUNITY
FORESTRY



WATERSHED
& ECOSYSTEMS





NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

Cary is currently developing an Open Space master plan. The plan has incorporated a community survey to give citizens an opportunity for input. The top three focal points from the community survey were a desired focus on trails and greenways, trailhead improvements such as additional restrooms and parking, and an emphasis on nature preserves and natural areas. The plan is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2024.



WILDLIFE & NATIVE SPECIES

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Staff have been busy planting native species all throughout Cary over the last year. In addition, there are beehives at several fire stations and native pollinator gardens at Good Hope Farm.



URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

In our ongoing commitment to steward and grow the tree canopy Cary continued planting trees on public lands with 168 trees planted in the past year. Cary also preserved 36 legacy trees on the Downtown Cary Park property.

Now in its third year, the My Tree, Our Tree, FY 2023 campaign distributed 550 trees in fall and 600 native trees in the spring into the community for citizens to plant on private property. With the enthusiastic and unabated demand, staff is increasing the number of trees that will be offered in the fall, developing a new registration process, and redesigning logistics to keep the momentum going.

The Urban Forestry Master Plan is near completion and focuses on Cary’s tree canopy, improving the quality of Cary’s trees and forests, and promoting a community-wide, shared commitment to healthy forests.

CARY ACCOLADES

1

BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN N.C. BY HOMESNACKS



WATERSHED & ECOSYSTEMS

Last summer, the Jordan Lake One Water Coalition was formed as a non-profit organization to shape, support, and promote and integrated One Water policy in the Jordan Lake watershed. The coalition, which is a continuation of an ongoing regional partnership, will promote systematic management options to meet community needs for managing water resources and to improve ecological and environmental functions within the Jordan Lake Watershed including the eventual re-adoption of Jordan Lake Rules.

ORGANICS – SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, AND COMPOSTING

Having surpassed its pilot goals, Cary’s food waste drop-off was deemed a success and is here to stay. Established in February 2022, the one-year pilot’s initial goal of collecting a minimum of 16 tons of food scraps resulted in an actual collection of 40 tons, exceeding the goal by 150%. Additionally, the community’s enthusiasm for the service resulted in a steady stream of collection to the tune of over 12,000 food scrap drop offs over the course of 12 months. This initiative supports Cary’s long-standing commitment to waste reduction and diversion by offering citizens an option to divert household food waste from landfills and return it to the earth as valuable compost; Good Hope Farm is a recipient of finished compost in the amount of 10% of the total weight of scraps collected and received its first delivery this year.





UTILITIES

WAKE COUNTY WASTEWATER COLLABORATION

In October, Cary extended our agreement with Wake County to continue COVID-19 wastewater monitoring for an additional three years and to add other infectious diseases such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and other health-related issues to the panel for surveillance and tracking. Cary provides influent wastewater samples from our three water reclamation facilities twice a week to Wake County for COVID-19 testing and trending. The information is used and shared with NC Department of Health and Human Services and CDC through the NC Wastewater Monitoring Network to help track COVID-19 trends and is used with other public health data. Wastewater monitoring is a state of the art tool that can help provide early detection information on infection levels within a community.

UTILITIES GREENHOUSE GAS STUDY

As part of our continued efforts toward sustainability, the Utilities Department completed an initial energy audit and greenhouse gas study for key water and wastewater facilities. The study included an assessment of the four treatment plants as well as the main pumping station serving the Western Wake Water Reclamation Facility. Study results provided insight on the magnitude and sources of energy consumption at each facility and were used to prepare an energy dashboard for each facility. Utility staff will be able to use these dashboards to track the effectiveness of modifications made to improve energy efficiency.

Cary staff had opportunities to present the results of this study to the public both at a state-level water resources conference and to Cary's Environmental Advisory Board.



CARY ACCOLADES

#5

IN THE U.S. FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY
AND EARNING POTENTIAL
BY CHECKR, RALEIGH-CARY METRO



CRABTREE CREEK AND BLACK CREEK SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECTS

FY 2023 saw the completion of the Crabtree Creek and Black Creek Sewer Rehabilitation Projects. These major projects helped to maintain the health of our sewer collection system by renewing aging pipes that are in danger of failure.

The project was very complex and required closing these popular greenways for months at a time while the work took place. Greenways are a much-loved amenity in Cary, so the project was carefully scoped to limit closures to one greenway at a time and keep the closures as short as possible. A unique feature of this project was the complexity of the communications planning. Many months went into developing the communications plan and multi-media tools used in its execution.



PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE WATER DISTRIBUTION

At this year's American Water Works Association annual conference in Toronto, Cary received its first Partnership for Safe Water Directors Award for Water Systems Operations. Cary's water treatment facility has been recognized by the Partnership for two decades based on its commitment to process optimization and performance beyond regulatory levels. This is the first year, however, that the water distribution system has also been recognized.

Significant effort goes into preparing and compiling the data required to demonstrate that a distribution system can meet the requirements of the Director's Award. Staff worked for over a year to get everything ready for submission. With this recognition, Cary joins an elite group of about 120 water systems in the United States and Canada recognized for their superior water distribution system performance.

CARY ACCOLADES

#2

ON TOP 25 BEST PLACES TO LIVE
IN THE SOUTHEAST BY LIVABILITY



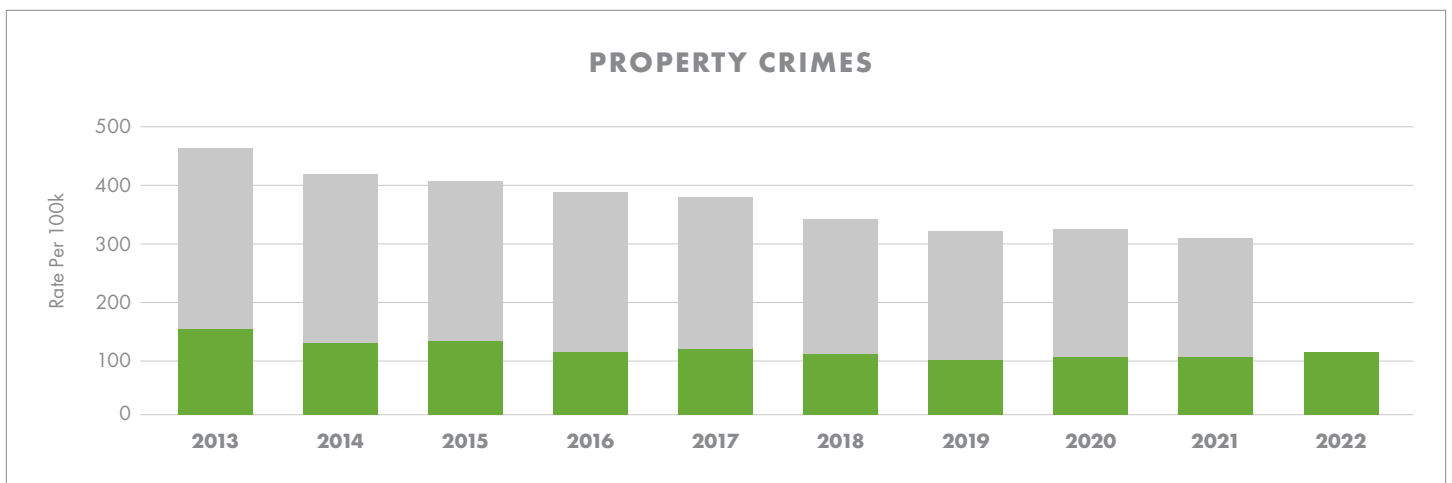
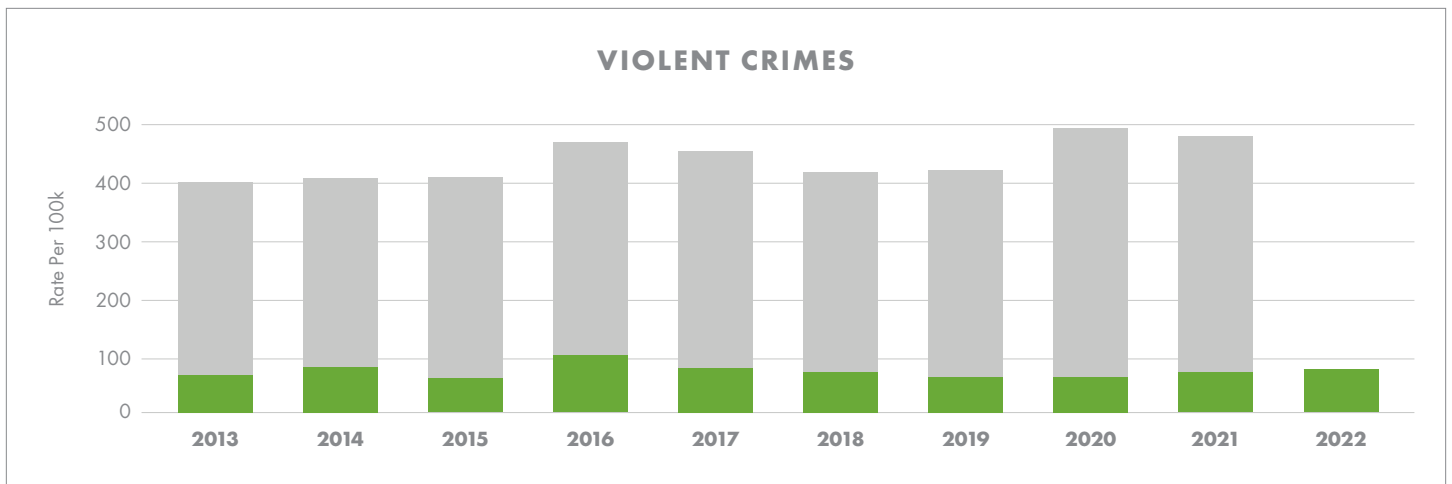
PUBLIC SAFETY

The Cary Police continues to look for innovative ways to meet the ongoing challenges of law enforcement. The department is committed to ensuring solutions that are collaborative, customized, and effective. The Cary Police mission is to work together to deliver safety through excellence.

Cary’s crime rate continues to be significantly lower than the state crime rate in both violent and property crimes.



■ CARY ■ NC





CARY POLICE NOTABLE FACTS AND FIGURES



1,410

**OFFICERS WORKED
EXTRA DUTY JOBS FOR
COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR
A TOTAL OF 7,637 HOURS**



113,206

**CALLS FOR SERVICE
WERE RESPONDED TO
BY OFFICERS**



3

**OF THE TOP CALLS WERE
TRAFFIC, ASSISTING
PERSONS, QUALITY
OF LIFE CALLS**



34

NEW OFFICERS HIRED



3,341

**HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
FOR OFFICERS**



225

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH
EVENTS WITH OFFICER
PARTICIPATION**



10,562

**DIRECT PATROLS
COMPLETED BY OFFICERS**



1,441

**FOOT PATROLS
COMPLETED BY OFFICERS**



9,789

**TRAFFIC STOPS
COMPLETED BY OFFICERS**



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