

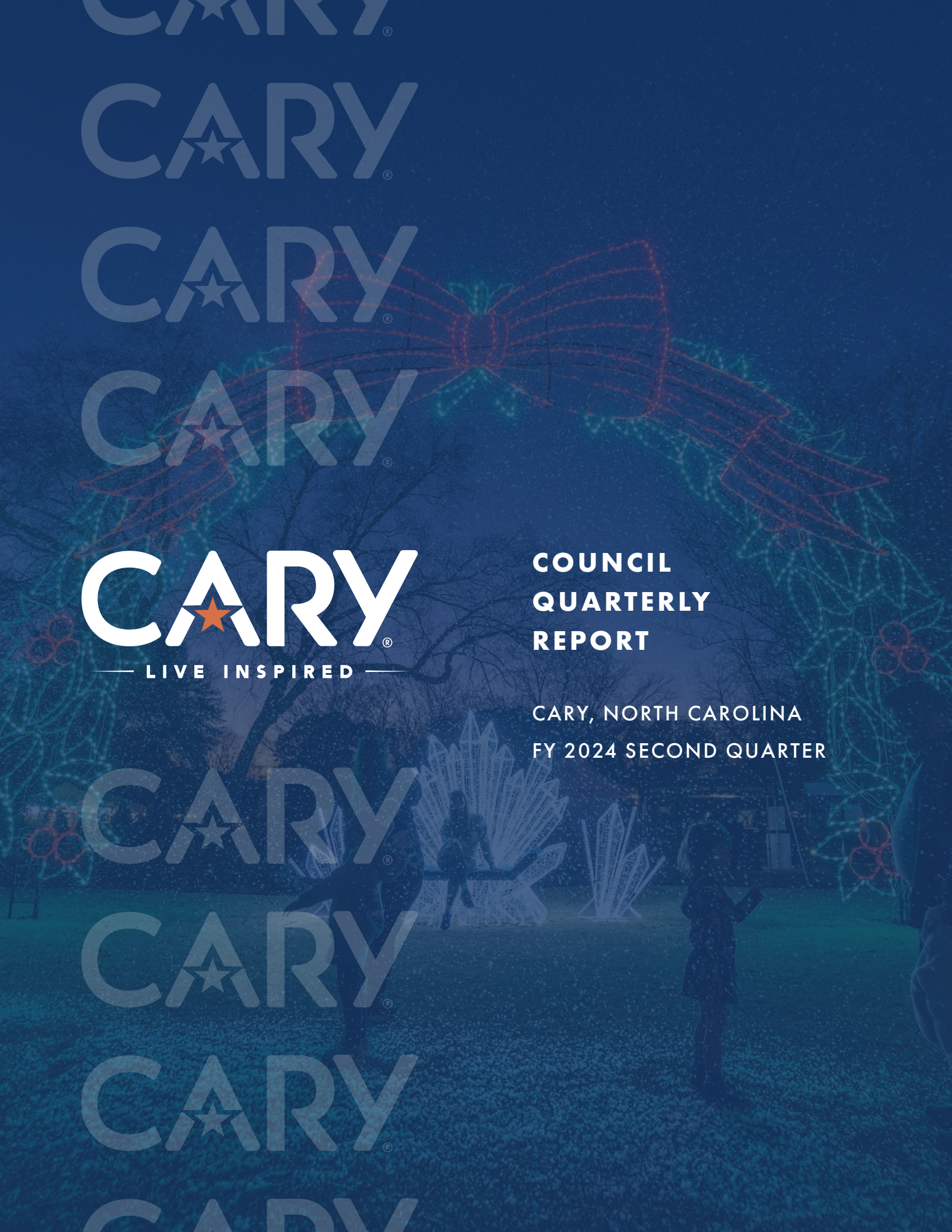
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CARY
— LIVE INSPIRED —

**COUNCIL
QUARTERLY
REPORT**

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2024 SECOND QUARTER

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CARY MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP, VISION, AND SETTING THE CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE FOR OUR ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH EACH OF YOU TO KEEP CARY CARY.



Mayor
Harold Weinbrecht



Mayor Pro Tem
Jennifer Bryson Robinson



Councilmember
Carissa Kohn-Johnson



Councilmember
Jack Smith



Councilmember
Lori Bush



Councilmember
Michelle Craig



Councilmember
Sarika Bansal

On the cover: Downtown Cary's expanded holiday light and decoration displays ushered countless visitors to the heart of Cary in December.

THIS QUARTER HAS BEEN ONE WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING TOWARD FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS — THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF DOWNTOWN CARY PARK.

As I stood in the Pavilion overlooking the Park and the thousands of people there to celebrate the milestone, I couldn't help but feel in complete awe. Standing alongside friends, colleagues, and citizens, I reflected on how this was a moment we created together. It was the culmination of everything we dreamed of, and it is a memory that will remain with me forever.

Yet the success of the project can't just be remembered by that one magical moment. It has to be marked by all of the wins and challenges along the way. There are no words to describe how proud I am of all Council and staff has accomplished over the last 20 years. What set this project apart was our staff's dedication to excellence and the ability our Council and citizens gave us to do great things through forethought, the Shaping Cary's Tomorrow bond, and consistent feedback about what would make Cary even more exceptional. Throughout this process, we've been teaching one another what it means to be Cary.

Moving forward, as we welcome two new Councilmembers, I want to continue to learn from one another about what it means to be Cary now and in the future. We must remember the lessons of our past, celebrate the successes of today, and collectively envision our dreams for tomorrow.

Here is to beginning 2024 with extraordinary Cary employees and a thoughtful Council who seek to make Cary an inspiring place in everything they do. We look forward to having engaging conversation and providing further updates at the Council-Staff Retreat in Wilmington on March 1 and March 2.

In appreciation,

Sean R. Stegall

Sean R. Stegall
Town Manager



IN MOVING CARY FORWARD

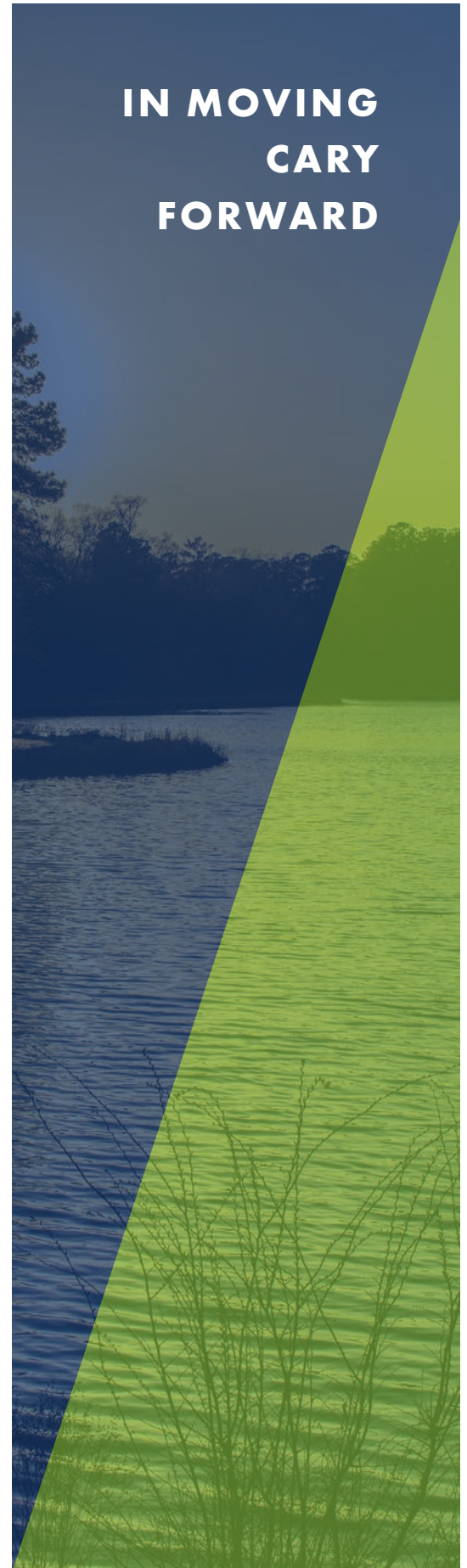


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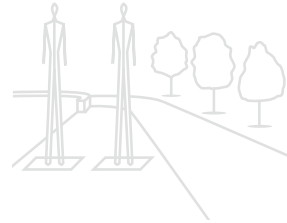
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2024

Q2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Q2, Cary closed out the previous fiscal year. The audit of Cary’s financial statements for FY 2023 concluded with the preparation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, or ACFR. The financial statements and supporting details demonstrate Cary remains in excellent financial condition. For the first time for citizen consumption, Cary also prepared a Popular Annual Financial Report, or PAFR, which is a condensed and more user-friendly version of the ACFR. For further details on Cary’s financial reports, visit carync.gov/financials.

Cary’s financial performance remained consistent compared with Q2 of last year. This report presents a financial snapshot of the General and Utility funds as of the end of Q2, which is 50% of FY 2024. The financial summaries provide comparative data for all revenues and expenditures for these respective funds.

As of Dec. 31, there is no significant or unusual activity to note. Revenues remain on par with FY 2023, and expenditures increased from the previous year due to planned considerations, such as inflation and personnel costs, but continue to remain within budget boundaries. Financial results continue to be in line with budgeted expectations.

In addition, financial planning and budgeting for FY 2025 commenced this quarter. Cary’s team continues to consider the holistic financial picture of past and present performance, which strengthens the ability to develop a recommended budget that Cary can sustain into the future.



FY 2024 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

GENERAL FUND

FY 2024 Q2 GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
REVENUES	\$ 270.1	\$ 126.2	47%	\$ 126.9	\$ (0.7)	-1%
EXPENDITURES	270.1	135.0	50%	129.9	5.1	4%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (8.8)	-	\$ (3.0)	\$ (5.8)	193%

* The above and following tables are represented in millions. Revenues, authorized expenditures, and transfers between funds are classified and summarized differently for the Council budget ordinance and for accounting and reporting purposes. Individual line items are consistent. The annual budgets referred to throughout this report reflect the budget as of the quarter end as adjusted (ADJ) by Council action or staff action where authorized.

Overall, expenditures surpassed revenues this quarter. Revenues are largely consistent with the prior year, decreasing by less than 1%. Expenditures increased overall by 4%, primarily due to a 26% increase in operating expenses partially offset by a decrease in nonoperating expenses.



FY 2024 Q2 GENERAL FUND REVENUES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
PROPERTY TAX	\$ 122.2	\$ 92.2	75%	\$ 92.3	\$ (0.1)	0%
OTHER TAXES & LICENSES	66.0	15.7	24%	15.9	(0.2)	-1%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	12.0	3.4	28%	3.4	0.0	0%
PERMITS & FEES	5.7	1.7	30%	2.1	(0.4)	-19%
SALES & SERVICES	26.2	11.5	44%	11.6	(0.1)	-1%
MISCELLANEOUS	2.3	1.0	43%	1.0	0.0	0%
OPERATING REVENUES	234.4	125.5	54%	126.3	(0.8)	-1%
NONOPERATING	35.7	0.7	2%	0.6	0.1	17%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 270.1	\$ 126.2	47%	\$ 126.9	\$ (0.7)	-1%

Overall, FY 2024 General Fund revenues decreased by 1% compared with the same period in FY 2023. While most of Cary’s revenues remained fairly consistent when compared with last year, revenues can fluctuate year to year due to, among other things, the timing of allocations from state and federal sources.



OPERATING REVENUES

Property tax revenue is 45% of total budgeted revenue and is the largest revenue source for the General Fund. Taxes are based on an ad valorem tax levy on real and personal property. Real property are items such as land and buildings, while personal property are items such as vehicles and commercial business equipment. Real property taxes were billed in July 2023 and are due no later than Jan. 5, 2024. Therefore, most real property tax revenue will be received during Q2. Conversely, personal property tax revenue is collected throughout the year based on the state of North Carolina’s Tax and Tag program, which combines the vehicle ad valorem tax collection with the state’s vehicle license renewal process. The property tax rate remained unchanged at \$0.345 for FY 2024. Revenues through Q2 totaled \$92.1 million, which is on par with what was received by Q2 of FY 2023.

The FY 2024 budget for real property tax is \$113.9 million. Q2 ended less than a week before the property tax due date, and by the end of the second quarter, Cary had received \$88.6 million, or 78%, of the real property tax revenue budget.

The personal property tax budget for this fiscal year is \$8.1 million, and as of Q2, Cary had received \$3.5 million, or 43%. Additionally, Cary received \$107.3 million, or 87.9% of the budget for total property tax revenue, as of Jan. 5, the property tax deadline. Though there was a slight decrease in property tax revenues compared with Q2 of FY 2023, based on historical trends, Cary expects to meet budget by the end of the fiscal year.

Permits and fees revenue saw a decrease of 19% compared with the prior year due mainly to a significant decline in watershed maintenance fees paid in the same period in FY 2023. Watershed maintenance fees are collected from developers when projects are completed. Permits and fees revenue is highly dependent on development within Cary. Development activity fluctuates, and the associated permits and fees revenue will be in line with that fluctuation.



FY 2024 Q2 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 67.3	\$ 32.2	48%	\$ 22.0	\$ 10.2	46%
PUBLIC SAFETY	71.7	37.4	52%	30.6	6.8	22%
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)	64.3	30.7	48%	25.9	4.8	19%
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE	21.9	8.5	39%	7.6	0.9	12%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	225.2	108.8	48%	86.1	22.7	26%
NONOPERATING	44.9	26.2	58%	43.8	(17.6)	-40%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 270.1	\$ 135.0	50%	\$ 129.9	\$ 5.1	4%

General Fund operating expenditures increased 26% compared with FY 2023. The \$10.2 million increase in general government is mainly driven by annual software renewals in information technology, software maintenance and contracted services costs, and townwide initiatives led by the town manager’s office, including in Downtown Cary Park, research and development, and marketing. The increases in IT and the town manager’s office allow Cary to continue to create a connected workforce and community. A \$6.8 million increase in public safety and a \$4.8 million increase in operations (public works and parks, recreation, and cultural resources) were primarily due to vehicle purchases.

The police department is focused on creating a single-assigned vehicle fleet program to serve as a positive recruitment tool and a force multiplier during critical situations. Vehicle purchases townwide were delayed in FY 2023 due to supply chain shortages. During Q2 of FY 2024, Cary was able to purchase vehicles that could not be purchased in the previous fiscal year. In addition, development and infrastructure saw a 12% increase in expenditures due to the reallocation of facilities department expenses from general government.

Nonoperating expenditures decreased because of lower transfers for capital needs and fewer debt service payments in FY 2024, as payoffs of the 2010 and 2012 limited obligation bonds were made in Q2 of 2023.

Encumbrances represent funds that have been reserved in Cary’s financial reporting system to satisfy a commitment to make a purchase. The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances that are remaining at the end of Q2. After accounting for year-to-date spending and the encumbrances listed below, the General Fund has about \$104.7 million of budgeted funds available for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS —
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$	10,974,502
PUBLIC SAFETY		2,826,456
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)		13,007,529
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE		1,293,074
NONOPERATING		2,320,488
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$	30,422,050



UTILITY FUND

FY 2024 Q2 UTILITY FUND SUMMARY

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
REVENUES	\$ 105.3	\$ 42.8	41%	\$ 41.9	\$ 0.9	2%
EXPENDITURES	105.3	53.7	51%	51.9	1.8	3%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (10.9)	-	\$ (10.0)	\$ (0.9)	-9%

* The above table is in millions. Revenues, authorized expenditures, and transfers between funds are classified and summarized differently for the Council budget ordinance and for accounting and reporting purposes. Individual line items are consistent. The annual budgets referred to throughout this report reflect the budget as of the quarter end as adjusted (ADJ) by Council action or staff action where authorized.

Utility Fund net results in FY 2024 remained in line when compared with FY 2023. Both revenues and expenditures experienced minor increases as of Dec. 31, 2023.



FY 2024 Q2 UTILITY FUND REVENUES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
WATER SERVICE	\$ 34.8	\$ 16.6	48%	\$ 16.7	\$ (0.1)	-1%
SEWER SERVICE	53.6	24.1	45%	23.5	0.6	3%
PERMITS & FEES	2.0	1.4	70%	1.2	0.2	17%
OPERATING REVENUES	90.4	42.1	47%	41.4	0.7	2%
NONOPERATING	14.9	0.7	5%	0.5	0.2	40%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND REVENUES	\$ 105.3	\$ 42.8	41%	\$ 41.9	\$ 0.9	2%

Utility revenues in FY 2024 have increased slightly compared with FY 2023 levels. The marginal increases in water and sewer revenue align with the 3% rate increase to water and sewer rates in the FY 2024 budget. The implications of this increase on a family of four is an increase of \$2.57 per month in their total utility bill.

Nonoperating revenues in FY 2024 were greater than the previous year’s Q2 due to an increase in investment earnings as interest rates have steadily increased since FY 2023.



FY 2024 Q2 UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 YTD ADJ BUDGET	FY 2024 YTD ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	FY 2023 YTD ACTUAL	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (\$)	CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR (%)
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 14.7	\$ 5.4	37%	\$ 5.0	\$ 0.4	8%
FIELD OPERATIONS	21.9	9.4	43%	7.9	1.5	19%
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	17.8	5.6	31%	5.6	0.0	0%
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (NET OF APEX)	13.5	5.6	41%	5.5	0.1	2%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	67.9	26.0	38%	24.0	2.0	8%
NONOPERATING	37.4	27.7	74%	27.9	(0.2)	-1%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 105.3	\$ 53.7	51%	\$ 51.9	\$ 1.8	3%

Utility operating spending increased by 8% in FY 2024. The main factor driving this increase is increased personnel expenses in field operations.

The following table shows the total outstanding encumbrances for the Utility Fund remaining at the end of Q2. After accounting for year-to-date spending and the encumbrances, the Utility Fund has about \$43.7 million in the budget for use for the remainder of the year.

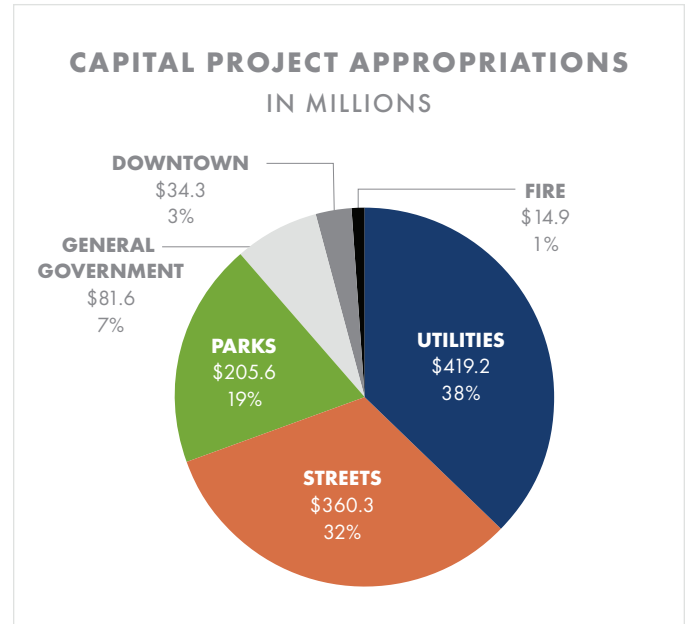
UTILITY FUND OPERATIONS —
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q2)

ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,068,011
FIELD OPERATIONS	908,993
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	2,567,946
WATER TREATMENT PLANT (NET OF APEX)	3,085,353
NONOPERATING	260,120
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 7,890,423

CAPITAL PROJECTS

As of Q2, Cary has 513 active capital projects. Utility capital projects, with a total budget of \$419.2 million, constitute 38% of the capital budget authorization. General capital projects total \$696.6 million, or 62%, of the total \$1.1 billion capital budget authorization.

Capital project spending totaled \$65.4 million through Q2 of FY 2024. The fluctuation in capital spending is due to the timing in which projects become active or near completion. The three largest investments in capital for the community in 2024 so far are \$11 million for construction of a new GoCary multimodal bus station, \$5.2 million for construction of a new downtown parking deck, and \$5.3 million for the construction of the Winding Pine Regional Pump Station. Because the mix of capital projects changes over time, there are no discernible patterns in capital spending.



CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING THROUGH Q2 (IN MILLIONS)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
DOWNTOWN	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.8	\$ -	\$ 1.4	\$ 6.2
FIRE	4.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	2.6
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3.1	2.9	1.8	3.9	6.3
PARKS	8.0	18.3	15.4	28.7	11.6
STREETS	12.0	9.4	8.5	10.7	21.3
UTILITIES	11.8	17.8	11.1	13.3	17.4
TOTAL	\$ 39.5	\$ 49.7	\$ 37.0	\$ 58.1	\$ 65.4

BUDGET

MIDYEAR APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2024 operating budget includes \$1 million to support emerging or unforeseen needs arising during the fiscal year. There were no midyear appropriations by Council this quarter, leaving the full \$1 million available for use during the remainder of the fiscal year. Additionally, Q2 saw no appropriations of General or Utility Capital Reserve Fund balance for capital needs.

Q2 DELEGATED BUDGET AUTHORITY ACTION

Throughout the fiscal year, challenges and opportunities develop that warrant financial resources not included in the original budget. Staff can often redirect existing resources to address the highest-priority initiatives. The budget ordinance authorizes the town manager to approve inter-functional budget adjustments and requires reporting to Council. There were no inter-functional budget adjustments approved during Q2 of FY 2024.

BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Citizens are invited to share their budget priorities throughout the year, including via social media, voicemail, and email. There were no budget public input comments received via these channels in Q2.

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

At the end of Q2, Cary’s cash and investments totaled \$519.1 million, which included \$33.4 million restricted in unspent bond proceeds. Cary maintains its cash and bond proceeds in daily liquidity accounts to ensure immediate access to funds and support bond-funded capital expenditures. Commensurate with prior years, cash balances increased in Q2 and will peak in the early part of Q3 due to the influx of property tax receipts.

Due to current market conditions, higher interest rates are available for investments. In Q2 of FY 2024, Cary invested funds at an average rate of 5.2%, compared with 2.79% in Q2 of FY 2023. Cary intends to invest additional funds in Q3 and anticipates available returns will be higher than in recent years. Likewise, Cary’s bank accounts are also yielding higher than anticipated interest rates, with some account yields in the 5.4% to 5.5% range. As of the end of Q2, it is anticipated that overall investment returns may exceed budgeted expectations for this fiscal year.



LIVE

**FOSTERING STRONG
NEIGHBORHOODS**





NEW DOWNTOWN CONDOS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Lock7 Development, a Washington, D.C.-based developer, is set to commence the construction of The Massey, a \$15 million condominium project, later this year, as reported by the Triangle Business Journal. Featuring 17 three-story residences, these condos, located at 202 Byrum St., will be available from \$940,000, with the additional option to include private elevators for \$45,000. With four units already sold, the company foresees the completion of the condos by 2025.





RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Cary issued 83 permits for new detached residential and townhouses this quarter. The top three subdivisions/areas permitted were Courtyards at West Cary (28), Young Farm (28), and Abberly Alston (8). Overall, permits for new detached dwellings and townhouses increased by 17 permits compared with the same period in FY 2023.

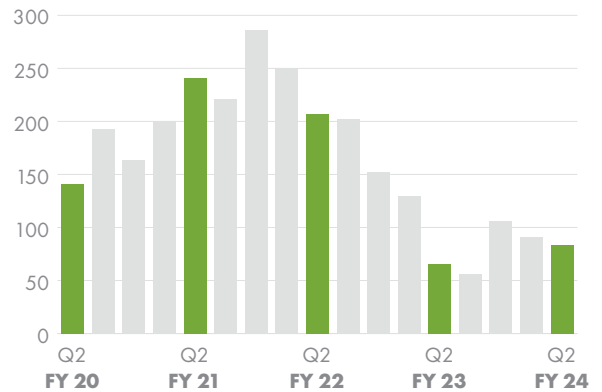
Cary issued 90 detached and townhouse certificates of occupancy this quarter, an average of 1.4 certificates per workday. This is fewer in comparison with the COs issued in the same period of FY 2023, which was 204. The subdivisions receiving the most COs were Courtyards at West Cary (36), Carpenters Pointe Townhomes (10), Young Farm (9), and Estates at Weddington (9).

Cary issued one building permit for 20 new multifamily units at Weatherstone Creek this quarter. There were no building permits issued for multifamily units last quarter.

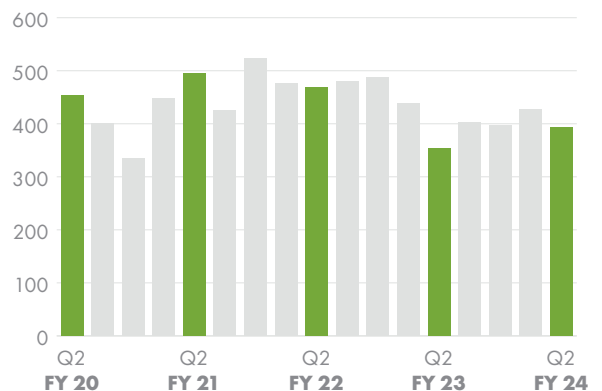
RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

This quarter, Cary issued 394 permits for residential alterations and additions. This is an increase of 40 permits from the same period last year and a decrease of 34 permits from last quarter.

DETACHED RESIDENTIAL & TOWNHOUSE PERMITS ISSUED
5-YEAR COMPARISON



RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
5-YEAR COMPARISON

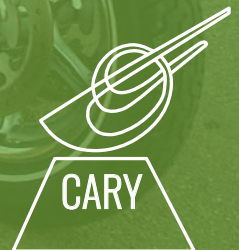






WORK

ASSURING
CONTINUED
PROSPERITY





TAKING CARE OF EMPLOYEES

In support of Cary's ongoing commitment to employees' total health and well-being, the FY 2024 Healthy Rewards Program wrapped up in December with a 96.5% completion rate.

To provide a complete physical and oral health picture, employees were encouraged to proactively prioritize their health by voluntarily participating in Healthy Rewards and completing an annual physical as well as the new component of a dental exam with cleaning. Other Q2 initiatives to keep staff focused on self-care and wellness included onsite flu shot clinics, ongoing health coaching, and onsite meditation.

CELEBRATING CARY'S BEST

Cary staff are committed to their careers, and in recognition of their dedication, 199 employees representing over 2,680 years of service were celebrated throughout December. Those employees who reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service in 2023 were honored with commemorative plaques, recognition in their departments, and virtual slideshows streaming on monitors at Cary facilities.



A group of approximately 15 people, including men and women of various ages, are standing in front of a large wooden building with a gabled roof. They are all wearing work gloves and holding them up with their hands, some with palms facing forward and others with palms facing up. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area. The image has a blue-to-orange gradient overlay on the right side.

ENGAGE

EXPERIENCING THE
CARY COMMUNITY





DOWNTOWN CARY PARK OPENS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW, RIGHT

After more than 20 years of inspired dreaming and planning, Downtown Cary Park opened to the public on Nov. 17. For the first time, visitors were invited inside to explore all that the Park has to offer, from the Nest play area to The Bark Bar to the Skywalk. Staff planned and executed many incredible events during the first few weeks of operations, most notably the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, when Council officially opened the Park. It is estimated more than 20,000 people attended the Nov. 19 ribbon cutting, during which visitors enjoyed live music, roaming performers, celebrity meet-and-greets, and more.

After opening weekend, visitation did not slow down. Word spread quickly about the Park's innovative design, beautiful landscaping, and unique placemaking. All the Park's free, ticketed programming in December, including the Yuletide Yoga Series, WONDERland Workshop series, and Toddler Tuesdays programs (in partnership with the Cary Regional Library), sold out within minutes. Beyond programming, downtown Cary's expanded holiday light and decoration displays within the Park ushered countless visitors to the heart of Cary in December.





RECREATION MADE EASY

On Dec. 1, Cary Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources launched a new registration system for programs and classes: RecTrac. This easy-to-use system allows citizens and visitors to sign up for classes and other programming. Registrations are set to begin mid-January for February programming.

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE MAKE AN IMPACT

Cary's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$31.6 million in economic impact in 2022, according to a study by Americans for the Arts. This includes \$10.6 million in spending by arts and culture organizations and \$21 million in event-related expenditures by audiences. That economic activity supported 588 jobs, provided \$25.5 million in personal income to residents, and generated \$6.9 million in tax revenue for local, state, and federal governments. More information about the study can be found at [AEP6.AmericansForTheArts.org](https://www.aef6.org).





HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

This quarter, Cary celebrated the holiday season with many annual events, bringing the community together for fun and festivities.

Hanukkah: For the seventh night of Hanukkah, Councilmember Lori Bush lit the shamash candle for the menorah at the old library site. Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and Councilmembers Carissa Kohn-Johnson, Sarika Bansal, and Michelle Craig also attended, along with North Carolina Rep. Maria Cervania and 150 members of the community. The annual event is a partnership among Cary, the Jewish Federation of Greater Raleigh, Beth Shalom, and Chabad of Cary.

Kwanzaa: Cary's annual Kwanzaa celebration returned to the Cary Arts Center on Dec. 29 with the theme of "Drummers and Storytellers as Our Great Griots." Councilmember Carissa Kohn-Johnson provided welcoming remarks prior to the stage presentation. Cary Kwanzaa is a communal cultural celebration that honors African-American people and their heritage. The program featured some of the most celebrated performers in the Triangle representing traditional African culture through dance, drumming, storytelling, and the visual arts.

Holiday Films: The Cary Theater welcomed nearly 2,000 patrons over the course of eight days to enjoy its 2023 holiday film program, including "A Christmas Story," "It's a Wonderful Life," "Elf," and "Home Alone." Visitors joined in on the fun during four sold-out shows of The Cary's sing-along holiday tradition, "White Christmas." Cary is proud to donate 10% of holiday ticket sales to Dorcas Ministries.





HUM SUB DIWALI

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW, RIGHT

Despite several hours of rainy weather, nearly 10,000 people came out for Hum Sub Diwali on Oct. 14. To kick off the event, Mayor Harold Weinbrecht, along with other area leaders, lit the ceremonial lamp. The day included music, dance, displays of weddings around India, delicious Indian foods, and a handicraft bazaar. The night was capped off by a fireworks display over Symphony Lake. A highlight of the day was the “Celebrity Dance” that featured Weinbrecht; Councilmembers Ryan Eades, Carissa Kohn-Johnson, and Lori Bush; and Cary staff Shivani Tripathi, Matt Pentz, Luana Deans, Sarah Braman, Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, and Chelsea Stern.



HONORING OUR VETERANS



On Nov. 3, Cary honored the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces at its Annual Veterans Luncheon. More than 300 veterans and their families were welcomed to the beautiful Prestonwood Country Club and treated to a patriotic program and lunch. Councilmember Jack Smith served as the master of ceremonies, and keynote speaker George Wade Carmichael Jr. shared a personal and emotional speech about his service. Then on Nov. 11, citizens gathered at Veterans Freedom Park to observe Veterans Day. Councilmember Carissa Kohn-Johnson read the proclamation, and U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross and Smith spoke at the event before State Commander for North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars Helen Nelson gave the primary address.



CARY TEEN COUNCIL



In 2023, Cary Teen Council demonstrated an exceptional commitment to community service, completing an impressive 17,596 volunteer service hours through active participation in multiple engagement opportunities, including distributing candy at the Cary Jaycees Christmas Parade, packaging meals at local food banks, participating in Adopt-a-Highway and Cary Litter Sweep programs, and joining in Downtown Cary Park’s ribbon cutting. The teens also organized and executed Haunted Walks in Bond Park, generating \$2,500 in donations and providing an interactive platform for engaging with the community. These initiatives not only underscore the engagement of Cary Teen Council but also highlight their pivotal role in enriching the lives of citizens by contributing to the development of a stronger, connected Cary.

NATIONAL SOCCER EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

WakeMed Soccer Park hosted six soccer matches as part of the ACC Men’s and Women’s Soccer Championships and the NCAA Women’s College Cup. In November, the ACC Championships brought more than 5,000 spectators from all over the East Coast to experience Cary and one of the nation’s top soccer venues. Florida State University won the women’s title, and Clemson University won the men’s title.

In partnership with the University of North Carolina, the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance, and NCFC Youth, Cary hosted the 2023 NCAA Women’s College Cup the first weekend of December. Staff across the organization worked together for many months to prepare for this championship, the pinnacle of collegiate soccer in the United States. Nearly 15,000 fans from all over the country traveled to Cary to watch the Florida State Seminoles complete an undefeated season and claim their fourth national championship.





DOWNTOWN URBAN OPEN

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Over Thanksgiving weekend, staff transformed Town Hall campus for the 2023 Downtown Urban Open, or DUO. The disc golf tournament, hosted in partnership with the Capital Area Disc League, had great weather and was well attended by spectators and players, both local and from around the state. The DUO is a charity tournament that has raised over \$33,000 for the Cary's Play it Forward Scholarship Fund, which provides program opportunities for underserved populations.



N.C. SENIOR GAMES STATE FINALS: PICKLEBALL



The 2023 North Carolina Senior Games Pickleball Tournament held at Cary Tennis Park from Oct. 13 to Oct. 15 saw an impressive turnout of 776 senior athletes from across North Carolina, spanning ages 50 to 89. The event showcased the spirited competitiveness of these seniors, emphasizing that age is no barrier in pickleball. The Cary Tennis Park served as an ideal venue, offering well-maintained indoor and outdoor courts.

CARY KUDOS

USTA N.C. AWARD

Cary Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources was selected as the winner of the United States Tennis Association North Carolina 2023 Outstanding Parks and Recreation Department, and the Western Wake Tennis Association was chosen as the winner of the USTA North Carolina 2023 Adaptive Tennis Award.



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT



One of Cary's greatest resources is its actively engaged citizenry, who contribute their time and talents to help build a thriving and resilient community. This is evidenced by the 154 environmental service-learning projects that took place in 2023, for which 1,673 volunteers worked a collective 3,748 hours to support Cary's goals for water quality, food security, ecosystem restoration, and waste diversion. Program highlights include native wildlife habitat installations, newly built gardens, and the removal of more than 12,385 pounds of litter from parks, streets, and trails. Community collaborations continued in 2023 at Good Hope Farm with 35,009 pounds of harvested produce that generated \$97,588 in revenue for the Farmer Training Program. Seventeen farmers cultivated six acres of historic farmland thanks to regenerative agricultural practices supported in part by Cary's food waste recycling program. Cary's residential food waste contributes to soil health at the farm through a Garden Partner Program that provides a portion of the finished compost back to the western Cary community teaching farm each year.

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Cary reached a milestone in energy efficiency this quarter with the completion of its Solar Feasibility Study. The study identified 71 Cary facilities for energy efficiency upgrades and rooftop solar strategies, including considerations for solar design, roof structural requirements, and solar capacity and shade that are economically sound. The installation of solar is a key strategy in Cary's sustainability and climate action work to mitigate the effects of rising energy costs and environmental impacts.

This quarter, Cary's participation in the regional Solarize the Triangle campaign wrapped up for the year, resulting in 90.8 kilowatts of contracted solar production and 27 kilowatts of battery storage. These Cary systems contribute to the Triangle area totals, which now boast more than 2.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide avoided annually. For those seeking to learn more about renewable energy options, Cary hosted free public information sessions with industry experts and maintained an ongoing social media campaign with carbon emission reduction tips and facts for homeowners. The 2023 engagement efforts are underscored by the 339 solar installation permit applications in Cary, which is 13% more than 2022.



URBAN FORESTS

Cary's focus on enhancing its urban forest was highlighted this quarter through the achievement of major milestones in the creation of an Urban Forest Master Plan. With more than 80% of Cary's tree canopy existing on privately owned land, a key element of the plan's success includes a dynamic citizen engagement campaign. To achieve this goal, Cary hosted a month-long public comment period for the draft plan in collaboration with tree-care workshops, tree-planting volunteer projects, and an urban forest-focused social media campaign that resulted in more than 9,000 citizens visiting the draft plan for review. Refinement of the master plan will continue next quarter as staff work to analyze the public feedback in order to finalize Cary's Urban Forest Master Plan in early 2024.

In addition, Cary's tree canopy growth continued this quarter thanks to 1,000 new native trees distributed through the My Tree, Our Tree program. This successful community forestry effort is poised for expansion through a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program. Grant funds will support the development of the My Tree, Our Tree Branching Out project in 2024 with the goal of establishing a community-oriented reforestation program.





CARY ARTS CENTER

SHAPE

GUIDING
COMMUNITY
GROWTH





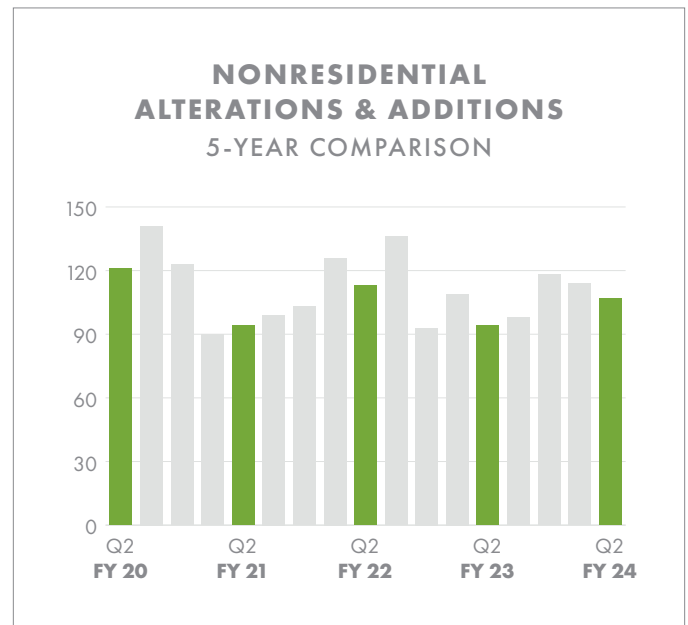
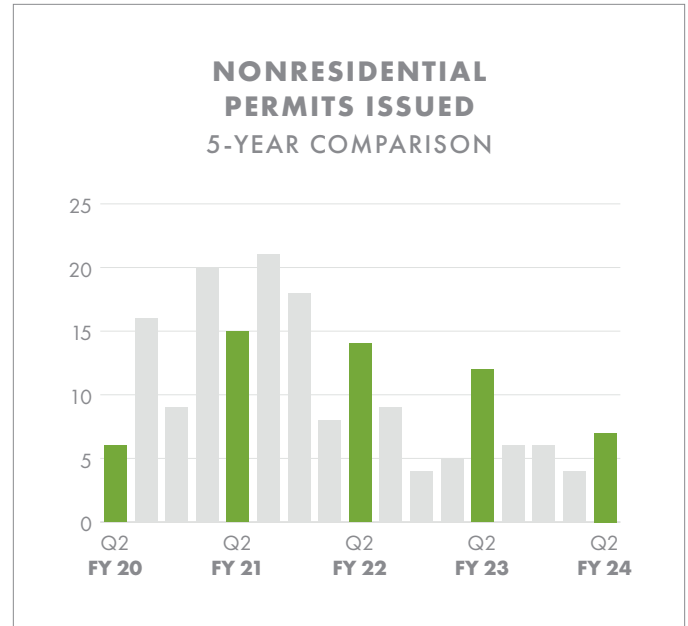
NONRESIDENTIAL PERMITS

This quarter, Cary issued seven permits for nonresidential projects for a total of 26,721 square feet. The largest projects are two new retail shell buildings at Northwoods Crossing.

NONRESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

Cary issued 107 nonresidential alterations and additions permits this quarter. Highlighted projects include:

- Sterling Pharma Solutions, 1001 Sheldon Drive, Unit 101: 4,000 square feet of additional research and development lab space.
- Transportation Security Administration Office, 2121 RDU Center Drive, Suite 400: Interior alterations for new tenant.
- Taylor Family YMCA, 101 YMCA Road: Roof replacement.





REZONING

This quarter, 30 cases were in the rezoning process; one case was approved:

- 21-REZ-12, Viridis at Green Level West Destination Center: Rezones 30.58 acres, located at 3217, 3305, 3313, 3317, and 3321 Green Level West Road, from Wake County zoning designation of Residential 40 Watershed to Cary Mixed Use District (MXD), Mixed Use Overlay District (MUOD), and Watershed Protection Overlay District (Jordan Lake Subdistrict). The rezoning was subject to the individualized development conditions set forth in the “Viridis Preliminary Development Plan,” which include limiting development of the site to a maximum of 1,300 multifamily dwelling units, 250,000 square feet of office and institutional uses, 20,000 square feet of commercial, and 150 hotel rooms.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

This quarter, Cary approved 33 development plans. Notable plans included:

- Accreditation Commission for Health Cary Expansion, 19 Weston Oaks Court: Additional four-story, 66,000-square foot building plus structured parking.
- Alston Hotel, 3970 Mahal Ave.: 175-room hotel with structured parking.
- Alston Apartments, 3905 Mahal Ave.: Eight buildings with 306 multifamily dwelling units.
- Green Level Trail, 4208 Green Level West Road: Residential development including 131 detached dwellings and 75 townhouses.
- Hidden Creek Subdivision, 1135 Yates Store Road: 43 detached residential lots.

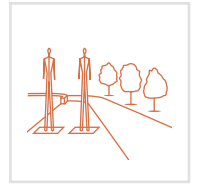




MOVE

PROVIDING
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES





SHAPING CARY'S TOMORROW BOND PROJECTS



**SHAPING
CARY'S
TOMORROW**
2019 BOND REFERENDUM

This section offers Cary citizens an update on the projects funded by the Shaping Cary's Tomorrow Parks and Transportation Bonds overwhelmingly approved in a 2019 referendum.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Street Improvements Project for 2023 was substantially complete this quarter. The annual street improvements project includes the repaving of Cary-maintained streets as well as preventive maintenance techniques like patching and asphalt rejuvenation. Cary repaved a total of 12 miles of street in 2023 in the Highcroft, Wellsley, and Saratoga Park/Bond Pointe communities, along with Westhigh Street. Preventive maintenance, which includes repaving, patching, and asphalt rejuvenation, was also conducted on 19 miles of streets, bringing the total mileage of streets maintained in 2023 to 31. Preventive maintenance can lengthen the pavement's lifecycle an additional four to six years, saving Cary money and improving the rating of the street network.

This quarter, staff also researched and tested a new product, fiber-reinforced asphalt, on Westhigh Street, which serves the Bishops Gate neighborhood off Southwest Cary Parkway. Prior to this project, Westhigh Street had several potholes, previous patches, and areas with poor asphalt ratings. Fiber-reinforced asphalt allowed for a thinner layer of asphalt to be placed to avoid conflicts with underground utilities buried shallowly. This product also allowed the repaving work to be completed faster with fewer impacts to residents and drivers while providing the necessary strength to support daily traffic. Staff anticipates fiber-reinforced asphalt will be another valuable tool in Cary's pavement maintenance toolbox.

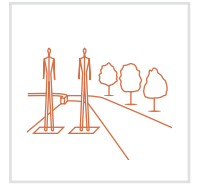
UPCOMING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

As Cary continues to grow, staff monitors impacts to the transportation system and proactively works to implement improvements for pedestrian, bike, and vehicle traffic. Cary's Intersection Improvements Program helps address intersections that experience higher levels of congestion or safety-related concerns. Potential improvements could include installation of and updates to traffic signals, installation of additional turn lanes, pedestrian signals, crosswalks, and ramps. Several intersection improvement projects expected to begin in 2024 include:

- Kildaire Farm Road at Wake Technical Community College and Bond Park Drive at High House Road: Installation of a new traffic signal with signalized pedestrian crosswalks.
- High House Road at Maury O'Dell Place: Modification of intersection to eliminate left turns off Maury O'Dell Place.
- Kildaire Farm Road at Tryon Road, Tryon Road at Walnut Street, and Evans Road at Weston Parkway: Improvements to the existing signalized pedestrian crosswalks.
- Norwell Drive at Cary Parkway: Installation of a new traffic signal with signalized pedestrian crosswalks and a sidewalk connection between Silverridge and Silverrock courts.

CARPENTER FIRE STATION ROAD WIDENING

Cary has successfully acquired the right-of-way necessary to facilitate the widening of Carpenter First Station Road between Cameron Pond Drive and N.C. 55. Utility relocations are expected to begin this winter, and road construction will begin when utility relocations are substantially complete. This project will widen Carpenter Fire Station Road to a four-lane, median-divided street with a sidewalk on the north side of the street and a street-side trail on the south side. Existing overhead utilities will remain overhead from Cameron Pond to Howard Road but will be installed underground from Howard Road to N.C. 55. The widening project is expected to be complete by 2027.



BID AND BUILD TOGETHER: BLACK CREEK GREENWAY/CARY PARKWAY

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

This quarter, N.C. Department of Transportation approved the final plans for two pedestrian and greenway projects that intersect at the Black Creek Greenway. Given project proximity and similar timelines, Cary staff and NCDOT agreed to bid and build the projects together. This will facilitate coordination and communication. In addition, both projects received federal grants.

- The Black Creek Greenway renovations extend from West Dynasty Drive to Old Reedy Creek Road. Project highlights include widening and realigning Black Creek Greenway to improve safety, accommodate increased pedestrian use, and help prevent storm damage. The renovation project's schedule was adjusted to allow for the sewer rehabilitation, which was recently completed.

- The Cary Parkway Pedestrian Bridge and Sidewalk project will improve pedestrian safety by completing a significant gap along the corridor and next to North Cary Park. This Shaping Cary's Tomorrow Bond project has been requested by residents to improve safety and connectivity between the neighborhoods, parks, and businesses in the area.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. Detours that were established with the sewer line rehabilitation will be used as needed during construction. For more information, visit carygreenwaydetour.com.





MORRISVILLE CARPENTER ROAD OPENS

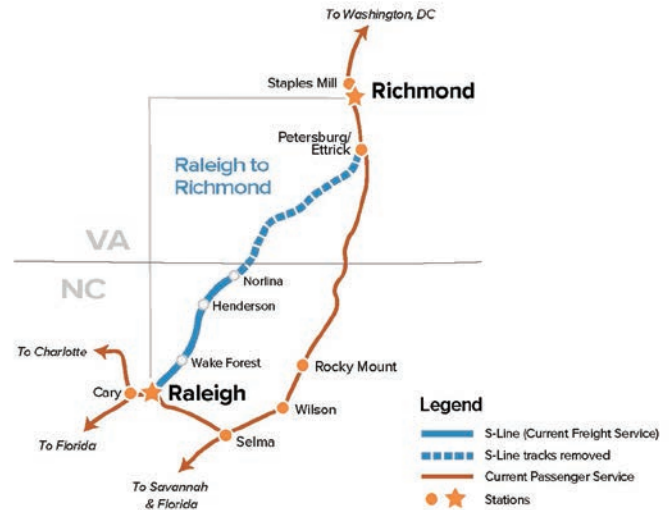


Cary opened the highly anticipated, realigned Morrisville Carpenter Road east of N.C. 55 on Dec. 19 with a new bridge supporting the CSX-owned railroad tracks. This new street segment completes a regional key east-west travel connection linking western Cary with N.C. 54 in Morrisville. This connection serves as a direct link to I-40 and Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Work on street lighting, median landscaping, and permanent pavement markings will continue intermittently into spring 2024.

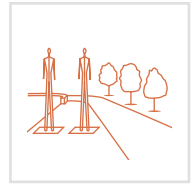
CRASH ANALYSIS SOFTWARE

This quarter, new crash analysis software known as CRASH was secured. Using crash report data collected from Cary police and the power of geospatial analytics, staff will be able to easily identify crash patterns and pinpoint where improvements can be made. CRASH will speed up the delivery of Cary's safety programs by allowing staff to manage analyses rather than requesting reports from N.C. Department of Transportation. In addition, Cary will be able to perform before-and-after analyses as well as predictive analytics to help better understand what types of mitigations are most effective for citizens.

S-LINE PROJECT RECEIVES FUNDING



U.S. Department of Transportation awarded a \$1.09 billion federal grant to the proposed S-Line project, which would extend passenger rail service from Raleigh to Richmond, Va. Today the S-Line is a freight rail corridor owned by CSX that extends from Richmond to Tampa, passing through downtown Cary. NCDOT will use the grant for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs for the first section of the S-Line from Raleigh to Wake Forest. The grant will also fund construction of highway and rail bridges, including two safety projects in Cary. The projects are a railroad grade separation at Trinity Road with construction expected in 2029 and a grade separation at Northeast Maynard Road at a yet-to-be determined date.



GOCARY

GoCary has a new way to track buses in real time: **GoCaryLive.org**. This new website allows passengers to view the current location of buses along a single route or throughout the entire GoCary system. Users can select individual stops to see when the next bus will arrive and can customize their experience by creating favorite routes and stops for quick reference. The resource also includes a trip-planning feature to help passengers choose the best route and schedule. A companion GoCary app is expected to be available for use on smart devices in early 2024.

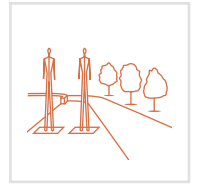


SPOT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS



Cary's Spot Safety Improvement Program serves to encourage safety through relatively simple modifications to pavement markings, traffic signs, curb ramps, and traffic signals. This quarter, highlighted projects include the following:

- **Sears Farm Road:** This recently completed project features buffered bike lanes, traffic calming, and pedestrian warning devices to support cyclists and pedestrians accessing Sears Farm Road Park and greenways.
- **Green Hope School Road Greenway:** Completed this quarter, this project creates a safer connection for the greenway across Green Hope School Road near Highcroft Elementary School. Work included high-visibility pavement markings, pedestrian refuge islands, and rapid flashing beacon warning devices.
- **Harrison Avenue:** In its early stages, this project will install Cary's first in-road warning lights. These devices, combined with high-visibility markings and LED-enhanced warning signs, are intended to improve safety for citizens crossing Harrison Avenue to access the Cary Depot.



SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Sidewalks reduce pedestrian crashes, increase pedestrian activity, and are key to creating walkable communities. Cary's sidewalk program evaluates new sidewalks and crossings as requests are submitted by citizens, homeowner's associations, the Wake County School System, Cary police, and staff. Cary regularly pursues grants and other funding resources to expand its sidewalk network. The following is a summary of sidewalk projects that are in development and approaching key milestones. For the complete list of sidewalk projects and their status, refer to the interactive map at carync.gov/sidewalks.

CONNECTING CARY SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Designs for the Connecting Cary sidewalk and street-side trail projects are progressing and 75% complete. This project includes 14 sidewalk sites that are being partially funded by American Rescue Plan Act funds. These dollars were used to fill critical sidewalk gaps that have more challenging design considerations, like new stormwater facilities and road widenings. Easement acquisitions and permitting will begin winter 2024.

EDERLEE DRIVE/HOLLY SPRINGS ROAD

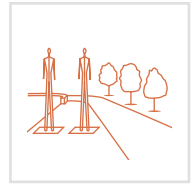
The sidewalk projects along Ederlee Drive and Holly Springs Road have been advertised for construction, and the contract is pending award in early 2024. This project will fill a 1,200-foot gap in sidewalk on the east side of Ederlee Drive from Richelieu Drive to Avenue of the Estates, completing sidewalk connection between residential neighborhoods, Koka Booth Amphitheater, and the Symphony Lake and Swift Creek greenways. The work along Holly Springs Road will fill a 300-foot gap in the sidewalk between Cary Parkway and Jones Franklin Road. The new sidewalk will connect communities at Cary Parkway and Holly Springs Road to the commercial shopping center at Tryon Road.

FERSON ROAD

Staff has been working on various designs for pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Ferson Road and Morrisville Parkway. Two designs are in progress: Phase 1 to address immediate pedestrian crossing concerns, while a larger intersection realignment design as part of Phase 2 will require approval by N.C. Department of Transportation. Design for Phase 1 includes adding a high-visibility crosswalk and associated warning signs at the intersection. Phase 2 includes realignment of Ferson and Green Hope School roads as well as a greenway extension along Morrisville Parkway from Ferson Road to the American Tobacco Trail. Realignment of the intersection will enhance safety for pedestrians and vehicles. Construction of Phase 1 is expected to begin in spring 2024, while Phase 2 is anticipated to start construction in fall 2024, pending NCDOT approval.

LOUIS STEPHENS DRIVE

Sidewalk and a street-side trail will complete a gap along Louis Stephens Drive connecting Green Hope Elementary School, Green Hope Elementary Park, and Cary Tennis Park with local shopping and businesses along High House Road to the south. During the design phase, the project was modified to stay within the existing right-of-way, reducing impacts to property owners. Construction is anticipated in 2025 and includes street resurfacing and repairs along Louis Stephens Drive from Carpenter Upchurch Road to Morrisville Parkway.



PEDESTRIAN HYBRID BEACON AT CARY HIGH SCHOOL

This quarter, N.C. Department of Transportation approved construction of a pedestrian hybrid beacon, or PHB, at the crosswalk on Walnut Street in front of Cary High School. Construction is expected to begin this summer. A PHB is a traffic control device designed to help pedestrians safely cross higher-speed roadways at midblock crossings and uncontrolled intersections. This project will replace the concrete median on either side of the crosswalk with a longer, landscaped median. The metal pole for the PHB will be installed in the landscaped median with dual mast arms, each providing traffic control for the eastbound and westbound traffic on Walnut Street. The landscaped median would include features based on a collaborative exercise between the Cary Urban Design Studio and Cary High School.

CARY VISITS CASSI IN CHARLOTTE

As a leader in innovation that can improve the lives of citizens, Cary embarked on testing autonomous vehicle technology this year with the CASSI shuttle project in Bond Park. This pilot program was a success, hosting nearly 1,800 riders over a three-month period. Taking the lessons learned from this pilot, N.C. Department of Transportation continued to test the CASSI shuttle with a more complex environment on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus.

This quarter, Cary staff visited UNC Charlotte for the final pilot of CASSI. There, representatives from the university and NCDOT shared their experiences during this phase of testing with particular focus on how the lessons learned during the Cary pilot led to improvements in their program. Of note, UNC Charlotte researchers will be working with Cary data scientists to integrate data and share delivery methods for the benefit of the NCDOT researchers and CASSI users. The visit was capped off with a trip on CASSI along its new route on the UNC Charlotte campus. The new route was noted as more complex due to the increased presence of pedestrians in a college campus environment, four connected traffic signals, and multiple left-turn movements that required decision-making from the shuttle.







SERVE

MEETING
COMMUNITY
NEEDS





TENTH CALEA REACCREDITATION

In November, Police was awarded its 10th Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accreditation. CALEA accreditation is the gold standard for public safety agencies and represents a commitment to excellence. It is intended to enhance organizational service capacities and effectiveness, serve as a tool for policy decisions and management, promote transparency and community trust, and establish a platform for continuous review.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Cary Police Department graduated 14 students from Class #46 of its Citizens Police Academy in November. The academy is a 10-week free program offered to Cary residents that affords attendees a close-up view of their police department. Presented in a substantially abbreviated version of the basic law enforcement training program offered to new police cadets, the academy retains the core elements believed to be essential for citizens who wish to gain a better understanding of law enforcement and police operations. The course is a prerequisite for citizens interested in becoming members of the police department's Citizens Assisting Police team. Twelve students from Class #46 elected to further commit themselves as CAP team volunteers.

FIRE RECRUIT ACADEMY 27



Fire celebrated its 14 graduates of Academy 27 on Dec. 15 at a ceremony held in Council Chambers with attendees including Councilmember Michelle Craig, Deputy Town Manager Russ Overton, and Deputy Town Attorney Nicholas Yates. It marked the end of an intensive seven-month academy for eight of the recruits, who earned all their required fire, rescue, hazardous materials,

and rescue certifications and began their shift assignments. Six of the recruits of this "hybrid" academy were hired as certified firefighters and underwent a rigorous short academy before going on shift in August.

CARY KUDOS

SGT. TRAVIS GRESHAM

On Nov. 10, Sgt. Travis Gresham graduated from the Southern Police Institute's 150th Administrative Officers Course through the University of Louisville at Kentucky. This nationally recognized 12-week



course is designed to develop informed, effective, and ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who are assuming leadership positions for their respective agencies. During his cohort, Gresham had the distinction of being elected class vice president by his classmates.



FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

PHOTOGRAPHED LEFT, BELOW

Fire wrapped up fire prevention month in October with a smoke alarm drive in selected neighborhoods in Fire Station 9's district. Over two Saturdays, fire crews and Cary Community Emergency Response Team volunteers canvassed a total of 775 homes and installed 339 combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in 127 homes. Six homes visited had no functional detectors at all. On Oct. 29, all fire stations opened their doors for open houses to let the public meet the firefighters, see the stations, and check out the top-notch equipment used to keep citizens safe.





CHAMBER'S FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

The Cary Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Responders Breakfast at Prestonwood Country Club on Dec. 6. Keynote speaker Scott Kartvedt, a former Blue Angels pilot who served 20 years in the Navy and was featured in the movie "Top Gun: Maverick," shared inspirational stories about his personal journey with the audience, which included members of the Cary police and fire departments, Wake County EMS, the Wake County Sheriff's Department, and the military, as well as Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and Councilmembers Lori Bush, Carissa Kohn-Johnson, Jennifer Robinson, Michelle Craig, and Sarika Bansal.

WHITE OAK CHURCH ROAD WATER MAIN

This quarter, Cary completed the White Oak Church Road Water Main project. It is now active and closes a 3,200-foot gap between White Oak Elementary and Morrisville Parkway. Construction of this 16-inch main increases resiliency in the western pressure zone as well as improves water system reliability, operations, water quality, and fire protection for the surrounding area. The project also provides a drinking fountain to the American Tobacco Trail at the White Oak Church Road trailhead. Cary activated the new fountain and bottle filler just in time for the ATT 10-Miler and RDC Marathon in late October.





DOWNTOWN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

Following a four-month closure, South Harrison Avenue reopened to traffic between Faculty Avenue and Shirley Drive/Heater Drive in December. Infrastructure improvements included water, sewer, stormwater, curb and gutter, sidewalk replacements, and road resurfacing along the corridor. This area was initially targeted for water main replacements to improve fire protection and reduce service interruptions, and the new water mains have an estimated service life of 100 years.

Cary's water main replacement project continues in 2024 with work focusing on Griffis Street between Shirley Drive/Heater Drive and Ann Street through March. Infrastructure renewal on South West Street, South Page Street, West Park Street, and West Chatham Street is also expected to wrap up during the third quarter with work in all areas anticipated to be complete in April.

WAKE COUNTY WATER PARTNERSHIP

Cary hosted a downtown Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) tour for the Wake County Water Partnership in October. The Wake County Board of Commissioners established the WCWP in 2016 to provide expertise and guidance on water-related issues in the community. The advisory group includes representatives from municipalities, property owners, and environmental groups. Following a brief presentation about Cary's recent success with incorporating GSI for new development projects downtown, the tour began at the Cary Arts Center and included 14 sites that featured completed GSI installations as well as projects still in the planning phase. The tour was well received and is a tribute to Cary's commitment to promoting GSI and protecting the environment.

CARY KUDOS

N.C. ONE WATER AWARDS

2023 was another banner year for Cary at the N.C. One Water Annual Conference. This gathering of water industry peers provides opportunities to learn about technologies, share experiences, and network with professionals from throughout the state. Cary won both Distribution System of the Year and Collection System of the Year, continuing a five-plus-year streak.

The South Cary Water Reclamation Facility won the Plant Operations and Maintenance Excellence award, and the Cary-Apex Water Treatment Facility came in second place in the Best Tasting Water Competition. Staff also won individual awards. Betsy Drake took home the WEF Arthur Sydney Bedell award for service, and Jason Parker won the Lab Analyst of the Year award for the second time. These awards acknowledge Cary staff's passion and commitment to clean, safe water.





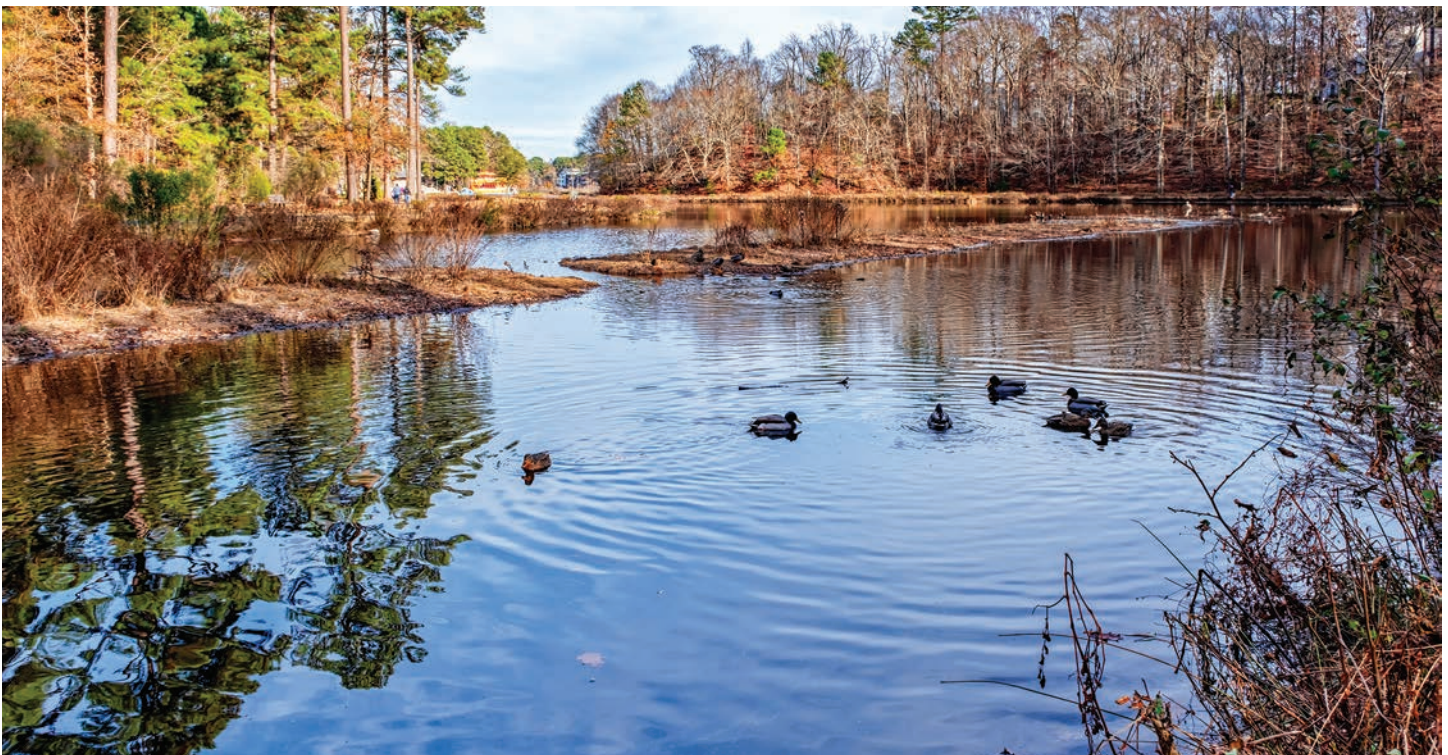
WALNUT CREEK CORRIDOR STUDY

The Walnut Creek Corridor Study is nearing completion. This first phase of the study evaluated the anticipated future Walnut Creek greenway trail alignment extending from Downtown Cary Park to South Hills with a primary focus on identifying potential property acquisitions within the Walnut Creek floodplain. To date, roughly 14,880 linear feet of the corridor has been studied, and of that, Cary has acquired about 9,540 linear feet through ownership or dedicated easement. These acquired properties and easements will enable Cary to extend its greenway system by linking Downtown Cary Park with Fenton, Raleigh, and beyond. Acquisition of flood-prone properties as part of this long-term endeavor will help Cary mitigate flooding impacts, enhance open space, and expand the tree canopy downtown. These environmental benefits combined with the future expansions to Cary's greenway network will not only improve neighborhood connectivity but also contribute significantly to achieving Cary's goals and vision for an active and vibrant community.

SYMPHONY LAKE DREDGING PROJECT

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Cary is committed to maintaining the reliability and resiliency of stormwater infrastructure, including Cary-owned lakes and dams. In addition to regular dam maintenance, periodic dredging helps ensure Cary-owned stormwater infrastructure, such as Symphony Lake, is fully functional for years to come. The Symphony Lake Dredging Project is being conducted to remove sediment that has accumulated since the lake's construction in the early 1980s. This quarter, Schnabel Engineering wrapped up the dredging design, and Cary received three bids, awarding the bid to H.G. Reynolds Company Inc. for \$2.9 million. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2024.





STORMWATER CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Cary believes in taking a proactive, data-driven approach to assessing and managing its stormwater infrastructure. In September, Cary embarked on its first large-scale closed-circuit television assessment of stormwater assets in the right-of-way. The assessment process includes using specialized cameras inserted into stormwater pipes and manholes. As the cameras record the conditions of the infrastructure, technicians monitor the live feed to identify and assign an initial rating of the pipe's condition. Maintenance and repair recommendations are then provided following a more detailed review and assessment of the CCTV inspection. Cary uses various dashboards to deliver these condition ratings, view the final assessments, and follow and track the progress of the CCTV work in real time. As of mid-December, CCTV video for over 11,000 feet of pipe in Cary's right-of-way has been viewed as part of the inspection and assessment process. Using CCTV to inspect and assess stormwater assets contributes significantly to the resilience and sustainability of Cary's urban infrastructure. Regular monitoring and timely maintenance and repairs based on these assessments are crucial for preventing failures and ensuring the longevity of Cary's stormwater infrastructure.

FACULTY AVENUE BIORETENTION REHABILITATION

Through a partnership between Cary and Wake County School System, Cary rehabilitated a poorly functioning stormwater control measure, or SCM, that detains stormwater runoff from Faculty Drive, Dry Avenue, Cary Arts Center, and Cary Elementary School properties. The roots of cypress trees that were planted when Cary constructed the SCM in 2004 were overgrown and had clogged the underdrain pipes, which prevented the SCM from draining properly. The bioretention area was redesigned for improved flood control and water quality function. The cypress trees, old soil media, and old underdrains were removed and replaced. The rehabilitated bioretention area was replanted with a variety of flowering shrubs and plants that were specially selected to support monarch butterflies and other pollinator species.





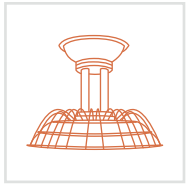


CARY TOWN HALL

ACT

MOVING
FROM VISION
TO REALITY





NICK YATES SELECTED TO NCAPSA BOARD



Deputy Town Attorney Nick Yates was selected to the board of directors for the North Carolina Association of Police and Sheriffs' Attorneys. NCAPSA assists and supports attorneys representing law enforcement agencies in North Carolina with a mission of administration

of justice, professionalism, legal education, law enforcement training, community engagement, and advocacy.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS LEARN ABOUT SISTER CITIES



This November, a delegation from Southeast Asia's Timor-Leste met at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center with Cary Sister Cities chair Micheal Lynch and staff member Kris Carmichael to learn about Cary's Sister Cities program. This is part of a three-week International Visitor Leadership Program exchange project to strengthen U.S. security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.





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