



**COUNCIL
QUARTERLY
REPORT**

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2024 THIRD QUARTER

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: Now in its eighth year, the N.C. Chinese Lantern Festival welcomed more than 216,000 visitors and generated more than \$8 million in direct economic impact this year. Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

INVIGORATED BY THE OPENING OF DOWNTOWN CARY PARK IN Q2 AND THIS QUARTER'S COUNCIL-STAFF RETREAT, CARY STAFF HAS BEEN BUSY, MAKING CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENTS IN MANY OF COUNCIL'S AND THE COMMUNITY'S PRIORITIES, SUCH AS HOUSING CHOICE, SUSTAINABILITY, MOBILITY, AND SAFETY.

Stable Homes Cary and renovations to the Ivey-Ellington House topped the list of projects kicked off this quarter. Stable Homes Cary and the associated financial investment will allow nonprofit partner Dorcas Ministries to aid even more community members, including when redevelopment requires relocation. The renovation of the Ivey-Ellington House will ensure this historic structure will remain a valuable and functional part of Cary's history.

In terms of sustainability, Cary launched its Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program and opened a second food waste drop-off site at Mills Park in response to community demand. The GSI Program will provide reimbursement for green stormwater infrastructure measures installed on private property, and the drop-off site collected nearly 4.5 tons of food waste in its first two months. We also reached the final design phase for the GoCary Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility, which will include solar panels and space for a future electric vehicle charging station.

Finally, Cary continued to maintain the community we know and love through our annual Street Improvements Project, water main replacement in the downtown area, and renovations to the Ed Yerha Park playground and the Lazy Daze Playground at Bond Park. This year's Street Improvements Project, where Cary will resurface more than 11 miles of streets, will also serve as a pilot for the use of 40% reclaimed asphalt pavement.

We look forward to providing further updates at our next Quarterly Meeting at the Embassy Suites on May 2.

In appreciation,

Sean R. Stegall

Sean R. Stegall
Town Manager



IN MOVING
CARY
FORWARD

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A photograph of two women in traditional Indian attire, including sarees and jewelry, clapping on a stage. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue and green gradient. The text 'FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS' is positioned in the lower-left area, and 'FY 2024' is below it. A large 'Q3' is in the bottom right corner, set against a green triangular background.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2024

Q3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following financial summary presents a general overview of the financial operations through Q3 ending March 31, 2024, which is 75% of FY 2024. The financial summaries provide comparative data for revenues and expenditures for Cary’s two major funds, the General and Utility funds. The data shows year-to-date information compared with the same period of last year.

As of March 31, Cary’s General Fund shows expenditure trends outpacing revenues. This stagnation in revenue is directly related to the Federal Reserve efforts to slow growth and control inflation. Less consumer spending, combined with increasing costs, has resulted in Cary experiencing slower revenue growth and increased expenditures in some categories.

Throughout Q3, Cary continued to support those projects prioritized by Council and the community. Cary brought Downtown Cary Park online this year, opened a new food waste drop-off at Mills Park in response to resident demand, and purchased electric vehicles to support Cary operations.

In response to emerging revenue trends, Cary staff took a closer look at the FY 2024 projections in preparation for the year-end close. This work focused on transition of funding that is no longer needed for certain projects in an effort to positively facilitate the continuity of operations.

During Q3, Cary staff focused on developing the FY 2025 budget, considering the impact of recent economic trends, and analyzing the recent Wake County revaluation. A team of directors, making up the Financial Foundations Team, analyzed budget requests and reviewed revenue projections. As in the past, Cary’s town manager will provide the recommended FY 2025 budget to Council in May. Following a public hearing, Council is scheduled to adopt the budget on June 27, 2024. State law requires local governments to adopt a balanced budget by June 30 of each year. Cary’s team continues to consider the holistic financial picture of past and present performance, strengthening the ability to develop a recommended budget that Cary can sustain into the future.



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

GENERAL FUND

FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 183.7	68%	\$ 179.7	\$ 4.0	2%
EXPENDITURES	270.1	196.6	73%	186.3	10.3	6%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (12.9)	-	\$ (6.6)	\$ (6.3)	95%

* 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, General Fund net results decreased by \$6.3 million compared with Q3 of last year. The following sections will discuss significant changes within the General Fund.



FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 119.9	98%	\$ 117.2	\$ 2.7	2%
OTHER TAXES & LICENSES	66.0	31.8	48%	31.4	0.4	1%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	12.0	6.3	53%	5.9	0.4	7%
PERMITS & FEES	5.7	2.6	46%	3.4	(0.8)	-24%
SALES & SERVICES	26.2	19.8	76%	19.0	0.8	4%
MISCELLANEOUS	2.3	2.0	87%	1.6	0.4	25%
OPERATING REVENUES	234.4	182.4	78%	178.5	3.9	2%
NONOPERATING	35.7	1.3	4%	1.2	0.1	8%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	\$ 270.1	\$ 183.7	68%	\$ 179.7	\$ 4.0	2%

General Fund revenues saw a marginal increase of 2%. While most revenues remained fairly consistent, Cary is beginning to see a slowdown in sales tax revenue growth compared to Q3 of FY 2023.



Property Tax revenue, the largest revenue source for the General Fund, is nearly half of total budgeted revenue and increased 2% from Q3 of last year. Taxes are based on an ad valorem tax levy on real and personal property. Real property taxes were billed in July 2023 and were due no later than Jan. 5, 2024. Cary has realized 98% of budgeted revenue as of Q3. These collections were based on the \$0.345 property tax rate.

Sales Tax, included with Other Taxes and Licenses, is the second largest revenue source within the General Fund’s budget, comprising nearly a quarter of total budgeted revenues. While sales tax revenues increased modestly, compared with Q3 of FY 2023, Cary is beginning to see a slowdown in sales tax revenue growth. In comparison, Cary experienced a 12% growth in sales tax revenue this time last year.

Permits and Fees revenue decreased by 24% due to a recent state law change that prohibits Cary from collecting watershed maintenance fees and due to a shift in types and quantity of permits issued.

Miscellaneous revenue increased by 25%, in part due to recognizing the first full year of administrative fees generated from Cary serving as the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization’s lead planning agency.



FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 46.4	69%	\$ 34.7	\$ 11.7	34%
PUBLIC SAFETY	71.7	57.4	80%	48.8	8.6	18%
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)	64.3	47.4	74%	41.5	5.9	14%
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE	21.9	12.8	58%	11.6	1.2	10%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	225.2	164.0	73%	136.6	27.4	20%
NONOPERATING	44.9	32.6	73%	49.7	(17.1)	-34%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 270.1	\$ 196.6	73%	\$ 186.3	\$ 10.3	6%

Overall, General Fund expenditures increased by 6% over last year and are currently at 73% of the FY 2024 budget. A 20% increase in operating expenditures was offset by a 34% decrease in nonoperating expenditures. Operating expenditures include items such as personnel, contracted services, and vehicles. The main contributors to the increase in operating expenditures were the timing of vehicle purchases and contracted services.

Nonoperating expenditures include items such as fund transfers to capital and debt. These expenditures decreased primarily due to the timing of capital projects, which allowed for reduced transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. Additionally, debt payments were down due to the payoff of some long-term obligations in the prior year.

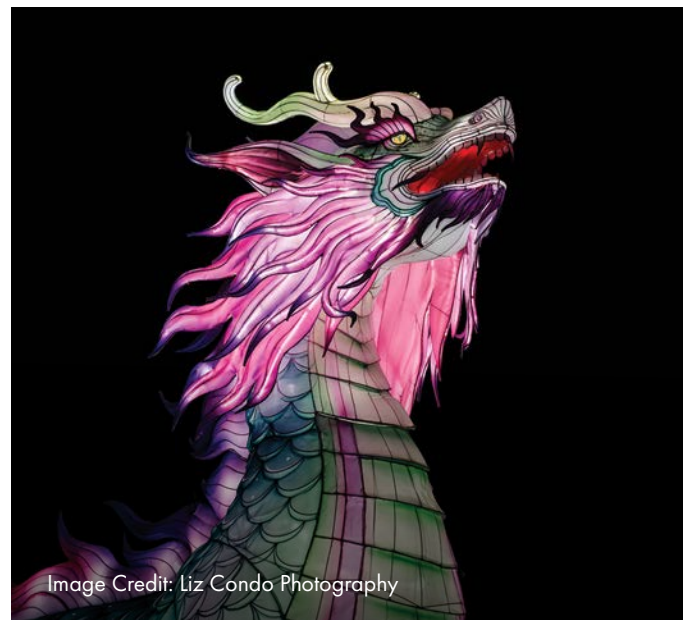


Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography

Encumbrances represent funds that have been reserved to satisfy a commitment to make a purchase. After considering year-to-date spending and outstanding encumbrances listed below, the General Fund has about \$44.8 million budgeted for use for the remainder of the year.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS –
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q3)**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$	12,591,345
PUBLIC SAFETY		1,895,816
OPERATIONS (PW & PRCR)		9,962,653
DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE		2,303,417
NONOPERATING		1,986,163
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$	28,739,394



UTILITY FUND

FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 63.9	61%	\$ 62.4	\$ 1.5	2%
EXPENDITURES	105.3	70.3	67%	67.2	3.1	5%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ (6.4)	-	\$ (4.8)	\$ (1.6)	-33%

* 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.

Overall, the Utility Fund’s net results through Q3 have declined by \$1.6 million. The increase in expenditures is marginally greater than the increase in revenues.

FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 23.9	69%	\$ 23.8	\$ 0.1	0%
SEWER SERVICE	53.6	37.0	69%	36.1	0.9	2%
PERMITS & FEES	2.0	1.8	90%	1.6	0.2	13%
OPERATING REVENUES	90.4	62.7	69%	61.5	1.2	2%
NONOPERATING	14.9	1.2	8%	0.9	0.3	33%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND REVENUES	\$ 105.3	\$ 63.9	61%	\$ 62.4	\$ 1.5	2%

Utility Fund revenues increased slightly from last year. This is expected due to the 3% water and sewer rate increase included in this year’s budget. The new rate equated to an estimated \$2.57 per month increase in a family of four’s total utility bill. Nonoperating revenues also increased slightly this fiscal year due to more investment earnings as interest rates have risen since FY 2023.



FY 2024 Q3 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	\$ 8.7	59%	\$ 7.7	\$ 1.0	13%
FIELD OPERATIONS	21.9	14.2	65%	12.9	1.3	10%
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	17.8	9.0	51%	8.2	0.8	10%
WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (NET OF APEX)	13.5	7.4	55%	7.7	(0.3)	-4%
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	67.9	39.3	58%	36.5	2.8	8%
NONOPERATING	37.4	31.0	83%	30.7	0.3	1%
TOTAL UTILITY FUND EXPENDITURES	\$ 105.3	\$ 70.3	67%	\$ 67.2	\$ 3.1	5%

Utility operating expenses increased 8% this fiscal year, mainly due to inflationary-related increases in supplies and wage costs in Administration, Field Operations, and Wastewater. Overall, current utility fund expenditures are at 67% of budgeted amounts.

The following table shows the outstanding encumbrances for the Utility Fund. After accounting for year-to-date spending and encumbrances, the Utility Fund has about \$25.1 million in the budget for use for the remainder of the year.

UTILITY FUND OPERATIONS —
FY 2024 REMAINING
ENCUMBRANCES (Q3)

ADMINISTRATION	\$ 1,190,526
FIELD OPERATIONS	783,080
WASTEWATER (NET OF APEX)	5,510,458
WATER TREATMENT PLANT (NET OF APEX)	2,173,681
NONOPERATING	255,245
TOTAL ENCUMBRANCES	\$ 9,912,990

CAPITAL PROJECTS

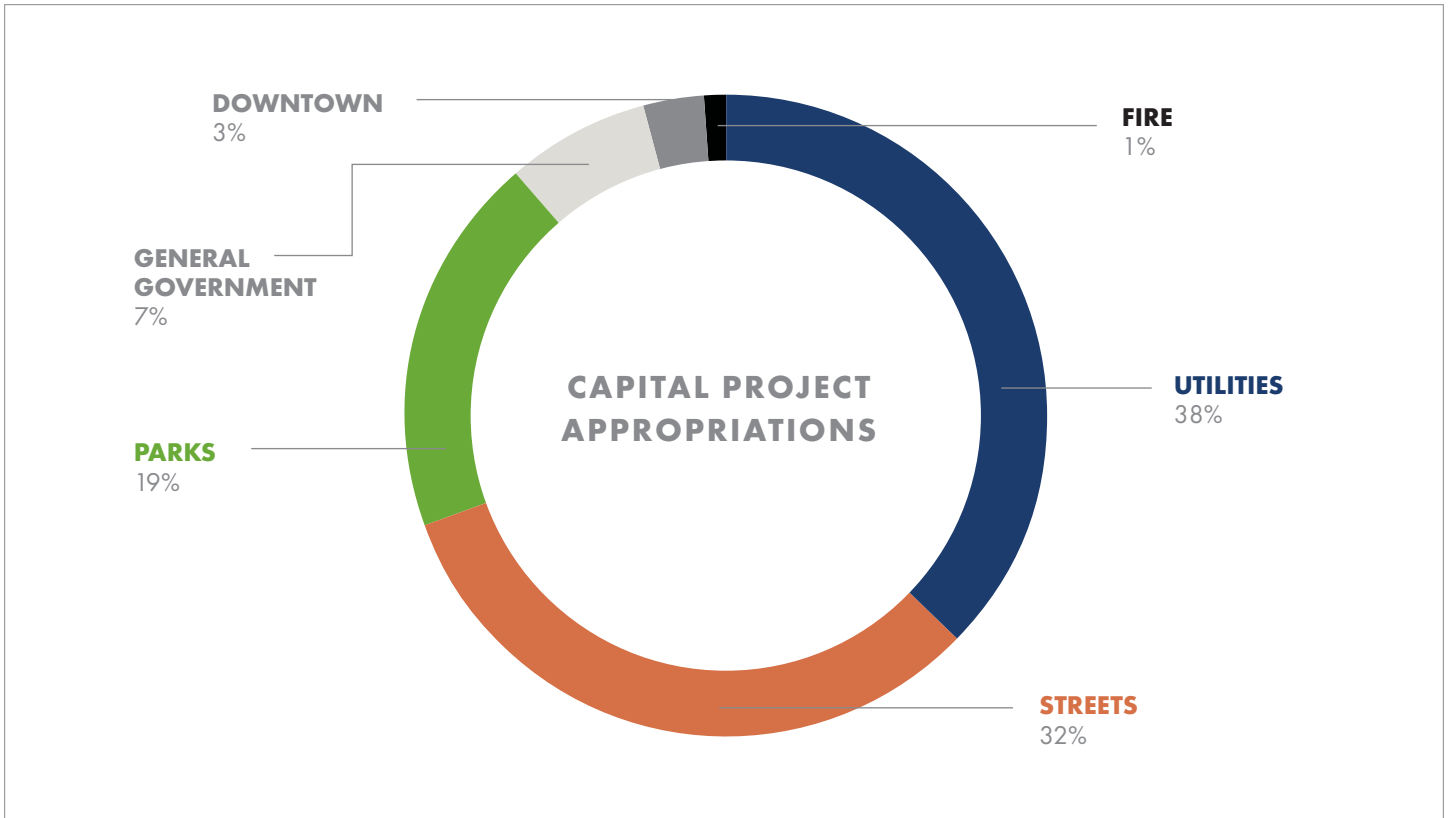
Cary has 537 active capital projects. General capital projects, with a total budget of \$696.6 million, make up 62% of the capital projects budget, and utility capital projects, with a total budget of \$419.2 million, make up 38%. Through Q3 of this fiscal year, Cary spent \$103.4 million on capital projects.

The four largest capital investments this fiscal year are:

- \$12.9 million for the downtown Cary multi-modal transit facility.
- \$8.2 million to build a parking deck at the corner of West Chatham Street and South Harrison Avenue in downtown Cary.
- \$8.7 million to build the Winding Pine Regional Pump Station. This station will replace the aging Kit Creek Pump Station that serves the northwest region of Cary.
- \$5 million to implement a new Oracle enterprise resource planning system. Oracle will consolidate and modernize Cary’s various information systems. Expected go-live dates will be phased in during FY 2025.

CAPITAL PROJECT SPENDING THROUGH Q3 (IN MILLIONS)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
DOWNTOWN	\$ 0.6	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.4	\$ 4.4	\$ 9.6
FIRE	5.1	1.6	1.6	0.1	3.4
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	4.6	5.4	2.9	8.6	12.6
PARKS	13.2	21.4	20.7	40.5	19.0
STREETS	16.7	13.8	13.3	19.1	29.5
UTILITIES	18.3	26.6	16.7	21.2	29.3
TOTAL	\$ 58.5	\$ 69.8	\$ 55.6	\$ 93.9	\$ 103.4



BUDGET

MIDYEAR APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2024 operating budget includes \$1 million to support emerging or unforeseen needs during the fiscal year. There was no midyear appropriations by Council this quarter, leaving the full \$1 million available for use during the remainder of the fiscal year.

Q3 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 priorities and 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 Q3 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. A few public input comments were received in Q3 related to the Wake County property tax revaluation in January and how it would impact lower-income or senior residents.

PUBLIC INPUT

Citizens are invited to share their thoughts and priorities related to the budget through:

- Email: budgetinput@carync.gov
- Phone: (919) 469-4307
- Twitter: @caryncgov
- Facebook: [facebook.com/caryncgov](https://www.facebook.com/caryncgov)
- Public Speaks Out during a regular Council meeting

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

This quarter, Cary had approximately \$500 million in cash and investments, which included about \$22.3 million from bonds. Cary continues to diversify its portfolio by keeping all funds in various accounts with different banks so it can quickly access funds when needed. Cary has elected to use bond funds for larger capital projects. Most of Cary’s investments are in safe fixed-income securities. These are chosen to keep the initial amount safe, allow quick access in an emergency, and earn as much interest as possible. These securities are set to mature (be available for use) over the next three to four years, matching when Cary plans to spend money on things like payroll and expenses.



LIVE

FOSTERING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



STABLE HOMES CARY

Recognizing the importance of supporting residents in need, the Cary Town Council voted unanimously at its March 14 meeting to establish a new housing program, Stable Homes Cary. The program aims to keep people in their homes when possible and identify a path forward when relocation is necessary due to redevelopment. Cary-based Dorcas Ministries will serve as the lead nonprofit agency, partnering with additional local organizations to provide referrals and specialized services. Council committed \$2.45 million over the next three years to establish Stable Homes Cary, increase Dorcas’s case management capacity, and support Dorcas’s administration of the existing Oasis Utility Bill and Play It Forward programs.

Stable Homes Cary joins Healthy Homes Cary as initiatives Cary has launched since the adoption of the Cary Housing Plan in 2021. To learn more about Cary’s approach to providing quality housing programs that enhance and strengthen the community, visit carync.gov/housing.

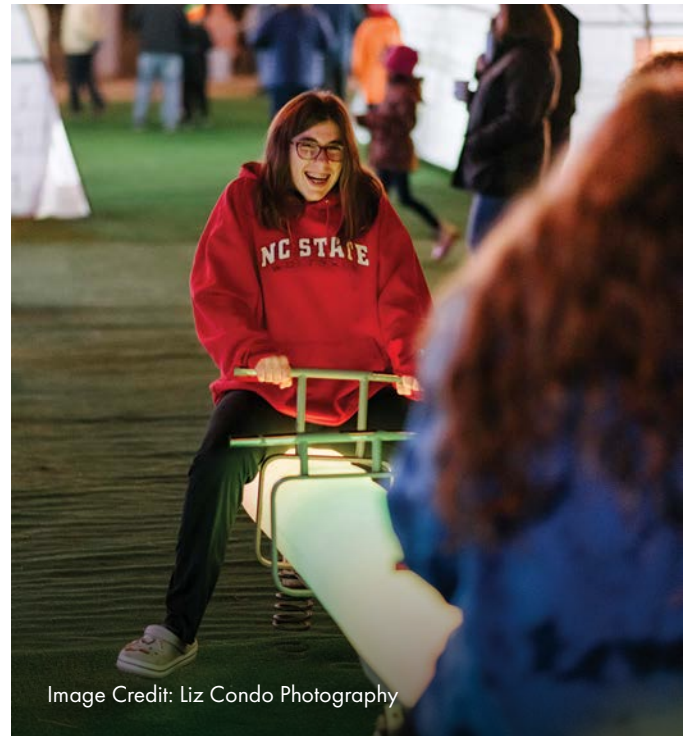


Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



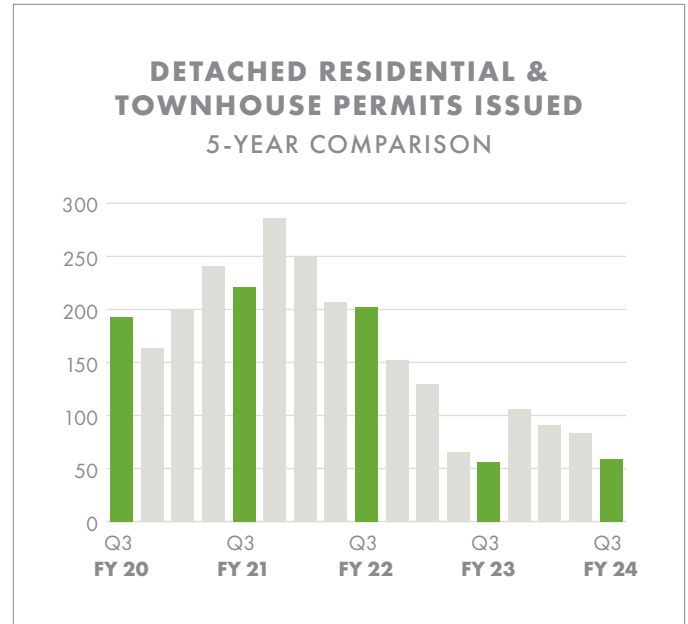


RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

Cary issued 59 new detached residential and townhouse permits in the third quarter. The top three permitted subdivisions were Courtyards at Lochmere (29), Young Farm (12), and Preston Ridge (8). Overall, permits for new detached and townhouses increased by three permits, or 5%, compared to the same period of FY 2023.

In addition, 110 detached and townhouse certificates of occupancy (COs) were issued this quarter, an average of 1.7 certificates per workday. This is fewer than the 160 COs issued in the same period last year. The subdivisions receiving the most COs were Courtyards at West Cary (51), Abberly Alston (30), Estates at Weddington (6), and Young Farm (6).

Cary did not issue any building permits for new multifamily units this quarter.



RESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

Cary issued 422 permits for residential alterations and additions in the third quarter. This is an increase of 34 permits, or 9%, from the same period last year and an increase of 19 permits, or 5%, from last quarter.





A woman with braids, wearing a grey hoodie, is leaning over a table, assisting a young girl in painting a circular artwork. The girl is using a paintbrush to apply colors to a large, multi-layered circular design on a piece of paper. Other children are visible in the background, also engaged in painting. The scene is set in a classroom or workshop with white cabinets and a window in the background. The image has a blue overlay on the left and a green overlay on the right.

WORK

ASSURING
CONTINUED
PROSPERITY





JORDAN HALL RENOVATIONS

Construction at Jordan Hall is underway with crews nearly ready to begin installation of the new drywall throughout the recently renovated space. This renovation will see the creation of 15 new offices, two conference rooms, a kitchen, and three restrooms. The building will be up-fitted with energy-efficient LED lighting, and the conference rooms will contain the latest virtual conferencing technologies. Construction is anticipated to be complete in winter of 2025.

TAKING CARE OF EMPLOYEES

To support its employees this quarter, Cary offered a CPR/first aid training class and virtual lunch-and-learn sessions with Voya, Cary's supplemental retirement account vendor, and Medicare representatives, who provided information to help employees prepare for their future.



A young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a dark blue floral puffer jacket and dark pants, is captured in mid-air, jumping over a series of puddles. The scene is illuminated with a blue and purple glow, suggesting a night-time setting. The background is dark, and the puddles reflect the ambient light. The overall mood is playful and energetic.

ENGAGE

EXPERIENCING THE
CARY COMMUNITY



Image Credit: Liz Condo Photography



ED YERHA PARK PLAYGROUND

The freshly renovated playground at Ed Yerha Park is now open and has something for everyone. Key features include a mix of different styles of play equipment, sound and sand play, added shade structures to cool down in the summer heat, and new soft surfacing to protect from falls.

LAZY DAZE PLAYGROUND

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Bond Park's playground also got a makeover. The design theme for Lazy Daze Playground was naturalistic to match other Bond Park facilities, like the Challenge Course. It features play areas and swings for different ages, spring riders, a merry-go-round, sand play, and nature play with boulders. It's a beautifully wooded setting for a playground and fun for all ages.





NATIVE PLANTINGS AT DUNHAM PARK



Following the removal of invasive species from Dunham Park last summer, Cary mobilized a group of high school environmental science students from Green Hope High School to plant native species along the edge of the natural wetland on the site next to the stormwater wetland. Students learned how to dig a proper hole for planting based on the plant pot size, how to prepare the potted plant roots for planting, and how to install live stakes. The species planted included containerized sweet bay and buttonbush, along with elderberry live stakes. These shrubs should flourish in the wet conditions in this part of the park and prevent recolonization of Chinese privet and other nuisance exotic species.

DISC GOLF COURSE MOVES UP IN RANKINGS

Following big improvements to the course over the last year, including upgrades of all the tee pads to concrete, Cary's championship disc golf course, Diavolo at New Hope, moved up in the 2024 **Udisc.com** world rankings to No. 21 and was named No. 4 in the world in public (free) courses. Work on the course will continue this spring and summer as Cary prepares to host the 2024 U.S. Masters Disc Golf Championship in September. Fun fact: North Carolina is home to more top disc golf courses than any other state.

CARY SENIOR CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

This quarter, the Cary Senior Center was awarded national accreditation through the National Council on Aging. Accreditation through the NCOA is considered the gold standard in senior center operations and has been achieved by only 3% of senior centers nationwide. In addition, the Cary Senior Center was also recently awarded another five-year accreditation by the state of North Carolina. These accreditations serve as evidence that Cary is on the leading edge of providing best-in-class programs and activities for seniors in the community.

N.C. CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Now in its eighth year, the N.C. Chinese Lantern Festival welcomed more than 216,000 visitors and generated more than \$8 million in direct economic impact, according to the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. This year, Cary hosted the festival at Koka Booth Amphitheatre from Nov. 17 to Jan. 8. The festival was forced to close almost a week early due to storm damage to several of the lantern displays. Despite closing earlier than planned, the festival still managed to break its own attendance record set the previous year.



MLK DREAMFEST

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

From Jan. 12 to Jan. 15, Cary honored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The weekend included a diverse range of programs that invited citizens to reflect on social justice issues championed by Dr. King while also providing opportunities to give back to the community through donations and participation in a Day of Service. Attendees enjoyed a live comedy show, a storytelling-focused program for kids, and a performer showcase production at the Cary Arts Center on Saturday. Sunday featured an interfaith service at Christ the King Lutheran Church and a gathering at Cary First United Methodist for a community meal and discussion. Residents were invited to conclude the weekend with a Day of Service at Good Hope Farm.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This year, Cary expanded its programming for Black History Month to include a variety of activities and events throughout February. This expanded recognition and celebration of Black History and African American Appreciation Month was featured in the National Recreation and Park Association's "Parks & Recreation" magazine. The 2024 theme was Acknowledging the Past While STREAMing into the Future, with STREAM standing for Science, Technology, Research, Education, Arts, and Music. The month consisted of related films, art classes, concerts, art exhibitions, a poetic exhibition and book signing, a culinary sampling, STEM programming, and a STREAM symposium.



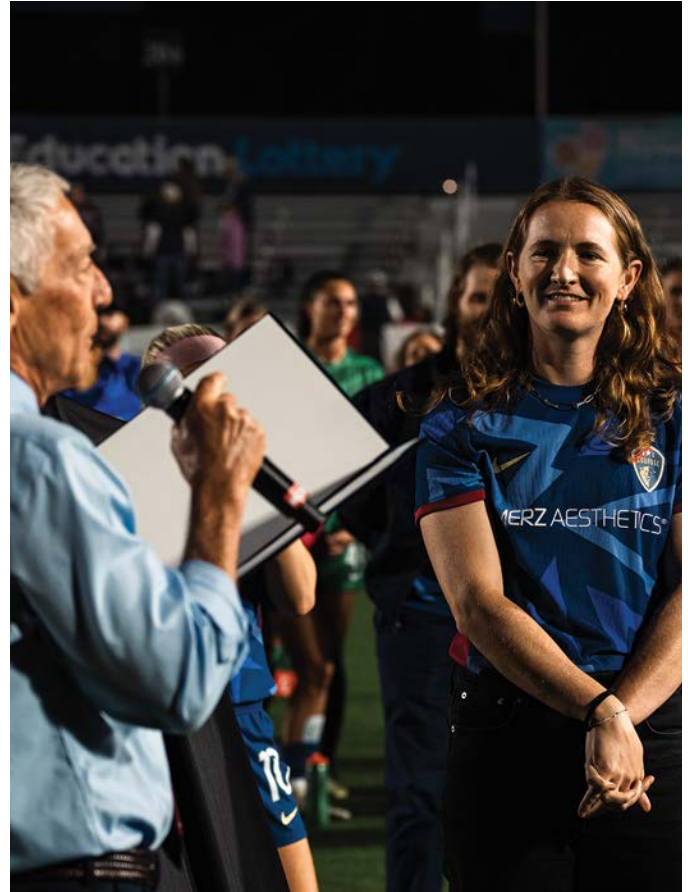


WAKEMED SOCCER PARK EVENTS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW, RIGHT

In March, North Carolina FC and the North Carolina Courage began their 2024 season at WakeMed Soccer Park. NCFC returned to play in the USL Championship for the first time since 2020, facing the Charleston Battery in a scoreless draw. The N.C. Courage started their season by taking down the Houston Dash 5-1 before a record home-opening crowd of 5,878. At that match, Mayor Harold Weinbrecht and the N.C. Courage honored Sam Mewis for contributing substantially to the success and legacy of the team. Mewis played for the N.C. Courage from the inaugural season in 2017 through the 2021 season and won six trophies with the club. Weinbrecht presented a proclamation recognizing Sam Mewis as the first inductee into the N.C. Courage Ring of Honor.

In addition, NCFC hosted a friendly match between two Liga MX teams, Rayados de Monterrey and Atlético de San Luis, at WakeMed Soccer Park on March 22 in partnership with Cary. This match was the first between two international professional clubs hosted by NCFC that did not include either NCFC or the N.C. Courage. More than 5,000 fans traveled from all over the southeast to cheer on their favorite Liga MX team.





HUM SUB BASANT BAHAR



On March 3, the community gathered at the Cary Arts Center for Hum Sub's Basant Bahar 2024. Hum Sub is Cary's 23-year-old Indian-American cultural arts association. The term Basant Bahar refers to two ragas, or the melodic structures that define traditional Indian music, Basant and Bahar. This year's celebration encouraged a journey of self-reflection and self-discovery with a message of embracing heritage and discovering your authentic self. Attended by more than 400 community members, guests were treated to mesmerizing dance and musical performances with inspiring choreography immersed in contemplative and evocative emotions.

MODEL TRAIN SHOW



On March 16, the North Raleigh Model Railway Club showcased their N-Scale model trains at the Herb Young Community Center. People of all ages gathered to watch these trains wind through miniature cities and countryside landscapes. Visitors even had the opportunity to become junior engineers by operating the tracks and driving the trains. Operation Lifesaver provided valuable railroad safety tips, and club members hosted small workshops on scenery building. More than 1,000 visitors enjoyed the train show.

APPLAUSE! CARY YOUTH THEATRE



From March 22 to March 24, Applause! Cary Youth Theatre presented "Matilda Jr." at the Cary Arts Center. The production marked the largest cast and crew in Applause's 25-year history, with 38 youth and teen participants onstage and behind the scenes. Nearly 1,000 audience members enjoyed the public performance.



SHAPE

GUIDING
COMMUNITY
GROWTH





NONRESIDENTIAL PERMITS

This quarter, Cary issued permits for three nonresidential projects for a total of 297,243 square feet. The largest project was a 5-level, 722-space parking deck at Fenton.

NONRESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS PERMITS

Cary issued 103 nonresidential alterations and additions permits this quarter. The highlighted projects were:

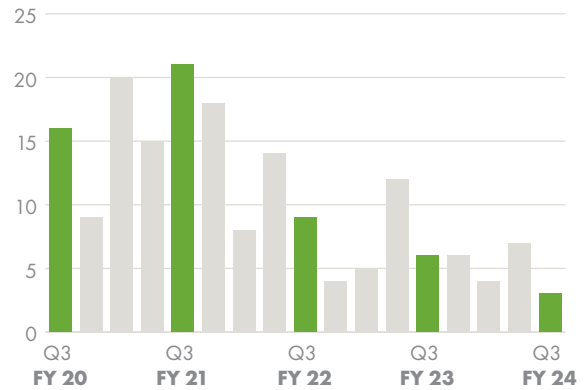
- Ivey-Ellington House, 308 Academy St.: Permit issued for interior and exterior renovations.
- Mayton Inn, 301 S. Academy St.: Permit issued for interior renovations.
- Doc B’s Restaurant at Fenton, 25 Fenton Main St.: Permit issued for interior completion, including patio and canopy.
- SAS, 701 SAS Campus Drive: Replace generator and UPS components.

REZONING

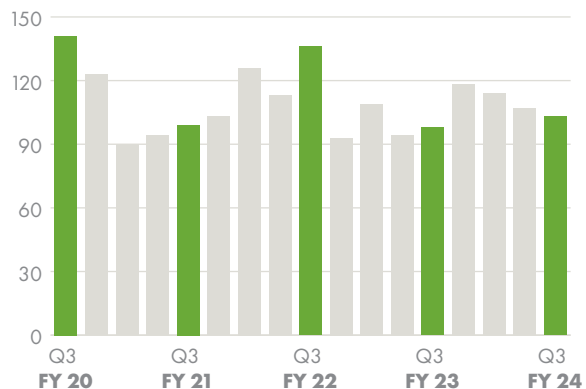
During Q3, there were 32 cases in the rezoning process; three cases were approved.

- 23-REZ-09, SV Temple Parking, 9391 and 9405 Chapel Hill Road: Rezones 5.59 acres to Office Institutional-Conditional Use (OI-CU) to facilitate additional parking for the Sri Venkateswara Temple of North Carolina.
- 23-REZ-04, Wheatsbury Drive, 106, 108, 110, 112, and 114 Wheatsbury Drive: Retain Residential 8-Conditional Use (R8-CU) zoning and remove of zoning conditions (fence) from 1993 rezoning.
- 22-REZ-18, Trinity Road Townhouses, 0 Trinity Road: Rezones 2.85 acres to Transitional Residential-Conditional Use (TR-CU) for building up to a maximum of 17 townhouses.

NONRESIDENTIAL PERMITS ISSUED
5-YEAR COMPARISON



NONRESIDENTIAL ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS
5-YEAR COMPARISON





DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In Q3, Cary approved 46 development plans. The notable plans approved this quarter were:

- Legacy Cary: A 395-unit apartment development at the intersection of North Twyla Road and Morrisville Parkway, consisting of six multistory buildings and a clubhouse.
- Livano Cary, 1901 Piney Plains Road: A 283-unit apartment development on a 23.75-acre site.
- Lifetime Fitness at Alston Town Center: A 93,000-square-foot commercial indoor fitness center on a 16.4-acre site at the intersection of High Branch Drive and Hortons Creek Road.
- Duke Energy Progress Cary Triangle Expressway 230kV Substation: A new substation located northwest of the intersection of N.C. 540 and Green Level West Road, designed to provide additional electricity for western Cary and the Green Level Destination Center.

IVEY-ELLINGTON HOUSE RENOVATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Crews began work on the much-anticipated Ivey-Ellington House renovations in March. Once completed, this project will provide additional office space for Downtown Cary Park staff, including ADA-accessible restrooms, a breakroom, and office space, while maintaining the structure's historical integrity. In addition, the surrounding site will receive ADA-accessible parking spaces and walkways, as well as era-appropriate gardens. Construction is expected to be complete in spring 2025.

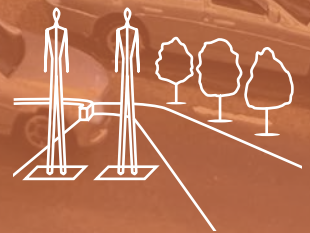


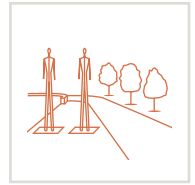




MOVE

PROVIDING
TRANSPORTATION
CHOICES





SHAPING CARY'S TOMORROW BOND PROJECTS



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

This section offers Cary residents 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

This spring, Cary will begin resurfacing more than 11 miles of streets in four neighborhoods (Oakwood Heights, Briarcliff, Pirates Cove, and Harbour Towne), as part of its Street Improvements Project for 2024. Preventive maintenance, including patching and rejuvenation, will be conducted on more than 22 miles of streets. Work is expected to be complete by winter 2024.

This year's project will feature several new initiatives aimed at continuous improvement of the program. The work will incorporate a trackless tack product to reduce vehicular tracking of the asphalt tack coat, high-visibility pavement markings at all crosswalk locations, green pavement markings on bike lanes at major intersections, and a pilot project using asphalt made with 40% reclaimed asphalt pavement.

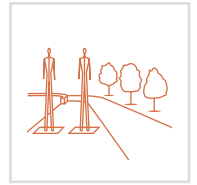
CARPENTER FIRE STATION ROAD

Utility relocation to allow for the widening of Carpenter Fire Station Road began this quarter to provide space for additional lanes. This project includes widening Carpenter Fire Station Road from Cameron Pond Drive to N.C. 55 and installing a 10-foot-wide street-side trail on the south side of the street, a 5-foot sidewalk on the north side, and new traffic signals at Cameron Pond Drive and Highcroft Drive. Utility relocations are expected to continue for about a year with street widening anticipated to start in 2025.



BLACK CREEK GREENWAY RENOVATIONS AND CARY PARKWAY SIDEWALK

The Black Creek Greenway Renovations and Cary Parkway Sidewalk at Black Creek Greenway projects saw lots of activity this quarter with several major milestones met. At its March 14 meeting, Council approved awarding the construction bid to Crowder Construction. Staff coordinated with the N.C. Native Plant Society to perform a plant rescue to relocate potentially impacted plants from within the clearing limits, including Christmas ferns, trout lilies, and painted buckeyes. Construction is expected to begin this summer following public outreach and will be divided into three phases to minimize impacts on greenway users. The first phase, between West Dynasty Drive and North Cary Park, is anticipated to take a year to complete.



SIGNALIZATION SAFETY PROJECTS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

This quarter, Cary upgraded four signalized intersections to improve safety for all modes of transportation and optimize traffic flow.

N.C. 55 AT O'KELLY CHAPEL ROAD

To assist pedestrians attempting to cross N.C. 55, Cary added:

- Pedestrian signals with push buttons on the southern leg.
- High-visibility markings to the crosswalks on the southern and eastern legs.
- Emergency vehicle preemption to reduce response times.

DAVIS DRIVE AT AIRPORT BOULEVARD

Cary added a green arrow to create a safer left turn onto Airport Boulevard from westbound Davis Drive. Residents requested this improvement in response to the changing traffic patterns in this area due to recent development. Further improvements, including the addition of a signalized pedestrian crossing, will occur in the coming months.

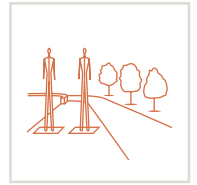
CARY PARKWAY AND CHATHAM STREET INTERSECTION

Cary added a leading pedestrian interval for crosswalks at the intersection, providing several seconds of all-red time to allow pedestrians to use the crosswalks while no vehicles have a green light.

CARY PARKWAY AT OLD APEX ROAD

Based on resident feedback and following staff analysis, Cary collaborated with N.C. Department of Transportation to remove the merge lane on eastbound Old Apex Road just after the intersection.





PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

Cary's commitment to pedestrian safety manifests itself in many ways, influencing projects large and small. This quarter, that was on full display with the completion of several modest projects and the achievement of notable milestones in more significant traffic safety projects.

YATES STORE ROAD

Cary added signage and markings to pedestrian crosswalks at the junction of Morris Branch and Amberly Lake greenways. This greatly improves visibility at these crossings with the goal of increasing driver awareness of pedestrians.

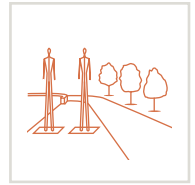
EDERLEE DRIVE

To improve pedestrian visibility at this crosswalk near the Symphony Lake Greenway, Cary added centerline markings to mimic a median island and provide space for in-street warning signs. This improvement serves to narrow travel lanes, creating a traffic-calming effect and reinforcing the yield signs and markings that were also added.

MCCRIMMON PARKWAY

Cary completed the scoping design for McCrimmon Parkway, west of Highcroft Drive, which provides several options to improve pedestrian mobility near Panther Creek High School, including a new traffic signal, pedestrian warning beacon or signal, and median modifications to improve sight visibility. This scoping design is being reviewed by N.C. Department of Transportation and will subsequently be presented to the nearby community for input.





GOCARY



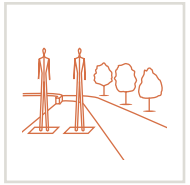
The GoCary Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility has reached the final design phase. This facility will accommodate administration, operations, and maintenance functions for GoCary fixed-route and door-to-door transit service. It allows room for service expansion, the incorporation of solar panels, and provides space for alternative fueling infrastructure. Construction for the facility is expected to begin this fall and will take about two years.

NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLES

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

This quarter, Cary added two new electric vehicles to its fleet. A Ford E-Transit vehicle will be used for facility maintenance, while a Tesla Model Y will serve the Western Wake Water Reclamation Facility. To further support clean technology, Cary participated in the Clean Transportation Demonstration Days hosted by the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center. Cary showcased a Ford Lightning, a Tesla Model Y, and a Tesla Model 3 as examples of electric fleet vehicles. Members of Cary’s fleet staff also shared insights on electric vehicle fleet best practices.





MANY JOURNEYS, ONE PATH

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW, RIGHT

Cary has kicked off its Greenway Safety Campaign to educate and engage the public and include a technical evaluation of Cary's greenways. Citizens love the nearly 100 miles of trails. With electric-assist bicycles now allowed on the greenways, Cary seeks to be proactive with a safety campaign that will emphasize key greenway rules and etiquette. The campaign aims to foster respect among the different greenway users, so it's fitting that the tagline for the campaign will be Many Journeys, One Path. Look for messaging along the greenways, on social media, and at engagement events this spring.



Image Credit: Farid Sani



Image Credit: David Ley

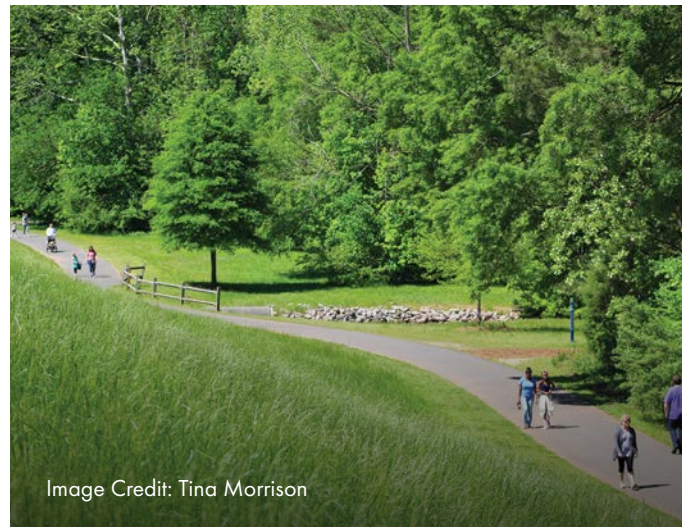


Image Credit: Tina Morrison

SERVE

MEETING
COMMUNITY
NEEDS





MILLS PARK FOOD WASTE DROP-OFF

PHOTOGRAPHED BELOW

In support of the community’s interest and demand for growing composting opportunities, Cary opened a second food waste drop-off site at Mills Park. The expansion in service comes one year after the initial pilot site became a permanent fixture at the Citizen’s Convenience Center and collected 80 tons of material from 26,000 drop-offs. Citizens are making great use of the second site, with nearly 4.5 tons of food scraps collected there in the first two months of operation in February and March.

In addition to reducing waste, the community’s efforts provide finished compost for Good Hope Farm, equivalent to 10% of the weight of collected food scraps from both sites. As Cary continues to develop long-term waste management strategies, making food waste diversion convenient and accessible for citizens is a commitment that’s crucial in extending the landfill’s life and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



CARY UPDATES TOPOGRAPHICAL DATA

In February, a contractor on behalf of Cary used LiDAR technology via a plane to gather updated topographic and impervious surface data throughout town. LiDAR uses light to detect and map terrain, which can be used to produce Geographic Information System, or GIS, maps. This data, which was last collected over a decade ago, is beneficial to many Cary projects, including transportation, public works, utilities, and stormwater. For example, when it comes to stormwater, the data allows staff to predict stormwater runoff flow and flooding risk. Another benefit is it allows Cary to quantify open space in an effort to fulfill the vision laid out in the Urban Forest Master Plan.

MANAGING STORMWATER AT DOWNTOWN CARY PARK

Cary hosted a tour of Downtown Cary Park for the Walnut Creek Watershed Action Team. This group of stakeholders included state, federal, and local organizations that collaborate on environmental justice issues and improvements in the Walnut Creek watershed. The park sits at the top of the watershed, so its multiple stormwater devices help improve water quality and reduce the rate at which water flows downstream to neighbors. For example, the stunning yet functional pond at the center of the park helps reduce peak runoff flow from the 100-year storm event by more than 50%.

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL ALONG HIGGINS GREENWAY

Cary contracted with Native Plants Matter and Leaf & Limb to remove invasive plants along Higgins Greenway. Phase 1 of the project included the trail from Union Street at Dorothy Park south to the greenway spur at Danforth Drive. Phase 2, which is currently in progress, extends south from the Danforth Drive spur to Southwest Maynard Road. Contractors are removing wisteria, Chinese privet, Bradford pear, and other invasive exotic species. Project completion is anticipated in May.



SYMPHONY LAKE DREDGING PROJECT

Symphony Lake was constructed in 1982, and more than 40 years of receiving storm flows and associated sediments from upstream areas resulted in the accumulation of sediment in the upper portions of the lake. In January, Cary began dredging Symphony Lake to restore the environmental and water quality characteristics of the lake. The removed sediment was transported to the South Cary Water Reclamation Facility to close a lagoon on the site. Site restoration activities at Symphony Lake will include repaving the Symphony Lake Greenway Trail from Regency Parkway to Koka Booth Amphitheater and reconstructing a greenway bridge over the stream at the head of the lake. Paving and other restoration are anticipated to be completed and the Symphony Lake Greenway reopened in May.

GREEN STORMWATER GRANT PROGRAM

Cary's Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Program, a nature-based initiative to manage stormwater runoff and improve water quality, launched in April. Cary already encourages the use of GSI on new development and redevelopment projects and aims to lead by example by incorporating GSI measures for projects on Cary-owned properties and within the public right-of-way. Now Cary is also offering a new grant program for property owners who wish to install GSI. The program provides reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for eligible GSI measures that are installed on privately owned properties or lots within subdivisions that don't have an existing stormwater control measure. Interested owners can submit an online interest form via Cary's website to learn more about this exciting new program.

CARY KUDOS

MATT JACOBY

Fire Assistant Chief Matt Jacoby was awarded the 2024 Cliff Jones Ambassador Award at the 2024 Excellence Conference in Orlando, Fla. in February. This award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond in their support of accreditation, credentialing, and the Center for Public Safety Excellence as a whole. Jacoby also reprised his popular course, Credentialing Process Explained, at the weeklong conference, where he participated in sessions on accreditation, credentialing, leadership, and changes and opportunities in the fire service.





TREE FOCUS



In an effort to enhance tree maintenance, Cary’s urban forester launched a training series with Public Works landscape staff on structural tree pruning techniques and best practices. Staff gained an increased understanding of how trees respond to pruning to allow for more structurally sound tree crowns, leading to reduced maintenance costs and healthier urban trees. Cary also offered two online Tree Talks classes, engaging residents on proper tree care. This quarter’s topics educated citizens on proper tree planting to ensure the success and longevity of their trees while helping them identify mature tree hazards that can be addressed before major weather events.

DOWNTOWN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

The start of 2024 saw the successful completion of water main replacements and associated infrastructure improvements on Griffis Street, Byrum Street, and the alleyway adjacent to Fidelity Bank. The final pavement restoration on Griffis Street completes a continuous 0.8-mile segment that began at the West Chatham Street and South Harrison Avenue intersection. In addition to water main replacement and resurfacing, significant stretches of curb and gutter were replaced to improve drainage. Cary is also coordinating with Duke Energy to bury overhead power lines before completing work along Page Street, the final project area. More information and a project map are available at carync.gov/watermains.

WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIAL VERIFICATION

In January, Cary began engaging residents who live in homes built prior to the federal lead ban in 1986 to identify the material of their privately owned water service line. Cary has since received more than 500 responses either identifying their pipe materials or requesting inspection by staff. To date, no lead service lines have been found in Cary.

Cary will continue collecting information and will use the service line material data in its predictive model to complete the service line inventory required by the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. To have enough data to achieve accurate results using the predictive model, Cary will physically verify both the public and the private side of the same service line for about 400 locations. Cary’s goal is to submit an inventory with no lead service lines.

CARY COMPLETES WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

As part of Cary’s commitment to comprehensive planning to guide the future of the community, Cary completed a multiyear effort to update its Water System Master Plan. The update reflects current projections for future water demands and right sizes new water distribution and transmission mains to support growth and development throughout Cary’s utility service area, which includes Cary, Morrisville, and Wake County’s portion of Research Triangle Park. The updated plan, which helps ensure the successful long-term design, engineering, and development of water system infrastructure, is available at carync.gov/waterplan.



LONG RANGE WATER RESOURCES PLAN VISIONING

On Jan. 8, Cary launched a Long Range Water Resources Plan update in close coordination with a wide range of stakeholders and regional partners, including Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Research Triangle Park, the Cary Chamber of Commerce, Morrisville, Apex, Chatham County, and Wake County. The visioning process, which looks ahead several decades, laid the groundwork for how this plan will be distinct from past planning efforts as Jordan Lake is nearing full allocation and the region continues to grow. Attendees brainstormed unique trends and adaptive strategies and got sneak peeks at the draft forecast based on the Triangle Regional Model and other regional planning efforts. Cary will continue this close coordination with internal and external stakeholders throughout 2024 as the plan is developed.

CARY KUDOS

ANDREW MAURER

This quarter, Det. Andrew Maurer received the Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award at the 71st annual Attorney General’s Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Maurer has faithfully served the Cary Police Department



as a task force officer on the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and was awarded this honorable distinction from U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland for his part in disrupting and convicting a multinational suspect from attempting to provide material support to a terrorist criminal organization.



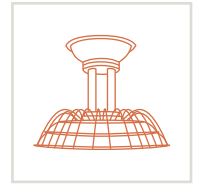
A close-up photograph of a red fire truck door. The door features gold lettering that reads "TOWN of CARY FIRE DEPARTMENT". The word "TOWN" is in a large, bold, serif font. "of" is in a smaller, cursive font. "CARY" is in a large, bold, serif font. "FIRE" is in a smaller, bold, serif font. "DEPARTMENT" is in a large, bold, serif font. The door has a black handle and a black lock mechanism. The background shows a fire station interior with fire gear hanging on a rack.

TOWN of **CARY**
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

ACT

MOVING
FROM VISION
TO REALITY





STATE OF CARY

On Jan. 24, Mayor Harold Weinbrecht presented the State of Cary address at Prestonwood Country Club as part of the Cary Chamber of Commerce’s Eye Opener Series. To view the presentation and read the full transcript, visit carync.gov/stateofcary.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CARY



On March 19, 40 area high school juniors participating in the Cary Chamber of Commerce’s Youth Leadership Cary program spent the day with Cary staff to learn about local government and potential career paths. The day included a welcome from Mayor Harold Weinbrecht; an informational session on the council-manager form of government; visits to 311, 911, and Cary’s traffic center; and a tour of Downtown Cary Park.





YOU Can Support our Mission!

Donations Directly Fund:

- STEAM Camp Scholarships
- Curriculum Development & Free STEAM Kits for our Community
- Annual S.M.A.S.H. Summit (Supporting Mental health Advocacy through STEAM and Hip-Hop)



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