

# **Town of Carrboro**

*301 W. Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510*



## **Meeting Agenda - Final**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers - Room 110**

**Town Council**

**6:00-6:15****A. POETRY READING, RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS****6:15-6:20****B. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE****6:20-6:35****C. PUBLIC COMMENT****6:35-6:40****D. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Items on the consent agenda are part of normal town business. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Council Member request to pull an item, after which the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered individually. All other items not removed from the Consent Agenda will be adopted by a single motion.*

1. [26-037](#) Approval of Minutes from Town Council meeting held on March 17, 2026
2. [26-030](#) Resolution Authorizing Granting of a Permanent Easement on Town Owned Property at 604 Jones Ferry Road

**PURPOSE:** Town Council is asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to approve a permanent easement allowing maintenance of an existing, privately owned sign on town property.

**Attachments:** [A - Resolution](#)  
[B - Survey and Zoomed-In Map](#)  
[C - Willow Creek Pylon Sign](#)  
[D - Easement Agreement](#)

3. [26-033](#) Resolution to Adopt the Orange County Heat Action Plan

**PURPOSE:** To approve the 2026 Orange County Heat Action Plan.

**Attachments:** [A - ORANGE COUNTY HEAT ACTION PLAN](#)  
[B - Heat Action Plan Resolution 2026](#)  
[C - RE Pocket Questions - OC Heat Action Plan Adoption](#)  
[D - CA Pocket Questions - OC Heat Action Plan](#)

4. [26-035](#) Changes to the Racial Equity Commission (REC) Membership Structure

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agenda item is for the Council to approve updates to the membership structure of the Racial Equity Commission.

**Attachments:** [A - Racial Equity Commission Resolution](#)  
[B - Racial Equity Commission Membership Make up](#)

5. [26-038](#) Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Amendment #5

**PURPOSE:** To approve budget, grant, and capital project ordinance amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

**Attachments:** [A - Capital Ordinance Land Acquisition BUA #5](#)

6. [26-039](#) Resolution to Adopt the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System

**PURPOSE:** To adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), as the Town of Carrboro's standard framework for incident management.

**Attachments:** [A - Resolution to Adopt NIMS and ICS](#)  
[B - Overview of NIMS and ICS](#)  
[C - RE Pocket Questions](#)  
[D - CA Pocket Questions](#)

7. [26-040](#) Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

**PURPOSE:** To adopt Amendment One to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate an additional mitigation action for the Town of Carrboro.

**Attachments:** [A - Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)  
[B - Amendment One to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)  
[C - RE Pocket Questions](#)  
[D - CA Pocket Questions](#)

**6:40-7:00**

## **E. GENERAL AGENDA**

### *INFORMATION ITEMS*

1. [26-041](#) Budget Review - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & FY 27 Proposed Funding

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Council with an overview of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including updates on active projects, proposed FY 2027 (Year 2) funding, and new capital project requests.

**Attachments:** [A - CIP Budget Overview](#)



# Town of Carrboro

301 W. Main St., Carrboro,  
NC 27510

## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-037

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026

**File Type:** Consent Agenda

**In Control:** Town Council

**Version:** 1

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Approval of Minutes from Town Council meeting held on March 17, 2026



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-030

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
**In Control:** Town Council  
**Version:** 1

**File Type:** Consent Agenda

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Resolution Authorizing Granting of a Permanent Easement on Town Owned Property at 604 Jones Ferry Road

**PURPOSE:** Town Council is asked to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to approve a permanent easement allowing maintenance of an existing, privately owned sign on town property.

**DEPARTMENT:** Planning and Manager's Office

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

Race/Equity  Climate  Comprehensive Plan  Other

Other is marked as this matter is related to town owned property.

**INFORMATION:** The Special Use Permit-A (then known as CUP) for the Willow Creek Shopping Center was approved in July 1981. The shopping center included the main parcel at 602 Jones Ferry Road, as well as the two outparcels, 600 Jones Ferry Road (Burger King) and 604 Jones Ferry Road. 604 Jones Ferry Road was left undeveloped when the center was constructed (see Attachment B). The parcel is almost entirely encumbered by floodplain and stream buffer, essentially causing it to remain vacant as unused open space. The one use made of the parcel at 604 Jones Ferry Road was the placement of a permanent freestanding shopping center sign. The freestanding sign was approved as part of the original SUP-A permit for the shopping center. In August 2001, 604 Jones Ferry Road was acquired by the Town and left as an undisturbed open space, with the sign remaining in place.

The owners of the Willow Creek Shopping Center recently submitted a sign permit application requesting to update the existing sign with a new sign on the existing foundation (Attachment C). As the sign sits adjacent to and just outside the floodplain line, their intent is to put the new sign in place without disrupting and thereby not involving any concerns related to the floodplain. As the town now owns the property, staff is asking Town Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the manager to grant a permanent easement (Attachment A) to the owners of the shopping center to formalize the right for the sign to remain on town property and be maintained by the Willow Creek Shopping Center.

The Town Attorney's office has prepared the permanent easement document, thereby ensuring that the town's interests in owning the property remain secure outside of the easement area itself (Attachment D). As noted in the fiscal impact statement, the owners of the shopping center have agreed to pay a sum of \$2,000.00 in exchange for the easement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** If approved, the town will receive \$2,000 from the Willow Creek Shopping Center for the agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Town staff recommends that the Town Council approve a resolution authorizing the

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
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Town Manager to execute a permanent easement with the owners of Willow Creek Shopping Center to allow for the use and maintenance of the existing sign.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT GRANTING THE OWNERS OF THE WILLOW CREEK SHOPPING CENTER AT 604 JONES FERRY ROAD THE RIGHT TO LEAVE IN PLACE, MAINTAIN, AND UPDATE THE SHOPPING CENTER SIGN AT 602 JONES FERRY ROAD**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council approved a Special Use Permit-A (formerly called a Conditional Use Permit) for a shopping center at 602 Jones Ferry Road on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1981; and

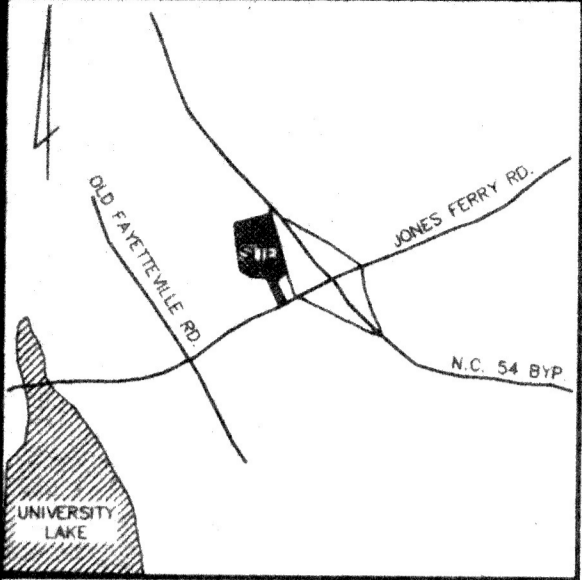
**WHEREAS**, the Town Council approved the shopping center sign as part of the Special Use Permit-A; and

**WHEREAS**, the parcel at 604 Jones Ferry Road on which the freestanding sign is located was subsequently acquired by the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the owner of the shopping center would like the update and maintain the existing sign.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council that the Town Manager is authorized to sign the easement agreement allowing the sign at 604 Jones Ferry Road to remain and for the owner of the Willow Creek Shopping Center at 602 Jones Ferry Road to maintain and update the sign in accordance with the sign ordinance.

This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.

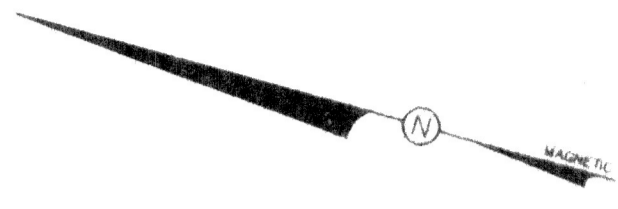


**Legal Description**  
 BEING situated and located in the Town of Carboro, Orange County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:  
 To find the TRUE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, commence at an existing iron pipe in the Northern margin of the right-of-way of Jones Ferry Road (SR 1942) which pipe is in the Eastern boundary line of the McDADE Estate (now or formerly); thence along the Eastern boundary line of the property of the McDADE Estate (now or formerly) North 11-27-13 West 91.42 feet to an existing iron pipe, said pipe being located within the meanders of Tom's Creek; thence along the meanders of Tom's Creek North 34-00-52 West 227.07 feet to an existing iron pipe from the TRUE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING along the meanders of Tom's Creek and the following line (5) courses and distances: (1) North 00-19-16 West 154.20 feet to an existing iron pipe; (2) North 38-08-50 West 191.50 feet to an existing iron pipe; (3) North 18-53-55 West 71.80 feet to an existing iron pipe; (4) North 08-40-57 East 308.55 feet to an existing iron pipe; and (5) North 08-18-14 East 31.04 feet to an existing iron pipe which pipe is in the Southern boundary line of the property of Harris, Inc. (now or formerly); thence leaving the meanders of Tom's Creek and along the Southern boundary line of the property of Harris, Inc. (now or formerly) North 77-30-46 East 405.25 feet to a new iron rod in the Western margin of the right-of-way of the N.C. 54 Bypass Off-Ramp; thence along the Western margin of the right-of-way of the N.C. 54 Bypass Off-Ramp the following as (6) courses and distances: (1) South 37-40-32 East 55.23 feet to an existing iron pipe; (2) South 41-37-30 East 62.50 feet to an existing iron pipe; (3) South 30-21-50 East 95.27 feet to an existing iron pipe; (4) South 24-25-00 East 83.95 feet to an existing iron pipe; (5) South 18-27-30 East 98.02 feet to an existing iron pipe; and (6) South 15-10-28 East 221.48 feet to an existing iron pipe, the Northern corner of this property of the Carrols Corporation, now or formerly as described by deed recorded in Deed Book 507 at Page 351 in the Orange County Public Registry; thence leaving the Western margin of the right-of-way of N.C. 54 Bypass Off-Ramp and with the Northwestern boundary line of the property of the Carrols Corporation (now or formerly) South 74-47-00 West 141.10 feet to an existing P.X. Nail; thence along the Northwestern boundary line of the property of the Carrols Corporation South 15-11-15 East 772.73 feet to a computed point in the Northern margin of the new right-of-way of Jones Ferry Road (SR 1942); thence along the Northern margin of the new right-of-way of Jones Ferry Road South 68-11-37 West 30.28 feet to a computed point thence North 15-11-15 West 282.90 feet to a set P.X. Nail; thence South 75-22-28 West 248.56 feet to an existing iron pipe, being the TRUE POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, as is shown on this survey titled "Willow Creek Shopping Center" by Philip Post, N.C.S.L.C., 2519, dated June 7, 1984, and revised on December 4, 1992.  
 And being a portion of the property conveyed to Willow Creek Associates in deeds recorded in Deed Book 340 at Page 348 and Deed Book 341 at Page 25 in the Orange County Public Registry.

- References**  
 DB 414, PG 36 PB 44, PG 81  
 DB 411, PG 280 DB 435, PG 313  
 DB 250, PG 547 DB 554, PG 348  
 DB 238, PG 1082 DB 508, PG 154  
 DB 340, PG 38 DB 373, PG 63  
 DB 341, PG 25 DB 609, PG 1  
 Tax Map 114, Lot 15  
 NCDOT ROW Consent Judgment, Dated 10/12/80  
 DB 1010, PG 283  
 DB 822, PG 215  
 Unrecorded Map By R. J. Ayers, RLS #548, Dated 8/13/82  
 DB 366, PG 421 DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT AND DEED OF DEDICATION  
 TM 7-114-150  
 DB 569, PG 416  
 TM 7-114-110
- General Utility Easements**  
 DB 435, PG 548 Duke Power Co.  
 DB 150, PG 121 Piedmont Electric
- Sanitary Sewer Easements**  
 NCDOT ROW Consent Judgment, Dated 10/12/80  
 DB 242, PG 1828  
 DB 242, PG 1706  
 DB 443, PG 548  
 PB 36, PG 28  
 DB 820, PG 334  
 DB 443, PG 551
- SUBORDINATION, NONDISTURBANCE AND ATTORNEYMENT AGREEMENT**  
 DB 1086, PG 24 FOOD LION  
 DB 1086, PG 34 KERR DRUGS, INC.  
 DB 1086, PG 42 CARBORO FAMILY MEDICINE CENTER

- Notes:**
- In accordance with Town of Carboro Land Use Ordinance, as amended, there are no required setbacks for this property, zoned B-4.
  - Portions of the property are located within the designated 100 year flood boundary of Tom's Creek, according to FIA Panel Number 330275-0005, Dated February 9, 1980. The actual flood plain boundary has been changed due to grading of the site for construction of the improvements shown. The flood plain boundary shown is the new line resulting from site grading.
  - NCDOT grid tie is not shown due to destruction of grid monuments from widening of N.C. 54 By-Pass.
  - Easement Agreement in DB 251, PG 347 does not affect the subject property.
  - The surveyor has not received updated utility information to prepare this survey. All utility information shown is based on information from Chicago Title Insurance Company, dated December 23, 1992.
  - Total parking spaces = 252.

**"AS-BUILT" NOTE:**  
 Underground utilities are shown based on above-ground surveyed location and information provided by the Contractor as to buried locations. Exact location of buried lines should be verified by excavation and exposing the line.



**SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE**

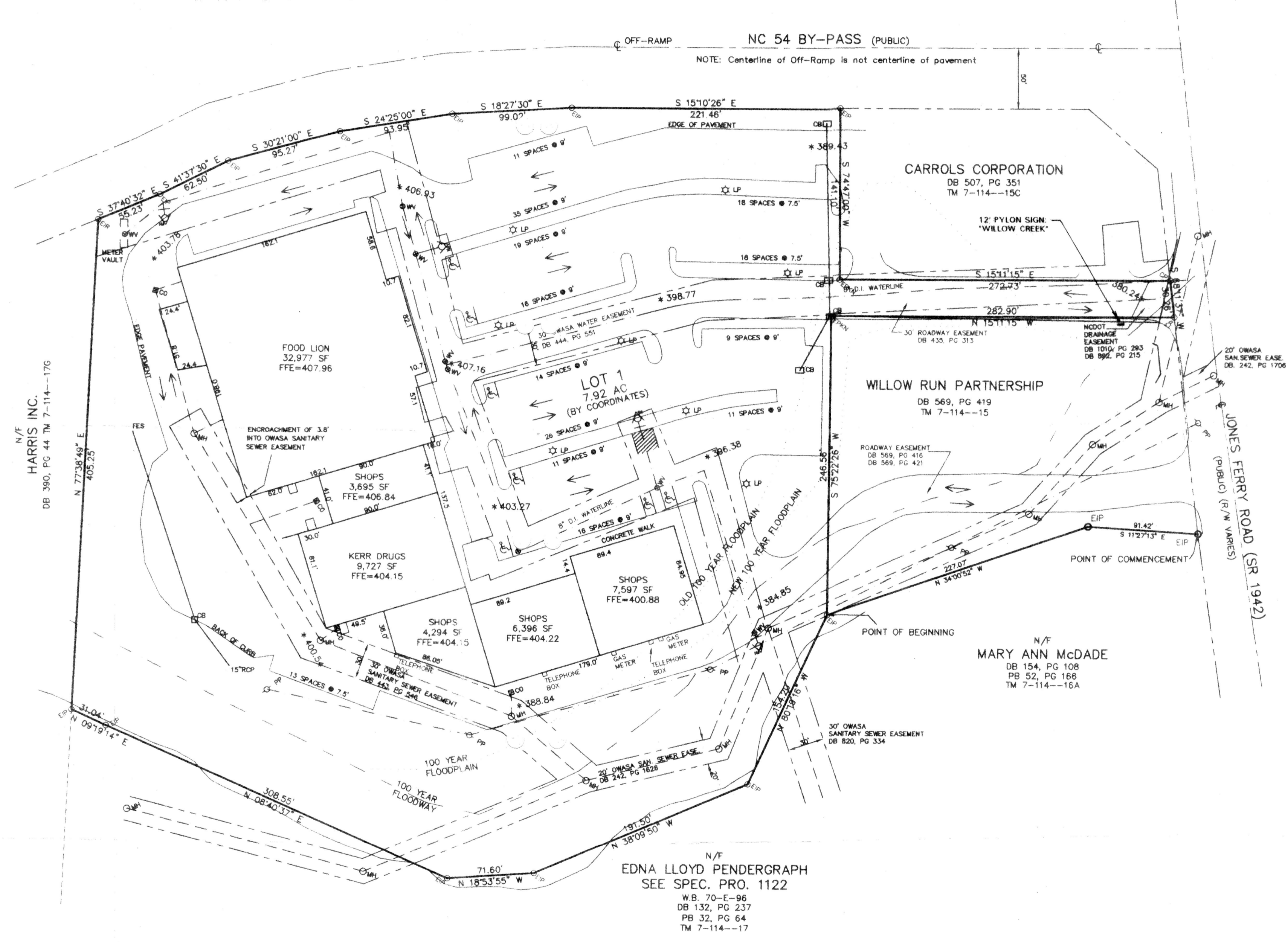
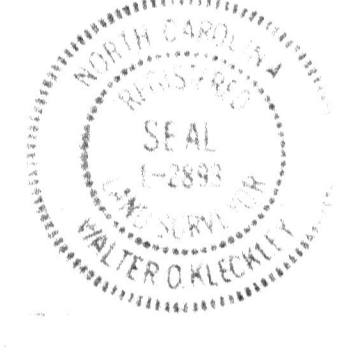
To Dreamy Hollow Apartments Company, Inc. and Lawyers Title Insurance Company.

This is to certify that this map or plot and the survey on which it is based were made (1) in accordance with "Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys", jointly established and adopted by ALTA and ACSM in 1992, and includes Items A through I thereof; and (2) pursuant to the Accuracy Standards (as adopted by ALTA and ACSM) and in effect on the date of this certification) of a "Suburban Land Survey".

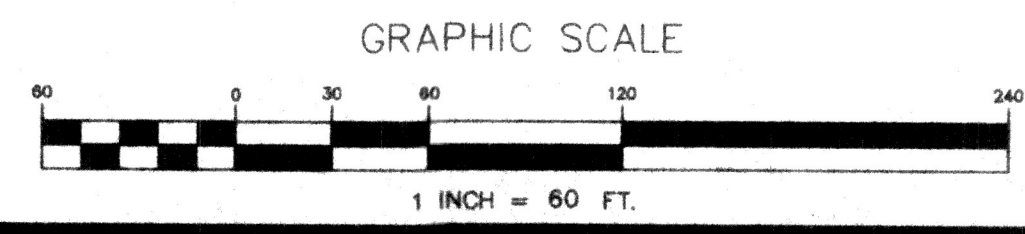
Date: FEBRUARY 19TH, 1997

(Signed) Walter O. Kleckley 6-2893 (Seal)  
 WALTER O. KLECKLEY Registration No.

Adopted by the American Land Title Association on October 17, 1992.  
 Adopted by the Board of Directors, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping on November 11, 1992.



- LEGEND**
- EP - EXISTING IRON PIPE
  - EPN - EXISTING P.X. NAIL
  - CP - COMPUTED POINT
  - MH - SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
  - PP - POWER POLE
  - LP - LIGHT POLE
  - WV - WATER VALVE
  - CO - CLEANOUT
  - WM - WATER METER
  - FH - FIRE HYDRANT
  - TF - TRAFFIC FLOW
  - 400.00 - SPOT ELEVATION



**PRINTED**  
 AUG 6 1997  
 Philip Post & Associates, Inc.

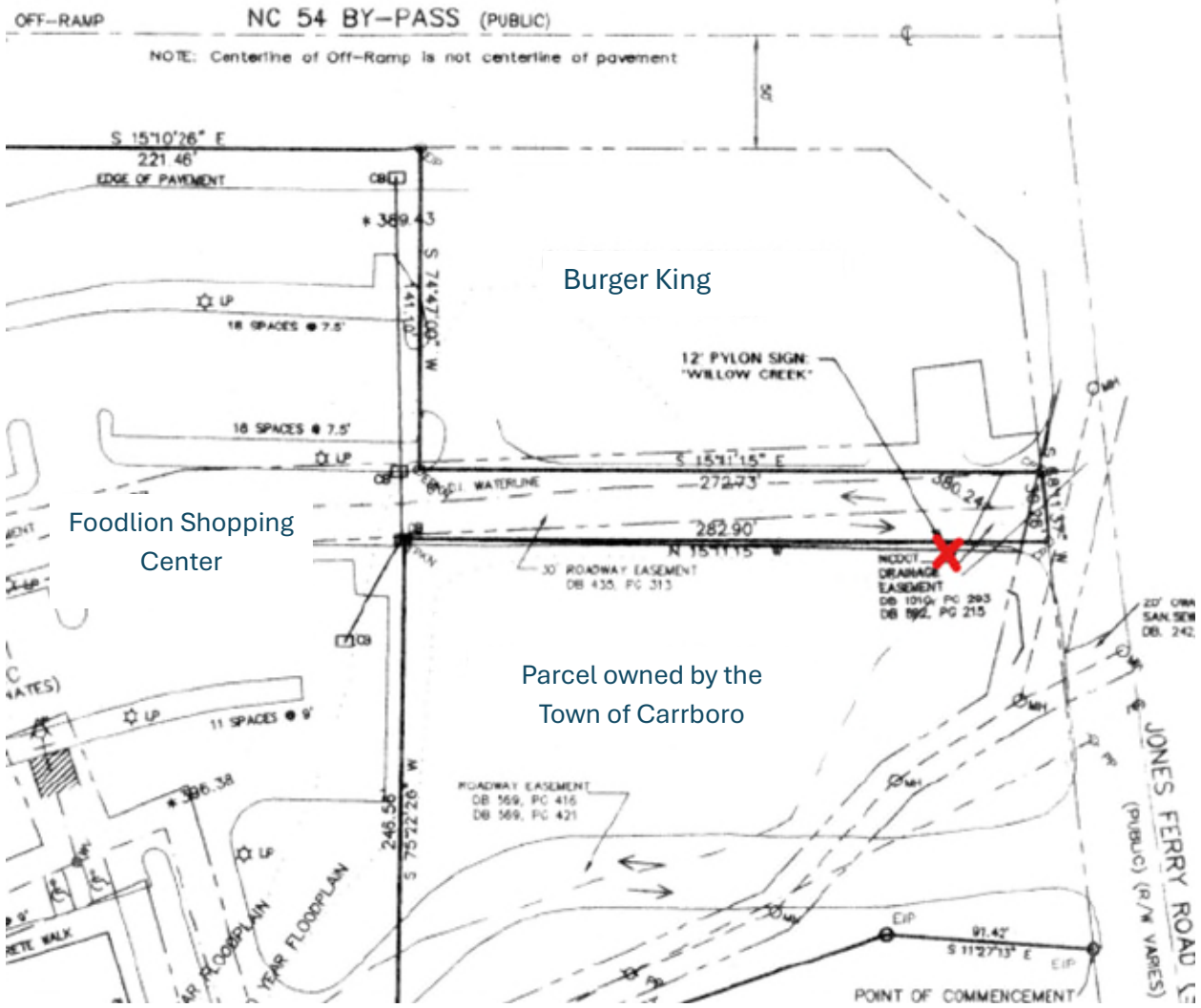
SURVEYED AND MAPPED FOR:  
 DREAMY HOLLOW APARTMENTS CO.  
 A NEW YORK GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

**ENGINEERS PLANNERS SURVEYORS**  
**PHILIP POST & ASSOCIATES**  
 401 Providence Road  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
 (919) 959-1173  
 493-2600 • 680-9662  
 822 North Elm Street  
 Greensboro, NC 27401  
 (919) 273-7711

**ALTA LAND TITLE SURVEY**  
**WILLOW CREEK SHOPPING CENTER**  
**NC 54 & JONES FERRY ROAD**  
 ORANGE COUNTY, N.C.  
 TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

SCALE: 1" = 60'  
 DRAWN BY: MKM  
 CHECKED BY: WOK  
 DATE: 2-13-97  
 PROJECT NO.: 75208  
 DRAWING NO.: A421B01  
 This drawing is the property of Philip Post & Associates, Inc. and is to be used only for the project and site shown on this drawing. No part of this drawing may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Philip Post & Associates, Inc. © Philip Post & Associates, Inc. 1997

REVISIONS 1. 8/6/97: ADD PYLON SIGN  
 SHEET 1  
 OF 1





**JOB NUMBER: 250\*\*\***

**602 Jones Ferry Rd.  
Carrboro, NC 27540**



**McCorkle Sign**  
& AWNING CO.



PLEASE PROOFREAD ALL SPELLING, SIZES, AND COLORS BEFORE APPROVING FOR PRODUCTION, ONCE YOU HAVE APPROVED WHAT YOU SEE ON THIS PROOF, McCORKLE SIGN CO, INC, WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COST ASSOCIATED WITH ANY REPRINTING, REMANUFACTURING, FIXING OR CHANGES THAT MAY NEED TO BEEN DONE TO THIS PROJECT. THANK YOU



### SPECIFICATIONS FOR FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION:

- ¥ Internally illuminated cabinet built to UL specifications
- ¥ Font: **BodoniMURWTBoI**
- ¥ Quantity: one (1)
- ¥ Extruded aluminum construction: (with air vents)
- ¥ Overall length of sign: 6'-0" / Overall height of sign: 10'-0"
- ¥ Overall height above grade: 2'-0"
- ¥ Total square feet of Copy: 38' sf
- ¥ Cabinet depth: 22"
- ¥ Retainer size: top/bottom 1.5"
- ¥ Face type: 3/16" PLEXIGLASS Header: Routed Faces
- ¥ Illuminated with White LED
- ¥ Primary electrical requirement: 120 volt (installed within six feet of sign by others)
- Timer or photo-cell (installed by others)

### OTHER COMPONENTS / SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

#### WHITE PLEX:

#### COLOR SPECIFICATIONS:

- ¥ Cabinet painted with two-stage automotive acrylic
- ¥ Tenant Face colors: Plexi White #7328, with Black applied Vinyl
- ¥ Cabinet colors: PMS 7541 C, PMS 422 C
- ¥ Header routed face colors: Black Day/night vinyl

We use Global Lux. 5 years warranty parts & labor

## Literod




- White #7328
- Sign Cabinet PMS 7541 C
- Sign Cabinet PMS 422 C
- Day/Night vinyl overlay Black

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Client: Willow Creek  
Street Address: 602 Jones Ferry Rd.

City & State: Carrboro, NC 27540  
S/C Name: Willow Creek S/C  
Date: 02/17/2025  
Scale: 00"/1"  
Designer: Kevin McCorkle  
Project Manager: Bobbi Flechter  
Sales Manager: Adam McCorkle

### REVISIONS

02.25.25r/1r/0c

**250\*\*\***

### LANDLORD APPROVAL

APPROVED  
 APPROVED AS NOTED  
 REVISE & RESUBMIT  
 NAME:  
 DATE:

### CLIENT APPROVAL

APPROVED  
 APPROVED AS NOTED  
 REVISE & RESUBMIT  
 NAME:  
 DATE:



PHONE (919) 687-7080  
 FAX (919) 687-4996  
 Website: [mccorklesigns.com](http://mccorklesigns.com)  
 Email: [mccorklesignman@aol.com](mailto:mccorklesignman@aol.com)



PAGE SIZE: 8x11

Pylon Sign

**1 of 1**

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## PROJECT INFORMATION

Client:  
Willow Creek  
Street Address:  
602 Jones Ferry Rd.  
  
City & State:  
Carrboro, NC 27540  
S/C Name:  
Willow Creek S/C  
Date:  
02/17/2025  
Scale:  
00"/1"  
Designer:  
Kevin McCorkle  
Project Manager:  
Bobbi Flechter  
Sales Manager:  
Adam McCorkle

### REVISIONS

02.25.25r/1r/0c

**250\*\*\***

### LANDLORD APPROVAL

APPROVED  
 APPROVED AS NOTED  
 REVISE & RESUBMIT  
 NAME:  
 DATE:

### CLIENT APPROVAL

APPROVED  
 APPROVED AS NOTED  
 REVISE & RESUBMIT  
 NAME:  
 DATE:



PHONE ( 919 ) 687 - 7080  
 FAX ( 919 ) 687 - 4996  
 Website : [mccorklesigns.com](http://mccorklesigns.com)  
 Email: [mccorklesignman@aol.com](mailto:mccorklesignman@aol.com)



PAGE SIZE: 8x11

Pylon Sign

Prepared By: Jenna Hornik Yovanovich, The Brough Law Firm, PLLC

Return To: The Town of Carrboro, 301 W. Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**ORANGE COUNTY**

**EASEMENT AGREEMENT**

This EASEMENT AGREEMENT (hereinafter, "Agreement") made this the 5th day of February, 2026 by and between the TOWN OF CARRBORO, a North Carolina municipal corporation, whose address is 301 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510 (hereinafter, the "Town"), and DREAMY HOLLOW APARTMENTS CO., a New York general partnership, whose address is 40 east 69<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10021 (hereinafter, "Dreamy Hollow").

**WITNESSETH**

WHEREAS, the Town owns certain real property located at 604 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510, said property being Orange County PIN 9778-34-6574 (hereinafter, the "Town Property"); and

WHEREAS, Dreamy Hollow owns adjacent real property located at 602 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510, said property being Orange County PIN 9778-34-5932 (hereinafter, the "Dreamy Hollow Property"); and

WHEREAS, Dreamy Hollow owns and operates a shopping center on the Dreamy Hollow Property known as the Willow Creek Shopping Center; and

WHEREAS, the existing sign for the Willow Creek Shopping Center is actually located upon the Town Property; and

WHEREAS, Dreamy Hollow desires to update and improve the sign for the Willow Creek Shopping Center using the same footing and pole as the existing sign; and

WHEREAS, Dreamy Hollow has requested that Town grant Dreamy Hollow a perpetual easement for access to and use of the Town Property to perform certain upgrades and improvements to the existing sign, and to provide future maintenance to the sign as upgraded and improved; and

WHEREAS, the Town has agreed to grant such easement to Dreamy Hollow for access to and use of the Town Property for said construction, improvement and maintenance of the Willow Creek Shopping Center sign, upon certain terms and conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual conditions set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by the parties hereto, Town grants, bargains, sells and conveys unto Dreamy Hollow, its successors and assigns, and for the benefit of the Dreamy Hollow Property, a perpetual easement for access to and use of that portion of the Town Property wherein the existing sign is located as further described herein, for the purpose of constructing, improving and maintaining the Willow Creek Shopping Center sign, subject to the terms and conditions hereinbelow stated.

**IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED** by the parties hereto that:

1. This Agreement shall run with the Town Property and Dreamy Hollow Property, and shall be binding on their respective successors in interest or title.
2. The access easement granted herein by Town to Dreamy Hollow is limited to Dreamy Hollow's access to and use of the existing sign footing and pole located upon the Town Property, and such other access as is reasonably necessary for Dreamy Hollow to perform upgrades, improvements and maintenance to the Willow Creek Shopping Center sign.
3. Town, with written notice to Dreamy Hollow, may direct Dreamy Hollow to remove any items, if any, placed upon Town Property outside of the easement area as described in paragraph two (2) hereinabove. Upon any such written notice, Dreamy Hollow shall do so within a reasonable time.
4. Dreamy Hollow and their successors in interest or title shall comply with any applicable Town ordinances, regulations, and policies regarding construction, maintenance, and the repair of said easement area.
5. Dreamy Hollow and their successors in interest or title agree to defend, indemnify, and hold Town and its employees and agents free and harmless from and against any and all damages, settlements, charges, fees, or other liability of every kind arising out of or relating to any and all claims, actions, and proceedings in connection with or arising out of this Agreement or arising out of their use of the easement area as described herein.

[signature page(s) to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has set its hand and seal to this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

TOWN OF CARRBORO

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public in and for said county and State, do hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ personally came before me this day and acknowledged that she/he is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Town of Carrboro, a North Carolina municipal corporation, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the corporation, the foregoing instrument was signed in its name by its \_\_\_\_\_, sealed with its corporate seal and attested by her as its \_\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has set its hand and seal to this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

DREAMY HOLLOW APARTMENTS CO.  
A New York General Partnership

By: David J. Koepfel (SEAL)  
Name: David J. Koepfel  
Title: Authorized Signatory

STATE OF New York

COUNTY OF New York

I, Nuala Presten, a Notary Public in and for said county and State, do hereby certify that David J. Koepfel personally came before me this day and acknowledged that she/he is Authorized Signatory of Dreamy Hollow Apartments Co., and signed the foregoing instrument for and on behalf of the company for the purposes stated therein.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this the 5th day of February, 2026.

Nuala Presten  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires

Nuala Presten  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Registration No. 01PR0030753  
Qualified in Queens County  
Commission Expires November 07, 2028



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number: 26-033**

**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
**In Control:** Town Council  
**Version:** 1

**File Type:** Consent Agenda

Resolution to Adopt the Orange County Heat Action Plan

**PURPOSE:** To approve the 2026 Orange County Heat Action Plan.

**DEPARTMENT:** Town Manager’s Office

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

Race/Equity  Climate  Comprehensive Plan  Other

Preparing to protect the public against extreme heat risks aligns with several of the Town Council’s strategic objectives. Chapter 4 of the Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan ([Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan Carrboro, NC - Official Website <https://www.carrboronc.gov/2389/Carrboro-Connects-Comprehensive-Plan>](https://www.carrboronc.gov/2389/Carrboro-Connects-Comprehensive-Plan)), Climate Action and Environment, contains core strategies to build resilience, including initiatives to “build infrastructure and community systems that can withstand the inevitable impacts of climate change.” It includes a focus on low-income and historically marginalized neighborhoods that are disproportionately impacted by urban heat islands. The Comprehensive Plan calls for the development and implementation of an Urban Forestry Master Plan to prioritize tree-planting programs in those areas to reduce extreme heat. It also integrates hazard preparation into its broader climate resilience framework, focusing on ensuring Town facilities remain operational during extreme weather events. Finally, the Housing and Public Services sections of the Comprehensive Plan advocate for expanding weatherization to protect residents from extreme heat and updating the UDO to include climate-smart development standards that reduce heat-absorbing surfaces.

**INFORMATION:** Extreme heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States, claiming more lives in most years than hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes combined. In Carrboro, it poses serious health risks, especially for residents most vulnerable to heat related illness, outdoor workers, the unhoused, and those without adequate cooling and insulation or the means to afford high summer energy bills. As summer temperatures continue to rise and misconceptions about heat risk persist, the need to cool the community and educate the public has become increasingly urgent.

Orange County is experiencing more days and nights of dangerously high temperatures. Globally, calendar years 2023, 2024, and 2025 were the three hottest years on record, and in 2024, Orange County experienced twelve (12) days above 95°F - compared to a historical average of eight (8) days. By the 2060s, that number is projected to increase to 28-41 days annually, along with more days above 90°F and nights above 70°F, limiting the body’s ability to recover and increasing the risk of heat-related illness.

In response, the Orange County Heat Action Plan provides a comprehensive, cross-municipal strategy to protect residents from extreme heat. The plan outlines coordinated actions before, during, and beyond the heat season, combining short- and long-term strategies to increase public awareness, strengthen emergency response, and cool homes and neighborhoods. It builds on initiatives such as Heat Awareness Week and the Beat the Heat

campaign, reinforcing public education and preparedness efforts.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the Orange County Heat Action Plan at their 3/17/2026 business meeting. The Towns of Hillsborough and Chapel Hill will also consider approval of the Heat Action Plan for their respective jurisdictions.

Recognized by the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resilience as a “gold standard” for other communities, the Plan aligns with state and national best practices and reflects input from community meetings, survey feedback, and the Orange County Heat Task Force. By encouraging advance preparation and coordinated action, the Plan aims to reduce health risks and save lives.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with the approval of this plan, though budget requests, grants, and community support will be sought to support portions of its implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Manager recommends that the Council approve the 2026 Orange County Heat Action Plan.



# HEAT ACTION PLAN

## FOR ORANGE COUNTY



2026



TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

# Acknowledgments

The Heat Action Plan for Orange County came together thanks to the contributions of many organizations, agencies, groups and individuals:

## Heat Cohort Members

- Mel Gilles, Orange County Sustainability
- Hannah Tuckman, Orange County Emergency Management
- Amy Armbruster, Town of Carrboro Climate Action and Sustainability
- John Richardson, Town of Chapel Hill Office of Sustainability and Resilience
- Phil Cundiff, Town of Hillsborough Safety and Risk Management
- Heat Cohort Interns – Lily Knudsen, Sebastian Provencio, Sofia La Moal

## Heat Relief Task Force Members

- Anne-Marie Vanaman, Town of Carrboro, Housing and Community Development Director
- Atuya Cornwell, Chapel Hill Parks and Rec
- Jackie Jenks, IFC President and CEO
- Jonathan Smith, Orange County Cooperative Extension
- Kathleen Shapley-Quinn, Carolina Advocates for Climate, Health and Equity
- Kim Woodward, Orange County EMS Division Chief
- Mart Bumgarner, Orange County Cooperative Extension
- Melissa Tegeder, Orange County Risk Manager
- Stephanie Trueblood, Town of Hillsborough, Public Spaces & Sustainability Manager
- Scarlett Steinert, Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Director of Healthful Living, Athletics & Drivers Education
- Steve Naylor, OWASA Safety Manager
- Wendi Calvert, Town of Carrboro, Human Resources Safety Officer

## Dedication

The Heat Action Plan is dedicated to all of those who have lost their lives to heat in Orange County.

While writing this plan, we heard stories of these deaths, including young athletes and dedicated emergency responders.

This plan is for them, their families, and those who continue to suffer heat impacts.

# Executive Summary



Extreme heat poses significant health risks in Orange County, especially to vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and those with preexisting health conditions. Heat is the leading cause of weather-related death in the United States. Recent and projected increases in summer temperatures highlight the urgent need to identify and implement strategies for managing extreme heat. In response to these challenges, the **Heat Action Plan of Orange County** is a comprehensive and proactive approach to protecting our community from the impacts of extreme heat.

The plan is designed to capture heat actions that take place when heat is in the forecast, during the heat season, and over the course of multiple years. By working with our partners to implement a range of short-term and long-term strategies, the plan aims to increase community awareness, reduce health risks, and build resilience to rising temperatures.

The plan includes a series of actions intended to provide outreach and education to the public, enhance emergency response mechanisms, and cool homes and neighborhoods. Regular reviews and updates ensure that the plan remains effective and responsive to the needs of the community.

## **Outreach and education to prepare and protect the public**

- Action 1: Public Heat Messaging
- Action 2: Outdoor Worker Education
- Action 3: Unhoused Education
- Action 4: Home Cooling Education
- Action 5: Youth Heat Safety Education
- Action 6: Medical and Disability Education
- Action 7: 'Cool' Events Promotion

## **Enhanced emergency response mechanisms**

- Action 8: Extreme Heat Notification and Communications
- Action 9: Cooling Centers
- Action 10: Cooling Center Transportation
- Action 11: Integration of Extreme Heat into the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operation Plan
- Action 12: Neighbor Check-in
- Action 13: Augmentation of Response Operations
- Action 14: Outdoor Activity Limitations

## **Cool homes and neighborhoods**

- Action 13: Tree Plantings and Giveaways
- Action 14: Water and Shade Access
- Action 15: Cool Pavements Implementation
- Action 16: Public Green Roofs and Cool Roofs
- Action 17: Assistance with Cooling Expenses and Home Weatherization
- Action 18: Resilience Hubs

# Introduction

Extreme heat is becoming more intense and more frequent in Orange County. This poses a threat to human health, especially to residents and visitors who are at increased risk for heat-related illnesses and to those whose living and working conditions put them at risk for increased exposure to heat. Rising summer temperatures make it even more urgent to identify strategies to manage heat. Warmer days make outdoor activities riskier, especially for those not acclimated to extreme heat. Rapidly rising nighttime temperatures have been shown to pose an even greater threat to human health, particularly for people without the ability to be in an air-conditioned space. A comprehensive heat action plan is essential to help our community plan for and respond to extreme heat effectively.

The purpose of the **Heat Action Plan for Orange County** is to identify the steps our community can take to prepare residents for excessive heat.

Central to this plan are the following key objectives:

## 1. Increase community awareness:

- Educate the community about the local impacts of extreme heat in Orange County
- Address heat disparities caused by historic discriminatory policies through inclusive engagement, fair policies, and targeted investments

## 2. Reduce Heat-Related Health Issues:

- Lower the number of heat-related illnesses and deaths
- Develop programs and services to protect public health, quality of life, and the environment without increasing vulnerability to other hazards or harming health

## 3. Evaluate Education Programs:

- Assess the effectiveness of education and outreach programs in the plan

## 4. Enhance Long-Term Resilience:

- Improve Orange County's ability to cope with long-term warming trends
- Use green, nature-based solutions when possible and ensure actions are adaptable to future conditions

## 5. Align with Existing Plans:

- Ensure the Heat Action Plan complements existing plans
- Future plans should also consider extreme heat and the Heat Action Plan in their development



In order to achieve these objectives, three central action areas have been identified. These action areas are:

1. Outreach and education to prepare and protect the public
2. Enhanced emergency response mechanisms during acute heat events
3. Cooling of homes and communities

By focusing on these three action areas and outlining specific heat actions under each goal, this plan aims to create a flexible yet coordinated response to extreme heat across the County, protecting and preparing the community as temperatures rise.

## Related County and Municipal Plans

This Heat Action Plan does not operate in isolation, and heat actions are designed to align with and augment existing and future plans in Orange County, Hillsborough, Carrboro, and Chapel Hill. Associated plans include but are not limited to the following:

- Orange County Climate Action Plan
- Chapel Hill Climate Action and Response Plan
- Carrboro Community Climate Action Plan
- Hillsborough Comprehensive Sustainability Plan
- Emergency Operations Plans
- Eno-Haw Hazard Mitigation Plan

## What is the Risk?

The number of hot days and hot nights is projected to increase in Orange County. In the past, the County has experienced about 8 days per year with a high temperature of more than 95°F and 17 days where nighttime lows do not drop below 70°F. By the 2060s those numbers are projected to increase to 28 to 41 days above 95°F and 47 to 64 nights with lows above 70°F (see Table 1). This is due to an increased frequency of heat waves associated with climate change. Continuous exposure to heat harms all residents, but particularly those who live in dwellings without adequate air conditioning or insulation. This continuous exposure to extreme heat disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, including pregnant people, those with preexisting health conditions, unhoused people, the elderly, and children.



Days with Max Temps Over 95° F	
Between 1983 and 2014, on average, Orange County experienced high temperatures of 95° F or greater: <b>8 days per year</b>	By the 2060s, Orange County will experience high temperatures of 95° F or greater: <b>28 to 41 days per year</b>
Days with Max Temps Over 90° F	
Between 1983 and 2014, on average, Orange County experienced high temperatures of 90° F or greater: <b>39 days per year</b>	By the 2060s, Orange County will experience high temperatures of 90° F or greater: <b>74 to 88 days per year</b>
Nights with Max Temps Over 70° F	
Between 1983 and 2014, on average, Orange County experienced low temperatures of 70° F or greater: <b>17 nights per year</b>	By the 2060s, Orange County will experience low temperatures of 70° F or greater: <b>47 to 64 nights per year</b>

Table 1: A projection of the ways temperature will change in Orange County in the future. Days with temperatures over 95° F are expected to increase in number, and day and night temperatures are predicted to increase as well.

Source: <https://www.resilienceexchange.nc.gov/understand-your-vulnerabilities/climate-observations-and-projections>

## Who Is Most at Risk?

While everyone is impacted by extreme heat, certain groups have heightened vulnerability due to underlying health conditions or social or economic factors. Understanding local risk factors and which populations are more at risk from extreme heat is important to developing a heat action plan that effectively and equitably protects all members of our community.

### Infants and children:

Infants and children are not able to regulate their body temperature as effectively as adults. Additionally, infants and young children cannot, or cannot fully, communicate that they may be experiencing heat stress. Infants and children rely on others to keep them cool and hydrated when it's hot outside.

### Outdoor Workers:

People who work outdoors, such as construction workers, agricultural workers, landscape workers, roofers and HVAC technicians, are exposed to heat, often for long periods of time, putting them at increased risk from heat-related illnesses. Additionally, outdoor workers may have limited control over work conditions (e.g., no access to shade or air-conditioning, required clothing or uniforms made from fabrics that don't breathe). Potential language barriers to receiving heat-related information may also exist among some outdoor workers.

### Pregnant people:

Pregnant people are more likely to get heat exhaustion, heatstroke or other heat-related illnesses sooner than non-pregnant people. This is because their bodies must work harder to cool down both the pregnant person's body and the developing baby. Pregnant people are also more likely to become dehydrated, limiting their ability to cool themselves by sweating. Those who are pregnant and are faced with high heat are also more likely to have preterm births, low birth weight babies, and heat related illness.

### Low income:

Individuals and families with low incomes are more likely to live in poorly ventilated apartments or mobile homes, lack access to air conditioners, and be unable to afford the costs of cooling or the cost of transportation to cool places.

**Persons taking certain medications:**

Some medications may make individuals more susceptible to heat.

**People with underlying health conditions:**

Those with underlying health conditions may be less likely to sense and respond to changes in temperature. In addition, they may be taking medications that can make the effects of extreme heat worse.

**Unhoused People:**

Unhoused people are exposed to heat more so than almost any other group, as they do not have air-conditioned spaces to escape to during heat season. This makes them more susceptible to heat-related health conditions.

**Older adults (60+):**

Older adults do not adjust as well as young people to sudden changes in temperature. In addition, they are more likely to have a chronic medical condition that changes normal body responses to heat. Older adults are also more likely to take prescription medicines that may affect the body’s ability to regulate temperature or sweat.

**Athletes:**

People who exercise or spend time outdoors in extreme heat are more likely to become dehydrated and get a heat-related illness. This includes both adult and youth athletes.



**Snapshot: 2025 Heat Season**

Orange County Emergency Management Services (EMS) experienced its highest volume of heat-related illness calls since 2019 during the 2025 heat season (April through October). The majority of these responses involved symptoms of heat stress, including heat exhaustion, fainting, dizziness, general weakness, and dehydration.

While most calls involved heat exhaustion, EMS responded to nineteen cases of the far more serious condition, heatstroke. Heatstroke is a life-threatening medical emergency requiring immediate attention to prevent permanent organ damage or death. Of all the patients treated by EMS during this period, nine required immediate transport to medical facilities using lights and sirens due to the severity of their condition. The overall number of heat emergencies saw a significant spike on 7/7/2025, the very hot and humid day that followed Tropical Storm Chantal.

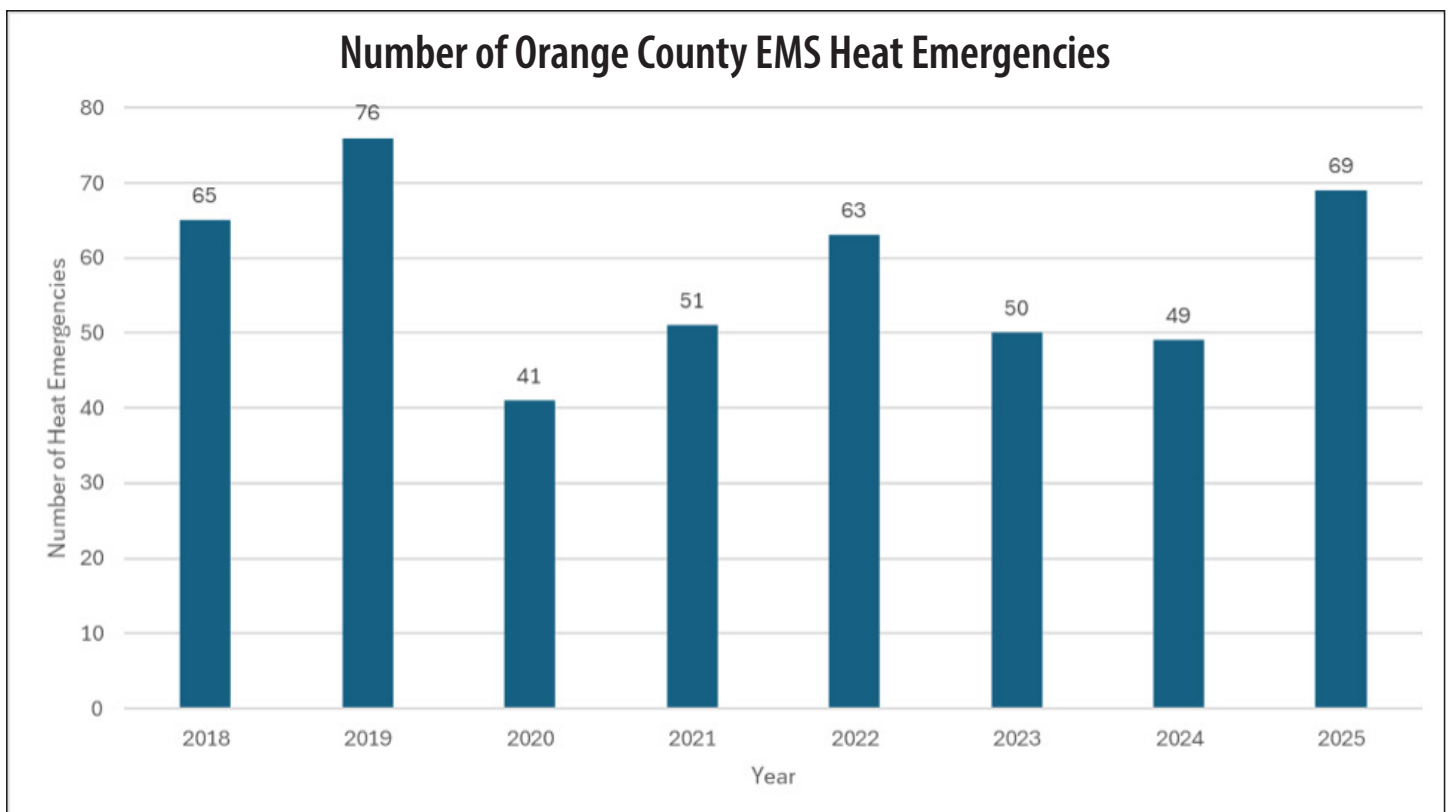
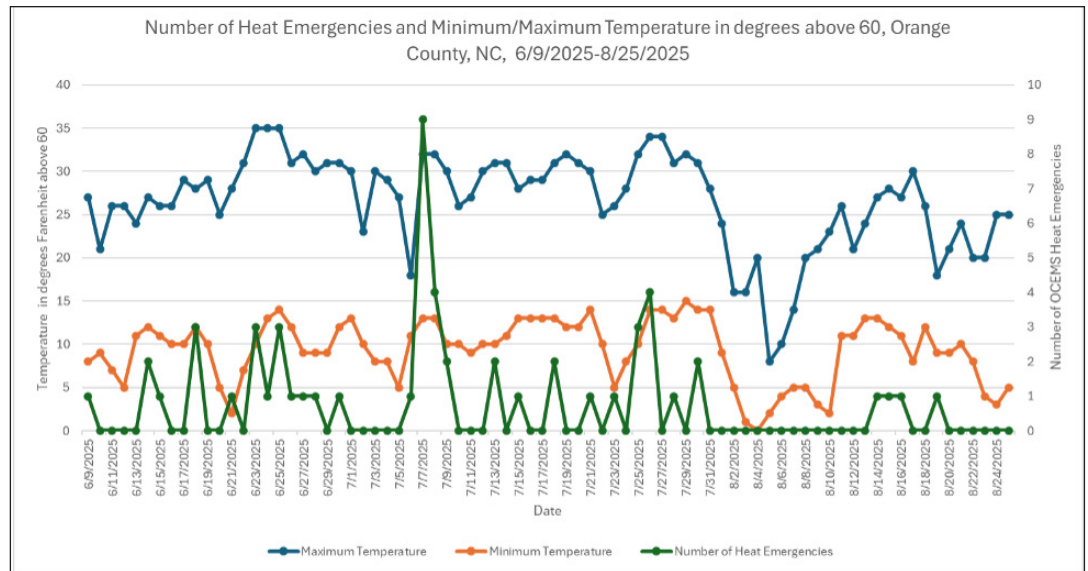


Figure 1. Orange County EMS received more calls for heat-related illness in the 2025 heat season than in the five preceding years, with 25 more heat-related illness calls recorded in 2025 than in 2024.

Figure 2: This data suggests that when temperatures increased quickly or when there were sustained periods of very hot weather, there were more heat related illnesses.



Analysis of recent heat emergency data reveals that heat-related illnesses did not affect all segments of the population equally. EMS calls showed that male patients were disproportionately affected, accounting for 64% of the total patient population. The age demographics were also sharply divided, with elderly individuals (over 55 years of age) making up a large percentage of EMS calls, while youth between 15 and 20 constituted the second most common group experiencing heat-related illness.

Furthermore, significant racial disparities were observed: approximately 27% of heat emergencies involved Black patients, a figure that is starkly disproportionate given that this demographic represents only 10.2% of the overall Orange County population.

### Identifying Areas at Risk

Viewing heat risk geographically can show patterns that aid in properly diagnosing and addressing heat-related issues. For example, it can identify urban heat islands, or heavily developed areas where the building materials and a lack of vegetation contribute to higher ambient temperatures. It can also reveal how past biases can lead to modern day racial and class disparities. Figures 3 and 4 show the locations in Orange County that have higher risk from extreme heat.

By considering and including these groups in the planning process for the heat action plan, interventions like cooling center locations and hours, public awareness campaigns, and installation of cooling amenities can be geographically targeted to ensure the needs of people who are at higher risk for heat illnesses are met.

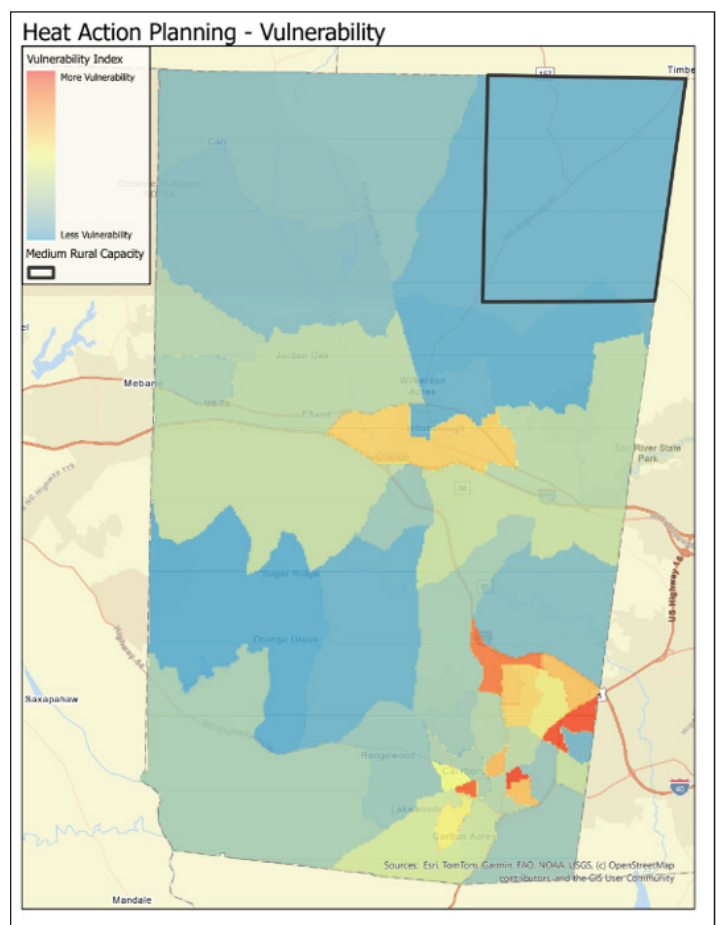


Figure 3. This map shows census tracts in Orange County where our community is most vulnerable to excessive heat. Vulnerability is shown in the warmer colors and is made up of multiple factors, including income, age, race/ethnicity, English proficiency, renter vs. homeowner, and car ownership. The map also includes data from the Rural Capacity Index, which describes a community's ability to meet their immediate needs and plan for their future. Most of the County scores very high in the Rural Capacity Index, which is good. The only exception is the area in the upper right outlined in black. This area has a medium index score. Graphic credit: Dave Almond, Senior GIS Analyst with the Town of Chapel Hill.

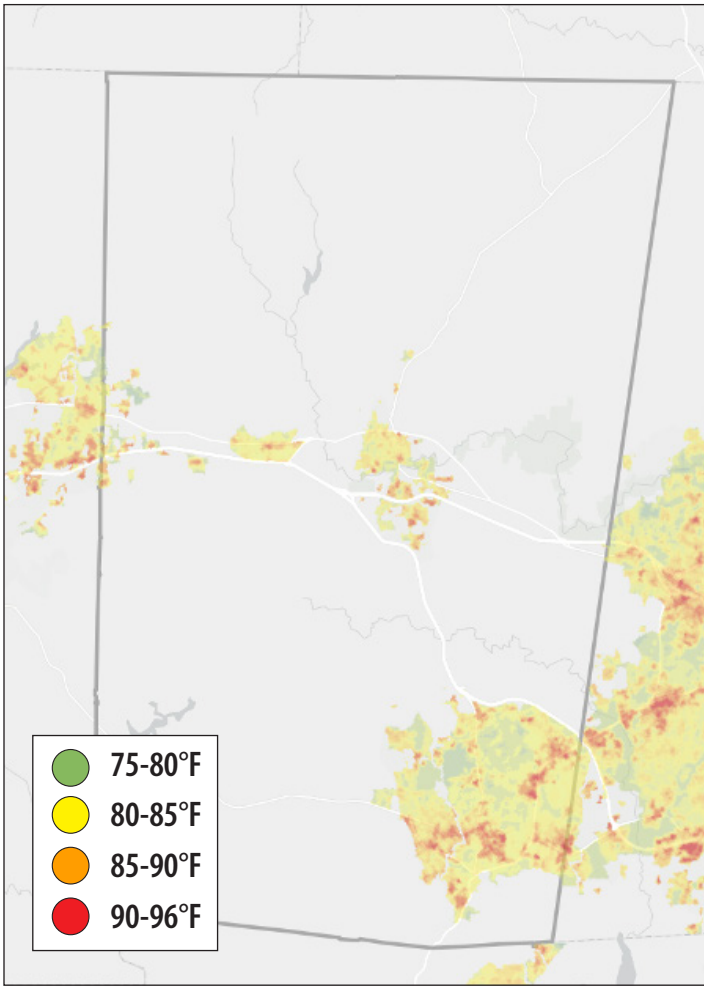


Figure 4: This map, created by Orange County Sustainability to plan future tree planting in Orange County, combines Urban Heat Island data from Landsat 8 (2022), road network buffers to locate heat-retaining streets, EPA Disadvantaged Communities data, Social Vulnerability Index, and Tree Equity Score for canopy gaps.

Areas in red and yellow on this map, which display the highest temperatures, generally also have elevated social vulnerability, low tree canopy, and high vulnerability to the effects of urban heat islands. These areas would benefit most from tree planting, cool pavements, cool roofs and green roofs, which are central to the Heat Action Plan.



## Extreme Heat Season

In Orange County, temperatures are typically highest from May to September each year, a time referred to as the heat season. The months of the heat season where average temperatures are above 85 are highlighted in yellow. While the exact days when extreme heat hits will vary from year to year, the typical first and last dates when temperatures reach 85° F or higher are April 1 and October 1, respectively.

**Average Monthly Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for Chapel Hill (1991-2020)**

	Min	Max
January	31.7°F	51.2°F
February	33.8°F	54.8°F
March	40.1°F	62.7°F
April	48.1°F	72.2°F
May	57.0°F	79.1°F
June	65.3°F	86.3°F
July	69.3°F	89.6°F
August	67.9°F	87.8°F
September	62.2°F	81.9°F
October	49.6°F	72.3°F
November	39.5°F	62.4°F
December	34.5°F	54.2°F

Table 2: A table of average maximum and minimum heats in Chapel Hill. This chart illustrates the “heat season,” or the time when temperatures are highest and most likely to cause health effects.



**Average First and Last Date When Chapel Hill Exceeds Threshold**

FIRST DATE		
Max Heat Index	Max Air Temperature	Threshold
4/23	4/7	85°F
5/29	5/23	90°F
6/20	7/16	95°F
6/5	7/5	100°F
7/19	NA	105°F
LAST DATE		
Max Heat Index	Max Air Temperature	Threshold
10/6	10/1	85°F
9/21	9/11	90°F
9/11	8/20	95°F
8/21	7/5	100°F
7/28	NA	105°F

Another way to define the heat season is by examining when temperatures and heat indices typically reach thresholds that may lead to heat-related health impacts. The table on the right shows the typical first and last dates where air temperatures and heat indices exceed given thresholds.

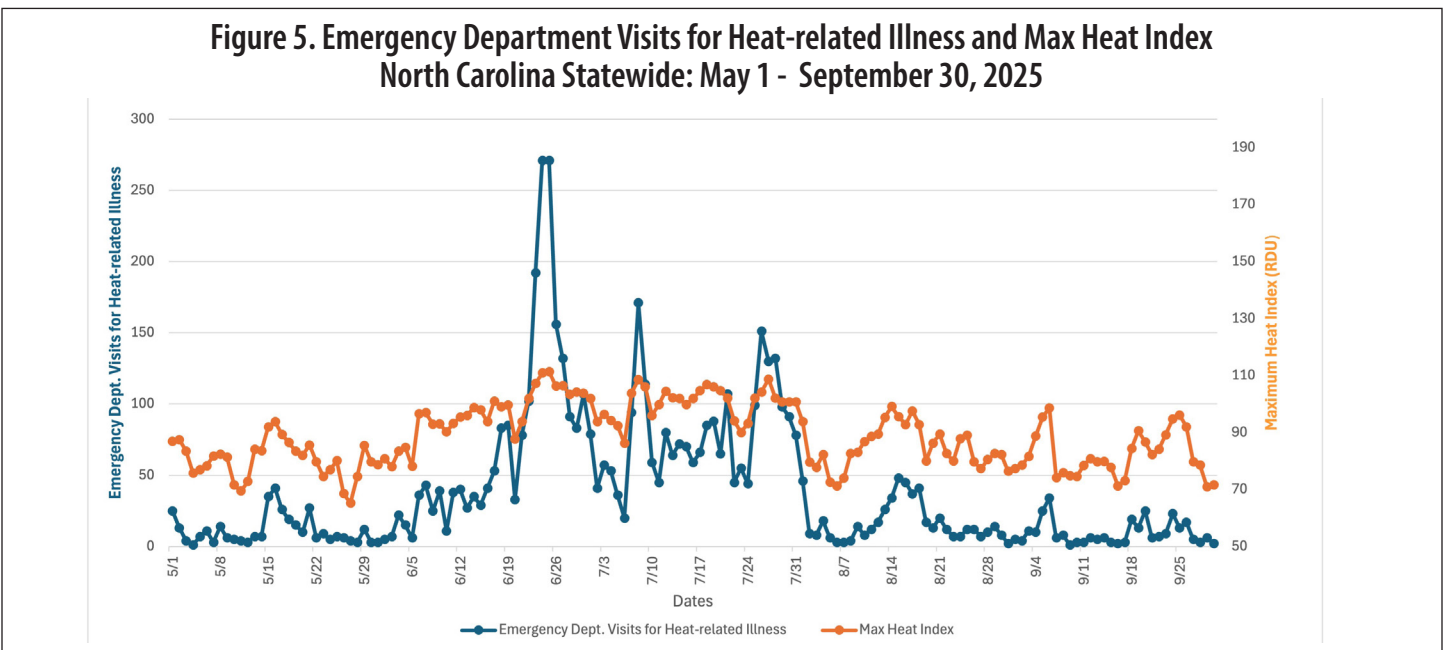
While heat has impacts on health and community well-being during and outside of the heat season, the heat season is typically when rates of heat-related illness are at their highest – especially during the beginning of the heat season, when people are less prepared for extreme heat’s effects.

It is important to note that extreme temperature events have increased in frequency and severity since this data was published in 2020 and are expected to continue to increase in the future. Extremely hot days are now routine in April, May, September and even October. As shown in Figure 5, heat-related emergencies and emergency department visits frequently occur early in the heat season when people are neither acclimatized to nor prepared for extreme heat events.

*Table 3: A table showing the dates of when threshold temperatures are reached in Chapel Hill. This table also illustrates the “heat season” in Chapel Hill.*

*Data from State Climate Office of North Carolina <https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/cardinal/scout/>*

*Note: The earlier average first date for 100°F days compared to 95°F days likely reflects the smaller sample size of years in which the 100°F threshold was met or exceeded, rather than a true climatological trend.*



*Figure 5: A line graph displaying the correlation between emergency department visits over the heat season in the state of North Carolina. Increases in heat index correlate strongly with increases in emergency department visits with the highest number of emergency department visits happening earlier in the heat season.*

Source: NC DHHS Heat Report

## What Problems Are Caused by Extreme Heat?

Extreme heat can have significant impacts that affect various sectors and aspects of our community. Some key impacts include:

### Health and Safety

- **Increased Risk to Health and Safety:**  
Extreme heat poses significant health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations such as older adults, children, individuals with preexisting medical conditions, and those without access to cooling. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can cause dehydration, heat-related illnesses, and exacerbate chronic conditions. This can lead to increased hospitalizations and, in severe cases, fatalities.
- **Interactions with Other Extreme Weather Events:**  
As seen following Tropical Storm Chantal, the extreme heat season's heavy overlap with the Atlantic hurricane season can worsen and complicate response to concurrent extreme weather events and hazards, including flooding. Extreme heat creates an additional danger for impacted persons and first responders and inhibits response activities, slowing broader recovery.
- **Increased Stress on Emergency Response Systems:**  
Extreme heat events can lead to a surge in medical emergencies, such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke, increasing demand on emergency medical services (EMS), fire departments, and hospitals
- **Impact on Pets:**  
Extreme heat can pose serious risks to pets, including heatstroke, dehydration and burnt paw pads from walking on hot surfaces. It is essential to provide pets ample shade, water and protection (e.g., let pets indoors during extreme heat) from high temperatures.

### Disruption of Normal Activities

- **Decreased Labor Productivity:**  
High temperatures can lead to reduced productivity among outdoor workers, affecting industries such as agriculture, construction and manufacturing. Heat-related illnesses can result in increased absenteeism and healthcare costs.
- **Disruption of Transportation:**  
High temperatures can impact transportation infrastructure, particularly air travel. Heat can affect the performance of aircraft and may lead to flight cancellations or delays.
- **Impact on Agriculture:**  
Plants and animals are also impacted by extreme heat. Crops may experience stunted growth, poor harvests or death due to high temperatures, especially if combined with lack of rainfall. Livestock need adequate shade, water and ventilation to stay cool during periods of high daytime and nighttime temperatures.

### Damage to Infrastructure and Resources

- **Energy Demand and Costs:**  
High temperatures often lead to higher energy demands for cooling, which can strain electrical grids and may lead to power outages, leaving large areas without air conditioning. Increased use of air conditioning can result in higher energy costs for both households and businesses.
- **Infrastructure Stress:**  
Prolonged exposure to extreme heat can cause damage to critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges and railways. Heat-induced expansion and contraction of materials can lead to cracks, buckling and other structural issues, requiring costly repairs.

## Creating This Plan

To create this plan, representatives from Orange County, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough developed a multi-jurisdictional planning team henceforth referred to as the **"Heat Cohort."** This team participated in a heat action learning cohort coordinated by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) State Resiliency Office.

The planning team worked alongside other municipalities to learn about extreme heat, apply it to their municipality, and develop a heat action plan that was reflective of Orange County's needs. From this process, the Heat Cohort created a draft heat action plan. A **Heat Relief Task Force** made up of a broad range of stakeholders throughout the County was convened to evaluate and finalize the plan. Finally, a **public comment period** allowed all residents and stakeholders to comment on the plan.

## Next Steps

This document includes a comprehensive set of strategies to help residents, especially those in our community who are at increased risk for health impacts from extreme heat, withstand the stress of high temperatures.

The actions will help communicate heat warnings and ways to stay safe during extreme heat, teach people to recognize and respond to the signs of heat stress, help lower outdoor temperatures with trees, green infrastructure and shade, identify which neighborhoods are most in need of cooling centers and outreach, help promote home cooling strategies and more.

Orange County governments plan to implement as many of these actions as possible over the next five years and beyond. However, we cannot do this work alone. We need help from residents, businesses and community partners. Please contact [sustainability@orangecountync.gov](mailto:sustainability@orangecountync.gov) if you would like to join the effort to protect residents from heat-related health impacts.

# GOAL 1: Outreach and Education to Prepare and Protect the Public

Heat-related illnesses and deaths are highly preventable. Successful education on heat risk is, therefore, one of the most effective ways to save lives during the heat season. By focusing on public outreach and education, we aim to inform residents and visitors of the risks of extreme heat exposure and the simple safety measures that may be used to make them safer. We also aim to connect residents and visitors with available resources for limiting heat exposure.

Certain populations are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of extreme heat. Special attention is paid in this plan to some of these populations – among them outdoor workers and youth. Among the actions incorporated into the plan are public messaging via social media and printed materials, education on home cooling strategies, and promotion of ‘cool’ events, all of which are designed to give members of the public the resources necessary to prepare for extreme heat and protect against it. Education and outreach are the first step to meaningful heat action in Orange County and are central to the Heat Action Plan.

## Action 1: Public Heat Messaging

**Educate and inform the public about extreme heat risks and resources.**

Extreme heat awareness is vital to protecting public health and safety. Orange County Emergency Management currently maintains, promotes, and regularly updates the webpage [www.orangecountync.gov/Heat](http://www.orangecountync.gov/Heat) with local extreme heat preparedness information, including descriptions of extreme heat and heat-related illness, safety information, local heat relief resources, and weather forecasts from the National Weather Service.

In addition to this webpage, a “Beat the Heat” suite of educational messages was developed in 2025 to inform the public about the signs, symptoms and prevention strategies for heat-related illnesses. These awareness messages have been distributed via the OCNCGov Facebook page and shared by the municipalities to increase residents’ awareness of heat, heat health impacts, and individual safety measures.



Orange County Community Relations will expand heat-related outreach efforts each heat season, including:

- A Heat Week proclamation at the end of May
- Flyers and signage
- Other non-digital communication methods to reach residents without reliable online access

In the future, Orange County aims to expand this messaging strategy using multiple social media platforms, public service announcements, and informational flyers, post cards and brochures. The County will also develop materials targeting specific higher risk populations, such as youth athletes and the unhoused, and distribute these materials at targeted locations.

In addition to Heat Safety messaging, Orange County will create messaging which addresses the link between increased heat and fossil fuel usage.

### Community Partners:

Community Based Organizations, Heat Task Force and database, UNC School of Journalism, Eco Studio, OC Community Relations

## Action 2: Outdoor Worker Education

**Educate outdoor workers and employers of outdoor workers on heat safety.**

Outdoor workers face heightened risk from extreme heat due to:

- Prolonged exposure to high temperatures
- Limited access to cooling during work hours
- Higher likelihood of being low-income or members of marginalized communities

Annually, Orange County and local government partners will endeavor to increase awareness of heat-related health concerns and adoption of safe work practices in this population by developing and distributing educational materials that specifically target individuals who work outside, such as Public Works employees. The County will also offer

educational training focusing on the risks of extreme heat for outdoor workers and how they can protect themselves from extreme heat.

The County will support employers with outdoor workers by:

- Encouraging work schedules that begin earlier in the day
- Promoting existing outdoor worker protection policies and procedures
- Partnering with community organizations to host group meetings with industry leaders

These meetings will facilitate discussion on:

- How employers are protecting outdoor workers
- Barriers employers face
- Additional tools or information that would be helpful

**Community Partners:**

Community Based Organizations and partners including Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, local Farmer’s Markets, Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, OC Ag Summit, Community Gardens, local farms, OC Communicators Group, Refugee Support Center, Transplanting Traditions

### Action 3: Unhoused Education

**Promote heat awareness for Orange County’s unhoused population.**

Unhoused people are at an extreme risk for all weather-related health conditions, as they do not have consistent access to climate-controlled spaces. Heat is no different in this respect, making the unhoused population a key population to prepare and protect from extreme heat.

Educational materials will be distributed to Orange County’s unhoused population through the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness. These materials will focus on educating the unhoused on the resources they have available to them, such as cooling centers and day shelters. Additionally, educational materials on safe outdoor living and harm reduction will be distributed.

**Community Partners:**

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, OC Housing, Police Departments, and Community Based Organizations like Pee Wee Homes, IFC, and Club Nova

### Action 4: Home Cooling Education

**Promote home weatherization and energy efficiency strategies.**

The Heat Cohort and Task Force partners will develop educational materials, including brochures and signage, about home cooling strategies beyond air conditioning, such as closing blinds or curtains and avoiding turning on ovens during the hottest times of the day. Materials promoting home cooling strategies will be created prior to the beginning of the heat season and distributed to local organizations and businesses in April and May.



These materials will be distributed at public centers (e.g., libraries), places frequented by members of the public (e.g., coffee shops, laundromats, barber shops, gas stations and places of worship) and home improvement stores. Home weatherization efforts, such as sealing air gaps around doors and windows, and energy efficiency strategies, such as setting smart thermostats, can help residents keep their homes cooler and reduce energy usage and cooling costs.

The Heat Cohort will coordinate with the State Energy Office’s (SEO) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provider in Orange County, Central Pines Regional Council, to promote home cooling strategies and tie into other local and regional campaigns, such as Electrify the Triangle, DSS box fan distribution, and Energy Savers NC.

In addition, information will be provided to residents throughout the heat season about programs for home weatherization or energy assistance, including:

- [Low Income Energy Assistance Program \(LIEAP\)](#), a Federal program that provides a one-time vendor payment that typically helps eligible households pay their heating bills, but can also be used for cooling
- [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), a program, funded by the US Department of Energy and administered by the NC Department of Environmental Quality, that helps low-income North Carolinians save energy and reduce their utility bills
- [Energy Saver North Carolina](#) programs from the North Carolina State Energy Office, where qualified energy-efficient home improvement may be eligible for a point-of-sale rebate

This information will increase residents’ preparedness for extreme heat and access to existing home-cooling resources.

**Community Partners:**

NC Dept. Of Environmental Quality State Energy Office, Central Pines Regional Council, Duke Energy, Piedmont Electric, EBERP, DSS, Energy Savers NC

## Action 5: Youth Heat Safety Education

### Distribute youth heat safety workbooks and educational materials.

Orange County will create digital and hard copy materials with key heat safety information, including heat safety workbooks. These materials will also be available in Spanish. These educational materials will be distributed prior to the heat season, and distribution sites will include schools, Little Free Libraries, community centers, children's museums and pediatric offices. Specific information will be specifically targeted at youth athletes, coaches, parents, and athletic directors.

Cooperative Extension, school districts, and city parks and recreation will be recruited to assist with distribution. Electronic versions will be distributed through the Orange County Heat website, community partners' websites, and community social media groups. Distribution sites will be revisited monthly during the heat season to track workbooks received and distribute additional materials as necessary. By creating and distributing materials targeting youth, the Heat Cohort will help to inform, educate, prepare and protect this heat-vulnerable population.

#### Community Partners:

School districts, libraries, children's museums, pediatric offices, Cooperative Extension, City Parks and Recreation, DEAPR, Peach Jar, YMCA, Chapel Hill Coach's Academy, athletic departments, PTAs, summer camps

## Action 6: Medical and Disability Education

### Distribute educational materials on how heat can interact with mental and physical conditions.

The County aims to create digital and hard copy materials with information on the ways heat can exacerbate preexisting medical conditions. These materials should address physical, mental, acute, and chronic conditions, as all can be affected by extreme heat. Additionally, these documents will educate about other environmental health factors that can exist synergistically with heat such as particulate matter pollution. These materials will be created in collaboration with a medical or public health expert. Hard copies of these materials should be distributed through community centers and local government events, as well as consenting medical facilities. Electronic versions will be distributed through the Orange County Heat website, community partners' websites, and community social media groups. Creating these materials will educate residents on ways that health conditions may be negatively impacted by heat stress.

#### Community Partners:

Health Department, Medical facilities, Community Based Organizations like Carolina Advocates



## Action 7: "Cool" Events Promotion

Plan for and promote community events taking place in air-conditioned spaces.

Community access to cool spaces is key to the prevention of heat related illness and preservation of community life and well-being during periods of extreme heat. Orange County Community Relations will document community events taking place over the summer that occur in air-conditioned spaces or that deliberately offer a place for attendees to cool off (e.g., a primarily outdoor festival with an indoor, always-accessible, air-conditioned section).

These events will be publicized via linked events on the OCNCGov Facebook page and Nextdoor messages when extreme heat is in the forecast, as well as with signage around town. By reaching out to the public about events in their area, Orange County will provide residents with tools to minimize harmful effects of extreme heat.

#### Community Partners:

City and County Parks and Recreation, Visitors Bureau, Athletic Directors, OC Community Relations, and Community Based Organizations

## Outreach and Education to Prepare and Protect the Public- Metrics

### Ongoing Actions

1. Social media analytics
2. Number of educational materials developed and distributed

### Future Actions

1. Number of "cool" events promoted
2. Number of outdoor workers group meetings hosted
3. Number of attendees at workers group meetings

## GOAL 2: Enhanced Emergency Response Mechanisms

While many heat actions can occur throughout the heat season, extreme heat events require rapid response to protect the public and continue vital operations. In Orange County, an extreme heat event is defined by the National Weather Service as:

- A heat index of 110°F or higher
- Lasting two or more hours
- Forecasted within the next 36–48 hours

During these events, the County will:

- Issue automated OC Alerts Excessive Heat Warnings
- Activate cooling centers with extended hours
- Release coordinated social media messaging
- Implement neighbor check-ins and outdoor activity limitations

The goal of this section of the plan is to coordinate all heat emergency response actions in Orange County and create a response to extreme heat events that protects all Orange County residents, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability to extreme heat.

### Action 8: Extreme Heat Notification and Communications

#### Run a Heat Alert System in Orange County.

A Heat Season Temperature Tracking and Extreme Heat Alert System (“Heat Alert System”) will be developed by Orange County Emergency Management to track temperatures daily and inform the local community, including residents and visitors, government offices, schools, businesses and organizations that provide health services (e.g., hospitals), of imminent extreme heat events. This Heat Alert System will include implementation of a temperature tracking and alert system and a directory of local organizations and partners, updated prior to each heat season, who will receive heat alert notifications via an app.

When extreme heat is imminent, Orange County Emergency Management will utilize this directory to alert partners so they may prepare and implement their own heat relief and support efforts.



Orange County Emergency Management will also disseminate a warning with information about heat index and available resources to emergency services partners, particularly EMS providers at start of shift, and alert the public via OC Alerts. Through OC Alerts, all self-registrants will be issued a warning and provided collective actions to take to stay safe. Orange County will work to further expand the reach of OC Alerts by continuing to encourage OC residents to sign up and by increasing the app's usability.

Orange County Community Relations, in collaboration with Orange County Emergency Management, will also alert the public through social media messaging. These messages, updated prior to each heat season, will contain information about forecasted temperatures or heat indices and the length of the forecasted heat event.

Additional information, including changing signage, prevention and treatments for heat-related illnesses, local responses to the heat event (e.g., locations and operating hours of heat relief sites), will also be included. These alerts are important to increase community awareness of and preparation for anticipated extreme heat events and their impacts.

#### Community Partners:

OC Community Relations, OC Emergency Management, Community Based Organizations

## Action 9: Cooling Centers

### Expand cooling center program.

Cooling centers are air-conditioned indoor locations intended to provide refuge to people (and pets, when possible) from the heat during the day. The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness will identify public and private locations for cooling centers. These locations will provide a safe, air-conditioned space for people at risk of heat-related illness. Where possible, these locations will also extend their normal hours to cover the hottest parts of the day. The hot weather resources already identified for the heat season are below.

To publicize cooling centers from June through August, Orange County Community Relations and other municipal communications staff will promote these resources on their social media channels according to the communications plan. Additionally, a flyer with these locations will be placed in libraries and other prominent areas throughout the County.



## Hot Weather Resources in Orange County



LOCATION	ADDRESS	HOURS	SERVICES AVAILABLE					
			Cooling	Phone Charging	Wi-Fi	Pets	Showers	Bathrooms
Cedar Falls Park	501 Weaver Dairy Rd, Chapel Hill, NC	Open daily: dawn to dusk				✓		✓
Chapel Hill Public Library	100 Library Dr, Chapel Hill, NC	Monday-Thursday: 10am-8pm Friday-Sunday: 10am-6pm	✓	✓	✓			✓
Garrett Road Park	6815 Garrett Road, Durham, NC	Open daily: dawn to dusk (Bathrooms are currently undergoing repairs. A temporary bathroom is available)				✓		✓
Hargraves Community Center	216 N. Roberson St, Chapel Hill, NC	Park hours: Open daily, dawn to dusk. Shower Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10am-12pm, available beginning the second week of June			✓		✓	
Hillsborough Courthouse	106 E Margaret Ln, Hillsborough, NC	Monday-Friday: 8:30-5pm	✓					✓
Homestead Aquatic Center	300 Northern Park Dr, Chapel Hill, NC	Monday-Friday: 6am-3pm Saturday-Sunday: 12pm-4pm	✓		✓		✓	✓
Homestead Park	100 Aquatic Dr, Chapel Hill, NC	Open daily: dawn to dusk				✓		✓
IFC Commons	110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC (J Bus Line)	Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm, with showers available Monday-Friday 1pm-4pm. Call (919)-929-6380 for access to hot showers and lockers for secure storage of belongings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orange County Public Library	137 W Margaret Ln, Hillsborough, NC	Monday-Thursday: 10am-7pm, Friday and Saturday: 9am-6pm, Sunday: 12pm-6pm	✓	✓	✓			✓
Orange County Southern Branch Library	203 S Greensboro Street, Carrboro	Monday-Thursday: 10am-7pm, Friday and Saturday: 9am-6pm, Sunday: 12pm-6pm	✓	✓	✓			✓
Passmore Center	103 Meadowlands Dr, Hillsborough, NC	Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 8 am - 5 pm Monday & Thursday: 8 am - 8 pm	✓	✓	✓			✓
Seymour Center	2551 Homestead Rd, Chapel Hill, NC	Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 9 pm Friday - Saturday: 8 am - 5 pm	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Southern Human Services Center	2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill, NC	Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Umstead Park	339 Umstead Drive, Chapel Hill, NC	Daily Dawn to Dusk		✓	✓	✓		✓
East Rosemary Street Parking Deck	125 E Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill	24/7		✓	✓	✓		
University Place	201 S Estes Dr, Chapel Hill, NC	Monday-Saturday: 10am-7pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm (Indoor portion of facility may close in August)	✓	✓				✓
Weaver Street Market, Carrboro	101 East Weaver St, Carrboro, NC	Daily 8am-9pm (pets allowed only on patio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Weaver Street Market, Hillsborough	228 S. Churton St, Hillsborough, NC	Daily 8am-9pm (pets allowed only on patio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Weaver Street Market, Southern Village	716 Market Street, Chapel Hill, NC	Daily 8am-9pm (pets allowed only on patio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

For more help for people living unsheltered, contact **SOHRAD** at **919-886-3351**, Monday-Friday 8am-9pm; Saturday 11am - 8pm

For further information on heat safety and resources in Orange County, refer to [orangecountync.gov/Heat](https://orangecountync.gov/Heat)

In addition, to assist local organizations willing to serve as cooling centers during periods of extreme heat, the County will develop a brief “How to Host a Cooling Center Guide”. Once this guide is developed, it will be shared with local organizations, such as local businesses, religious institutions and museums.

During each instance of excessive heat warning, Orange County Emergency Management will coordinate with Asset Management and the Library to open cooling centers for extended hours and publicize the resources according to the communications strategy outlined in Appendix A.

Several identified locations will serve as designated cooling centers with expanded operational hours during excessive heat warning days. These locations may include:

- **Orange County Public Library**  
137 W. Margaret Ln., Hillsborough
- **Orange County Southern Branch Library**  
203 S Greensboro St., Carrboro
- **Efland-Cheeks Community Center**  
117 Richmond Rd., Efland
- **Rogers Road Community Center**  
101 Edgar St, Chapel Hill
- **Cedar Grove Community Center**  
5800 NC 86N, Hillsborough

Extended cooling center hours will reduce strain on emergency response systems and protect individuals at risk from extreme heat earlier and later in the day.

**Community Partners:**

OC Community Relations, Libraries, Community Centers, and Community Based Organizations

### Action 10: Cooling Center Transportation

**Offer free transportation to cooling centers during acute heat events.**

To aid residents who lack access to transportation, Orange County and the Town of Chapel Hill, in collaboration with Orange Public Transit and Chapel Hill Transit, will develop a plan to provide free transportation, including wheelchair accessible transportation, to and from cooling centers during periods of extreme heat and to ensure that planned cooling centers are accessible through existing fixed bus routes.

Furthermore, partner organizations will look into finding alternative methods of transportation, such as a ridesharing program. Details about the transportation services will be publicized via social media posts by OC Community Relations in coordination with Orange County Emergency Management.



The Town of Chapel Hill will also publicize transportation services. Free transportation will allow a greater number of residents to access vital cooling resources during extreme heat events.

**Community Partners:**

Chapel Hill Transit, Orange Public Transit, Point to Point, GoTriangle

### Action 11: Integration of Extreme Heat into the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operation Plan

**Integrate extreme heat preparedness into the Eno Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Orange County’s and Local Governments’ Emergency Operations Plans.**

Orange County and Towns will partner with consultants and the NC Department of Public Safety to integrate extreme heat preparedness into the next Eno Haw Hazard Mitigation Plan update and Orange County Emergency Operations Plan. Heat is the leading cause of weather-related death in the United States. Aligning the Eno-Haw Hazard Mitigation Plan with the activities listed in this Heat Action Plan will help raise awareness and support for extreme heat preparedness.

The Eno Haw Hazard Mitigation plan is designed to identify local actions for reducing risk from natural hazards in the Eno-Haw area, including the counties of Alamance, Durham and Orange. Through this effort, we will define heat as a hazard by combining climate and health data, describe how our community and residents are vulnerable to extreme heat, incorporate climate change projections into extreme heat assessments, and develop appropriate and feasible heat preparedness strategies.

The Orange County Emergency Operations Plan sets out important guidelines for how Orange County responds to emergency situations, making consideration of extreme heat necessary to ensure the plan is safe for residents and first responders.

**Community Partners:**

Alamance and Durham Counties, South Orange Rescue Squad, Volunteer Fire Departments

## Action 12: Neighbor Check-In

### Develop a neighbor check-in program.

A Neighbor Check-In Program will be piloted to connect the friends and family members of isolated and vulnerable individuals with timely heat alerts, information, and support on hot days. Some individuals are more vulnerable to hot temperatures due to preexisting conditions, age, or resource access.

Checking on individuals with higher risk can help prevent heat-related illness and death. Orange County will seek to partner with local organizations to develop and run a system which alerts volunteers to extreme heat emergencies and encourages them to reach out to identified vulnerable individuals - over the phone or in-person - during acute extreme heat events.

#### Community Partners:

Meals on Wheels, Marian Cheek Jackson Center, PORCH, TABLE, Orange County Department on Aging (DOA), Orange County Department of Social Services (DSS), Affordable Housing and Community Connections at Town of Chapel Hill, Neighbors on Call, Informal Disability Networks in Neighborhoods (identify point people)

## Action 13: Augmentation of Response Operations

### Augment first response resources to reduce heat stress on first responders.

During extreme heat days, first responders are placed under additional stress. They respond to incidents outdoors with little access to shade or cooling, often wearing uniforms that do not provide cooling relief. Orange County Emergency Services and fire departments are working to appropriately augment emergency response operations to support responders working in extreme heat.

An agreement signed by all fire departments in the County designates that an additional fire department will be dispatched on structure fire alarms when there is a heat index of 90°F or higher or when there are increased fire danger alerts. Orange County Emergency Services also more rapidly and frequently deploys rehabilitation resources to structure fires and other extended-duration outdoor or uncooled emergencies during extreme heat events.

#### Community Partners:

Volunteer Fire Departments, OC Emergency Services



## Action 14: Outdoor Activity Limitations

### Implement regulations and recommendations to limit outdoor activities.

To limit the exposure of residents to dangerous heat, Orange County and municipalities will implement a consistent set of regulations and recommendations to cancel, suspend, delay or change the timing of previously scheduled activities and events.

Furthermore, they will develop a standard procedure for helping those experiencing heat-related health incidents. Outdoor activity limitations will also account for concurrent extreme weather events. Specific activities may include:

- Closing schools early or reducing or eliminating outdoor activities (e.g., sports, outdoor playgrounds) to limit children's exposure to high temperatures
- Encouraging children's summer camps to be aware of heat alerts and move activities inside during dangerous heat
- Mandating that youth sports practices and games will not take place outside during the hottest hours of the day throughout the heat season and that no practices or games will occur during an extreme heat event. Chapel Hill and Carrboro schools currently measure Wet Globe Bulb Temperature to determine whether it is safe to practice and play outdoors and what equipment is allowed based on NCHSAA standards. Other temperature standards will also be evaluated for implementation
- Canceling outdoor concerts or delaying their start to avoid the hottest times of the day
- Closing or delaying outdoor markets or requiring them to have a free and accessible cooling space when temperatures exceed certain thresholds
- Heightening prevention activities during outdoor public events (e.g., increasing staffing, distributing additional water bottles, setting up more tents for shade)

- Encouraging businesses and organizations whose work takes place primarily outdoors to reduce activities during the hottest times of the day
- Creating an easy-to-follow, well-researched guide detailing the precautions necessary to protect local government employees who work outside

**Community Partners:**

Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Orange County Schools, City and County Parks and Rec., Sports Leagues

## Enhanced Emergency Response Mechanisms - Metrics

### Ongoing Actions

1. Number of OC Alerts signups
2. Social media analytics on acute heat events communications

### Future Actions

1. Number of local partners registered in directory and receiving notifications
2. Number of neighbor check-in volunteers engaged
3. Additional hot weather resources and cooling centers identified
4. Cooling center flyers and guides developed and distributed



# GOAL 3: Cool Homes and Neighborhoods

The goal of Orange County heat action is to prevent extreme heat events from becoming private or public emergencies. Safety amidst rising temperatures is dependent on access to cool spaces and resources and home and neighborhood cooling over the long-term is essential to this effort. The final action area in this plan focuses on creating and preserving cool spaces across Orange County.

Efforts to cool homes, including tree giveaways in heat-vulnerable communities and assistance with home weatherization, help to create safe, cooled indoor spaces throughout the heat season. They also reduce energy demand and energy cost burden by eliminating excess energy use and creating cooling through other methods such as shade.

Efforts to increase public water and shade access ensure that Orange County residents and visitors have access to cooling wherever they are. Orange County is considering a variety of actions to enhance the tree canopy and install other green infrastructure strategies, including the installation of cool roofs and green roofs on public buildings and use of cool pavements.

These projects will reduce urban heat island effects and create a cooler, more energy efficient community. These long-term strategies are essential to creating extreme heat resilience throughout Orange County.

## Action 15: Tree Giveaways and Plantings

### Increase the tree canopy in Orange County.

Orange County, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Town of Carrboro, and the Town of Hillsborough's tree council are engaged in multiple forms of tree giveaways. The Town of Chapel Hill offered tree giveaways in the Northside Neighborhood in 2023.

The Town of Carrboro awarded a grant to a neighborhood experiencing higher than average temperatures to plant trees on private property in 2025. In 2024, Orange County was awarded a grant to plant approximately 100 trees in areas of the County vulnerable to heat stress. The Town of Hillsborough's Tree Council also organizes community tree plantings and gives trees to volunteers.

Trees provide numerous community benefits, including:

- Shade during hot, sunny days
- Keeping ambient temperatures cooler
- Decreased stormwater runoff
- Improved air quality



- Enhanced ecosystems for wildlife
- Reduced urban heat island effects in developed areas

Increasing tree cover in Orange County provides community-wide benefits and nature-based cooling. Educational materials to aid with tree care will be distributed to aid in tree longevity and survival rate. In some cases, such as Orange County's grant program to plant 100 trees, professional maintenance plans will be provided to ensure trees not only survive but thrive. Native trees and species will be prioritized, and this initiative will be evaluated and modified to optimize tree survival rates.

### Community Partners:

Orange County Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Urban Forest Council, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources, Trees for the Triangle, Duke Energy, Keep Durham Beautiful, libraries, Orange County Schools, City and County Parks and Recreation, Community Centers, HOAs, UNC-Chapel Hill

## Action 16: Water and Shade Access

### Enhance cooling features, including publicly accessible shade structures, shaded bus stops, hydration stations, and pools, as well as greenery in public spaces.

Orange County and its municipal government partners have various amenities to help keep people who are spending time outdoors cool during periods of extreme heat. The County and municipal partners will work to identify opportunities for more cooling features (e.g. publicly accessible shade structures such as bus stops, water fountains, water bottle refill stations, water distribution/giveaways, pools, and splash pads in public parks), and prioritize the expansion of access to these amenities, especially for heat-stressed populations.

Particular emphasis will be placed on adding shading structures and other cooling resources at bus stops throughout the County, as these

are often sites of dangerous heat exposure for vulnerable populations. Chapel Hill Transit has plan to update identified bus stops to improve ADA compliance. Shelters and shade structures will be included in renovations to these sites where possible. The Town of Chapel Hill asks conditional zoning applicants to develop a Climate Action Plan for their projects, including heat mitigation strategies like tree canopy, light-colored materials and surfaces, and shade structures.

The 2023 Orange County Climate Action Plan also includes a goal to plant 10,000 trees in 10 years, which would significantly expand access to shade throughout the County. Trees and native plants provide shade, keep temperatures cooler in spaces where there are hard surfaces, and provide a habitat for pollinators, birds and mammals.

**Community Partners:**

Orange County SportsPlex, Chapel Hill Transit, Orange County Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, Trees for the Triangle, New Hope Bird Alliance, Department on Aging, Efland Cheeks and other Community Centers

### Action 17: Cool Pavements Implementation

**Pilot cool pavement implementation in Orange County.**

In August of 2024, the Town of Carrboro piloted a road resurfacing and rejuvenation program. Specialized coatings were applied to roadways to help them reflect heat, rather than absorb it, keeping the roadway and surrounding area relatively cooler. These coatings reduce urban heat island effects and they extend the service life of roads.

Carrboro and other governments in Orange County will be conducting further assessments to evaluate the success of the pilot program, as well as identify roads and road segments which may be appropriate for cool pavements implementation. Carrboro will utilize North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) Powell Bill Funding to install additional cool pavement in 2027.

### Action 18: Public Green Roofs and Cool Roofs

**Install green roofs and cool roofs on public buildings.**

Cool roofs consist of lighter color rooftop materials, which are comparable in cost to existing building materials and can keep buildings cool by reflecting heat instead of absorbing it. Buildings' cool roofs can reduce energy consumption, increase the longevity of the roof by decreasing roof temperature, and keep buildings cooler.

Green roofs are rooftop gardens, and their temperatures can be 30-40° F lower than those of conventional roofs and can reduce area ambient temperatures by up to 5° F. In addition to immediate shade and interior cooling effects, green roofs contribute to stormwater management, reduced energy consumption, reduction of heat in urban heat islands, and increased roof longevity.

The Drakeford Library Complex, recently constructed in Carrboro, has two green roofs and a cool roof.



Orange County will assess County and local governments' portfolio of buildings to identify existing cool and green roofs. Counties and local governments will develop and adopt a Green Building Policy for Government Buildings that includes a requirement to consider green and cool roofs.

### Action 19: Assistance with Cooling Expenses and Home Weatherization

**Work with state and local partners to help low-income residents with cooling expenses and home weatherization.**

Access to air-conditioned spaces, particularly homes, is important for staying cool when it is hot outside. By implementing this action, we aim to increase residents' access to cool spaces, which increases the overall resilience of the community to periods of hot temperatures.

The County will seek to expand opportunities for efficiency and cooling upgrades. Orange County and municipal government partners will work to identify resources to expand outreach and funding for housing retrofits to serve low-income and health-vulnerable homeowners and renters. These programs include LIHEAP, Weatherization Assistance Program, and Energy Saver North Carolina rebates. Furthermore, the individual jurisdictions of Orange County will work to development regulations and incentives to encourage cool and sustainable development.

To reduce cooling expenses for all residents, the County will collaborate with Central Pines Regional Council and regional partner municipalities to implement the Electrify the Triangle Program, which will provide certified energy navigators to help residents take advantage of the many energy efficiency, electrification, solar, and EV charging incentive programs available and locate qualified contractors, cooling homes and reducing energy costs for Orange County residents.

**Community Partners:**

Central Pines Regional Council, Electrify the Triangle, NC Dept. Of Environmental Quality State Energy Office, Duke Energy, Piedmont Electric, EBERP, DSS, Energy Savers NC

## Action 20: Resilience Hubs

**Develop plan to add solar and battery electric storage to critical community buildings to ensure the electricity stays on in an emergency.**

Resilience Hubs are a growing practice in American cities in which local governments invest in neighborhood-facing spaces that work with low-income, low-investment communities to help them better prepare for, withstand, and recover from climate-related events.

These build on the momentum of existing trusted community spaces by enhancing them with sustainable infrastructure, such as solar arrays and battery electric storage systems, green infrastructure, floodproofing, and WiFi, as well as by introducing resilience-building programming and communications. It is important to note that resilience hubs are not shelters or disaster centers. They are community centers that are also active in disasters, similar to a more robust cooling center.

Access to air-conditioned spaces, especially during a prolonged power outage, is important for staying cool and safe when it is hot outside. By implementing this action, we aim to increase residents' access to cool spaces as well as a central place for trusted information and programming, which increases the overall resilience of the community to periods of hot temperatures.

Orange County and municipal government partners will work to identify resources, including grants, to create resilience hubs to serve our community, especially low-income and health-vulnerable neighborhoods.

### **Community Partners:**

Central Pines Regional Council



## Cool Homes and Neighborhoods- Metrics

### **Ongoing Actions**

1. Trees planted

### **Future Actions**

1. Hydration stations installed
2. Pools and splash pads installed
2. Shade structures added to bus stops
3. Miles of cool pavement added
4. Cool roofs and green roofs installed
5. Energy navigators utilized
6. Incentive programs utilized
7. Weatherization Assistance Program utilized
8. Number of resilience hubs

## Evaluation

Key to the success of this heat action plan is a regular assessment of relevant data and metrics to understand how programs and activities are performing and to identify opportunities for improvement. The Heat Cohort will collect and analyze data to assess the effectiveness of the Heat Action Plan for Orange County. This evaluation will include the following activities:

### 1. Using Health Data Before, During and After the Heat Season

The Heat Cohort will work with local and state partners to access, analyze and interpret heat-related illness data. The Heat Cohort will meet prior to the heat season to review the Heat Action Plan and make any updates or changes as needed. They will also meet after each extreme heat event to analyze the Plan for opportunities for improvement if needed. The data from these meetings can help local leaders understand the health effects of extreme heat in Orange County and inform revision of the Heat Action Plan for Orange County, as needed.

### 2. Evaluate Interventions

At the end of the heat season, during September and October, The Heat Cohort will collect and aggregate the metrics data outlined in the Heat Action Plan. They will analyze this data by making comparisons with previous years' data and use these comparisons to make adjustments to action item goals and targets.

They will publish the results of these evaluations as a written report, available online, so that they are accessible to the wider community.



## Appendix A: Communications Strategy

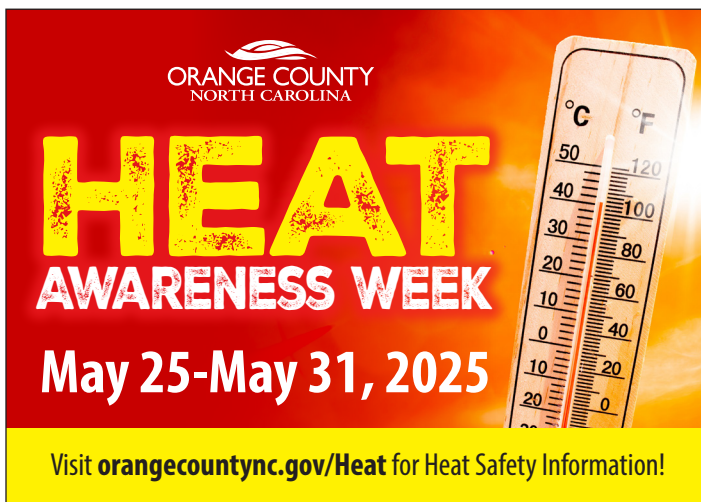
One crucial aspect of the Heat Action Plan is public messaging and communications to address both acute heat events and chronic heat conditions. The following is a pilot communications strategy which was implemented for the first time in the 2025 heat season and will be updated annually prior to each subsequent heat season.

While much of public messaging went through Facebook and social media in 2025, efforts will be made to expand outreach efforts into other outlets, including non-digital media, such as print materials, in future seasons. The following strategy is divided into communication during chronic heat conditions and acute heat events.

### Chronic Heat Conditions:

#### Proclamation:

- In May, Orange County and all municipalities pass a heat awareness week proclamation that coincides with the Governor's proclamation and announces heat awareness week.
- During North Carolina Heat Awareness week, Orange County Community Relations posts a campaign kickoff announcement along with the proclamation on the OCNCGov Facebook page.
- Orange County Communicators Workgroup is notified of the post and encouraged to share it on any platform or outlet in use.
- Municipalities and Orange County Departments also share the kickoff announcement and heat awareness proclamation through their own channels.

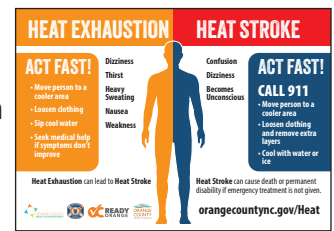
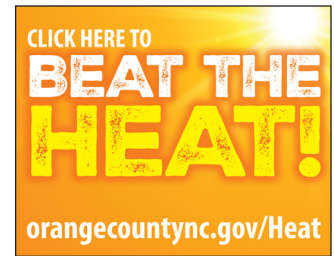


#### Ready Orange and orangecountync.gov/Heat

- Orange County Emergency Services adds a banner on extreme heat to the Ready Orange landing page to direct the public to orangecountync.gov/Heat. This banner remains posted through August. Orangecountync.gov/Heat is the hot weather resources subpage which includes heat safety information and information on hot weather resources for vulnerable populations in Orange County.

### Beat the Heat Campaign

- Community Relations posts throughout the heat season to the OCNCGov Facebook page. These posts include multilingual severe weather graphics developed based on graphics originally developed for Pima County, as well as a hot weather resources graphic and a heat exhaustion post.
- After Community Relations posts, the Communicators Workgroup is notified to share posts on other platforms and outlets.
- Orange County Departments and municipalities share each post from the OCNCGov Facebook page.



### Acute Heat Events

#### NWS Extreme Heat Notification

- During an extreme heat event, the National Weather Service issues an extreme heat notification. This could be a heat advisory, heat watch, or heat warning.
- Orange County Emergency Management forwards an email with Orange County Hot Weather Resources from the National Weather Service to the community partners list described in Action 6, which includes Community Relations.
- Community Relations reposts the National Weather Service heat graphic on the OCNCGov Facebook page with a link to orangecountync.gov/Heat.
- After Community Relations post, the Communicators Workgroup is notified of the post to be shared on any platform or outlet.
- Orange County Departments and municipalities repost from the OCNCGov Facebook page.



#### Persistent High Heat Watch, Advisory, or Warning

- If heat advisory, watch or warning persists, Community Relations posts a multilingual severe weather graphic for extreme heat.
- After Community Relations post, the Communicators Workgroup is notified of the post to be shared on any platform or outlet.



- Orange County Departments and municipalities repost from the OCNCGov Facebook page.

**Extreme Heat Warning/Cooling Center Activation**

- When the National Weather Service issues an extreme heat warning, an OC alert will go out to all self-registrants notifying them of the Extreme Heat Warning.
- The Cooling Centers are activated and announced. Orange County Emergency Management establishes and identifies cooling centers. Orange County Emergency Management emails Orange County Community Relations and indicates cooling center locations, hours and additional resources. Orange County Community Relations then creates two media posts for cooling center activation from the existing templates, below. Community Relations also issues a press release and notifies local media channels.
- Community Relations posts the cooling center graphics to the OCNCGov Facebook page.
- After Community Relations posts, the Communicators Workgroup is notified of the posts to be shared on any platform or outlet.
- Orange County Departments and municipalities repost from the OCNCGov Facebook page.

ORANGE COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA

**EXTREME  
HEAT  
WARNING THROUGH  
WEDNESDAY 8 PM**

**96°-98°  
FEELS LIKE OVER 109°**

Cooling Centers open extended hours Tuesday and Wednesday

**For more information, go to  
orangecountync.gov/Heat**

**EMERGENCY COOLING CENTERS**

Orange County cooling centers will be open **Monday, July 28** to make sure community members have safe, cool spaces to stay during this period of dangerously hot weather.

COOLING CENTERS	TIMES
Main Library, 137 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Southern Branch Library, 203 S. Greensboro St., Carrboro	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
RENA Community Center, 101 Edgar St., Chapel Hill	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For a list of showers, cooling off areas, phone charging spots and public restrooms, go to:  
[orangecountync.gov/Heat](http://orangecountync.gov/Heat)

Call (919) 732-5063 for assistance.  
For more information, visit [readyorange.org](http://readyorange.org).

Additional Acute Heat Events	Graphics To Be Posted on Facebook and Comms Workgroup Notified
National Weather Service Extreme Heat Notification	National Weather Service Graphic
Persistent High Heat Event	Heat Advisory/Watch/Warning Graphic
Extreme Heat Warning	Cooling Center Graphics and Press Release

## Appendix B: Community Resources to Beat the Heat

### Aquatic Facilities

#### Homestead Aquatic Center

300 Aquatic Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Phone (919) 968-2799

#### Chapel Hill Community Center Indoor Pool

120 South Estes Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Phone (919) 968-2790

#### A.D. Clark Outdoor Pool

Hargraves Center  
216 North Roberson Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
Phone (919) 968-2816

#### Orange County Sportsplex

101 Meadowlands Dr.  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

### Public Water Bottle Refill Stations

#### Carrboro Town Hall

301 W. Main St.  
Carrboro, NC 27510

#### Weaver St. Market

101 East Weaver St, Carrboro, NC  
228 S. Churton St, Hillsborough, NC  
Southern Village: 716 Market Street, Chapel Hill, NC

#### Chapel Hill Town Hall

405 MLK Jr Blvd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



### Urban Heat Island Map

The Orange County Sustainability Office has created an interactive map to identify urban heat islands in need of cooling trees, shrubs, and perennials.

<https://unc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=dbb1bcfb76bf44b681a37e52aa7ba5f3>

### Native Plant Recommendations

Native plants are adapted to the soil and climate conditions of the area.

The New Hope Bird Alliance has created a downloadable spreadsheet of native plants in Orange County: <https://newhopebirdalliance.org/bird-friendly-certification/plant-list/>



### Trees

#### Town of Chapel Hill

The non-profit arm of Chapel Hill's Parks and Recreation Department is involved in tree planting in parks.

#### Town of Carrboro

Carrboro's Public Works Department manages Carrboro's urban forestry program, which includes tree planting on Town-owned land and right-of-ways. The Town's Comprehensive Plan calls for an Urban Forestry Master Plan.

#### Town of Hillsborough

The Hillsborough Tree Board is responsible for tree planting, maintenance and preservation on town property and engages in ongoing projects to increase the tree canopy.

#### Orange County

Orange County Sustainability is involved in the process of planting trees in heat-stressed areas of the County utilizing a grant from Duke Energy.

## Weatherization and Utility Bill Assistance

### State Resources

- NC Department of Environmental Quality State Energy Office provides funding to several organizations across the state through the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#). These organizations help low-income residents by performing weatherization services and repairing or replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning units in homes.
- The NC Department of Environmental Quality launched the [EnergySaver NC](#) program in 2025, which provides HOMES and HEAR rebates to income qualified homeowners and property owners.

### Orange County Resources

- Orange County Division of Social Services provides assistance to individuals and families to help pay heating and cooling expenses through the [Low-Income Energy Assistance Program \(LIEAP\)](#) program
- Both locations of the Orange County Department of Social Services have box fans for residents needing heat relief in the summer. There is no application required. Residents can come to either 113 Mayo Street or 2501 Homestead Road and request a fan from the front desk. Questions can be directed to (919) 245-2800.
- The Department on Aging provides free fans to eligible seniors. Call the Aging Helpline at 919-968-2087 or [click here](#) for more information.
- The [Orange County Home Preservation Coalition](#) coordinates weatherization and HVAC replacement programs for income qualified households.

### Town of Hillsborough Resources

- The Hillsborough Police Department has collected fans for the community. If you would like a fan, please call their office during normal business hours at 919-296-9500.

### Town of Carrboro Resources

- The [Affordable Housing Special Revenue Fund](#) provides critical repairs for income qualified households in Carrboro, including HVAC system repairs and upgrades.

### Other Resources

- [Duke Energy has several income qualified assistance programs](#), including a weatherization program that helps customers through the installation of energy efficient measures in their homes, the Helping Home Fund, which provides free home energy assessments, system repairs and appliance replacements, and the Neighborhood Energy Saver, which provides free energy-saving products in select neighborhoods



- Duke Energy also has a [High Energy Usage Assistance Program](#) to help lower monthly energy bills for customers with very high energy usage. Upgrades can include heating and cooling systems, insulation, air sealing, appliances and more.
- Duke Energy's [Improve and Save Program](#) can help homeowners and renters lower their energy bills by adding the cost of energy efficiency upgrades to their energy bill. Duke Energy pays for the upgrades upfront and handles ongoing maintenance. The remaining balance is repaid over 10 years of the property's electric bill.
- [Piedmont Natural Gas Share the Warmth Program](#)
- [Crisis Intervention Program](#)
- [IFC offers Emergency Financial Assistance](#) at their 110 W. Main St Carrboro location by appointment or by calling the Emergency Financial Assistance Line on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am at 919-929-6380 x2024
- [EmPOWERment, Inc's MOM Utility Fund](#) assists low-income residents in Orange County with their utility bills. Residents of Orange County seeking financial assistance from the MOM Fund should call 919-967-8779.
- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has a [page on extreme heat](#), as well as a page with [GIS data on extreme data](#).

If you'd like to get involved or share your thoughts about heat, we'd love to hear from you at [sustainability@orangecountync.gov](mailto:sustainability@orangecountync.gov).



**[sustainability@orangecountync.gov](mailto:sustainability@orangecountync.gov)**  
**[www.orangecountync.gov/HEAT](http://www.orangecountync.gov/HEAT)**

## **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ORANGE COUNTY HEAT ACTION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States, and Orange County is experiencing a documented increase in the frequency and intensity of dangerously hot days and nights; and

**WHEREAS**, historical data indicates that Orange County averaged 8 days per year above 95 degrees Fahrenheit, while current projections show this could increase to between 28 and 41 days per year by the 2060s; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro is committed to climate action and environmental justice, recognizing that extreme heat disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, including outdoor workers, low-income residents, children, and those living in areas with limited tree canopy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Heat Action Plan provides a comprehensive framework to increase community awareness, reduce heat-related health risks, and build long-term resilience through eighteen specific actions across three goals: Outreach and Education, Enhanced Emergency Response, and Cooling Homes and Neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's participation in this regional plan aligns with the *Carrboro Connects* Comprehensive Plan and the Community Climate Action Plan's goals to protect residents from the inevitable impacts of climate change, and

**WHEREAS**, Orange County's Board of County Commissioners formally adopted the Orange County Heat Action Plan on Mar. 17, 2026,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Carrboro Town Council that the Town Council hereby formally adopts the Orange County Heat Action Plan as a foundational guidance document for municipal heat mitigation and adaptation efforts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to charge the Climate Action Team and relevant departments to collaborate with Orange County partners on high-priority local implementations, including continued integration of extreme heat notifications into the Town's emergency communication protocols, plantings of native trees to expand the urban canopy in high-heat-burdened neighborhoods, education and safety outreach specifically tailored for municipal and community outdoor workers, and prioritization of nature-based solutions and energy efficiency programs, such as home weatherization, to reduce indoor heat stress for low-income households.

**This the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.**



## Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Adopt the Orange County Heat Action Plan

Purpose: *To approve the 2026 Orange County Heat Action Plan.*

Department: Town Manager's Office

1. **What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

The root causes of inequity related to disparities in risk to heat related illness and impacts include income inequity, including access to financing for home ownership, as low-income families are unable to purchase housing in neighborhoods that have more trees. The disproportionate distribution of infrastructure investments has led to inequity in tree canopy coverage. Low-income and BIPOC residents therefore disproportionately live in Carrboro's urban heat islands where the temperatures on hot summer days can be up to 9-11 degrees warmer than in surrounding neighborhoods with more trees and less asphalt. In addition, historical and systemic racism results in biased policies and effects individual's education, health and environmental impacts. Low-income, BIPOC residents make up the majority of outdoor workers, which are especially vulnerable to high summer temperatures. This population also has higher incidences of heart and respiratory diseases, which also increase vulnerability to high heat.

2. **Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**

Currently, Carrboro's worst urban heat islands are in the downtown area, along NC-54, Jones Ferry Rd., Smith Level Rd., Estes Dr., and in the Rogers. Rd area. Residents living in these areas experience disproportionate burdens related to higher temperatures during heat waves, including higher energy burden and health impacts. Because the Orange County Heat Action Plan was written with equity at the forefront, if approved, cooling initiatives would be prioritized in these communities which are hurt first and worst by harms caused by climate-fueled extreme weather. This plan also prioritizes initiatives for outdoor workers, those with chronic health conditions, those unable to afford high utility bills, and the unhoused, all of whom are especially vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. If this plan is not adopted, these especially vulnerable residents will experience more heat-related illnesses and higher energy burden.



**3. Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**

Residents living in neighborhoods with more trees and less asphalt experience significantly lower summer temperatures. Enhancing the community's urban forestry program will build resilience in our community by providing much needed shade to urban heat islands and addressing environmental justice issues related to inequities in the tree canopy.

This plan is designed to prepare and protect our residents through outreach and education, enhanced response to extreme heat events, and programs that will cool our community through trees, shade structures, cool pavements, green roofs and weatherization programs. These programs will benefit all residents. If the plan is not adopted, Carrboro will be more susceptible to extreme heat which is expected to worsen in severity and frequency because of climate change.

**4. What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**

Unintended consequences include the opportunity costs of implementing this plan. Town spending on climate action and resilience could instead be spent to directly benefit disadvantaged communities in other ways.

**5. What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

Town staff are actively applying for grants that would off-set the costs to implement this plan.



## Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Adopt the Orange County Heat Action Plan

Purpose: *To approve the 2026 Orange County Heat Action Plan*

Department: Town Manager's Office

**1. How will this action impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions?**

This action will not reduce or increase greenhouse gas emissions.

**2. Please explain.**

Adopting the Orange County Heat Action Plan will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but implementing the plan will increase our community's resilience to extreme heat. If the plan is not adopted, Carrboro will be more susceptible to extreme heat which is expected to worsen in severity and frequency because of climate change.

**3. How will this action impact the Town's environment?**

This action will address urban heat islands and extreme heat.

**4. Please explain.**

This plan is designed to prepare and protect our residents through outreach and education, enhanced response to extreme heat events, and programs that will cool our community through trees, shade structures, cool pavements, green roofs and weatherization programs. These programs specifically designed to add tree canopy, green roofs, and cool pavement will benefit the environment by reducing urban heat islands.

**5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

Adopting this plan is not expected to result in negative climate or environmental impacts.



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number: 26-035**

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
**In Control:** Town Council  
**Version:** 1

**File Type:** Consent Agenda

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Changes to the Racial Equity Commission (REC) Membership Structure

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agenda item is for the Council to approve updates to the membership structure of the Racial Equity Commission.

**DEPARTMENT:** Town Manager's Office

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

Race/Equity     Climate     Comprehensive Plan     Other

The Town Council understands that all voices matter, especially those most impacted and is committed to diversifying boards and commissions.

**INFORMATION:** During the Racial Equity Commission's monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 25, the Commission discussed its membership structure and identified expanding the descriptions of two existing seats as a key step toward increasing diversity and strengthening recruitment. The Commission unanimously approved broadening the eligibility criteria for these seats. (see Attachment B). The commission plans to table at Carrboro Day this month and would like to have the changes approved so that they can recruit for updated positions.

The Commission plans to table at Carrboro Day this month and requests approval of these changes in advance so they may begin recruiting for the updated positions.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with this consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approving the eligibility criteria for two commission seats.

**A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE RACIAL EQUITY  
COMMISSION STRUCTURE**

Whereas, The Racial Equity Commission (REC) was established in January 2021;

Whereas, The REC is dedicated to educating the community about the historical legacy and ongoing impacts of racism while amplifying the voices of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other People of Color. The Commission is committed to fostering an inclusive community where political, economic, social, and cultural institutions operate free from racial bias;

Whereas, The Truth Plaque Task Force (TPTF) and the Racial Equity Commission (REC) consolidated in June 2024; and

Whereas, On March 25, 2026, the Commission unanimously approved broadening the eligibility criteria descriptions of two existing commission seats as a key step toward increasing diversity and strengthening recruitment for its membership structure.

Now, Therefore, the Town Council of the Town of Carrboro resolves

Section 1. The changes are as follows - 1 voting member shall be a youth member (**Up to 24 years of age**) and 1 voting liaison member shall be selected from the Carrboro Farmer's Market Board, BIPOC business owner **or nonprofit representative (must live and/or work in Carrboro)**.

Section 2. The resolution is effective upon adoption.



### **Racial Equity Commission Member Structure- (Nine commission members)**

- 2 voting members shall have lived in the Town for at least twenty (20) years and be people of color
- 2 voting members shall have lived in the Town for at least ten (10) years and be people of color
- 1 voting member shall be a youth member (Up to 24 years of age)
- 1 voting liaison member shall be selected from the Affordable Housing Advisory Commission
- 1 voting liaison member shall be selected from the Environmental Advisory Board
- 1 voting liaison member shall be selected from the Economic Sustainability Commission
- 1 voting liaison member shall be selected from the Carrboro Farmer's Market Board, BIPOC business owner or nonprofit representative (must live and/or work in Carrboro)
- 2 non-voting council liaison members shall be selected from the membership of the Town Council
- 2 non-voting staff liaison members shall be town staff



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-038

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
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**File Type:** Consent Agenda

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Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Amendment #5

**PURPOSE:** To approve budget, grant, and capital project ordinance amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

**DEPARTMENT:** Finance & Economic Development

**INFORMATION:**

**Finance**

- 1. Land Acquisition:** This request establishes a budget for the acquisition of property located in Carrboro, NC. The project will be funded through a transfer of \$889,000 from the General Fund, to be provided for by an appropriation of fund balance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This amendment increases the budget appropriation of the General Fund by \$889,000 and increases the Capital Projects Fund by \$889,000.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Manager recommends that the Council approve the budget, grant, and capital project ordinance amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT IN THE MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Carrboro that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Capital Project Ordinance is hereby established and/or amended as follows:

**SECTION I**

This ordinance establishes a budget for the acquisition of property located in Carrboro, NC. The project will be funded through a transfer of \$889,000 from the General Fund, to be provided for by an appropriation of fund balance.

**SECTION II**

Revenue anticipated to be available to the Town to complete the project is as follows:

<b>Land Acquisition #20261</b>		<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	General Fund - Transfer In	-	\$889,000	-	\$889,000
<b>Total</b>		-	<b>\$889,000</b>	-	<b>\$889,000</b>

**SECTION III**

The amount appropriated for the project is as follows:

<b>Land Acquisition #20261</b>		<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>
Appropriations	Purchase Price	-	\$884,000		\$884,000
Appropriations	Closing Costs	-	\$5,000	-	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>		-	<b>\$889,000</b>	-	<b>\$889,000</b>

#### SECTION IV

The Town Manager is authorized to execute contracts necessary to carry out this project, within the approved project budget and in accordance with applicable state law.

#### SECTION V

Within five (5) days after this ordinance is adopted, the Town Clerk shall file a copy of this ordinance with the Chief Financial Officer and Economic Development Director.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year 2026.



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-039

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
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Resolution to Adopt the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System

**PURPOSE:** To adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), as the Town of Carrboro's standard framework for incident management.

**DEPARTMENT:** Fire-Rescue Department

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

Race/Equity  Climate  Comprehensive Plan  Other

Advances compliance with federal emergency management requirements and best practices, and preserves eligibility for federal preparedness funding.

**INFORMATION:** NIMS establishes the national standard for incident management, enabling coordinated and scalable response across jurisdictions and disciplines. ICS, as a core component of NIMS, provides a standardized command structure for managing incidents of all types and complexity.

Formal adoption institutionalizes these frameworks within Town policy, ensuring consistency in emergency operations, alignment with state and federal partners, and eligibility for federal preparedness assistance. Adoption also affirms the Town's commitment to integrating NIMS and ICS into planning, training, exercises, and operational response.

The attached resolution establishes NIMS and ICS as the Town's official doctrine for incident management and authorizes administrative actions necessary to maintain compliance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No direct fiscal impact. Adoption supports continued eligibility for federal funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Town Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) formally adopting NIMS, including ICS, for the Town of Carrboro.

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) AND INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro is committed to protecting the lives, safety, and property of its residents, visitors, and personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the effective management of emergencies and disasters requires a standardized, coordinated approach across all levels of government and among multiple agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a consistent nationwide template to enable government, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Incident Command System (ICS) is a key component of NIMS that establishes a standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management concept; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption and implementation of NIMS/ICS are required to remain eligible for certain federal preparedness assistance and grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro recognizes the importance of integrating NIMS/ICS principles into its emergency management programs, policies, training, and operations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO THAT:**

- Section 1. The Town Council hereby formally adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), as the standard for incident management within the Town of Carrboro.
- Section 2. The Town shall utilize NIMS/ICS principles in all applicable emergency planning, training, exercises, and incident response activities.
- Section 3. The Town Manager, or designee, is authorized to take all necessary actions to implement and maintain compliance with NIMS requirements.
- Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April in the year 2026.



## TOWN OF CARRBORO

Fire-Rescue Department

NORTH CAROLINA

[WWW.TOWNOFCARRBORO.ORG](http://WWW.TOWNOFCARRBORO.ORG)



### Overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)

#### Purpose

This document provides a high-level overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS), and their relevance to the Town of Carrboro's emergency management framework.

#### What is NIMS?

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the federally established framework that guides coordinated incident management across all levels of government and partner organizations. It provides a common structure, standardized terminology, and scalable systems. Adoption is required for eligibility for certain federal preparedness and disaster funding programs.

#### What is ICS?

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the operational component of NIMS used for on-scene management. It establishes a clear chain of command, defined roles, and a scalable structure applicable to both emergencies and planned events.

#### Why This Matters to Carrboro

Formal adoption ensures compliance with federal and state requirements, supports funding eligibility, enhances coordination with regional partners, and institutionalizes a standardized approach to incident management.

#### Core Components

Command and Coordination; Resource Management; Communications and Information Management.

#### Operational Value

Supports unified command, span of control, accountability, and flexible response structures.

#### Local Application

Applied in EOC activations, severe weather response, public events, and multi-agency incidents. Adoption formalizes existing practices.

#### Conclusion

Adoption formalizes alignment with national standards and best practices, strengthens coordination, and supports continued funding eligibility.



## Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Adopt the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System

Purpose: *To adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), as the Town of Carrboro's standard framework for incident management.*

Department: Fire-Rescue Department

1. **What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

During emergencies and disasters, inequities can arise from differences in access to information, resources, and response services. Communities with fewer resources or limited access to transportation, communication, or support networks may experience disproportionate impacts.

Historically, inconsistent coordination across agencies and jurisdictions has also contributed to uneven service delivery during incidents.

Adoption of NIMS/ICS helps address these challenges by establishing a standardized, coordinated framework for emergency management across all agencies and partners.

2. **Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**

This action does not create a community burden.

If adopted, it strengthens coordination, communication, and resource management during emergencies, which benefits all residents.

If not adopted, the Town risks reduced coordination and potential ineligibility for certain federal funding programs, which could limit resources available for emergency preparedness and response.



3. **Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**

Residents currently benefit from existing emergency response capabilities. Formal adoption of NIMS/ICS enhances these benefits by:

- Improving coordination across agencies
- Standardizing response operations
- Supporting eligibility for federal preparedness funding

These improvements benefit the entire community, particularly during large-scale or complex incidents.

4. **What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**

Unintended consequences are minimal but may include:

- Training and implementation requirements for staff
- Ongoing administrative effort to maintain compliance

These are standard components of adopting nationally recognized emergency management frameworks.

5. **What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

The Town, especially the Fire-Rescue Department, Police Department, and Public Works, already utilizes NIMS and ICS principles in daily operations, training, and incident response. Formal adoption codifies existing practices.

Moving forward, the Fire-Rescue Department will continue to:

- Provide training and exercises for staff
- Coordinate with regional partners



- Ensure consistent application across departments



## Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Purpose: *To adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the Incident Command System (ICS), as the Town of Carrboro's standard framework for incident management.*

Department: Fire-Rescue Department

**1. How will this action impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions?**

This action does not directly impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions.

**2. Please explain.**

Adoption of NIMS and ICS is a policy and governance action that establishes a standardized framework for emergency management. It does not involve physical infrastructure, construction, or operational changes that would affect emissions.

**3. How will this action impact the Town's environment?**

This action is not expected to have a direct environmental impact.

**4. Please explain.**

NIMS and ICS provide a framework for managing incidents and coordinating response activities. While it improves operational effectiveness, it does not directly alter environmental conditions.

However, improved coordination and response capabilities can indirectly support more effective management of environmental incidents such as floods, hazardous materials events, and severe weather.



**5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts?** *NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.*

While this action does not create environmental impacts, the Fire-Rescue Department will continue to lead townwide efforts to:

- Integrate NIMS and ICS into emergency planning and response
- Support coordinated response to climate-related hazards
- Align emergency management practices with broader resilience and sustainability efforts



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-040

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
**In Control:** Town Council  
**Version:** 1

**File Type:** Consent Agenda

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Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

**PURPOSE:** To adopt Amendment One to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate an additional mitigation action for the Town of Carrboro.

**DEPARTMENT:** Fire-Rescue Department

**COUNCIL DIRECTION:**

Race/Equity  Climate  Comprehensive Plan  Other

Advances hazard mitigation, climate resilience, and alignment with regional and local planning priorities.

**INFORMATION:** The Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan establishes a long-term regional strategy to reduce risk from natural hazards and enhance community resilience. Periodic amendments ensure the plan remains current and responsive to identified risks and emerging priorities.

Amendment One incorporates Action SP-3 into the Town’s Mitigation Action Plan, advancing evaluation and implementation of measures along the Morgan Creek corridor to reduce flood risk and strengthen infrastructure resilience. This action aligns with broader watershed management, climate adaptation, and risk reduction objectives.

Adoption of this amendment maintains consistency with regional mitigation planning efforts and positions the Town to remain eligible for state and federal hazard mitigation funding.

The attached resolution formally adopts Amendment One and affirms the Town’s commitment to integrating its elements into future plan updates.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No immediate fiscal impact. Implementation of mitigation actions may be eligible for future grant funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Town Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) to adopt Amendment One (Attachment B) to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2025 ENO-HAW REGIONAL HAZARD  
MITIGATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause loss of life and damage to public and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro desires to seek ways to mitigate situations that may aggravate such circumstances; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Carrboro has identified the need to evaluate and implement planning, engineering, operational, and mitigation measures along Morgan Creek to reduce downstream flood risk and enhance system resilience; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council formally adopted the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan on May 20, 2025;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN  
OF CARRBORO THAT:**

Section 1. The Town Council hereby adopts Amendment One, Attachment B, to the Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate Action SP-3 into the Mitigation Action Plan for the Town of Carrboro.

Section 2. The Town Council hereby agrees to incorporate the key elements of this amendment into the Town's mitigation action plan in the next update of the Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of April in the year 2026.

**Table Error! No text of specified style in document..1 – Mitigation Action Plan, Town of Carrboro**

Action #	Action Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Goal & Objective Addressed	Priority	Lead Agency / Department	Potential Funding Source	Implementation Timeline	2025 Status	2025 Implementation Status Comments
Prevention									
P-1	The Town of Carrboro, as a member of the Orange County hazard Mitigation Planning Team, will coordinate with Orange County to reevaluate and update its hazard mitigation planning component at least once every five years or sooner as deemed appropriate by the Orange County Planning Director	All Hazards	1.2	High	Town of Carrboro	Self-funded	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Actively participating in update process with local government partners in Eno-Haw Region.
P-2	The Town of Carrboro intends to submit a Community Rating System (CRS) application to the ISO for a flood insurance rating that will benefit owners of flood-prone properties	Flooding	1.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	N/A	2025-2030	Carried Forward	The Town is still interested in submitting a CRS application to ISO. The Town is assessing current programs and will conduct further research to determine if applying for the CRS is in the best interest of the community;
P-3	The Town of Carrboro will continue to monitor ongoing efforts by the State and the US Army Corps of Engineers to complete new floodplain mapping for the planning area. Local staff resources will be needed to implement and encourage the completion of these activities.	Flooding	1.1	High	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	N/A	2025-2030	Carried Forward	The Town's Stormwater Utility was established in 2017, and the Stormwater Division created in 2018. The Planning Department and GIS administrator ensure local floodplain maps are updated. The Town also utilizes the Flood Risk Information System as needed.
P-4	Establish comprehensive framework for plans, policies, and regulations pertaining to land use, generally, and the relationship to natural hazard mitigation	All Hazards	1.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	Self-funded	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Incorporated into Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan which was adopted on 7 June 2022. Will continue in this area with the implementation of a new Unified Development Ordinance.
P-5	Establish framework for assessing urban wildfire risk, communicating with the public on measures that can reduce risk.	Wildfire	2.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Fire Department	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Will partner with other local fire departments, the Orange County Fire Marshal's Office, and the North Carolina Forestry Service to assess and mitigate wildfire hazards with a concentration on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
P-6	Explore opportunities to pilot cool pavement.	Excessive Heat	1.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Sustainability Division	TBD	2025-2030	New	Piloted cool pavement titanium dioxide additive to pavement resurfacing in several neighborhoods in 2024 using NC DOT Powell Bill Funding.
P-7	Home weatherization for low-to-moderate income residents.	Excessive Heat, Severe Winter Weather	4.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Housing and Community Services	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	New	Work with Orange County Housing and other partner agencies to continue weatherization of homes in the community.
P-8	Create or Update Community Wildfire Protection Plans in each fire district.	Wildfire	3.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	New	Will partner with other local fire departments, the Orange County Fire Marshal's Office, and the North Carolina Forestry Service to assess and mitigate wildfire hazards with a concentration on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
Property Protection									
PP-1	Seek funding to retrofit critical facilities and Town-owned facilities for improved resilience to all hazards with the use of the latest building materials and technology. This could include, but is not limited to: wind retrofits, low water consumption fixtures, leak detectors, backup generators, solar and battery electric storage systems, ignition-resistant materials, 320 or 361 compliant safe rooms, lightning protection, hail resistant roofing, and anchoring fixed building equipment.	All Hazards	4.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	Carried Forward	The Town will continue to assess facilities and seek funding sources related to needs identified.

Action #	Action Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Goal & Objective Addressed	Priority	Lead Agency / Department	Potential Funding Source	Implementation Timeline	2025 Status	2025 Implementation Status Comments
PP-2	Manage watersheds and stormwater by promoting active maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, reducing impacts of increased impervious surfaces, and minimizing impact to waterways.	Flooding, Hurricane & Tropical Storm, Landslide	1.2	High	Town of Carrboro - Stormwater Division	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Action Revised. The Town of Carrboro established a Stormwater Utility Fee in 2017 to fund stormwater services/operations and provide residential and commercial assistance for stormwater related issues by expanding technical assistance, outreach, and other program components. The Town has an active MS4 permit and is subject to requirements, including post-construction stormwater control measures. Stormwater control measures are often designed to exceed state minimum requirements.
PP-3	Look for opportunities to mitigate repetitive loss structures, and to increase resilience by ensuring critical infrastructure is not in locations susceptible to flooding.	Flooding	4.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	Local, State grants, Federal grants	2025-2030	New	This mitigation measure includes pursuing the acquisition and/or elevation of flood prone properties, including repetitive loss properties and substantially damaged properties. Currently in discussions with one property owner and expect the process to begin in earnest in 2025. This mitigation measure also includes the possibility of relocating Carrboro Public Works.
Natural Resource Protection									
NRP-1	Development of greenways and parklands dedicated to public use along streams and utility easements. The Town will seek to secure funding from federal, state, and local sources to implement the Town's greenway system, which will in turn mitigate flood hazards.	Flood	1.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	Federal and county grants, and Town funded.	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Phase 1B/Homestead-Chapel Hill High School Multi-use Path is completed. The Morgan Creek and Jones Creek greenway projects are expected to begin construction in 2025/2026. The Town will continue to develop greenways along streams to protect natural resources.
NRP-2	Protect and conserve land with environmental and natural hazard mitigation value as open space.	Flooding, Hurricane & Tropical Storm, Landslide	1.1	High	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	Self-funded; outside grants if available	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Implementation underway for several projects and multiple approaches including land use regulations for developments, policy analysis/framework for comprehensive planning, and grant funding for repetitive loss properties.
NRP-3	Coordinate with OWASA for planning for long-term and emergency water supply measures.	All Hazards	1.1	High	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	Self-funded	2025-2030	New	
Structural Projects									
SP-1	Require new developments to install electric, cable, and telephone wires underground to increase critical infrastructure resilience.	All Hazards	1.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Planning Department	N/A	2025-2030	Carried Forward	The Town of Carrboro will continue to require new developments to install electric, cable, telephone wires underground to the extent allowed by local utilities—Duke Power/Piedmont Electric Coop.
SP-2	Implement drainage improvement projects to reduce flood risk.	Flooding	4.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Stormwater Division	State grants, federal grants	2025-2030	New	The Town has Capital Projects included in the adopted Capital Improvement Plan to implement public projects within the jurisdiction to manage stormwater within the community.
SP-3	Evaluate and implement planning, engineering, operational, and mitigation measures along Morgan Creek to reduce downstream flood risk and enhance system resilience. Conduct hydrologic and hydraulic analyses using current rainfall data and develop updated flood inundation mapping to inform decision-making. Based on these findings, design and prioritize mitigation actions and upgrade monitoring and instrumentation systems to support real-time situational awareness and response.	Flooding, Hurricane & Tropical Storm	4.2	High	Town of Carrboro, Orange County Emergency Services, OWASA	Local, State grants, Federal grants	2026-2030	New	
Emergency Services									
ES-1	Provide misting tents and cold-water giveaways at fire stations during extreme heat days.	Excessive Heat	2.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro Fire	General fund	2025-2030	New	Partial implementation in-progress. Will work to formalize actions based on pre-established thresholds.
ES-2	Develop a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan update with integration of all three municipal Emergency Operations Plans.	All Hazards	3.1	High	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	State grants, UHMA grants, other federal grants	2025-2027	New	

Action #	Action Description	Hazard(s) Addressed	Goal & Objective Addressed	Priority	Lead Agency / Department	Potential Funding Source	Implementation Timeline	2025 Status	2025 Implementation Status Comments
ES-3	Work with partners across Orange County on the development a Countywide Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, addressing both voice communication and data.	All Hazards	3.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Funds (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	Research phase. Current plan is to implement mesh network or a similar technology for communications redundancy.
ES-4	Improve situational awareness and interagency coordination during hazard events by using mobile geospatial tools that support real-time data sharing, location tracking, and operational overlays that can support both public safety and non-public safety assets.	All Hazards	3.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Funds (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	Supporting Orange County Emergency Services efforts to transition to a new CAD system that will provide geospatial capabilities. Working with local response partners to enhance capabilities. Currently planning to implement Team Accountability Kit (TAK) for to increase situational awareness and improve inter-agency operations.
ES-5	Develop a unified damage assessment process.	All Hazards	3.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Funds (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	Work with local and regional response partners to enhance capabilities for damage assessment and tracking on a local and regional level.
ES-6	Develop a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Town of Carrboro.	All Hazards	3.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Funds (existing staff salaries)	2027-2030	New	Begin the COOP planning process after completion of the comprehensive EOP update.
ES-7	Engage in regional events, activities, and training opportunities related to natural hazards to improve communication, enhance partnerships, and improve planning efforts both within the across jurisdictions.	All Hazards	3.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Fund (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	Engage with local, regional, state, and federal emergency management services to increase capabilities and enhance interoperability.
ES-8	Identify and implement strategies, processes, and procedures to enhance hazardous materials leak and spill response capabilities.	Hazardous Materials	3.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Fund (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	
<b>Public Education &amp; Awareness</b>									
PEA-1	Maintenance and implementation of adopted (2017) Community Climate Action Plan	All Hazards	1.2	High	Town of Carrboro - Sustainability Division	Self-funded; grants, other revenue as available	2025-2030	Carried Forward	Includes implementation of 2014 Energy and Climate Protection Plan. Will serve as coordinating focus of actions underscoring Town's emphasis on building community resilience. Could potentially be included under Structural Projects, Prevention and Property Protection as well.
PEA-2	Create and maintain web-based resources for hazard risk, mitigation, and preparedness information.	All Hazards	1.2	High	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	Self-funded	2025-2030	Carried Forward	A web page was created during the 2020-2025 implementation phase. Will update the page and add additional resources in the next implementation phase. This action item also includes utilization of social media and other web-based tools for public education.
PEA-3	Conduct periodic heat mapping to understand which parts of Carrboro are most vulnerable to excessive heat.	Excessive Heat	3.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Sustainability Division	General Fund	2025-2030	New	Partnering with UNC to conduct heat mapping in 2025.
PEA-4	Develop and begin implementing a countywide Heat Action Plan.	Excessive Heat	2.2	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Sustainability Division	General Fund (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	Working with Orange County and other local partners to develop and implement a comprehensive Heat Action Plan.
PEA-5	Encourage and educate private property owners regarding Nature-Based Hazard Mitigation nutrient management.	Flooding, Hurricane & Tropical Storm, Landslide	2.1	Medium	Town of Carrboro - Stormwater Division	Self-funded	2025-2030	New	Conducted 90 property assessments and are developing conservation plans for those properties. Goal is to complete approximately 50 assessments and associated conservation plans annually.
PEA-6	Provide increased public outreach before, during, and after a natural hazard or emergency.	All Hazards	2.2	High	Town of Carrboro – Fire Department	General Fund (existing staff salaries)	2025-2030	New	



## Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Purpose: *To adopt Amendment One to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate an additional mitigation action for the Town of Carrboro.*

Department: Fire-Rescue Department

**1. What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

Natural hazard risk and climate-related impacts are not distributed evenly across communities. Historically, development patterns, land use decisions, and infrastructure investments have placed some populations, particularly lower-income households and those in flood-prone areas, at greater risk of flooding and associated impacts.

Floodplain proximity, aging infrastructure, and limited access to mitigation resources can increase vulnerability. These conditions are often compounded by barriers to recovery, including financial constraints and limited access to information or technical assistance.

This amendment supports mitigation planning and implementation efforts that aim to reduce flood risk and improve system resilience, which can help address these structural disparities over time.

**2. Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**

Currently, community members located in flood-prone areas, particularly along Morgan Creek, experience the greatest burden through increased risk of property damage, disruption, and potential loss.

This action does not create new burdens. Instead, it advances planning and analysis efforts intended to reduce long-term flood risk and improve resilience.



If the action is not approved, existing flood risks remain unaddressed or may worsen over time due to changing weather patterns and development pressures, disproportionately impacting those already in vulnerable areas.

3. **Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**

The broader community benefits from ongoing hazard mitigation planning through improved preparedness, reduced risk, and enhanced resilience.

If adopted, this amendment will support data-driven decision-making, improved flood modeling, and prioritization of mitigation actions, which can reduce impacts across the community, particularly for those in high-risk areas.

Without this action, opportunities to proactively reduce risk and improve resilience may be delayed or limited.

4. **What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**

Potential unintended consequences are limited but may include:

- Resource prioritization decisions that require balancing competing community needs
- Implementation challenges associated with complex engineering, planning, and funding processes

These considerations are typical of long-term mitigation initiatives and can be addressed through transparent planning and community engagement.

5. **What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

The Fire-Rescue Department, in coordination with Town departments and regional partners, is engaged in ongoing hazard mitigation planning efforts that emphasize:



- Data-driven risk assessment and prioritization
- Regional coordination with Orange County and partner agencies
- Integration with broader planning efforts, including the Carrboro Connects Comprehensive Plan

Future strategies may include continued outreach, incorporation of equity considerations into mitigation prioritization, and leveraging funding opportunities to support resilience improvements in higher-risk areas.



## Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Resolution to Amend the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Purpose: *To adopt Amendment One to the 2025 Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate an additional mitigation action for the Town of Carrboro.*

Department: Fire-Rescue Department

### 1. How will this action impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions?

This action does not directly impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions.

### 2. Please explain.

The amendment focuses on planning, engineering analysis, and mitigation strategy development related to flood risk along Morgan Creek. These activities are primarily analytical and planning-oriented rather than operational or construction-based.

Future implementation of mitigation projects may incorporate sustainable design and resilience strategies, depending on project scope and funding.

### 3. How will this action impact the Town's environment?

This action is expected to have a positive long-term impact on the Town's environment by supporting efforts to:

- Reduce flood risk
- Improve watershed management
- Enhance system resilience

### 4. Please explain.

The amendment includes evaluation of hydrologic and hydraulic conditions, updated flood modeling, and prioritization of mitigation strategies to reduce downstream impacts and improve environmental outcomes.



Additionally, the broader Hazard Mitigation Plan includes actions such as stormwater management, greenway development, and natural resource protection that contribute to environmental resilience.

**5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts?** *NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.*

The Fire-Rescue Department will continue to coordinate with Town departments and regional partners to:

- Integrate resilience and climate considerations into mitigation planning
- Support implementation of nature-based and infrastructure-based solutions
- Align mitigation actions with existing climate and sustainability initiatives



## Agenda Item Abstract

**File Number:** 26-041

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**Agenda Date:** 4/14/2026  
**In Control:** Town Council  
**Version:** 1

**File Type:** Information Item

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Budget Review - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & FY 27 Proposed Funding

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Council with an overview of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including updates on active projects, proposed FY 2027 (Year 2) funding, and new capital project requests.

**DEPARTMENT:** Finance

**INFORMATION:** This information item provides the Council with an overview of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including updates on active projects, proposed FY 2027 (Year 2) funding, and new capital project requests.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact is associated with the information item.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To allow the Town Council to receive the presentation and ask questions if needed.

April 14, 2026

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY 27 PROPOSED FUNDING



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# What is a Capital Investment Plan?



The Town's Capital Investment/Improvement Plan (CIP) serves as an annual planning tool to forecast long-range future capital needs for the Town. This plan examines infrastructure and equipment needs, provides a planning schedule, and identifies available financing options for the next five years.

The last plan was adopted for 2025-2030.



# Current/Active CIP Projects

## Parks & Recreation Projects

- ADA Improvements to Park Facilities
- Indoor Facility Updates
- Solar Gates and Locks
- Playground Resurfacing
- Athletic Field Updates
- Athletic Courts Resurfacing
- Park Signage
- Playground Replacements

## Transportation & Mobility Projects

- NC 54 Corridor Study
- UDO Rewrite
- SRTS Action Plan
- Jones Creek Greenway
- Morgan Creek Greenway
- South Greensboro Sidewalk
- Estes Bike/Ped
- Downtown Connector
- Barnes Sidewalk
- Jones Ferry Sidewalk
- Bike/Ped Projects
- 3 Bike Plan Projects
- N Greensboro Buffered Bike Lanes
- 203 Connector
- West Main Sidewalk
- Homestead Sidepath
- Bolin Creek Greenway Phase 2
- Bolin Creek Greenway Phases 3 & 4



# Current/Active CIP Projects

## **Fire Department Projects**

Fire Apparatus  
Engine Replacements

## **Technology**

PC Replacements

## **Fleet & Facilities**

Vehicle Replacements  
Westwood Improvements  
Town Hall Renovations  
Century Center Improvements

## **Stormwater Infrastructure Projects**

Stormwater Capital Improvements Plan & Projects  
Stormwater Infrastructure (Pipe Replacements)  
Fire Station #1 and Fidelity Street Stormwater  
Improvements

## **Sustainability & Stormwater**

Sustainability Initiatives  
Stormwater and Park Projects



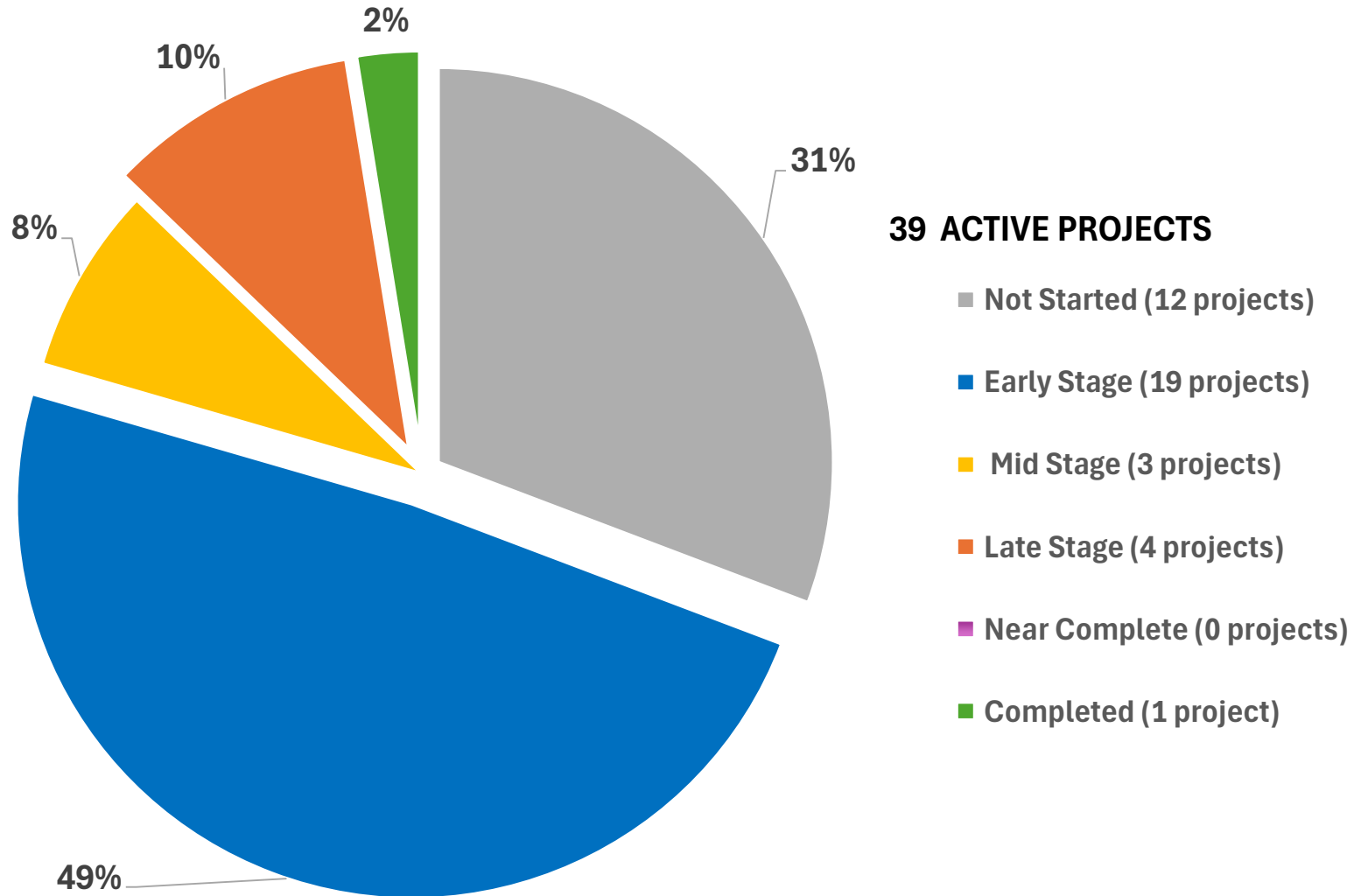
# CIP Summary



- Total Active Projects: **39**
- Total FY26–30 (5-year) Adopted CIP: **\$60M**
- FY27 (Year 2) Proposed Investment: **\$10M**
- FY27 (Year 2) Potential GF Impact : **\$4M**
  
- **Investment Priorities**
  - ✓ Infrastructure & Mobility
  - ✓ Sustainability Initiatives
  - ✓ ADA Improvements
  - ✓ Storm Recovery/Resilience



# Active CIP Projects Status Summary





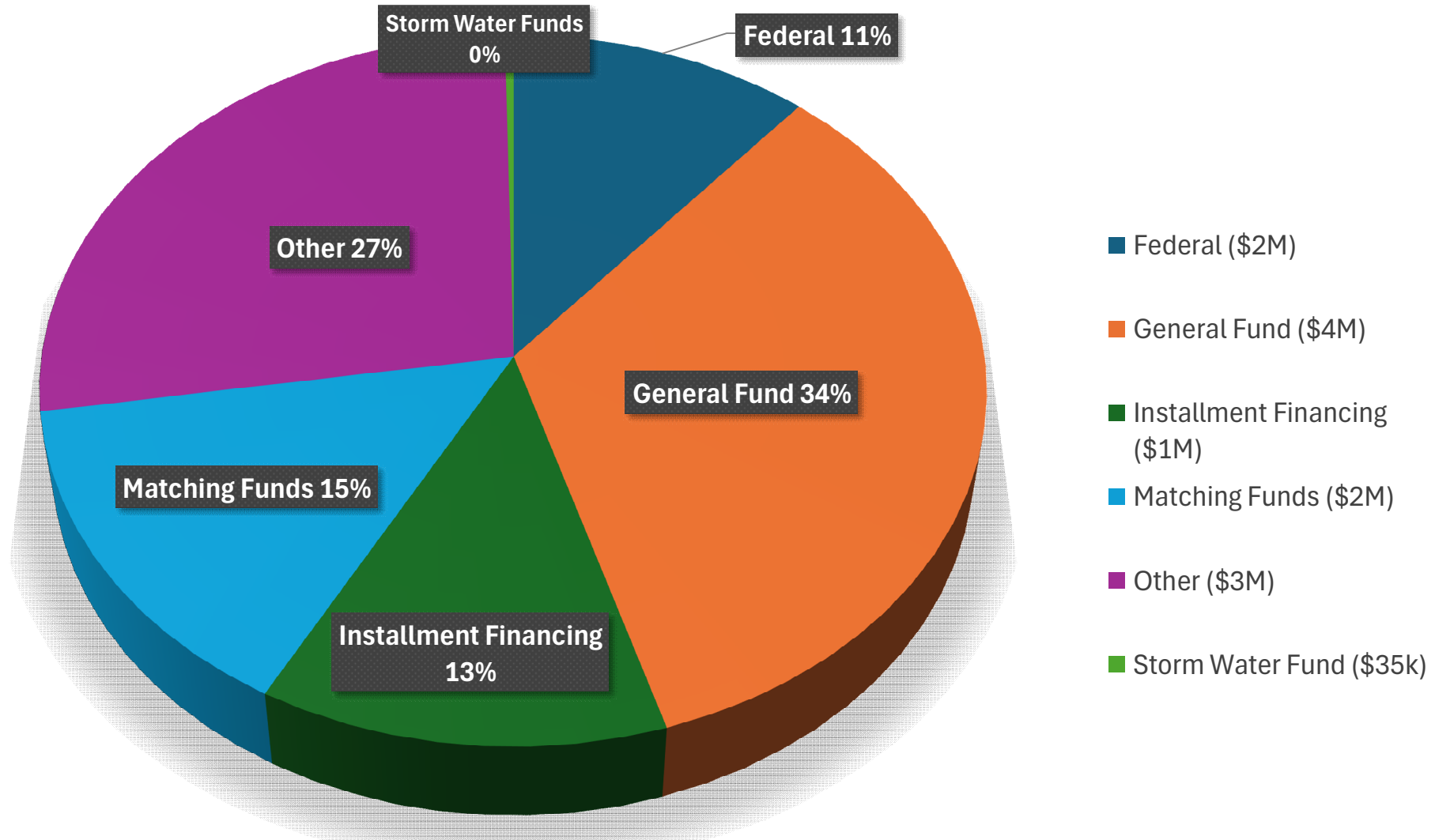
# FY 2027 PROPOSED CIP (YEAR 2) FUNDING



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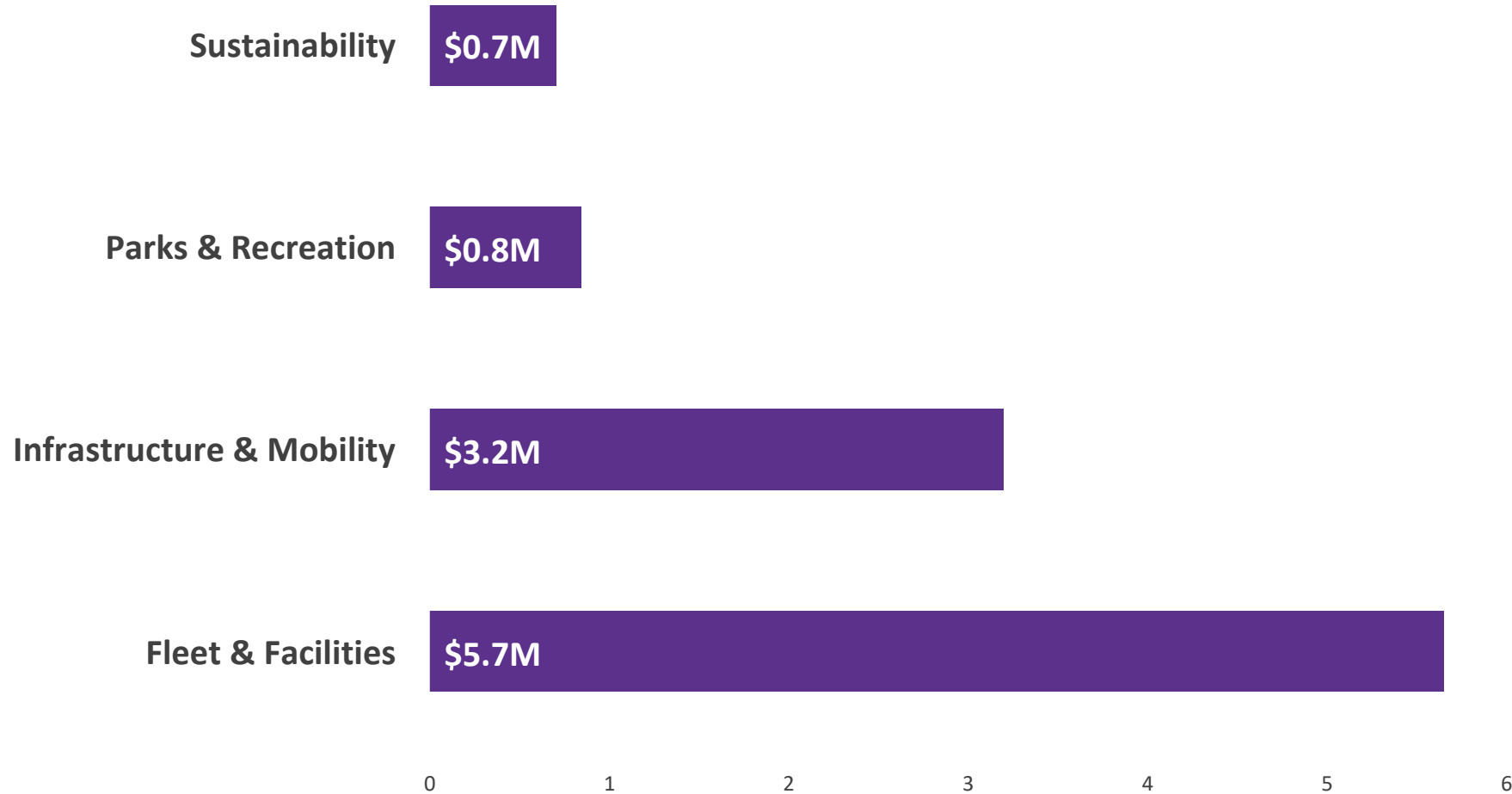
# FY 27 (Year 2) CIP Projects by Funding Source





# FY 27 (Year 2) CIP Proposed Investments by Function Area

*(in Millions)*





## Planning, Zoning, Inspections (PZI) FY 27 Proposed Capital Projects

Projects	Project Status	FY 27 (Year 2) Proposals	Estimated Project Total
NC 54 Corridor Study (Comprehensive Plan)	● Early Stage (1 -25%)	\$250,000	\$250,000
Jones Creek Greenway	● Late Stage (51–75%)	\$550,000	\$677,800
Morgan Creek Greenway	● Late Stage (51–75%)	\$449,200	\$449,200
South Greensboro St Sidewalk	● Mid Stage (26–50%)	\$450,000	\$1,583,100
Barnes Sidewalk	● Not Started (0%)	\$175,000	\$1,430,000
Jones Ferry Sidewalk	● Not Started (0%)	\$250,000	\$3,038,750



## Planning, Zoning, Inspections (PZI) FY 27 Proposed Capital Projects

Projects	Project Status	FY 27 (Year 2) Proposals	Estimated Project Total
Ped Safety Improvements - North Greensboro Street	● Early Stage (1 -25%)	\$225,000	\$225,000
North Greensboro Buffered Bike Lanes	● Mid Stage (26–50%)	\$290,000	\$290,000
Bolin Creek Greenway 2 (Design)	● Not Started (0%)	\$400,000	\$3,123,192
Bolin Creek Greenway 3 & 4 (Crossing Study)	● Not Started (0%)	\$500,000	\$16,798,247



# Rec & Parks

## FY 27 Proposed Capital Projects

Projects	Project Status	FY 27 (Year 2) Proposals	Estimated Project Total
ADA Improvements to Park Facilities	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$55,000	\$135,000
Community Art Additions & Assets	● Not Started (0%)	\$30,000	\$130,000
Athletic Field Updates	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$40,000	\$470,000
Athletic Courts Replacement	● Not Started (0%)	\$325,000	\$935,000
Park Signage (Sustainable Infrastructure)	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$101,000	\$1,226,000
Playground Replacements	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$350,000	\$1,225,000



## Public Works & Sustainability FY 27 Proposed Capital Projects

Projects	Project Status	FY 27 (Year 2) Proposals	Estimated Project Total
Vehicle Replacement & New Purchases (Storm Recovery)	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$4,122,200	\$9,266,534
Westwood Cemetery	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$35,000	\$35,000
Sustainability Initiatives	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$350,000	\$1,270,000
Stormwater & Park	● Early Stage (1–25%)	\$70,000	\$370,000



# NEW PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS

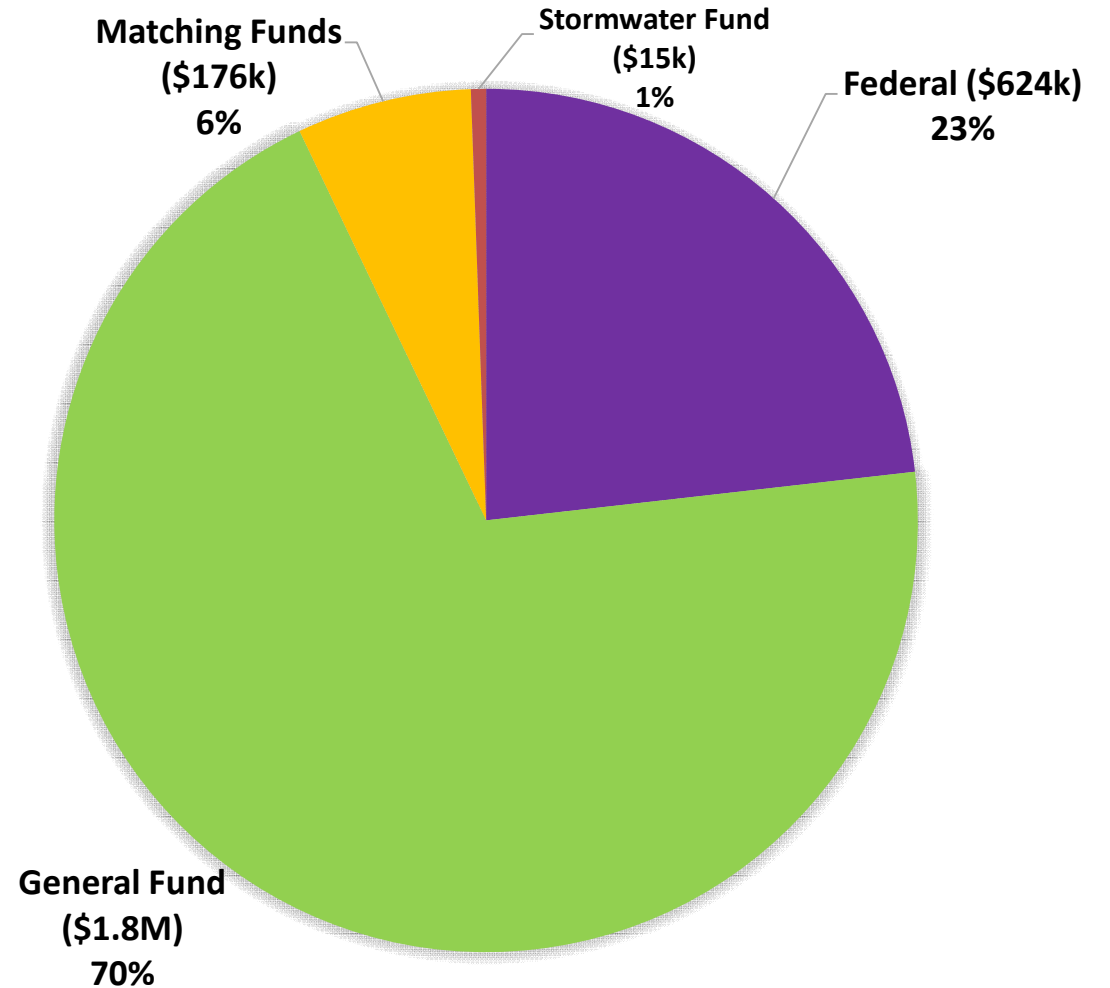


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# FY27: New CIP Projects by Funding Source

PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS	FY 27
Safe Streets for All Planning & Demonstration ( <b>GRANT FUNDED</b> )	\$176k match
	\$604K Fed grant
300 South Greensboro Street Multi-Use Path	\$20k
Public Work Building ( <i>estimate</i> )	\$1.8M
Pickleball Courts	\$25k
Shelton Street Regional Control & Improvements (Stormwater)	\$15k





# FY 2026-27 BUDGET & CIP DEVELOPMENT



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## FY27 Budget & CIP Development Timeline

Budget Process	Date
<b>Council Business Meeting</b> <i>Manager's Recommended Budget &amp; CIP Presentation</i>	Tuesday, May 5, 2026
<b>Council Work Session</b> <i>Budget Review</i>	Tuesday, May 12, 2026
<b>Council Business Meeting</b> <i>Budget Review and Public Hearing</i>	Tuesday, May 19, 2026
<b>Council Business Meeting</b> <i>Budget Public Hearing #2</i> <i>FY 2026-27 Budget &amp; CIP Adoption</i>	Tuesday, June 2, 2026

# Questions

