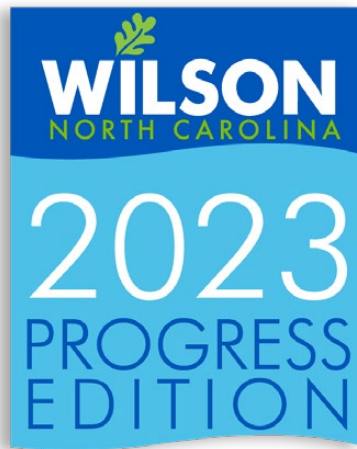




Wilson is nearing its 175th birthday in 2024, but it has the energy and activities of a young city. All across town, we have parks projects under way, housing developments rising up, and new industries ready to welcome employees.

None of this is happenstance. We are seeing the payoff of decades of planning, investment and hard work by city officials and staff as well as others who love Wilson.

Wilson has been blessed with several generations of visionary leaders. We were among the first communities in North Carolina to form a professional fire department, to install electric street lighting, to begin an electric utility and later a natural gas utility. The city secured its water source for decades to come with its construction of Buckhorn Reservoir and it became the first city in North Carolina to build a fiberoptic network that served every address with speeds up to a gigabit.

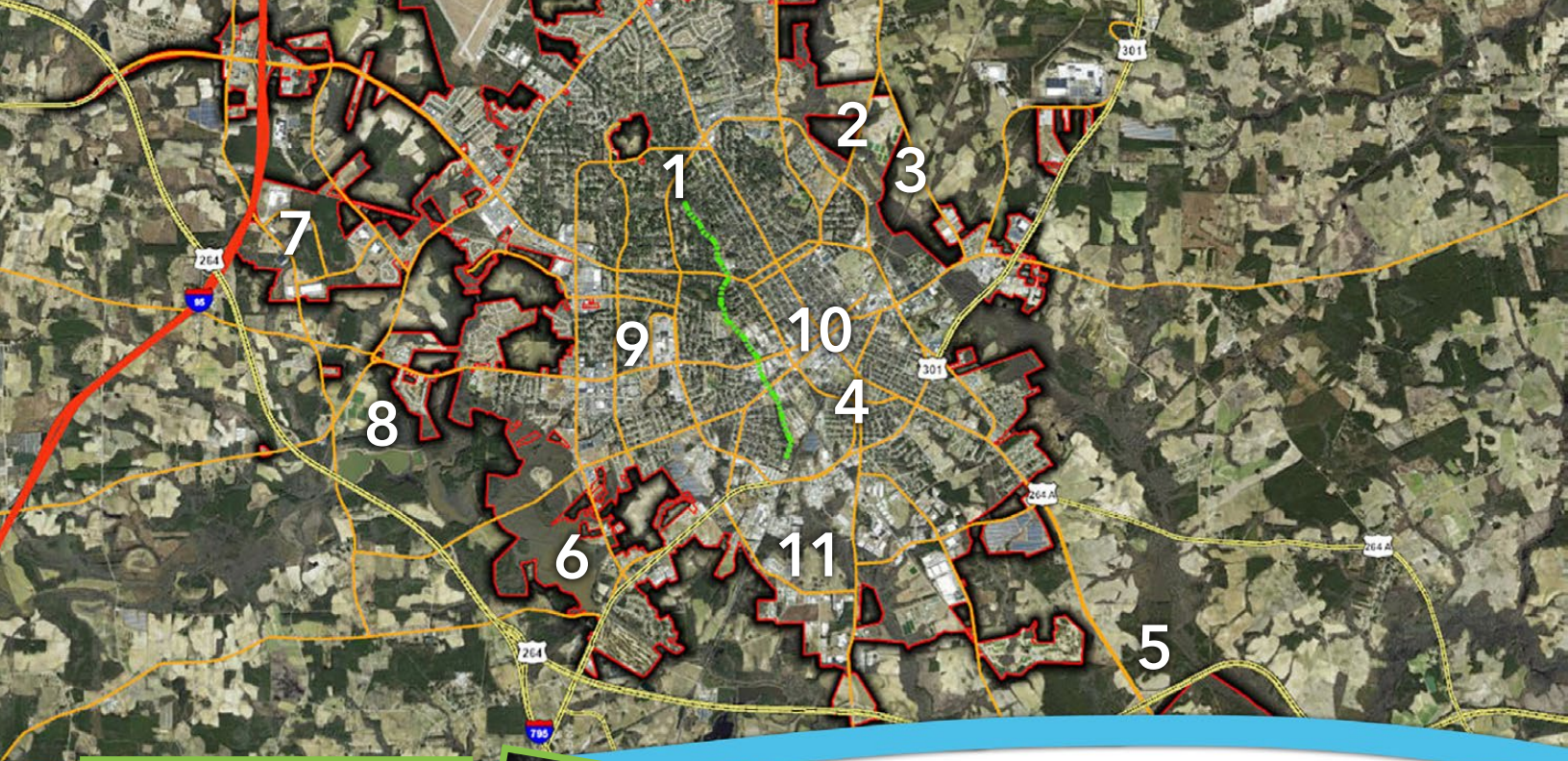


Those investments are reaping dividends today. The city's Greenlight network was built to provide broadband services necessary to Wilson citizens and businesses, including Truist, formerly BB&T, one of the city's largest employers. The city's partnership with Truist helped convince Truist to build a \$35 million office building in Historic Downtown Wilson. That catalyzed development in the Pine-Nash Development, now including the Foundation YMCA, the new parking deck and soon the Centro retail-residential development under construction.

Investments like the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park; the U.S. 301 Road to Opportunity; the J. Burt Gillette Athletic Complex; the Wilson Corporate Park; and the Campus at 587 are continuing to bring ripples of activity and waves of investment, making Wilson both a great place to live and work, a modern community with small-town friendliness.



Council members Michael Bell, Donald Evans, Logan Liles, Mayor Carlton Stevens, Tom Fyle, Gilletia Morgan, Derrick Creech, James M. Johnson III



1 A new section of the Hominy Creek Greenway was dedicated in November 2022. Starting from Williams Day Camp, the greenway will span more than 8 miles through the heart of the city (path shown in green) and improve water quality in Hominy Creek. U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, Jr. secured \$7 million in additional funding in late December so watch for more news soon.



2 The city is building a new pickleball and tennis complex at Gillette Athletic Complex. The Wilson County Tourism Development Authority approved funding for a complex with 14 pickleball courts, six tennis courts and six multiuse courts for local play and to host large tournaments.

CITY PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN 2023



3 Ground was broken in November 2022 for the Miracle Field at J. Burt Gillette Athletic Complex, which will allow children of all abilities to play baseball. Supporters include the Greater Wilson Rotary Club, Healthcare Foundation of Wilson, and the family of Cannon Hinnant. The adjacent All-Children's Playground has also been improved with shade structures.



4 U.S. Rep G.K. Butterfield, Jr. helped the city secure \$4 million in federal funding in December 2022 to be used for neighborhood park improvement, including the Oliver Nestus Freeman Roundhouse and African-American Museum. More information will be announced this year. Nearby, Reid Street Community Center is set to receive \$1.8 million in improvements in 2023 including a new multiuse field.



5 The Campus at 587 attracted its first occupant when FedEx announced plans in March 2022 for a distribution center that will employ 200 people. The facility will begin operating in spring 2023.



6 Wiggins Mill is being developed into a premier regional park with expansive walking trails, a sunflower field, shelters, and restroom facilities, to go along with the boat launch. Plans were announced in October 2022 and much of the work will be done in 2023.



7 The Wilson Corporate Park will be home to Believer Meats, a \$123 million facility announced in December 2022 that will employ more than 100 people in the next three years in cultivated meat production.



8 The city will use more than \$1 million in federal funding to replace a sewer outfall line along N.C. 42 and \$1.75 million to fix utility and stormwater issues in the Kenan & Jackson Streets areas. The projects were announced in February 2022 and the work will begin in 2023.



9 The Wilson City Council announced in October 2022 it would buy the deteriorating Wilson Mall, long a concern for both the city and residents. Plans for demolition of the mall and redevelopment of the site will be announced soon.



10 The city built its first parking deck to support the Pine-Nash Development that is transforming a section of Historic Downtown Wilson. The deck opened in May 2022, followed by the Foundation YMCA in fall 2022. City leaders were instrumental in plans to locate the large YMCA, complete with gyms, meeting rooms and an indoor swimming pool on the site of the former BB&T towers. The third piece of the Pine-Nash Development is Centro at Pine-Nash, which will combine 200-plus apartments with retail space. Centro is rising from the corner of Nash and Pine streets and will open in spring 2024.



11 Wilson RIDE began in fall 2020 to provide fast, affordable transportation to the entire city. Ride-share vehicles can now be summoned with an app or phone call and taken anywhere inside the city limits (shown with a red-black border on the map). The service has almost unanimous support among riders who are saving time and money as they travel to work, school, appointments, shopping or just fun. Federal funding received in 2022 allowed expansion of hours.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH CITY NEWS WITH WILSON THIS WEEK

The city launched **Wilson This Week**, an electronic newsletter, in January 2022 as a way to keep citizens even more informed about city news and events, and it quickly became one of our main communication channels with more than 9,000 subscribers opting in. It is so popular that we ended up doing special editions for breaking news and during hazardous weather.

The city continues to spread the word via our website; social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and Vimeo; our PEG Channel 8; and public events.

Email suggestions to communications@wilsonnc.org.

