

North Carolina Chapter News

SEPTEMBER 2023

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President's Message

ello everyone!

I am pleased to share during this quarter's newsletter the Scholarships and Awards program and opportunities available through APWA North Carolina. The North Carolina Chapter of APWA is comprised of an overall State Chapter and six technical divisions, with two of the divisions combined during their conference.

The divisions are Equipment Services Division, Facilities and Grounds Division, Leadership and Management Division, Solid Waste Division, Stormwater Division, and the Streets Division. Each division is run similar to the State Chapter.

These Divisions along with the State Chapter have various awards and scholarships available and awarded to membership and non-membership individuals during the respective events and/or conferences. The following awards are offered through the overall Chapter.

The awards below do not require APWA Membership:

- Robert S. Hopson Leadership Service Award (management staff)
- H.W. Keuffner Award (front-line staff and/or front-line supervisors)
- Jean Seals Award (non-member whose contributions aid the success of the chapter)
- Herman Drake Award (employee in Solid Waste services in a non-supervisory role)
- · Fleet Technician of the Year Award
- · Fleet Manager of the Year Award
- · Streets Manager of the Year
- H. Rooney Malcolm Award
- Stormwater Project of the Year

The awards below require an APWA membership:

- Samuel A. Greely Local Government Service Award (long term public service and APWA chapter service)
- Robert E. Linkner Private Sector Service Award (long term private sector service and APWA chapter service)

Along with the awards offered above, there are scholarships and internships available. The scholarships are for students and employees. The internships vary due to the municipality's need.

For more information about awards, scholarship and/or the internship program, please contact Maie Armstrong at marmstrong@espassociates.com.

I look forward to sharing upcoming events throughout this 2023 season.

Respectfully,

APWA-NC President

Mae H. Bryant
Mae H. Bryant

Leadership & Management Division

Mr. Keith Pugh, the APWA National President, began his APWA leadership in 2001 when he was selected to serve on the national Engineering and Technology Committee. At the chapter level, he was elected to the North Carolina Chapter's Administrative Management Division (AMD) board in 2003. He served in various Chapter capacities including AMD President, Chapter Director, Chapter Awards Committee Chair, Chapter President, and Chapter Delegate. At the national level, Keith served on APWA's Project of the Year Selection Committee and Government Affairs Committee (including two years as committee chair). He co-chaired the 2013 North American Snow Conference host committee; and is currently serving as the 2022-2023 APWA National President.

As a result of Mr. Pugh's exemplary leadership in APWA, which started in our very own Leadership and Management Division (LMD), formerly called the Administrative Management Division (AMD); LMD elected to rename our annual **Professional Manager of the Year Award** to the **Keith Pugh Professional Manager (KPPM) of the Year Award**. The first KPPM Award was presented to CJ O'Neil, Town of Matthews at our 2023 Annual Conference held in Raleigh, NC at the StateView Hotel, Autograph Collection.



Keith Pugh, APWA National President

Since Mr. Pugh was unable to attend the LMD Annual Conference in May 2023, LMD and Withers Ravenel coordinated a surprise presentation for Mr. Pugh on July 12, 2023 at the Withers Ravenel Office in Cary, NC. Before many Withers Ravenel staff and some APWA-NC Chapter members, LMD President Theresa Little Watley presented Mr. Pugh with a plaque in recognition of this honor that read... the Leadership and Management Division proudly creates the Keith Pugh Professional Manager of the Year Award in honor of Keith Pugh for providing decades of service to the Division, Chapter and Association; for inspiring excellence, leadership and dedication to the public good; and for leaving APWA better than he found it!

The first Public Works Education and Career Forum was digitally created by the Leadership and Management Division (LMD) of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association at the May 2023 LMD Conference; with the combined excellence of several public works professionals and our own APWA-NC Technology Committee.

After some final edits, the production will be distributed to our extensive mailing list of North Carolina Academic Professionals and will also be available to all APWA-NC Chapter members on the website by the end of September.

In the interest of passing the torch of public service to the next generation, the Public Works Education and Career Forum was envisioned to provide information and understanding about public works to Academic Professionals across the state.

Our goal is to partner with these Academic Professionals and to support one another to inspire and encourage the next generation to pursue careers in public works.

The digital production explains:

- What is Public Works?
- Who is APWA?
- What can APWA-NC do to support Public Works Professionals?
- What can APWA-NC do to support College, Pre-College and High School interest in public works?

The digital production also provides links to useful public works resource information, a survey to gather pertinent information from the North Carolina Academic Professionals, and contact information for all of our presenters.

LMD hopes this tool enhances student outreach for the APWA-NC Chapter and is just the beginning of much more to come as we work to seek and support our future public works professionals.



In Need of an Attitude Adjustment? APWA Streets and Equipment Services Division Conference

Jonathan Hogan: City of Lenoir Public Works

Have you enjoyed the long, hot, humid and wet summer? As a fall guy, I can honestly say I am counting down the days. I would imagine many of you are the same, especially our field technicians and coworkers who show up and suffer through it every day! Long days and short tempers are no joke and sometimes we just need a little attitude adjustment! What better way to hit the "reset" button for you and your staff than to join your APWA Streets and Equipment Services Division in Greenville, NC on October 11th – 13th at the Greenville Convention Center for our annual conference.

The board has been hard at work preparing an amazing event full of fun, food, networking, educational and developmental opportunities. Join us early for the kickoff activities like our Golf outing. Don't Golf? Enjoy a No Shave September and throw an axe instead! Of course we will provide many educational opportunities with topics relevant to the work we are all doing in the Streets and Equipment Services fields, not only to sharpen our skills but to add to the toolbox. At this year's conference you will be treated to not one, not two but three Keynote Speakers! Our keynote topic will include courage, branding and how to survive an active shooter event! Register here



Greenville Convention Center

Our Keynote Speakers this year include:



Peter Agiovlassitis: A Speaker, Author and Consultant as well as seasoned Toastmaster and recognized as one of the Top Ten Funniest Toastmasters in North Carolina. As a speaker Peter has worked with fortune 500 companies including Audi, Procter & Gamble, Royal Caribbean, Revlon, Warner Bros. Pictures and Canon Cameras. As an Author Peter has written The Courage Book inspired by his family, out of love, devotion. Join us in hearing why Peter believes your life unfolds in proportion to your courage.



Jody Powell: A semifinalist in the 2022 Toastmasters International World Championship of Public Speaking. Mr. Powell has over 25 years of experience in business as a Marketing and Human Resources professional. With a keen understanding of human psychology and emotional intelligence, Jody unveils the secrets to unlocking your full potential. Join us in learning why Jody believes that *life is brand!*



Nick Hughes: Mr. Hughes is a former French Foreign Legionnaire who lived and worked around the world as a bodyguard. His clients include members of the Saudi Royal Family, rock stars, actors and businessmen. Mr. Hughes is a renowned martial artist and has black belts and certifications in many art forms. As an author Mr. Hughes has written many articles and publications as well as interviews and TV shows around the world. Mr. Hughes also owns and teaches at Warriors Krav Maga in Huntersville NC. When not in school he travels the US teaching seminars for martial artist and corporations dealing with Active Shooters. Mr. Hughes will dive deep into Active Shooter events and what we as public employees need to do to survive! *We look forward to seeing you in Greenville!*

2023 Facilities & Grounds Fall Shoot

The Facilities & Grounds Division are working to finalize the itinerary and details associated with this year's Fall Event. Last year's event was such a great success, the Board decided to have our 2nd Annual Shooting Event at Drakes Landing once more. The event is set for October 18th, 2023. More to come on classroom topics, speakers, member and partner registration link, and overall schedule. We look forward to seeing everyone and meeting new people. Register here





Solid Waste 2023 Conference Recap

The Solid Waste conference was a success, with many attendees from across the state. It offered a great chance to reconnect with the solid waste family. Many of the attendees took part in the golf and bowling tournaments. We had five sessions over the two days of the conference from some great speakers. Thank you to our attendees who took time out from their busy work schedule to attend! Big thank you to our partners who make the conference possible to have. Another big thank you to our session speakers that brought their expertise and present to us. I personally would like to say thank you to the Solid Waste Board for an amazing job.

- David Cox

City of New Bern APWA NC Solid Waste President

Help us celebrate our Solid Waste Award Winners!

Herman Drake Operator Award Winner:

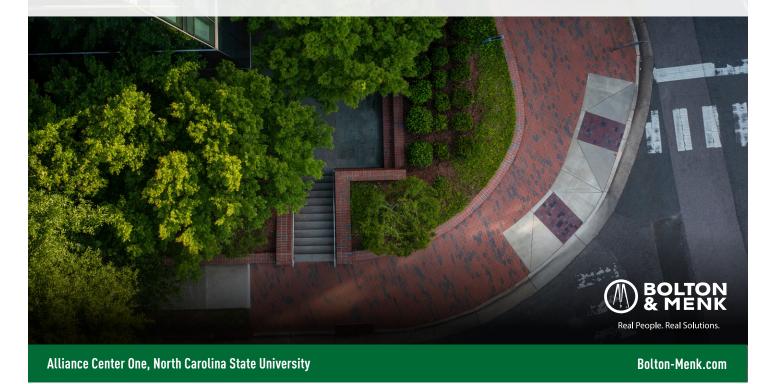
Paul Jacobs

Larry Weigman Man of the Year Award:

Maxwell Taylor

Past President Award:
Lewis Berry

We don't cut corners on our projects. Every detail matters.



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Pavement Infrastructure

Data-Driven Insights on the Future of Your Pavement Infrastructure

You do more with less every year. You replace the worst roads first because you don't have time or tools for better data. You struggle to justify road investments to stakeholders more focused on other problems or flashier projects. Trying to keep up is a never-ending cycle of not enough budget, degrading infrastructure, and restless citizens.

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You need Pavement Authority by WithersRavenel.

Our pavement-focused lifecycle planning program ensures you get the most out of your transportation budget: today, next year, next decade, and beyond. Pavement Authority combines advanced technology and unparalleled expertise to predict pavement replacement needs and the best strategies for treatment and maintenance. We model the full lifecycle of your roads with options for different pavement treatments and budget levels, giving you the tools you need to advocate for future-focused budget planning.

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- Data-centric approach that helps you understand your future options.
- We can work with existing survey data as well as utilize windshield and artificial intelligence surveying methods.
- We generate models of future pavement infrastructure status, adjustable for budget and treatment changes over time.



Budgets are too tight to make pavement decisions without reliable data.

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www.PavementAuthority.com

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Sustainability Spotlight

Sustainability and resiliency are two sides of the same coin, equally vital to developing an adaptable community. Sustainability is the ability to maintain the needs of the present without compromising the future and resiliency is being able to thrive in the face of change. "Resiliency is all about a community's ability to recover quickly following a disastrous event," says Randy Thompson of APWA NC Partner Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR). Combining these two concepts means that communities can maintain the status quo while planning for a dynamic and unpredictable future.

Recently five coastal communities in North Carolina were selected to receive a total of \$1.1 million in grant funds to carry out resilience projects to mitigate potential damage in the face of coastal hazards like storms or flooding.¹ Currently, with the NOAA Climate Prediction Center forecasting an above-normal level of activity in the second half of the hurricane season,2 this seems very timely. Beyond coastal communities, it is valuable to bear in mind what resiliency and sustainability mean to all public works in North Carolina. The preservation of quality of life and reduction of the impacts of environmental hazards can come in the form of new infrastructure and installation projects, rerouting of roads, upgrades in equipment, new planning, and additional training. Disaster recovery is another key component of resiliency in public works. When internal plans or infrastructure do not meet the needs of a disaster situation, Partners like Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR) help communities across the state. Comprised of former public works directors, emergency management directors, solid waste managers, civil engineers, arborists, and financial managers, SDR is a leader in recovery and understands how important it is to help communities stand strong in times of disaster. "Having a plan that addresses debris damage in a community is extremely important and a key to a quick recovery, making you a Resilient Community" says Thompson. While



Figure 1: Washington is using its funding to improve the Jack's Creek floodplain and greenway, shown here. (Photo Credit: Betsy Kane/City of Washington)

From smaller actions like community rain gardens to larger implementations like equitable urban planning, the APWA-NC Sustainability Committee feels it important to showcase sustainable actions across scales. We aim to highlight the impact that sustainability can have within APWA and the communities that we serve. If you have sustainability stories or want to spotlight anything from the individual or local level all the way to global concepts, please share them with us!

https://coastalreview.org/2023/07/1m-in-grants-to-go-to-five-coastal-towns-for-resilience/

² https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-forecasters-increase-atlantic-hurricane-season-prediction-to-above-normal

many communities may have such plans that enhance the resilience, sustainability, and security of critical infrastructure, it is vital to be prepared and aware on a statewide level. With partnerships between public and private entities and solid planning, public works can be a pillar of stability for resiliency in North Carolina and help propel us toward a more sustainable and robust future.



Figure 2 (Right): Hurricane Dorian Debris Removal (Image credit: <u>SDR</u>)

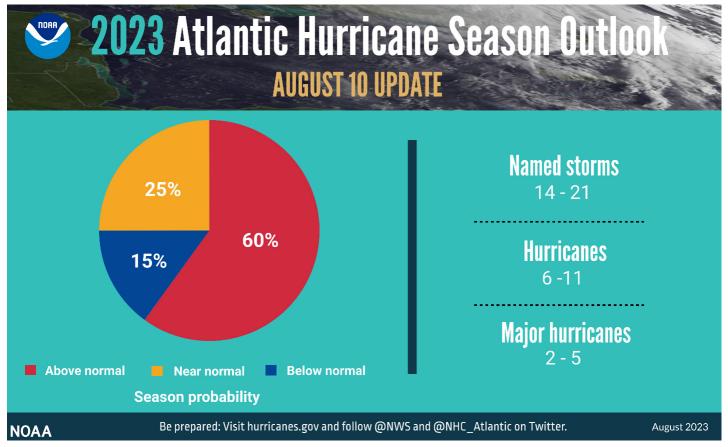


Figure 3: 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook (Image credit: NOAA)

Note from the Chapter Administrator

As many of you have noticed and heard from the National APWA emails, the new APWA website and payment processor came online this summer. This transition process has taken longer than we hoped and has contributed to more issues than we expected. Personally, I would like to thank all the members who came to us with problems for their cooperation and their patience while we continue to work with National to resolve their issues.

Our chapter is one of the most active chapters in the country. With so many events taking place immediately after the new website implementation, we have been uniquely affected by the timing of this transitional period. However, we are in daily contact with APWA National's staff and frequent contact with APWA CEO Scott Grayson and I trust that soon the website will be running smoothly once again. Ultimately, our new systems will introduce increased functionality for our Chapter, but during their implementation, they have certainly been frustrating! Thank you again to everyone for your patience, and if you need any assistance with the new website or the new registration system/payment processer, please let us know at apwancadmin@ncsu.edu.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Reimagining Right-of-Way Management with GIS

By Adam Carnow, Esri

Organizations are rethinking their use and management of right-of-way as they prepare for the next generation of infrastructure. Whether it be for broadband, renewable energy, utilities, or transportation, managing right-of-way is a spatial business. GIS technology reveals the status of your right-of-way, allowing you to maximize infrastructure investment opportunities and provide resilient services to your community. By embracing a geographic approach, you can make data-driven decisions around all aspects of right-of-way. Ensure that your community is ready for capital investments by using GIS to protect, enforce, and maintain the right-of-way.



Right-of-Way Management Screenshot

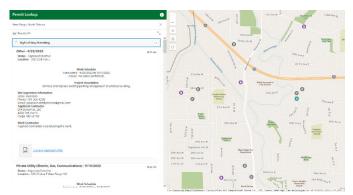
How does GIS help manage right-of-way? In an increasingly developed world, GIS provides organizations with the necessary tools to protect, enforce, and maintain the limited space available to support critical infrastructure.

- **Transform right-of-way inventories and maps** With an accurate inventory of rights-of-way mapped with GIS, stakeholders can quickly access critical information on any device.
- **Operationalize planning** GIS provides robust visualization and reporting capabilities to encourage two-way communication, limiting project delays.
- **Reduce acquisition impacts** GIS provides real-time negotiation data for updating costs, scheduling projections, and demonstrating agreement with regulatory requirements.
- Improve safety, operations, and compliance GIS improves permit management and compliance demonstration through real-time data capture, analysis, and reporting.
- **Prepare for infrastructure investments** Integrating right-of-way data into a GIS environment maximizes the performance and potential of real estate assets.

Right-of-Way GIS Success Stories

Follow the examples of your peers that have realized significant benefits from their right-of-way management improvement powered by ArcGIS:

West Fargo, ND – The city of West Fargo, North
Dakota, transformed its right-of-way permit management
process, leveraging the city's existing GIS licensing to
introduce visualization of permit locations, support
accurate historical information tracking, and improve
efficiency for staff.

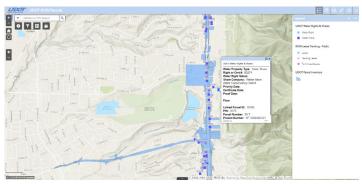


West Fargo, North Dakota

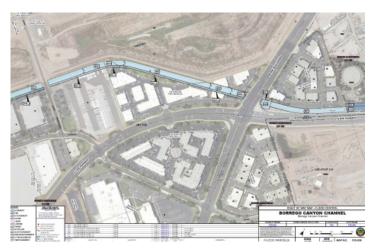
- <u>Utah DOT</u> UDOT's central right-of-way GIS
 team relies on its right-of-way GIS to inventory and
 map all property owned by UDOT. This, in return,
 has helped the state agency generate millions of
 dollars in surplus property revenue, eliminated
 hours of clerical work, reduced property ownership
 discrepancies, and streamlined cross-departmental
 collaboration.
- Orange County, CA Public Works –
 Aggregating the county's parcel GIS database with
 the right-of-way parcels provides much more
 insight than keeping right-of-way maps separate.
 It is much easier to maintain, search for, and query
 right-of-way information and share that information
 across teams.

ArcGIS Solutions for Rights-of-Way

Esri's got you covered with a collection of complimentary industry-specific configurations of ArcGIS that meets your organization's right-of-way management needs. Quickly deploy solutions, configure them to meet your needs, and load your authoritative information. No software development required. Configurable out-of-the-box proven solutions to improve your right-of-way management and deliver quick wins \while reducing risk and enforcing best practices.



Utah DOT



Orange County, CA Public Works

- <u>Roadway Management</u> can be used to inventory public roads and their characteristics, conduct routine pavement condition assessments, and streamline inspection and maintenance activities.
- Right-of-Way Asset Inventory can be used to inventory sidewalks, signals, streetlights, and other visible assets in the public right of way.
- <u>Right-of-Way Permitting</u> can be used to collect and organize permit applications, coordinate the permit review process, gather feedback during permit review, and share approved permits with internal and external stakeholders.
- <u>Capital Project Tracking</u> can be used to manage an active project portfolio, communicate project status, and share project updates with internal and external stakeholders.

Call to Action

If you are tired of managing your right-of-way the hard way, and want to learn more about how you can reimagine your right-of-way management with GIS, please visit our web site (go.esri.com/ROW4APWA) for more information, including:

- · A Right-of-Way GIS eBook
- · Links to more right-of-way success stories from your peers
- · A right-of-way GIS webinar series
- ArcGIS Solutions for rights-of-way







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FROM OUR PARTNERS

Leveraging Existing Right-of-Way to Improve Stormwater Quality + Aesthetics

North Carolina's coastal communities are increasingly at-risk from the impacts of climate change, including higher incidences of severe weather events accompanied by heavy precipitation, which can cause erosion and water quality impairments. In the Town of Beaufort, one of North Carolina's oldest towns, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is leveraging the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements to adapt to the increasing water levels within Back Sound and the Atlantic, and impairments to water quality to reimagine the Cedar Street corridor. In addition to installing 14 bioretention cells, this initiative will include permeable pavement and streetscape and pedestrian improvements along Cedar Street. These improvements will help the Town capture stormwater runoff from adjacent properties and streets, thereby reducing the amount of polluted stormwater runoff flowing into the surrounding estuaries. This newly created aesthetic streetscape, will provide economic development opportunities for this historic town.

Background

Since 1957, vehicular traffic traveling in and out of Beaufort arrived via the Grayden Paul Bridge, a two-lane bascule-type drawbridge spanning across Gallants Channel. NCDOT closed and dismantled this historic bridge in 2018 after surviving countless storms, hurricanes and crashes; 13,000 openings and closings annually; and more than 17,000 daily vehicle crossings. Traffic was rerouted onto the newly constructed Gallants Channel Bridge, a 65-foot fixed-span bridge with four lanes, and away from Cedar Street and the historic core of this coastal waterfront town.

With this change in vehicular traffic patterns, NCDOT is enhancing Cedar Street to reduce runoff and minimizing pollutants entering the surrounding waterway; be safer and more welcoming to local foot traffic; all while beautifying this corridor. To implement this vision, NCDOT partnered with McAdams and the Town creating the building blocks needed to both improve and spur economic development.



Figure 1 New Bridge Location

Opportunity

NCDOT, the Town of Beaufort and McAdams identified these overlapping opportunities and goals early in their coordination efforts. These goals included drainage improvements, enhancement of water quality, improvement of the corridor's aesthetics and encouraging pedestrian use. Since 2014, NCDOT has been required to design and implement stormwater retrofit projects annually in accordance with its State-wide NPDES permit. These retrofit measures are required to treat impervious surfaces within NCDOT right-of-way. The project partners identified Cedar Street as a great candidate for the implementation of retrofit measures, namely the 14 bioretention bump outs and the reconstruction of parking lanes with permeable pavement. These stormwater measures not only help fulfill an NCDOT permit requirement, but also address identified existing storm drainage inventory concerns. With the reduction in traffic volumes, the project partners were able to re-envision the function of NCDOT's right-of-way to create a corridor that more safely and equitably accommodates the needs of both residents and tourists, while contributing to the beautification of this historic town and improving its water quality.



Figure 2 Enhanced Landscape

Throughout the process, the Town of Beaufort provided valuable insights into the look of the corridor that they wanted. This included type of curbing, vegetation to be planted and other key aesthetic features. NCDOT and the Town worked closely together to implement the bioretention bump outs; curb removal and recasting; asphalt removal; and community notification and engagement.

Partnership

Through the planning and design process, the Town began to see their vision take shape. McAdams assisted the Town to design reconstructed sidewalks behind the bioretention bump outs and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps at adjacent crosswalks to better accommodate and direct pedestrians. To improve the aesthetics along the roadway, and because the outer lanes were being converted to parking, the Town wanted to implement permeable parking areas. The North Carolina Coastal Federation became interested in the project and offered to help with the funding of the permeable parking based on the potential for water quality improvement. The anticipated costs of this component exceeded the

available funding, necessitating the pursuit of grant funding. After jointly applying for a Water Resources Development Grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), the permeable pavement project was awarded the matching grant, bringing in another partner to the Cedar Street corridor improvement efforts. In total, the project was awarded \$195,500 in grant funding, matching local and Coastal Federation funding commitments.

Multi-functional

The proposed improvements to the Cedar Street corridor go well beyond meeting NPDES permit requirements for Best Management Practice (BMP) retrofits to create multi-functional impact. The project will improve water quality; restore tree canopy and green spaces; improve road aesthetics; and enhance the experience of non-motorized users. The implementation of bioretention curb bump outs enhance water quality by filtering pollutants and reduce storm flows in tandem with the permeable pavement. These features also add significant benefits for pedestrians and other non-motorized users along the corridor. The bioretention bump outs will create new tree canopy to beautify the streetscape and provide much needed shade to pedestrians on hot days. Moreover, the bioretention bump outs improve safety by creating physical barriers to vehicular traffic and serving as traffic calming measures. Additionally, the new sections of sidewalk and realigned pedestrian ramps and crosswalks will also enhance pedestrian safety and mobility.



Figure 3 From the Pedestrians View

Construction Completion

Construction of the bioretention bump outs was completed in mid-April with the final plantings of all bump outs following shortly after. Thus far, the reception has been great. In fact, several residents intercepted the design team on a late stage walk through of the site and expressed their excitement for the aesthetic uplift already gained. The residents also commented on how there were less standing water issues following a large spring rainstorm and were surprised at how effectively the bump outs drained down after the storm.

On a follow-up visit in early May, Public Works staff from the Town also commented on how well the measures were performing. The Town staff asked diligently how the project team felt about their care of the bump outs to date, adding they had just watered the new plants the day before. Town staff is intentional that the plants had the ability to establish through the first few months of installation.

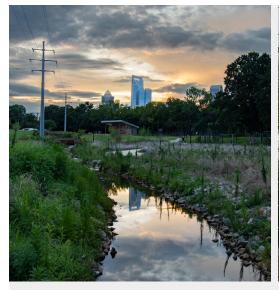


Figure 4 Completed East End

What's Next?

Both residents and visitors will enjoy the enhanced visual appeal of the corridor. Safety for pedestrians and other active transportation modes will be improved due to the traffic calming effects of the bump outs and the physical separation of vehicular traffic. NCDOT and the Town anticipate that the implementation of stormwater devices and aesthetic improvements will increase the number of pedestrian and other non-motorized users along the corridor. By creating a safer and more people-oriented street, this project will bring a broad range of economic benefits. A white paper by Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets coalition finds that these types of improvements can spur economic development by increasing property and sales tax revenue; creating job opportunities; attracting business and private investment; and increasing retail and food sales, among other benefits. The construction of a new hotel at the western end of Cedar Street (following the completion of the project), along with plans to build an adjacent park, is an early indicator of this project spurring economic development. By considering the community's needs holistically, the project partners are creating a unique corridor that improves environmental, social and economic performance that more safely and equitably serves Beaufort's residents and visitors.







CHARLOTTE, NC
PEARL STREET PARK

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S. BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED STUDY

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READY + RESILIENT



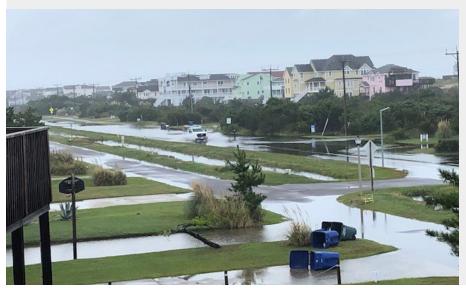
Our talented Water Resources professionals continue to work with local NC communities to assess and provide critical infrastructure improvements. Check out our website to learn more about our on-going work across the State.

NAGS HEAD GRANT ASSISTANCE

NAGS HEAD, NC

PEBBLE CREEK

ASHEVILLE, NC





IN THE COMMUNITY

Salisbury Storm Clean Up

These photos show the Salisbury Public Works' team during a major clean-up operation that occurred in late June after over 30 trees fell during a nasty storm. We applaud the strong effort and quick response of this team! Thank you to Allie Thies for sharing with us the great work being done by the folks at Salisbury Public Works!



Salisbury Storm Debris



Salisbury Storm Clean Up



Salisbury Storm Clean Up Crew

IN THE COMMUNITY

Young Professional Spotlight

Samantha Hayes, EIT, Young Professional APWA-NC Vice-Chair

Submitted by APWA-NC Young Professional Committee



Get to Know SAMANTHA HAYES, EIT

- CAREER: Civil Engineering Designer
- INDUSTRY SECTOR: Stormwater Management & Greenway DesignAPWA-NC
- MEMBER SINCE: 2022

Samantha was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University in May 2021. Samantha began working full-time as a civil engineer designer in August of 2021 and joined APWA-NC in the beginning of 2022.

In Her Own Words

When I started college, I decided to pick engineering as my major because I knew I had a natural inclination for both math and science. I also was passionate about the environment and the natural world. Broadly, engineering seemed like something I would be good at, and among all the disciplines I thought I could find something I would like.

Shortly after starting at Clemson, I joined its student government organization that allowed me to advocate for students and work on student-led projects for the campus. Working in that organization gave me an opportunity to develop my leadership skills and gain a passion for working with other like-minded individuals that wanted to improve their community. With this in mind, I didn't know what it would mean for a career. I knew I wanted to be some kind of engineer, but I also wanted to do work that helped my local community. After further research, civil engineering seemed to be the best avenue for me to exercise my interests while utilizing my innate skills.

So far in my career, I have gotten the opportunity to work on a multitude of stormwater and greenway design projects for local municipalities. I love getting to work on projects that improve my local environment and work with other professionals that feel similar. By joining APWA-NC, I have been able to connect with so many other individuals in the public works field that are also passionate in bettering their community.

Looking Forward

In the future, I am looking forward to expanding my network in the APWA-NC Young Professionals group and APWA-NC as a whole. Being able to attend YP and APWA-NC events and conferences has allowed me to develop connections, and I hope to grow them more in the future. I am hoping to create some more opportunities within the Young Professionals group for members to connect with each other outside of conferences.

A Little Advice

I think that one of the most important pieces of advice for your career (and in life) is to not be afraid to fail. Fear of failure can limit you more than actually failing because it stops you from trying things that will achieve what you want or lead you in a better direction. If you just try, you are bound to learn something!

Mentors

Andrew Martin, PE & Gina Straga, PE

Outside of Work

Beyond work, I spend a lot of time outside! I have two Great Pyrenees/Australian Shepherd mix dogs that I love taking on walks in the park or on local hiking trails. I also like to spend time on the lake with family and friends.

IN THE COMMUNITY

2024 NCAPWA Backhoe Roadeo

Wednesday April 17, 2024

NOTE: This will coincide with the Mid Atlantic Spring Equipment Show by Godwin

LOCATION:

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex 4601 Trinity Road Raleigh, NC

This is our state competition to see who will represent NCAPWA at PWX 2024. We would like each municipality to hold their own competition and send us their top two operators in backhoe and mini ex to compete. If you have any questions concerning this competition please contact Earl Manning at manning@godwin-group.net.







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President Mae Bryant City of Charlotte mae.bryant@charlottenc.gov	President-Elect Magda Holloway Summit Design and Engineering Services magda.holloway@summitde.com	Vice President Chip Vanderzee (retired) vanderzeesc@gmail.com
Chapter Administrator Kate Davison ITRE NC LTAP apwancadmin@ncsu.edu	Treasurer Christina Vanderzee (retired) vanderzeesc@aol.com	Past President Rebecca "Becky" L. Bost LaBella Associates, PC rbost@labellapc.com
Director '22-'23 Forrest Jones Town of Garner fjones@garnernc.gov	Director '22-'23 Earl Manning The Godwin Group emanning@godwin-group.net	<i>Director '23-'24</i> Keith Garbrick LaBella kgarbrick@labellapc.com
Director '23-'24 Shane Parker, PE Summit Design & Engineering shane.parker@summitde.net	Director '23-'24 Bob Holden bob.holden@americangreenz.com	Council of Chapters Delegate James Martin, PE NC State University/ITRE (retired) jbm@ncsu.edu

APWA-NC 2023 DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Equipment Services Gilbert English City of Raleigh gaenglish@outlook.com	Facilities and Grounds Dennis Stanley Town of Cary dennis.stanley@townofcary.org	Leadership & Management Theresa J. Little Watley City of Charlotte twatley@ci.charlotte.nc.us	
Streets Caroline Kone, PE City of Hickory ckone@hickorync.gov	Stormwater Daniel Colavito Town of Holly Springs daniel.colavito@hollyspringsnc.us	Solid Waste David Cox City of New Bern coxd@newbernnc.gov	

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