

July 10, 2026

Thank you for signing up to learn more about this project. This newsletter will serve as a resource for project details, relevant stories, and ways to stay engaged. Check out the information below and stay tuned for more.

SEAP+ IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Extreme Heat Tips, Plus What the City of Charlotte is doing to Combat Heat

Hydrate, Rest, Shade

- Hydrate: Drink water every 15–20 minutes, even if you're not thirsty.
- Rest: Take scheduled breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- Shade: Move to shaded or cooler areas during rest breaks.

Know the Signs of Heat Illness

- Heat Exhaustion: Dizziness, weakness, nausea, heavy sweating and clammy skin.
- Heat Stroke (medical emergency): Confusion, loss of consciousness, seizures and lack of sweating despite high temperature.

Cooling Stations

- In extreme heat, Mecklenburg County opens cooling stations, usually [Park and Recreation centers and libraries](#). During those times, the Charlotte Area Transit System will provide free transportation to cooling stations.

Updates from the State

- The North Carolina Division of Public Health administers the [NC Heat Health Alert System](#) where you can sign up to receive email alerts when the daily maximum heat index is expected to reach dangerous levels in your area.

For more resources, you can visit:

- [NCDOL heat stress prevention resources](#)
- [Heat risk tool](#)

The SEAP+ Role in Heat Mitigation

In the Strategic Energy Action Plan+, a climate risk assessment was added, identifying extreme heat as the highest risk and the risk of greatest concern to residents. The city has a part to play in mitigating heat, and there has been much work done.

Tree Canopy

- The city's Landscape Management team maintains more than 250,000 street trees to help the city's canopy grow and thrive. This includes inspecting and caring for mature trees while planting an average of 800 new trees each year. The city is currently running a program with a focus on the Corridors of Opportunity areas and low-canopy, high-heat geographies in Charlotte where residents can [fill out a tree interest form](#) to find out if you have room in your right-of-way. If approved, your address will go on the next season's tree planting list, and the city team will plant your tree for free!

Cool Asphalt

- More casually known as road sunscreen, PlusTi is a Titanium Dioxide treatment that protects asphalt from sun damage, helping give roads a longer life. Learn more about it from a [recent WCNC piece](#).

Heat Mapping

- City of Charlotte partner, UNC Charlotte, conducted a [heat mapping study](#) in 2024, identifying what areas of the city feel the effects of extreme heat the most. You can also view the city's [urban heat map](#) on the SEAP dashboard.



Charlotte's Green Crown Program Encourages the Restaurant, Beverage and Hospitality Industries to Go Green

Charlotte is expanding its sustainability efforts with the Green Crown Program, an initiative that shines a spotlight on eating and drinking establishments and hospitality businesses implementing environmentally sustainable practices. That includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, breweries, bars, coffee shops, caterers, hotels and event venues. The program is designed to help participating businesses lower their operational costs through reduced energy and resource consumption while supporting a healthier, more resilient city.

Certified establishments earn a "Green Crown" rating and official City of Charlotte recognition. Other benefits that participants can look forward to include promotional visibility, peer learning opportunities and connection to sustainability resources.

Watch a [recent WBTV interview](#) about the Green Crown program's local impact.

Learn more about the initiative and [apply for certification](#).

RELATED EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

July 11, 10 a.m. to noon, 2nd Saturday Storm Drain Marking with Storm Water Services at Duke Access Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

Help protect streams and lakes by educating the community about their connection to our waterways! Volunteers with the Storm Drain Marking Program glue decals onto storm drains that say, "This Drain Is Only for Rain. Do Not Dump – Drains to Creek". We will also be picking up litter as we mark and clear drains. Please register by July 10! [Learn more and register](#).

July 30, 11 a.m. to noon, VolunThursday Mountain Island Lake Cleanup with Storm Water Services at Duke Access Road, Huntersville, NC 28078

Help protect our waterways by removing litter from Mountain Island Lake! Volunteers will be removing litter around the boat ramp and the edge of the lake at the Neck Road Boat Ramp. Please register by July 29! [Learn more and register](#).

Makerspace Charlotte Classes

Explore hands-on learning through Makerspace Charlotte's wide range of classes, including woodworking, welding, pottery, sewing, 3D printing, laser cutting, electronics and more. Open to beginners and experienced makers alike, these classes provide practical skills, foster creativity, and support sustainable practices by encouraging repair, reuse and local making. Membership is not required to enroll in classes. [Learn more](#).

She Built This City Classes

She Built This City offers hands-on classes and workshops designed to empower women and underrepresented communities with practical skills in construction, woodworking, manufacturing, and the skilled trades. Participants gain valuable technical knowledge while exploring career pathways that contribute to sustainable buildings and resilient communities. The organization also offers youth programs, career exploration, and workforce development opportunities. [Learn more and apply](#)

CleanAIRE Academy

Looking to expand your knowledge of sustainability and environmental health? The CleanAIRE Academy offers free online courses and educational resources covering topics such as air quality, environmental justice, climate impacts, and community engagement. Whether you're a student, professional or simply passionate about creating healthier communities, the Academy provides valuable learning opportunities to help you make a difference.

[Learn more](#).

SEAP+ IN THE COMMUNITY

Charlotte Water drought information

Charlotte Water continues to encourage residents and businesses to conserve water as the region experiences prolonged drought conditions. Mandatory Stage 2 water restrictions remain in effect to help protect the Catawba-Wateree River Basin, with limits on outdoor irrigation, vehicle washing, pool filling, and other non-essential water uses. Officials are asking the community to reduce water consumption by repairing leaks, minimizing outdoor watering, and using water efficiently indoors to help preserve the region's water supply during the hot summer months.

[Learn more](#)

WFAE Story Highlighting Charlotte Heat Mappers

In a recent interview with WFAE, Charlotte Office of Sustainability and Resilience Assistant Director Robyn Byers discussed how extreme heat has become one of the city's most significant climate risks. Speaking with climate reporter Zachary Turner, Byers explained that residents identified heat as their top climate concern during the City's Climate Risk Assessment. The interview also highlighted community feedback gathered through the Charlotte Heat Mappers project, which found that expanding tree canopy, improving access to green spaces, and investing in cooling infrastructure are among the community's highest priorities for reducing heat impacts.

[Read the story](#)

Charlotte Urban Heat Mapper Report is available

The Charlotte Heat Mappers have released their Urban Heat Mapper report, providing detailed insights into how temperatures vary across Mecklenburg County. Using data collected by volunteers and analyzed with support from NOAA, the report identifies neighborhoods experiencing the highest heat exposure and illustrates how tree canopy, parks, and green infrastructure help reduce temperatures. The findings will support future planning efforts focused on improving public health, increasing climate resilience, and guiding investments in cooler, more sustainable neighborhoods.

[Explore the report](#)

WSOC Story Features Innovative Solutions to Rising Temperatures

Charlotte is piloting innovative approaches to combat rising temperatures, including applying a reflective coating, often referred to as "road sunscreen," to selected streets. The coating helps reflect sunlight and reduce heat absorption by asphalt, one of the main contributors to the urban heat island effect. While treated roads still become hot during extreme weather, City officials say the initiative is one of several strategies being tested alongside tree planting, expanded shade, and other cooling measures to make neighborhoods safer and more comfortable during increasingly frequent heat waves. [Watch the story](#)

2026 Charlotte Placemaking Grants Announced

The City of Charlotte just announced the recipients of the 2026 Placemaking Grants, awarding \$175,000 to community-led projects that bring civic advocacy to life in our everyday spaces. Managed by the Urban Design Center and in partnership with Corridors of Opportunity, Vision Zero, and the Office of Sustainability and Resilience, the funding will support 15 local initiatives across our neighborhoods.

From sensory gardens in Eastway and crosswalk murals in Historic Camp Greene to community programming in Washington Heights, these projects focus on activating underused areas and building vibrant gathering spots. It is a fantastic example of what it looks like to empower residents and help our communities grow with ground-up engagement and placemaking.

You can check out the [full list of winning projects and neighborhoods](#).

If you're reading this and you have something to share, hit reply and share it with us!

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Your engagement means a lot to us, and we're committed to bringing you the latest information and resources. Thank you for working with us to help Charlotte strive to lead as a global city by continuously improving, protecting, and preserving the environment, its community, and its economy while ensuring equity and resilience — for today and future generations. To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please use the link provided below.

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