

Budget in Brief



Council Passes FY 2014-15 Annual Operating Budget

On June 17, 2014, the Garner Town Council adopted a \$26,598,679 annual operating budget for fiscal year 2014-15. Important changes in this year's budget include a one-cent property tax increase to be used for emergency services and the use of existing fund balance to pay the first installment of the Town's bond debt approved by voters in 2013.

The property tax increase changes the municipal property tax rate from 49 cents to 50 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This one-cent property tax increase for emergency services is being primarily used to fund Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Inc. for three new firefighter positions and future-year equipment replacement. The tax increase is expected to add \$17.75 to the Town's portion of the average Garner homeowner's property tax bill (see the impact chart to the right for further explanation).

Overall, other Town operational expenditures outside of these areas are decreasing to account for declining revenues in certain areas including privilege licenses, utility franchise fees, and grants. Overall, the Town continues to look for innovative and creative ways to provide services at a low cost to citizens. See the Total Costs for Municipal Service chart at the lower right to see how Garner stacks up against other Wake County communities in providing the same services at a competitive cost.

Revenue Update

- The Town of Garner property tax rate increased one cent in order to fund additional emergency services, primarily fire services.
- The budget includes a new \$50 fire inspection fee for businesses. Look for additional information coming soon.
- Privilege licenses are no longer allowed to be collected on out-of-town businesses.

Impact of One-Cent Property Tax Increase on Homeowners

Property Value	Cost Per Year
\$100,000	\$10.00
\$150,000	\$15.00
\$177,516*	\$17.75
\$200,000	\$20.00
\$250,000	\$25.00
\$500,000	\$50.00

*Average single-family-home valuation in Garner, according to Wake County Revenue Dept.

FY2014-15 Key Initiatives and Investments

- **Garner Police Station** - Construction and renovation of the new police station will begin and be completed during the FY2014-15 budget year.
- **Garner Park Enhancements** - Park enhancements approved by voters in the 2013 bonds will begin this year. Enhancements include new shelters and restrooms at both Garner Recreation Park and South Garner Park.
- **Garner Dog Park** - The town's bond program has also provided funding for construction of a new recreational dog park to be located on Garner Road.
- **Vehicle and Equipment Replacement** - The Town will continue to replace aging vehicles and equipment vital to accomplishing town business and projects.
- **Indoor Recreation Center Design** - Design work will begin on the new indoor recreation center to be located on Main and Montague Streets.
- **Street Sweeper Acquisition** - The Town will replace its existing street sweeper to ensure that streets remain clean and to provide safe roadway conditions for travel.
- **Pothole Repair Program** - The Town will continue to fund the program to help extend the life of streets and improve transportation conditions.
- **Garner Revitalization Association** - The budget includes operational funding to continue downtown promotion and rejuvenation.
- **Gateway Signage Construction** - New Town gateway signage along US 70 West and US 401 North to welcome motorists.

Total Annual Customer Costs for Municipal Service as of FY2014-15

Zebulon	\$2,388.28
Wendell	\$2,298.94
Knightdale	\$1,916.04
Holly Springs	\$1,780.79
Rolesville	\$1,773.82
Wake Forest	\$1,713.28
Garner	\$1,616.33
Apex	\$1,605.81
Fuquay-Varina	\$1,594.66
Cary	\$1,560.79
Morrisville	\$1,476.79

This chart assumes total annual cost for residents based on property tax rate on a single-family residential unit valued at \$177,516, an annual water/sewer usage of 4,500 gallons, and includes all other applicable garbage and stormwater fees.

General Fund Revenues

Property Tax	15,137,339	56.9%
Sales Tax & Intergovernmental	7,663,279	28.8%
Permits & Fees	1,466,658	5.5%
Other Revenues	2,331,403	8.8%
Total	\$26,598,679	100%



General Fund Expenditures

Public Safety	9,551,022	35.9%
Public Works	6,624,276	24.9%
General Government Services	6,412,867	24.1%
Debt Service	2,264,940	8.5%
Parks, Rec. and Cultural Resources	1,745,574	6.6%
Total	\$26,598,679	100%



In June 2013, Garner was named an All-America City by the National Civic League. This award recognizes how local citizen involvement spurs grass-roots solutions to meet pressing challenges and critical needs in the community. Garner is the first city in the Triangle to earn this honor since Durham in 1982-83 and the first in Wake County since Raleigh in 1974-75.

Quick Facts

- Town Population - 26,253
- Size of Town - 15.02 square miles
- Streets - 99.02 miles maintained
- Sidewalks - 51.7 miles maintained
- Greenways/Trails - 5.9 miles maintained
- Parks - 11 parks with 350 acres maintained
- Solid Waste/Recycling - 9,122 tons collected

WHERE TO FIND US

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www.garnernc.gov

GTV11

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