



City of Bowie Memorandum

Thursday, May 7, 2026
Daniel J. Mears, Acting City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. Plant One Tree on Us: Residential Tree Program

To help meet the City's ambitious tree canopy goal of 50%, the City in 2019 launched a residential tree planting program to complement tree planting along City roadways and on City property. To date, 430 trees have been planted with an additional 100 to be planted by June 30 through a partnership with Howard EcoWorks. The program had a surge of interest this spring, and we have a waitlist of over 100 residents for the fall 2026 planting. In addition to the visual beauty and habitat, trees provide temperature regulation and shade; are natural sponges and clean the air, removing greenhouse gases, slow and absorb storm water and foster overall community health and well-being.

2. Bowie Ice Arena - End of Season Highlights

The Bowie Ice Arena successfully concluded its 54th skating season this past weekend with two major events. On Friday evening, the facility partnered with Youth and Family Services and Prince George's County's Mental Health Group to host the *Come Out & Play* event. The program welcomed nearly 300 attendees and featured more than 30 vendors providing resources and support related to childhood mental health. Guests also enjoyed outdoor games, giveaways, and complimentary ice skating from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Over the weekend, the arena hosted the District Figure Skating Championships, drawing more than 300 skaters from Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The competition spanned over 24 hours of skating and showcased participants of all ages and skill levels. The event generated positive economic activity for the community, with visiting families supporting local hotels and restaurants. Additionally, local food trucks were present on-site to enhance the event experience.

The ice arena is scheduled to reopen in July for its summer programming, including public skating sessions, lessons, and camps. Registration is already nearing capacity, reflecting strong community interest.

3. Free Rabies and Microchip Clinic Success

The City of Bowie hosted a Free Rabies and Microchip Clinic on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Bowie City Hall. The event was successful and provided critical veterinary services to the community. A total of 106 pets were vaccinated for rabies, and 48 animals were microchipped during the clinic.

Rabies vaccines were donated by the Prince George's County Health Department, and the clinic was supported by volunteer veterinarian Dr. Alison Mocko of Bowie Spay & Neuter, whose donated time and expertise made it possible to offer these services at no cost.

4. Allen Pond Park - Group Area #6 Renovation

Staff dedicated most of the week to completing ADA improvements at Allen Pond group area #6. The team finished installing the remaining surfacing material and added new picnic tables, grills, and trash cans. Internal drainage was also installed to direct water to the lowest point of the site.

Additionally, the horticulture crew enhanced the area by planting 16 native shrubs along the lower end of the retention wall, including winterberry, bayberry, and ninebark. These plantings will provide much-needed color and visual contrast, while also serving as a natural barrier to discourage patrons from jumping off the wall.



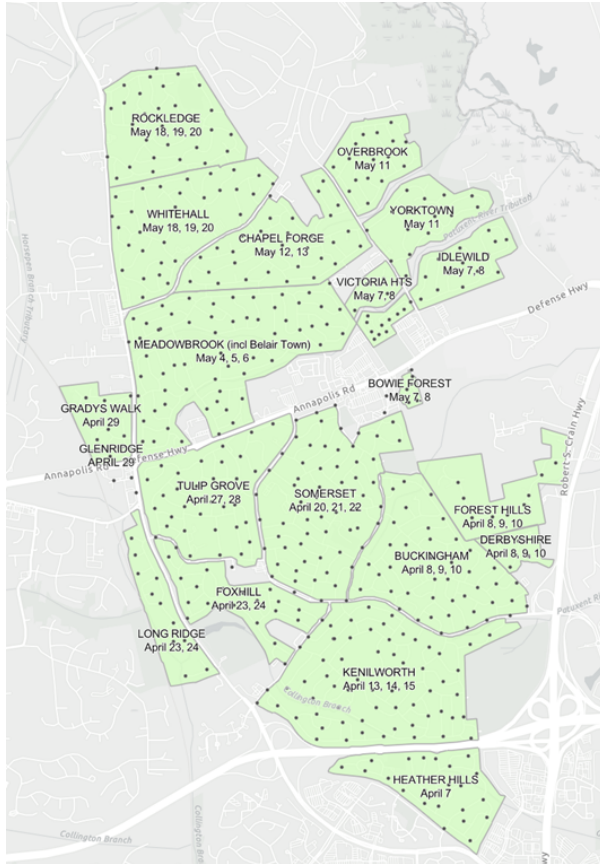
5. Fire Hydrant Flushing

The Public Works Department will be conducting routine hydrant flushing in the Yorktown, Overbrook and Chapel Forge neighborhoods during the week of May 11, 2026, from 9am-3pm.

The flushing may stir up some sediment in the water lines, which can result in some discoloration of the water. The water is safe for drinking and bathing, but clothes washing is discouraged. If clothes become discolored, they are to be kept wet and rewashed using a rust remover. Rust remover is available, at no cost, from City Hall and Public Works offices.

The discoloration should clear in approximately 24-48 hours. However, since the water mains are all interconnected, flushing of hydrants in adjacent sections could affect the water as well.

For more information or questions about hydrant flushing, please call the Public



6. Information Technology – Phishing Email Test

The IT Department recently conducted a phishing email test across all employees. Of the 390 emails sent, 152 users (39 percent) opened the message. Among those, 70 users (18 percent) clicked on the malicious link, while 36 users (9 percent) reported the email as suspicious. Employees who clicked the link were redirected to a “teachable moment” page informing them that they had fallen for a phishing attempt. These 70 users will be assigned additional online training focused on phishing awareness and email security. The IT Department will continue to educate staff and strengthen the organization’s overall cybersecurity posture.

7. Intent to Negotiate

In accordance with Section 61 of the City Charter, notice is hereby given of the intent of the City of Bowie to negotiate with KCI Technologies, Inc based on the design, community engagement, and engineering expertise it has developed in connection with the revitalization strategy of the Bowie Town Center in order to expeditiously assist the City’s Economic Development Committee (Bowie EDC), Economic Development Department, and the Department of Planning and Sustainability to obtain public input and engagement to review, discuss, and comment on the work done to date and to combine the products to determine next steps for the future of that area of the City. Questions regarding this process may be referred to Richard Hall, Director of Planning & Sustainability (301-809-3045).

8. Green Bowie Weekend Event Recap

The Green Team hosted a **Transplanting workday** on Saturday, May 2, at the Community Gardens. Volunteers took seeds that were sown over the winter and individually potted them so they could continue to grow. Plants will be used at one of four pollinator gardens maintained by the Green Team and given away at upcoming events such as Bowiefest reimagined. Volunteers successfully planted around sixteen flats of plants. There are 4 additional transplanting workdays scheduled this Spring.



In partnership with the Historic Properties team, Green Bowie also hosted **Spring Fling** at Belair Mansion on Saturday, May 2nd. 130 residents attended a free yoga class and a Zumba class. Staff also hosted kids' activities, including making native seed balls for planting (pictured), making toilet roll bird feeders, and upcycling old garments into something new through tie-dye.



