



Town Council Work Session
April 30, 2026 | 3:30 PM
Apex Town Hall | 73 Hunter Street, Apex, NC
3rd Floor Training Rooms A and B

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance**
Mayor, Jacques K. Gilbert

- 2. Advancing Tree Protections in Apex**
Nora Skinner, Environmental Programs Coordinator, Planning Department
Bruce Venable, Planner III, Planning Department

- 3. Artificial Intelligence in the Town of Apex**
Connor McKinnis, IT Consultant, Information Technology (IT) Dept.

- 4. Naming Practices Discussion – continued from April 21, 2026**
Mayor Jacques K. Gilbert

- 5. Adjournment**

English	Spanish	Chinese (Simplified)
<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS Members of the public can access and view the meeting on the Town’s YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/c/TownofApexGov or attend in-person. The meeting date, start time, and location details are included at the top of this agenda document.</p>	<p>ANUNCIOS Las personas interesadas pueden acceder y ver la reunión a través del canal de YouTube de la Ciudad en https://www.youtube.com/c/TownofApexGov o asistir en persona. En la parte superior de este documento de agenda se indican la fecha, la hora de inicio y la ubicación de la reunión.</p>	<p>公告 公众可通过镇政府的YouTube频道 https://www.youtube.com/c/TownofApexGov 在线旁听会议，或选择现场参与。会议日期、开始时间及地点详情见本议程文件顶部。</p>
<p>Accommodation Statement: Anyone needing special accommodations to attend this meeting and/or if this information is needed in an alternative format, please contact the Town Clerk’s Office. The Town Clerk is located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex Town Hall on the 2nd Floor, (email) allen.coleman@apexnc.org or (phone) 919-249-1260.</p>	<p>Aviso sobre adaptaciones: Si necesita adaptaciones especiales para asistir a esta reunión o requiere esta información en un formato alternativo, comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal, ubicada en el segundo piso del Ayuntamiento de Apex, en 73 Hunter Street, por correo electrónico a través de allen.coleman@apexnc.org o llamando al 919-249-1260.</p>	<p>便利服务声明: 如需特殊便利服务以参加本次会议，或需要将本信息提供为其他格式，请联系镇书记官办公室。 办公地址：Apex镇政务厅二楼（Hunter街73号） 邮箱：allen.coleman@apexnc.org 电话：919-249-1260</p>



Advancing Tree Protections in Apex

Environmental Advisory Board

Town Council Work Session
April 30, 2026






Background



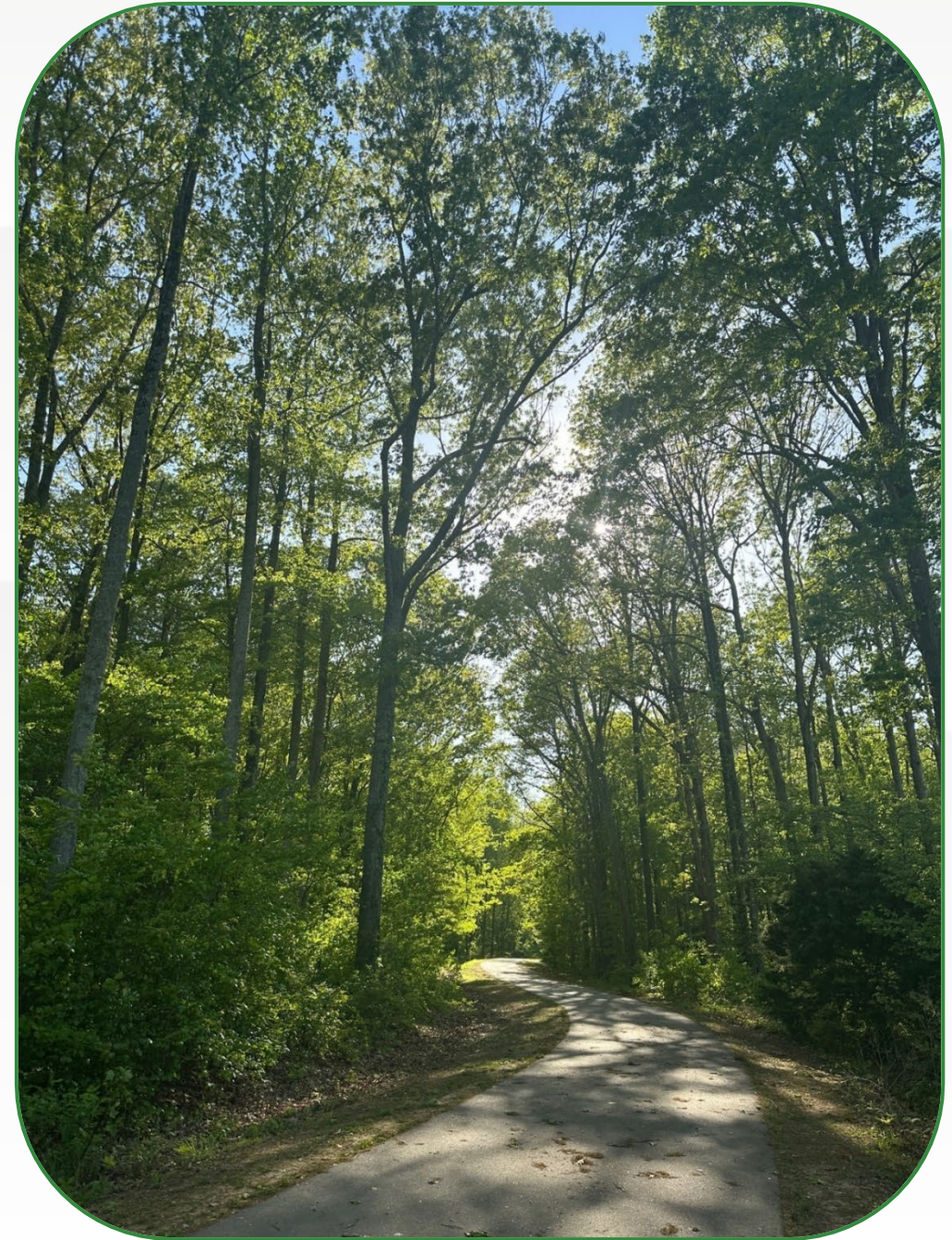


Purpose

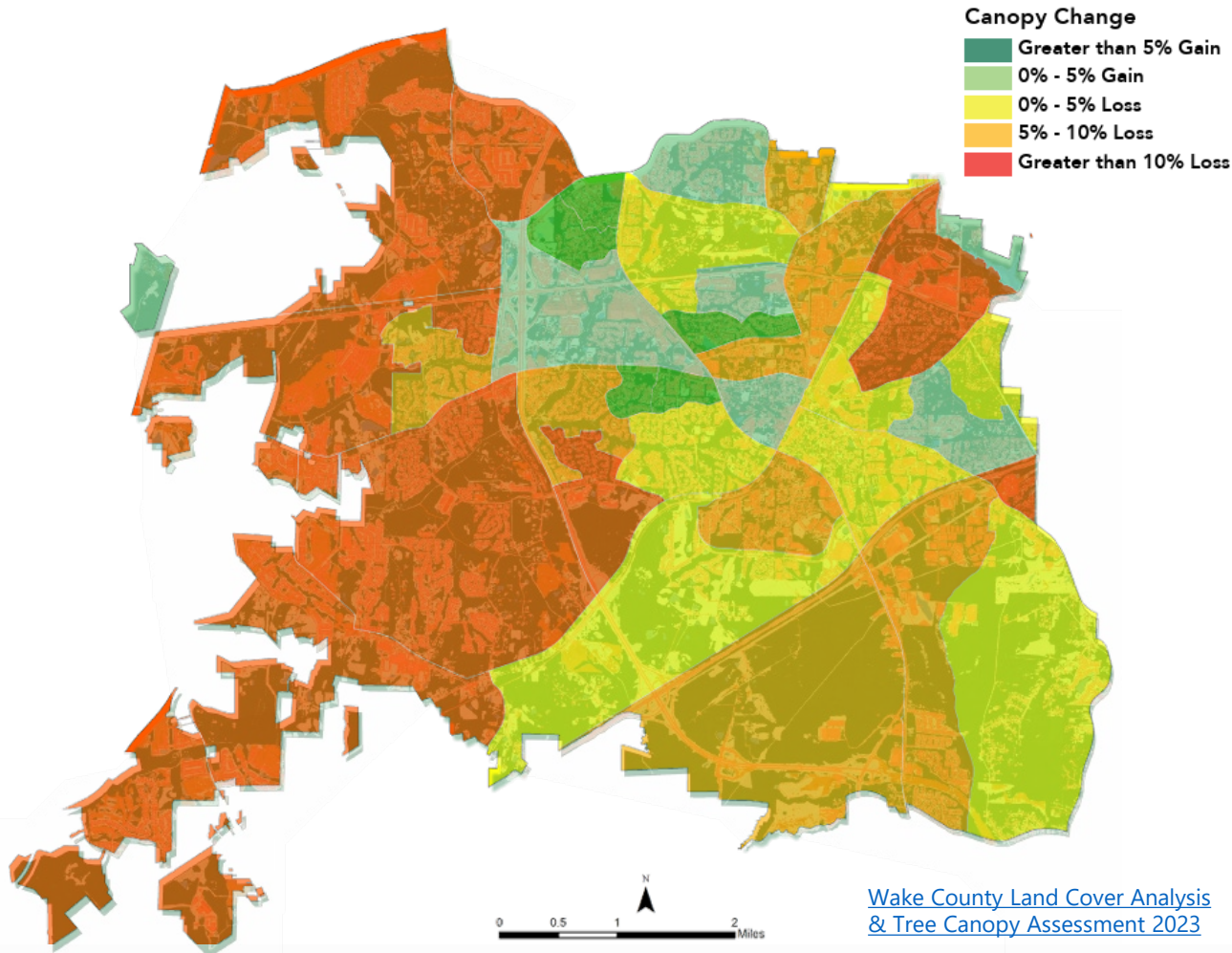
- **Goal:** EAB recommendations to strengthen long-term protection of trees and natural areas across the Town of Apex
 - **Recommendations are informed by:**
 - 2018 Wake County Trees and Stormwater Survey
 - 2023 Wake County Land Cover Analysis & Tree Canopy Assessment
 - Cape Fear Alliance for Trees' Code and Canopy document
 - Best practices from peer municipalities
 - **Intended Outcome:** Council feedback to advance priority strategies
- 

What is an Urban Tree Canopy?

- **Canopy** = The layer of leaves and branches that provides shade.
- **Urban Tree Canopy** = The % of land area covered by tree canopy. Includes natural and impervious surfaces under the canopy.



MAP E.2 CANOPY CHANGE (2010-2020) BY BLOCK GROUP

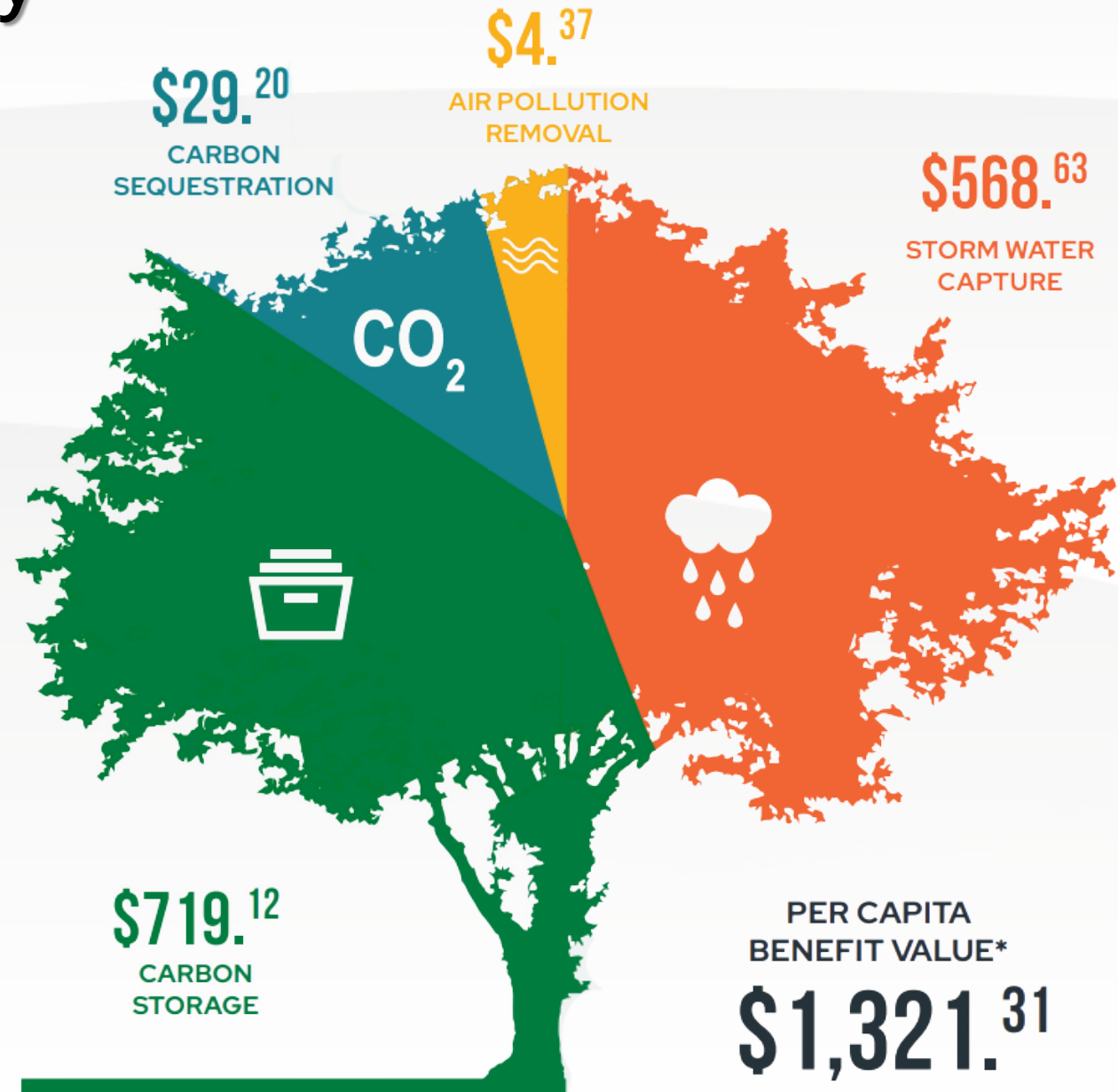


Wake County Tree Canopy Assessment

- From 2010-2020, Apex planning jurisdiction lost **2,180 acres** of tree canopy.
- **15.2% decrease** in total canopy and **9.0% decline** in canopy cover related to overall land cover.
- The tree canopy within Apex is estimated to be worth around **\$131 million dollars**, based on its structural value and annual ecosystem services value.

Benefit of Apex's Tree Canopy

- Apex's tree canopy provides us with valuable ecosystem services
- Total estimated value of ecosystem services provided per resident: **\$1,321**
- Based on the 2020 population of 58,780, (specific to the corporate limits), the tree valuation was **\$77,666,790**.






Extreme Heat

Based on the 2020 NC Climate Science Report:

- The past decade (2009–2018) and 2019 have been the warmest years on record
- Temperatures are projected to keep rising
- It is likely that future urban growth will increase the magnitude of the urban heat island effect



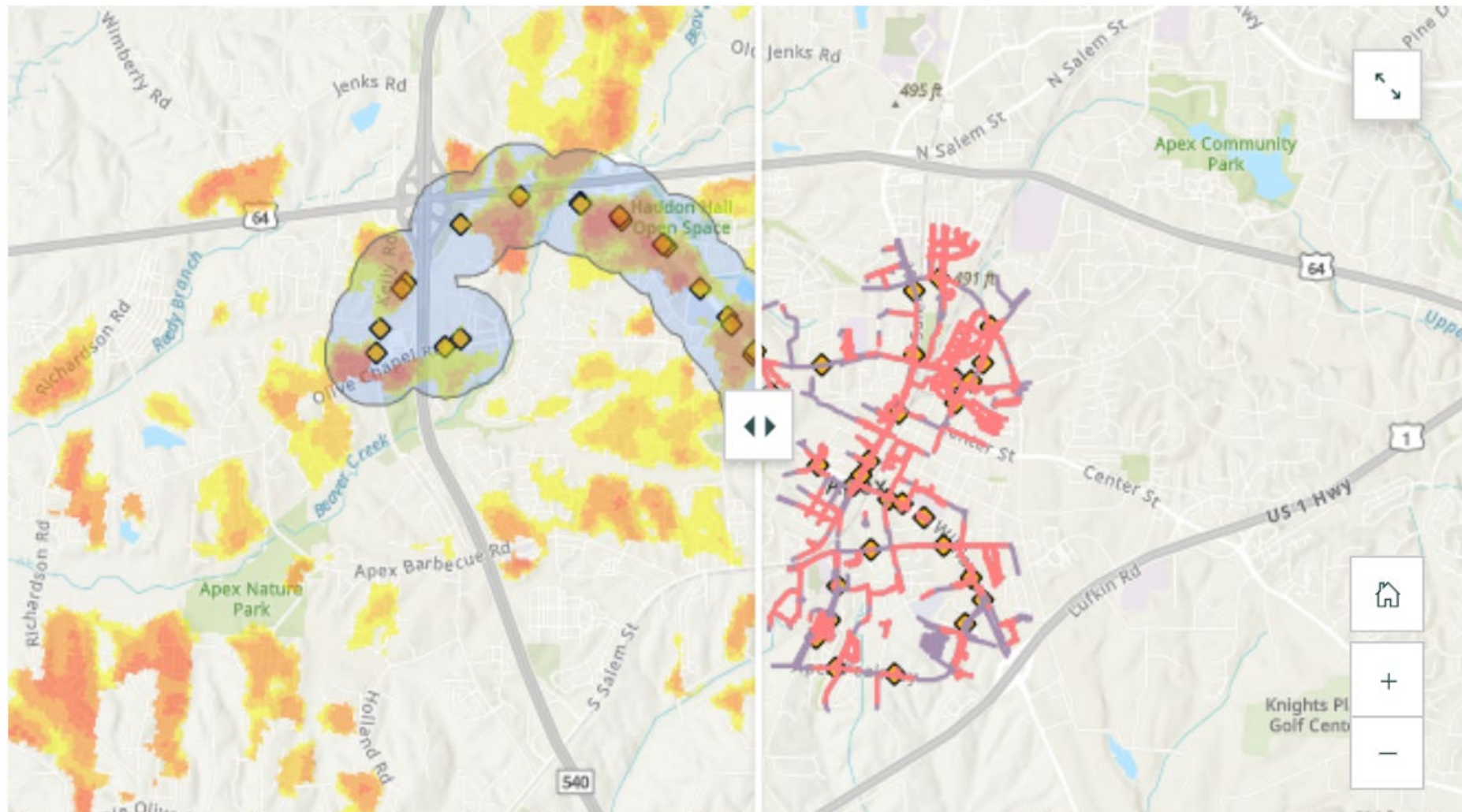
Tree Canopy as Extreme Heat Mitigation

- Apex participated in the NC Climate Office's Planning for Extreme Heat cohort program
 - Increasing urban tree canopy is one of the top extreme heat mitigation recommendations to combat urban heat island effect
 - Reduce local air temperatures
 - Reduce surface temperatures
 - Provide shade
 - Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
 - NCSU Master's in GIS partnership
- 

NCSU MGIS Story Maps

 **49%**

of the bus stop zone is prone to extreme heat



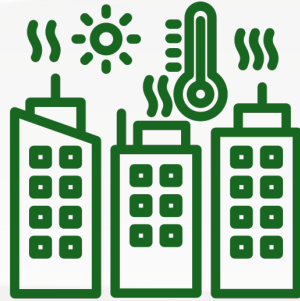
Duke University | Town of Apex | Wake County | State of North Carolina DOT | Esri | TomTom | ... 5,000 ft Powered by Esri

Bus Stops and Quarter Mile Buffer

Why Tree Canopy Matters



**Improves air
& water quality**



**Reduces heat
island effect**



**Enhances property value
& aesthetic appeal**



**Absorbs carbon
dioxide**



**Reduces
stormwater runoff**



**Supports native
biodiversity**



**Benefits
public health**

and we know...

Preserving Tree Canopy is a Community Priority!



Tree City & Tree Line USA 



Game Plan Apex



Plant the Peak Program



EarthFest 2025 Survey



Snapshot of Current Town Tree Policies

Category	Requirement
Tree Removal	Permit required for trees >8" caliper (exempts single family/duplexes)
Tree Protection	Fencing requires flagged trees & pre-installation inspection
RCA Eligibility	Undisturbed forested areas, wildlife habitat, riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands, or newly planted native species (when not enough RCA land is avail.)
RCA Planting when unvegetated (within 50ft ROW)	75% large trees + 25% understory vegetation
RCA Planting when unvegetated (beyond 50ft)	Reforestation plan with 400–700 seedlings/acre
Tree Removal - Aesthetic	NOT allowed inside RCA; tree removal for views only prohibited
Native Species	All landscaping must use native/adaptive species
Parking Lot Shading	35% shading at maturity; no part >40ft from large tree or >20ft from small tree
Replacement Cost	\$20/sq. ft. disturbed area (max \$40,000) OR replace tree ≥ 8 " with ≥ 8 " caliper

Snapshot of Resource Conservation Area (RCA)

RCA Eligibility	Undisturbed forested areas, wildlife habitat, riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands, or newly planted native species (when not enough RCA is avail.)
Planned Developments	Determined by Town Council per Sec. 2.3.4.F.1.c & 8.1.2.C.4–10
Small Town Character Overlay	EXEMPT from RCA requirements
Low Density Single-Family (≤ 2 dwelling units/acre)	EXEMPT from RCA requirements (except for mass grading)
North & East of NC 540 (outside Apex Peakway)	$\geq 20\%$ of gross site acreage
South & West of NC 540 (Single-family/townhome)	$\geq 30\%$ of gross site acreage
South & West of NC 540 (Multi-family/mixed-use/non-res)	$\geq 25\%$ of gross site acreage
Inside Apex Peakway	$\geq 10\%$ of gross site acreage
Mass Grading for Single-family Detached	Additional 5% of gross site acreage



Environmental Advisory Board Recommendations



High Priority Recommendations

"Best"

Recommendations 1 – 5

Urban Forester • RCA Criteria • Heritage Trees • Root Zones •
Native Landscaping

1. Establish Champion and Heritage Trees

What:

- Designate trees of exceptional size, age, or cultural value
- Specimen trees: ≥ 24 " DBH (all species)
- Longleaf pines: protected at ≥ 18 " DBH
- Require preservation unless no feasible alternative
- Replacement ratio: 2 caliper inches per inch removed

Current Code:

UDO references "specimen trees" as any other tree than a pine ≥ 18 " caliper (Sec. 8.1.2.B.1.d), only protected within the RCA and Buffers.

Why It Matters

Large-caliper trees provide exponentially greater ecological benefits than young trees, and provides more carbon storage, stormwater interception, shade, and wildlife habitat.

Replacing a 30" oak with several 2.5" saplings does not replicate these services for decades.

Cape Fear Alliance Code & Canopy (Oct. 2025) specifically calls for ≥ 24 " DBH protections for all species statewide.



2. Review Resource Conservation Area Criteria

What: Amend UDO Sec. 8.1.2.B.1.g to prohibit or reduce the credit allowed for impervious private recreation areas (pools, tennis courts, tot lots) counting toward RCA.

Why: RCA's stated purpose is to preserve natural resources and wildlife habitat, but by allowing paved surfaces to count as 50% RCA credit directly undermines this goal.

Current Code: Sec. 8.1.2.B.1.g allows pools, tennis courts, and similar impervious areas on lots ≥ 0.3 acres to count as 50% of RCA requirement.

Fix: Restrict or eliminate impervious surface credit under Sec. 8.1.2.B.1.g. Review all RCA subsections for consistency with conservation purpose.



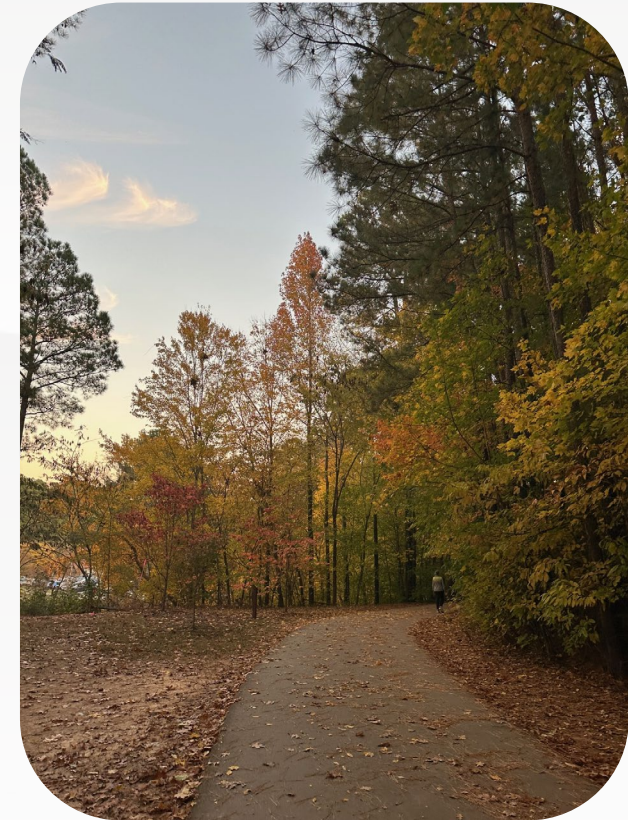
3. Hire Dedicated Urban Forester & Create Apex Urban Forestry Master Plan

What: Create a dedicated Town position solely focused on tree canopy initiatives. Develop an Urban Forestry Master Plan to guide long-term canopy management.

Why: Cary, Charlotte, Durham, Morrisville, Raleigh, & Wake Forest all have dedicated urban forestry staff. Without unified leadership, tree regulations are spread across multiple departments with no single accountable point.

Code Gap: No dedicated position currently exists. Reviews are performed by Planners/ZCOs as part of broader duties (UDO Sec. 2.1.6.A.1.i).

Fix: Amend UDO to formally establish a Chief Urban Forester role with defined authority over Secs. 8.1 & 8.2, tree inventory, and an Apex Tree Manual.





3. Example Chief Urban Forester Job Duties

1. To administer and enforce the provisions of Sections 8.1.2 *Resource Conservation*, and 8.2.1 *Landscaping, Buffering, and Screening*.
2. To lead and supervise tree regulation review, enforcement, and compliance.
3. To lead Town-wide and department urban forestry goals and initiatives.
4. To interpret and translate information to the public on regulatory processes, planning initiatives, and land use policies related to urban forestry and tree canopy.
5. Prepare and make available to the public an Apex Tree Manual which includes guidelines for compliance with the UDO.
6. To conduct a town-wide tree inventory to document tree health, size, species, and canopy spread to inform preservation decisions.
7. To designate appropriate other person(s) who shall carry out the powers and duties of the Chief Urban Forester.

4. Protect Critical Root Zone

Recommendation: Update the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) definition to include all trees, including those under 8 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and standalone trees outside of save areas.

Why?

1. Protects Tree Health and Longevity

The CRZ contains the majority of a tree's fine roots, which absorb water and nutrients. Disturbance, such as grading, compaction, or trenching, within this area can significantly stress or kill the tree.

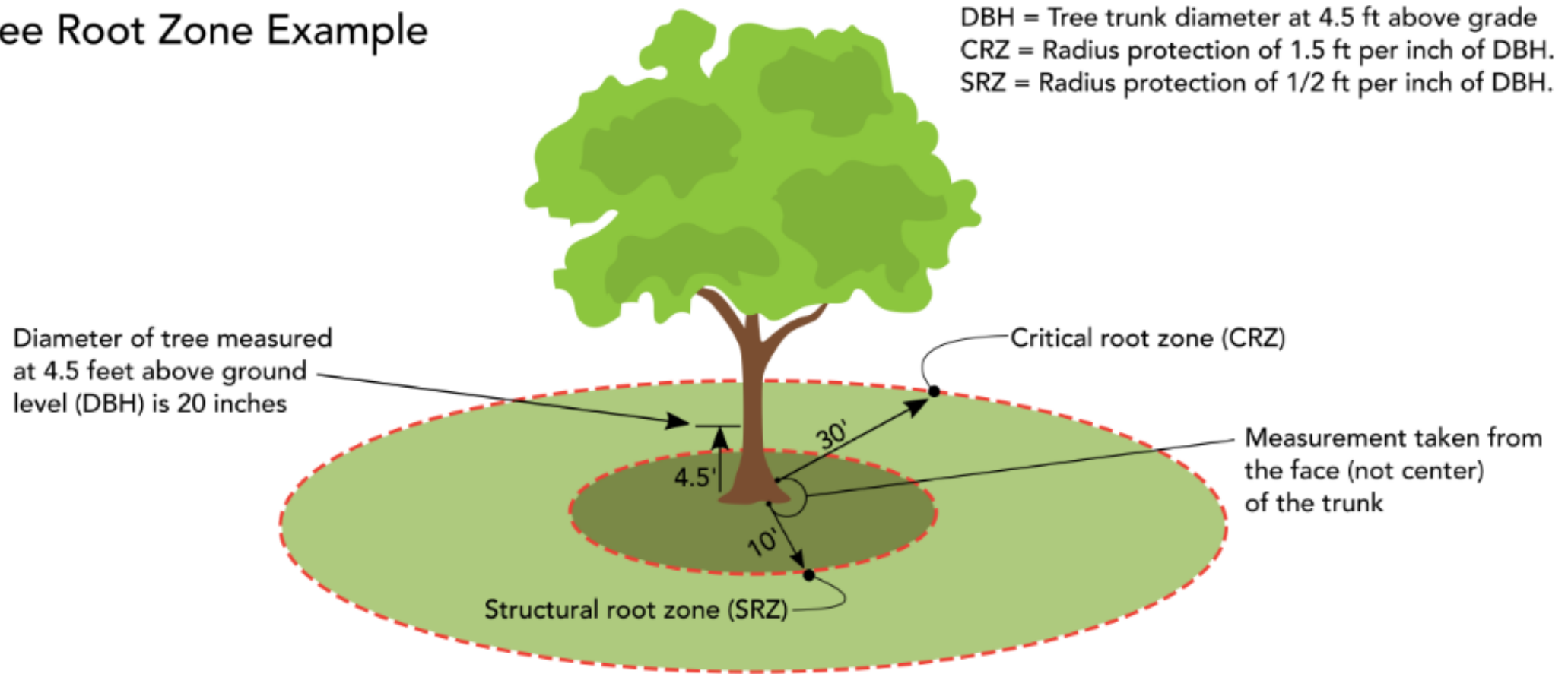
2. Prevents Soil Compaction

Construction activities (equipment, stockpiling, foot traffic) compact soil within the CRZ, reducing oxygen availability to roots. This can lead to root suffocation and decline over time, even if damage isn't immediately visible.

3. Maintains Structural Stability

Roots within the CRZ anchor the tree. Disturbing them can increase the risk of tree failure, especially during storms, creating safety hazards for people and property.

Tree Root Zone Example



5. Standardize Town Policies for Landscaping

What: Adopt the Native Plant UDO amendment (in progress) and establish baseline native landscaping policies across all Town-managed properties and rights-of-way.

Why: Native trees support local wildlife habitat, require less irrigation, and are more resilient to regional climate stress. Consistent standards across departments ensure the Town leads by example.

Current Code: UDO Sec. 8.2.1 already requires native or adaptive species for new development landscaping. An Approved Plant List exists in the Design & Development Manual. Native Plant UDO amendment in progress.

Fix: Codify native plant requirements so they apply beyond new development. Promote interdepartmental coordination on Town-managed sites.





Medium Priority Recommendations

"Better"

Recommendations 6 – 10

Mitigation Fund • Species Diversity • Preservation
Incentives • Partnerships

6. Tree Mitigation Fund

What:

- Create a dedicated Tree Mitigation Fund (modeled on Charlotte's program). Require contractors and site supervisors to complete tree preservation training.

Why:

- A Tree Mitigation Fund provides dedicated funding to replace lost trees, expand canopy, and support staffing and expertise in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture. It advances proactive urban forest management.

Example:

- Charlotte's ordinance allows for payment in lieu of protecting trees on site in certain development situations. Payments fund:
 - Tree Canopy Preservation Program (land acquisition)
 - Tree Canopy Care Fund (private tree planting and maintenance)
 - Street Tree Planting Fund



6. Code and Canopy Example Language:

Example:

“Mitigation funds collected under this ordinance shall be deposited into a dedicated Tree Mitigation Fund, exclusively dedicated to urban forestry initiatives within the City/County, including: tree planting, replacement, and establishment programs; maintenance, care, and preservation of existing public trees; urban tree canopy assessments and management planning; acquisition or conservation easements of land specifically for the purpose of tree preservation; and educational programs, community outreach, and administrative costs directly associated with urban forestry efforts.

The City/County shall publicly report the status of the Tree Mitigation Fund as part of the annual budgeting process and make it available for public review and comment. Reports shall clearly detail: total funds received (including date, amount, and source of all mitigation payments); detailed expenditures (including project descriptions, locations, amounts spent, and dates); fund balance; budget forecasts outlining anticipated income and planned expenditures.” “Unauthorized removal of protected trees shall incur mitigation fees at double the standard rate. Repeat violations trigger stop-work orders.”

- Code and Canopy

7. Landscape Standards for New Development

$\geq 75\%$

Native species
required in all
landscape plans

$\leq 25\%$

Max per species
or cultivar
(diversity mandate)

600 cu ft

Minimum soil
volume for large
canopy trees

Why: Monocultures are vulnerable to pests and disease (e.g., Emerald Ash Borer). Diversity mandates build resilience. Adequate soil volume is critical for large trees to reach full health. Trees planted in insufficient soil may fail prematurely.

Current Code: UDO Sec. 8.2.2.B.1 requires native/adaptive species but sets no percentage thresholds, per-species diversity limits, or soil volume minimums.

Fix: Amend UDO Sec. 8.2.2 to add $\geq 75\%$ native threshold, $\leq 25\%$ per-species diversity limit, and minimum soil volume standards.

7. Code and Canopy Example Language:

Soil Quality & Volume: "Each large canopy tree shall be provided a minimum of 600 cubic feet of non-compacted soil at least 3 feet deep. Tree planting sites must be excavated to remove construction debris and backfilled with amended soil consistent with ANSI A300 standards. Soils shall meet a minimum infiltration rate of 0.5 inches per hour, and compaction shall not exceed 85% Proctor density unless structural soil or suspended pavement systems are used."

Selection & Diversity: "At least 75% of all trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in any required landscape plan shall be native to the southeastern U.S. or naturalized species proven to support local ecosystems. Sites planting more than 20 trees must also meet species diversity requirements. Up to 25% of required plant material may be non-native but non-invasive, subject to staff approval. Any planting list with more than 25% non-native species must include written justification and a mitigation strategy, such as supplemental native plantings, pollinator habitat, or wildlife-supportive design features. Developments that exceed the 75% native requirement—particularly those planting 100% native species—may qualify for reduced buffer widths, expedited review, or landscape credit bonuses."

8. Incentivize Preservation / Flexible Standards

What: Grant density incentives (bonus dwelling units) for projects preserving $\geq 25\%^*$ of existing canopy. Allow dimensional reductions (setbacks, lot coverage) for projects exceeding canopy standards by $\geq 25\%$.

*For Apex the percentages may be dependent on general location to align with the UDO's current RCA and Open Space requirements in Section 8.1.2

Why: Positive incentives can be more effective than penalties in encouraging developers to integrate tree preservation into designs from the outset. The Cape Fear Alliance Code & Canopy guide highlights incentive-based preservation, which include flexible density provisions as proven tools for slowing canopy loss.

Current Code: UDO Sec. 8.2.2.C.ii allows a 5–20% reduction in required parking to preserve existing healthy trees. No broader density bonuses or dimensional reductions for canopy preservation are currently established.

Fix: Amend the UDO to create a formal canopy preservation incentive program with defined thresholds for density and/or dimensional flexibility.

8. Code and Canopy Example Language:

Example:

“Modifications to dimensional or design requirements (e.g., setbacks, lot coverage, or height limits) may be granted to projects that preserve at least 25% of the total site as undisturbed greenspace, inclusive of mature tree stands, native vegetation, and natural hydrologic features.”

“ Projects preserving 25% or more of existing on-site tree canopy may qualify for increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR), reduced impervious surface thresholds, or bonus dwelling units in designated high-density zoning districts.”

- Code and Canopy

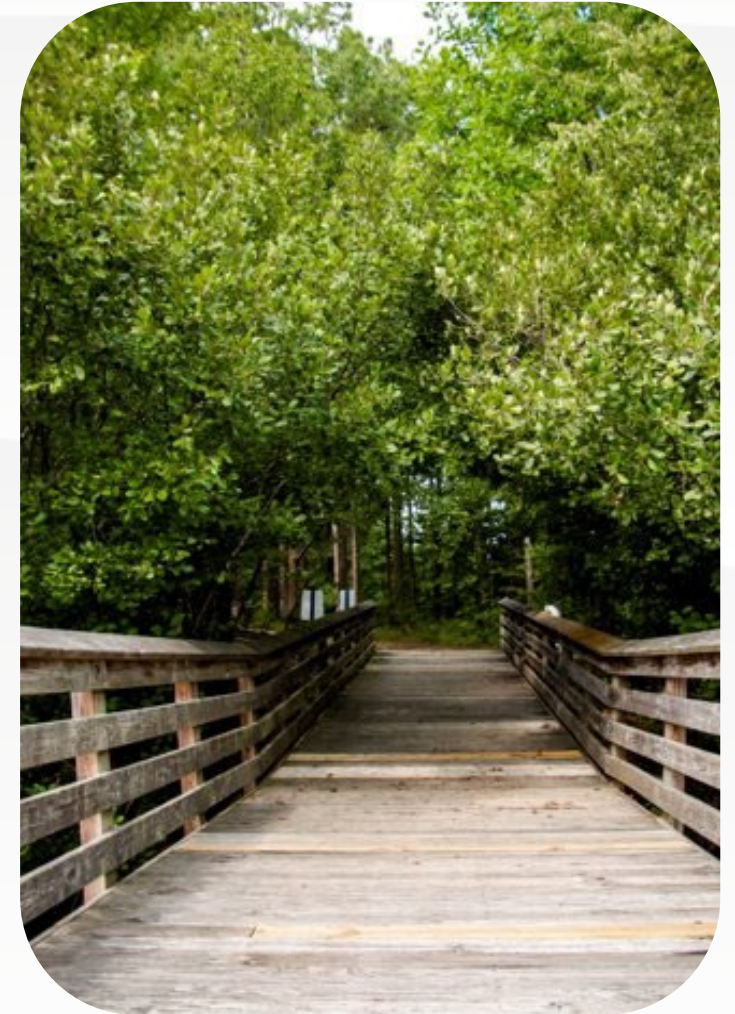
9. Require Resource Management Plans

What:

- Require Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for projects over 2 acres, including early-stage professional tree inventories and surveys certified by a licensed arborist, urban forester, or landscape architect.

Why:

- To ensure existing trees are accurately identified and protected early in the design process, improving preservation outcomes and reducing avoidable canopy loss.

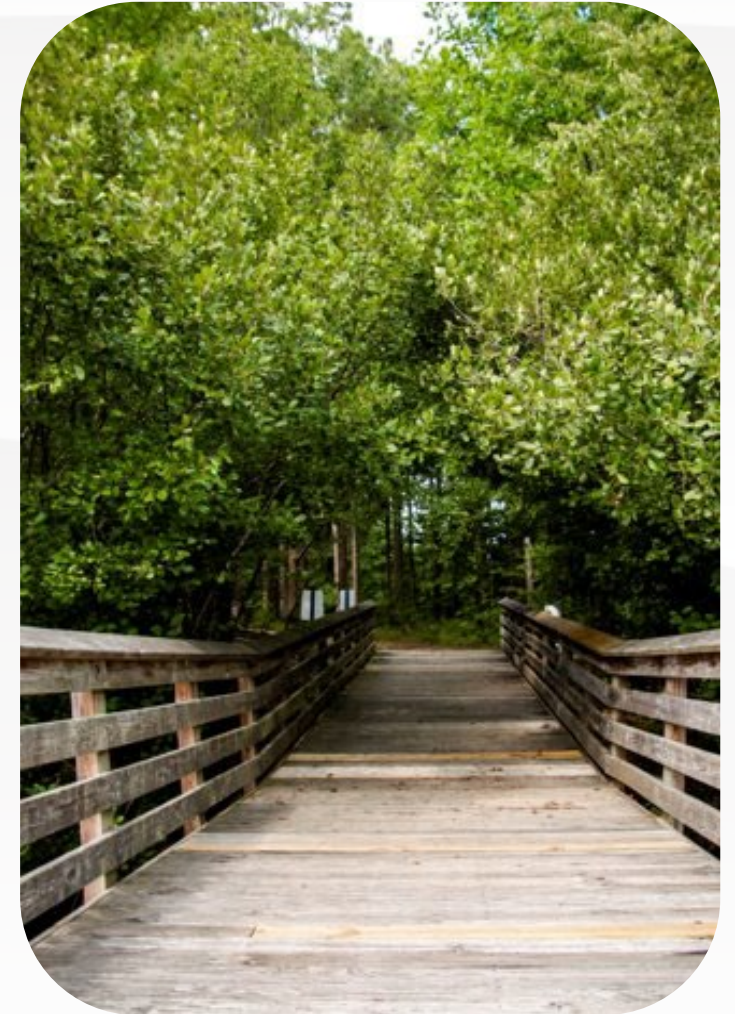


9. Code and Canopy Example Language:

Example:

"Development projects ≥ 1 acre shall submit a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with their initial application. The RMP must inventory all trees ≥ 8 " DBH, identify significant or native trees, and outline preservation strategies. Plans must demonstrate how tree protection was considered before site layout. No grading permit shall be issued without an approved RMP."

- Code and Canopy



10. Mandate Alternative Routing Analyses (Utilities)

What:

- Require routing analyses for essential services impacting protected trees and mandate coordination with Urban Forestry staff during preliminary planning to minimize canopy loss.

Why:

- To ensure adequate space is identified and protected early in the planning process, allowing for successful tree planting and long-term canopy establishment.



10. Code and Canopy Example Language:

Example:

“All development or infrastructure proposals involving essential services shall submit an Alternative Routing Analysis. No route disturbing the critical root zone of a protected tree may be approved unless the applicant demonstrates, in writing, that all reasonable alternatives were explored and found infeasible. City and County agencies shall coordinate with urban forestry staff during early planning to identify tree protection opportunities. Projects that avoid canopy impacts may qualify for reduced mitigation requirements.”

“Integrate Tree Protection into Preliminary Planning “All public infrastructure and utility projects shall coordinate with the Urban Forestry Division or Sustainability Office during the preliminary planning phase. Tree preservation considerations must be documented in master planning documents and GIS-based siting. Plans shall show efforts to avoid tree impacts and identify significant canopy, critical root zones, and other sensitive areas prior to technical review. Infrastructure projects that lack early coordination and avoidance shall not be deemed complete for submittal.”

- Code and Canopy



Priority

Policy & Programmatic Goals

High
"Best"

1. Define and Protect "Heritage" and "Champion" Trees
2. Review Existing RCA Criteria
3. Hire a Dedicated Urban Forester Position
4. Codify Critical Root Zone (CRZ) Protection
5. Standardize Policies for Town Landscaping

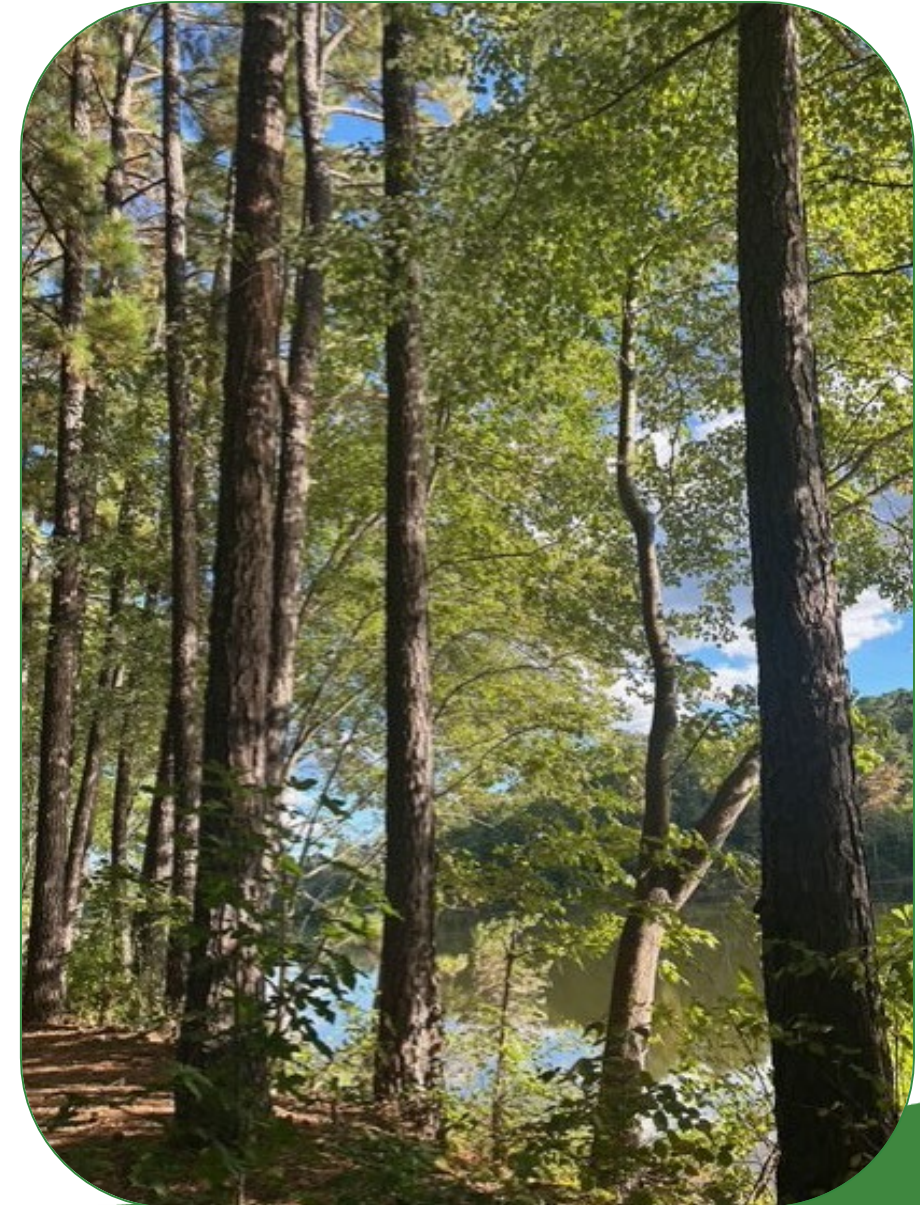
Medium
"Better"

6. Tree Mitigation Fund
7. Landscape Standards for New Development
8. Incentivize Preservation / Flexible Standards
9. Require Resource Management Plans
10. Mandate Alternative Routing Analyses (Utilities)

Questions for us?

Next Steps

- 1 Council feedback?
- 2 Staff initiates UDO amendment process with stakeholder review for priority recommendations
- 3 EAB continues coordination with Trees for the Triangle, Arbor Day Foundation, and Triangle Land Conservancy





Thank You

Resources

Apex Resources

- [Wake County Tree Canopy Assessment Apex Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Apex Town Code of Ordinances](#)
- [Tree Protection Fencing Permit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Unified Development Ordinance – Apex Website](#)

External Resources

- [Wake County Land Cover Analysis and Tree Canopy Assessment](#)
- [2018 Trees & Stormwater Study](#)
- [NC General Statutes](#)
- [Tree City USA Standards – Arbor Day Foundation](#)
- [Urban Tree Canopy – Fact Sheet and Guidelines](#)
- [Urban Trees – Services and Benefits](#)
- [2020 NC Climate Science Report](#)

Cary

[Community Appearance Manual](#)
[Urban Forest Master Plan – Tree Planting Projects Cary, NC+1](#)

Charlotte

[Charlotte Tree Manual & Legacy Guidelines \(PDF\) City of Charlotte](#)
[Charlotte Tree Ordinance \(PDF\) City of Charlotte](#)

Raleigh

[Raleigh Unified Development Ordinance – Article 9.1: Tree Conservation](#)

Wake Forest

[Wake Forest Urban Forestry \(Public Works\) Wake Forest, NC](#)



04/30/2026

Artificial Intelligence in the Town of Apex

How the Town uses AI to improve the Peak of Good Living



AGENDA

- Introductions
- AI as a tool
- AI 101 (non-snoozefest edition)
- How AI supports Town strategy
- The AI gap
- The path forward
- Demo: Chat with the FY27 Budget
- The need for direction and guidance
- Questions



Introduction



Introductions

- IT Security and Innovations
- Innovations team implements the Town's priorities in smart cities initiatives, operational efficiency, and proactive engagement with technology.
- High focus on responsibly engaging with AI for operational gains across the Town's service portfolio.
- Formed in 2025 (IT's newest team)



AI as a Tool





AI as a Tool

- Tools are **means, not ends**, to deliver excellent, reliable, and equitable services.
- **Heavily reliant on human judgement**
- Critical tool for several established priorities:
 - Smart Cities leadership
 - Community Readiness Plan – AI Driver of Change
 - Traffic & mobility
 - Resident experience

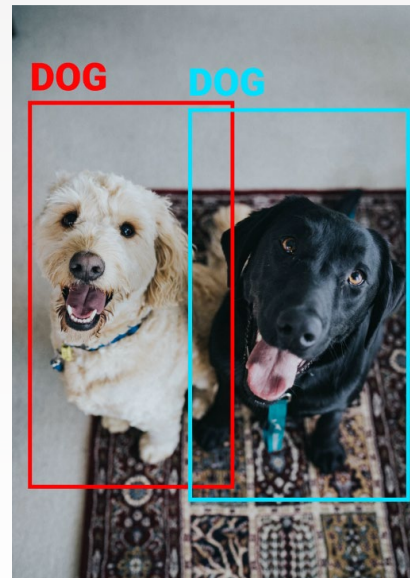
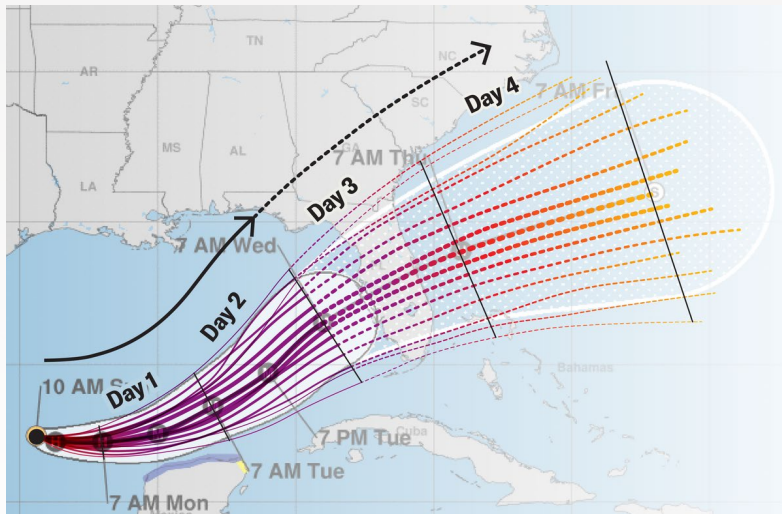
AI 101 (non-snoozefest edition)



What is AI?

- '...the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings'
- **Machine learning** uses vast data to train AI to perform tasks

Predictive AI



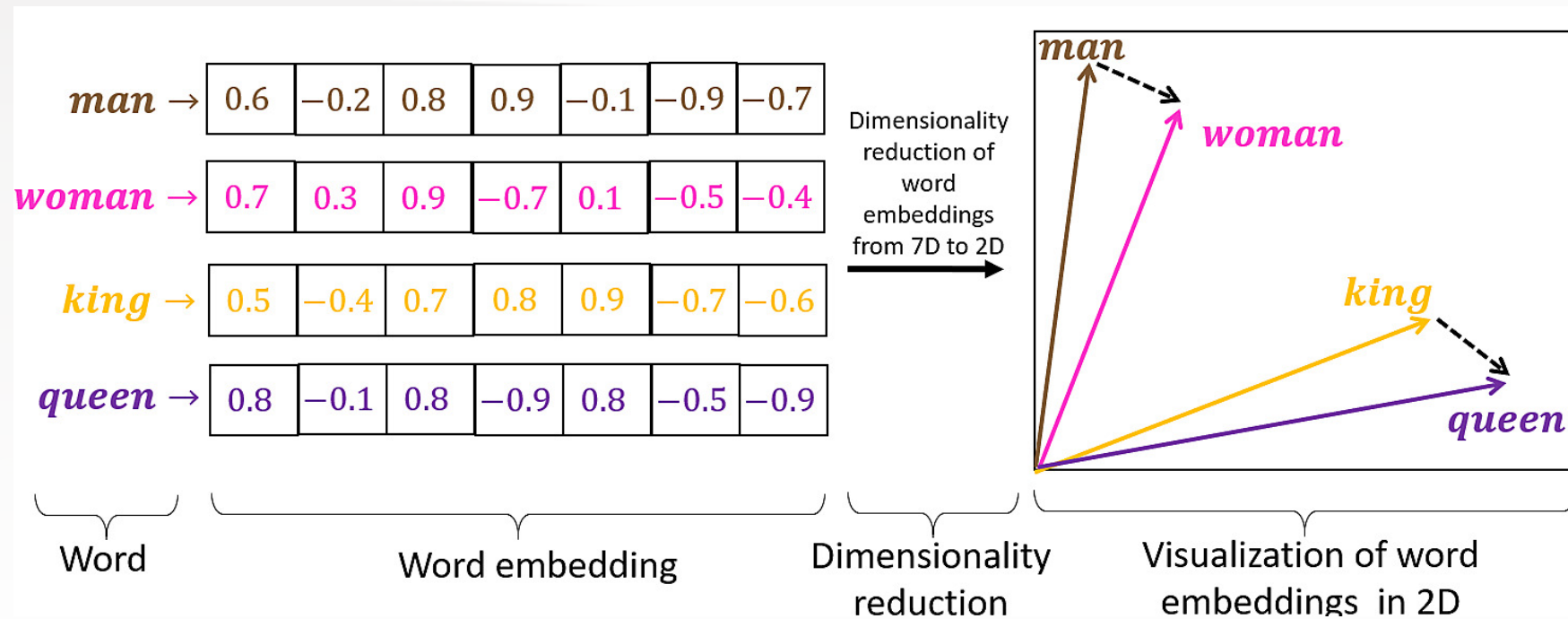
Generative AI



polimorphic

What does a Large Language Model 'Know'?

- LLMs understand semantic relationships between words, phrases, and sentences
- LLMs are trained to generate **rational** responses to prompts
 - Not necessarily correct



Strengths and Weaknesses

- Faster data processing
- Handles low-interest tasks
- More flexible than traditional automations

- Can be confidently wrong (hallucination)
- Mirrors its training data (bias)
- Induces over-reliance

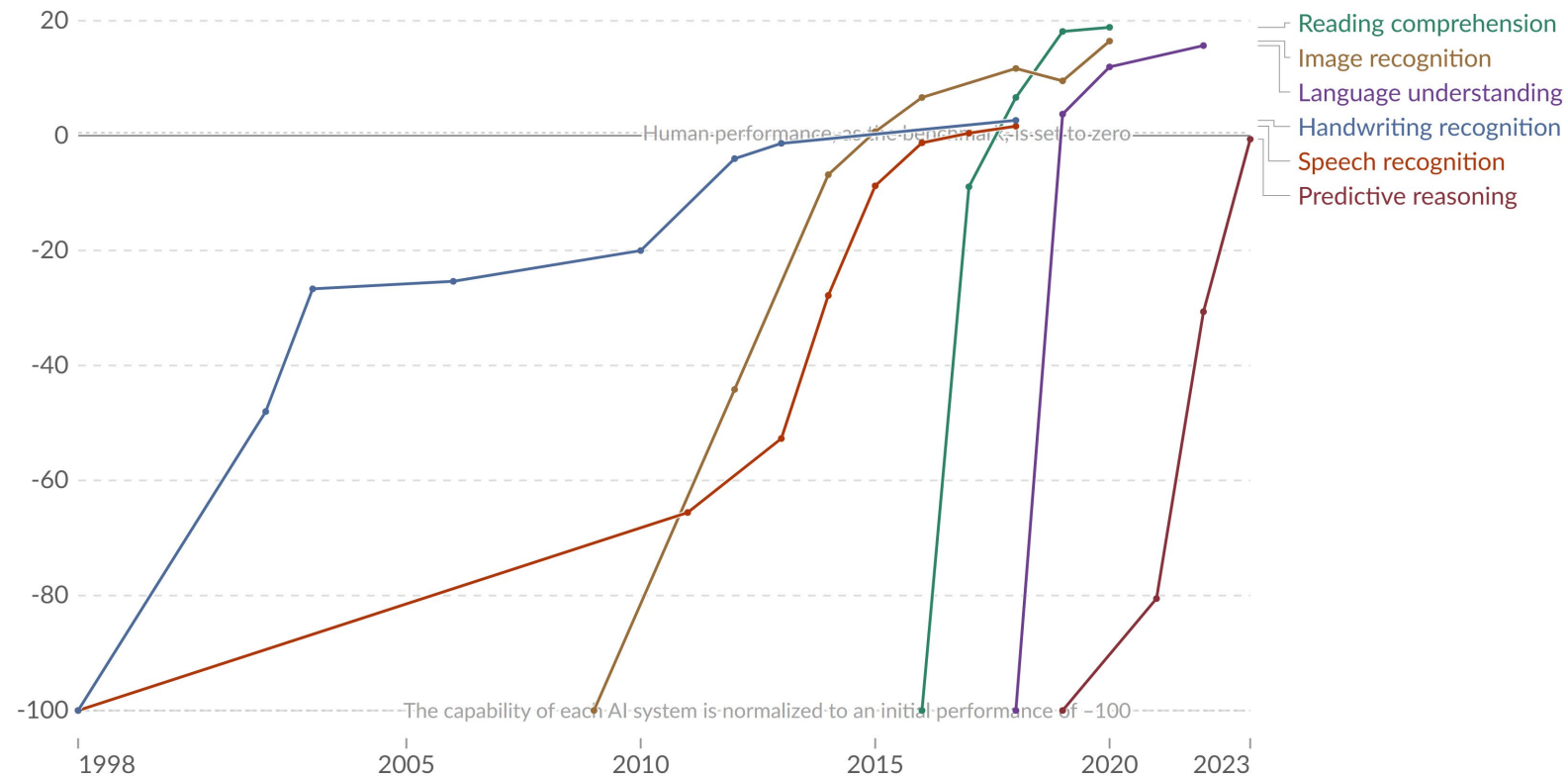
Case	Court / Jurisdiction	Date ▼	Party Using AI	AI Tool ⓘ	Nature of Hallucination	Outcome / Sanction
Meyer v. Castroville State Bank	CA Texas (4th Dist.) (USA)	22 April 2026	Pro Se Litigant	Implied	Fabricated Case Law (2)	
Alishia Monique Jones v. Ahmed Taylor, et al.	E.D. Michigan (USA)	22 April 2026	Pro Se Litigant	Implied	Fabricated Case Law (2)	Warning
Krista C. Geddes v. LoanCare, LLC, et al.	E.D. California (USA)	22 April 2026	Lawyer	Implied	False Quotes Case Law (2)	Monetary Sanction; Bar Referral
Carol L. Williams v. Tracy Honl	CA Oregon (USA)	22 April 2026	Lawyer	Unidentified	Fabricated Case Law (1) False Quotes Case Law (1) Misrepresented Case Law (3)	Brief Struck; Adverse Costs Order

High Potential...

Test scores of AI systems on various capabilities relative to human performance

Our World
in Data

Within each domain, the initial performance of the AI is set to -100. Human performance is used as a baseline, set to zero. When the AI's performance crosses the zero line, it scored more points than humans.



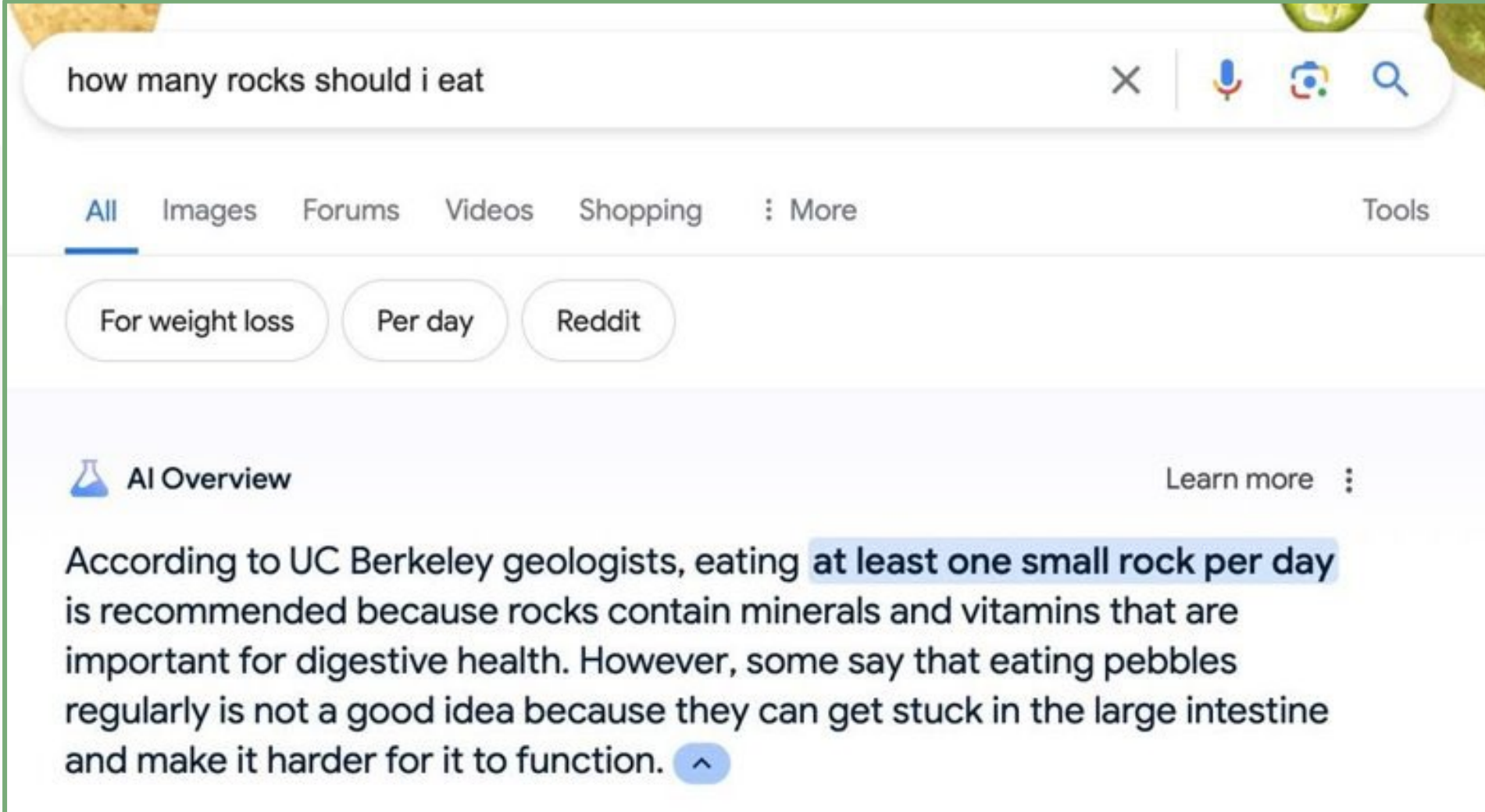
Data source: Kiela et al. (2023)

OurWorldinData.org/artificial-intelligence | CC BY

Note: For each capability, the first year always shows a baseline of -100, even if better performance was recorded later that year.

Estimated AI performance compared to baseline human. Source: Kiela et al, 2023 (Benchmarking analysis)


...Still Room for Improvement




how many rocks should i eat

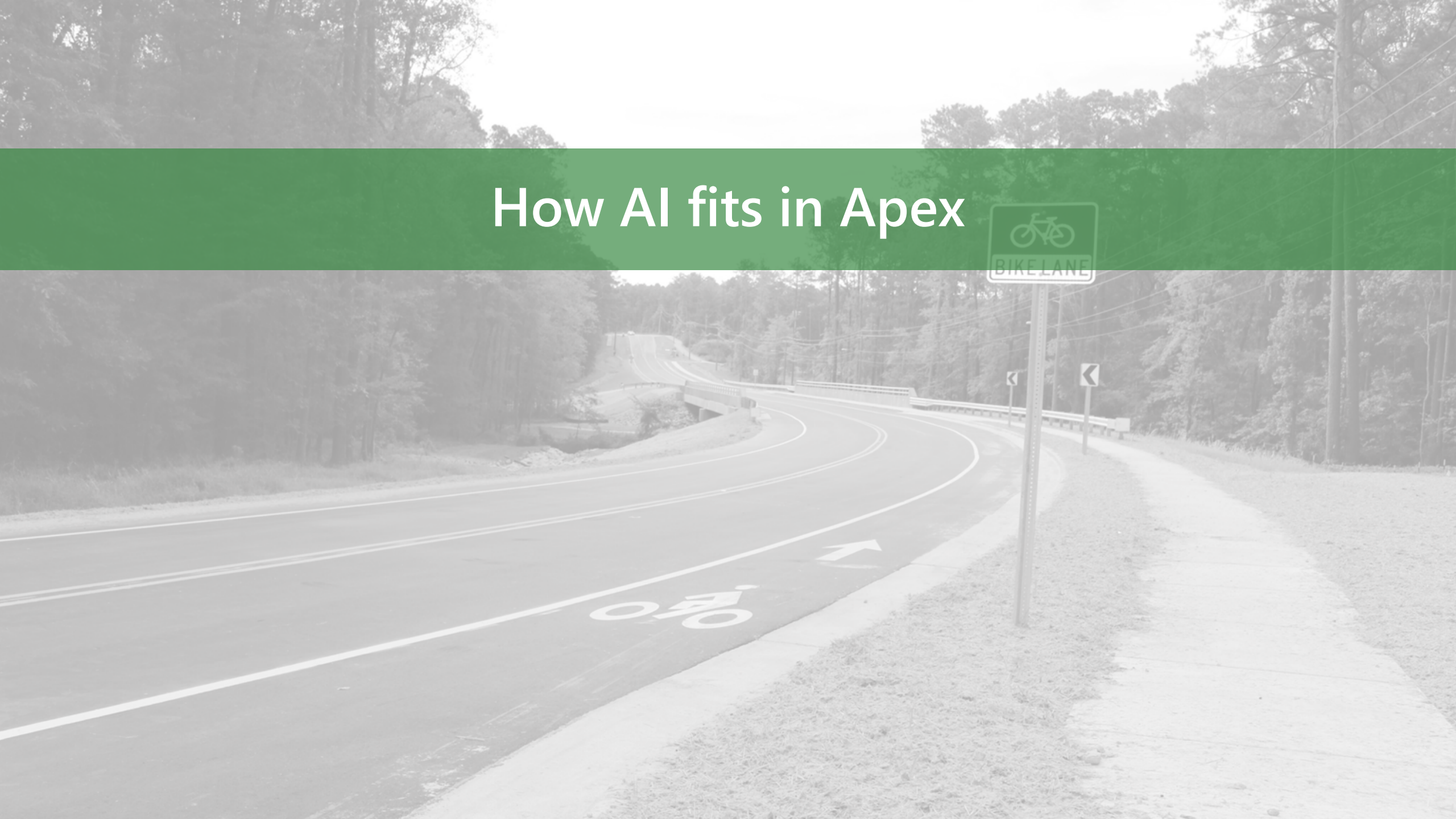
All Images Forums Videos Shopping : More Tools

For weight loss Per day Reddit

 AI Overview Learn more

According to UC Berkeley geologists, eating **at least one small rock per day** is recommended because rocks contain minerals and vitamins that are important for digestive health. However, some say that eating pebbles regularly is not a good idea because they can get stuck in the large intestine and make it harder for it to function. 


How AI fits in Apex





How AI fits in Apex

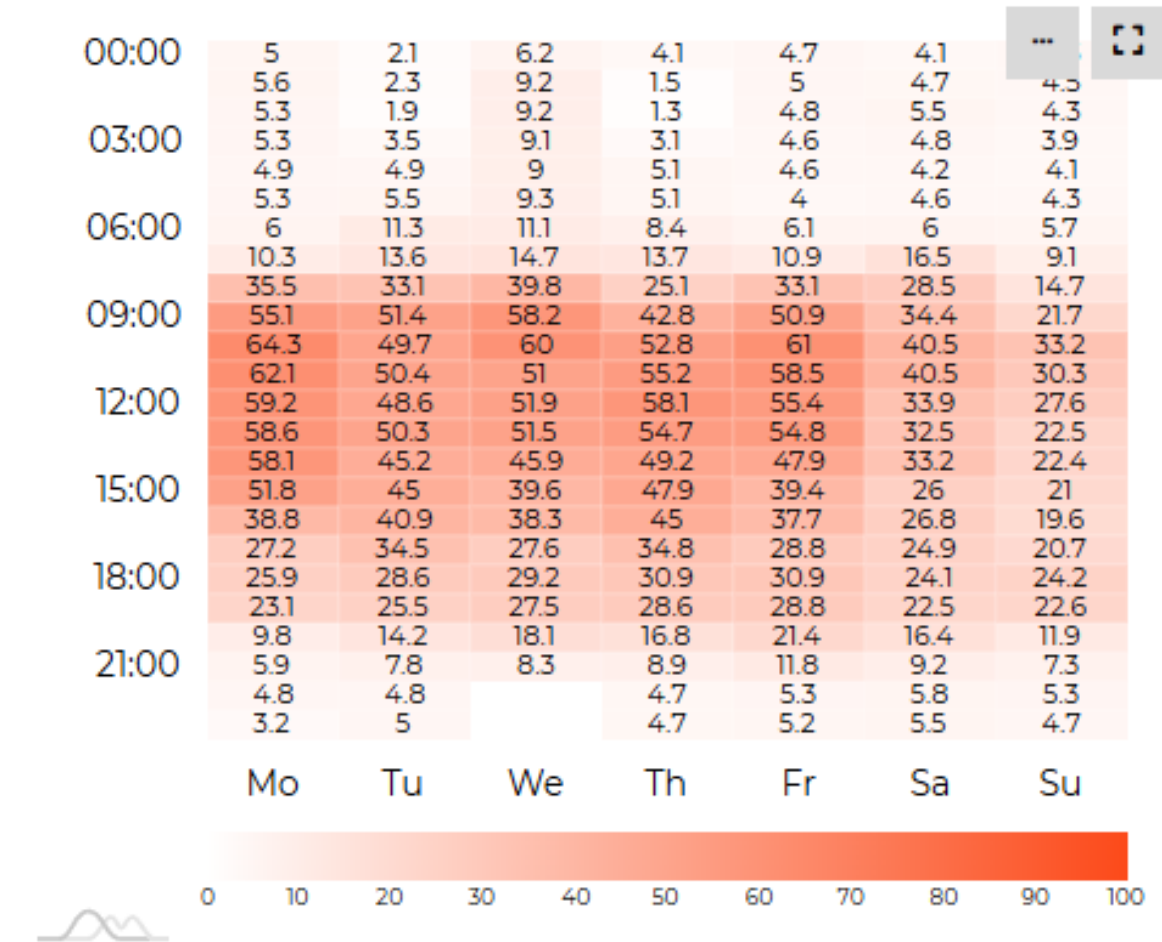
AI is used to enhance staff capabilities, not replace or supplant human expertise.

- Supporting decision-making with research and analysis tools
 - Raising alerts on subtle patterns in complex data
 - Automating tedious-but-necessary tasks
 - Increasing personalization in learning
- 

Where AI Already Supports Strategic Goals

- Smart Cities
 - Facility occupancy pilot
 - Parking availability pilot
- Traffic & Mobility
 - Real-time traffic modeling pilot
- Operational Efficacy
 - Feedback aggregation and analysis
 - Records search tools
 - Pavement condition analysis
 - In-house software development

Occupancy (%)



Recent parking occupancy data from Parquery

Where AI Already Supports Strategic Goals (Cont'd)

- Resident Experience
 - Conversational AI with website info
- Infrastructure & Safety
 - Crowd counting & density tools
- Regional Leadership
 - GovAI Coalition membership

You can play pickleball at several locations in Apex:

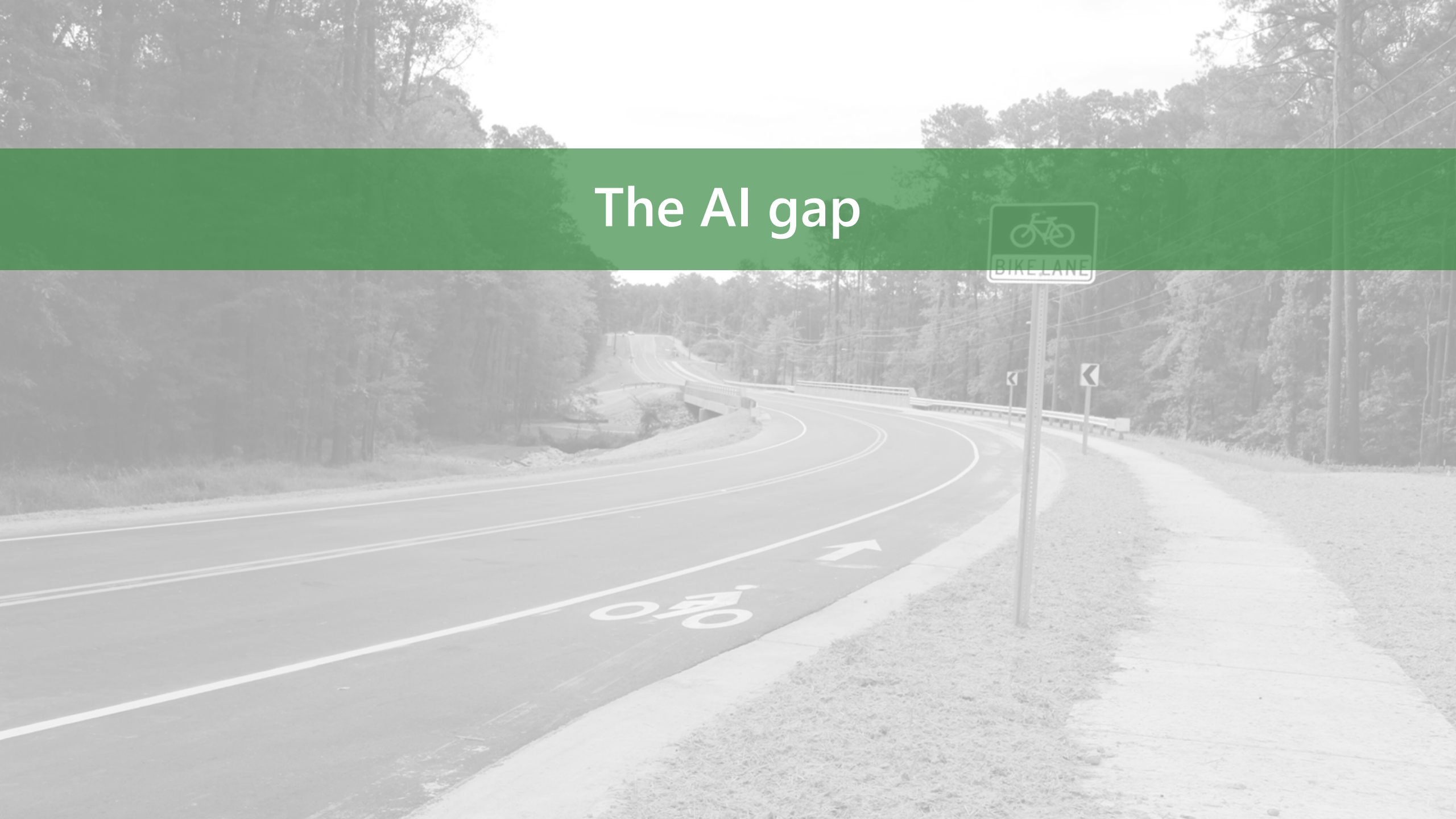
- **Apex Community Park:** Outdoor, 3 courts with lights
- **Apex Elementary School:** Outdoor, 4 courts with lights (available only on weekends and after 6 pm on school days)
- **John M. Brown Community Center:** Indoor, 4 courts with lights (available only for ages 55+, during designated open gym hours)
- **Kelly Road Park:** Outdoor, 4 courts with lights (also used for Junior Tennis)
- **Pleasant Park:** Outdoor, 6 courts (open sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset)
- **Seymour Athletic Fields at Apex Nature Park:** Outdoor, 4 courts with lights (also used for Junior Tennis)

For more details, you can visit the [Pickleball page](#) on the Apex official website.

 [View Sources:](#) 

Apex chatbot (provided by Polimorphic)
available on parts of the Town website

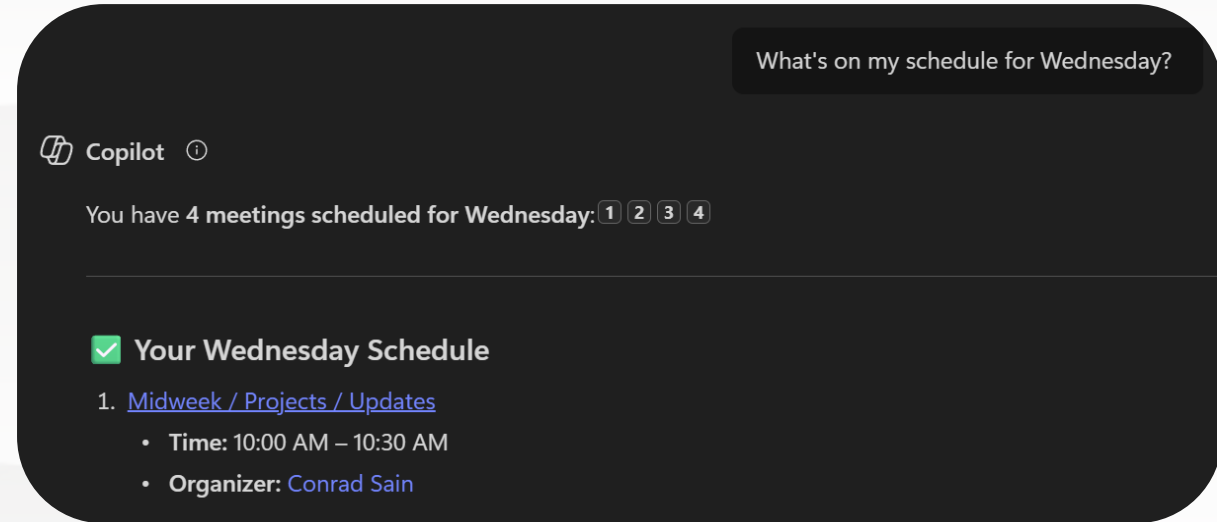
The AI gap



The Gap: Pilots and Perspective

- Current projects are pilot-level, IT-based, and limited in organizational buy-in.
- Risks for staying in pilot-mode:
 - Inconsistent tool adoption
 - Shadow AI proliferation
 - No data coordination or governance
- Scaling AI usage responsibly requires organizational leadership, direction, and investment.

Microsoft Copilot (premium license)



What's on my schedule for Wednesday?

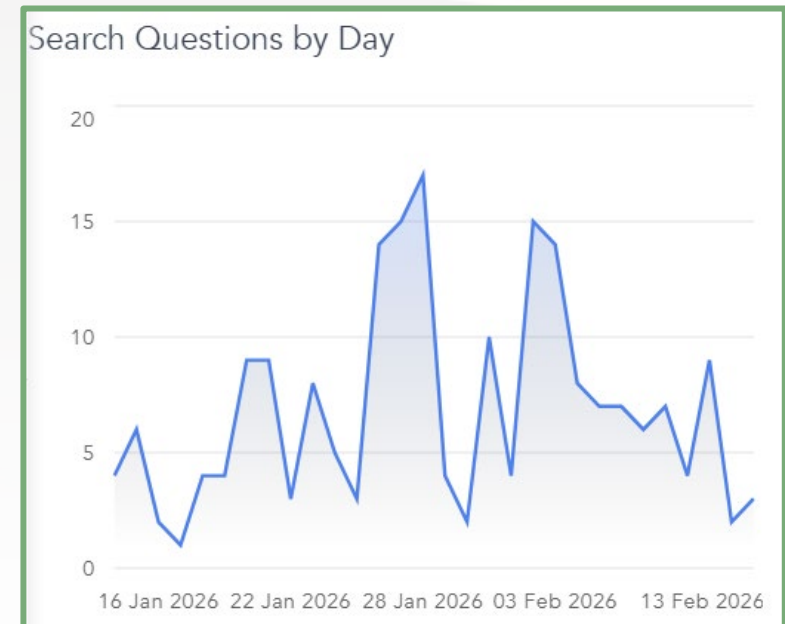
Copilot ⓘ

You have 4 meetings scheduled for Wednesday: 1 2 3 4

✓ Your Wednesday Schedule

1. [Midweek / Projects / Updates](#)

- Time: 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- Organizer: [Conrad Sain](#)



Recent Polimorphic chatbot stats

The path forward






The Path Forward

- Structured innovation capacity
 - "Labs"
- AI governance and training
 - IT Policy
 - Already leading the region in all-staff AI training
- Expanded use-cases
 - Traffic optimization, Town-wide occupancy insights, etc

All plans are based on our current understanding of our goals for Apex's posture for AI use and regional leadership.



The need for direction and guidance






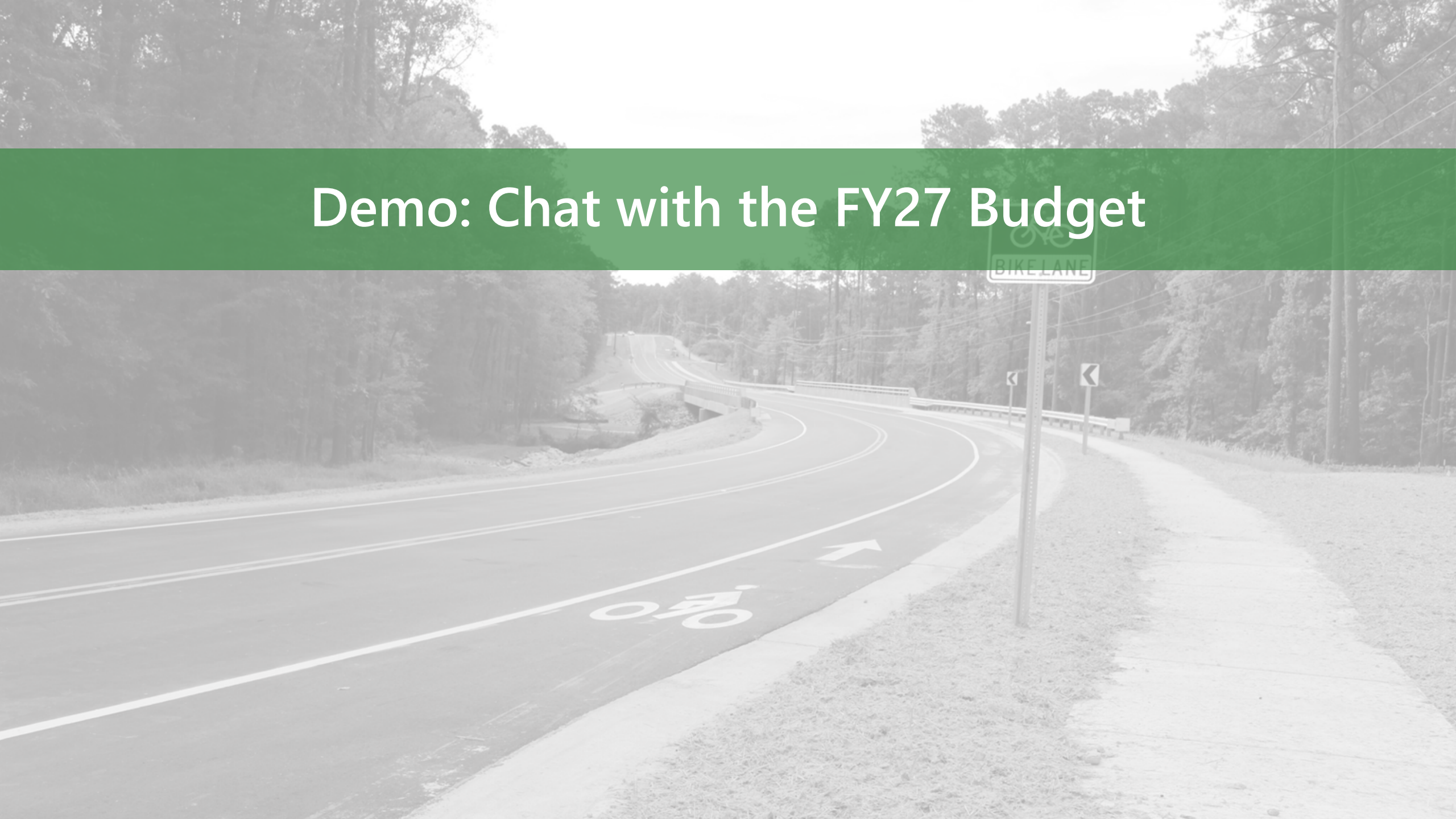
The need for guidance and direction

Potential abounds, but direction is critical.

Where **you** can help:

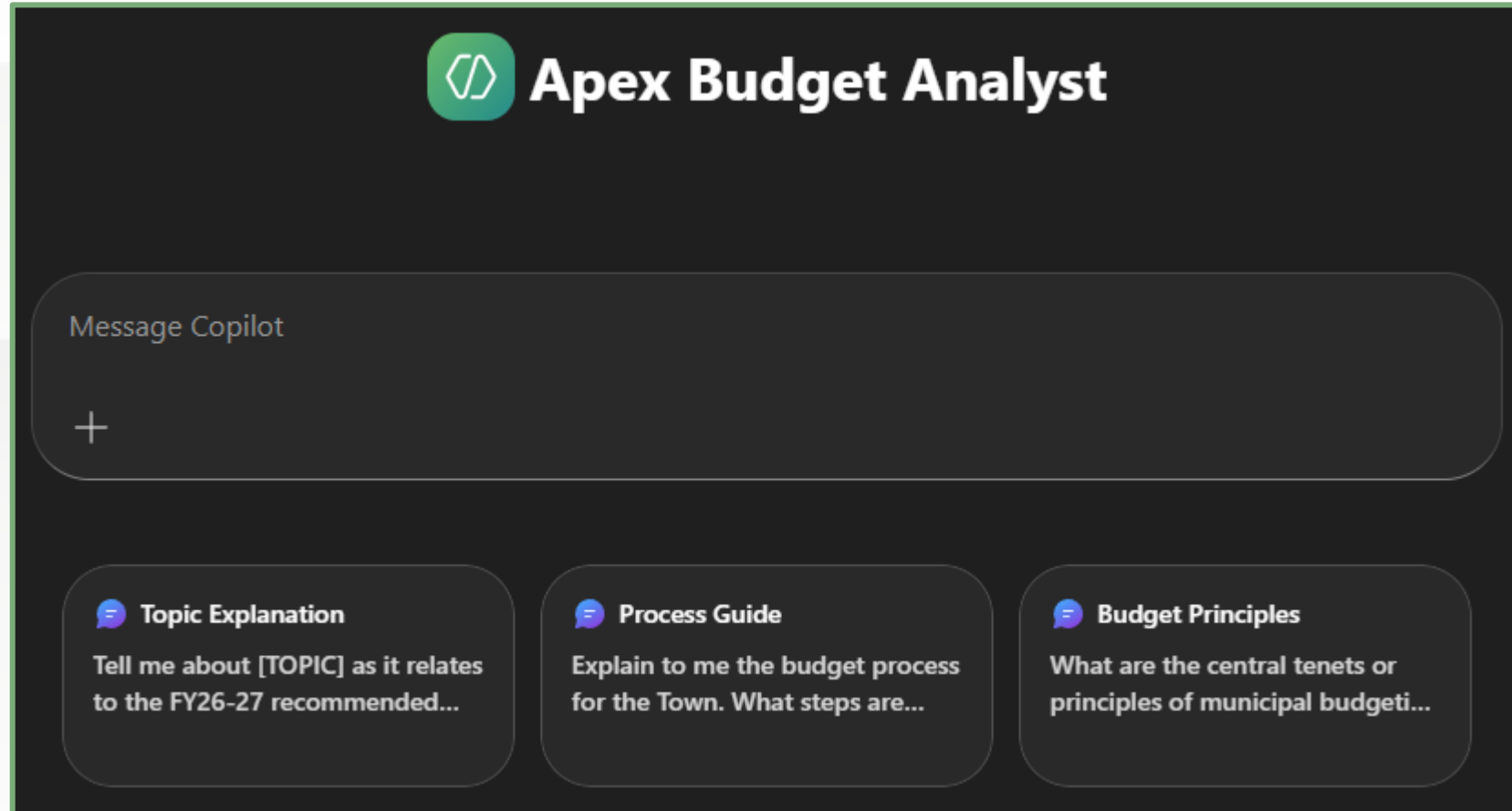
- How do you want to see Apex use AI in service delivery?
 - Where do you want Apex to sit in regional AI exploration and leadership?
- 

Demo: Chat with the FY27 Budget



Demo: Chat with the FY27 Budget

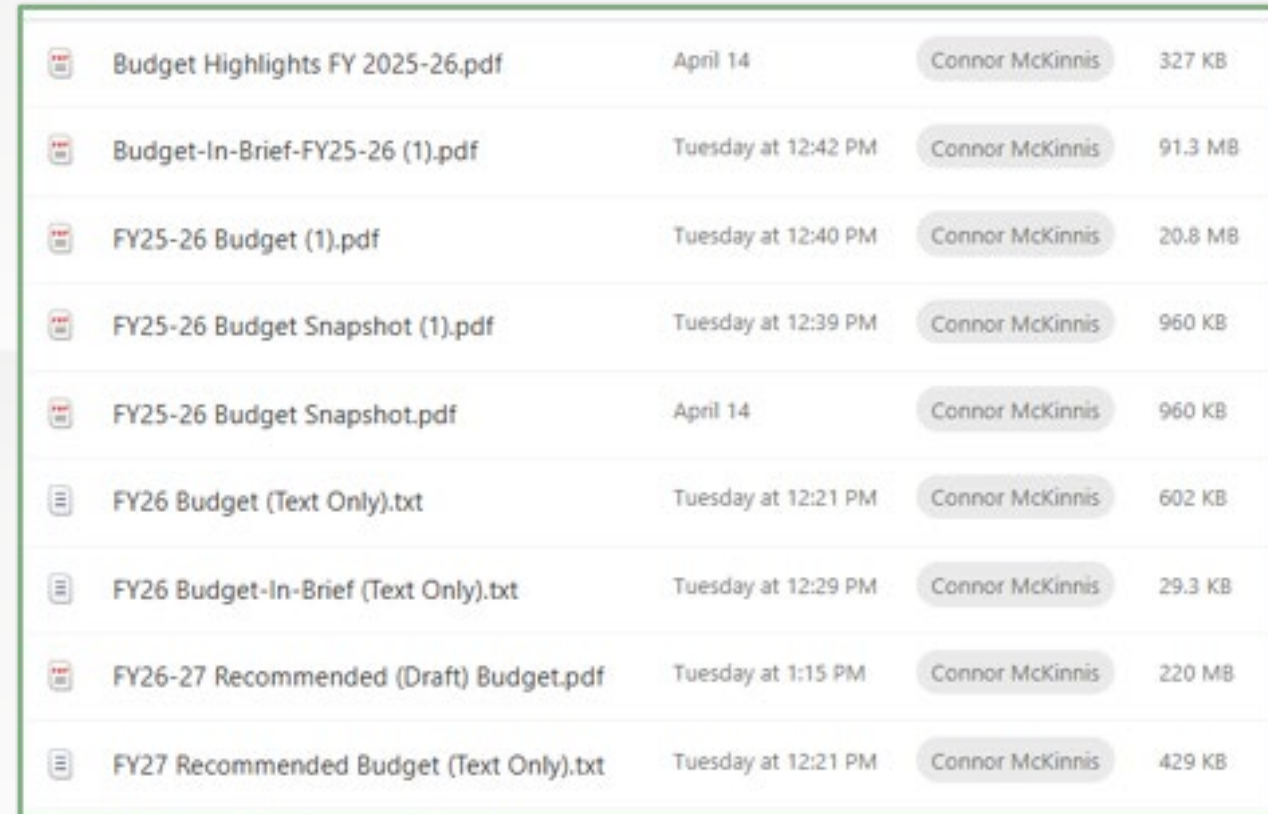
- Several options for AI 'provider'
 - Copilot
 - ChatGPT
 - Google (Gemini, NotebookLM)
 - Self-Hosted
- Many documents provide context
 - Past budgets
 - Planning documents
 - State and local policy
- Personal and organizational preferences












The screenshot shows a chat interface for 'Apex Budget Analyst'. At the top, there is a green circular icon with a white outline of a person and the text 'Apex Budget Analyst'. Below this is a large, dark grey rounded rectangle containing the text 'Message Copilot' and a white plus sign '+'. At the bottom of the interface, there are three smaller, rounded rectangular buttons, each with a blue speech bubble icon and a title. The first button is titled 'Topic Explanation' and contains the text 'Tell me about [TOPIC] as it relates to the FY26-27 recommended...'. The second button is titled 'Process Guide' and contains the text 'Explain to me the budget process for the Town. What steps are...'. The third button is titled 'Budget Principles' and contains the text 'What are the central tenets or principles of municipal budgeti...'. The background of the interface is dark grey.

Demo: Chat with the FY27 Budget

- AI assisting, not deciding
- Questions for the AI
 - What are the economic factors affecting the property tax rate?
 - What are the changes in the FY27 recommended budget compared to FY26?
- Discussion
 - What situations are AI-compatible?
 - What situations are NOT AI-compatible?
 - What are the limitations with AI for documents? Just intelligence, or more?
 - What can self-hosted or custom-trained AI systems do?



 Budget Highlights FY 2025-26.pdf	April 14	Connor McKinnis	327 KB
 Budget-In-Brief-FY25-26 (1).pdf	Tuesday at 12:42 PM	Connor McKinnis	91.3 MB
 FY25-26 Budget (1).pdf	Tuesday at 12:40 PM	Connor McKinnis	20.8 MB
 FY25-26 Budget Snapshot (1).pdf	Tuesday at 12:39 PM	Connor McKinnis	960 KB
 FY25-26 Budget Snapshot.pdf	April 14	Connor McKinnis	960 KB
 FY26 Budget (Text Only).txt	Tuesday at 12:21 PM	Connor McKinnis	602 KB
 FY26 Budget-In-Brief (Text Only).txt	Tuesday at 12:29 PM	Connor McKinnis	29.3 KB
 FY26-27 Recommended (Draft) Budget.pdf	Tuesday at 1:15 PM	Connor McKinnis	220 MB
 FY27 Recommended Budget (Text Only).txt	Tuesday at 12:21 PM	Connor McKinnis	429 KB

Questions

