

Discover a Healthy Life

# KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

## NEW AFTON RIDGE LOOP ADDED

Loop the Loop – the fun walking, running or biking routes in downtown Kannapolis and at Kannapolis City Schools – is expanding again. A new Loop has been added in the Afton Ridge area near the new Afton Ridge Library & Active Living Center. The loop is a 2/3-mile stroll or run on the sidewalks of Glen Afton Boulevard. Park and visit the library and then do the loop.

“We have been looking for opportunities to expand the loop program to additional areas of the City and with the new library and active living center now in Afton Ridge, this is the perfect fit,” said Irene Wong, Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Kannapolis.

The City received a grant from the Cabarrus Health Alliance to cover the cost of the signage, sidewalk markers and crosswalks for the loop.

“One of our primary goals is to encourage everyone to be active regardless of income level and where they live. Loop the Loop helps our community do that! It’s been great to see so many people on the loops each week and we look forward to seeing that number grow in a new area of our City,” said Erin Shoe, Public Health Director of the Cabarrus Health Alliance.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 1- Kannapolis Celebration of Lights** | 6 p.m. | Village Park
- 13 Kannapolis Christmas Parade** 6 p.m. | Downtown Kannapolis
- 19 Salisbury Symphony** | 7 p.m. Swanee Theatre
- 20 The Embers Christmas Show** 7 p.m. | Swanee Theatre
- 24- Christmas Holiday**
- 26** (City Hall closed)

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday** (City Hall closed)

More at [kannapolisnc.gov](http://kannapolisnc.gov).



The Loop the Loop program began in 2017 with five routes downtown and expanded in 2018 with routes at all Kannapolis City Schools (A.L. Brown High, Woodrow Wilson, Shady Brook, Jackson Park, Fred Wilson, Carver Schools). Routes are in increments of a half-mile and increase gradually to three miles or more.

Anyone can walk the loops and can sign up to be eligible for prizes by meeting mileage goals. Sign up for the 2026 Loop the Loop Program on January 1.

## LOOP THE LOOP

Loops are located downtown and at all Kannapolis City Schools. You do not have to walk the downtown or school loops to qualify. Walk anywhere in the City.

Log your miles to win great prizes. Sign up your dog for prizes as well (please scoop their poop).

Information on all routes and registration for prizes at [kannapolisnc.gov/loophtheloop](http://kannapolisnc.gov/loophtheloop).

Discover a Healthy Life  
**KANNAPOLIS**

**New! Afton Ridge Loop**

**LOOP LENGTH**  
 1/8 Mile  
 1/2 Mile  
 2/3 Mile  
 1 Mile  
 2 Miles  
 2 1/4 Miles  
 3 Miles

**WALK**

**BIKE**

**RUN**

**Join us around Kannapolis.**

[kannapolisnc.gov/loophtheloop](http://kannapolisnc.gov/loophtheloop)

## LOOSE-LEAF COLLECTION UNDERWAY

The City of Kannapolis loose-leaf collection is underway and will end January 15, 2026.

### Loose-Leaf Collection Do's & Don'ts:

- Leaves must be placed at the curb or along the ditch line – not in ditches – in rows parallel with the street.
- Place leaves at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection.
- Leaves mixed with limbs, other yard waste, gum balls, gravel, glass or other solid matter will not be collected.
- Leaves in garbage containers will not be collected.
- Leaves must be clear of water meters and fences and placed on the street side of retaining walls.
- Leaves must be clear of sidewalks/street.
- Keep the area around the leaves clear of vehicles and other items so the loose-leaf vacuum trucks can easily access the leaves.
- If access to the leaves is blocked, the leaves will not be collected.

There will be no loose-leaf collection on the following holidays observed by the City: Christmas (Dec. 24-26) and New Year's Day (Jan. 1).

After January 15, we request that you bag any loose leaves you have and place them at the curb for yard waste collection.

To find your loose-leaf collection schedule, visit [kannapolisnc.gov/looseleaf](http://kannapolisnc.gov/looseleaf), or download the free CARTology app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.





# KANNAPOLIS RECEIVES GRANT FOR BAKERS CREEK PARK



Kannapolis has received a grant that will be used for a new facility at Bakers Creek Park.

The City has received a North Carolina Accessibility Grant for \$500,000. This grant will be used to assist in funding a new facility at Bakers Creek Park. The new ADA-accessible facility will house restrooms, concessions and offices at the park.

The City is one of only seven municipalities in the state to receive a grant. The current

building at the park is over 40 years old and in need of replacement. The 40-acre park continues to see an increase in users as it is the home of the City's pickleball courts, five picnic shelters, a playground, a basketball court, a youth athletic field and a trailhead for the Bakers Creek Greenway.

The new Bakers Creek Park facility is expected to cost \$1.2 million with the City only contributing \$700,000 due to the award of the \$500,000 grant.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TIP



As you prepare for the Christmas Holidays, please remember not to put fats, oils or greases (FOGs) down the drain. Doing so could clog and damage pipes. Instead, pour FOGs into a container and throw them in the trash.

## INTERESTED IN A STUDY AT NCRC?



Interested in participating in a research study on the N.C. Research Campus? Studies are always underway by researchers as they work to develop new ways to improve health or to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions. Some of the studies may include reimbursement. For a complete list of studies, use the QR code.



**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!**

For information on renting the facility, please contact us at 704-920-4314 or [rentals@kannapolisnc.gov](mailto:rentals@kannapolisnc.gov).



The Laureate Center is the perfect location to host events, seminars, professional development classes, conferences and more. Located in Kannapolis City Hall, the center has all the amenities and unique spaces, such as a gallery and terrace, to ensure your business event is a success.



[kannapolisnc.gov](http://kannapolisnc.gov)  
401 Laureate Way  
Kannapolis, NC 28081



# HOLIDAY EVENTS CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### December 12-14

#### Holiday Model Train Display

The Atlantic Coast S Gaugers model trains are back! For one weekend only, this year, this popular inter-active model train display will fill the Swanee Theatre, 200 West Main St. This fun family event is free to the public. December 12 – 5-9 p.m. | December 13 – 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. December 14 – 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.

### December 13

#### The Kannapolis Christmas Parade | 6 p.m.

This nighttime parade travels through the streets of downtown Kannapolis.

### December 19

#### Salisbury Symphony Home for the Holidays Concert

For the first time, this 55-member professional symphony will bring their holiday sounds to the Swanee Theatre for an evening filled with festive favorites and the enchanting sound of live orchestral music. Tickets: [swaneetheatre.com/tickets](http://swaneetheatre.com/tickets).

### December 20

#### The Embers Christmas Show

The Embers bring their exceptional showmanship and holiday cheer to the stage for a night of festive fun and incredible music. Tickets: [swaneetheatre.com/tickets](http://swaneetheatre.com/tickets).

### December 31

#### Ring in the New Year with the ACE Party Band

Ring in 2026 at the Swanee Theatre. From Shelby, NC, the ACE Party Band is a musical powerhouse that takes you on a musical ride from yesterday's favorites to today's biggest hits; they play it all! Tickets: [swaneetheatre.com/tickets](http://swaneetheatre.com/tickets).

A Kannapolis Christmas continues through the end of December. The Celebration of Lights and Winterland Express run through December 30.

The annual tradition of the Celebration of Lights includes hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights in dozens of displays throughout Village Park. Adults and children are welcome to ride one of our two Winterland Express trains and count down the 12 Days of Christmas as you view unique holiday light displays from the popular song.

You should also make time to ride the Village Park Double Decker Carousel. Manufactured in Italy, it features 1,800 lights, Brazilian oak decking and charming hand-painted Venetian murals that are sure to get you into the spirit of the holidays. The carousel and trains accommodate adults, children and are ADA-accessible.

Santa Claus will be at the park every evening until December 23 when he returns to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas Eve. Children of all ages are welcome to visit him and have their photo made for free. Bring your phones and cameras for plenty of selfies.

Maestro Leonard Bearstein and the famed Leonard Bearstein Symphony Orchestra are back this year, spreading their holiday magic in Kannapolis. The 18 animatronic bears will delight children and adults alike with their witty banter, inspiring instrumental pieces and traditional favorite holiday songs!

Food and drink are available for purchase at the concession stand. Enjoy the fire pit and making s'mores and much more.

Admission to the park and viewing of the lights and bears are free; tickets are required to ride the carousel and train. Purchase carousel tickets onsite at Village Park. They will be available on a first-come basis each evening.

Reserve your seat on the Winterland Express, Sunday through Thursday, by purchasing tickets online at [www.kannapolisnc.gov/Christmas](http://www.kannapolisnc.gov/Christmas). Every Friday and Saturday, tickets may be purchased onsite at Village Park on a first-come basis for the Winterland Express. Tickets are \$2 per person for the train and \$2 per person for the carousel. Walkup onsite tickets are available as well.

## THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS

401 Laureate Way | Kannapolis, NC 28081

704.920.4444

[www.kannapolisnc.gov](http://www.kannapolisnc.gov)



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