

MAYOR
SHEILA
DeCiccio
CITY of WINTER PARK



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we begin the Park Avenue Refresh project, I want to share a brief update about the project and how parking will be impacted during construction. The last Park Avenue streetscape restoration occurred between 1996 and 1999 when the Avenue was bricked. Now, almost 30 years later, Park Avenue needs attention and will be undergoing multiple phases of a refresh to provide for today and tomorrow's needs.

This project came about because of numerous complaints and concerns the city received from residents and businesses along Park Avenue. Specifically, some of the streetlights on the north end of the Avenue were flickering, malfunctioning, and most times not working at all. Christmas lights put out by the business did not stay on, particularly around Canton and Park Ave. Additionally, there were several complaints regarding water pooling in some areas, uneven sidewalks, and unsightly tree wells along the Avenue, to name a few.

The information the Commission received from the departments included updating and repairing the infrastructure (planters, sidewalks, stormwater, electric wiring, irrigation, fiber, etc.). In some areas, the roots from some of the Oaks were tearing up the sidewalks and outgrowing their planter beds, of which the Refresh will address, enlarge and/or repair.

The Commission ordered a study, wherein all departments were consulted, and provided information as to upgrades that were needed. The police noted that safety needed to be enhanced along the Avenue to prevent vehicles from driving onto a sidewalk or in the gathering areas such as Central Park-especially during events.

A community survey was conducted, public meetings were held, and the Refresh project was approved. Park Avenue is the city's crown jewel and the goals of this multi-year project are to:

- Strengthen infrastructure (electric, pipes, smart city, sidewalks, planters & irrigation), which will entail boring underground to accommodate all new wiring.
- Enhance safety & aesthetics
- Provide a consistent look for the Avenue's hardscape, landscape & architectural elements



The Refresh will be completed in three phases to avoid disrupting the entire avenue at once. Phase 1 (2026) includes Park Avenue from Webster Avenue to Garfield Avenue. Phase 2 (2027) will be from Garfield to New England Avenue and Phase 3 (2028) will be from New England Avenue to Fairbanks Avenue.

While construction work is actively underway on Park Avenue, some on street parking will be temporarily unavailable. To offset this, the city will provide additional temporary parking along the north and south sides of Morse Boulevard between New York Avenue and Virginia Avenue. This added parking will support residents, guests, and downtown businesses throughout the duration of the project. All businesses, shops and restaurants will remain open during construction.

During this period, Morse Boulevard (between New York and Virginia avenues) will shift from four lanes to two lanes. City staff are working now to ensure this temporary parking is striped and ready as construction begins. This adjustment will also provide valuable insight into traffic flow along Morse Boulevard as we continue to explore long term ideas to improve safety and walkability in the area, including the possibility of a bike and pedestrian corridor.

You can view the Park Avenue Refresh project video here:

<https://youtu.be/u1GVg1k8Nzk>

NOTE: This video is a little longer than my previous videos as I take a walk with Clarissa Howard, the Director of Communications, who is the city's project manager for the Refresh. She provides the details of exactly what the project entails and what to expect.



Thank you, as always, for your patience and partnership as we invest in keeping Park Avenue vibrant, safe, accessible, and welcoming. If you would like more information about the Park Avenue Refresh project, please access cityofwinterpark.org/ParkAveRefresh or sign up for email updates at cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews and select the “Park Avenue Refresh” category. I look forward to sharing additional updates as the project moves forward.

Clarissa, thank you and the Refresh team for your tireless work in making this project a reality. We are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarissa".

Sheila DeCiccio

Winter Park Mayor

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This newsletter is written by Winter Park Mayor Sheila DeCiccio to inform her constituents.
The views expressed are her own and are not intended to represent the entire WP Commission.