

FAQs

What is open data?

Open data is data freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.

What are the goals of the Open Data Program as guided by the draft Open Data Policy?

The Town of Cary Open Data Policy is being established to achieve the following goals:

- Improve the lives of our citizens
- Transparency and democratic control
- Citizen participation and self-empowerment
- Improvement and innovation of new products and services
- Increased efficiency of government services

Where can I find open data?

The Town maintains its Open Data Portal at data.townofcary.org.

Is Town of Cary the only municipality opening its data to the public?

No, we are not! The Town of Cary is one of many municipalities partnering with What Works Cities, a national initiative to help 100 mid-sized American cities utilize data to improve services, inform local decision-making and engage residents. Some N.C. cities participating in this effort are Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham and Winston-Salem.

How does the Town ensure that personal information is protected?

The Town of Cary Open Data Policy will protect the rights and interests of its citizens. Published open data will not contain information that has personally identifiable information, which is any data that could potentially identify a specific individual. The policy will also protect data that is deemed confidential or copyrighted.

What is the quality of the data?

As mandated by the draft Open Data Policy, Town of Cary will establish processes to ensure that datasets are high quality, up-to-date and in usable formats. There will also be characteristics (metadata) about the data and data dictionaries, which provide information about field labels and values, to encourage maximum use by the public.

Who can help if I have questions about a dataset?

Each dataset will be associated with contact information for the staff member managing that dataset.

Where can I learn more Town of Cary's Open Data Policy?

A link to the Town of Cary's draft Open Data Policy can be found at <https://mymadison.io/documents/open-data-policy>.