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## TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

# NC, US sue each o

By Emery P. Dalesio and Gary D. Robertson  
Associated Press

RALEIGH — A potentially epic clash over transgender rights took shape Monday when the U.S. Justice Department sued North Carolina over the state's bathroom law after the governor refused to back down.

In unusually forceful language, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said North Carolina's

law requiring transgender people to use public restrooms and showers corresponding to their birth certificate amounts to "state-sponsored discrimination" and is aimed at "a problem that doesn't exist."

"What this law does is inflict further indignity on a population that has already suffered far more than its fair share," she said, speaking directly to residents of her native state. "This law provides

no benefit to society, and all it does is harm innocent Americans."

Billions of dollars in federal aid for North Carolina — and a potentially landmark decision regarding the reach of the nation's civil rights laws — are at stake in the dispute, which in recent weeks has triggered boycotts and cancellations aimed at pressuring the state into repealing the measure.



Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department, looks on as Attorney General Loretta Lynch speaks at a news conference Monday at the Department of Justice. EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

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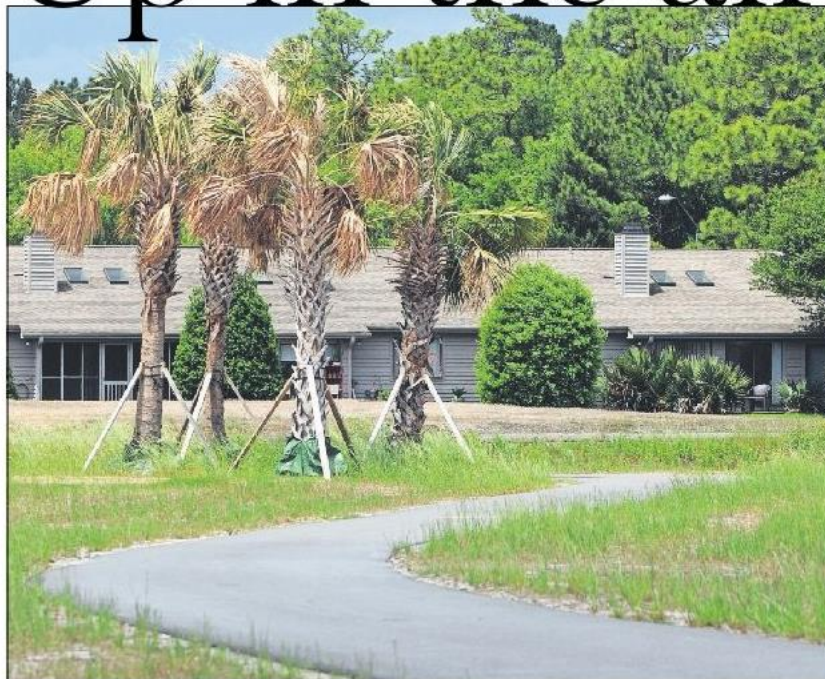
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## FUTURE OF INLAND GREENS

# Up in the air



A walking path was constructed in 2015 at Inland Greens as part of \$1.2 million in improvements. The city is debating whether a nine-hole golf course is the right project for the site. MIKE SPENCER/STARNEWS

## Park not funded in city's proposed budget

By Adam Wagner  
StarNews Staff

City officials are debating whether a nine-hole golf course is the best use for Inland Greens.

As the evaluation process continues, the city's proposed 2016-17 budget recommends shifting \$84,197 in operating funds from

Inland Greens — which is located between Market Street and Eastwood Drive — to the Municipal Golf Course.

When the city purchased the 31-acre property for \$500,000 in 2011, it intended to build a nine-hole golf course and passive park in the area. Now, after an additional \$80,000 in drainage repairs and a \$1.2 million stormwater

improvement project that also installed a walking path, staff and council members are wondering whether a golf course is still suitable for the site.

"It seemed like a good fit, but what came along with it — it was kind of like buying the doughnuts, you get the hole along with it and everything," said Charlie Rivenbark,

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## PARK

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a Wilmington city councilman, referencing the drainage and stormwater problems.

The city's intention when buying the property was to add a park in the 1995 annexation area. Now, five years later, the passive park is still on the table, but the city is considering replacing the golf course plans with other options including a disc golf course.

Neil Anderson, a city councilman, said he's interested in the disc golf proposal or some other offering that is absent from other city facilities, particularly because the Inland Greens park is tucked into a neighborhood of patio homes off of Cardinal Drive.

"We need to come up with something that's going to be a draw, not just a 100 percent passive park," Anderson



**City officials are debating whether a nine-hole golf course is the right project at Inland Greens. The city's proposed budget recommends shifting all operating funds from Inland Greens to the Municipal Golf Course. MIKE SPENCER/STARNEWS**

said. "A passive park is nice, but it's just going to draw people who live around there. It's going to be a private park, almost."

Council members have also expressed some concern that moving away from a par-3 golf course would be breaking a promise to homeowners who live near Inland

Greens, a sentiment shared by many of those homeowners.

During the first 10 years Jim DeFrance lived at Inland Greens, the golf course was in operation.

As a result, DeFrance, whose backyard borders the golf course, never had to buy a golf ball. Now, he'd like to use some of the hamper-full

of balls he collected.

"We very much want resolution to this, and we'd like for it to be what they said it'd be," DeFrance said.

DeFrance, who said he wouldn't mind the traffic that comes along with an active facility, is also skeptical of the alternative plans, including a disc golf course. The previous

owner of Inland Greens, he noted, installed the hoops alongside the more traditional course.

"I never saw anybody playing out there," DeFrance said.

Jerry Brown, who also lives in Inland Greens, expressed support for the original plan, saying new golfers could use it to familiarize themselves with the game.

"There is a need for a nine-hole golf course," Brown said, "as long as it's within reason."

Asked if he had any concerns about changing the plans, Rivenbark said he did, but added, "At the end of the day, it's a dumb person that makes a decision, realizes it's maybe not the right decision and sticks with it come hell or high water."

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