

DURHAM COUNTY



★ ★ ★ 1881 ★ ★ ★

Who we are.
What we do.

DURHAM COUNTY
AT A GLANCE



DURHAM COUNTY

Durham County is consistently ranked as one of the top places in the nation to live and do business. With a growing population, thriving business community and increasing popularity as a creative and unique destination, DCo (pronounced dee-co) is an up and coming county in the country.

Our natural resources, rich history and close proximity to mountains and the coast, make our county a desirable place to call home. And DCo provides a range of services to all those who live here.



History



As early as colonial days, the area known as Durham County was important to North Carolina history. The English, Scottish and Irish settled along the waterways of the present Northeast corner of the county on land given to the Earl of Granville by the British Crown. As a result of the settlers' hard work, the area became a prosperous section of the state.

The City of Durham, named for Dr. Bartlett Durham, began as a railroad station and settlement. While Durham's official birth date is April 26, 1853 (the date that the U.S. Post Office was established), the town was not incorporated by the General Assembly until April 10, 1869. The tobacco manufacturing industry focused worldwide attention on the area after the Civil War. As a result, Durham County grew and prospered tremendously. In 1881, Durham officials sought to become an autonomous political subdivision and separated from Orange County. Durham County was formed on April 17, 1881 from land transferred from neighboring Wake and Orange counties. In 1911, an additional portion of land was added from Wake County.

The first Durham County Board of Commissioners convened its initial meeting May 2, 1881. Durham County operated under the commission form of government with the chairman serving as chief administrator until 1930, when it adopted the county manager form of government. Since that time, there have been seven county managers.

Board of Commissioners



Michael Page
Chairman



Brenda Howerton
Vice Chairman



Fred Foster, Jr.



Wendy Jacobs



Ellen Reckhow

A five-member Board of Commissioners governs Durham County. Members are elected at-large, on a partisan basis by a countywide vote. Commissioners serve four-year terms and elections are held in November of presidential election years. The Board takes office at its first meeting in December following the November election, and elects a chairman and vice chairman.

The primary duties of the board include formulating policy, adopting an annual budget, establishing the annual property tax rate, appointing various officials, planning for county needs and enacting local ordinances. The Board has the authority to call bond referendums, authorize the county manager to enter into contracts and establish new programs and departments.

Work sessions occur on the first Monday of each month at 9 am, and the Board convenes its regular session at 7 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. All meetings are open to the public and conducted in the Commissioners' Chambers, located on the second floor of the Durham County Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham. Meetings are broadcast live on local cable channel 8, and can be viewed on the County's website at dconc.gov.

DURHAM COUNTY PROFILE

Date Established: April 17, 1881

Population: 290,874 *as of July 1, 2015

Registered Voters: 213,995

Location: North Central

North Carolina, equidistant
from Philadelphia and Atlanta

Land Area: 299 square miles

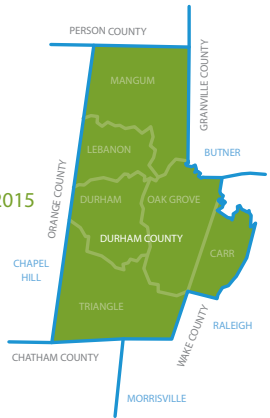
County Seat: Durham

Townships: Durham, Carr, Oak Grove, Mangum,
Lebanon and Triangle

Location of General County Offices:

Historic County Courthouse

200 East Main Street, Durham NC 27701



Administration



Wendell M. Davis
County Manager

The County Manager is hired by the County Commissioners to serve as the chief administrative officer of county government. He supervises and coordinates the daily activities of departments for the Board by seeing that all orders, policies and federal or state mandates are carried out.

The county manager also recommends an annual budget, makes recommendations on appropriate matters of business and represents the county in dealing with other agencies.

DCo Today

Durham County has evolved from an agricultural and manufacturing economy to attain world-class status in the areas of medicine and high technology. In the process, it has become one of the country's most desirable places to live.

The internationally known Research Triangle Park is home to more than 170 global research and development organizations including, BASF, Credit Suisse, CREE, Cisco, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, RTI International and Syngenta. These companies and others in the park employ approximately 39,000 full-time workers and 10,000 contract workers.

Other major research and development organizations, including AW North Carolina, BD, bioMerieux, Boramed, Cormetech, and Organon Teknika are located in the northern section of the county. Burt's Bees has headquarters in downtown Durham.



Just look at some of the company we keep.

With one of the most skilled and knowledgeable work forces in the country at their disposal, it's no wonder so many companies choose to do business in Durham County.

BASF

AW North Carolina

Credit Suisse

BD

CREE

bioMerieux

Cisco

Boramed

GlaxoSmithKline

Cormetech

IBM

Organon Teknika

RTI International

Burt's Bees

Syngenta



Durham Public Schools

Durham Public Schools has 53 schools with an enrollment of approximately 34,000 students. A seven-member Board of Education, elected every four years on a nonpartisan basis, governs the unit.



Hospitals and Healthcare

Durham is the chief medical center south of Baltimore. Duke University Hospital is internationally known for its significant contributions to the study of cancer, heart disease and organ transplantation.

Duke University Health System operates Durham Regional Hospital through a sublease with Durham County Hospital Corporation, a non-profit corporation. The facility specializes in pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, orthopedics as well as general medicine and surgery.

The Veterans Administration Hospital provides general medicine and surgery.

Lincoln Community Health Center houses primary health programs, but provides no in-patient care.

Major Business

Durham County has a diversified economy with a strong foundation in biotechnology and life sciences, gaming and E-Learning, information technologies, nanotechnologies, and green and clean industries. We are also home to powerhouses in pharmacological research and development, financial services, healthcare and education.

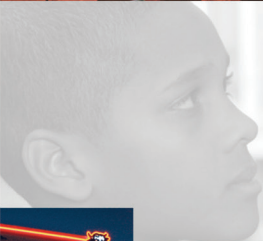
Noted Colleges and Universities

- Duke University
- North Carolina Central University
- Durham Technical Community College



Points of Interest

- American Tobacco Complex
- Bennett Place
- Carolina Theatre
- Black Wall Street
- Historic Parrish Street
- Durham Performing Arts Center
- Duke Chapel
- Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art
- Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum
- Streets at Southpoint
- Sara P. Duke Memorial Gardens
- Durham Bull's Ballpark
- Eno River State Park
- Hayti Heritage Center
- Little River Regional Park
- North Carolina Museum of Life and Science
- North Carolina Central University Art Museum
- North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company
- Stagville
- West Point on the Eno



Directory of County Services

Board of Commissioners.....	919-560-0026
Board of Elections	919-560-0700
Budget and Management Services	919-560-0012
City/County Inspections	919-560-4144
City/County Planning	919-560-4137
Clerk to the Board	919-560-0025
Cooperative Extension	919-560-0525
County Attorney	919-560-0715
County Manager	919-560-0000
Criminal Justice Resource Center	919-560-0500
Emergency Medical Services.....	919-560-8285
Engineering and Environmental Services.....	919-560-0735
Finance	919-560-0035
Fire Marshal and Emergency Management	919-560-0660
General Services	919-560-0430
Human Resources	919-560-7900
Information Services & Technology	919-560-7000
Internal Audit.....	919-560-0042
Library.....	919-560-0100
Public Health	919-560-7600
Register of Deeds	919-560-0480
Sheriff's Office	919-560-0897
Social Services	919-560-8000
Soil and Water Conservation District	919-560-0558
Tax Administration.....	919-560-0300
Veteran Services.....	919-560-8387
Youth Home	919-560-0840

Durham County Government
is an Equal Employment/
Affirmative Action Employer.

This publication was prepared
by the Public Information Office,
Durham County.

200 East Main Street
Durham, North Carolina 27701
919-560-0000
dconc.gov

