



DURHAM COUNTY

At A Glance

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.



Wendy Jacobs
Chair



James Hill
Vice Chair



Heidi Carter



Brenda
Howerton



Ellen Reckhow

Board of Commissioners

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: 295,373 *as of July 2016

Registered Voters: 218,082

Location: North Central North Carolina, equidistant from Philadelphia and Atlanta

Land Area: 299 square miles

County Seat: Durham

Tax Districts: City of Durham, Town of Morrisville, City of Raleigh, Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham Business Improvement District, Mangum, Lebanon, Redwood, Mangum Butner Special, Eno, New Hope, Bahama, Durham County Fire/Rescue Research Triangle Park Special

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 worldclass 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

33,000 students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade learn and grow in DPS's 53 schools, 23 offering magnet programs. DPS partners with higher education, community agencies and the business community to deliver innovative education to all students. An independently elected seven-member Board of Education governs the school district.

Hospitals and Healthcare

Duke University Hospital is internationally known for its significant contributions to the study of cancer, heart disease and organ transplantation. Duke University Health System also operates Duke Regional Hospital, formerly Durham Regional Hospital, through a sublease with Durham County Hospital Corporation, a non-profit corporation. Duke Regional 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

American Tobacco Trail

American Underground

Bennett Place

Carolina Theatre

Black Wall Street

Historic Parrish Street

Durham History Hub

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 + 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.....	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 · publicinformationoffice@dconc.gov
dconc.gov**

 [@DurhamCountyGov](https://www.facebook.com/DurhamCountyGov)

 [@DurhamCounty](https://twitter.com/DurhamCounty)

