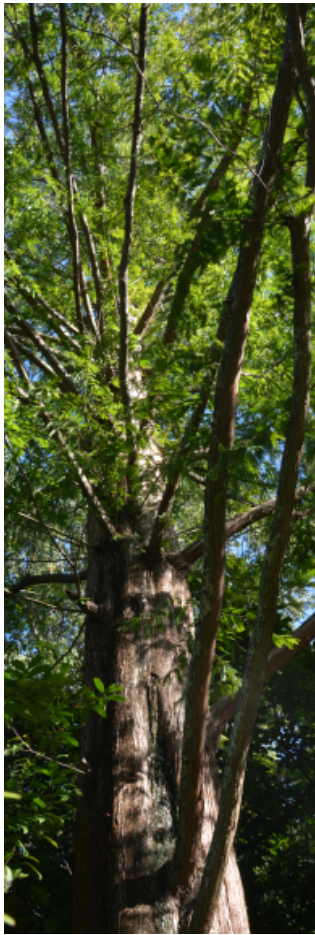


2018 DURHAM COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SUSTAINABILITY AT A GLANCE

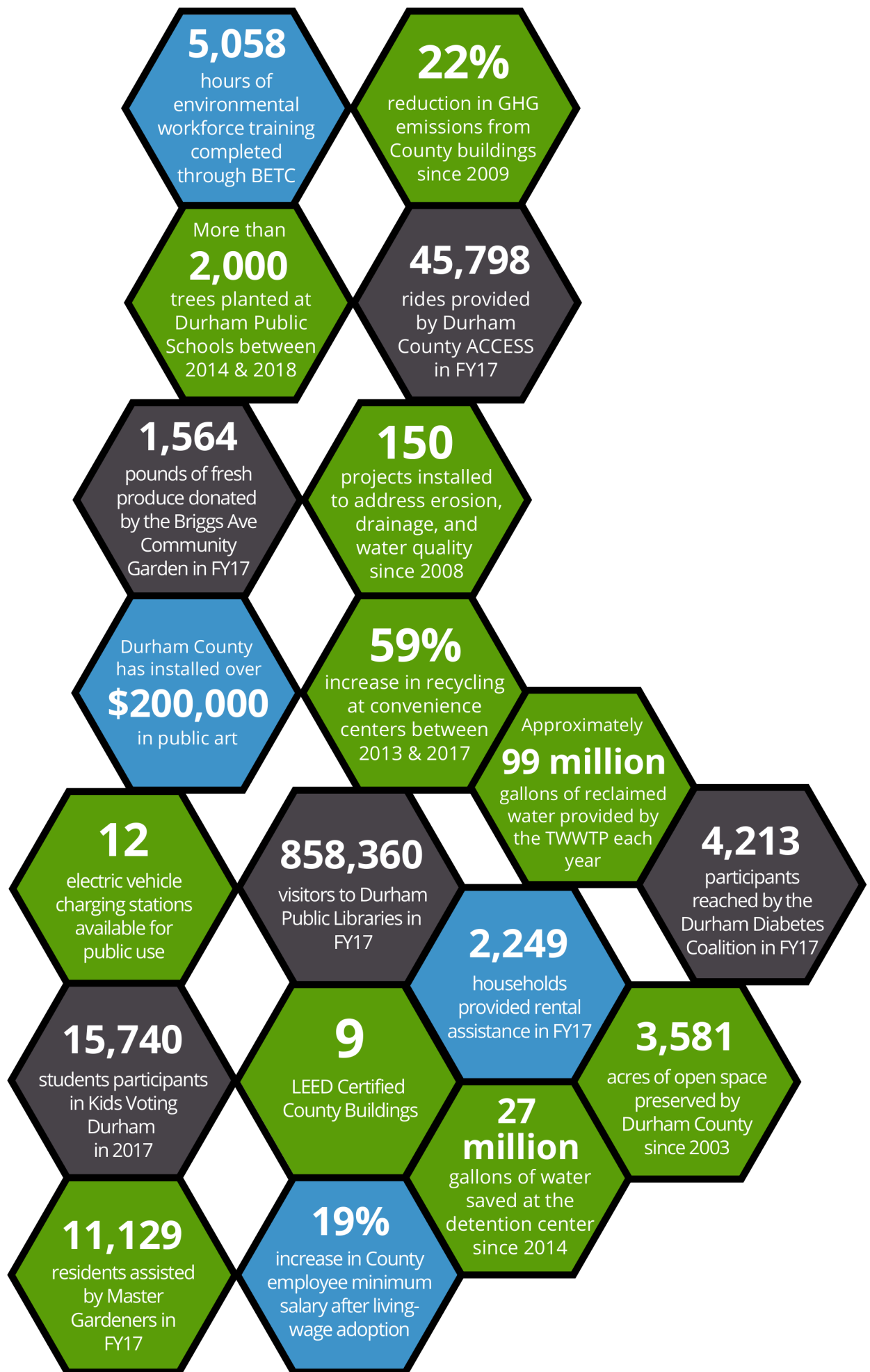


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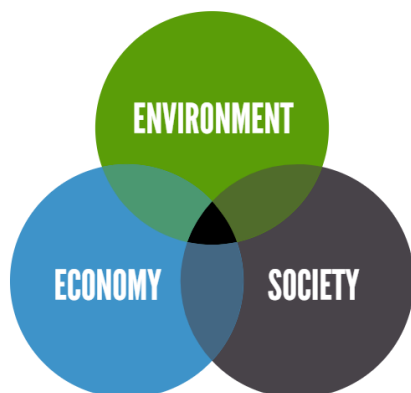
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INNOVATION

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?



Sustainability is the ability of communities to maintain themselves over time through careful stewardship of the resources that support them. Truly sustainable communities successfully balance the needs of all three facets of sustainability - the environment, the economy, and society - to provide for the needs of current residents while ensuring the ability of future residents to meet their own needs. While this report is organized into distinct sections based on these topics, in reality, the needs of each are fundamentally intertwined. Through ensuring environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social responsibility, a sustainable community provides widespread benefits that support a high quality of life for all residents, present and future.

DURHAM COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY

This report highlights many of the programs, policies, and achievements that have helped Durham become a national leader in sustainability. These various achievements, combined with efforts of the City of Durham, Durham Public Schools, and numerous community organizations, earned the Durham community a 4-STAR rating for national excellence in sustainability by the STAR Community Rating System. STAR is the nation's leading framework and certification program for local sustainability. It was developed by technical experts, sustainability leaders, and local government officials to provide a transparent and data-driven mechanism to evaluate and improve the sustainability of local communities. The framework includes over five hundred measures that evaluate communities across seven goal areas: the Built Environment; Climate and Energy; Economy and Jobs; Education, Arts, and Community; Equity and Empowerment; Health and Safety; Natural Systems; and Innovation. Durham was the first community to apply and become certified under the new, more rigorous 2.0 system, which includes an increased focus on equity throughout all goal areas. As of August 2018, Durham is one of only 28 other communities in the US to receive a 4-STAR rating.



Environment

The environment provides the natural resources that communities need to thrive - from the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to the natural spaces we enjoy. Minimizing our impact on these environmental assets in the present and protecting them for future generations is vital to achieving Durham County's long term vision of sustainability.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

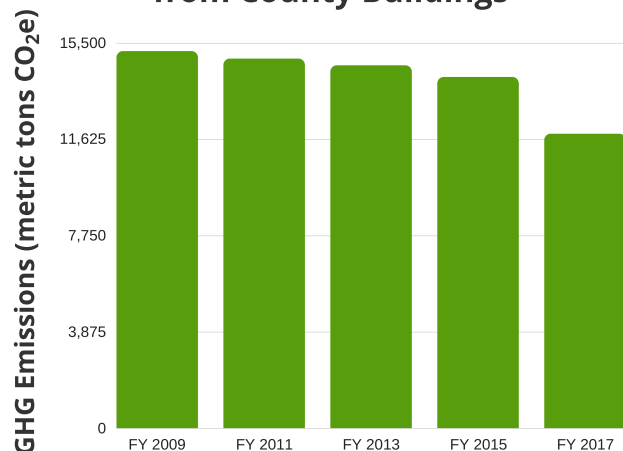
Climate change is one of the most serious and far-reaching environmental problems facing humanity. Gases from burning fossil fuels, decomposing organic waste, and other human activities trap the sun's energy in our atmosphere. This extra energy disrupts global weather patterns, increasing storms, droughts, sea level rise, heat waves, and other disasters. While this is a global problem, many of the solutions lie at the local level. Durham County is committed to being part of the solution by reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases through a number of programs and initiatives.

GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION

Durham County joined with the City of Durham in 2007 in becoming the first community in North Carolina to adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan to address our responsibility to slow climate change. The plan includes goals for reducing greenhouse gases from government operations by 50% and from the community by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030.

Since 2009, Durham County has **reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings by 22%** and **from water processing by more than 14%**. The **residential sector decreased emissions by 19%** and the **commercial sector decreased by 13%**. These decreases have occurred while the population in Durham has increased approximately 16%. Greenhouse gases from the **industrial sector increased by 5%** since 2009. To learn more about greenhouse gas reductions in Durham, visit bit.ly/2CQhdrt.

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions
from County Buildings**



Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Energy use in buildings is responsible for more than two-thirds of the County's greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing energy use in facilities is a key strategy for reducing emissions and also saves taxpayer dollars by reducing utility bills. Durham County has **improved energy efficiency in buildings by about 35%** since 2009 through energy retrofits in existing buildings and by replacing older buildings with newer, more efficient ones.

To speed up energy retrofits in buildings, the County entered into a 15-year Performance Contract with an Energy Services Contractor (ESCO) in 2010. Through this contract, the ESCO **retrofitted 7 County buildings** that

DID YOU KNOW?

More than **600,000 gallons of water per month** are being saved at the detention center since the County installed water saving toilets and shower heads in 2013.

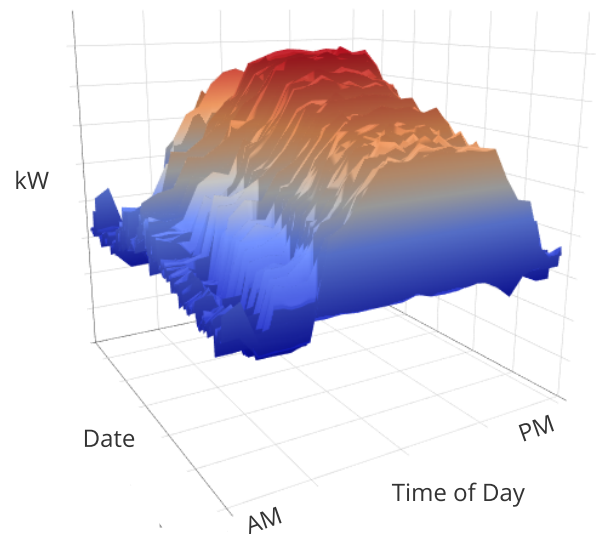
were high energy users and the savings from renovations are paying the debt service each year or the contractor pays the difference. This provided the County with a very low-risk way of making big improvements at the detention center, homeless shelter, Head Start downtown, the fire marshal's office, and three other buildings.

The County has **avoided more than \$1.6 million** in energy and water costs in the first three years of the program. That is more than **\$600,000 above what the ESCO guaranteed would be avoided**. Improvements through the program include more efficient heating and cooling systems, upgraded lighting technology, water saving toilets and showers, and building automation systems that adjust temperatures during non-work hours. **Savings include over 15 million kilowatt-hours of electricity,**

over 500,000 therms of natural gas, and over **27 million gallons of water**. This resulted in a **reduction of more than 14,200 tons of greenhouse gases** so far, about the same amount of emissions from energy used by **1,540 homes in 1 year**.

Leveraging Energy Data

Tracking and analyzing energy use is essential to reducing waste and emissions. The County partnered with a local energy software developer to tailor an energy and water monitoring system that automatically tracks electricity, natural gas, and water use at County facilities. Staff can then **review the data for 36 buildings and 16 water processing accounts** in several different graphs and charts to determine if there are problems and design strategies to lower use. This program is unique in pulling in smart meter data from Duke Energy and turning it into 3D graphs to see how energy is used throughout the day and over months and years. In just the first year of use, this program has helped identify several buildings that need energy efficiency improvements.



3D graphs allow for analysis of hourly building energy use.

Emergency Medical Services Ambulances

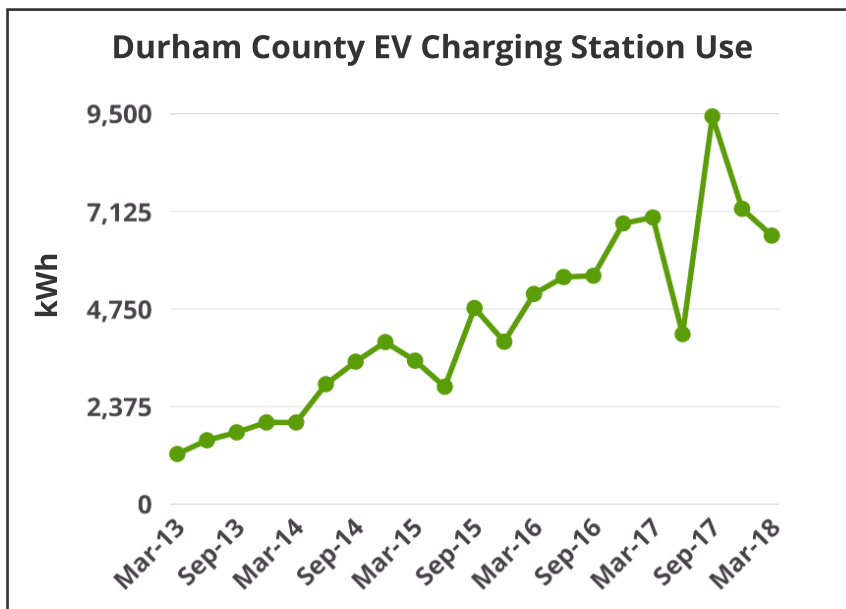
Durham County Emergency Medical Services vehicles drive over 600,000 miles per year responding to emergencies and transporting patients to hospitals. All of those miles add up, which is why the department **purchased 7 fuel-efficient ambulances** starting in 2015. As of August 2018, the fleet includes **25** of these Sprinter vehicles, which have many efficiency and safety features not previously available in ambulances. They get close to **two times the fuel economy** of traditional ambulances and come equipped with idle control technologies that shut the engine off when not needed. The vehicles also need less maintenance than the older ambulances, which saves money and reduces waste. Learn more at bit.ly/2kAoqky.



New efficient ambulances save money and reduce waste.

Electric Vehicles & Charging Stations

Electric vehicles (EVs) have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our transportation system. Durham was the first community in North Carolina to adopt an Electric Vehicle and Charging Station Plan and Durham County purchased two EVs for fleet use in 2012. To encourage other people to try the new technology, Durham County installed **12 EV charging stations** across **5 locations**. **Use of those stations increased over 438%** between 2013 and 2018, demonstrating the growth of EV use. Visit [plugshare.com](https://www.plugshare.com) to find charging stations around Durham.



The dip in 2017 occurred after stations at the Main Library were closed when the building was closed for renovations. However, usage recovered after EV users adjusted to using different stations.



A brightly colored parking icon designates the EV charging stations at South Regional Library.

WATER

Wastewater Treatment

Durham County's wastewater utility - comprised of the Triangle Wastewater Treatment Plant (TWWTP) and a small community wastewater Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) - is responsible for reducing contaminants in water used by Durham County residents before discharging it into our local waterways. Energy used in the **wastewater treatment process accounts for roughly 22%** of the electricity used by Durham County.

Not all of the wastewater that is treated is released back into the environment, however. The TWWTP operates a reusable water system that allows treated water to be reused for applications such as landscape irrigation, industrial cooling, industrial process water, and sewer cleaning. In fiscal year 2017 (FY17), approximately **99.2 million gallons of potable water that would have been used for these purposes was saved** through the use of TWWTP reuse water.



The sludge handling facility at the TWWTP was completed in February 2013.

Reuse is also achieved through the TWWTP biosolids system. Each year, **600 million wet pounds of biological waste residuals are ultimately transformed** into beneficial soil amendments, supporting the growth of new life in commercial landscaping and agricultural activities.

Rougemont Water System

In September 2016, the community of Rougemont in north Durham County celebrated the completion of the Rougemont Water System, which **provides safe drinking water to 40 homes and small businesses** previously unserved by a public water system. Construction began in 2015 and was paid for by a combination of federal, state, and county money and grants. Durham County designed the system and is responsible for its operation and management.

WASTE

Disposing of solid waste impacts our environment by increasing greenhouse gases and local air pollution through collecting, transporting, and sorting of waste and by methane released when food, plant materials, paper, and cloth decompose in the landfill. Durham County **supports reuse and recycling for the more than 13,000 households** that are not within the city boundaries.

Durham County has been working to provide a comprehensive recycling program since 1989. The County offers residential curbside recycling every other week and **provides 4 convenience centers** for recycling drop off. Both programs accept a wide variety of paper, plastics, metals, glass, and cardboard. In an effort to make it easier for people to recycle curbside, the County transitioned from 18-gallon bins to 95-gallon rollcarts between 2013 and 2016. Since the switch, the **amount of materials collected has increased by 64%**, from **183 pounds per household in 2012 to 300 pounds per household in 2018**.

The convenience sites also accept antifreeze, motor oil, lead acid batteries, clothing, books, used cooking oil, and white goods. In 2013, the convenience sites switched from dual stream to single stream recycling collection, making it easier for people to dispose of all of their recyclables without having to sort them first. The total **amount of recycling at the convenience centers increased by 59%** between 2013 and 2017.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County operates a Swap Shop at the Redwood Convenience Center. Residents can bring unwanted, but still usable, items and leave them for others to take and use. Acceptable items include, but are not limited to, small appliances, yard equipment, cookware, household items, and toys.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County Library was one of the first libraries in the country to offer reusable bags to replace plastic bags for patrons to bring home their books and videos. The reusable bags can be checked out like other library materials and then checked back in when the patron brings back their books. Because of this program, the library avoids giving out **14,000 plastic bags per year**.



NATURAL SYSTEMS

Natural systems - urban trees, forests, streams, open spaces, parks - provide a host of benefits to communities. They regulate processes that affect weather and flooding, improve public health, and enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the community. Durham County works hard across various departments to protect and restore the natural systems that improve the quality of life of Durham residents.

STREAMS

Sedimentation and stormwater runoff are two major contributors to water quality problems in our rivers and streams. Human activities have altered the watershed of these rivers and streams, resulting in poor water quality and the loss of important fish and wildlife habitat. Durham County works to address these water quality issues through the enforcement of local ordinances as well as the administering of various conservation programs.

Local Ordinances

The Durham County Stormwater Ordinance protects streams by limiting the amount of stormwater runoff and the associated pollutants from new development and by identifying and eliminating illegal discharges through stormwater collection systems. The Stormwater and Erosion Control Division administers this ordinance, which applies to all unincorporated areas of Durham County. The Stormwater and Erosion Control Division also enforces the Sedimentation and Erosion Control sections of the Unified Development Ordinance, which regulates how private developers can impact land throughout Durham. By conducting plan reviews, issuing land disturbance permits, and inspecting all permitted projects for compliance, this program helps prevent pollution and other damage to streams from erosion and sedimentation. Since 2013, the Stormwater and Erosion Control Division has **conducted over 6,000 inspections** and **issued 59 Notices of Violation**.



Durham County employees examine erosion at a stream.

Stream Restoration

Recognizing the need for stream improvements and stormwater treatment in Durham County, the Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District implements stream restoration and stormwater improvement projects. Partnering with various engineering firms and using federal and state grant funds, the District has **received over \$7.6 million for 18 different projects** from 2004 to 2017. The most recent 4 stream restoration and stormwater projects the District has undertaken have an estimated **pollutant reduction of 2,422 tons per year of sediment, 1,788 pounds per year of nitrogen, and 125.6 pounds per year of phosphorus**.



A stream restoration project reduces erosion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dog waste left in the environment increases individuals' exposure to bacteria, viruses, and parasites and pollutes water bodies. As of September 2016, dog owners can be fined up to \$150 for not cleaning up after their pets in Durham County. To report a violation and help keep Durham County clean and healthy, call (919) 560-0900.

Community Stormwater Projects & Nutrient Management

The Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District provides free site consultations, technical assistance, and cost-share reimbursements to non-agricultural landowners for stormwater and nutrient management through Durham County's Impaired Stream Improvement Program (ISIP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). Staff meet with landowners to investigate drainage and erosion concerns on individual and community properties. Many of these erosion and drainage problems contribute to water pollution through soil erosion, improper lawn management, and direct downspout connections to the storm drain network and local waterways.

Cost-effective and sustainable solutions are presented to landowners through conservation plans that include projects such as rainwater harvesting cisterns, rain gardens, streambank stabilization and streamside buffers, grass swales, native plantings, and more. Up to 75% cost-share reimbursement may be available for project installations through CCAP, while ISIP may provide up to 100% of project installation costs for eligible landowners who meet low-income thresholds. Since 2008, the District has **reimbursed nearly \$460,000** to urban and suburban landowners to **install more than 150 projects** that address erosion, drainage, and water quality concerns.

District staff also provide guidance on maintaining healthy lawns and gardens through proper nutrient management (fertilizer use and application) as part of the Voluntary Nutrient Reduction Program. Participating landowners and lawn care companies pledge to follow recommended best management practices and tailored management plans for their properties to reduce excess nutrient pollution while still maintaining beautiful and thriving landscapes.



A 1,400 square-foot planted area at the NC School of Science and Mathematics reduces erosion.



Volunteers plant a tree on Driver Street.

URBAN TREES

Trees provide a range of benefits to people and the environment, especially in urban areas – providing shade, cleaning the air, filtering water, reducing stormwater runoff, creating visual and sound buffers, reducing stress, and discouraging crime. Since 2013, Durham County has partnered with the City of Durham, Keep Durham Beautiful, Duke University, and other community groups to expand and improve Durham's urban forest. This Trees Across Durham partnership resulted in the **planting of more than 2,000 trees** at Durham public elementary, middle, and high schools and another **2,000 trees** throughout Durham between 2014 and 2018. Durham County also

encouraged the use of tree bands to protect trees against cankerworms through workshops, volunteer banding events, public education, and by providing free banding kits. Tree banding efforts over the last several years have resulted in a reduction of local cankerworm populations.

OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

The Durham County Open Space Program was formally created in 2003 to guide the County's protection of significant open space lands, with a focus on watersheds, significant natural habitats, and farmland protection. The program focuses on preserving critical properties in County adopted Open Space Plan Areas - New Hope Creek, Little River Corridor, East Durham, and the recently adopted Urban Open Space Plan. Since the program began, the County has **permanently preserved 3,462 acres of land** through purchases and conservation easements. The program relies heavily on partnerships with nonprofit organizations and other governmental entities.

Durham County has been fortunate to receive strong federal and state support for its open space and farmland preservation efforts, including over **\$9.5 million in grants**. In addition, partnership contributions and landowner donations total another \$4.3 million in land value. In all, Durham County has **contributed \$5 million towards open space and farmland easements** out of a total project value of over **\$18 million**. This means Durham has leveraged \$73 in outside grants or landowner donations for every \$27 that the County has spent.

Farmland Protection

Farmland preservation is a unique and important part of Durham County's Open Space Program. Durham County helps to preserve farmland for future generations by purchasing the development rights of the farm and by placing a conservation easement on the farm that prohibits non-farm use in perpetuity. The land stays privately owned, for farming and forestry uses, but cannot be developed for non-farm uses. The program relies heavily on federal and state grants and partial donations to keep down the costs. Farmland protection efforts are guided by the Durham Farmland Protection Advisory Board. To date, the County has **permanently preserved 2,131 acres of farmland** on **14 working farms**, with **5 more** totaling another **230 acres** funded and underway.



Protected farmland in Durham County.

Open Space Protected Lands

The County Open Space Program has protected significant bottomland forest that comprises the New Hope Creek Preserve between the county line at Hollow Rock park southward to near Old Chapel Hill Road. Protection efforts have been guided by the New Hope Creek Corridor Open space plan, a multi-jurisdictional plan adopted by the City of Durham, Durham County, Orange County and Town of Chapel Hill. This significant natural area is highly rated by the state's natural

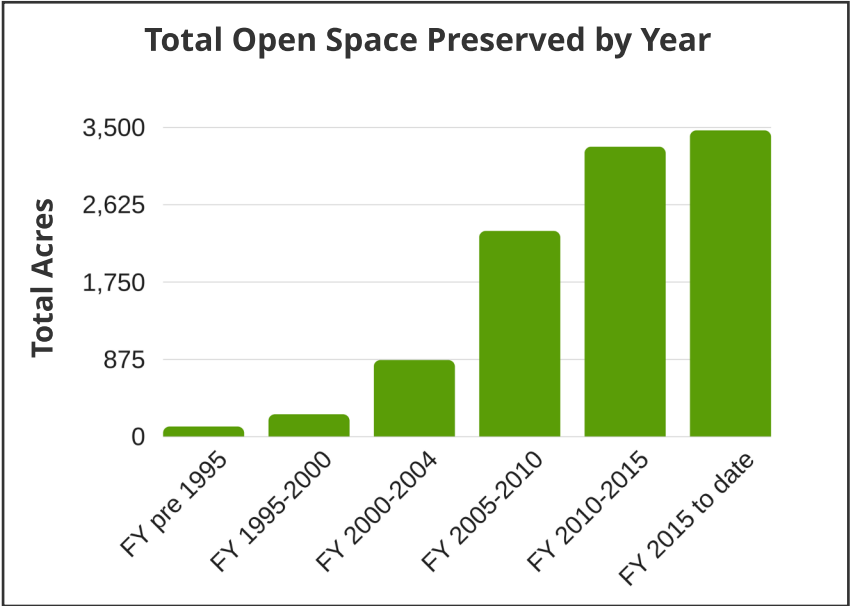
DID YOU KNOW?

The Durham's Finest Trees program promotes awareness of trees in our community and catalogs fine examples of magnificent specimens due to their size, setting, historical importance, or significant feature. To nominate your favorite tree for a Durham's Finest Trees award visit bit.ly/2uVLhPk.

DID YOU KNOW?

The County has permanently preserved **2,218 acres** of woodland as of April 2018.

heritage program, and the County has **preserved 323 acres in 14 properties within this area**. The County has also **protected 618 acres of sensitive natural habitat** within the Little River watershed, a significant drinking water supply for most Durham residents. Most recently, the County has protected two significant areas near Falls Lake in east Durham, totaling **365 acres**; both of these areas will be developed for recreational use in the future. Open space protection efforts are guided by the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission. To learn more, visit, bit.ly/2IxlycK.



Agriculture and Horticulture

To address natural resources concerns and needs on agricultural land in Durham County, The Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District administers programs that help cover most of the cost of installing measures that improve water quality. Through these programs, qualifying applicants can be reimbursed 75-90% of a predetermined average cost for each best management practice (BMP) installed.

Through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Assistance Program (ACSP), the District works with landowners and agricultural operators to identify the best measure suited to each site and situation, develop and implement farm conservation plans, design and oversee installation of conservation BMPs, and provide technical assistance to ensure proper operation and long-term maintenance of BMPs. Since 2008, **\$385,667 in ACSP funds have been spent** in Durham County and **64 BMPs have been installed**.

The NC Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) is available to assist the Durham County agriculture community with on-farm water needs such as identifying opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability, and storage, implementing BMPs to conserve and protect water resources, and increasing water storage and availability for agricultural purposes. Since 2012, **\$113,664 in AgWRAP funds have been spent** and **12 BMPs have been installed**.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Durham County Open Space and Trails Commission provides matching grants to non-profit organizations in Durham to preserve open space and promote new or improved recreational opportunities. Previous projects include installing playground equipment, purchasing property for parks and trails, educational signage on trails, trail bridge replacements, planting native gardens, invasive-species removal, and planting trees.



Friends of the Mountain-to-Sea Trail received a Matching Grant to assist in constructing the bridge over Falls Lake.

Recreation Areas

Parks provide numerous benefits to communities, including providing direct contact with nature, facilitating a cleaner environment, and providing opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. The Durham County Open Space Program partners with Orange County to **operate 2 parks** for public, recreational use. These parks were the result of citizen led initiatives to preserve the land and now offer a host of amenities for the public to enjoy. The 391-acre Little River Regional Park **offers 7 miles of hiking trails, 7 miles of biking trails**, a birding trail, picnic shelters, playground, open field, and group campground. The 75-acre Hollow Rock Nature Park **includes 1.5 miles of hiking trails**, an open play field, and trail connections to Duke Forest. The Open Space Program also **maintains a 1.5-mile nature trail** in the New Hope Creek Preserve that is accessed from the City of Durham's Old Chapel Hill Road Park.



Durham residents can enjoy a number of trails in Hollow Rock Nature Park.

FOREST PROTECTION

There are **more than 190,700 acres of forest land** in Durham County, as well as acres of urban forest. These resources require active management to stay healthy and productive as well as protected from fire and pests. The Durham

County Forest Protection Program provides residents with effective forest management, financial assistance, urban and community forestry planning, forest fire protection, and tree insect and disease prevention.

The program protects the forests and landowners from wildland fire by working closely with local fire departments to put out forest fires, providing training opportunities, and managing cost sharing programs for the acquisition of wildland fire equipment and gear. Staff help prevent and respond to pest and disease outbreaks through direct response and mitigation as well as landowner support and education. Through the program, logging operations are inspected for water quality control and sedimentation restrictions. The program staff also provide landowner workshops and school programs to educate multiple generations as to the importance of our forests and trees and how to better take care of this renewable resource. In FY17, Durham County Foresters were **involved in 640 forest management and practice plans**.



A path through a forest in Durham.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County Forest Rangers assisted with **9 forest fires** in 2017 protecting **300 acres**.

MASTER GARDENERS

The Durham County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program connects residents with resources to learn more about a myriad of gardening topics. They **have nearly 100 volunteers** who answer questions, conduct demonstrations and workshops, and help maintain Durham's community garden at Briggs Avenue. To become a Master Gardener, volunteers complete a 15-week training program and then contribute forty hours of volunteer time every year. Beyond their initial training experience, they are able to attend lectures and workshops offered by state and national experts. In FY17, master gardeners **conducted 8,749 hours of service** and **assisted 11,129 individuals**. To find out more about the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program visit ncstategardening.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

In FY17, the Briggs Avenue Community Garden provided **1,564 pounds of fresh produce** to the Durham Tech Food Pantry.



Raised beds at the Briggs Avenue Community Garden.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our built environment – the buildings we live and work in and the transportation systems we use to get to and from those places – significantly affects both environmental and public health as well as overall quality of life. Durham County works to maximize the environmental and public health benefits of our built environment through policy as well support for various initiatives.

LEED BUILDINGS

Buildings impact the environment through the materials used to build them as well as the energy and water used in operating them. Durham County has been a leader in constructing buildings that reduce those impacts while providing pleasant, healthy, and productive work environments. The Engineering and Environmental Services Department uses the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

(LEED) certification process when designing buildings and managing their construction. LEED is the leading green building certification process in the country and includes elements of energy conservation, water conservation, siting, transportation, local and sustainable materials, and indoor environmental quality.

Durham County adopted a High Performance Building Policy in 2008 that commits the County to receiving LEED Gold certification for new facilities and certified for retrofitted facilities. The County currently **has 9 LEED designated buildings – 2 certified, 5 silver, and 2 gold**. Notable green features include LED lighting, green roofs, rainwater cisterns, and regenerative elevator drives that reduce the energy consumed by elevators.

DID YOU KNOW?

Visitors to the LEED Gold Courthouse can learn about sustainability features of the building from interpretive signs placed throughout. Many of the signs have QR codes linked to short videos explaining the features in more depth.

GREEN FACTS

The roof on this part of the building is called a **green roof**. It is covered in sedum plants, which absorb water when it rains and can withstand drought. Green roofs reduce the amount of rainwater that carries pollution into nearby streams during storms by using that water for the plants and slowing it down as it exits drains. They also help insulate the building to reduce energy use.



TRANSPORTATION

Bus and Rail Investment

The Board of County Commissioners approved the Durham County Bus and Rail Investment Plan in June 2011 and a half-cent sales and use tax to support the implementation of the plan was approved by voters in November 2011. The plan proposes new and improved bus service throughout the county as well as a light rail transit system between Durham and Orange counties and a commuter rail system between Durham and Wake counties. Since adoption, GoDurham has **provided over 24,000 hours of expanded bus service** and GoTriangle has **provided more than 7,000 hours** in Durham County.



A rendition of the proposed light rail transit system between Durham and Orange counties. (ourtransitfuture.com)

Commuter Benefits

Durham County is committed to helping its employees reduce the environmental impact of their daily commute. In 2018, Durham County was nationally recognized as a Best Workplace for Commuters for its commuter benefits program. Durham County employees can take advantage of GoTriangle GoPasses at a discounted rate of \$25/year, a vanpool subsidy of \$20/month, as well as flexible and telework scheduling options.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County and GoTriangle work with employers to reduce the impact of their employees' commutes. The Durham County Trip Reduction Program provides information, analysis, and resources to employers to help them encourage their employees to carpool, bus, vanpool, bike, walk, or telework.



Durham County was nationally recognized as a Best Workplace for Commuters.

Economy

Economically sustainable communities foster equitable economic prosperity and stability by providing residents with access to a range of quality jobs and by promoting sectors that generate revenue for private and public entities. Durham County helps stimulate the local economy through workforce development, business recruitment, tourism promotion, and prudent investment.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In an effort to expand upon Durham's tremendous economic transformation over the last 20 years, the County and City published a joint Economic Development Strategic Plan in 2015 to guide future economic development. The plan revolves around three core principles – City and County alignment, public-private partnerships, and market and industry drivers – to provide the basis for an effective economic development strategy for the community. Structure for the economic development planning and implementation process is provided by four strategic focus areas: business retention and recruitment, business-friendly environment, infrastructure, and talent development and recruitment.

LIVING WAGE

When individuals make a fair living wage, families, communities, and the economy all benefit. A living wage is defined as enough income to meet basic needs - a standard level of nutrition, housing, transportation, energy, healthcare, education, and savings - within regulated working hours. For most families, the federal and state minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour does not provide enough income to meet these needs. In January 2017, Durham County adjusted its living wage calculation to ensure that all of its employees make at least \$15 an hour, or at least 7.5% above the federal poverty guidelines for a family of four. With this change, **the minimum salary for County employees increased from \$26,122 per year to \$31,200 per year, a 19% increase.**

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Being financially fit is essential to reaching and maintaining a quality life. This can be challenging, however, especially in today's complicated world of financial offerings, different ways to plan and save money, tax changes, and debt levels. Durham County Cooperative Extension offers courses in financial literacy, money and debt management, consumer education, estate planning, and building assets and wealth through their Family Resource Management program. In addition, the Durham County Library often has programs that focus on financial literacy and resource management.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County has
installed over
\$200,000
in public art.



Residents and visitors enjoy a Durham Bulls baseball game. (BrianFlemingPhotography.com, Durham Bulls Athletic Park)

DURHAM SPORTS COMMISSION

Sporting events attract visitors from far and wide to Durham, generating local economic benefits through restaurants, hotels, and ticket sales. In an effort to increase this economic opportunity, the Durham Sports Commission was created in 2016 to “create economic and social impact by leading the community’s efforts to attract, support and promote youth, amateur, collegiate, and professional sporting and recreational events.” The Commission is a collaboration among Durham County, the City of Durham, the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. The Durham Sports Commission partnerships **generated \$15.7 million** in FY17. Durham County supports the Commission through Occupancy Tax funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Soil and Water Conservation District operates the Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC) to build students' knowledge and skills so they can compete for jobs in environmental fields. Created in 2010, this program seeks to improve STEM literacy for students by providing teachers with curricula and training and by advancing responsible student behaviors toward the environment. Through hands-on implementation, activities, and research, the program engages middle and high school students in water quality projects, such as rain gardens, that address how to mitigate urban stormwater runoff that threatens our water quality. In FY17, **students completed 5,058 hours of training and work.**



Students maintain a rain garden as part of the BETC program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County has invested **\$2.7 million** in incentives for a \$189 million expansion project at Corning Incorporated in Treyburn Industrial Park. The expansion will create an additional **317 jobs** over three years, most of which will require a high school diploma or certification degree and will pay about \$60,000 annually.

PARK CENTER REDEVELOPMENT AT RTP

The Research Triangle Park (RTP) has long been a premiere site for employment and a significant driver of economic development in Durham County. In an effort to promote a more holistic approach to development and community and attract even more industry, the Research Triangle Foundation is planning to **redevelop roughly 50 acres** of the Park. The goal of the redevelopment is to attract new industry by including public green spaces, hotels, retail spaces, co-working sites, and apartments to diversify a historically "work only" zone. Durham County is a significant partner in this redevelopment, having **contributed \$20 million to a \$50 million** Public-Private Partnership agreement, and will aid in site infrastructure and amenity development.

Society

Achieving sustainability requires maintaining an equitable, healthy, and engaging community for current and future residents alike. Socially sustainable communities promote equitable access to services, support engagement within and outside of the community, celebrate diversity, and ensure the health and safety of residents.

EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Truly equitable and empowered communities ensure that everyone has fair and equal access to opportunity. Through a host of programs and services, Durham County works to empower *all* residents to advance their well-being and achieve their full potential.

EMPOWERING JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

The Durham County Criminal Resource Justice Center (CJRC) helps people stay out of the justice system through programs that develop employment skills, provide support through the transition out of incarceration, and connect at-risk individuals, such as those affected by substance abuse or mental health issues, to targeted treatment.

Youth-specific programs are also available, such as the Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP), which helps 16 and 17 year old individuals with a first time, non-violent, misdemeanor offense remain out of the adult criminal justice system, allowing them to complete the 90-day program in lieu of formal court processing. The program **experienced a 100% completion rate** in both FY16 and FY17. Due to the program's success, an additional Adult MDP program was established for first time, non-violent offenders age 18 to 21.

DURHAM COUNTY ACCESS

The Durham County Cooperative Extension coordinates Durham County ACCESS, which provides transportation to residents for employment and medical purposes as well as other personal needs. The program's fleet of vans are equipped with lifts to serve a variety of individual mobility requirements and **provided 45,768 individual trips** in FY17. For additional information about the application process and operation schedule, contact (919) 560-0520.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), offered through the Department of Social Services, is a federally funded program that provides one-time grants and emergency cash payments to assist eligible families pay their energy bills. Applicants must meet program eligibility requirements to receive assistance. The deadline for



Residents enjoy the Durham County ACCESS service.

application is generally mid-November of each year. As of June 2018, **3,154 LIEAP applications** have been **approved** for FY18. Contact the Durham County Department of Social Services at (919) 560-8000 to apply.

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY DISABLED SERVICES

Durham County Library offers specific services for the blind and visually impaired, deaf and hearing impaired, and those with impaired mobility at various library locations and online to ensure equitable access to its resources. Durham County Library's OASIS (Older Adult and Shut-In Service) provides access to library materials to individuals who are physically unable to visit the library due to age, illness, or physical disability. Visit bit.ly/2oWkXPE or call (919) 560-0155 for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham County Library's Main Library is currently undergoing a major expansion and renovation. This transformation will bring updated facilities, additional space, and enhanced technology to Main Library in 2019.



COUNTY PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

As of October 2016, Durham County's parental leave policy allows employees to take three months of paid leave after the birth of their child. Employees who adopt, foster, or take responsibility for a child under the age of 5 are also eligible for leave. Most governments that provide paid leave only offer between four and eight weeks and it is rare for employers to offer paid leave to both mothers and fathers. The County's policy demonstrates its commitment to equality and the value it places on the wellbeing of its employees and their families.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the summer of 2016, over **400 participants** across a diverse array of industries have completed racial equity training sessions sponsored by the Department of Public Health.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Being healthy and safe is the foundation for living a happy and productive life. Durham County partners with the community to prevent and address unsafe conditions, protect life and property, and respond to emergencies so that everyone has the chance to thrive.

FAMILY AND CHILD HEALTH

The Department of Public Health offers a number of programs to promote the health of young children. The Care Coordination for Children program provides eligible families with a Care Manager who serves as the link between parents and their child's doctor and helps families identify programs, services, and resources that meet their needs. There were **614 children referred to this program** in FY16. Healthy Futures is a child health assessment and prevention program that offers health services for newborn and all school aged children including immunizations, kindergarten physicals, health check-ups, and more. **379 children were assessed** in FY17. Visit bit.ly/2xRqvP4 to learn more about these programs.

Welcome Baby

The Durham County Cooperative Extension offers the Welcome Baby Program, which provides parenting education and support to families with young children. Welcome Baby offers parenting workshops, car seat safety sessions, literacy programs, informal discussion groups, and a giving closet free of charge to all Durham County residents with newborns and children up to age five. The **Welcome Baby giving closet served 1,811 parents** in FY17. All programs are available in English and Spanish. To learn more about this program, visit: facebook.com/welcomebabydurham.

Free and Low-Cost Clinics

Many medical clinics are available for free or at reduced cost at the Durham County Human Services Complex. Available clinics include: STD/HIV, Children's Health, Nutrition, Communicable Diseases, Women's Health, Oral Health, and Pharmacy. Over **26,000 lab tests were conducted** across all Public Health Clinics in FY17. To learn more, visit dcopublichealth.org/services.



The Durham County Health and Human Services Building offers many free and low-cost clinics.

Free and low-cost services are also available through the Lincoln Community Health Center, Lyon Park Neighborhood Clinic, and Holton Resource Center Neighborhood Clinic, which are owned by Durham County and City of Durham, respectively, and managed by Duke Health. These clinics provide care in family medicine, radiology, dermatology, eye care, hepatitis C, dental, behavioral health, gynecology, and nephrology, and more. Learn more at bit.ly/2G6JkI3.

Durham County also operates a Tooth Ferry Mobile Dental Unit that visits public elementary schools to provide cleaning and exams, x-rays, sealants, fluoride application, fillings, and oral health education to students. **Over 7,000 students received dental health screenings** in schools in FY17.

MENTAL HEALTH

In 2016, Durham County partnered with Alliance Behavioral Health to transform the way detention facilities, mental health providers, and managed care organizations work together to provide the appropriate treatment and support to people who come in contact with the detention system. This Mental Health Collaboration Program is funded by a US Department of Justice Grant and Durham County funds and identifies, screens, assesses, and tracks protocols for inmates with mental illness at the Durham County Detention Facility. As part of this program, a new screening process improves the detention facility's classification of detainees, enhances housing unit assignments for detainees with mental illness, and identifies a detainee's risk factors as well as their individual treatment needs in order to prevent recidivism. The program also includes ongoing, accelerated on-site training for detention staff in Mental Health First Aid and Crisis Intervention.

DID YOU KNOW?

Project Access Durham is an organized system to bring no-charge health care to low income, uninsured residents of Durham County. They recruit medical professionals to donate time and resources to provide these services. Learn more at: bit.ly/2FtxpN3

DID YOU KNOW?

As a way to limit exposure to second-hand smoke, Durham County adopted a rule in 2012 that prohibits smoking on all government (City and County) properties, bus stops, parks, trails, and sidewalks that are next to County facilities, City facilities, schools, or hospitals. This rule was expanded in 2016 to include e-cigarettes.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Durham County Food and Nutrition Services provides assistance to individuals and families for purchasing food using an EBT card based on their income and assets through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). To apply, visit bit.ly/2FDkM5f or use the onsite Applications Lab at Durham County Department of Social Services at 414 E. Main Street.

DINE for LIFE

Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education for Lasting Improvements in Fitness and Eating (DINE for LIFE) is a unique school and community-based nutrition education and behavior change program that targets at risk families and children that are eligible for SNAP benefits. Nutritional education programming is offered in elementary schools, middle schools, and community organizations throughout Durham County. Each year through DINE, over **30,000 students at targeted schools participate in classroom nutrition and fitness lessons and healthy foods taste-testing** conducted by registered nutritionists. The 2017 end of year survey demonstrated that **75% of children were willing to eat healthier** by the end of the school year as a result of this program. For more information about DINE for LIFE, call (919) 560-7837.

Color Me Healthy

The Durham County Cooperative Extension offers the Color Me Healthy program in pre-K and kindergarten classes in schools, Head Start programs, and child care centers. Through the program, children learn about healthy eating and exercise through all five senses – seeing, touching, tasting, hearing, and smelling. The goal of the program is to teach healthy habits in a fun and engaging way. The program also includes handouts for parents with nutrition tips, recommendations for books to read, ideas to increase family physical activity, and grocery store adventure ideas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Double Bucks program matches up to \$10 for SNAP customers at the Durham Farmer's Market, the South Durham Farmers Market, and the Duke Farmers Market. This partnership between the farmers markets, Durham County Department of Public Health, Transition Durham, and Durham CAN is funded through grants and donations. Since the beginning of the program, **\$55,035** has been spent in Double Bucks sales.



A student enjoys the DINE for LIFE curriculum.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham has a Healthy Community Action Plan that identifies the most urgent community health issues and sets priorities for addressing these issues: bit.ly/2uFbL7F

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Every three years, the Durham County Department of Public Health and the Partnership for a Healthy Durham complete a health assessment for the entire county. The purpose of these regular assessments is to provide, in one location, a compilation of valid and reliable information about the health of the Durham Community. The 2017 **assessment process included 358 resident surveys** from randomly selected households and **3 community listening sessions**

with **42 community members**. This community input culminated in the selection of new health priorities and the compilation of recommendations for how to address existing priorities identified in previous assessments.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY DURHAM

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham, organized out of the Department of Public Health since 2004, is a coalition of local organizations and community members with the goal of collaboratively improving the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of Durham's residents. The Partnership has five committees that focus on a Durham County health priority and communications. There are **currently more than 500 active members** in the Partnership.

DID YOU KNOW?

Durham won a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize in 2014 for the work of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham.



DID YOU KNOW?

The top five health priorities identified by Durham residents in the 2017 Community Health Assessment were 'affordable housing,' 'access to health care and insurance,' 'poverty,' 'mental health,' and 'obesity, diabetes and food access.'

In response to resident feedback about accessible exercise options from the Community Health Assessment, the Partnership established the Healthy Mile Trail system. The trail system **includes 5 one-mile loops** throughout Durham that make it easier for residents to reach the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical activity. To learn more, visit bit.ly/2PXn2pK.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Durham County Sheriff's Office serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the approximately 200 square miles of the unincorporated area within Durham County. The Office operates sixteen divisions to provide a comprehensive approach to reducing crime and its effect on our community.

The Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Effort (SCOPE) aims to positively impact the lives of Durham County residents through numerous functions including funeral escorts, event security and traffic control, traffic enforcement, impaired driving education, community watch, and more. As of February 2017, a Hispanic Community Outreach Coordinator works with community advocates to address issues specifically related to Durham's

Hispanic/Latino community. The Hispanic Community Outreach Coordinator assists Spanish-speaking crime victims, organizes community meetings in the Hispanic Community, gathers community feedback for consideration as the Sheriff's Office revises new policies, and promotes and expands existing outreach services. Focusing on community youth, The CHOICES Youth Program aims to teach boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 15 about the power of their choices by providing realistic examples of the consequences of poor decisions. Since the program began in 2013, **80 children have completed the program**.



A Durham County youth participates in a Sheriff's Office program.

GANG REDUCTION

Numerous Durham County departments focus on promoting safety in the community through programs that target gang reduction and prevention. The Criminal Justice Resource Center (CJRC) operates the Gang Reduction Strategy, which aims to reduce gang-related crime and violence by implementing effective prevention measures at



Durham youth learn about how a local business operates as part of Project BUILD.

the youngest appropriate age, ensuring that effective intervention services are in place, prosecuting gang crime to the fullest extent of the law, and collecting sufficient data to determine the effectiveness of the Strategy. The Department of Public Health operates Project BUILD, a multi-disciplinary gang prevention and intervention program that provides coordinated case management and services to youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 21 who are at high risk of gang involvement. GREAT, or the Gang Resistance Education and Training program, is facilitated by the Sheriff's Office and focuses on preventing delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership through classroom curriculum for 4th and 6th grade students.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

Hazard Mitigation Plan

As the cost and impact of disasters continue to rise, governments and residents must find ways to reduce hazard risks to our communities and individuals. In 2014, Durham County joined with Alamance and Orange counties to develop a three-county regional hazard mitigation plan, supported and funded by the State of North Carolina. This plan includes priorities for addressing hazards such as floods, fires, and major power outages. The Eno-Haw Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan can be viewed at

bit.ly/2NWvjgQ.

Regional Resilience Planning

Understanding how changing social, economic, and environmental conditions in the Triangle could impact our ability to recover after natural or human-caused shocks to the system is key to keeping Durham vibrant and productive. To better understand the potential effects of changing climate and demographic conditions, Durham County teamed up with other local governments in the region and the Triangle J Council of Governments to form the Triangle Regional Resilience Partnership (TRRP).

Through GIS mapping, data analysis, and environmental modeling, as well as the consideration of current Hazard Mitigation Plans, Comprehensive Plans, Mutual Aid

Agreements, etc., the TRRP developed a regional resilience assessment of the region's assets and threats. The assessment also includes prioritized recommendations to enhance the resilience of the region and each participating community. To find out more, visit tjcg.org/regional-resiliency-assessment.aspx.



Members of the TRRP explore regional assets and threats at a Resilience Assessment workshop.

Public Health Preparedness

Public Health threats can be caused by natural, accidental, or intentional means. The Emergency Preparedness Program aims to strengthen and enhance the capability of the community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from health related threats. To ensure public health is prepared for all types of threats, the Durham County Health Department requires special training for staff to be able to handle emergencies, develops and revises emergency public health response plans, and participates in practice exercises with other response agencies.



MRC volunteers prepare to respond to an event.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Inspections and Permitting

The Environmental Health Division promotes and protects public health through mandated inspections and the enforcements of local and state public health laws, rules, and regulations. Over **3,000 inspections were conducted** in FY17, including inspections for food service, meat markets, lodging, child care, rest homes, institutions, or facilities. The Environmental Health Division also issues septic permits and well permits after site and soil evaluations are performed and the site meets applicable conditions. Plans for public swimming pools are reviewed for approval and pools are permitted and inspected for compliance with health, safety, operational and maintenance requirements. For a list of all Environmental Health Division forms and applications, visit bit.ly/2DwAY8T.



A Durham County employee conducts a food service inspection.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **380 Durham residents** use the popular NextDoor App, which the Emergency Management Department uses to provide information and conduct research on hazards. They also use an emergency notification service to let people know what is happening and what to do when an emergency is happening. Learn more at nextdoor.com/city/durham-nc/.

Durham County is **one of 990 communities** in the US that has a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Established in 2006, the MRC's mission is to improve the health and safety of our community through training, organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other non-medical volunteers. The local MRC unit continues to provide support during disasters, major disease outbreaks, community events, and educational opportunities. Volunteers assist with staffing shelters, dispensing medications, providing vaccines, and much more.

Pest Control

Mosquitoes and other pests can spread diseases such as West Nile Virus and Zika. The County's General Services Department works to reduce the threat of these pests at County facilities and throughout Durham County through the Pest Control Program. Activities include regular scheduled **spraying of 70 plus county facilities** for the control of pests, and the prevention of mosquito breeding by cutting, clearing, larviciding, and herbiciding of drainage areas. The program provides public assistance for violations, orders of abatement, and educational information under the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Pest Management. Although the County is not permitted to treat privately owned property, its certified Pest Control staff performs educational services to share information. This is designed to assist the residents of Durham in knowing how to effectively treat their own property for pests. For more information, visit bit.ly/2zuCGVj.

Nuisance Property Ordinance

To protect the public safety, health, and welfare of Durham County residents, the County instituted an ordinance making it unlawful to create a public health nuisance on any parcel of land or to allow a nuisance to remain on one's property. Public health nuisances are defined as any action or condition that is dangerous to public health or safety. Examples include high grass, standing water that serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, junk cars, offensive odors, uncovered wells and pits, construction debris, and piles of garbage. In FY17, **88 properties were investigated** for solid waste and high grass complaints. To report a nuisance property, call General Services at (919) 560-4197.



Junk cars in a yard are one example of a nuisance property.

EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT



Children enjoy an educational program at Main Library.

Sustainable communities provide residents with diverse educational opportunities so that they are empowered to engage fully in the development of their communities. Durham County is committed to providing residents with diverse education opportunities through the work of its own departments as well as its support for organizations such as Durham Public Schools, Durham Technical Community College, the Museum of Life and Sciences, and the Durham Arts Council.

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY

Durham County Library is a vital asset for educational resources and programming. **71% of all Durham County residents are active library card holders** and the **library's rate of 9.52 circulations per capita is almost 50% higher than the rate in our peer communities**. In FY17, **858,360 residents visited the library**, and **173,628 residents of all ages engaged in over 5,000 educational programs**. Children's programs offered by the library include regularly scheduled storytime sessions, both onsite and online, as well as special events that engage children in music

DID YOU KNOW?

You can download Ebooks, audiobooks, music, movies, magazines, TV shows, and more for free through Durham County Library. Find out more at bit.ly/2GvGiX9.

and arts and crafts in addition to reading. For teens, the libraries host a diverse array of events, from educational trivia to learning sessions about how to pay for college. Adults can attend educational classes, with topics ranging from computer proficiency, to financial literacy and tax preparation, to literature. Book clubs are also offered at Durham County Libraries and are tailored to specific age ranges. The Durham Library Foundation organizes free historical and cultural programs for different age groups, from children to adults. In addition to on-site events, the Durham County Library website offers many educational resources for children, teens, and adults. To learn more and view event schedules, visit durhamcountylibrary.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to encouraging and sponsoring a strong and active environmental education program for all age groups - pre-K to adult learners. Contests, events, presentations, activities, camps, teacher workshops and more are an ongoing part of the District's work. Student programs are open to all Durham County public, private and home-school students and teachers and include Environmental Field Days, NC Envirothon for middle and high school students, conservation creativity contests, and an environmental education learning library. Adult level education programs include Annual Pond Clinics for landowners, farmland/conservation best management practice tours, Livestock & Pastureland Management Field Days and others throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Durham County Detention Facility offers educational programs to inmates to help prepare individuals to contribute productively to the community upon release. Programs include literacy tutoring, vocational classes, and ABE/GED classes.

BULL CITY WORKPLACE CHALLENGE

The Sustainability Office, working with government and non-profit partners, launched the Bull City Workplace Challenge in early 2017 to engage workplaces to assess their current environmental policies and practices and improve them over time. Any Durham business,

non-profit, or institution can participate in the program that includes energy conservation, water conservation and quality, waste reduction, toxics reduction,

transportation, and purchasing. Participants have access to technical assistance and networking opportunities to help them improve their environmental performance. As of August 2018, **12 Durham workplaces have collectively enacted over 120 new initiatives** to improve sustainability in their organizations. To learn more, visit BullCityWorkplaceChallenge.com.



**BULL CITY
WORKPLACE
CHALLENGE**



Triangle Ecycling earned a Silver Award in the Bull City Workplace Challenge for their workplace sustainability efforts.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Durham Neighborhood College is a course offered to residents by Durham County and the City of Durham. This 9-week series of classes provides information on key government services the budget process, how our local governments work, and how to get more involved. Check out bit.ly/2tvaL5I to learn more.

ELECTIONS

Fair and accurate elections are crucial to the functioning of any democratic society. The Durham County Board of Elections ensures all elections held within Durham County are conducted in accordance to state and federal election laws. The office's principle functions include maintaining accurate voter registration and geocode databases, administering campaign finance disclosures, providing public information on voters and elections, establishing and maintaining election precincts and voting sites, appointing and training election officials, preparing and distributing ballots and voting equipment, canvassing, and certifying the ballots cast in all elections within Durham County. In the first half of FY18, the Board of Elections **conducted 13 public outreach events** to ensure community involvement in the election process and provide information about services provided by the board.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Durham County supports youth engagement in our electoral process through programs like Kids Voting Durham, which is offered through the Durham County Cooperative Extension. Through partnerships with schools, teachers, elected officials, local businesses, community leaders, and volunteers, Kids Voting Durham provides activities to help students learn about voting and democracy. The program was started in 2000 and today offers over 35,000 Durham County students in grades K through 12 the opportunities to vote on the same issues and candidates as adults on Election Day. In 2017, **15,740 students participated in the voting process**, an **increase of 46%** in participation from the previous year.



A Durham youth participates in Kids Voting Durham.

Innovation

In Durham County, innovation means employees are empowered and encouraged to change how they perform their work in the pursuit of improved results. Durham County invests in innovation through skill building, technical assistance and coaching, and the utilization of creative physical space that helps spark new ideas and collaborative problem solving.

OPEN DATA

In an effort to make public data easier to access for research and practical applications as well as to be more transparent to residents, businesses, journalists, and Durham County partnered with the City in 2014 to create the Open Data Partnership. The website **includes over 130 datasets** including various permit issuances, voting records, library visitors, and labor force participation rates. By providing these data sets in one, easy to use website, people who are looking for information can find and use it easily, and even create graphs to analyze data visually.

INNOVATION ACADEMY

The County's first internal Innovation Academy launched in late fall of 2017, featuring five sessions that defined innovation, taught tools in problem identification and problem analysis, and explored and practiced idea creation and prototyping to a **cohort of 11 County employees**. The sessions included instruction from the County's Strategic Initiative Manager, a City of Durham Management Analyst and the City-County Data Program Manager. After the five sessions concluded, cohort members applied these skills on innovation projects back in their departments. The County plans to continue Innovation Academy with another cohort of improvement-minded employees later in 2018.



Durham County employees engage in an Innovation Academy session.

IDEALAB

Durham County strategic Initiatives partners with the City of Durham's Office of Performance and Innovation to hold periodic "IdeaLab" innovation forums for City and County employees. Sessions involve skill building and hands-on practice around change and innovation concepts applicable to local government. IdeaLab is a popular forum for County and City employees to connect with people in other departments whom they otherwise may not meet.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2008, Durham County partnered with the City of Durham to be one of the first communities in the state to create a Sustainability Office. The City-County Sustainability Office helps employees, residents, and organizations understand and implement energy conservation, waste reduction, water conservation, and other actions that protect and enhance our natural environment.



2018 DURHAM COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Produced by the City-County Sustainability Office



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