



Durham's Approved FY2019-20 Budget Focuses on Addressing Equity Issues

On June 17, 2019, the Durham City Council approved a \$477.8 million budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, funding the City's core operating costs as well as existing and new initiatives to address equity issues.

"It certainly would be less complicated to develop and present a budget guided only by our core municipal responsibilities, the so-called hard services – roads, water, parks, etc." said City Manager Tom Bonfield. "The reality is that we, as a community, can no longer afford to overlook issues that have been staring us in the face for so long...issues that have laid the foundation for where Durham is now, which is a progressive city of the south, but also a city with much work that remains to be done."

The budget includes a property tax rate of 53.17 cents per \$100 of assessed value, a 1.72 cent increase from the revenue neutral rate of 51.45 cents. This is a decrease of 4.69 cents from the previous rate of 57.86 cents, and a result of the Durham County property revaluation that occurred earlier this year.

The \$477.8 million budget is a \$32.6 million decrease from last year's \$510.4 million budget, and includes a \$215.8 million budget for services covered by the general fund, a 7.04% increase from last year.



The new property tax rate generates a tax bill of about **\$1,219 PER YEAR**, or about **\$102 PER MONTH** on a house valued at \$229,246, which is the median house value for the City of Durham.

Some of the specific initiatives that were funded include:

- Continuation of the affordable housing tax rate at 2 cents and \$5.7 million from the fund balance to support the plan.
- Transition of the Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department to the Equity and Inclusion Department, and addition of a full-time Chief Equity Officer.
- \$125,000 to pilot the City's equitable engagement blueprint in addition to a full-time position to focus on Latino community engagement.
- \$2.4 million for Participatory Budgeting to implement community projects proposed and voted on by Durham residents.
- A capital improvement budget that includes \$186.8 million for projects including pavement preservation, citywide sidewalk repairs, curb repairs, and new sidewalks.
- \$118 million for water and sewer improvements, with a 2.8% water and sewer rate increase to support ongoing capital, operating, and sustainability efforts.

LEARN MORE: Visit bit.ly/budget-services to view the full budget document.



Check Your Watering Habits During Smart Irrigation Month

July is Smart Irrigation Month, and a great time to inspect your sprinkler and review your lawn & garden watering habits. Remember these four steps to improve outdoor watering efficiency:

- 1) Inspect:** Regularly check your irrigation system for worn, damaged, and missing parts.
- 2) Connect:** Do sprinkler heads connect securely to hoses, and hoses to pipes? Keep an eye out for drips, leaks, and pooling water at these connections.
- 3) Direct:** Make sure sprinklers actually water your landscape, not the sidewalk, driveway, street, or neighbor's yard!
- 4) Select:** Update your irrigation system or watering schedule based on the weather and season. There's no need for an automatic sprinkler to come on when it's raining outside.

It's also important to remember the City maintains a mandatory odd-even watering schedule. Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; even-numbered addresses on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. No customers are permitted to water on Mondays.

LEARN MORE:

- Find the water schedule and additional tips at www.DurhamSavesWater.org.
- Follow @DurhamWater on Twitter and Facebook.

CITY BRIEFS



EngageDurham needs you!

The City and County of Durham are drafting a new long-range plan (called the Comprehensive Plan) that will shape how the City and County grows. This includes how we prioritize the spending of public dollars. But we cannot build a successful plan without first knowing the priorities and concerns of folks in Durham – including you! As someone who lives, works, goes to school or simply cares about the future of Durham, your opinions and ideas are valued, and we need to hear from you.

LEARN MORE: Make plans to get involved at EngageDurham.com.

10,000+ Votes for PBDurham

Throughout the month of May, more than 10,000 votes were cast in Durham's first Participatory Budgeting cycle (PBDurham). These votes will determine how the City uses \$2.4 million that has been allocated for one-time projects proposed by the Durham community. Stay tuned to hear the winning projects announced this summer, with project implementation starting Fall 2019.

LEARN MORE: Visit pbdurham.org.

45th CenterFest Arts Festival

Save the date for the 45th Annual CenterFest in downtown Durham on Sept. 21 and 22. Since 1974, the Durham Arts Council has hosted the city's signature art festival featuring: juried visual artists from near and far; multiple stages with music, dance, and local performers; Creative Kids Zone; food vendors; and much more!

LEARN MORE: Find event details at centerfest.durhamarts.org.

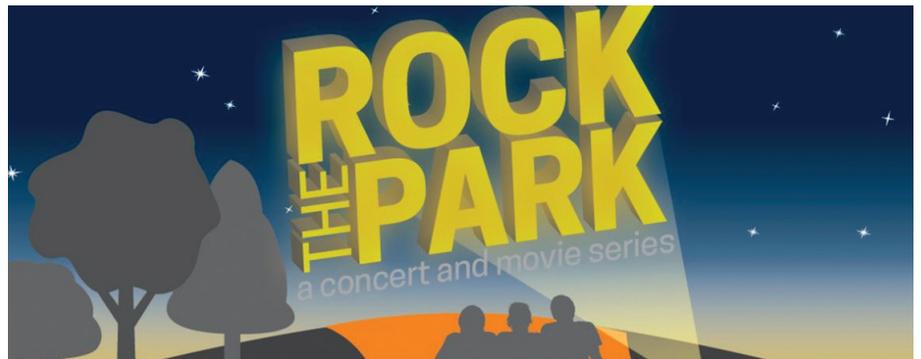
Apply for 2019 Durham Neighborhood College

Applications Accepted Through July 26 for Class Starting Sept. 12

Residents looking to play a more active role in their neighborhoods and the Durham community should apply for the 2019 Durham Neighborhood College. The program provides an opportunity to learn about the organization, operations, and services of their City and County governments in a series of interactive classes facilitated by various government officials.

The classes will be held on seven Thursday nights beginning Sept. 12 from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Space is limited to 30 participants with the goal of a diverse cohort representing different neighborhoods as well as residents outside the city limits.

LEARN MORE: Apply and find details at bit.ly/neighborhood-college.



Play More With DPR All Summer Long!

July is Park and Recreation Month

Learn more at dprplaymore.org or call (919) 560-4355

This July, Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) is Game On for Park and Recreation Month. All month long, DPR will provide opportunities for the Durham community to Play More by connecting our whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning.

Rock the Park Concert and Movie Series

Various locations and dates in July and August

Catch a movie and/or groove to music at DPR's Rock the Park Concert and Movie Series in July and August. The series is free and open to the public. Attendees should bring their own lawn chair/blanket as seating will not be provided. Food vendors will be available.

Pooch Plunge: Hillside Pool Goes to the Dogs

Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Hillside Pool, 1221 Sawyer St.

As the “dog days of summer” come to an end, cool off at Hillside Pool in a safe and enclosed environment for participants and their four legged friends to swim and play. Be sure that your dog meets vaccination requirements for DPR Dog Parks before you register for this event.

6th Annual Fiestas Patrias en UniRumba

Sunday, Sept. 15, 12-6 p.m., Compare Foods Parking Lot, 2000 Avondale Dr.

Join Univision 40 and DPR for this free celebration like no other. Listen to top hits and enjoy live music, games, and food.

LEARN MORE:

- Learn about these events and more at dprplaymore.org or (919) 560-4355.
- Follow @dprplaymore on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.