



CITY OF DURHAM DIGEST

Durham Digest en español:
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JULY 2021

Quarterly Updates from the City of Durham ★ durhamnc.gov

New City Budget Top Takeaways

In June, Durham City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget with a total approved budget of \$529.7 million to fund community safety, affordable housing, green and equitable infrastructure projects, and COVID-19 recovery. Find highlights below or visit [DurhamNC.gov/Budget](https://www.durhamnc.gov/Budget) to view the full budget.



1. City Property Tax Increases by 2 Cents

The budget includes a new property tax rate of 55.17 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Of this 2 cents increase, 1.38 cents will service the debt for the \$95 million Affordable Housing Bond that voters passed in 2019; 0.50 cents will create new capital funding to support green infrastructure projects; and the remaining 0.12 cents will go to the General Fund.

This will generate a City of Durham property tax bill of about \$1,291 per year, or about \$108 per month on a house valued at the median house value of \$233,927.



2. New Community Safety Department

The new department will help existing public safety departments – Police, Fire, Emergency Communications, and Emergency Management – focus on the work they are best equipped to handle while helping the organization reimagine the way the community is kept safe and well.



3. More Affordable Housing Opportunities

Over several years, the \$95 million Affordable Housing Bond, combined with local and federal funding, will build 1,600 affordable housing units, preserve 800 rental units, move 1,700 homeless to permanent housing, provide 400 affordable opportunities to first-time homebuyers, and help 3,000 low-income renters and homeowners stay in or repair their homes.



4. Street Paving and Maintenance Funding

Since street paving and maintenance continue to be a significant concern for residents responding to the 2021 Resident Satisfaction Survey, the approved budget will use \$4 million in fund balance to increase one-time funding for street paving to \$10 million.



5. Water + Sewer and Stormwater Rate Increases

The City will invest \$88 million for water and sewer improvements that include future water supply and Lake Michie and Little River Lake construction needs. The average single family customer will see an increase of about 3.6% or \$2.24 in their monthly water and sewer bills and a stormwater rate increase of 51 cents per month.



Check Your Watering Habits During Smart Irrigation Month

Summer is a great time to inspect your sprinkler and review your lawn and garden watering habits. Remember these steps to improve outdoor watering efficiency:

- 1) Inspect:** Regularly check your irrigation system for worn, damaged, and missing parts. Make sure your rain sensor is working properly.
- 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.

It's also important to follow the City's 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](https://www.durhamsaveswater.org).
- Follow @DurhamWater on Twitter and Facebook.

This newsletter provides a quarterly snapshot—visit [durhamnc.gov](https://www.durhamnc.gov) for the latest news.

CITY HOLIDAYS: The City's non-emergency offices will close to observe Independence Day on July 5 and Labor Day on Sept. 6
★ **DURHAM ONE CALL:** For info about water bills, garbage collection, or other City services, call 919-560-1200 or visit [durhamnc.gov](https://www.durhamnc.gov)/[onecall](https://www.durhamnc.gov) ★ **FIND US ONLINE:** Visit [durhamnc.gov](https://www.durhamnc.gov) and follow @CityofDurhamNC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

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CITY BRIEFS

Durham Seeks New Police Chief

The search is underway for a new Police Chief to lead the Durham Police Department (DPD). This role is critical to daily work to keep our community safe as well as plans to explore new approaches in public safety. To begin the process, a survey and open forums were held to collect community feedback. Find details and view the timeline on the City website.

LEARN MORE: Visit DurhamNC.gov/PoliceChief.

Never Miss Your Garbage & Recycling Collection Day

Did you know the City has tools to make finding your collection day easy? Visit our website or download the free “Durham Rollout” app to view your schedule, sign up for notifications, and search the “what goes where” database. In addition to weekly reminders, you’ll get alerts for service changes and holidays. In the event your cart is missed, check the current collection status at DurhamNC.gov/2798.

LEARN MORE: Visit DurhamNC.gov/3025.

Start A Rewarding Career with the City of Durham

Have you considered a rewarding career in public service? The City of Durham offers competitive pay and benefits and opportunity to make a difference in the community. Explore current job openings including positions with the Police Department, Emergency Communications Center (911), Parks and Recreation, and more.

LEARN MORE: Visit DurhamNC.gov/3774.

Register for Fall Classes at Durham Tech

Register today for fall classes at Durham Tech! Get career training or retraining with short-term courses, register for a two-year degree program, or enroll in a guaranteed admissions transfer pathway to a four-year university. At Durham Tech, every door is the right one. Find your path.

LEARN MORE: Visit DurhamTech.edu.



Enjoy the Water at City Lakes and Outdoor Pools

As summer heats up, cool off at the City’s lakes and outdoor pools. Visit Lake Michie and Little River Lake in northern Durham for recreational fishing and boating, or take a dip at Forest Hills Pool or Long Meadow Pool.

Get School Supplies at Back to School Bash

August 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Campus Hills Park)

This drive-up event will provide free school supplies and resources to Durham students. Registration is required for each child and can be done online or by calling 919-560-4444. Register today as supplies are limited!

Don’t Miss “Pooch Plunge” Summer Pool Party for Dogs

September 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Hillside Pool)

Enjoy a day at the pool with your canine friend(s)! Hillside Pool provides a safe and enclosed environment for dogs to swim and play at the end of the pool season. Registration required with a maximum of two dogs per adult.

LEARN MORE: Visit DPRPlayMore.org for details on these activities and more. You can also sign up to receive monthly e-newsletters, read our most recent blog posts, and get emails and texts about DPR updates and alerts. Also, follow @DPRPlayMore on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & SUPPORT



Emergency Support for Internet Access

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. Eligible households can get a discount on monthly internet service and purchase of a computer.

LEARN MORE: Find program details at FCC.gov/broadbandbenefit.

Water Bill Assistance & Payment Plans

If you’re struggling to pay your water bill, apply for assistance through the Water Hardship Fund or sign up for a customized monthly payment plan.

LEARN MORE: Find program details at DurhamNC.gov/4018.

Durham Rent and Utilities Assistance

Durham residents who are behind on their rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for financial help through the Durham Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

LEARN MORE: Find program details at DurhamERAP.dconc.gov/cares.

Durham Small Business Recovery Funding

Durham City Council authorized the creation of the Small Business Recovery Fund program for small businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are reviewed on a first come, first serve basis.

LEARN MORE: Find program details at DurhamBusiness360.com/204.