



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
*Water Management*  
101 CITY HALL PLAZA  
DURHAM, NC 27701

## News Release

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### News Media Contact:

Kirk Butts  
Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
(919) 560-4381 x35255  
(260) 417-0788 (cell)  
[Kirk.Butts@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Kirk.Butts@DurhamNC.gov)  
<http://Facebook.com/DurhamSavesWater>  
<http://Twitter.com/DurhamWater>

## Groundbreaking Event Kicks Off Major Water Management Project

### *\$100 Million in Expansions & Upgrades for Durham's Two WTPs*

DURHAM, N.C. — A cloudy October afternoon couldn't keep away the bright smiles of guests at a groundbreaking ceremony, celebrating a new construction project for Durham's Department of Water Management. Thirteen ceremonial shovels full of dirt marked the unofficial start of work to expand and upgrade the City's Brown and Williams water treatment plants (WTPs), a multi-year and nearly \$100 million project to expand capacity, modernize facilities and operations, and ensure that Water Management continues to stay ahead of Durham's ever-growing drinking water needs for decades to come.

The department was proud to host several distinguished guests at the October 5 groundbreaking. Participants included Durham Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell; Durham City Council members Eddie Davis, Charlie Reece, and Steve Schewel; City Manager Tom Bonfield; Deputy City Manager Bo Ferguson; State Senator (and former Durham City Council member) Mike Woodard; State Representative Graig R. Meyer; representatives from contracting firms Black & Veatch, CDM Smith, and Crowder Construction; and, of course, Water Management's own Wayne Drop. In all, more than 50 people attended the event.

"Our diverse population grows bigger and better with each new day, as people from all over North Carolina, across this nation, and around the world move to Durham and call this great community home," explained Mayor Bell. "Because of such growth, we cannot stay in the present. We must look to the future and invest in our City's critical infrastructure whenever and wherever necessary."

The infrastructure targeted in this project are Durham's two WTPs: Daniel McGregor Williams (completed in 1917), and Wade G. Brown (completed in 1972). These two plants have a

combined water treatment capacity of 52 million gallons per day (MGD), and draw raw water from Lake Michie (completed in 1926) and Little River Reservoir (completed in 1987). Some of the many notable project improvements include:

- Increasing Brown WTP's capacity from its current 30 MGD to 42 MGD
- New administration and operations facility at Brown WTP
- Remodeled administration and operations facility at Williams WTP
- Permanent residual handling facilities at Brown and Williams WTPs
- State-of-the-art System Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems at both plants
- Rehabilitation and improvement for a number of treatment processes including mixing basins and filters at both plants

### **About the Department of Water Management**

The Department of Water Management is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Durham's water supply, water treatment and water reclamation (wastewater treatment) facilities, the collection and distribution systems (including meter reading), and customer billing services. The department has a wide variety of support divisions and programs to maintain the existing infrastructure that provide these integral services, and strives to be a responsible steward of the City's physical assets. For information, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/944/>, like [Durham Saves Water](#) on Facebook, and follow [@DurhamWater](#) on Twitter.

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