Share! New Open Durham portal launches for easy access to city & county data; http://bit.ly/1dbsYY3

Durham Launches New Open Data Portal

Joint Project Between Durham City and County Governments Enhances Data Accessibility

DURHAM, N.C. – The City of Durham and Durham County governments have launched a new open data portal, Open Durham, which allows users to explore, visualize, and download city and county data. In addition to local data, Open Durham also features data sets from state and federal open data sources.

The Open Durham catalog is organized into 10 categories including transportation, social services, government administration and finance, economic development, education, health, public safety, sports and leisure, civic planning and environment. The categories are populated with nearly 200 data sets and maps from multiple Durham city and county departments. The data sets and maps range in topics from North Carolina school performance to Durham bicycle trails.

"The collaboration between the City and County affords Open Durham users several unprecedented benefits, mainly the single point of contact to Durham's government data through a single Open Data portal," said Durham County Chief Information Officer Greg Marrow. "In addition, by collaborating together we leverage taxpayer's dollars more effectively by sharing in the cost to open up our data to Durham users."

Prior to this launch, data was only available through individual department sites in portable document format (pdf), which made data collection a time consuming and arduous task. With Open Durham, users can now quickly access data in minutes instead of hours.

"Open Durham allows residents to have a more interactive experience with government data," said City of Durham Chief Information Officer Kerry Goode. "While there are many personal and professional uses, we hope it will also lead to more resident participation, which will ultimately strengthen our community."

Durham City and County departments were eager to contribute data to the open data portal because of their commitment to open government. "We have provided several data sets from our department, including crime incidents and traffic stops," said Durham Chief of Police Jose Lopez, Sr. "Open Durham gives the Durham Police Department a new way to be as transparent as possible, which ultimately helps us to better serve the community."

Durham chose French company, OpenDataSoft, as the open data vendor for Open Durham. "We evaluated all of the portal companies, weighted with our needs, and OpenDataSoft was the choice for Durham," said Jason Hare, the open data consultant hired by the City and County to launch Open Durham. "OpenDataSoft lets us do things in a way that is more user-centric. We can quickly make changes based on resident feedback to provide a superior experience."

The Open Durham portal will add Durham City and County governments to a short list of North Carolina governments with open data sites. At launch, there are only three other cities, Asheville, Charlotte and Raleigh; and one other county, Wake, with open data sites.

The website for the Open Durham portal is https://opendurham.nc.gov. Follow Open Durham on Twitter as well. For more information about Durham's open data portal, contact City of Durham Public Affairs Director Beverly B. Thompson at (919) 560-4123, ext. 11229 or by email.

About the City of Durham

The more than 2,400 employees of the City of Durham are dedicated to the service of the City's residents – to provide quality services to make Durham a great place to live, work and play. Guided by the City's Strategic Plan, 25 departments work to ensure the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors. Services range from building inspections and code enforcement, to providing emergency services, to trash and waste collection, to constructing and maintaining streets, to providing essential water and sewer services. To learn more, visit the City's website, like on Facebook, follow on Twitter, or watch Durham Television Network (Time Warner Cable channel 8, 97-5 and AT&T U-verse channel 99) and YouTube.

About Durham County

[Durham County](#) is one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina and in the nation. The economic diversity of the county ranges from agricultural communities to the internationally known Research Triangle Park, which is home to more than 50 major research and development organizations. Durham County's population grew from about 180,000 in 1990, to more than 280,000 in 2013.

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