Knowledge is Power: Durham’s Open Geospatial Data and GIS Mapping Online
By Ted Snyderman

Many of us like to think of Durham and Trinity Park as very open places, open to all different kinds of people and ideas. But what about open regarding data? Beginning at least 5 years ago, and solidified in 2015 with an Open Data partnership between the City of Durham and Durham County Government, Durham embraces the concept of Open Data, and you should too. Or at least you should know about it because it is our data that they are being so open about!

So what is Open Data? Perhaps it is best understood in relation to the more well known term, Open Source. The term “Open Source” has a history going back to at least 1991 with the advent of the Linux kernel. Open Source, in that context of computer operating systems and software, refers to permitting one’s source code to be openly available and modifiable by anyone with the interest to do so. Related to this more well known concept of Open Source is the concept of Open Data, defined by the Open Data Institute as “data that anyone can access, use or share. Simple as that. When big companies or governments release non-personal data, it enables small businesses, citizens and medical researchers to develop resources which make crucial improvements to their communities.” In practice by local governments, Open Data refers to making a wide variety of public information available in a free, web accessible manner. This data is often geospatially linked (each data point specifically associated with mapped locations), typically presented via a multi-layer map interface known as a Geographical Information System (GIS). Worth noting, while for many personal privacy is an understandable concern, the data being shared as part of Open Data is already public in nature (if previously much more difficult to access and aggregate).

So why should one care about Open Data in Durham (opendurham.nc.gov has 140+ datasets)? This data availability is important to be aware of for at least 2 reasons:

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1) there is a lot of very useful and interesting data available regarding your own (and others’) property, business, personal safety…etc.;

2) it is also helpful to know what information others have easy public access to about you, your property, your taxes…etc.

To that end, four different Durham GIS systems are presented here: Durham Neighborhood Compass (see page 1, website: compass.durhamnc.gov), Durham Go Maps, Tax Record Search, and Lexis-Nexis Crime Mapping.


Durham County Tax Administration Record Search: Available through the Durham Property Search website (property.spacialest.com/nc/durham/) or linkable directly from the above GoMap parcel information, this page provides parcel specific information about ownership, address, last sale date and price, tax appraisal, property description and photo, building details, deeds, permits, tax bill transaction history…etc. As one example of how these open data sites can be additionally useful, there is a link from the Building Details page to directly request that erroneous data be fixed in the record.
Community Crime Maps: City of Durham Police Crime Report maps and data can be accessed at (opendurham.nc.gov/explore/dataset/durham-police-crime-reports/map). While that site is informative, the Lexis-Nexis Community Crime Map site (communitycrimemap.com) utilizes the same underlying Open Data to provide a more easily searchable and more graphically pleasing interface (see left). One can easily filter by any date ranges as well as by types of crime (ex. Homicide, Burglary, Theft, Assault, Vandalism, Drug Violation, Traffic Incident…etc.). Selecting the Density Map via the Analytic Layers tab provides an excellent “heat map” for identifying high and low crime dense areas. Finally, another excellent feature of the LexisNexis map is the ability to sign-up for customized crime alert emails. See text box below for further information.

Non-Profit Neighbors: Reality Ministries, Keeping it Real in Trinity Park
By Anne Stoddard

Reality Ministries is a community-based non-profit whose mission is to create opportunities for teens and adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship and life-changing Reality of Christ's love.

From its inception in December 2007, Reality Ministries Inc. (501c3) has focused on the overlooked and underserved populations in Durham, beginning with those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). They currently serve individuals with developmental disabilities age 18 and older through daytime and evening programs.

In addition, there are special events, such as The Reality Talent Show, which debuted in 2008 and has become a community highlight. More than 2,000 people attended the 2017 show at the Durham Performing Arts Center.

In 2008, Reality Ministries purchased their building – the Reality Center - at the corner of Gregson and Lamond Streets in Trinity Park. This brick church building was built in 1927 for the Durham Alliance Church and was expanded in 1953 along Lamond Street. The cornerstone reads "Christian and Missionary Alliance Gospel Tabernacle, established 1889 - erected 1927." This Evangelical denomination was established in New York in 1887 by Dr. A.B. Simpson and has several active congregations in the Triangle area. To learn more about the Reality Center’s programing, volunteer or make a donation, go to http://www.realityministriesinc.org/index. Be sure to watch their video – it’s great!
New Opportunities for Trinity Park Neighbors and Aspiring Board Members
By Marc Phillips

TPNA provides a conduit for Trinity Park residents to bring about and/or to prevent change to the neighborhood and in Durham, depending on their particular ambitions and points of view. Over the years, TPNA Board Members have formed relationships with City and County elected officials, department directors, and representatives from each agency responsible for decisions and services impacting Trinity Park. The TPNA Board, elected at the annual meeting each January, consists of 4 officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), a Past President, and 9 Directors. Officers and Directors serve 2 and 3 year terms, respectively, on a rolling basis to ensure openings for new neighbors to join each year.

What would you like to see different in Trinity Park, and in Durham? What would you most like to see not change? What are you doing to bring about (or prevent) these changes?

While the Trinity Park listserv (https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TrinityPark/info) is a fantastic way to find everything from cups of sugar to rooms for rent and from lost turtles to spare crutches, it is less effective as a catalyst for action. This is by design - announcements of events and activities are encouraged, lengthy heated debates are not. Critically, while your words on the listserv may result in real world outcomes like criminal arrests and reunited reptiles, they will never influence a City Council vote, or plant a median, get stop signs, speed bumps, or sidewalks installed, or prevent (or encourage) new apartment or condo buildings with or without on-site parking and height limits. Real change (or lack thereof) takes real people working with neighbors and government officials and employees. So what does this all mean? This means that changes coming to Trinity Park (and to a lesser extent to Durham overall) will be the changes most desirable to those Trinity Park residents who are most active in the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association. The majority opinion on the listserv doesn’t matter to decision makers on City Council, County Board of Commissioners, or various government employees - not because they don’t care, but because they don’t read the Trinity Park listserv. The majority votes of the TPNA Board do matter, however, because these decision makers are aware of them. While TPNA resolutions and requests don't consistently result in corresponding action by government officials and their departments, they often do, and are received by Council Members and others as the majority opinion of the 1500+ households in Trinity Park.

For information on any of the roles or TPNA in general, please contact info@trinitypark.org.
About The Park in Trinity Park, and How to Rent the Gazebo

By Julia Borbely-Brown

The Park in Trinity Park (“the Park”) on the corner of Watts Street and Trinity Avenue is owned by the Trinity Park Foundation, Inc. (“The Foundation”). The Park has been leased to the City of Durham for decades and functions in the same way as any other city park. It is governed by all city rules and regulations relating to use of public recreational space. The Park is available to all in Durham and should be a welcoming and comfortable space for all ages.

How to rent the GAZEBO: Many years ago, in partnership with the city, the neighborhood added the gazebo to The Park. This facility can be rented or reserved by anyone in Durham on a first come, first serve basis for group usage year-round. Between April 1 and October 31 reservations must be made through the City Parks and Recreation Office. During these months the permits must be obtained by Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the remainder of the work week and weekend. To reserve the Gazebo area in The Park, email the Parks and Recreation reservations office or call (919) 560-4355, ext. 27202.

Out of season (November 1 through March 31), there is an informal practice of folks posting a notice on the gazebo to “reserve” the space. Listserv messages are also sent but this covers a limited audience. Providing advance notice is recommended but keep in mind that such a reservation is not binding. It is hoped that the normal rules of civility and neighborly consideration will continue to be effective in sharing this space off season.

Please note that electrical power is not available for public usage even with a reservation.
JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR THE DAYLILY PLANTING EXTRAVAGANZA!

Where: The Trinity Avenue Median  
When: Saturday, October 7, 2017  
9 AM to Noon

Do you have fancy daylilies to share?  
Email juliaborbelybrown@yahoo.com to arrange pickup by October 4.

We plan to cover swatches of this large median in these colorful flowers that will bloom throughout the summer. These are hardy plants that can handle sun and erratic rainfall AND they are easy to plant!

Please help The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc. beautify this public space.

Bring your gloves and garden tools.

Refreshments served at 10 AM and neighborhood conversation encouraged!

Are you unable to help on October 7 but want to assist in some manner? Please look for other workday announcements this Fall for The Park and the other medians.

Tax deductible contributions are welcome and can be sent to The Trinity Park Foundation, Inc., 1013 Watts Street, Durham, NC 27701.
Julia y el Grito de la Independencia
by Cecilia Barja

El 16 de Septiembre es el día de la Independencia de México, pero se lo festeja el 15 de septiembre. Al medio día del 15 de septiembre todos salen temprano del trabajo en México, retornan rápido a las casas para guisar pozole, tamal, y pambazos. Se cena en familia y entre las 11 de la noche y la medianoche, el Presidente y la gente participa del grito de la independencia en la Basílica: "¡Vivan los Héroes que nos dieron Patria y Libertad... Viva México!".

En Trinity Park Julia Hernández celebra el día de la Independencia con su familia preparando pozole verde, blanco y rojo, y miran el grito de la Independencia por Univisión. Los papás platican mucho con sus hijos para enseñarles sobre las fiestas de México, las tradiciones, y la historia.

Julia y su familia son vecinos de Trinity Park hace medio año. Dice que a ella, su esposo y tres niños, les gusta la seguridad, la unión familiar, la tranquilidad del vecindario, lo cual es una gran diferencia con otros barrios en Durham. Mientras conversamos con Julia nuestros niños juegan en el parque Trinity Park, mira a un pareja de abuelos con los nietos y me dice: "Esto me gusta, la unión de la familia, la armonía, pero también me deprime, porque extraño a mi familia". Es la vida del migrante, celebra y añora a sus dos países: México y Estados Unidos.

September 16th is Mexico Independence Day, but it is celebrated the day before. At noon, on September 15, everybody leaves work early in Mexico, returns quickly to their homes to cook pozole, tamal, and pambazos. They share a family dinner and between 11 pm and midnight, the President and the people participate in the cry of the Independence in the Basilica: "Long live the Heroes who gave us Homeland and freedom ... Long Live Mexico!".

In Trinity Park Julia Hernandez celebrates Independence Day with her family, preparing green, white and red pozole, and they watch the Cry of Independence on Univisión. Parents talk a lot with their children to teach them about Mexico's holidays, traditions, and history.

Julia and her family are Trinity Park neighbors since early 2017. She says her husband and three children enjoy the security, family unity, and the quietness of the neighborhood, which seems a big difference from other neighborhoods in Durham. As I talk with Julia, our children play in Trinity Park. She looks at a couple of grandparents with their grandchildren and tells me: "I like this, the union of the family, the harmony, but it also depresses me, because I miss my family". It is the life of the migrant, who celebrates and yearns for her two countries: Mexico and the United States.
National Night Out 2017 Recap
By Steven Falzarano

Wow, what a great National Night Out evening we had on Tuesday evening, August 1st. I think well over a hundred of our neighbors and friends joined each other in Trinity Park to celebrate. We all enjoyed seeing our friends and neighbors, and meeting new ones as well. Kids and adults, and a few pets too. We all enjoyed hot dogs and pizzas, some desserts and refreshments. And the kids enjoyed face painting, frisbees, hula hoops, jump ropes, and bubbles. But most important, we all just enjoyed some neighborly camaraderie in a safe and secure environment!

This year we grilled hotdogs. A very special thanks to Pastor Kent Butterfield and Drew Pressoir of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church on Watts Street, and Charlie & Debbie Leverett for their efforts tending to the grills!

Thank you to Jeffrey Issacson and Tatyana Khoodkov, representatives from the Red Cross who were on hand to talk about their mission and issues of home safety. We also had folks from the Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church, Katie Crow, Iloydette Hoof, and Jo Dekard assisting.

Julia Borbley-Brown represented the Trinity Park Foundation, collecting school supplies for the upcoming school year to support our neighborhood schools. Thank you to everyone who donated the much-appreciated school supplies!

And very special thanks to Can & Doug Dickerson and their family for the tremendous help and support in running the event. It would not have been a success without you. And to Larry Apple who was our photographer in residence for the event.

Thank you to Financial Crimes Investigator Brian Francis of the Durham Police Department who spent time with us at our event, and District 2 Sergeant Gunter joined us as well to talk to us about our neighborhood concerns and answer any questions. Our Durham Police Department officers and staff were stretched very thin that evening, as I heard that in District 2 alone there were over 20 NNO events, and over 100 in all of Durham!

I’m sure I missed a few names with all of the folks who helped make this such a terrific evening, so THANK YOU to all of our neighborhood heroes who helped out. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated!

Finally, a special thanks to the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association for supporting National Night Out and providing our budget to help put on a spectacular event! But most important, special thanks to our neighborhood residents who make Trinity Park such a great place to live and call home!

Trinity Park Halloween 2017 Approaches!!!!!
By Steven Falzarano

We are fast approaching one of Trinity Park’s favorite celebrations….HALLOWEEN! This year Halloween falls on Tuesday, October 31st, and once again, the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association will sponsor the annual Halloween Party and, Costume Contest and Parade.

As usual, the event will take place in Trinity Park. Festivities begin at 4:30pm and will end at 6:30pm just in time for everyone go Trick or Treating. The Park will be decorated, with drinks and treats available. A craft table will be set up for kids to decorate and personalize their Trick or Treat bags. Brown craft bags will be available for decoration or you can bring your own. And come and get your Glow Stick!

Last but not least….the Halloween Costume Parade and Contest. All kids are invited to participate in our Halloween Parade around Trinity Park. Judges will be on hand to select the most original costumes and many prizes will be given out! We encourage the entire family to get in costume and join in for the fun. And don’t forget your pets too!

As always, we will ahve great prizes for the best and most creative costumes and other treats for the other kids.

So, plan to come on out and celebrate with your neighbors and friends. Last year we had an amazing turnout and we hope to top that this year! And if anyone has any ideas for additional activities, please contact Steven Falzarano (email below).

We are also looking for some volunteers to help with the events as well as set up and take down. If you would like to help, please contact Steven Falzarano at falzos8077@aol.com.
The following article is published in the spirit of sharing neighborhood viewpoints and does not reflect the current view of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association for this project. The recent public input period for the South Ellerbe Stormwater Project has ended, but we still share one neighbor’s perspective below on what could be done with similar land use opportunities in the future.

Are we BANANAs? Missed Opportunities to Address Affordable Housing
By Aaron Lubeck

A pattern has emerged in Durham. We often support the idea of affordable housing, but rarely support the proposals that could make housing more affordable. It’s not a unique phenomenon - college towns from Chapel Hill to Berkeley have half a century experience at this practice - and it is not hard to see where it ends: an unaffordable town with little diversity.

What Durham has gone is BANANAs (Build Affordables! but Not Anywhere Near Anything). An article in Strongtowns.org documents how communities like ours “seem to want government housing policy that both brings home prices down & increases home prices,” arguing the contradiction cannot go on forever.

The site of the Duke Diet and Fitness Center on Trinity Ave has long been earmarked to address runoff from Trinity Park and downtown, the headwaters of Ellerbe Creek and Falls Lake, and work is planned for removal of existing structures and restoration of wetlands for this purpose. This is a universally recognized need, and previous plans for improved structures on the site were rejected as conflicting with the size of the wetland. To reconcile its words with actions, however, Durham should look harder for opportunities for building incremental units at every chance it gets.

An alternative vision for the site could include 50 units outside of the flood plain: 25 townhomes, 15 small pocket neighborhood homes, and 10 microlofts at the intersection of two major urban bicycle routes, the Ellerbe Creek Trail and the future Durham Belt Line. The Belt Line can be designed as a Dutch “woonert” (effectively a bicycle boulevard) where bikes and pedestrians are prioritized but those who live there can access their homes by car, at 10mph.

While Durham’s Greenways are exclusively in natural areas, Atlanta and NYC are proving the community benefit of having greenways with adjoining development. In Atlanta, redeveloped industrial buildings reversed their fronts to face the wildly popular Atlanta Beltline. NYC’s High Line is widely acknowledged as a transformative project. Having housing face the Durham Belt Line, and the wetland, would make for one of the most unique landscapes in Durham.

Trinity Park hosts a diverse array of housing types across the income spectrum, and should be at the front of the line for supporting projects that further the concept of www.missingmiddlehousing.com.

While the current political discourse expresses intent to build more housing in Durham, particularly on public land, our realized actions are yet to match stated goals. Southside could have easily been twice (or 3x) the density. Habitat for Humanity regularly builds single homes on lots that could host four (or more). This can only happen for so long before no land is left. On close to a monthly basis now, Durham misses opportunities to build more housing, and that is the affordable housing problem. Aaron Lubeck taught sustainable building at the Nicholas School for the Environment, and is leading a seminar on Tactical Urban Design in Durham this September.
BEETHOVEN IS RETURNING TO TRINITY PARK!
By Marc Moscovitz

The first Trinity Park Salon Series house concert of the year will take place on Sunday, October 29th at 4pm. The program features two rarely heard quintet performances of music with two cellos by Beethoven. This is an absolutely unique opportunity to hear this music in arrangements done during Beethoven's lifetime or shortly thereafter. Both arrangements, for two violins, viola and two cellos, were undertaken to make this music available to string players, perhaps for use in homes where pianos weren't available: the first, the famous "Kreutzer" Sonata, was originally scored for violin and piano; the second, an arrangement of Beethoven's first sonata for cello and piano, and which was performed in our neighborhood several years back, has rarely been heard in public and has never been recorded. The program will draw on performers from the Duke and UNC-Greensboro music faculties and include our resident cellist, Marc Moskovitz. Our performance will take place at the lovely home of Sabina and Steve Sager, 1108 Monmouth Ave, directly across from Duke's East Campus. A minimum $20.00 per person donation will be taken at the door and light refreshments will be served. As always, more information on our website: salonseries.org

Chamber music like it was meant to be heard!!!
TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fall Events

TPNA BOARD MEETINGS
First Wednesday of each month, 7pm.
(September 6th, October 4th, November 2nd)
All Trinity Park residents are invited and
encouraged to attend monthly TPNA board
meetings, typically held on the first Wednesday of
each month in the George Watts Montessori
School Media Center. Come join us to greet your
neighbors and learn about events and issues
important to our neighborhood.

PUBLIC DESIGN WORKSHOP FOR S.
ELLERBE STORMWATER PROJECT
Wednesday, September 27th from 6-8pm in
Adaron Hall, Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris
Street. This workshop is open to the public. See
http://durhamnc.gov/1616/South-Ellerbe-
Stormwater-Project for more info.

DAYLILY PLANTING EXTRAVAGANZA
Beautify the Trinity Avenue Median, Saturday,
October 7th from 9am-noon. See page 6 for
more details.

SALON SERIES RETURNS
Sunday, October 29th beginning at 4pm. The
location is home of Sabina and Steve Sager, 1108
Monmouth Ave, directly across from Duke’s
East Campus. See page 10 for more details.

TRINITY PARK HALLOWEEN
Monday, October 31st beginning at 4:30pm. The
location is Trinity Park. See page 8 for more
details.

TPNA Board
and Committees

Officers
President, Marc Phillips
Vice President, Diane Amato
Treasurer, Andrew Stark
Secretary, Andrew Phillips

Board Members
Joan Austin
Philip Azar
Sharon Coor-Barry
Can Dickerson
Steve Falzarano
Ilene Hadler
Ted Snyderman
Anne Stoddard
Matthew Yearout

Past President
Don Ball

Newsletter Editor
Ted Snyderman

Business Sponsor Liaison
Philip Azar

Committees
Finance
Andrew Stark
Communications
OPEN
Community Building
Steve Falzarano
Membership
Diane Amato
INC Representative
Philip Azar
Urban Planning
Derek Jones
Traffic
Anne Stoddard
Ted Snyderman
Trees
Shelley Dekker
Safety
OPEN
South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands
Paul Cardile
Matthew Yearout
Home Tour 2018
OPEN
Have YOU joined the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association? For just $15 per year (discounts available for multiple years!) you will be supporting the initiatives that make living here, in the heart of the city, so wonderful.

Some neighborhoods require residents to pay homeowners association fees, but Trinity Park Neighborhood Association is a voluntary group that relies on your financial and personal support for its activities. We encourage all residents—homeowners and renters—to join.

TPNA supports our neighborhood in many ways—with donations to neighborhood schools and organizations and by sponsoring great community events, like the Durham Symphony’s Pops in the Park, the Halloween party, the Spring Egg Hunt, a biennial Home Tour, and clean-up days.

In addition to paying dues, please consider signing up to help with one of our events and efforts, or consider joining a TPNA committee. Some efforts require only a couple volunteer hours each year. Simply complete the form below and the committee chair will contact you!

TPNA and its residents are the reasons for the success of this neighborhood. We continue to make progress and improvements and your membership and involvement will assist us in doing so.

We encourage neighbors to become actively engaged with our community—take the first step today by becoming a member!

To join or renew your membership, make checks payable to TPNA and send with a completed form to: TPNA Membership, P.O. Box 725, Durham, NC 27702. You can also join online at: http://www.trinitypark.org.

If you have questions about your membership status, email tpnamembership@trinitypark.org.

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Name(s): __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

                      Durham, NC 27701

Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Select a Membership Payment Option

☐ One Year = $15
☐ Two Years = $25
☐ Five Years = $50
☐ Lifetime Membership = $200

Please contact me about volunteering – check all that apply:

☐ Community Building (Event organization)
☐ Association Membership
☐ Urban Planning
☐ Traffic/Pedestrian Safety
☐ House Tour/Garden Tour
☐ Communications
  (newsletter, website, social media)

☐ Safety/Neighborhood Watch
☐ Finance/Budgeting
☐ Newsletter Delivery
☐ Contact me as needs arise