



Trinity Park news

WINTER 2017

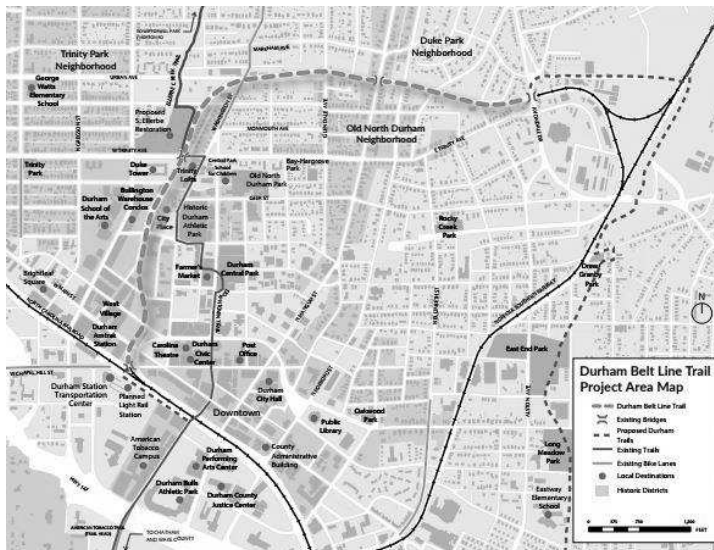
Rails to Trails: Will Durham Belt Line Blossom Anew, from the Weeds?

By Jennifer Sparrow

Walking under the old train bridge that crosses West Trinity Avenue on my way to downtown this past summer, I was wondering where the abandoned tracks actually went. I took a couple steps up the embankment and in the overgrowth of weeds my curiosity wavered, being without a machete. This draping, green childhood dreamscape looked, to my adult self, more like a clear path to poison ivy, snake bites, and tetanus. Perhaps summer isn't the best time to be intrepid in this tangle that cuts off Trinity Park from Old North Durham, Central Park District, and beyond.

I retreated to the sidewalk and explored on my phone instead and got up to speed on the Durham Belt Line (formerly Duke Belt Line) being proposed on this land newly purchased from Norfolk Southern and soon to be owned by the city.

Per the Durham Belt Line Trail Master Plan posted by the City of Durham, “**The Conservation Trust recently acquired two miles of inactive railroad right-of-way that runs from the Avondale Drive area in northeast of Downtown to the Durham Station Transportation Center and Durham Amtrak Station at West Chapel Hill Street...Once constructed, the Belt Line will be part of a 28.5 mile long North-South Trail...The trail will function as a linear park and provide a “green” spine through the heart of Downtown, while providing a destination in itself...The Master Plan process will identify a conceptual design**



Project Area Map for the Durham Belt Line Trail Project, from City of Durham and Durhambeltline.com

that will maximize social, cultural, economic, and health benefits of public and private investment along the Trail.”

As it's been about 15-20 years in the making, I have little excuse not to know about it. Right now is the end of the master planning phase, which is a great time to get reacquainted with the project if you've been too busy the last two decades.

continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Durham Beltline cont.	Page 2
Local Spotlight: Kaffeinate	Page 3
TPNA Board/Foundation	Page 4
Beth El Renovations	Page 5
History Grove Dedication	Page 6
Ellerbe Creek Wetlands	Page 7
Halloween Recap	Pages 8-9
Luminaria Alights	Page 9
Kid's Holiday Activities	Page 10
Community Calendar	Page 11
TPNA Membership Form	Page 12

continued from page 1

A little bit about the history of the line. In 1890 Brodie Duke built a two mile bypass "belt line" railroad to connect the Lynchburg & Durham (Norfolk & Western) Railroad directly to the Duke's cigarette factory, avoiding the downtown rail corridor. It also passed by his Pearl Cotton Mill, established 1892, according to the Open Durham website. Several sales and name changes later, the last owner, Norfolk Southern, discontinued the line in the 1990s.



Durham Beltline, circa 1957 and Sept 2016, from same location behind present-day Blue Note Grill (courtesy of OpenDurham.org)

When the city expressed interest in purchasing the land, it got complicated. Past pieces in *The Herald-Sun* tell the story of why it took ten years for the railroad to sell it.

The current belt line is a barrier to the street grid in many places where your cat can go missing or an impromptu motocross might bust through. Yet there is great potential for connectivity that could stitch neighborhoods together for easier human-powered travel and prompt reinvestment along adjacent commercial and industrial sites. The project steering committee has scrutinized many examples of urban trails like Atlanta's Eastside Trail and Manhattan's High Line that faced the challenges of reusing historic elements, providing safe spaces, and maximizing public benefits. The hope is that the Durham Belt Line will follow a new trend of linear public space with direct connections to public art, mini parks, and cafes all available to you while taking Fido for a walk.

But it's a process to get there. The final draft master plan goes to committee at the end of this year and out for public comment and council review in early 2018. The design phase begins next spring, and funding is still to be secured for construction.

Public participation has been invaluable in validating concepts and bringing ideas to the committee such as preserving the historic character, raising safety and stormwater concerns, and valuing the tree line. People have cited other linear park projects that are serving as inspiration for the Durham Belt Line. If you are as excited as I am about an alternate route that avoids streets with speeding issues, follow the project progress at www.durhambeltline.com where you can also see the calendar for public comment.

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Local Business Spotlight: Kaffeinate

By Marc Phillips

Located just north of Main at 115A North Duke Street, Durham's newest coffee shop opened recently to great fanfare and high expectations. Already a local hangout for several Trinity Park regulars, Kaffeinate features edible selections from Ninth Street Bakery and a Build-Your-Own Belgian Waffle to go with their wide range of coffee drinks and tea selections.

For neighbors who haven't yet given it a shot, we asked the Kaffeinate team what they would like to share about their new business.

1. What 3 things would you like Trinity Park residents to know about Kaffeinate?

Kaffeinate is dedicated to building a community around coffee. We believe that coffee can bring together people from all different walks of life and can be a launching pad for new relationships. We are happy to educate anyone who wants to learn more about our industry or just serve the best cup of coffee you'll have all day.

2. Why did you choose Trinity Park to open your business?

Trinity Park is a well established neighborhood with a history in Durham that we want to help nourish. We don't want to disrupt what the community has built, but instead integrate ourselves into its rich history.

3. What has been the biggest surprise or unexpected result since you opened for business?

The amount of support we've had is incredible. Honest feedback, good conversations, and thoughtful relationships have been made with the people of Trinity Park and we're so grateful for it.

4. Are you planning any changes to the shop in the future?

We're really excited to do more community-centric events! We want to showcase the talents of the people who live here.

5. Any additional comments?

We are so grateful for the support we've received since opening. We are more encouraged than ever that we picked the right place to build a coffee community and are looking forward to meeting everyone!

For more details, visit <http://www.kaffeinatenc.com>



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Volunteer Tree Planting

By Shelley Dekker

On a misty, cool morning earlier this month, about 50 volunteers recruited by the Trinity Park Foundation and Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB) gathered in The Trinity Park to plant trees within the neighborhood. Alex Johnson, the City of Durham's urban forestry manager, and Tania Dautlick, the executive director of KDB, showed the proper way to plant a tree and place mulch around its base. They then divided the volunteers into three groups and sent them out across the neighborhood to plant 67 container-grown trees on City property along neighborhood streets. The volunteers planted a great variety of trees, including redbuds, ginkgos, black gums, parrotias, trident maples, a few fringetrees, one yellowwood, and one live oak. Neighbors who received trees in front of or beside their homes should water the trees periodically this winter and give them 10-15 gallons of water per week once the trees leaf out in the spring. Thanks to those neighbors who came out to plant or shouted out words of encouragement!

The Big Annual TPNA Meeting is Coming

On Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 the TPNA Annual Meeting will be held in the Media Center at Watts Montessori at 7pm. This year's event will feature public elections for new Board members, updates from the President and committees, and Q&A session for attending neighbors.

We wish to thank our departing Board members and welcome in advance a slate of new neighbors elected to serve. If you have been considering participation on the TPNA Board, please contact info@trinitypark.org to learn more.

Open positions include Treasurer, Secretary, Safety Chairperson, other committee chair roles, and Directors (aka general Board members) as well.

Food and drinks will be provided. Have a Happy Holidays, and we'll see you in the New Year!

2018 Trinity Park Home Tour Update

By Diane Amato

2018 is just around the corner and guess what that means? It's that time again where our wonderful neighbors open their homes to let us all have a peek inside. In October of 2018 we will have our next Trinity Park Home Tour.

Although it's early in the process, I can share this: The theme for the 2018 tour will be Homes Through the Decades. There will be homes on the tour built between the early 1900s through the 1950s.

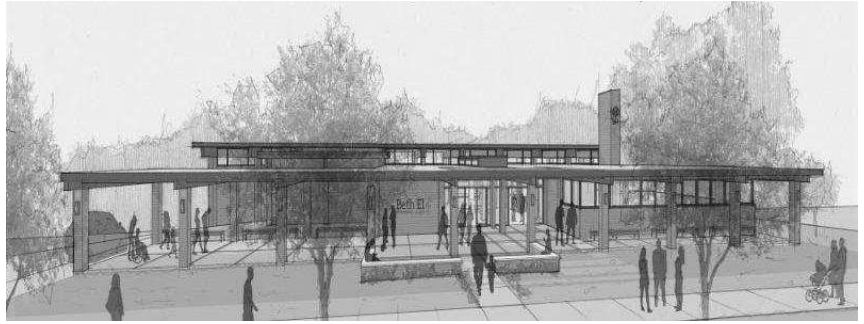
Preparing for the tour requires a lot of manpower and if you are interested in working with the committee to make the 2018 tour the best one yet, please let me know. And to that end, if you would consider showcasing your home on the tour, I look forward to hearing from you.

That's all for now...you'll have to stay tuned to our next newsletter for more details.

Beth El Renovations

By Leslie Winner

Beth El Synagogue is excited to share the news that we are on track to break ground on our renovation and expansion in January 2018. In 1957, the Beth El congregation built its building on the corner of Watts and Markham, and since that time we have only made minor renovations to our facility. To meet the needs of our congregation and to ensure our building is inclusive, accessible and sustainable, we are embarking on a major renovation that will add 5,600 heated square feet.



Artist's rendering of post-renovation Beth El façade, from Watts St.

A large portion of the renovation will be to the interior, including turning our sanctuary to face east, adding an elevator, and upgrading our systems. The footprint of the building will change in the following ways:

- ❖ Our administrative wing expansion will bring the front of the building closer to the street, but it will be in line with other properties on Watts Street.
- ❖ There will be an extension on the northeast corner that will not reduce parking spaces.
- ❖ We will line parking spaces, particularly handicap-accessible spaces, in front of the building on Watts Street.
- ❖ There is a chance that the city will require us to build a new sidewalk on the portion of our properties that faces Markham, but we are asking the city to waive this requirement.

Local architect, Ellen Weinstein, has designed the renovation to be in keeping with the current look and height of our building. To see an overview of the site plan go to: betheldurham.org/capitalcampaign.

We expect work to begin during the week of January 15th, and for the project to take approximately 12 months. Our contractor, C.T. Wilson, will be respectful of the community, will park its vehicles in our parking lot, and will work to ensure minimal disruptions on Watts or Markham during this process.

Our offices and most programs will move into our education building located across our parking lot on the corner of Watts and Green Streets. Our regular Saturday morning Shabbat worship services will head to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. We are grateful for the hospitality that TAPC has shown by opening their doors to us in our transition period. Our annual High Holiday services next September, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, will be held at the Carolina Theatre.

Many members of Beth El Synagogue live in Trinity Park, and the congregation strives to be a good neighbor and community supporter.



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When: Saturday, January 13, 2018
10:30 AM

Celebratory speeches planned.

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By Paul Cardile

Sandra Wilbur of Durham Public Works and Mike Fowler of Wildlands gave opening statements focusing on the primary goals of removing nitrogen and phosphorus from the stormwater, improving aquatic health and water quality, and creating a premium asset for the community. The workshop was well attended with as many as sixty people in attendance at any given time.

Earlier this year in July, a public information meeting on the wetlands was held during which some people filled out a survey questionnaire. The survey was also available online. At the September 27th workshop, it was announced that so far the surveys already collected had identified amenities that the public desired, including: access to nearby trails (i.e. the proposed Beltline trail), boardwalk/overlook, educational signage, and natural areas. Mike Fowler of Wildlands indicated that some items taken from the building are to be recycled by incorporating them in the design of the wetlands. These include benches, a bike rack, stonework, and brick masonry.

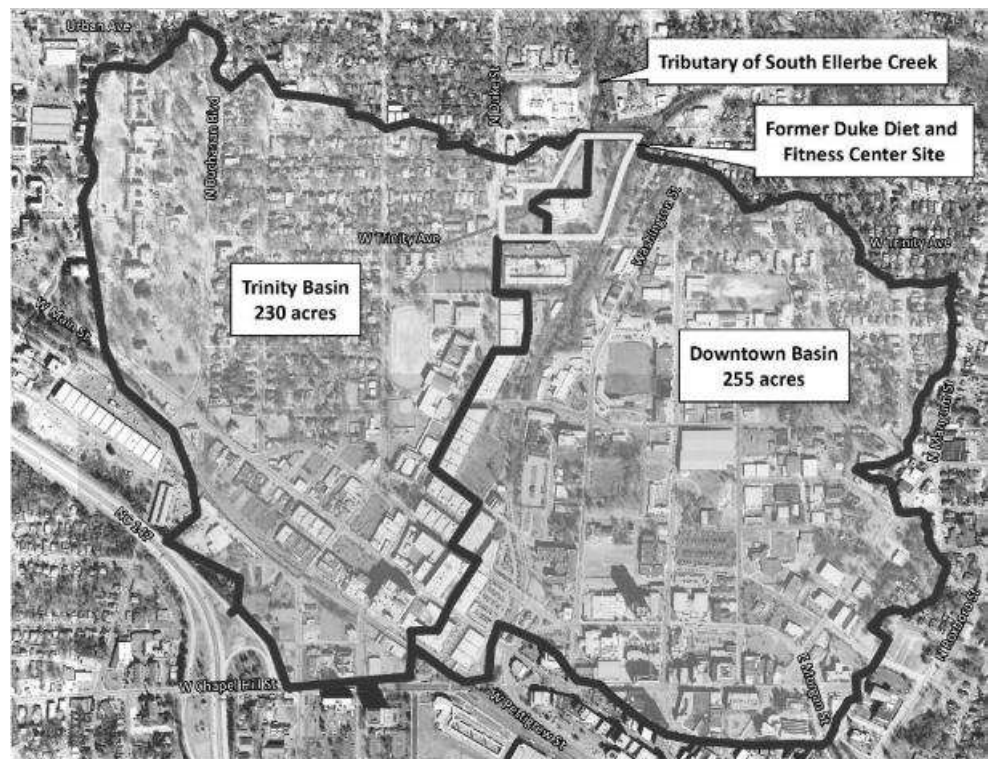
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Map of 485-acre stormwater catchment area, feeding Ellerbe creek at site of proposed wetlands (from durhamnc.gov)

Trinity Park Halloween 2017

By Steven Falzarano

We had another tremendously successful Trinity Park Halloween event this year. I don't think I have ever seen so many kids of all ages in the park at one time! Everyone was decked out in their Halloween costumes, including a few pets as well. A great time was had by all, and it was a great way to see friends and neighbors in a safe and fun environment. And the weather was absolutely perfect. Events like this are what make Trinity Park such a great place to live!

Kids were able to enjoy the craft table where they were able to decorate and personalize their own Halloween bag. This is always a popular activity for the kids and was another great hit this year too. And additionally everyone who wanted one got a glow stick necklace!



Prize-winning Lotus Seed Pod, and pals

Congratulations to the costume contest prize winners. All of the costumes were fabulous and it was difficult for the judges to choose. This year's winners by costume were:

First Place - Edward Scissorhands

Second Place - Lotus Seed Pod

Third Place - Dorothy

Putting on an event like this is only possible with the support and help from our great Trinity Park neighbors, volunteers, and local businesses. So, a very special thanks to Paul Cardile, Diane Amato, & David Atwater for helping to decorate Trinity Park and for helping to run the event and be judges for the costume contest. Special thanks as well to Maggie Sargent for leading our kids costume parade around Trinity Park. No easy feat to organize and march a couple of hundred kids in costumes! I know we had some other last-minute volunteers who stepped up as well to assist.

continued on page 9

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continued from page 8

Your help really made a difference and was greatly appreciated!

I would also like to thank our supporters and sponsors, without whose help, we could not have had our craft table and costume prizes. Thank you to **Morgan Imports**, **Northgate Mall**, and **Sky Zone** who graciously donated prizes. Please don't forget to support these and other local businesses during the Holiday season, and all year long!

And lastly, on behalf of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association, thanks to all the neighbors who attended the event – you all helped to make this a wonderful time for the kids and the community. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Lighten up with Luminaria 2017



By Liz Healey, Karalyn Colopy, and Mollie Flowe

Trinity Park Luminaria will take place on Sunday, December 17, with all proceeds benefitting Neighbors for Habitat (N4H), the event hosts. N4H is a large group of Trinity Park neighbors

and friends who came together to sponsor and build a Habitat house in 2017. Thanks to the supporters of N4H, the Clay-Pitt family will be spending the holidays in a safe, affordable, and lovely home!

The luminaria tradition in Trinity Park reminds us of how fortunate we are to live in a lovely neighborhood surrounded by kind and compassionate neighbors. Thank you for lighting up the streets and supporting Neighbors for Habitat. We look forward to building another Habitat house alongside the Trinity Park community in 2018, and Happy Holidays to all!

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Kids Activities for the Holidays

By Steven Falzarano

School breaks will be upon us shortly and I know many of our parents are looking for activities for kids to do during the holidays and when school is out. Sometimes it is difficult to find new ways to entertain kids of all ages. Fortunately, there are a number of local activities sure to keep kids of all ages entertained! There are plenty of educational and active things to do right here in the Triangle and Triad area.



One of our most fun and educational activities is the **Duke Lemur Center**! This is a fantastic organization dedicated to the study and conservation of Lemurs. The Duke Lemur Center is the world's largest and most diverse collection of lemurs – Earth's most threatened group of mammals – outside of Madagascar. The center regularly conducts individual and group tours. Reservations are required. lemur.duke.edu

There is also the **North Carolina Museum of Life and Science**. Over 84 acres of indoor/outdoor activities to explore, 60 live animal exhibitions, and the always popular Butterfly House. Great way to spend the day! www.lifeandscience.org



Another local activity is The **Sky Zone Trampoline Park**. It's a great way for kids to burn off some energy while having fun, and parents can jump too! Sky Zone is a family entertainment center, located at Northgate Mall. www.skyzone.com

There are also many other activities to choose from in the surrounding area. For nearby all-in-one "fun parks," check out:

Frankie's Fun Park Go-karts, laser tag, batting cages, bumper boats, flight simulators, mini-golf, arcade games & more www.frankiesfunpark.com

Wheels Fun Park Roller skating rink, play gym, go-karts, batting cages, mini golf, the outdoor maze & more wheelsfamilyfunpark.com



Or you may want to try rock wall climbing at: **Climb Progression** or the **Triangle Rock Club**.

Climb Progression

www.climbprogression.com

Triangle Rock Club

www.tranglerockclub.com/about/locations/morrisville

Other edutainment things and activities to do in the central North Carolina area include:

NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh

www.naturalsciences.org

NC Museum of History in Raleigh

www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Marbles Kids Museum/IMAX in Raleigh

www.marbleskidsmuseum.org

Greensboro Science Center in Greensboro

www.greensboroscience.org

North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheville

www.nczoo.org



TRINITY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter Events

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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31						

January

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February

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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TPNA BOARD MEETINGS

7pm on Wednesdays, monthly (**December 6th, January 10th, No February meeting**) 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.

TRINITY PARK LUMINARIA

Sunday, **December 17th**, luminaria bags, candles...etc. will be available in Trinity Park. Benefitting Neighbors for Habitat/Habitat for Humanity, details to follow on Trinity Park Listserv. See pg. 9 for additional information.

HISTORY GROVE DEDICATION

Saturday, **January 13th** at 10:30am at Trinity Park (the corner of Trinity Avenue and Watts Street). Speeches are planned and refreshments will be served. See pg. 6 for additional information.

TPNA 2018 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, **January 24th** at 7pm in the Media Center at George Watts Montessori. Featuring public elections of new board members, updates from Board President and Committees, with snacks and drinks provided. All TPNA community members are encouraged to attend. See pg. 4 for additional information.

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

Katy Dillard

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

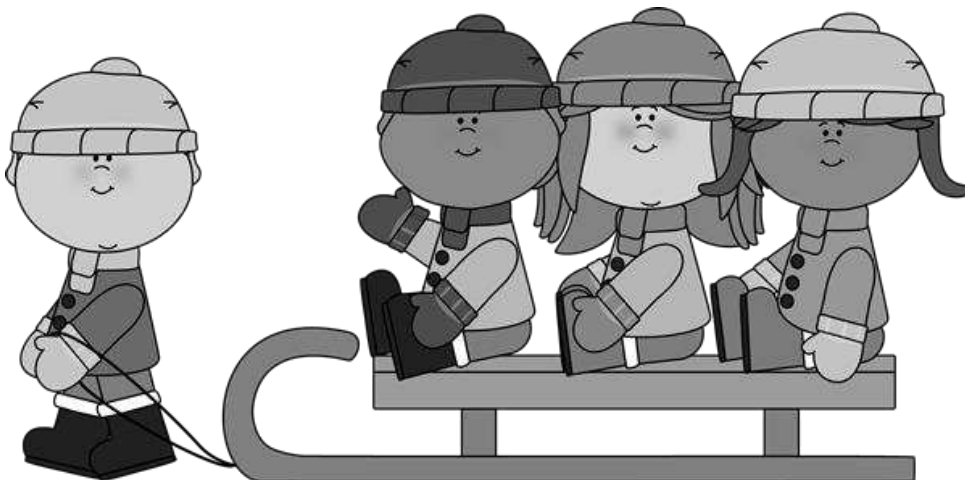
South Ellerbe Creek Wetlands

Paul Cardile

Matthew Yearout

Home Tour 2018

Diane Amato





Membership Form and Volunteer Information

You love Durham. You love Trinity Park.

Become a member of the Trinity Park Neighborhood Association!

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.

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Building (Event organization) | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Neighborhood Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Association Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Budgeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Pedestrian Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact me as needs arise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour/Garden Tour | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | |
- (newsletter, website, social media)