

# Old West Durham Neighborhood Association

DIVERSITY • HARMONY • COMMUNITY

Durham, North Carolina 27705

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## What is the Old West Durham Neighborhood Association?



We are a group of neighborhood residents working together to strengthen the sense of community in OWD and to preserve and enhance the quality of life in OWD. Our neighborhood stretches from Broad Street west to Hillandale Road and from Englewood Avenue south to the Durham Freeway. The area around Erwin Mills, Ninth Street and the old mill village is listed on the National Register of Historic Districts.

## What does OWDNA do?

- **Traffic calming:** Worked hard to get traffic circles and four-way stop signs at our busiest intersections,
- **Building a traffic island** at Lawndale & Hillsborough to slow cars coming off Hillsborough,
- Made every residential street **25 MPH**.
- **Community events:** Spring Picnic - enjoy good food & good company, OWD Fall Picnic - neighborhood gathering,
- **Night of Lights** - holiday neighborhood luminaries, canned food drive,
- **Walking tours** - introduced OWD to Rep. David Price, Mayor Nick Tennyson and many others,
- **Development issues:** Held 75 meetings and phone calls with the developers and the City on the very exciting plans for "Ninth Street North," (below)



- **Worked with surrounding neighborhoods** to convince the owner of the Broad Street BP gas station to change his "Interstate" design to the smaller pitched-roof design you see today,
- Sponsored a board member to take a **planning and zoning class** at Duke,
- Keeping a watchful **eye on plans for regional rail** and the future development of Erwin Square.
- **Quality of life:** Succeeded in getting the City Council to commit \$150,000 toward the "South Ellerbe Creek Natural Area" -- making the creation of a neighborhood green space part of the long-range plans for the City of Durham, (below)



- **Secured funding for a new sidewalk** connecting Edith Street with Ninth,
- Added **100 new street lights**,
- **Working with landlords to protect housing rights**,
- **Organized five clean-ups of our green space**, three clean-ups of the Erwin Mills cemetery, and worked with a number of Duke fraternities to pick up litter along the length of Hillsborough Road and several vacant lots in the neighborhood.
- **Public safety:** Ongoing involvement with Partners Against Crime,
- **Received a \$2000 Partners Against Crime grant** for flood lights and deadbolt locks (to enhance home security) and for neighborhood t-shirts and bumper stickers (to help build community).
- **Neighborhood web site:** For a history and old photos of West Durham and to find out what OWDNA does, check out our award winning web site at [www.owdna.org](http://www.owdna.org). Residents can join the **OWDNA listserv** and **message board**.

Along the way, our neighborhood association has been honored by the Historic Preservation Society of Durham, Preservation North Carolina, the Library of Congress, the Herald-Sun's "Durham Grit" award, and the Independent Weekly's "Citizen Award" (for "tireless dedication to making our community a better place to live").

-- *Durham Herald-Sun*