

Enderly Park by the Numbers

Enderly Park is considered a Challenged Neighborhood by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission's 2006 Quality of Life Study (see Neighborhood ID 18 on Figure 5). The study defines a challenged neighborhood as follows:

“Challenged NSAs (Neighborhood Statistical Area) generally have low to moderate scores on some or all quality of life dimensions. A Challenged neighborhood has a lower quality of life than other communities in Charlotte and is "at risk" on multiple dimensions. This grouping represents below average quality of life compared to citywide values.”

The Quality of Life Study (QLS) is based upon a framework that measures variables in four dimensions: social, physical, crime, and economic. According to the study, Enderly Park ranks “low” in each of these dimensions. Some of the highlights of these “low” ranks include:

- A median household income of \$28,030 (compared to the city average of \$47,670)
- A 10.6% youth school drop-out rate (double the city average of 5%)
- Only 37.5% of children passing competency exams
- A 29% teenage pregnancy rate
- A violent crime rate that is 4.5 times larger than the city average
- A home ownership rate of only 34.8%
- 27.8% of persons receiving food stamps

Over the past two years, the QLS describes the trend of Enderly Park's Quality of Life as “No Change.” This would indicate that between 2006 and 2008 the Quality of Life in Enderly Park has neither improved nor deteriorated. However, an overview of the Historical View of the Quality of Life Study since 2002 shows an overall downward trend. Highlights since 2002 include the following:

- A drop in median household income of about \$4,500
- A drop in the number of children passing competency exams from 71.3% in 2002 to 37.5% in 2008
- A 5.7% increase in the number of births by teenagers
- An increase in both violent and juvenile crime
- A 5% drop in home ownership from an already low 40% to 35%
- An almost 7% increase in the number of persons receiving food stamps
- Only a 2.2% increase in housing value compared to the city average of 4.7%

Though the Quality of Life Study is a valuable tool in discerning the strengths and challenges of a neighborhood, it is somewhat limited and cannot be fully descriptive of the people and places comprising the area. Some other striking details not included within the Quality of Life Study include:

- A 2005 Unemployment Rate of 14% compared to the county-wide 4.9% Unemployment Rate as cited by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
 - Please note that these statistics are for the year 2005. Thus they are not current and do not take into account the current city, state, and national economic state. There are no available statistics specifically for the Enderly Park community since the year 2005.
 - The current Mecklenburg County Unemployment Rate is 9.5%, almost double that of 2005. Using this as an indicator for Enderly Park would suggest a current Unemployment Rate of over 25% (roughly 27%). This does not take into account that during time of economic instability and turmoil, poor areas are hit hardest.
 - Note: The Quality of Life Study provides only an Unemployment index, which for Enderly Park is rated as “High”)
- An estimate of at least 40-60 boarded up houses
 - This is our own estimate as there is no actual data provided by the city, county, or other organization
- A significant homeless population
 - We define homeless as someone who does not have stable or adequate housing and/or is not able to provide housing for themselves or through immediate family. This includes persons living on the street, but also many persons who travel from house to house staying with whomever is willing to “put them up” for a period of time.
 - These persons would not be included in demographic reports or the Quality of Life Study as they typically do not file paperwork or forms that would intake census data
- An estimate of almost 25% of persons in Enderly Park living below poverty level

The above information is taken from a variety of sources, including:

- <http://www.charlottechamber.com/>
- http://ww.charmeck.org/QOL/PDF/2008QualityofLife_FullReport.pdf
- <http://ww.charmeck.org/QOL/PDF/18.pdf>
- <http://maps.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/gp>
- <http://www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Enderly-Park-Charlotte-NC.html>
- <http://www.wcnc.com/>