

## **Festival for the Eno** <sup>[1]</sup>

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Festival for the Eno. Image courtesy of Flickr user Jeri Gloege. <sup>[2]</sup>  
by Philip McFee, 2006

The Festival for the Eno, a multiple-day event held annually in northern [Durham](#) <sup>[3]</sup> since 1980 and sponsored by the [Eno River Association](#) <sup>[4]</sup> with the help of local establishments, is considered to be one of the premier folk and arts festivals in North Carolina and the Southeast. The festival is dedicated to conserving and protecting the natural environment, culture, and history of the Eno River basin, with proceeds supporting the association's work in the upkeep of the river and the purchase of land within its watershed. The first festival, a single-day event, was staged on 4 July 1980 by [Margaret C. Nygard](#) <sup>[5]</sup> and a core of 100 volunteers. It featured two stages for performances as well as multiple arts displays, crafts booths, and food stands. The festival drew almost 12,000 people, a number that would steadily rise through the 1980s and 1990s (despite being hindered in some years by record high temperatures and other natural forces, such as a major flood in 1995).

In 1998 the Festival for the Eno first broke the 40,000 attendance mark, bringing more than \$100,000 to the Eno River Association. The festival, which continues to be centered around [Independence Day](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, has drawn hundreds of thousands of visitors through the years and, along with numerous local artists and craftsmen, such performers as [Doc Watson](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, [Emmylou Harris](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, and [Etta Baker](#) <sup>[9]</sup>.

#### **Additional Resources:**

Eno River Association: <http://www.enoriver.org/> <sup>[4]</sup>

Festival for the Eno: <http://enoriver.org/Festival/> <sup>[10]</sup>

#### **Image Credit:**

Festival for the Eno. Image courtesy of Flickr user Jeri Gloege. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fractalmind/2718712226/> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed June 15, 2012).

#### **Subjects:**

[Culture](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Events](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

#### **Authors:**

[McFee, Philip](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

#### **Origin - location:**

[Durham](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

#### **From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/festival-eno>

#### **Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/festival-eno> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fractalmind/2718712226/> <sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/durham-city> <sup>[4]</sup> <http://www.enoriver.org/> <sup>[5]</sup> <http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/n/Nygard,Margaret.html> <sup>[6]</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/capitolfourth/> <sup>[7]</sup>

<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/watson-doc> [8] <http://www.emmylouharris.com/> [9] <http://www.ettabakerproject.com/> [10]  
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