

Keep Durham Beautiful Inc.
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KEEP DURHAM BEAUTIFUL'S BIG SWEEP EVENT HITS RECORD CLEANUP NUMBERS

DURHAM, N.C. – Keep Durham Beautiful set a new cleanup record of 802 volunteers and 17,823 pounds of litter collected in this year's Big Sweep event. These numbers are compared to Big Sweep 2019, which gathered 659 volunteers to collect 16,563 pounds of litter.

Big Sweep is Durham's largest annual litter cleanup event. Every September and October, Durham volunteer groups gather to pick up litter in their local neighborhoods, parks, and streams. Coordinated by KDB and City of Durham Stormwater & GIS Services Division, Big Sweep volunteers have picked up over 194,000 pounds of litter since 2005.

"This started as a waterway-focused cleanup, but we have since included picking up litter on streets and trails," said Laura Webb Smith, stormwater educator for the City of Durham. "We understand that gravity carries everything downstream, so picking up litter from the source can prevent future marine life tragedies and microplastics from polluting the water."

Big Sweep volunteers received trash bags, gloves, litter grabbers, and vests to prepare for the cleanup. Durham public service departments ensure that collected litter is properly recycled or sent to the landfill.

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KDB provides many other resources on their [website](#) to help volunteers get involved year-long. There are various ways to volunteer, including litter cleanups, educational workshops, environmental adoption programs, and working in gardens to improve community greening. Volunteers can sign up individually, as a group, or as a company to get involved in community projects.

About Keep Durham Beautiful

Since 2004, Keep Durham Beautiful has inspired Durham residents to take responsibility for their community environment through volunteer opportunities, tool lending, educational programs, resource coordination and more. An affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, KDB is a Durham-based nonprofit that partners with the City of Durham General Services Department and Durham County. KDB has united with local communities and businesses to be stewards of Durham by removing thousands of pounds of waste, planting trees and community gardens, and bringing people together to take ownership of their city. For more information, visit [their website](#) or call 919-354-2729.

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