



City of Durham County of Durham

Joint News Release

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Residents Invited to Join in for “Big Sweep” 2017

Online Volunteer Registration Now Open for Litter Prevention Event Scheduled October 7th

DURHAM, NC – Residents ready to help clean up Durham are urged to mark their calendars and register for the annual Durham Big Sweep clean up event on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Volunteer registration is now open at www.durhambigsweep.org and everyone is encouraged help clean up Durham.

The 2017 Durham Big Sweep, coordinated by the Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District, Keep Durham Beautiful Inc., and the City of Durham’s Stormwater & GIS Services Division, focuses on removing litter before it can negatively impact water quality. “Besides being a blight on the community, impacting our economy, litter has a major negative impact on the health of our community and our natural environment. It endangers wildlife and negatively impacts the water quality of our local rivers and lakes that are a source for drinking water for much of the Triangle area,” said Jennifer Brooks, natural resource coordinator with the Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District. “The trash collected during Durham Big Sweep will be properly disposed of and no longer will pose an environmental or health threat.”

Volunteer opportunities will be available throughout the months of September and October. Interested volunteers that cannot participate on October 7th are encouraged to pick another day to carry out their contribution to clean up efforts. Volunteers can create a cleanup team with a group of family/friends/co-workers, or volunteer as individuals and find a local clean up event to participate in. Event organizers can assist in locating a cleanup site once registered or teams may pick the cleanup location of their choice: a local park, neighborhood, stream, lake shore,

parking lot, school grounds or workplace grounds. Anywhere trash is seen is a great Big Sweep cleanup site.

Durham residents have been participating in Big Sweep for over 17 years. In the last five years, close to 2,200 volunteers have helped to clean up an estimated 57,840 lbs. of trash. Additional support for Durham Big Sweep is provided by the Durham County General Services Department and the City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department. Durham residents, organizations, and groups interested in volunteering for Durham Big Sweep can register now at www.durhambigsweep.org.

About the Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District seeks to conserve, enhance and promote the natural resources of Durham County by providing technical assistance, environmental education information and economic incentives to County citizens and by exhibiting a diversified program to meet its changing needs. For more information, visit <http://dconc.gov/swcd> , “like” on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DCoSWCD or “follow” on Twitter at <http://www.Twitter.com/DCoSWCD>

About Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc. [Keep Durham Beautiful](http://www.KeepDurhamBeautiful.org) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization working in partnership with the [City of Durham General Services Department](http://www.durhamnc.gov) and [Durham County](http://www.durhamnc.gov) to encourage residents, businesses, and community organizations to protect the environment and enhance the appearance of Durham through cleanup events, beautification projects, waste reduction, and educational activities. To learn more, visit the [website](http://www.KeepDurhamBeautiful.org), like on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/KeepDurhamBeautiful), and follow on [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/KeepDurhamBeautiful), [flickr](http://www.flickr.com/photos/KeepDurhamBeautiful/), and [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/KeepDurhamBeautiful).

About the Public Works Department Stormwater and GIS Services Division

The [Stormwater and GIS Services Division](http://www.durhamnc.gov) with the City of Durham Public Works Department is guided by the City’s [Strategic Plan](http://www.durhamnc.gov) goals of stewardship of the City’s physical and environmental assets and innovative and high-performing organization. Activities include storm drainage design and plans review; inspecting and maintaining City-owned drainage systems; enforcing stormwater ordinances and regulations; education and outreach; stream monitoring, restoration, and watershed master planning; maintaining multiple layers of the City’s geographic information; and stormwater billing. To learn more visit the division’s [Web page](http://www.durhamnc.gov), like on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com), and follow on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com).

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