



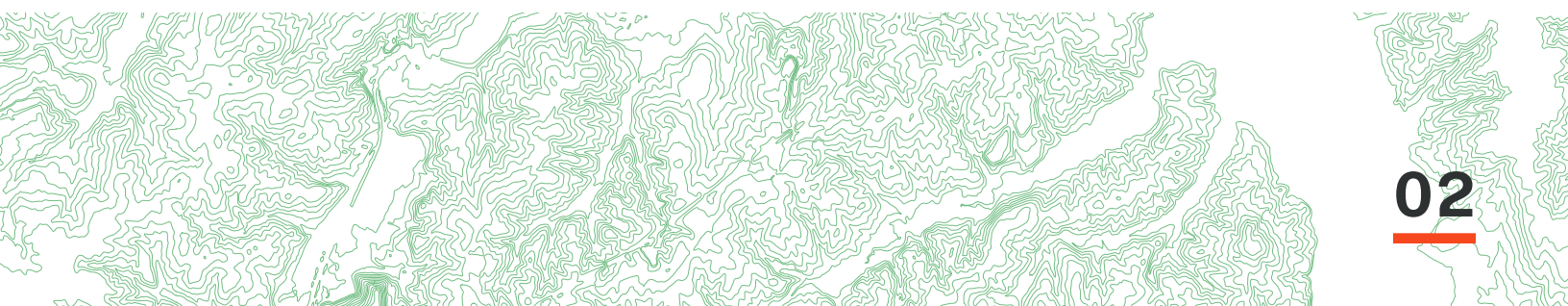
# Keep Durham Beautiful Annual Report

2021

# Table of Contents

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Overall Impact	03
Board Chair & Executive Director Statement	04
About Us	06
Who We Are	07
Our Focus Areas	08
Litter Prevention	09
Community Greening	010
Outreach & Engagement	011



# 2021 Snapshot

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**Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB) believes that everyone in Durham should have access to clean, green, and beautiful outdoor spaces.**

Each year we work with thousands of volunteers in projects that address our three focus areas: litter prevention, waste reduction, and community greening.

This year we adapted to a new normal and adjusted the way we serve our community. Despite all the changes, our staff, partners, and volunteers still worked together to make an incredible impact on the Durham community. Check out our highlights from the year!

**2,421  
Volunteers**

worked together to impact the Durham community.

**784  
Trees**

planted or given away to benefit the Durham community.

**4,839  
Hours**

served to prevent litter, reduce waste, and green the community.

**46,885  
Pounds**

of litter removed from the Durham environment.

# Board Chair & Executive Director Statement

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Keep Durham Beautiful Supporter,

While 2021 brought many challenges for Keep Durham Beautiful and the communities we serve, our work together offered socially distant camaraderie and a chance to make a positive impact. Working outdoors, these were some of the first opportunities many of us had to reconnect.

Thanks to the help of our volunteers, partners, and donors, we delivered on our mission to engage and inspire individuals to take greater responsibility for the community environment here in Durham. Durham is a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Some of our many accomplishments of 2021 include:

- Planting 300 trees in the Bragtown neighborhood, Lakeview Park, and Lakeview School
- Training 24 Litter Leaders to lead community litter prevention projects
- Contributing to a culture of biodiversity and native habitat at schools and public spaces
- Supporting workshops on racial equity in the environmental nonprofit sector with the Durham Environmental Coalition

Your generosity of time and treasure encourages us to address the challenges of overlooked spaces and put our full effort and heart into creating cleaner, healthier, and safer neighborhoods for the Durham we love.

We are humbled and privileged to be part of this mission making Durham a beautiful community that values environmental equity. We believe that every person has the right to a beautiful place that is free of litter.

Looking forward, in 2022 we are working to:

- Fund planting of 700 trees in Durham through grants and donations (volunteers will help to plant 300 of them)
- Give away 300 trees for residential planting
- Reduce cigarette litter with innovative messaging through art installations at bus stops
- Add programs to build native tree groves and meadows at schools and public spaces
- Provide litter pickup kits and an accompanying litter and waste curriculum for teachers to lead students in litter prevention

We look forward to partnering with our volunteers throughout 2022 as we continue to create the change in Durham we all want to see.

With deep gratitude for joining us on this mission,

## Michael James

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Tania Dautlick

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# About Us

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## Engage and Inspire to Better Our Community

We are driven and motivated by the dream that all residents feel a sense of belonging in Durham and a desire to be stewards of its environment.

## What We Do

At Keep Durham Beautiful, we believe in the shared responsibility to build and maintain clean, green, and beautiful outdoor spaces. That's why we take action every day to improve and beautify neighborhoods throughout Durham.

While it is daunting to try to solve the issues challenging our environment alone, Keep Durham Beautiful is here to make it easier. Together we can lay the foundation for a resilient community.

## How We Do It

An affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Keep Durham Beautiful is a 501c3 nonprofit. We work in partnership with the City of Durham and Durham County to help residents take action through volunteer opportunities, tool lending, educational programs, and resource coordination. Our environmental stewardship activities focus on litter prevention and community greening where they are most needed.



# Who We Are

## Board of Directors

### Officers:

Michael James, Chair  
Diane Rupprecht, Vice Chair  
Brennan Mack, Treasurer  
Jarrod Ambrose, Secretary  
Chrissie Koroivui, Ex-Officio

### Board Members:

Daria Drake  
Margaux Escutin  
Tolu Jean-Jules  
Austin Moore  
Rachel Owens  
Joseph Wilkins

## Staff

Dawn Keyser, Program Coordinator  
Princess Mutasa, AmeriCorps Service Member  
Tania Dautlick, Executive Director

**Staff Pictured Below**  
(from left to right)



# Our Focus Areas

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## Litter Prevention

Litter harms our communities as it devalues neighborhoods, invites crime, threatens wildlife, and reduces water quality which impacts the health of our residents. Roadside litter makes its way into rivers and oceans where it can leach chemicals and contribute to the growing plastic problem.

We want you to know your community and neighborhood deserves to be beautiful, healthy, and litter-free. We organize community litter clean-ups on roadsides and waterways, and we focus on preventing litter and stopping it at the source. This means coordinating with local businesses and engaging youth to be part of the solutions. We share why littering is harmful and find solutions that create positive impacts in the neighborhoods that need it the most.

## Community Greening

We're here to help communities and partners find the resources and tools they need to beautify neighborhoods. Native trees and plants make positive impacts on our health and environment. Bringing people together to plant trees and flowers builds a powerful bond and point of connection. We work with individuals, companies, and community groups to become stewards of the land around them and help them improve their communities.

## Outreach & Engagement

We recognize the importance of partnership building and including everyone in the conversation about how we can take responsibility for our neighborhoods, parks, and natural spaces. KDB has helped to bridge the equity gap among Durham's environmental groups. We help residents connect with nature, protect the environment, and create a safe and healthy community.

Sharing volunteer opportunities is important to the success of our program and to let residents know how they can get involved to make Durham even better. We use outreach tools to share not only KDB events but also those of our many partners with similar goals.



# Litter Prevention

**46,885 Pounds**  
of litter collected

## Signature Programs and Service Days

- MLK Day of Service
- Creek Week
- Big Sweep
- 9/11 Day of Service
- Adopt-a-Street
- Adopt-a-Stop

## Specialized Projects

- Custom Service Projects
- Healthy Mile Trail with Partnership for a Healthy Durham
- HWY 147 Beautification Consortium
- Tool Lending Library

## Innovative Solutions

- Litter Kits in Schools
- Litter Leaders Volunteer Training
- Cigarette Litter Prevention

**7,600 Pounds**  
of recycling diverted from landfills

**44 Tires**  
removed from the environment



**1,680 volunteers**  
participated in litter prevention

**2,887 Hours**  
donated by volunteers to litter prevention

# Community Greening

In 2021, we planted 495 trees and raised \$48,320 for tree plantings.

## Tree Planting Locations

- Durham Central Park
- East End Park
- Gurley Street
- Hayti Neighborhood
- Lakeview School
- Lyon Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
- Northgate Park
- Stratford Lakes Drive
- University Drive

## Plant Giveaways

- 289 Native Trees
- 4,029 Flower Bulbs
- 530 Pollinator Seed Packets

## Six Community Gardens Beautified on 11,112 Acres

- Bragtown Community Garden
- Greenwood Commons Pollinator Garden
- NC Central University Community Garden
- North Street Community Garden
- Prairie Island on Blackwell Street
- Reinvestment Partners



# Outreach & Engagement

## Outreach Initiatives

### Durham Environmental Coalition ([www.durhamenvironmentalcoalition.org](http://www.durhamenvironmentalcoalition.org))

KDB supports the coalition to facilitate communication, increase environmental justice, and support partner organizations. In 2021, the coalition built to 32 partners and held 6 training sessions.

### Bee City USA Committee ([www.durhambeecity.org](http://www.durhambeecity.org))

Since 2015, KDB has facilitated a multi-partner committee that promotes awareness, conservation, and prosperity of our native and honeybee populations in Durham County. On June 6, 2016, Durham received the official designation of a Bee City USA.



### Leave Your Leaves ([www.leaveyourleaves.org](http://www.leaveyourleaves.org))

In partnership with New Hope Audubon Society, we launched a campaign with over 200 residents pledging to leave the fallen leaves in their yards in place for the benefit of overwintering pollinator species and soil health. This project was completed as part of a Sustainable Communities grant from Triangle Community Foundation.

### Bi-monthly Newsletter ([www.KeepDurhamBeautiful.org/newsletter](http://www.KeepDurhamBeautiful.org/newsletter))

In our twice-a-month newsletter, we announce KDB volunteer opportunities and highlight our partner programs for people who care about keeping the community clean and green.

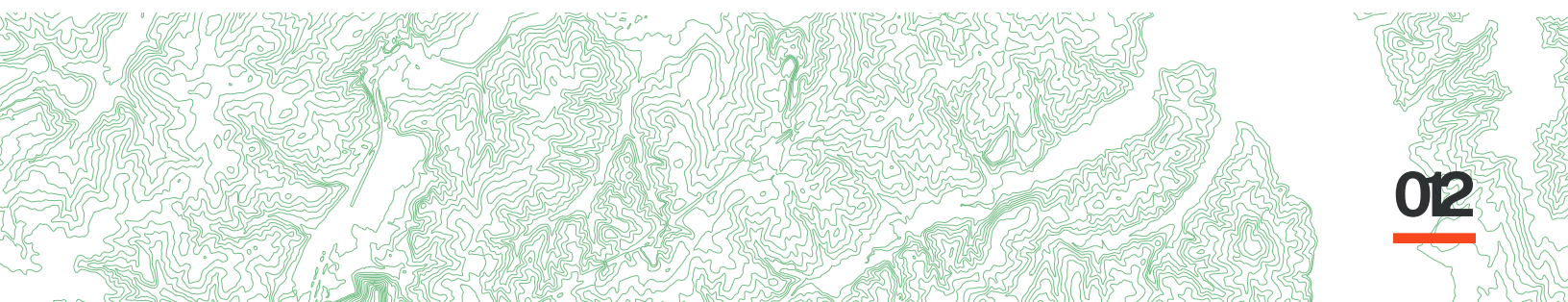
## Biodiversity Outreach

- **Biodiversity for Rain Gardens Training** - 20 DPS Teachers and staff attended a training at DPS Hub Farm by NCSU and Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District made possible by grants from Burt's Bees Foundation.
- **Native Plantings** - We planted 1,678 native flowers and grasses at Lakeview Park with help from Bank of America, Durham Parks and Recreation, and Bragtown Community Association.
- **Durham Bioblitz Citizen Science ([www.durhambiblitz.org](http://www.durhambiblitz.org))** - In the Spring and Fall campaigns of Bioblitz, we had 2,317 participants make 7,090 observations. They observed 1,300 or more distinct species of plants, animals, and fungi.
- **Invasive Plant Removal** - We worked with Friends of Geer Cemetery to remove English Ivy at locations throughout Durham.

## Racial Equity

Keep Durham Beautiful approaches our outreach and service projects with an equity lens. We are committed to building authentic partnerships with community leaders and organizations from diverse Durham neighborhoods. KDB is a hub connecting social justice organizations with environmental stewardship organizations.

Through programs and initiatives with more than 100 local partner organizations, we engage 3,000+ volunteers annually. We help to strengthen communities through action and service. KDB convenes stakeholders among corporations, government, schools, colleges, clubs, nonprofits, faith-based, neighborhoods, scouts, and other organizations to address complex local challenges.





Keep  
Durham  
Beautiful

## Thank You to Our Donors & Sponsors for Making Our Work Possible!

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Bright Funds Foundation  
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Downtown Durham Inc  
Durham Central Park  
Durham County  
Durham Performing Arts Center  
Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association  
Environmental Federation of NC  
Forest Hills Neighborhood Association  
Gateway Building Company  
HCL Technologies  
IQVIA Inc  
Method Savvy  
NC Native Plant Society  
Northgate Park Neighborhood Association  
South Arts Inc  
Triangle Land Conservancy

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