



# Keep Durham Beautiful Annual Report

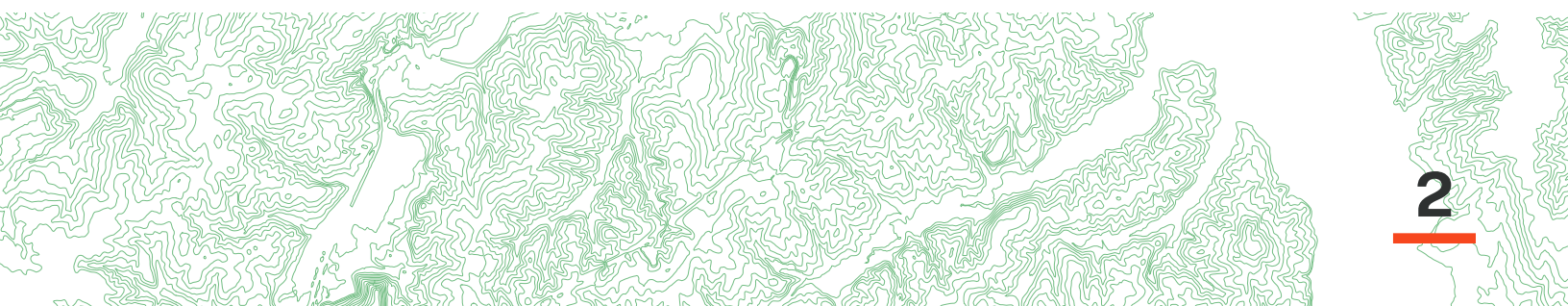
**2022**

KEEPDURHAMBEAUTIFUL.ORG

# Table of Contents

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2022 Snapshot	3
Board Chair & Executive Director Statement	4
About KDB	6
Outreach & Engagement	7
Outreach & Engagement Initiatives	8
Durham Environmental Coalition	9
Community Greening	10
Community Greening Programs	11
Litter Prevention	13
Litter Prevention Programs	14
Volunteer Highlights	17
Our People	19
KDB Brand Refresh	20



# 2022 Snapshot

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2022 was a year to remember for Keep Durham Beautiful. This year, we had the highest volunteer turnout in our 18-year history and removed a record amount of litter from the Durham community.

The numbers below reflect our metrics recorded from January 1st, 2022 through December 31st, 2022.

**6,056  
Volunteers**

worked together to impact the Durham community.

**12,018  
Hours**

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

**2,389  
Youth Volunteers**

joined us on our mission of keeping Durham clean, green, and beautiful.

**93,905  
Pounds**

of litter removed from Durham's parks, streams, and neighborhoods.

**633  
Trees**

planted to expand and improve Durham's urban tree canopy.

**Thank you,  
volunteers**

for the time and energy you dedicated to keeping Durham beautiful this year!

# Board Chair & Executive Director Reflection

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Dear Keep Durham Beautiful Supporter,

We have so much to celebrate! In 2022, we've seen a record level of volunteer participation and removed a record amount of litter from our streets, streams, and neighborhoods! We were able to accomplish so much this year because of the dedication of our volunteers and partners and thanks to generous contributions of our donors and supporters. To keep up this level of service, we will continue to raise funds and build program partnerships through shared goals in the new year.

Some of our many accomplishments of 2022 include:

- Introducing 6 new board members and welcoming the voices of student leaders by creating space for two non-voting board members from local high schools and universities
- Launching our Litter Kits in Schools Program, connecting students at 20 schools with litter cleanup supplies and litter and waste education resources
- Hosting the first annual Bee Day celebration at the Durham Farmers' Market
- Strengthening our partnerships with NC Central University and Duke University
- Partnering with other Durham Environmental Coalition members to host a three part workshop series on Race, Power, and Partnership for local environmental organizations and groups

Thank you to our grant sponsors — Arbor Day Foundation, MetLife, Edward Jones, Burt's Bees Foundation, and Triangle Community Foundation — for their trust in our ability to help bring our vision for a more sustainable Durham to light.

With the new year fast approaching, we have bold goals for 2023:

- Expand the Litter Kits in Schools program into all Durham Public Schools
- Facilitate a collaboration with area community gardens
- Host a native landscape management forum
- Support a Durham Bioblitz
- Host the second annual Durham Bee Day

We look forward to working alongside our volunteers and partners to realize these goals and many others in 2023.

If you joined us as a volunteer or a donor in 2022, THANK YOU! Your participation is both the purpose and the means for our organization to exist. It is so inspiring to get out and work alongside you in your communities. We encourage you to join in this coming year with the people in your circles. It takes us all doing what we can: planting trees and native plants, picking up litter, and sharing in the vision for a healthy and equitable Durham environment.

With deep gratitude for joining us on this mission,

**Tania Dautlick**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Michael James**  
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Michael and Tania

# About KDB



Bird-Friendly Tree Planting at Merrick-Moore

Keep Durham Beautiful works to build an environmentally resilient, clean, and inter-connected Durham through volunteerism.

We leverage resources and realize the changes residents want to see in their communities through public-private partnerships with organizations, individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods.

KDB empowers residents to become environmental stewards and leaders, cultivating a greater sense of community belonging.

## Mission

At Keep Durham Beautiful, our mission is to build environmentally just and healthy outdoor spaces in cooperation with Durham communities.

## Vision

We believe that everyone in Durham should have access to clean, green, and beautiful outdoor spaces. We know that resources have not been equitably distributed historically. That's why we listen and take action every day to learn about our community's environmental needs. We help connect community leaders and partners with the resources needed to improve and beautify neighborhoods throughout Durham.

## Our Focus Areas

In order to realize our Mission and Vision for Durham, we take action through our three focus areas: Litter Prevention, Community Greening, and Outreach & Engagement.

# Outreach & Engagement

We're committed to including everyone in the conversation about how we can take responsibility for our neighborhoods, parks, and natural spaces. We want to learn from community members and organizations about what projects are important to them and use our resources to make those projects happen.

We build partnerships with community groups, businesses, and organizations with similar goals to leverage resources and build an environmentally resilient, clean, and connected Durham. KDB works to bridge the equity gap among Durham's environmental groups, share volunteer opportunities, promote the work and events of our partners, and get Durham engaged and excited about stewardship of our outdoor spaces.



National Night Out at Merrick-Moore

# Outreach & Engagement Initiatives

## Bi-weekly 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.

## Tool Lending Library ([www.keepdurhambeautiful.org/tool-lending-library](http://www.keepdurhambeautiful.org/tool-lending-library))

KDB's tools are available for any Durham-based community group or individual to check out and use. Through our tool lending library, Durham residents can host and lead their own litter removal events, have community garden workdays, and work on the projects they're tackling in their communities. In 2022, 28 groups including neighborhood associations, school PTAs, university clubs, local businesses, and organizations utilized KDB's tool lending library.

## Bee Day ([www.durhambeecity.org](http://www.durhambeecity.org))

On June 25th, KDB and Durham County Beekeepers hosted Durham's first annual Bee Day at the Durham Farmers' Market. In celebration of Bees and National Pollinator Week (June 20th-26th), Bee Day offered a honey tasting, pollinator plant planting, the opportunity to meet beekeepers, see real bees, and a bee parade.

Bee Day was a part of Durham's wider commitment to protecting native and honeybee populations. Since 2015, KDB has facilitated the multi-partner Bee City USA 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 as a Bee City USA.



Bee Day Parade



Pollinator Plant Giveaway



# Durham Environmental Coalition

The Durham Environmental Coalition (DEC) is an equitable environmental movement that recognizes the value of biodiversity and sustainability in natural and human communities and the importance of all being able to participate in the decision-making that impacts their community.

Each month, the DEC hosts a meeting that includes peer presentations on topics related to sustainability or environmental justice, discussion, and networking. In learning from each other and presenters, the DEC builds a community of environmental organizations dedicated to a common mission. KDB supports the DEC to facilitate communication, organize events and workshops, promote environmental justice, and support partner organizations.

This Fall, the DEC hosted a workshop series focused on Race, Power, and Partnership. The three-part series aimed to provide a structure for 12 environmental organizations that identify as white-led or white-dominated to learn about building trust with black and brown community members and organizations as well as creating inclusive organizations that attract black and brown leaders and members. The workshops emphasized adding value for black and brown community members and organizations while working toward these goals.

This workshop series was presented in partnership with the Diversity and Equity in Environmental Programs collaborative at Duke (DEEP) and facilitated by CJ Broderick from the Equity Paradigm. KDB helped to organize the workshops alongside DEEP, CJ and the Equity Paradigm, Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, New Hope Audobon Society, Slice 325, and Triangle Community Foundation. It was made possible through funding from Triangle Community Foundation and the Burt's Bees Foundation.



Members of the DEC Organizing Committee



Arbor Day Tree Planting in Hayti with MetLife

# Community Greening

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A greener Durham is a healthier and cleaner Durham. Native trees and plants make positive impacts on our health and environment. Plants, trees, and other greenery can improve mental and physical health of both community members and the surrounding environment.

We bring people together to plant trees and flowers, care for existing trees, and learn about the benefits of a greener Durham. Planting trees and flowers together builds a powerful bond and point of connection to our home. We work with individuals, companies, and community groups to become stewards of the land around them.

## 633 Trees Planted

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## 147 Trees Given Away

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## 15,000 Bulbs Given Away

# Community Greening Programs

## Tree Planting

“This [tree planting] embodies our community by everyone coming together for one common goal.”

— DaShaun Caviness, Southside Community Member and  
Volunteer at the Arbor Day Tree Planting in Hayti

To keep Durham beautiful — and make it even more beautiful — we host multiple tree plantings each year. Trees planted in Durham help to lower temperatures, reduce heat island effect, create a noise buffer from roads and highways, provide habitat for native wildlife, filter stormwater, and reduce erosion in local creeks.

Historically, trees in Durham have not been equitably distributed. To improve the equity of our urban tree canopy, KDB works to plant in neighborhoods and areas that have been adversely impacted by the historical distribution of trees. To further expand canopy cover, we try to plant trees in places that did not have a tree previously.

In 2022, we planted **633 trees** in Durham. These trees were planted in Hayti thanks to a donation from MetLife; at Merrick-Moore Elementary, Glenn Elementary, and Southern High Schools with funding from the Burt’s Bees Foundation; along Chapel Hill Road in the Lakewood Park neighborhood thanks to a donation from Edward Jones; and at Oak Grove Elementary School with volunteers from the Jewish Federation. KDB tree plantings are done in partnership with the City of Durham Urban Forestry Division.

## Native Habitats

Native habitats offer countless environmental benefits. Native habitats preserve and promote biodiversity; support native pollinators like birds, bees, and butterflies; and also help combat climate change by filtering carbon dioxide



Bird Friendly Tree Planting at Glenn Elementary



Edward Jones Tree Planting on Chapel Hill Road



Spring Tree Giveaway in Merrick-Moore

out of the atmosphere. Native species are adapted to the climate and conditions here, so they often require less maintenance than non-native species that might be unaccustomed to North Carolina. KDB works to build resilient native habitats through our community greening programs.

To promote native habitats, our tree plantings at Glenn Elementary, Merrick-Moore Elementary, and Southern High School were plantings of native trees and shrubs designed to support local wildlife, especially pollinators like birds and bees. Our tree, bulb, and seed giveaways also featured native tree species and native wildflowers so that residents could access native species and add them to their community environment.

Further, KDB partners with the New Hope Audobon Society and the Triangle Community Foundation on the Leave Your Leaves initiative. Leave Your Leaves encourages residents to allow leaves to decompose where they fall or gently place them in a specific area of their yard. Leaves help to create a winter habitat for local pollinators, soak up water during heavy rains, release the water slowly to hydrate surrounding plants, and serve as a natural fertilizer for plants. Residents can sign the Leave Your Leaves Pledge to show their commitment to supporting native habitats.

## Tree, Bulb, and Seed Giveaways

Another way that KDB works to improve Durham's tree canopy and promote the planting of native species is through giveaways of trees, bulbs, and seed packets. Giving away trees, bulbs, and seeds to community members allows them to become stewards of their environment as they care for and maintain these plants. Our giveaways focus on native species to support local wildlife and pollinators.

In collaboration with TreesDurham, we held two tree giveaways this year. In March, we had a tree giveaway serving the Merrick-Moore community and one serving the Hayti and Southside neighborhoods in December. In total, we gave away **147 trees, 15,000 bulbs, and 1,000 wildflower seed packets** to community members and partners this year.

# Litter Prevention

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

At KDB, we organize community litter removal events on roadsides and waterways and focus on preventing litter and stopping it at the source. This means coordinating with local businesses and engaging youth as 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. All neighborhoods and communities in Durham deserve to be beautiful, litter-free, and healthy.



Skanska Litter Cleanup at Drew/Granby Park

# Litter Prevention Programs

## Litter Kits in Schools

**“This program helped students feel empowered to make a difference in their community. By cleaning up they became aware of the problem and talked more about the solution to help make our community better.”**

**— Sandy Shaw, 1st Grade Teacher at Mangum Elementary School**

In March, we launched the pilot of our Litter Kits in Schools program. Thanks to funding from the NC & US Beverage Councils and the Duke University Doing Good Education Grant, we provided litter removal supply kits to 20 schools in Durham. Each kit has an accompanying litter and waste curriculum developed in collaboration with the Clean Water Education Partnership. This program is designed to foster environmental responsibility and stewardship in Durham students while providing more equitable access to sustainability and service learning by eliminating the resource-intensive burden of bringing students to a service project and the financial costs of purchasing a litter kit.

In just three months, from March to June, around **1,470 students** in Durham participated in litter removal events and litter education at their schools. They collected **5,442 pounds of litter**, and 85% of the schools noticed a positive behavior change in their students. Litter Kits in Schools continues in the 2022-2023 school year. Looking forward, we hope to expand this program to more schools, community centers, and youth groups to engage more Durham youth in litter prevention.



Eastway Elementary School



Lakewood Montessori Middle School

## Litter Leaders

In 2022, we trained **35 new litter leaders**. Our litter leaders are dedicated, trained volunteers that help lead litter removal events and advocate for litter prevention in Durham. In October, for the first time since March of 2020, we hosted an in-person litter leader training.

## Adopt-a-Street

**“It’s such a good feeling to clean up our beloved neighborhood and to meet neighbors along the way.”**

**— Sarah Woodard, Adopt-a-Street Participant**

To keep Durham streets clean and free of litter, residents can adopt a 1-mile stretch of City maintained road where they host a litter removal event each month with tools provided by KDB. Our Adopt-a-Street program has expanded from 10 groups in 2020 to 17 groups now. We now have 39 adopted streets which is up from only 17 streets in 2020.

To improve Adopt-a-Street this year, we worked with the City of Durham GIS to create a public facing map showing adopted and available streets, added an interactive adoption application on our website, partnered with the Duke Community Based Environmental Management Certification Program and the City of Durham Office of Performance to evaluate the program, and worked with the Durham Sign Shop to put up signs with the new KDB logo.

On May 1, we hosted a community event with Wall Street Juniors to celebrate their street adoptions. Wall Street Juniors, a financial literacy nonprofit, has partnered with KDB for three years removing litter from five adopted streets in East Durham. These streets are dedicated to five community members who lost their lives to gun violence. At the celebration and service event, more than 50 participants were able to meet and learn about community groups, hear Mayor O’Neal speak about litter prevention, celebrate the community’s dedication to their adopted streets, and participate in a litter removal event.



Litter Leaders Fall Training



Adopt-a-Street, Drucilla Chapter #19

## Big Sweep

Throughout the month of October, **662 volunteers** from **48 groups** across Durham volunteered as part of Durham's largest litter cleanup of the year. These volunteers spent **1,234 hours** collecting around **19,085 pounds** of litter and removing it from our neighborhoods, streams, parks, and roadways. This year marked the 18th year of Big Sweep. Since 2005, around **7,222 volunteers** have participated in Big Sweep and removed an estimated **214,656 pounds** of litter.

Thanks to the City of Durham Stormwater Division and Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District for providing bags, City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services for picking up and disposing of the litter volunteers collected, and Locopops for donating gift cards for prizes.

## Creek Week

In the Spring, we host our second largest litter prevention event of the year: Creek Week. Since 2009, Creek Week has been a time to discover and clean up our local streams. Protecting our watersheds is vital for maintaining clean sources of drinking water and supporting community health. This year, **460 volunteers** in **33 groups** spent **1,137 hours** removing **12,581 pounds** of litter from Durham's waterways.

Along with litter removal events, Creek Week featured many events to learn about and appreciate Durham's local waterways. There was a frog watch at Sandy Creek Park to find and identify frog species as they began their spring chorus, a tour of the bioretention cell at the City of Durham General Services Building, a biofiltration workshop, canoe and kayak activities, a celebration of global recycling day, and many other events.

Creek Week is made possible through collaboration with our partners at the City of Durham Stormwater Division, Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District, Durham Parks and Recreation, Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, Eno River Association, Frog Hollow Outdoors, Haw River Assembly, Museum of Life and Science, North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers, Northeast Creek Stormwatch, the Sierra Club Headwaters Group, and Two Sisters Adventure.



Creek Week, Beaver Marsh Preserve



Big Sweep, Pearisontown Trail Cleanup



# Volunteer Highlights

## MLK Jr. Day of Service

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, KDB hosted litter removal events at Long Meadow Park, Elmira Ave. Park and the American Tobacco Trail, the Mountains to Sea Trail, Shepard Middle School, and Forest Hills Park. Across the MLK Day of Service events, **132 volunteers** picked up **2,700 pounds** of litter!

These cleanups were led in partnership with the NC Wildlife Federation, Bull City Trailblazers, and Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association.

## Earth Month

Throughout April, KDB hosted events all across Durham to celebrate Earth Month engaging and teaching residents about ways to protect and support the Earth.

During Earth Month, **474 volunteers** picked up **7,200 pounds** of trash, **1,400 pounds** of recycling, and **29 tires**. We also planted 31 trees and shrubs at Merrick-Moore Elementary School with students to increase biodiverse and bird-friendly habitats, did a cleanup of Geer Cemetery with Friends of Geer Cemetery, had a table with the Durham Master Gardeners at the Earth Day Festival in Central Park, led a Tree Keeper pruning workshop, and hosted a plant swap with the Glass Jug. Students at Glenn Elementary School and volunteers from Novo Nordisk also pitched in by working in community gardens and helping to green the Durham Community.



MLK Jr. Day of Service at Mountains to Sea Trail



9/11 Day of Service at Burton Park



9/11 Day of Service at Southern High School



Burt's Bees/Clorox Culture Day at Merrick-Moore

## 9/11 Day of Service

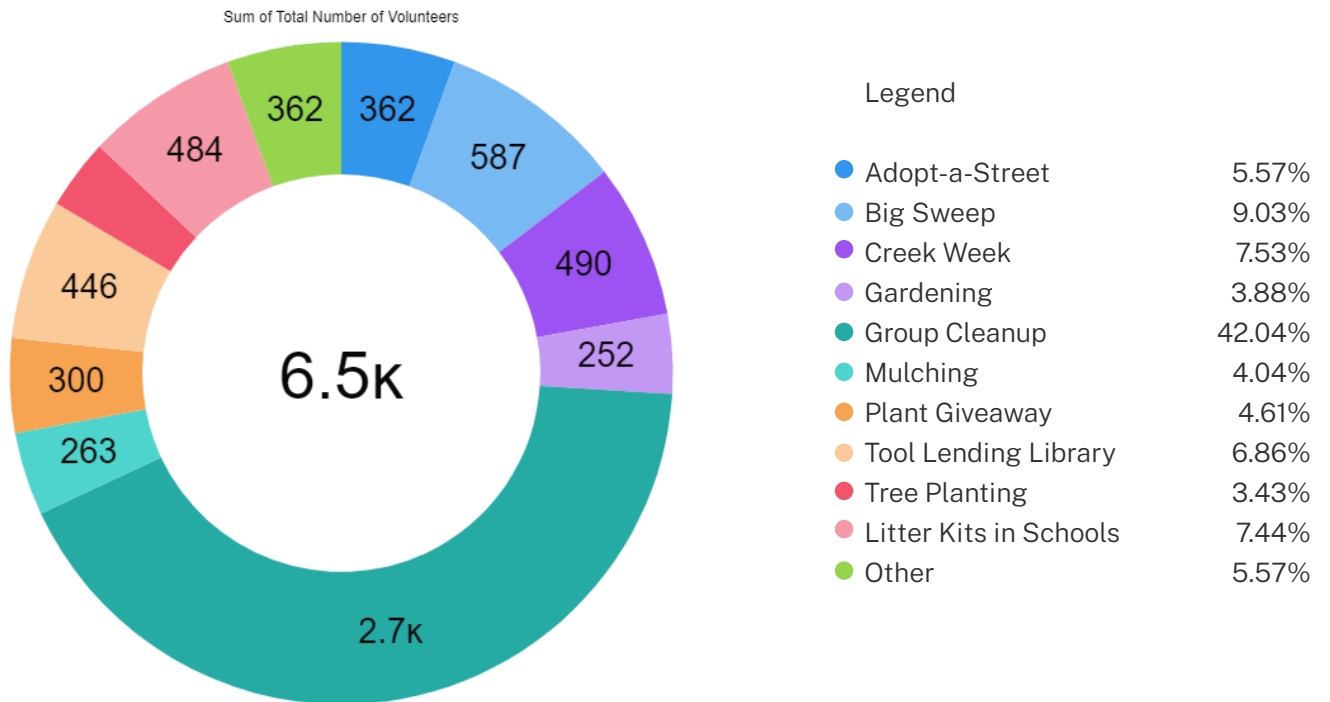
For a Day of Service in remembrance of 9/11, KDB hosted two service events. At Southern High School, volunteers helped to clear and mulch areas for pollinator-friendly tree plantings. At Burton Park, volunteers attended a litter removal event and removed **970 pounds** of litter from the environment.

## Burt’s Bees/Clorox Culture Day

On October 7th, KDB hosted five simultaneous events across Durham with **165 volunteers** from Burt’s Bees and Clorox. At Long Meadow and East End Parks, volunteers participated in a litter removal event in the parks and along sections of Goose Creek. At Glenn and Merrick-Moore elementary schools, volunteers mulched trees that KDB planted in the spring. A final group of volunteers assembled **600 native wildflower seed packets** we distributed to community partners throughout Durham.

## 2022 Volunteers by Program

The graph below shows what kind of events and programs our volunteers joined us for this year. Each time an individual volunteered with us, they are counted in this tally. The number of unique volunteers can be found in the 2022 Snapshot on page 3.



# KDB Brand Refresh

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You might notice that KDB is looking a little different these days — at least our logo, that is! This year, our partners at Method Savvy helped us revamp and refresh our brand with a new logo, templates, and brand standards among many other resources to develop a cohesive KDB design representative of our mission.

In our new logo, each element reflects part of our vision. The trees represent growth, revival, partnership, and harmony. The sun stands for light, guidance, leadership, and life. The water at the bottom of the logo represents change, unity, collaboration, and transformation. Each of these elements is tied together in the shape of a “D,” rooting our vision in Durham and denoting location, community, and pride.

We’re so grateful to the team at Method Savvy for their hard work and support in making this happen!



# Keep Durham Beautiful

# Our People

## Board of Directors

### Officers:

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

Margaux Escutin  
Tamette Farrington  
Karina Hendren  
Julianne Johnson  
Joshua Khani  
Brennan Mack  
Austin Moore  
Alejandro Moreiras  
Michelle Ramirez  
Joseph Wilkins

### Board Members:

Melissa Amoabeng  
Claire Cooney

## Staff

**Tania Dautlick**  
Executive Director  
**Dawn Keyser**  
Program Coordinator  
**Princess Mutasa**  
AmeriCorps Service Member  
**Ellie Dilworth**  
AmeriCorps Service Member

KDB Staff pictured below.





Thank you to our volunteers, partners, donors, and sponsors for making our work this year possible!



**Find Us**

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**Connect with Us**

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Social: [@keepdurhambeautiful](https://www.instagram.com/keepdurhambeautiful)

