

CAUSE for APPLAUSE!



Wake County Big Sweep celebrated its 30th Anniversary in Fall 2019, marking three decades of removing litter as part of Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC.) The program is made possible by a cadre of dedicated Zone Captains that lead cleanups to remove unhealthy and unsightly litter from freshwater streams, lakes and wetlands before the litter enters the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers and ultimately, the Atlantic Ocean.

Thousands of volunteers of all ages have swept Wake County clean for over 30 years, and their hard work and impressive results are truly a cause for applause! Although some data has been lost over time, the past 17 years are well documented. The grand totals from 2003-2019 include:

- **389, 546 pounds / 194.8 tons of litter removed**
- **19,097 Big Sweep volunteers donated 48,129 hours valued at \$1,225,482**
- **Over 65+ Zone Captains led cleanups**
- **Over 60+ watershed sites across Wake County cleaned (once or repeatedly)**
- **12 participating Wake County municipalities throughout the years: Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, New Hill, Raleigh, Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon and sites in north and south Wake County.**

To celebrate this historic milestone, Wake County Big Sweep hosted an evening screening of STRAWS, a 33-minute documentary on plastic pollution created by North Carolina film director Linda Booker. Many thanks to the following sponsors who made the 30th Anniversary Celebration a memorable success:

- ❖ **Wake County Solid Waste Management Division**
- ❖ **Mims Distributing Company**
- ❖ **Raleigh Little Theatre**
- ❖ **Whole Foods Market – Wellspring Bakehouse**

Now Wake County Big Sweep begins its next 30 years of all volunteer-led litter cleanups across the county. So long as Big Sweep volunteers are willing to roll up their sleeves, Wake County Big Sweep and the Ocean Conservancy ICC will tap their enduring energy in removing the blight of litter and its unwanted consequences. After all, Big Sweep is proof that small actions can lead to big change!

HIP-HIP-HOORAY! 3 CHEERS for 30 YEARS!