



NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPRING BIG SWEEP

Do your part to keep Wake waterways clean

Now that the ice has melted and temperatures are starting to rise, the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District is asking residents to put away their snow shovels, put on a pair of gloves and invite their friends to take part in a day dedicated to keeping Wake County waterways litter-free.

Wake County's 2016 Spring Big Sweep runs from Saturday, March 5, through Saturday, May 7. Volunteers are needed to help pick up trash at 10 cleanup events around the county. Most of these events take place on Saturdays. For a complete list, visit the [Wake County Big Sweep website](#).

Wake County Big Sweeps take place in the spring and fall, and are focused on cleaning tributaries such as creeks, lakes, streams and wetlands that flow into the Neuse or Cape Fear Rivers.

Volunteers remove garbage that can be harmful to the water and local wildlife. Last spring, 4.5 tons of litter was pulled from local waterways by 691 volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering must preregister by contacting the zone captain or park office at their desired site. Registration information and more details are available on the [website](#).

In addition to the 10 cleanups in need of volunteers, seven private cleanups will also take place during the sweep. These cleanups already have volunteers signed up from local schools, churches, businesses or other organizations.

Wake County Big Sweep plays an important role in watershed protection by keeping local waterways litter-free, ecologically viable and safe for drinking or other designated water uses. Events are planned in partnership with city and county parks, civic groups, schools, businesses and other community organizations.

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