

**Item Title:** Proclamation Recognizing November 15, 2019 as Wake County Big Sweep Day

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners approves the proclamation and recognizes November 15, 2019 as Wake County Big Sweep Day.**

**Item Summary:**

This fall marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wake County Big Sweep, a volunteer-led litter cleanup program. For three decades, people of all ages have volunteered to remove unhealthy and unsightly litter from streams, lakes, wetlands, parks and neighborhoods across Wake County. Thanks to lead volunteers called Zone Captains, volunteers continue fall and spring cleanups today, choosing from a variety of dates and sites located in different Wake County municipalities.

An exact total of debris is not available due to the Big Sweep program predating computers and the loss of data through organizational changes over time. However, the results from the past 14 years is impressive:

- 346,084 pounds / 173 tons of unhealthy and unsightly litter removed
- 16,857 Big Sweep volunteers donated 41,699 hours valued at \$1,060,404
- Over 60 Zone Captains *(re: Independent Sector)*
- Over 60 watershed sites
- 12 participating Wake County municipalities  
*Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Raleigh, Wake Forest, Wendell, Zebulon, and sites in north and south Wake County*

*Note: Results for Fall 2019 will be added to these totals when the season's cleanups are complete.*

A celebration is planned on November 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize volunteers' hard work and impressive results over 30 years with a screening of STRAWS, a film on plastic pollution by NC film maker Linda Booker. The event is also designed to raise awareness about Wake County Big Sweep and invite new volunteers to join this community service. Not only do volunteers divert recyclable litter from the South Wake Landfill, but they also intercept litter – a nonpoint source water pollutant -- before it can travel down the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers to the North Carolina coast and Atlantic Ocean.

*Note: November 15<sup>th</sup> is also America Recycles Day.*

The Board of Commissioners is asked to recognize November 15, 2019 as Wake County Big Sweep Day in Wake County.

**Attachments:**

1. Proclamation