



# Keep Durham Beautiful Annual Report

2024



# Thanks to our community

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to keeping our Durham communities beautiful. Together, we've planted seeds of transformation, and your continued dedication and generosity is vital in nurturing their growth.

Keep Durham Beautiful is proud to share that, with your support, we've collected over 59,000 pounds of litter and planted or given away 738 trees in 2024. Your continued commitment directly fuels initiatives that enhance Durham's green spaces, combat litter, and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

In addition to our regular programming, this year we were able to increase our focus on environmental education by hosting our 2nd Annual Beyond the Backyard Forum, 3rd Annual Durham Bee Day Celebration, and our FIRST EVER Durham Garden Tour! We wouldn't be able to offer these incredible educational opportunities without the support of volunteers, partners, and local sponsorships.

Whether you've volunteered, donated, or shared our message, your contributions have left a lasting impact. In 2024, we've had over 4,713 volunteers contribute more than 9,000 hours of service, showcasing the power of community engagement.

Reflecting on the collective beauty we've created, we invite you to join us in shaping an even brighter future for our communities here in Durham.

The Keep Durham Beautiful Team,  
Tania, Dawn, and Izzy

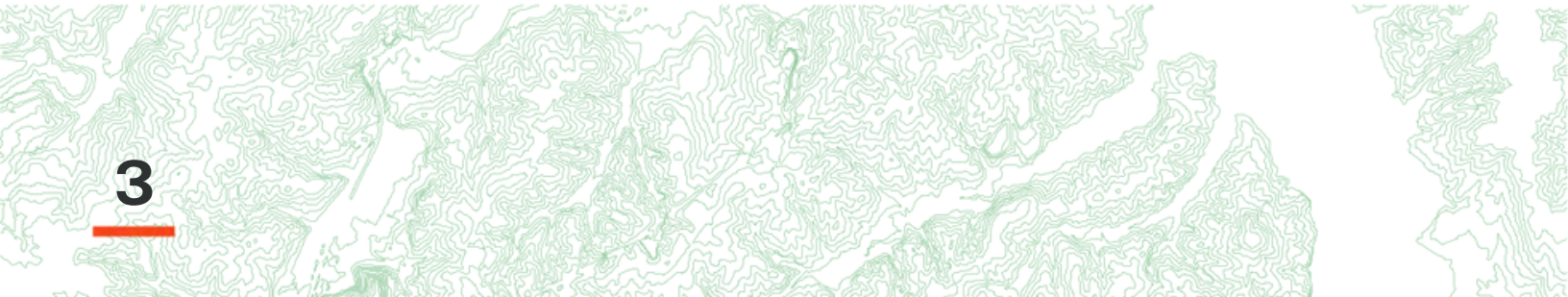
**Scan to  
Donate or  
Volunteer**



photo credit Jordan Abdur-Ra'ouf  
@shotsbyjbot

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# Our 2024 Year in Review

2024 was a year of new ideas and hard work for Keep Durham Beautiful as we turned 20 years old. We partnered with volunteers from all across Durham to keep Durham clean, green, and beautiful.

The numbers below reflect our efforts between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

**4,713**  
**Volunteers**

worked together to impact the Durham  
community

**21,490**  
**Flower Bulbs**

given away to local community  
organizations, gardens and schools

**9,413**  
**Hours**

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

**59,069**  
**Pounds**

of litter removed from Durham's  
streets, waterways, and parks

**460**  
**Events**

hosted to prevent litter, reduce  
waste, and green the community

**212**  
**Tires**

removed from Durham communities  
and green spaces

**738**  
**Trees**

planted and given away to expand and  
improve Durham's urban tree canopy

**Thank You  
Volunteers!**

for your commitment to a clean, green,  
and beautiful Durham for all



# About KDB

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## Mission

Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB) builds environmentally just, resilient, and healthy outdoor spaces in cooperation with Durham communities as well as Durham City and County. We believe that everyone in Durham should have access to clean, green, natural 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.

## Focus

We take action through : Litter Prevention, Community Greening, Waste Reduction, and Volunteer Outreach & Engagement.

## Vision

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.

We make it easy for everyone to get involved, with roles for youth, seniors, coworkers and families serving together. Our projects have a visible and long-lasting impact by preventing litter and adding native trees and gardens where they are most needed for a healthy vibrant ecosystem. KDB empowers residents to become environmental stewards and leaders, cultivating a greater sense of community belonging.



9/11 Day of Service



# Our 2024 Interns

Each year, KDB is committed to crafting impactful service terms that promote professional development and community engagement for interns. This year our internship partners included the Triangle Community Foundation, NC Central University, AmeriCorps, and Duke University. Through these collaborations, service members enhance their skills, contribute to meaningful conservation initiatives, and forge deeper connections within the Durham community.



**Alysha Weaver**

Alysha fulfilled 300 internship hours for the capstone project of her NC Central University Master of Public Administration degree.



**Shanice Jackman**

Shanice managed special projects like the Durham Community Garden Network made possible by a grant from Triangle Community Foundation.



**Sita Conde**

Sita, in the center, interned to lead environmental education service events as she completed her undergraduate degree at Duke University.



**Izzy Davis**

Izzy is serving her 900-hour AmeriCorps Term as KDB's Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator.



**Jessica Howard**

Jessica served as KDB's part-time Summer Communications Intern.



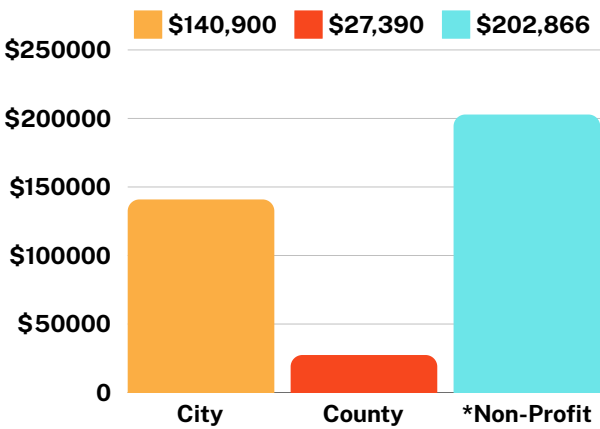
**Eni Owwoye**

Eni provided board support through the Duke Sanford Board Leadership Initiative.

# Resources

All Funding Sources \$371,156

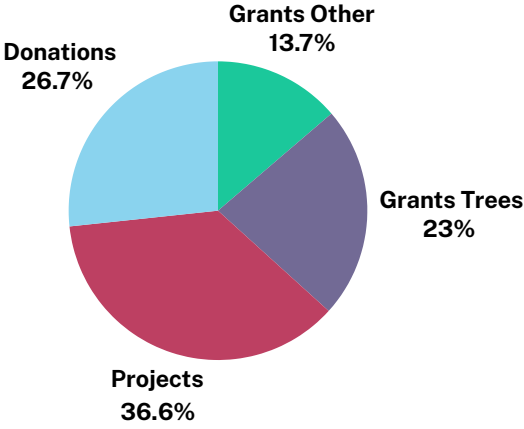
\*Nonprofit Funding Sources \$202,866



**City Contributions (\$140,900)** include funding for one FTE, office HQ and portion of operating budget

**County Contributions (\$27,390)** to operating budget were 19.4% of City’s contribution in 2024

**\*Nonprofit (\$202,866)** income raised from donations, fundraising, special projects and grants



**Grants Other (\$28,000)** include Burt’s Bees Foundation and Triangle Community Foundation

**Grants Trees (\$46,847)** include grants from CSX, MetLife, Truist, and Arbor Day Foundation

**Donations (\$54,400)** include individual donations, corporate sponsorships, and fundraising event income

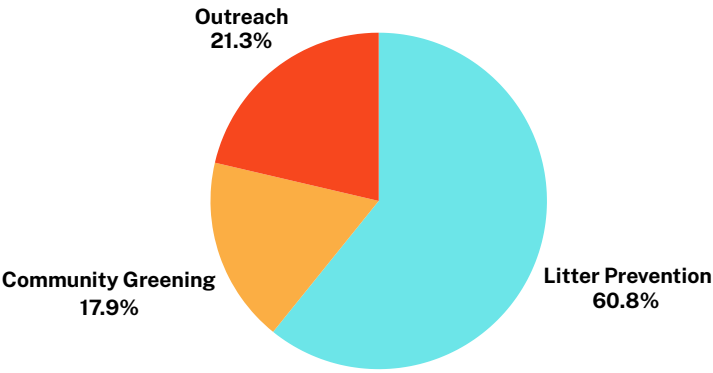
**Special Projects (\$74,619)** include restricted donations for special projects

## Volunteer Hours (9,249 Total) by Program Type

**Litter Prevention (5,618 hours)** includes adopt-a-street, big sweep, creek week, other clean-ups

**Outreach (1,972 hours)** includes educational events, plant & tree giveaways, tool lending library

**Community Greening (1,649 hours)** includes tree planting, gardening, invasive species removal





# Collaborations

## City Partners

Communications  
 Go Durham  
 Parks and Recreation  
 Police Summer Camp  
 Public Art Program  
 Public Works Stormwater  
 Solid Waste Management  
 Sustainable Landscaping  
 Neighborhood Improvement Services  
 Urban Forestry

## County Partners

Durham County Cooperative Extension  
 Durham County General Services  
 Durham County Libraries  
 Durham County Open Space  
 County Public Art Program  
 Durham County Public Health Department  
 Durham Public Schools  
 Soil & Water Conservation District  
 Durham County Sustainability Office





# Outreach, Engagement & Education

## Bee Day

In June, KDB cohosted the third annual Durham Bee Day Festival in celebration of National Pollinator Week. Over 250 people attended to help protect pollinators, sample honey, observe demonstration hives, and join a parade. KDB distributed native seeds and 520 native plants.

Bee Day partners included Durham Bee City USA, Durham Farmers Market, We Plant it Forward, Durham County Beekeepers Association, NC Native Plant Society, New Hope Audubon Society, Durham County Master Gardeners, NCSU Entomology, and the NC Wildlife Federation.



Bee Day Parade Banner

## Waste Wise Event Guide

The Waste Wise Event Guide was created by undergraduate students at Duke University as part of the Penny Pilgram George Women's Leadership Initiative, in collaboration with Keep Durham Beautiful and the City of Durham. This comprehensive 28-page guide promotes a sustainability-focused approach to event planning. Topics covered include planning, permitting, food management, and energy and emission goals. Additionally, the guide features accessible resources and printables that provide information on recycling, disposal, and relevant government policies.



JUNE 2024

## Waste Wise Event Guide



Plan Sustainable, Low-Waste Events in Durham



## Durham Environmental Coalition

Keep Durham Beautiful helps host and co-lead the Durham Environmental Coalition (DEC). A collaboration of 33 diverse organizations, the DEC envisions an equitable environmental movement that values biodiversity, sustainability, and inclusive decision-making. At its core, the DEC addresses critical issues in the environmental sector, including the underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in environmental initiatives. The coalition actively works to amplify BIPOC voices and organizations, fostering a more inclusive and representative environmental movement.

In 2024, the DEC hosted a series of impactful monthly meetings including presentations by the Durham Reuse Hub, Circular Triangle, Triangle Native American Society, Preserve Rural Durham, NC Clean Energy Fund, Triangle Land Conservancy, the BOOST Program, Justin Robinson, and the Black Farmers Market.



## Creek Week

Creek Week is recognized as the second largest cleanup event of the year, emphasizing the importance of clean water. During the spring, KDB and its partner organizations came together for a week-long initiative, successfully gathering 12,574 pounds of litter and 25 discarded tires. Furthermore, 17 educational events focused on our waterways engaged over 980 participants. A total of 446 volunteers dedicated their time across 44 events, contributing to 941 hours of effort for Creek Week. This initiative flourishes due to the steadfast support of our partners.





## Tree Identification Walks

During the transition from winter to spring, KDB organized four tree identification walks led by Alex Johnson from the City of Durham Forestry and Matt Archibald from Leaf and Limb. These walks, co-sponsored by Durham County Open Space Program, taught participants to identify common tree species, regardless of whether they had leaves, by examining characteristics such as bark texture, branch structure, and apical buds.



## After School Programming

In Fall 2024, Keep Durham Beautiful actively engaged with 60 students in various activities across four parks in partnership with City of Durham Parks and Recreation. These interactive lessons emphasized the harmful effects of litter on waterways. The sessions included an overview of watersheds, demonstrating how litter moves through wind, water, and human behavior, along with its consequences for flooding, wildlife, and the environment.



## Pumpkin Drop

Keep Durham Beautiful partnered with the City of Durham Solid Waste and Durham Parks & Recreation to collect holiday pumpkins and squash from November 2 to December 7 at the Waste Disposal & Recycling Center as well as several city parks. This year's pumpkin drop resulted in the collection of 296 pumpkins over five weekends, totaling a weight of 3,848 pounds diverted from the landfill!



## BioBlitz

A *bioblitz* is a citizen science initiative aimed at recording and cataloging biodiversity within a designated area over a specific timeframe. In May, our collaborative 2024 Durham BioBlitz concluded with 411 observers and 497 identifiers documenting 3,317 observations of 1,029 unique species over the course of two weeks.



# Litter Prevention

## Big Sweep

Big Sweep is Durham's largest litter cleanup initiative, held each year throughout the month of October. This year, a variety of groups united at 48 different locations to contribute to a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful Durham.

**33 TIRES**

**48 CLEANUP LOCATIONS**

**263 BAGS OF RECYCLING**

**844 BAGS OF TRASH**

**820 VOLUNTEERS**

**3,570 LBS OF LARGE ITEMS**

**14,303 POUNDS OF LITTER**



Durham Community Land Trustees Creek Cleanup



Big Sweep at Parkwood



## Adopt-a-Street

Adopt-a-Street groups choose a 1-mile stretch of City-Maintained roadway and commit to removing litter along their adopted stretch once a month for a year. We are proud of the 850 volunteers that have participated in Adopt-a-Street in 2024 to collect over 8,500 pounds of litter in over 1,300 hours of volunteer service.

## Cigarette Litter Prevention

KDB has taken action to address the harmful and often ignored issue of cigarette litter by organizing cleanup events across the community. In collaboration with Go Durham, KDB focused on cleaning bus stops during the MLK Day of Service. A total of eleven volunteers came together to collect an impressive 14,215 cigarette butts in just two hours. This effort not only beautified public transit areas but also played a crucial role in safeguarding water quality and wildlife from the dangers and toxins associated with cigarette butts, which are non-biodegradable and the most commonly littered item in the United States.





# Community Greening

## Tree Plantings

### OmniAb Tree Planting

OmniAb sponsored a street tree planting on E. Lawson Street of 30 native trees. They brought 13 volunteers who joined KDB staff and 2 tree keepers. The team also cleared a sidewalk and picked up two bags of litter.

### Duke Medical Students Tree Planting

Eight volunteers came together to plant 26 trees along North Mangum, East Seeman, and East Trinity, enhancing the area around the Durham Nativity School.

### Durham Academy Tree Planting

Ninety eighth-grade students, along with volunteers, planted 85 native trees at an affordable housing site in collaboration with Reinvestment Partners.

### Alpha Kappa Alpha Tree Planting

In November, 35 members of the Alpha Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and volunteers planted 20 trees across Lowes Grove Elementary School.

### ECWA and Ambata Property Tree Planting

In collaboration with the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (ECWA) and Ambata Property, 25 dedicated volunteers came together to plant 25 trees along the Pearl Mill Nature Preserve and Bioretention Pond.

### DCo Sustainability Mitzvah Day Planting

On December 25th, 25 volunteers joined Durham County Sustainability to plant 21 trees at the Durham Center for Senior Life as part of the Jewish for Good Mitzvah Day projects.

These trees will help to lower nearby temperatures, reduce heat island effect, buffer noise from roadways, filter stormwater, provide habitat for local wildlife, reduce erosion, and make Durham a greener place for everyone.





## Tree, Bulb, and Seed Giveaways

Throughout the year, KDB hosts tree, plant and seed giveaway events. These events encourage planting native species and expand the urban tree canopy with the help of community members in both public and private spaces.

### Bulb Blitz

KDB distributed 22,000 donated flower bulbs to 117 Durham community groups to beautify spaces across Durham that are visible to the public for all to enjoy.



Bulb Blitz Giveaway



Bulb Blitz Giveaway

### Tree Giveaway

KDB distributed 505 native trees to Durham residents to plant on private or community property. These trees will bring health and ecosystem benefits to those who planted them as well as surrounding communities.



Tree Giveaway at Hillside High School



## Invasive Species Removal

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer leaders, KDB has successfully organized nine invasive species removal events across five locations around Durham. Removing invasive species is vital for the health of our native plants. During these events, volunteers acquired valuable techniques for removal, including digging, cutting, and applying pesticide. Local parks that have benefitted from removals are Forest Hills, Piney Wood, White Oak Park, and Rocky Creek.

## Durham Community Garden Network

In 2024, the Durham Community Garden Network was established. Its purpose is to connect community garden leaders year-round, fostering the exchange of ideas, inquiries, and mutual support. Two meetings were hosted: the spring gathering in March took place at the Durham Public Schools Hub Farm. This 30-acre outdoor learning center provided an ideal backdrop for the meeting, emphasizing the educational potential of community gardens. This meeting developed the base network goals.

The network's fall meeting took place at SEEDS, a two-acre urban garden and kitchen classroom in the heart of Durham. This gathering featured a tour led by Erin Holden, the executive director of SEEDS, showcasing the organization's initiatives and garden spaces.



Invasive Species Removal



Community Garden Networking



Community Garden Network Presentation



# Sustainable Landscaping

## Durham Garden Tour

In 2024, KDB hosted its first Durham Garden Tour, featuring eight private gardens and two public gardens with distinct styles and emphasis on native planting. Enthusiastic participants joined a garden preview reception at SEEDS before the tour before wandering through lush landscapes.

Each garden provided unique insights into sustainable practices and innovative landscaping. From vibrant flower beds to crevice gardening, the tour celebrated the beauty and practicality of eco-friendly gardening. Attendees enjoyed meeting garden owners and learning about native plants and the advantages of pollinator-friendly habitats. The event honored not only the artistry of gardening but also nurtured a sense of community and environmental responsibility among residents. Ultimately, the fundraiser sold over 250 tickets to support the work of KDB.



Montague Garden



Fedrowitz-Vann Garden Greeters



Garden Tour Preview Party at SEEDS



## Sustainable Landscaping Staff Training

In October, KDB arranged a training for 33 Durham City, County and Public School operations staff to learn about sustainable landscaping practices. Discussion topics included ordinances & policies, landscape management principles, and cost & energy savings opportunities.

## Beyond the Backyard Forum

**Forum:** In September, KDB's two-day Beyond the Backyard forum and tours welcomed 145 participants for six presentations centered on sustainable landscaping. Discussions highlighted topics such as incorporating native foods, herbaceous plantings, stormwater management, homeowners' association best practices, and the environmental impact of landscaping practices.

**Tours:** Participants toured six landscape sites to observe the incorporation of native plants in public and large-format landscapes. We explored how public areas can be redesigned to support native species, enhance biodiversity, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce long-term operational costs.



Staff Training



Forum Speakers



Leaf and Limb Prairie Tour



Pettigrew St. Lowline Tour  
with Ben Bergmann



# Volunteer Highlights

## Earth Month

In April, KDB celebrated Earth Month with 432 volunteers removing 6,437 pounds of litter across 11 locations. Activities included a native plant swap, a tree identification walk, a Sustainable Spirits event, and participation in the Mayor's Corporate Earth Day Challenge. They also hosted an educational exhibit at the Durham Earth Day Festival and distributed free native trees.



Pack 451 at Elmira Park Cleanup

## MLK Day of Service

In tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., KDB organized a series of 20 community service initiatives throughout Durham, involving community partners and board members. Through these events, a total of 357 volunteers collected 8,930.475 pounds of litter from various Durham neighborhoods. Additionally, volunteers planted 450 bulbs, gathered more than 5,000 cigarette butts from Durham Station, retrieved 84 tires, and spread mulch in a garden collaboration with the Scrap Exchange event.



El Futuro Clean Up on MLK Day



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

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### \$10,000+

Blackwell Street Mangement Company

Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation

City of Durham

Durham Performing Arts Center

Durham County

Durham Soil & Water Conservation District

Oak Foundation LTD

Triangle Community Foundation

### \$2,000-\$9,999

Arbor Day Foundation • Downtown Durham, Inc

Duke Energy Foundation • Hoffman Nursery

Leaf & Limb • ManBites Dog Theater Company

OmniAb, Inc. • Research Triangle Institute

Mindy and Guy Solie • Gateway Building Company

### \$1,000-\$1,999

Durham Academy • American Online Giving Foundation

Brenda Brodie • Addison English • For Garden's Sake

Cavett French • Green Music Program • Vasudha Gupta

Michael James • Keep NC Beautiful

Alex Nickodem, Realtor • Margie and Ed Pikaart



## \$500-\$999

Alpha Kappa Alpha • Janet Bering • Leigh & Clay Bordley • Claire Cooney  
Colleen Ellis • Glenn Winstead Fund • Susan Herst • ImageQuix • Julianne Johnson  
Jim and Mary Landfried • MetLife • Nadler/Pilkington Fund • Oneida ESC Group, LLC  
Sarah P. Duke Gardens • Steve M Schewel • Watts Street Baptist Church

## \$100-\$499

8 Rivers  
Melissa Amoabeng  
Amy Armbruster  
Nada Ballator Staddon  
Barnes Supply Company  
Laura Benedict  
Esteban Bortiri  
John Butts  
Marlena Byrne  
Ellen Cassilly  
Fidelity Charitable  
Steve Cohn  
Megan Crain  
Dave Crum  
Shannon Currey  
Liz Dean  
Sandy Demeree  
Der Nachbar, LLC  
Kate Dixon  
DSSOLVR, LLC  
Duke University  
Durham Meeting of Friends  
Andrew Edwards  
Environmental Federation of NC  
Tamette Farrington  
Jessica Faulconer

Flowering Earth Natives  
Richard Foard  
Jarin Frederick  
Ilene Freedman  
Dale Gaddis  
Christina Gebel  
Caroline Gilmore  
Lauren C.K. Goslin  
Stephen Halverson  
Carol Henderson  
Sally Hodges-Copple  
Peter & Sandra Jacobi  
David Johnson  
Megan Johnson  
Hallie Kennedy  
Kendall Kirk  
KoKyu KoKyu  
Jennifer Lawson  
Ann Leininger  
Irene Lofstrom  
Marcy Lowe  
Dana Massey  
Clare Matti  
Joan McLean  
Marcia McNally  
Randy Hester

Siham Muntasser  
Addie Navarro  
Nazo's Landscaping Inc  
Rachel Owens  
Fred Parham  
Della Pollock  
Zach Porter  
Stacey Poston  
Qunity, PA  
Sylvianne Roberge  
Jonathan Rothenburg  
Tim Scales  
Chris Sevilis  
Michael Shiflett  
Virginia Singletary  
Maury Smith  
Jennifer Snyder  
Debra Teplin  
The Assembly at Durham  
Christian Center  
The Glass Jug  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Triangle Day School, Inc.  
Dale Watson Gaddis  
Cynthia Wilson



# Our People

## Board of Directors

### Officers:

Michael James  
*Chair*  
Diane Rupprecht  
*Vice Chair*  
Jarrod Ambrose  
*Secretary FY24*  
Tamette Farrington  
*Secretary FY25*  
Rachel Owens  
*Treasurer FY24*  
Sandy Demeree,  
*Treasurer FY25*

### Board Members:

Alejandro Moreiras  
Austin Moore  
Claire Cooney  
Julianne Johnson  
Joseph Wilkins  
Joshua Khani  
Margaux Escutin  
Melissa Amoabeng  
Naadii Salaam  
Chrissie Koroivui  
*Ex- Officio*  
Eni Onoeye  
*Student Board Seat*

## Staff

Tania Dautlick, *Executive Director*  
Dawn Keyser, *Program Director*  
Izzy Davis, *Conservation Legacy Intern*

## 2024 Interns

Sita Conde, *Student Intern*  
Jessica Howard, *Communications Intern*  
Shanice Jackman, *Project Intern*  
Eni Onoeye, *Student Board Member*  
Alysha Weaver, *Student Intern*



Shanice, Izzy, Tania, Dawn



Tamette, Naadii



Naadii, Tania, Melissa, Joshua, Margaux, Julianna, Jarrod



ellie, Margaux



**Find Us**

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



Keep  
**Durham**  
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