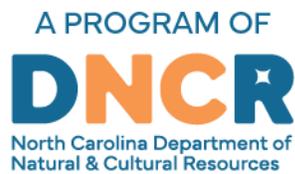


North Carolina the Beautiful: 2026 Statewide Cleanup

Best Practices Guide – Hosting Cleanups and Collecting Data



Figure 1: Volunteers on foot and canoe removing trash from a marshy area, circa 1990. Image courtesy of NC State Parks.



Registering Your Event

Are you planning a cleanup in your community? Register it [HERE](#) on our DNCR events calendar.

- Please use this title format when registering: "NC the Beautiful: [YOUR EVENT NAME] Cleanup"



Figure 2: People at litter cleanup at NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Pledge for Volunteers and Organizers

Feel free to use this language in your communications to volunteers:

"Please do not bring any single-use plastic cups, water bottles, bags, gloves or any other single-use plastic items to the cleanup event. Join us in thinking green and living green, every day.

Yes, I pledge to be green!"

(Thank you to NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher for this language from their "[Boo! To Trash Beach Cleanup](#)" event!)

Recommended Supply List

We recommend connecting with existing local environmental groups to borrow supplies whenever possible (ex: [Litter Cleanup Resources — Keep Durham Beautiful](#)).

Item	Image
Reusable gloves	
Plastic buckets <i>These can be purchased from home improvement stores.</i>	
Litter pickers / grabbers	
Cotton bags <i>Consider large laundry bags.</i>	
Hanging scale	
Safety vests	

Operation Recommendations

- Ensure water availability for volunteers without using plastic bottles.
- Language to send to volunteers:
 - What to bring
 - Reusable Water Bottles & Coffee Tumblers
 - Reusable Gloves
 - What NOT to bring*
 - Single-use plastic bags
 - Single-use plastic gloves
 - Single-use plastic water bottles or coffee cups
 - Note: The host site will provide reusable gloves and buckets/bags for trash pickup.
- Take photos before, during, and after the event – and email them to sustainability@dncr.nc.gov

Collecting Data

Information to collect during and after the event:

- Number of attendees
- Number of trash bags collected
- Weight (pounds) of trash collected
 - Use hanging scale to measure weight of bags post-event
- Any bulky items that were picked up

Submit data here: [North Carolina the Beautiful: Cleanup Data Submission](#)

Any other questions?

Please reach out to DNCR Green Team coordinator Anne-Elisabeth Baker at sustainability@dncr.nc.gov