

**2015**

**North Carolina Interagency Report**

**On**

**Litter Cleanup, Education/Prevention and Enforcement**

**This report provides information for the year 2015.**

**March 1, 2016**

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# Litter Report 2015

This report is prepared pursuant to Session Law 2006-79, Section 15 G.S. 147-12 (b) <sup>1</sup> and provides information describing North Carolina's 2015 litter prevention initiatives.

The state's 2015 litter prevention campaign had three components:

- Litter cleanup
- Education - prevention
- Enforcement

## Executive Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) total state highway system was comprised of approximately 80,000 road miles in 2015.

During 2015, the NCDOT spent \$15,251,032 picking up litter on state routes. Department employees picked up litter on approximately 32,081 shoulder miles of roadsides.

In 2015, the NCDOT transferred \$9,045,449 to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for costs associated with the Minimum Custody Inmates (Highway Work Crews) and Medium Custody Inmates. This amount was set in the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget Bill, and has remained approximately the same level to date. Prior to 2010, the amount was \$11,300,000. The Minimum Custody Inmates (Road Squads) are utilized within NCDOT crews; funding to DOC is \$1 per man-day worked.

Statewide litter prevention continued to be collectively supported by the NCDOT, its Office of Beautification, the NC Department of Public Safety, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The NCDOT participated on various statewide organizational boards through its Office of Beautification, promoting litter prevention information through NC Welcome Centers, health fairs, local community meetings, the NC State Fair, as well as providing litter prevention promotional items to numerous local organizations.

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provides a 2015 recap of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency. There were 3,506 charges and 1,373 convictions.

As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on Oct. 14, 2015, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after Dec. 1, 2015.

# **I. Statewide Roadside Litter Cleanup 2015**

## **A. North Carolina Department of Transportation**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation continued to sponsor Litter Sweep (spring and fall), its statewide roadside litter cleanups. Litter Sweep was held the last two weeks of April and September, during which the department provided volunteers with gloves, safety vests and bags for use in roadside litter removal. The department also provided additional manpower during Litter Sweep for litter cleanup, removal and immediate disposal of bags filled with trash from the roadsides.

In 2015, the NCDOT continued to build its relationships with statewide nonprofit organizations to promote litter prevention for safe, environmentally sound and aesthetic roadways. The nonprofit organizations involved include Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc. and the North Carolina Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association. The department also worked with the volunteers in the Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program and other citizen volunteers and industries; North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice; Community Service Work Program; North Carolina State Highway Patrol and local governments.

In addition, the department's private, public, partnership initiative, the Sponsor-A-Highway Program continued to expand. This program provided a means for businesses, individuals and other organizations to sponsor roadside litter removal. This public private partnership is pursuant to North Carolina SECTION 3. General Statute 136-28.1 (1). Per the terms of the program, a service provider's responsibilities include marketing, securing sponsors, sign installation and maintenance, litter removal and disposal using their own crews. The sponsors, who hire the department's approved service providers for highway litter removal, receive a logo acknowledgement panel that's attached to the Sponsor-A-Highway program sign. The signs are installed at the beginning of each sponsored one-mile segment.

At the close of 2015, the service providers maintained 121 one-mile segments, which was nearly triple the 43 one mile segments at the end of 2014. Some sponsors have multiple segments. Sponsors during 2015 included: Regional Transportation Alliance, Agri-Supply, All Points Personal Transportation, Bulk TV, Cape Fear Community College, South Hill Mall & Plaza, Greater Chambers of Commerce of North Carolina, Hendrick Automotive, Michael & Son Plumbing, The Angus Barn, Mixed Chicks, Morgan Creek Capital, North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, SoftPro and WasteZero.

The Service Providers are Adopt A Highway Maintenance Corporation of Santa Ana, CA, and Adopt-A-Highway Litter Removal Service of America, Inc., of Encinitas, CA. They were selected based on the technical proposals they submitted. Both companies have a 24-year history in the roadside litter removal industry, and use their own staff, cleaning supplies and vehicles. Their staff is trained to work on interstate and other high traffic volume roadways.

## B. NCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program

The NCDOT Office of Beautification continued to administer the department's Adopt-A-Highway program. This statewide program is a mutually beneficial partnership between the department and community volunteers. The volunteers participating in the AAH program include businesses, individuals, schools, civic organizations, and professional, religious and social groups. Participants agree to support local roadside litter removal by adopting a two-mile stretch of roadway and volunteering their time to pick up the litter at least four times a year. The AAH agreement is for a four year period. In return, the department provides gloves, safety vests and bags for cleanups and recognizes each group by installing a sign with the group's name at each end of its adopted roadway.

In 2015, the AAH Program cost \$305,173, compared to \$251,611 reported in 2014. Program costs include statewide program administration as well as the costs to the highway divisions for their local AAH program administration, sign installation, bag removal, safety vests, etc. There were 6,023 man-hours charged to this program in 2015 versus 5,601 in 2014.

The State Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator employed the assistance of 60 statewide program coordinators and 50 co-coordinators. The coordinators manage the adoption and signage approval processes and other program administrative responsibilities within their assigned counties.

In 2015, there were 11,509 road miles adopted by 4,694 groups. The volunteer cleanup efforts of the AAH program saved the state's taxpayers more than \$6.9 million dollars in cleanup costs, and during the last four years, the AAH program provided a cumulative savings of over \$20 million dollars in roadside litter removal costs.

### Annual Comparison of AAH Program Taxpayer Savings:

Year	Hours Worked	Cleanup Cost Savings
2015	574,092	\$6.9 million
2014	499,057	\$6.5 million
2013	460,820	\$4.9 million

### Annual Comparison of The Amount of Litter Collected Through The AAH Program:

Year	Total Pounds Collected Statewide by Adopt-A-Highway Groups
2015	3,580,000
2014	3,404,668
2013	3,017,788

## C. NC Departments of Transportation and NC Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice-Adult & Juvenile Facilities

Roadside litter is removed from many heavily traveled routes throughout the state through an arrangement between the NCDOT and the NCDPS / Division of Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice / Adult & Juvenile Facilities. Approximately 700 inmates, from adult male and female facilities, participate during the work week, in roadside litter removal on a daily basis (weather permitting). In 2015, the NCDOT transferred \$9.05 million for cost associated with minimum custody inmate (highway work crews) and medium custody inmates. In 2015, the breakdown of inmate crews was as follows:

### Medium Custody Eight-Man Road Squads

- Armed NCDPSP staff is required to supervise these inmates (two officers to eight inmates).

- The cost of NCDPSP medium custody inmate labor for 2015 is in the \$9,045,449.
- Approximately 72.53 percent of all medium custody inmate labor was spent on litter pick-up which equated to 23,200 man-days.

**Minimum Custody Highway Work Crews.**

Highway work crews pick up litter on designated routes in 14 Highway Divisions where inmates are available. There were 6,350 miles of interstate, primary and high volume secondary roadways that were specified to be cleaned on a routine basis.

- Correctional officers supervised minimum custody inmates (one officer per eight inmates).
- Labor cost for these crews is in the \$9,045,449 that the NCDOT transfers to the NCDPS.
- Approximately 88.09 percent of all minimum custody highway work crew labor was spent on litter removal which equates to 37,607 man-days.
- An additional \$5,449 in support costs was expended for minimum custody highway work crews and medium gun squads.

**Minimum Custody Road Squads**

- NCDOT utilized minimum custody inmates for a total of 110,520 man-days in 2015, at a total cost of \$110,520. .

During the 2015 spring and fall Litter Sweeps, the amount of litter removed by the NCDPSP inmates was 766,285 pounds versus 913,710 pounds in 2014; the NCDOT picked up 1,655,920 pounds of litter in 2015 versus 1,539,720 pounds in 2014. There were approximately 8,504 Department of Transportation employees and 1,654 minimum custody road squad inmates that removed litter from 16,041 miles of highway. There were 64,419 bags of litter removed. The inmate costs associated with this effort is included in the above amounts.

**NCDOT and NCDPSP Inmate Litter Sweep Roadside Litter Removal Results:**

Year	Pounds Collected
2015	1,950,165
2014	3,797,805
2013	1,768,965

**Community Service Work Program – Litter Control Efforts Calendar Year 2015**

The Community Service Work Program was established as a grant funded initiative in the early 1980’s. During 1983, it was established as a program through the Safe Roads Act. Effective January 2002, CSWP was transferred from the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to the Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections through legislative action.

As of January 1, 2012, CSWP is now a part of the NC Department of Public Safety. CSWP is a separate program from the inmate work crews. Offenders in CSWP are not incarcerated, but are ordered to perform community service work hours, as a condition of either supervised or unsupervised probation, depending upon the criminal offense committed and the offender’s history.

Division of Community Corrections judicial services coordinators place offenders at government or non-profit agencies, within the local community, to perform work needed by the agency. During 2015, there were more than 3,000 agencies statewide which participated in the CSWP by contracting as worksites for placement of community service offenders.

Offenders perform a variety of work, including general labor, skilled labor, clerical labor, professional labor and litter removal. The value of the various types of labor is calculated upon the N.C. Department of Labor categories and relative market value minimum payment rates. Many of these agencies focus on litter control regularly and also participate in the NCDOT Litter Sweeps.

**CSWP Litter Pickup Results by Year:**

Year	Pounds Collected	Number of Hours Worked
2015	1,950,400	108,320
2014	1,839,144	102,175
2013	2,077,365	115,410

The NCDPSP inmate crews and the CSWP litter pickups are performed separately and independently of one another. The pounds of litter reported above represent the litter removal efforts of each separately.

**D. 2015 Roadside Litter Removal Summary**

**Roadside Litter Removal:**

In 2015, the NCDOT removed and disposed of 273,252 bags of litter filled by NCDPSP inmate labor from the state’s roadsides versus 325,938 bags in 2014. The amount of pounds reported does not reflect the items that were too large or heavy to fit into the bags.

**NCDOT Disbursements:**

NCDOT Disbursement By Year			
	2015	2014	2013
NCDOT Employees	\$5,898,576	\$6,091,996	\$7,505,329
Adopt-A-Highway	\$305,173	\$251,611	\$206,333
NCDPSP (Medium and Minimum Custody Inmates)	\$9,045,449	\$9,170,072	9,201,217
Disbursement by year:	\$15,251,032	\$15,513,679	\$16,912,879

## E. NC Department of Environmental Quality

### Division of Parks and Recreation - 2015 Litter Cleanup Highlights

- The Division of Parks and Recreation hosts litter cleanup events and educational programs to demonstrate the importance of litter abatement and recycling.
- Park staff partnered with civic groups, youth groups and environmental organizations to remove more than 7,271 pounds of litter from the environment in 2014.
- Several state parks are working to establish litter-free areas where visitors are asked to take everything out with them.

#### 2015 Litter Cleanup, Division Totals

Number of Participants	Number of Pounds
607	7,271

#### Division of Parks and Recreation 2015 Anti-Litter Education/Prevention

Division of Parks and Recreation sponsored educational programs and community events that serve as a proactive approach to litter prevention and law enforcement.

In addition to these educational measures, state park rangers wrote 23 littering citations in 2015.

## F. Other Statewide Litter Cleanups

### North Carolina Big Sweep

North Carolina Big Sweep was dissolved in 2015. The functions of Big Sweep are planned to be continued under the Keep North Carolina Beautiful organization.

### Keep NC Beautiful

Keep NC Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB) was established in 1984 within the NC Department of Transportation, Office of Beautification. It became a certified Keep America Beautiful (KAB) state affiliate in 1990. It now operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to developing partnerships that engage and empower individuals, businesses and local governments to take greater responsibility in making and keeping North Carolina beautiful.

Adhering to the national KAB proven model of success, KNCB supports the four core focus areas of:

1. Litter prevention and cleanups
2. Beautification and community greening projects
3. Waste reduction and recycling
4. Education

The strength of KNCB is its ability to organize “boots-on-the-ground” volunteers that provide valuable services that ultimately improve community aesthetics, create safer environments and positively impacts economic development without relying on tax dollars. This accomplished by the KAB five-step behavioral process:

- 1) Get the facts
- 2) Involve the people

- 3) Plan systematically
- 4) Focus on results
- 5) Provide positive reinforcement

KNCB is currently comprised of 37 certified KAB affiliates located in 33 North Carolina counties benefiting 214 communities. Interest in affiliation from five counties is being scheduled during 2016 to facilitate their requests.

Some counties have more than one affiliate within their boundaries, such as Gaston with three, Guilford with two and Mecklenburg with two. KNCB's long term goal is to have a KAB presence in all 100 counties.

On average, the return on investment (ROI) of local affiliates is \$34 in value for every \$1 of public funds invested in the KAB program

The core focus areas referenced above are performed by affiliates and their volunteers year round. However, the highest concentration of activity occurs from March 1 through May 31 during the Great American Cleanup™ (GAC), a national signature program of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. for 30 years.

KNCB affiliate members and their volunteers worked in partnership with local businesses, nonprofit and civic groups, government agencies, schools, colleges and members of the faith communities and others to accomplish a variety of tasks during the 2015 GAC™, resulting in thousands of saved tax dollars in improved community environments. *Note: The following data reflects only figures addressing work from March 1 through May 31, 2015 and does not include efforts performed by other groups or government agencies.*

### **2015 GAC™ Participating KNCB Affiliate Results**

**Events/Volunteers/Communities:**

Cleanup events	542
Beautification and greening events	157
Waste reduction and recycling events	115
Litter free events	52
Number of volunteers	89,428
Number of volunteer hours	356,058
Number of participants	19,912
Number of community service or court ordered workers	139
Number of communities involved	226
Number of community groups who participated	157

**Clean-Up:**

Number bags collected at events	228,336
Pounds of litter, debris and bulky waste collected	4,485,200
Miles streets, roads, highways cleaned and beautified	1,480
Acres parks/public lands/open spaces cleaned and beautified	2,700
Miles of hiking/biking/nature trails cleaned and beautified	68
Number of playgrounds/community recreation areas built, cleaned, restored	57
Miles of rivers, lakes, shorelines cleaned	135
Number of underwater cleanups conducted	3
Number of wetlands cleaned and improved	7
Number of illegal dump sites cleaned	24

**Beautification and Greening**

Gardens, xeriscapes and green spaces created and improved	142
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Edible community gardens planted or replanted	31
Number of trees planted	1,810
Number of seedling planted	2,185
Number of shrubs planted	82
Number of flower bulbs planted	425,000
Number of homes painted, renovated, built	3
Number of community/commercial buildings painted, renovated, built	7
Number of graffiti site removed/abated	16
Number of junk cars removed	52

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Pounds of clothing collected for reuse	724
Pounds of plastic bottles (PET) collected for recycling	413,890
Pounds of aluminum collected for recycling	16,010
Pounds of steel collected for recycling	179,875
Pounds of glass collected for recycling	120,336
Pounds of paper collected for recycling	1,345,690
Pounds of corrugated cardboard collected	182,745
Pounds of electronics collected	532,870
Pounds of household hazards waste collected	282,158
Pounds of batteries	9,055
Pounds of tires	181,750

### **Education**

Number of education workshops/community outreach presentations held	310
Number in attendance	8,000
Number of general awareness events	420
Number in attendance	172,220

### **Affiliate Growth and Support**

KNCB actively pursues all leads for potential candidates for KAB affiliation. A majority of the candidates are housed in city or county government and have exhausted their resources for handling litter on an ongoing basis and will contact KNCB for information on how to develop a comprehensive litter prevention program. Others are grass-roots driven and are successful in getting local community support to achieve affiliation. Often leads are found by disgruntled citizens who want to see something done to eradicate the problem.

During the certification process, KNCB provides direct support to ensure that the candidates meet milestones in order to reach the completion of the requirement by the certification target date. KNCB reaches out to assist affiliate members that are in danger of being de-certified from failure to meet KAB requirements to remain in good standing. KNCB serves as a liaison between KAB and the local affiliates to provide information or guidance on program implementation or reporting requirements.

KNCB is a Council of the Carolina Recycling Associate (CRA) and as part of the their annual conference, a litter prevention workshop is held to provide training of which six hours is required to be in good standing by KAB. This is an invaluable benefit as some affiliates lack the funds to attend the national KAB conference. CRA also offers and Litter Prevention Award as part of their annual conference. These workshops are well attended and include KAB trainers to ensure proper training and guidelines are introduced to the affiliates.

### **KNCB Tarp Awareness Program**

The Tarp Awareness Program begin in 2009, when a staff member in the NC DOT Office of Beautification came up with an innovative idea of educating drivers of small pickup trucks and trailers of the danger associated with litter being blown from uncovered or unsecured vehicles.

KNCB entered into a partnership whereas local KAB affiliates received and distributed tarps to individuals using recycling drop-off centers or landfills. Included with the tarps was an educational brochure outlining the importance of properly covering or securing loads which included language addressing litter laws and associated penalties as defined by G.S. 14-399.

Funding for the tarps were provided through the DOT "Litter Prevention Fund" which helps support statewide anti litter efforts. The revenue source for this fund was generated by a portion of the sale of "Litter Prevention" specialty license plates. Upon depletion of those funds, KNCB received grants from UPS and the Wal-Mart Foundation to administer campaigns. The program is now grant and/or sponsorship dependent.

### **Canoes for a Cause**

Mims Distributing Company, a beer distributor servicing a nine-county area in and around the Triangle, partnered with KNCB in 2015 to promote and administer online registrations for the annual Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company's Canoes for a Cause campaign held September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon at Lake Johnson in Wake County.

The Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company's Canoes for a Cause campaign supports local efforts to clean up and preserve the region's water quality. With beer being 92 percent water, breweries like Leinenkugel rely on local water sources, which is one of the driving forces behind the brewery's initiative to maintain clean waterways.

## **II. Anti-Litter Education/Prevention – 2015**

### **A. NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

#### **Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (DEACS)**

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service (formerly the Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach) conducts three separate campaigns to reinforce recycling behavior and to encourage North Carolinians to properly manage their discarded materials at home, work, school and on-the-go. These programs are described briefly below:

#### Recycle Guys

The Recycle Guys campaign is intended to reach elementary and middle school children with videos, activity books, stickers, pencils, trading cards and other promotional materials to encourage recycling behavior. Of the most commonly used Recycle Guys videos, one specifically addressing litter (developed through a partnership with DOT) is consistently among the highest accessed links on the [www.recycleguys.org](http://www.recycleguys.org) website.

#### RE3.org

The RE3.org campaign is aimed at a young adult audience, from high school through late 20s, also using videos but more focused on use of social media. The campaign makes use of commercials or short films submitted by students and amateur film producers and a number of these video pieces include anti-littering themes.

#### Recycle More NC

Recycle More NC is a campaign designed to engage the 30 – 55 demographic on recycling issues. The intent is to encourage broader participation in existing recycling programs but also to create a recycling ethic everywhere people go by fostering the development and promotion of “Away From Home” recycling.

The following provides a general description of the activities of DEACS three outreach programs in 2015:

- Promotion around national events such as Earth Day and America Recycles Day including a Recycle Guys Poster Contest in partnership with Keep NC Beautiful which received over 550 poster entries, with slogans and artwork from students encouraging their peers to litter less and recycle more.
- Continued usage of social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and LinkedIn for the campaigns.
- Production of promotion materials, distributed directly to the public or through local government recycling programs.
- Training of recycling and solid waste staff, teachers, and environmental educators on recycling and outreach methods.
- Encouragement of Away-From-Home recycling practices that include proper trash and recycling bin selection and sighting to reduce contamination and litter issues.

#### Other Participation from DEACS on Littering Issues in 2015:

- DEACS assisted in developing and presenting the content for the 2015 Marine Debris Symposium, a three day conference focused on preventing and reducing litter and pollution in coastal and marine environments.
- DEACS functions as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources customer service center and handled numerous inquiries in 2015 on littering and illegal dumping issues.
- DEACS also oversees the state of North Carolina’s recycling efforts, which includes technical assistance to local government recycling programs across the state. Through regular communication in email newsletters, workshops, conference sessions, and other settings, DEACS staff provided information to communities about littering issues, opportunities for anti-litter initiatives (such as the tarp program) and the management of illegal dumping.
- DEACS continued a partnership with the NC State Parks system to evaluate best management practices for solid waste and recycling collections in State Parks to increase recycling and reduce litter.
- Finally, DEACS staff also participated on the NC Keep America Beautiful Board of Directors in 2015 and supported the work of the organization to improve litter prevention efforts statewide.

## **B. N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officers are always on the lookout for littering violations and often set up special details to target littering violations in problem areas along waterways, boating access areas and game lands.

The Division of Engineering and Lands Management, formerly the Division of Engineering Services.

Through efficiency of operations, we were able to reduce the amount of man-hours required for litter cleanup, but have continued to patrol the same areas. We now have an inventory of 223 boating access areas. Additionally, Engineering Services and Lands Management maintain approximately 70 public fishing access areas across the state and more than 500,000 acres of game land areas.

Maintenance and operation of these areas includes the policing and removal of litter. Approximately 3,100 man-hours were spent performing litter removal for the past year. This is a decrease over the past year due to the operational efficiencies. The division has installed more educational signage for these areas that deal with littering and how it impacts the environment. The NCWRC has installed kiosks at the game land entrances with littering signs attached. We have implemented the program and approximately two dozen sites have been posted. This should decrease the amount of state employee man hours in the upcoming years.

The division also still issues “special use permits” for private and civic organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America to utilize boating access areas as focal points for litter sweeps. The quantity of permit requests has increased since last year. There is no data on the quantity of litter removed during the litter sweeps.

## **C. NCDOT - Office of Beautification**

In 2015, the Office of Beautification promoted litter prevention awareness through its website. Each year, Keep Gastonia Beautiful Inc., of Gastonia provides access to their Beautification and Environmental Education Programs. Their entire curriculum is posted on a website which allows an easy download for classroom usage. The link is carried on the Office of Beautification website at [www.ncdot.gov/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.gov/~beautification) within the Litter Prevention site.

Other items available through the Office of Beautification website include this report and all the previous reports, the litter law, Swat-A-Litterbug, Sponsor-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Highway Programs. Litter Sweep and its forms including cleanup safety videos, printable activity pages - *Litter Activity Book* with litter prevention lessons and activities for students through third grade. There are also a variety of links to sites supporting litter prevention. Additionally, educational materials for schools, civic groups and others were provided by the Office of Beautification; these included litter prevention activity pages, “I don’t litter - I recycle” stickers, no litter bumper stickers, Swat-A-Litterbug cards and stickers, temporary tattoos, car litter bags, litter law fliers and “Secure Your Load” fliers.

The Office of Beautification also distributed thousands of car litter bags and other litter prevention handouts, fliers and brochures through visitor and welcome centers, the N.C. State Fair, Earth Day events and upon request to numerous groups. The 2015 car litter bag’s graphics were updated to promote the message that littering is illegal.

**Adopt-A-Highway Program:** The Adopt-A-Highway program began its 27<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2015. Each year the Adopt-A-Highway groups are recognized for their consecutive years of service beginning with 10-years and at years of 15, 20 and 25. In 2015, more than 300 Adopt-A-Highway groups received awards for their years of volunteer service to the program.

**N.C. State Fair Booth:** In 2015 the NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit’s N.C. State Fair booth offered teacher materials. This was its 12th year that a teacher materials window was available for teachers to request litter prevention items to assist within their classroom curriculum. Items as the litter prevention activity pages, stormwater activity pages,

stormwater fact sheets, Swat-A-Litterbug cards, stickers, pencils and temporary tattoos, litter law fliers, 27<sup>th</sup> year car litter bags and no litter bumper stickers were made available. The car litter bags had “Stop the Littering” printed on one side along with the message “it could cost you...up to a \$2,000 fine, community service work and a point on one’s driver license. There were enough materials provided to supply more than 6,500 students in grades K-12. During the past twelve years, more than 130,000 students received these materials.

**Other Litter Prevention Initiatives, Meetings, and Presentations:** The Office of Beautification continued to promote the new NCDOT trash bags. The bags are orange on the outside and blue on the inside and reversible to blue for items to be recycled. The bag also has a draw string for safe and easy closure. The bags also display the NCDOT logo and a Do Not Litter message. These bags are available at each NCDOT maintenance yard for Litter Sweep volunteers and are for each Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator to order as needed.

The Office of Beautification participated in various community and civic organization presentations that encouraged the audience to adopt a highway. In addition to these, the Office of Beautification participated in board meetings of both Keep N.C. Beautiful and N.C. Big Sweep. The FlashCam agreement with the Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Association continued in 2015. The FlashCam camera worked successfully in keeping illegal dumping from occurring in the selected surveillance locations in various counties.

**Swat-A-Litterbug Program:** The program that is administered by the Office of Beautification in conjunction with the NC State Highway Patrol is intended to educate motorists that littering is illegal. The Office of Beautification administered the Swat-A-Litterbug Program. Motorists observed littering can be reported through the mail, by calling the NCDOT Customer Service Office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or using the Office of Beautification website at [www.ncdot.gov/~beautification](http://www.ncdot.gov/~beautification) within the Swat-A-Litterbug link. Reports include information regarding the offender’s vehicle license plate number, time of observance, date, street, city, county and a description of the littering offense observed. There were more than 10,000 Swat-A-Litterbug report cards printed for distribution in 2015.

When reports are received, a letter, signed by the Colonel of the N.C. State Highway Patrol, is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle reported. The recipient is informed of the littering offense observed, that littering is illegal and that it’s a fineable offense upon conviction. There are no citations or warnings issued from these reports. The program is totally anonymous and no record is kept regarding who submits a report or receives a letter. The materials used in the mailings cost approximately \$5,000 in 2015. The number of Swat-A-Litterbug letters mailed in each of the last three years is as follows: 8,416 in 2015, 7,800 in 2014 and 10,503 in 2013.

**Litter License Plate:** The N.C. General Assembly approved the “Litter Prevention” specialty license plate in 2001. Through the end of December, 2015, there were 165 active Litter Prevention plates. Ten dollars of each plate renewed is diverted to the "Litter Prevention Fund" on a quarterly basis. The money is used to help support statewide anti-litter efforts

### III. Litter Law Enforcement

#### A. NC Department of Public Safety

In 2015, the N.C. State Highway Patrol issued 1,369 citations for failing to properly secure a load and littering. The State Highway Patrol also partnered with the N.C. Department of Transportation by participating in the NCDOT Litter Sweeps (spring and fall) and focused on citing motorists that either littered or failed to properly secure and/or cover their loads. Troopers issued 255 citations during the spring and fall 2013 Litter Sweeps.

#### State Highway Patrol Recap of Litter Charges G.S. 14-399 and local ordinances:

Year	Number of Charges
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2015	790
2014	831
2013	586

**State Highway Patrol Recap of Improper Loading/covering of Vehicle G.S. 20-116(g):**

Year	Number of Charges
2015	710
2014	538
2013	670

**B. Division of Parks and Recreation**

Division of Parks and Recreation sponsored educational programs and community events that serve as a proactive approach to litter prevention and law enforcement. In addition to these educational measures, state park rangers issued littering citations.

***C. Division of Marine Fisheries – Marine Patrol***

The North Carolina Marine Patrol concentrated its litter enforcement on the coastal waters and had a decrease in littering violations again this past year. The Marine Patrol’s efforts have been concentrated on the gill net fishery and protecting endangered sea turtles.

**Marine Patrol Citation Recap:**

Year	Littering Citations	Littering Warnings	Time Spent
2014	12	2	1052 hours
2013	8	2	90 hours
2012	7	3	107 Hours
2011	11	5	83 Hours
2010	7	1	115 Hours
2009	51	2	197 Hours
2008	18	4	140 Hours
2007	24	3	90 Hours

**D. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

**2015 Littering Report for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission**

North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officers are always on the lookout for littering violations and often set up special details to target littering violations in problem areas along waterways, boating access areas and game lands. In 2015, Wildlife Enforcement Officers issued the following number of littering citations:

**Littering under G.S. 14-399:** 49 citations issued for a total of \$9,355.00 dollars in fines and \$8,820.00 in court costs.

**Littering Waters of This State under G.S. 75A-10:** 31 citations issued for a total of \$1,350.00 in fines and \$4,520.00 in court costs.

**Littering on Boating Access Areas under 15A NCAC 10E .0104:** 5 citations issued for a total of \$450.00 in fines and \$900.00 in court costs.

**Littering on Game Lands under 15A NCAC 10D .0102(b):** 9 citations issued for a total of \$900.00 in fines and \$1,620.00 in court costs.

Engineering Services and Lands Management maintain approximately 100 public fishing access areas across the state and over 500,000 acres of game land areas. Maintenance and operation of these areas includes the policing and removal of litter. Approximately 3,100 man-hours were spent performing litter removal for the past year

## **D. NC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provides a 2015 recap of statewide littering charges by offense code and by law enforcement agency. There were 3,506 charges and 1,373 convictions. Charges and convictions are also shown by offense code and by each county.

As in previous years, the Conference of Chief District Court Judges continued to provide an alternative to first time offenders charged with littering of less than 15 pounds. On execution of written waiver of appearance and trial, and plea of guilty/responsible, an offender may have the court appearance waived. The fine for intentional littering is \$250 plus costs and \$50 plus costs for unintentional littering. This was adopted by the Conference of Chief District Court Judges on Oct. 14, 2015, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-148, and applies to any new offenses on or after Dec. 1, 2015.

Calendar year 2015 data on charges and convictions by county, the number of charges disposed, and the manner of disposition are provided for the following eleven offenses:

### **Offense Code**

4425	Improper Loading/Covering of Vehicle	§ 20-116(g)
5370	Commercial Littering	§ 14-399(e)
5371	Littering Hazardous Waste	§ 14-399(e)
5372	Littering not more than 15 pounds	§ 14-399(c)
5373	Littering more than 15 but less than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(d)
5374	Littering more than 500 pounds	§ 14-399(e)
5375	Unintentional Littering not more than 15 Pounds	§ 14-399(c1)
5376	Unintentional Littering more than 15 but less than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(d1)
5377	Unintentional Littering more than 500 Pounds	§ 14-399(e1)
6248	Litter Gameland/Access Area	§ 113-264(a)
8514	Littering Beer/Wine Container	local ordinance

## STATEWIDE LITTERING CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS

### Calendar Year 2015

The following data are from the NCAOC's Automated Criminal/Infraction System for calendar year 2015. The number of charges, convictions, and dispositions represents totals from district and superior court. Some of the defendants have other charges in addition to a littering offense. It is possible for a defendant to be charged in one calendar year and convicted in the next. Thus, for any given calendar year, the defendants convicted are not necessarily the same defendants charged in that year.

Offense Code	Charges	Convictions	CHARGES BY CHARGING AGENCY							Charges Disposed	METHOD OF DISPOSITION					
			ABC	ALE	DMV	Police	Sheriff	SHP	WRC		Other	Guilty Plea	Trial: Guilty	Trial: Not Guilty	Dismiss	Other
4425	1018	438	0	0	1	191	21	803	0	2	1133	52	2	1	664	414
5370	12	0	0	0	0	7	4	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	2	1
5371	29	0	0	0	0	11	18	0	0	0	20	3	0	0	7	10
5372	1908	691	5	13	0	872	171	537	214	96	2123	415	26	9	1335	338
5373	127	38	0	0	0	40	45	4	7	31	142	36	1	2	96	7
5374	19	0	0	0	0	10	7	0	0	2	10	4	0	0	1	5
5375	216	129	1	1	0	67	20	117	8	2	242	21	0	0	134	87
5376	4	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	7	1	0	0	6	0
5377	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
6248	56	44	0	0	0	2	0	1	53	0	75	17	1	0	30	27
8514	116	30	0	0	0	87	4	24	0	1	142	29	1	1	109	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3506</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1486</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>3899</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2385</b>	<b>891</b>

## Attachment B: "Keep NC Clean and Green" Signs Posted By County

County	# Signs	County	# Signs	County	# Signs
Alamance	13	Hoke	7	Warren	9
Alexander	5	Hyde	7	Washington	7
Alleghany	12	Iredell	15	Watauga	12
Anson	10	Jackson	10	Wayne	15
Ashe	13	Johnston	21	Wilkes	17
Avery	12	Jones	10	Wilson	18
Beaufort	14	Lee	9	Yadkin	9
Bertie	9	Lenoir	14	Yancey	9
Bladen	17	Lincoln	13		
Brunswick	12	Macon	6		
Buncombe	16	Madison	10		
Burke	12	Martin	15		
Cabarrus	15	McDowell	13		
Caldwell	10	Mecklenburg	20		
Camden	5	Mitchell	10		
Carteret	6	Montgomery	12		
Caswell	16	Moore	11		
Catawba	15	Nash	20		
Chatham	15	New Hanover	8		
Cherokee	6	Northampton	14		
Chowan	6	Onslow	10		
Clay	3	Orange	14		
Cleveland	17	Pamlico	4		
Columbus	15	Pasquotank	4		
Craven	10	Pender	12		
Cumberland	18	Perquimans	4		
Currituck	7	Person	9		
Dare	5	Pitt	20		
Davidson	14	Polk	8		
Davie	9	Randolph	18		
Duplin	17	Richmond	8		
Durham	14	Robeson	15		
Edgecombe	16	Rockingham	16		
Forsyth	19	Rowan	13		
Franklin	18	Rutherford	12		
Gaston	18	Sampson	20		
Gates	5	Scotland	12		
Graham,	3	Stanly	12		
Granville	10	Stokes	12		
Greene	12	Surry	14		
Guilford	24	Swain	6		
Halifax	18	Transylvania	8		
Harnett	18	Tyrrell	3		
Haywood	10	Union	15		
Henderson	11	Vance	8		
Hertford	10	Wake	31		

- Discretionary signs (1995) - 20 per Highway Division (a total of 280)
- Rest Areas & Welcome Centers - 58
- Total Signs - 1,827

In addition to the "Keep NC Clean & Green" signs, there were approximately 1,400 "Littering Is Illegal" signs posted across the state. These were issued at a rate of 100 per Highway Division.

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### **Other Statewide Volunteer Groups**

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