

Sustainability Team Spreading the News



The DENR Sustainability Team was out in force in April, spreading the sustainability “gospel.” Many team members were on hand for Raleigh’s Planet Earth Day celebration, sponsored by Burt’s Bees, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences and the city of Raleigh. An estimated 10,000 people attended the event held on the mall in front of the Museum of Natural Sciences.

Team member Bob Langston reported that the N.C. Zoo hosted its 14th annual Earth Day Celebration. More than 13,000 visitors learned about environmentally friendly recreational pursuits, community conservation initiatives and green practices at the Zoo.

Employees from the N.C. Division of Water Quality celebrated Earth Day in an appropriate manner; by staging two stream clean-ups – one in Wilmington and another in Raleigh (see photo, right). The Raleigh team collected more than 500 pounds of trash, including bikes, scrap metal, tires and a washing machine.



A new eco-friendly DENR banner commissioned by the team and designed by Creative Services flew over the festivities at both the Planet Earth Day celebration and the Green Square groundbreaking. The banner is made from 100 percent polypropylene harvested from old soda bottles, contains water-based inks and can be recycled (see photo above).

About 400 guests, including many Sustainability Team members, attended the Green Square Complex groundbreaking ceremony held on April 22. Speakers Dr. Steven Leath of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, U.S. Rep. Brad Miller and N.C. House Speaker Joe Hackney, discussed the need for Green Square, as well as the revitalization the project would bring to the state government complex. Following the presentations, many distinguished guests and partners of the project participated in a "rubble-breaking" ceremony, where rubble from the buildings that was demolished on the project site was shoveled into a wheelbarrow for reuse in the Green Square project.

In addition to participating in the Earth Day and Green Square events, the Sustainability Team helped promote this year’s SmartCommute Challenge. Team member Bethany Goodwin led an effort to get Raleigh employees signed up for the program. She staged sign-ups at 2728 Capital Boulevard and the Archdale building. A total of 145 people took the pledge to carpool, vanpool, bike or walk, ride the bus, or telework (work from home) at least once before May 30.