

NIEHS cleans up local highway for World Environment Day

By Ian Thomas

NIEHS celebrated World Environment Day June 5 by cleaning up the 1.2-mile stretch of Hopson Road between its main campus and Keystone building in Research Triangle Park (RTP). As part of the North Carolina [Adopt-A-Highway Program](http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/beautification/highway/), (http://www.ncdot.gov/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/beautification/highway/) the effort reduces litter on RTP roadsides, helping preserve the natural beauty and health of both the Triangle and the state as a whole.

"NIEHS has been a part of the Adopt-A-Highway program since the mid-1990s, and as an employee of the Institute, it's great to know that we hold that kind of legacy within our community," said Paul Johnson, NIEHS Hazardous Waste Program manager and member of the Environmental Awareness Advisory Committee, who donned an orange vest, with several of his colleagues, to pick up trash.

Established in 1988 as a response to growing public concerns on litter, the Adopt-A-Highway Program is managed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and includes representatives from government and private sector entities across the state.

"Given the status of NIEHS as a world leader in environmental health research, it's great to see our Institute taking such an active role in programs like World Environment Day that help promote sustainability and environmental awareness around the globe," said Michelle Campbell, NIEHS biologist.

World Environment Day

(<http://www.unep.org/wed/>)

is the principal vehicle of the United Nations for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

(Ian Thomas is a public affairs specialist with the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison, and a regular contributor to the Environmental Factor.)

2014 NIEHS Adopt-A-Highway Participants

Michelle Campbell, Biologist,
Laboratory of Molecular Genetics

Trish Castranio, Sustainability
Specialist, Health and Safety Branch

Paul Johnson, Hazardous Waste
Program Manager, Health and Safety
Branch

Roel Schaaper, Ph.D., Mechanisms of
Mutation Group Lead, Laboratory of
Molecular Genetics

Bill Steinmetz, Environmental
Compliance Specialist, Health and
Safety Branch

Ian Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist,
Office of Communications and Public
Liaison

Bill Willis, Biologist, Laboratory of
Reproductive and Developmental
Toxicology



Schaaper picked up trash along the Triangle Expressway ramp. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



Willis has been a part of Adopt-A-Highway since 1995. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



From left, Campbell, Castranio, Schaaper, Thomas, Willis, Steinmetz, and Johnson bagged trash along Hopson Road. (Photo courtesy of NIEHS file photo)



Campbell, left, joined Castranio during the cleanup. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

(<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>)

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