Solid Waste Updates

Dane Pedersen
Solid Waste
September 15, 2026

Litter Sweep

Dane Pedersen

Solid Waste

The Problem

Keep Buncombe Beautiful



- Multiple complaints from communities from all over the County (no large number of complaints from any one specific area)
- NCDOT has limited budget/programming for secondary road litter collection in BC

The Solution

Keep Buncombe Beautiful



Picture: environment.transportation.org

Contact the NCDOT Litter Sweep Coordinator at: (828)298-0397

Total Cost:
$190k total (~$95k per cleanup)

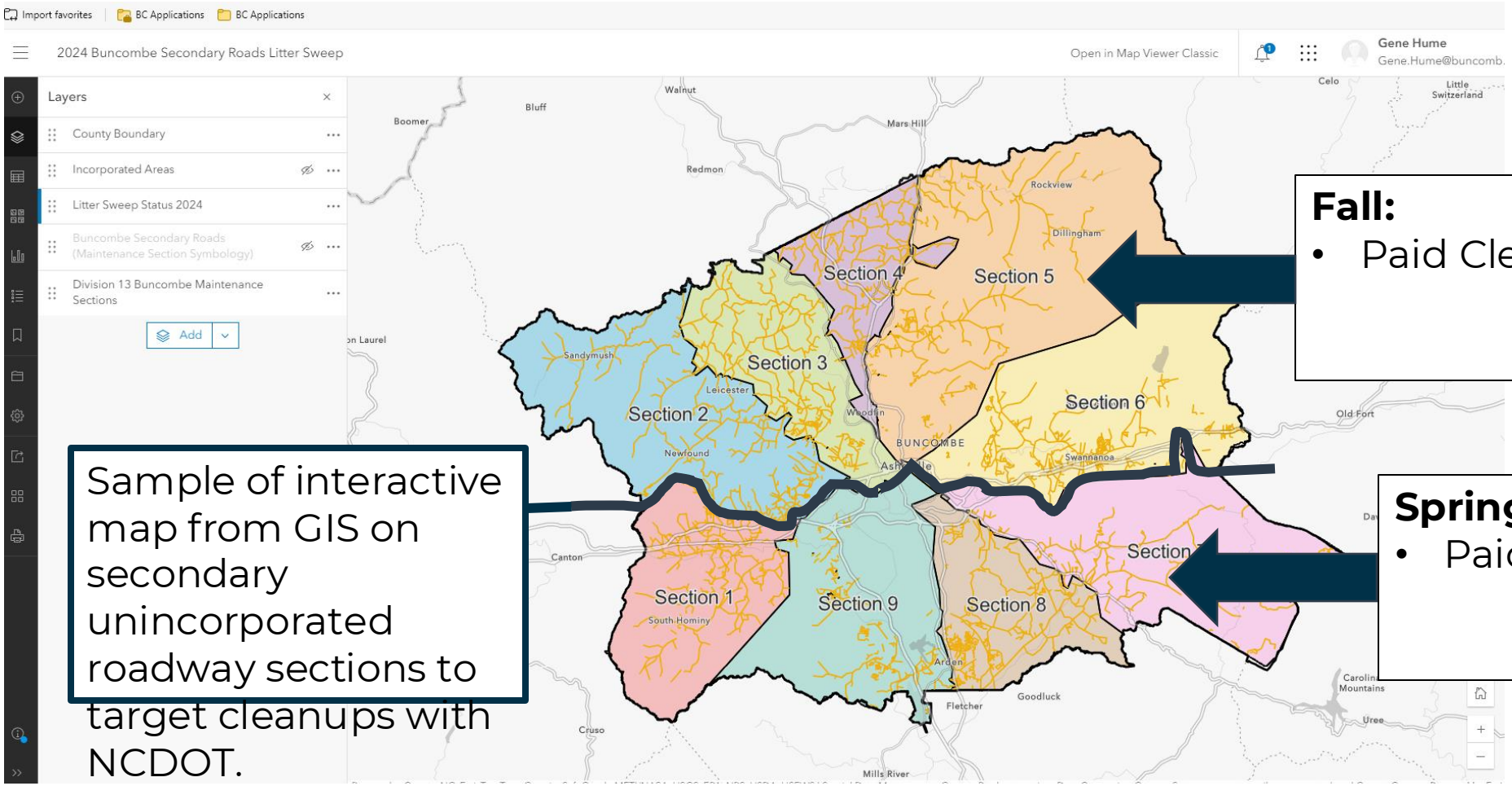
Scope:
•Contracting with NCDOT
•Two litter sweeps: Fall and Spring
•Targeting secondary roads in unincorporated areas

Coverage:
•2,000 shoulder miles total (1,000 miles per cleanup)

Volunteer Engagement:
•Volunteer push to cover non-contracted cleanups
•Partnership with CAPE for engagement

Spring and Fall Litter Sweeps

Keep Buncombe Beautiful



Fall:

- Paid Cleanup North

Spring:

- Paid Cleanup South

Sample of interactive map from GIS on secondary unincorporated roadway sections to target cleanups with NCDOT.

Engagement & Outreach

Communication Deliverables:

- Press release to announce investments in litter removal efforts and a schedule for cleanup areas.
- FAQ on how these programs work.
- NextDoor will be used to communicate with specific areas of the County where litter sweep is occurring.
- Social media engagement for announcement and updates.
- Work with DOT to highlight adopt-a-street program and organizations engaged in this program.
- Continued communications along timeline of work.

Additional Highlights / Opportunities:

- Amount / lbs of waste removed by contractor
- Investment by BOC in county-wide solid waste removal effort
- Highlight adopt-a-street efforts
- Map of fall vs. spring focus areas

Additional updates

- County in process of securing pre-positioned agreement with disaster debris collection contractor
- FCC rate adjustment conversation coming in October