We’re celebrating the Haw River Assembly’s 40th year! We were founded in March 1982 by volunteers who dreamed of creating an organization to protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake. Since 1982, we’ve carried out this mission with everyone who believed in this dream, and helped us build a watershed-wide community to make it happen!

Since 1982 we've accomplished a lot!

• **A Voice for the River:** Our Haw Riverkeeper, Emily Sutton uses the Clean Water Act to fight pollution and is the leading voice for rules to clean up Jordan Lake. We demand better protections as new development encroaches on forests and river buffers, such as the enormous Chatham Park project. We fought to keep fracking out of NC, and against Mountain Valley Pipeline that threatens streams, land and communities in the Haw River watershed. We’ve worked to prevent municipal sewage spills: advocated for better regulation of industrial agriculture and support regenerative and sustainable farming. We’re on the frontline of stopping industrial chemicals in the Haw and have brought legal actions against Burlington and Greensboro for 1,4-dioxane and PFAS pollution from factories in their cities that contaminate drinking water in Chatham County.

• **Saving Wild Places:** In these 40 years we have been a strong advocate for public lands along the Haw that are refuge for wildlife and people in a rapidly urbanizing area. In 1982, there were no accessible public lands along the Haw River. We played a key role in the creation of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area and Haw River State Park, and encouraged the formation of the many county and city parks and river access areas that are enjoyed today.

• **Getting the Trash Out:** Our annual Haw River trash clean-up each March has seen thousands of terrific volunteers removing tons of trash, tires and debris from our waters -- from Greensboro to Jordan Lake. Since 1991, 6,574 volunteers have removed 10,981 bags of trash, 1,966 tires and tons
more junk that endangers water quality and aquatic life. Our Get the Plastics Out Campaign is focused on reducing single use plastics by businesses and individuals, - keeping them out of our creeks, rivers and oceans. We are currently piloting a “Trash Trout” in stream litter removal device on Third Fork Creek in Durham with an amazing team of volunteers who are maintaining it.

• **Teaching the Next Generation:** 48,000 students have taken part in our amazing Haw River Learning Celebration for fourth graders since 1990. Our three week long fall program is a great adventure for students and volunteers alike, as they learn first-hand about our river ecosystem. Kyleene Rooks, our Watershed Education and Event Coordinator also organizes outreach events throughout the watershed to educate the public about our river, including our big annual Haw River Festival each May

• **Our Eyes on the River: Haw River Watch** stream monitoring by volunteers has provided us important water quality data since 1995. These citizen scientists act as watchdogs for pollution and help us advocate for better riparian and stormwater protections in new developments. Our Muddy Water Watch project has taught volunteers in Chatham and Orange counties how to monitor construction erosion and sediment in our streams. Our summer Swim Guide gives results from our monitoring and analysis of bacteria so we can let folks know if it’s safe to swim in the river and Jordan Lake.

• **Clean Water Equity for All:** We are dedicated to the goal of environmental equity for all people in our watershed. We work with low-income and BIPOC communities fighting new and legacy injustices, such as the abandoned Burlington missile site, and the ACE Justice fight against polluting asphalt/cement plants. We’ve reached out to low-income, Black and Hispanic communities in Pittsboro about the industrial contaminants in the drinking water, and how to obtain free filtered water - another inequity for those who can’t afford home filtration systems.

• **Climate Action:** We began a new program in 2020 to educate ourselves and elected leaders about the projected impacts climate change will bring to our watershed, and have joined with other groups locally and across the state to advocate for urgent and critically needed changes in policies and regulations to reduce fossil fuel and to increase our resiliency.

Won’t you please join us in celebrating our 40 years of work for the Haw River and Jordan Lake by making a donation today? With your help, we will continue to defend our right to clean water and to take actions that will protect life for future generations.

**THANK YOU!**

Elaine Chiosso  
Executive Director

Nicole Gaines  
President, Board of Directors

Gerald Lynn Featherstone  
Founding and Current Board Member

You can join HRA or make a donation on-line using our secure payment system on our website at [https://hawriver.org/join-hra/](https://hawriver.org/join-hra/)