

**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**



February 2022

Trash Free Waters: North Central Texas Newsletter

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NCTCOG is working to build a coalition of partners and organizations to work collaboratively together to build on the many North Central Texas and statewide initiatives focused on the challenge of reducing trash in waterways, and litter in general.

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this newsletter.**

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North Central Texas Spotlight



North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge Results Announced!

The North Central Texas Council of Governments would like to extend congratulations to the **City of Fort Worth** as a winner of the first annual North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge (NTCCC) and Mayors' Challenge!

The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is a region-wide litter cleanup challenge between communities which ran between September 1st and October 31, 2021. As part of the NTCCC, communities competed to see who could cumulatively clean up the most litter during the designated timeframe.

Thank you to all twenty-one participating communities: Allen, Anna, Arlington, Carrollton, Cleburne, Denton, Ennis, Fort Worth, Frisco, Garland, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Greenville, Irving, Lake Dallas, Little Elm, Lucas, Mansfield, Mesquite, Plano, and Rowlett.

The following four communities also competed in the Mayors' Challenge by having their mayors issue proclamations urging residents and businesses to get involved: Anna, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Mansfield.

Check out the impact that the 2021 Community Cleanup Challenge had on the North Texas region!



**MORE THAN
400**

Locations cleaned
in the North
Texas region.

Some of the "most unusual" reported items were

- A bag full of fast food
- A surfboard
- Red boxer shorts
- A shopping cart
- A shoe
- A baby stroller

**7,665
BAGS**

Of litter were filled
during the
challenge.



**OVER
6,000**

Volunteer instances.

You can find a full infographic of the results [here](#).

Registration for the 2022 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is now open! The Cleanup Challenge will run this spring from March 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022. Communities can register at the link below. To learn more about the NTCCC, please visit www.communitycleanupchallenge.com.

[Register for Spring 2022 Cleanup Challenge](#)

Trash Free Waters Project Update

Now Live! Two New Toolkits Added to Trash Free Texas Website



The Community Cleanup Challenge Toolkit and the Local Government Education and Trash Reduction Toolkit are the latest resources to be added to the Trash Free Texas website. Be sure to check them out and see what all they have to offer! Both toolkits will be featured in the upcoming Trash Free Texas webinar on February 10, "Making the Most of New Resources for Reducing Litter". (Featured in next article.)

The [Community Cleanup Challenge Toolkit](#) provides resources to assist local and regional governments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities interested in hosting litter cleanup events. While these resources are designed for a competition-style cleanup, many of them are helpful for planning and implementing standard litter cleanup activities.

The [Local Government Education and Trash Reduction Toolkit](#) is a consolidation of resources developed to assist local and regional governments, nonprofit organizations, and other entities who are seeking to engage and educate their communities on the topics of watersheds, litter, aquatic debris, and cleanup initiatives.

Trash Free Texas Webinar: Making the Most of New Resources for Reducing Litter

Join NCTCOG for its latest Trash Free Texas webinar, which will include:

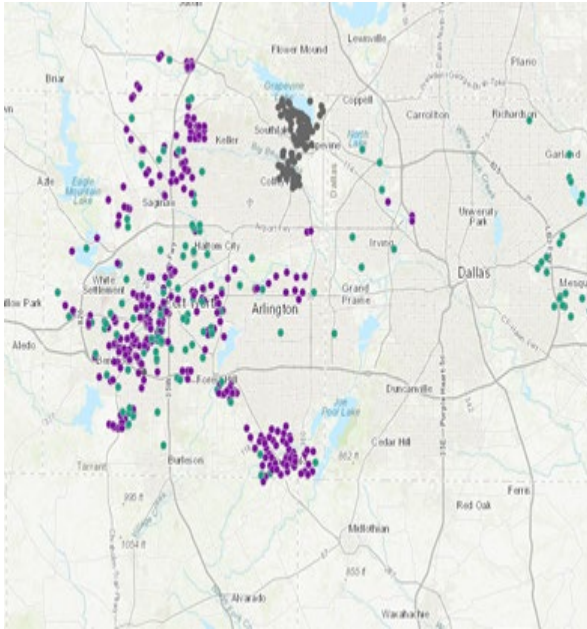
1. A presentation from Keep Texas Beautiful about why you should use the [Texas Litter Database](#) for entering and storing litter clean-up data, including a demonstration on how to use the database;
2. An overview of the resources available in the two newest toolkits recently added to the Trash Free Texas website [here](#);
3. Information on the new "Partner Packet" for entities with litter clean-up sites on the [Trash Free Texas Adopt-a-Spot map](#) or entities who want to show their support for the Trash Free Texas website; and,
4. An update on upcoming regional cleanup challenges to be held in the spring of 2022: The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge, and the Mayors' Challenge cleanup event.

Date: February 10, 2022

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 am CST

[Register Here!](#)

Trash Free Texas Welcomes New Partners Who Added Litter Cleanup Sites to the Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map



Welcome to the newest organizations that have partnered up with the Trash Free Texas website by adding their litter cleanup sites to the Trash Free Waters Adopt-A-Spot map since the last newsletter! The newest partner organizations are:

- City of Carrollton;
- Keep Dickinson Beautiful; and
- Rio Grande Valley Fishing Area and Waterway Cleanups

[The Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map](#) is a great tool you can use to show volunteers where cleanup is needed. If you would like to add your organization's sites, simply fill out the [Adopt-A-Spot Data Submittal Form](#); be sure to scroll

down to the middle of the page. There is also a brief ["How-To" video](#) that takes you through the process step-by-step. Or, feel free to contact the Trash Free Texas team or Elena Berg at contact@trashfreetexas.org or eberg@nctcog.org for assistance as well.

New Graphics and Other Resources Available to Trash Free Texas Partners



The Trash Free Waters project team recently enhanced the [Trash Free Texas Partner page](#) by adding downloadable Trash Free Texas Partner logos, already-made social media, the Trash Free Texas logo, and other resources. These resources were added so that Trash Free Texas partners can proudly share their Trash Free Texas partnership with their stakeholders or on outreach materials. A few of the new graphics available for use on the Partner page below can be found below. Be sure to attend the Trash Free Texas webinar on February 10th, ["Making the Most of New Resources for Reducing Litter"](#) to learn more about the Partner page!



Not a Trash Free Texas Partner? No problem! Becoming a Trash Free Texas Partner is easy and costs you nothing. Click on the "Partner Up" button below to fill out the Partner Form. You are encouraged to upload your organization's logo to the form so we can showcase your organization on the Partner Page. You also automatically become a Trash Free Texas Partner when you submit your litter cleanup sites to the [Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map](#).

[Partner Up](#)

Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map Now Has a Link to the Texas Litter Database



[The Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map](#) now has a link in the bottom, righthand corner to the [Texas Litter Database](#). This will help raise awareness about the Texas Litter Database as well as make it easier for Trash Free Texas coordinators, partners,

and volunteers to find the database for entering their litter cleanup data. All litter cleanup volunteers and cleanup organizers in Texas are encouraged to enter their data in the database.

[The Texas Litter Database](#) was created by Keep Texas Beautiful, the Houston Advanced Research Center, and Black Cat GIS, and funded by the Garver Black Hilyard Family Foundation. It organizes and stores the trash and marine debris data collected in Texas in a central location and can be accessed through any smart device or computer. The database also introduces [Take 2 for Texas](#), which is a new way for volunteers to contribute data on plastic bottles by taking two minutes to collect only plastic bottles in any given area.

Partnerships with Restaurants and Cities

The Trash Free Texas team continues to seek partnerships with local governments, restaurants, and third-party delivery services to identify ways to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic. This effort can help restaurants save money while cleaning up our communities and waterways. If you have any connections to restaurants in North Central Texas and would be willing to facilitate an introduction, please reach out to Elena Berg at eberg@nctcog.org. We would like to ask them for feedback on resources for outreach for both restaurants and customers. If you are a city that would like to participate in a pilot project to facilitate the introduction of a voluntary certification program for restaurants, please also reach out to Elena Berg.

Trash Free Texas Partner Updates

City of Fort Worth Announces Giant Waterwheels Coming to Banks of Trinity River

The City of Fort Worth announced in December plans to install two giant, trash-collecting waterwheels on the banks of the Trinity River. The solar powered waterwheels are a collaboration between the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant Regional Water District, and community partners. The waterwheels will have the capacity to remove 50,000 pounds of solid waste per day from the Trinity River. Current plans are to place them on the Clear Fork and the West Fork of the Trinity River. To learn more about the project, visit the website for the [Trinity River Waterwheels Initiative](#).

2022 Governor's Community Achievement Awards Call for Applications

Keep Texas Beautiful, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), each year awards the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Awards to Texas communities who go above and beyond in their efforts to keep their communities beautiful. The 2022 Call for Applications opened on January 4, 2022, and closes on February 17, 2022. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Recent Legislation

The "Reducing Waste in National Parks Act" was introduced to the Senate on October 7, 2021, by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR). This legislation, if passed, would allow national parks to voluntarily ban the sale of single-use plastic items such as plastic water bottles, bags, utensils, and other disposable plastic materials. You can view the bill's text and follow its progress [here](#).

The state of New York's [Expanded Polystyrene Foam Container and Polystyrene Loose Fill Packaging Ban](#) went into effect on January 1, 2022. To learn more about the ban and the details of implementation, please visit New York State's [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) website.

What's Caught Our Eye

- Webinar by Busch Systems: **"Tackling Litter and Recycling Contamination – Steps to Influence Behavior in Parks and Outdoor Public Spaces"**

It seems easy enough to toss recycling and trash items into the correct bin. And yet, anyone involved with waste collection knows it's rarely that simple. People tossing items in the wrong bin – or on the ground – is a perennial challenge that facility managers have struggled with for years. While there are no silver bullets, behavioral research and hard-earned experience can point to solutions. This program will feature experts sharing local case studies as well as research-based best practices for designing collection bins and signage, planning bin placement patterns, and other steps to positively influence how people discard waste in outdoor settings.

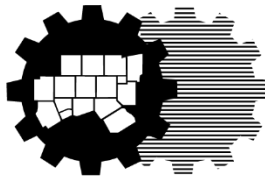
For more information and to register, click [here](#).

- [“From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution”](#) report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN EP)
- [Marine Pollution](#) special issue from ECO Magazine
- [“The Truth Behind Plastic – the Scale and Impact of the International Trade in Plastic Waste”](#) by Environmental Investigation Agency
- [National Recycling Strategy: Part One of a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All](#) by the EPA
- [Waste, Water, Wendy’s?](#) by Food280.com
- [The New Coal – Plastics and Climate Change](#) by Beyond Plastics at Bennington College

Past editions of the Trash Free Water: North Central Texas Newsletter can be found under the green newsletter bar here:
www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters

For questions or additional information on any of these items, please contact:

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