

North Central Texas  
Council of Governments



May 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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## North Central Texas Spotlight



### North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge (NTCCC) is once again underway! The 2022 Community Cleanup Challenge runs this spring from March 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022. Participating communities then have until June 30th to log their cleanup data. You can view the leaderboard to root for your hometown or learn more about the NTCCC at: [www.communitycleanupchallenge.com](http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com). Many thanks to the following communities who have joined our cleanup challenge!

#### 2022 NTCCC Participating Communities

Carrollton

Fort Worth

Grand Prairie

Irving

Little Elm

Mansfield

Mesquite

Plano

Rowlett

Shady Shores

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# Trash Free Waters Project Update

We've Gone Social! Connect With Us on Social Media

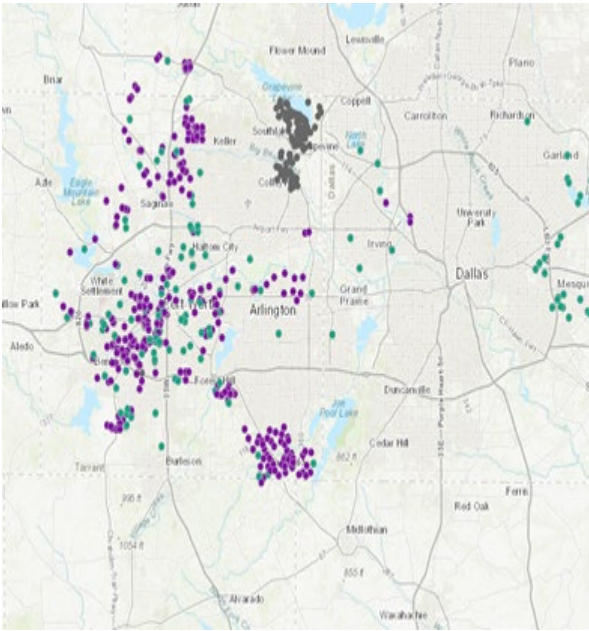
**Partner Recognition:  
Adopt-A-Spot Sites**

Bayou Preservation Association  
Calveston Bay Foundation  
Groundwork Dallas  
Cities of:  
Carrollton, Cleburne,  
Frisco, Mansfield, Mesquite,  
Pattison, and Watauga



The Trash Free Waters team is now posting regularly on social media. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)! Use the hashtag **#TrashFreeTexas** so everyone can see the ways you are keeping Texas trash free!

## 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 Watauga
- City of Frisco

[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 complete the information in the middle of the Coordinator page [here](#) and be sure to upload your completed Adopt-A-Spot Data Submittal

Form. 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](mailto:contact@trashfreetexas.org) or [eberg@nctcog.org](mailto:eberg@nctcog.org) for assistance as well.

If you have not had the opportunity to add your logo to our website, you can always "partner up" by filling out the [Trash Free Texas Partner Form](#)! You don't have to add sites to be a partner and support our efforts. We welcome your support!

### **Coming Soon! Two New Toolkits To Be Added to Trash Free Texas Website**



In the last newsletter, the Trash Free Waters team announced the addition of two toolkits to the Trash Free Texas website here: <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/adoptaspot-resources>.

Two more toolkits are also under development. The first toolkit is the Plogging and Recreational Litter Cleanup Toolkit. It will include templates for signage and brochures, among other things, to help include recreational groups, such as paddling and running groups, in litter clean-up. The other new toolkit will include resources and information for reducing the use of single-use plastics at restaurants, including graphics and examples for a restaurant plastic reduction certification program. Be sure to stay tuned for more information in the coming months!

### **Partnerships With Communities and Restaurants**

The Trash Free Texas team is currently working on a toolkit to assist restauranteurs and local governments fight single-use plastic waste and litter. This toolkit can help restaurants save money while providing the tangential benefit of reducing waste winding up in our communities and waterways. We're inviting local governments who would like to incorporate this toolkit into their Green Business Program, or start a new certification program, to provide feedback on the toolkit. We're also seeking feedback from restaurant owners/operators and management staff. If you are a local government that is interested in participating or 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](mailto:eberg@nctcog.org). We are seeking feedback on resources designed for restaurants, local governments, and customers.

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



Did you miss the latest NCTCOG webinar for the Trash Free Texas project? If so, you can access the presentation slides under the green banner, "Past Events" on NCTCOG's Trash Free Waters project webpage here: [www.nctcog.org/trashfreewaters](http://www.nctcog.org/trashfreewaters).

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### Trash Free Texas Partner Updates

#### **New Multi-Partner Grant Project to Help Cleanup Village Creek Lake Arlington Watershed**

Trinity River Authority, along with their project partners UpSpire, the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarrant Regional Water District, and the Dorris Family Foundation, have received a grant through the [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program](#) to help clean up the Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed. The grant will help fund the purchase, installation, and maintenance of multiple trash barriers, called watergoats, at highly visible and heavily littered locations within Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed, and City of Fort Worth Parks. It will also aid in the expansion of the UpSpire Waterways litter prevention program as well as increase community engagement in addressing root causes of litter. The project will focus on restoring 21,128 acres of VCLA watershed and 807 acres within the City of Fort Worth by removing up to 1,332lbs of trash per month in conjunction with implementing actions to engage the public to prevent littering long-term by reaching at least 3,000 people through a wide array of platforms and providing cleanup events with expected volunteer participation of 500 people. Installation of the watergoats is expected to start the week of May 16th. Learn more about the [Village Creek-Lake Arlington Watershed Protection Plan](#) by visiting the project website.

## **Don't Trash a Good Thing! Take Part in the Trash Summit 2022 Presented by Partners in Litter Prevention**

Join the Partners in Litter Prevention virtually for their 6th annual Trash Summit on Wednesday, May 11th from 9-11am! This event brings together organizations and individuals dedicated to preventing, removing, and researching plastic pollution in the Greater Houston-Galveston area. Participants can hear updates from other community partners about ways they are helping to prevent litter. Registration and details can be found here: <https://www.donttrashagoodthing.org/2022-trash-summit>.

## **Congratulations 2022 Governor's Community Achievement Award Winners!**

Keep Texas Beautiful recently announced the winners of the 2022 Governor's Community Achievement Awards. This award recognizes communities for their work across seven environmental and community improvement areas: public awareness and outreach, environmental education, beautification and community improvement, litter prevention and cleanup, solid waste management, litter law, and illegal dumping enforcement. The North Texas cities of Lucas, Grapevine, Rowlett, Allen, and Irving were all among the winners. Congratulations to these communities on this amazing achievement! You can learn more about the Governor's Community Achievement Awards by visiting <https://ktb.org/gcaa>.

## **Stay Involved This Summer!**

Join Keep America Beautiful's **Great American Cleanup!** From March 21 to June 22, volunteers from across the country will be donating their time and energy to picking up litter in their communities. [Register](#) and get a free cleanup kit! Learn more at <https://kab.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/event/>.

Participate in the **United Nations World Ocean Day 2022** on June 8, 2022! Join the celebration and hear from celebrities, experts, and community members about why our oceans matter. Click [here](#) to appreciate our oceans!



Celebrate **Plastic Free July!** Commit to going plastic free in July by refusing single-use plastic items from July 1-July 31. For some, Plastic Free July is a great way to try out plastic free alternatives for a month that can then turn into permanent changes. You can learn more about the campaign and take the pledge to join the movement [here!](https://plasticfreejuly.org)

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## Recent Legislation

### **Recycling and Composting Accountability Act**

[The Recycling and Composting Accountability Act](#) was introduced in early March by Senators Tom Carper and John Boozman. It calls for the U.S. EPA to prepare a report describing the capability of the U.S. to implement a national residential composting strategy. The bill would also require compiling data, including the quantification of annual recycling and composting rates and the number of community curbside recycling and composting programs, as well as providing an inventory of public and private materials recovery facilities.

### **Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act**

[The Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act](#) was also introduced in early March. This bill would direct the U.S. EPA to create a recycling infrastructure pilot program to provide grants for projects which make recycling services more accessible to rural and disadvantaged communities.

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## What's Caught Our Eye

- [Rising Tides: Global opinions on actions to stop plastic pollution in 28 countries](#) – by World Wildlife Foundation in partnership with Plastic Free Foundation
  - [Nations Commit to Develop a Legally Binding Agreement on Plastic](#) – by United Nations Environment Programme
  - Quadratec's "[Energize the Environment](#)" Grant Program – applications are due June 30, 2022
  - [Understanding Packaging \(UP\) Scorecard](#) Gets an Update
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Past editions of the Trash Free Waters: North Central Texas Newsletter can be found under the green newsletter bar here: [www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters](http://www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters)

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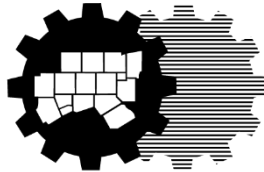
For questions or additional information on any of these items, please contact:

**Elena Berg**

Environment and Development Planner III  
NCTCOG  
eberg@nctcog.org  
(817) 608-2363 | main: (817) 695-9210

**Crysta Guzman**

Environment and Development Planner II  
NCTCOG  
cguzman@nctcog.org  
(817) 695-9107 | main: (817) 695-9210



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