



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **32 tons of trash removed from Chattahoochee watershed at Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's Sweep the Hooch**

ATLANTA, GA | April 11, 2019 – A record-setting number of volunteers ventured into the Chattahoochee watershed as part of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's Sweep the Hooch annual trash cleanup. As a result, 32 tons of trash pollution were removed from our region's most crucial natural resource.

Last year, approximately 900 volunteers pulled upwards of 24 tons of trash from and along the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) attributes this year's record-breaking amount removed – a 33% increase over last year – to the 1,154 dedicated community volunteers and partners who were willing to give their time in service of the river that gives so much.

"There are so many people and so much wildlife that depends on this incredible natural resource," said Tammy Bates, Outings Manager at CRK. "It's our duty to take care of the Chattahoochee, and Sweep the Hooch empowers everyone to do so."

The event took place on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 46 cleanup sites throughout the watershed, where volunteers had the opportunity to walk, wade or paddle. Cleanup sites included:

- The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (multiple sites)
- Georgia State Parks (Sweetwater Creek, Chattahoochee Bend, and Don Carter)
- Hardman Farms State Historic Site
- Morgan Fall Overlook Park
- Moore's Creek
- West Point Lake
- Downtown Helen
- Lake Lanier Olympic Park
- Proctor Creek
- Peachtree Creek
- McIntosh Reserve Park
- Riverview Landing
- and more!

CRK is proud to recognize supporters of this event:

**River Champion:** Geiger (A HermanMiller Company)

**River Benefactor:** The Home Depot

**River Defender:** Orvis, Reduce

**River Advocate:** The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Brown Bag Marketing, David and Gail Chester, Collective Insights, Cool River Tubing Co., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Kimberly Clark, Ruby Collins., Inc., Southwire, SweetWater Brewery, WEG Electric Corp., WestRock

**River Conservator:** Bridgestone Tires 4ward Program, CHaRM, Republic Services

**River Patron:** American Rivers, Andrew Montgomery, Archer Western Construction, Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, Cool River Ziplines, Georgia Aquarium, Keen, North Atlanta Rotary, Thomas and Hutton

**Media Sponsors:** WSB-TV Family2Family, The Atlanta Journal Constitution

It is with immense gratitude that CRK shares this accomplishment. The organization hosts regular cleanups throughout all 435 miles of the Chattahoochee River, and invites all who are interested to attend one in the coming months. Cleanups are listed online at <https://chattahoochee.org/cleanups/>.

Those wishing to do more are also encouraged to become a member of CRK, in an effort to support their work to keep watch over our waters through education, water quality monitoring, advocacy, and more.

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### **About Chattahoochee Riverkeeper**

*Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries and watershed, in order to restore and preserve their ecological health for the people and wildlife that depend on the river system.*