



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 15, 2021

**Volunteers needed for annual trash cleanup throughout
Chattahoochee watershed**

ATLANTA, GA. | Throughout our region's waterways, litter pollution poses a problem for wildlife and people. The solution will require help from everyone who enjoys our local water resources, which is one reason Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is organizing Sweep the Hooch, the region's biggest trash cleanup, for the 11th year in a row.

Sweep the Hooch is an annual watershed-wide litter cleanup that brings together hundreds of volunteers each year at dozens of parks, tributaries, and access points along the Chattahoochee River.

At last year's cleanup on August 29, more than 1,000 volunteers removed 73,646 pounds of trash, equivalent to 37 tons. Of that, 19,288 pounds came from discarded tires that were recycled.

"Every day, we notice discarded personal protective equipment like masks and gloves alongside countless single use plastics like bottles and food wrappers," said Tammy Bates, Outings Manager with CRK. "We broke records at last year's 10th anniversary of Sweep the Hooch, but there's still a lot of work to do."

Sweep the Hooch is part of CRK's larger efforts to achieve a Trash-Free Chattahoochee. In addition to smaller monthly cleanups, the organization also manages several trash traps, which collect floating litter in tributaries to the river.

Those unable to join the cleanup in person are encouraged to fundraise on behalf of their favorite site along the river or [make a donation](#) in support of CRK's water protection efforts.

Sweep the Hooch will take place on Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at dozens of sites throughout the watershed, where volunteers will have the opportunity to walk, wade or paddle to gather trash. Sweep the Hooch is an outdoor cleanup where volunteers must spread out to collect as much litter as possible, making it inherently conducive to social distancing. Out of an

abundance of caution, volunteers are required to bring and wear masks. CRK will provide all other necessary supplies like trash bags and gloves.

Registration opens Feb 14. Volunteers are encouraged to register early as each site has a capacity.

CRK is proud to recognize supporters of this event:

River Hero: The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

River Champions: Geiger: A HermanMiller Company, The Home Depot Foundation

River Defenders: Audi Atlanta, A Jim Ellis Family Dealership, Collective Insights, Cox Enterprises and Cox Conserves, Reduce, Ruby-Collins, Inc.

River Advocates: Charter Foundation, HPE Gives, Republic Services Foundation, WEG Electric Corporation

River Conservators: Bridgestone Tires4ward, CHaRM, City of LaGrange, Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority, Peach State Bank & Trust, Rubicon, ZWJ Investment Counsel

Nonprofit Sponsors: American Rivers, Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy, Georgia Nature Photographers Assc., Hall Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, The Rain Barrel Depot

Site hosts include:

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy

Carroll County Parks

Chattahoochee Hills Parks Commission

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

City of Berkeley Lake

City of Sugar Hill

Civilian Conservationists of LaGrange

Cohutta Trout Unlimited

Cool River Headwaters Outpost

Don Carter State Park

Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park & Newnan Paddlers

Gainesville Marina & Outside World

Georgia DNR

Grove Park Neighborhood Association

Grove Park Renewal

Gwinnett Department of Water Resources

High Country Outfitters

Keep Forsyth County Beautiful

Keep Hall Beautiful
Keep North Fulton Beautiful
Lake Lanier Association
Lake Lanier Olympic Park
Murphey Candler Park Conservancy
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Oconee River Chapter Trout Unlimited
Peachtree Creek Greenway
Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Riverside ATL
Roswell Rotary Club
Soque River Watershed Association
South Fork Conservancy
Tailwater Chapter Trout Unlimited
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Unicoi Outfitters
Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited

For more information on how to register or how to support Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's cleanup efforts, visit sweepthehooch.org.

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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it.

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