



**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:

Presenting Sponsor: Entercom

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, Kimberly-Clark, Reduce, Ruby-Collins, Inc.

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

River Conservators: Bin There Dump That, Bridgestone Tires4ward, CHaRM, City of LaGrange, Country Charm Eggs, Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority, Peach State Bank & Trust, Prime Engineering, Inc. 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:

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Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

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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](http://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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