



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Annual cleanup to include 50+ locations throughout Chattahoochee watershed

Atlanta, GA – The campaign for a Trash-Free Chattahoochee continues. Litter pollution in the Chattahoochee River, its lakes, creeks, and tributaries puts the health of people and animals at risk. Thankfully, volunteer cleanups have a powerful impact on keeping our waterways litter-free. Sweep the Hooch, the Southeast’s largest volunteer trash cleanup led by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK), returns for its 12th year on Saturday, March 26.

Sweep the Hooch is an annual watershed-wide day of service that brings together more than 1,000 volunteers at dozens of parks, tributaries, and access points along the Chattahoochee River.

At last year’s cleanup, more than 1,200 volunteers worked together to remove a cumulative 35 tons of trash. Of that, more than 2.76 tons were recycled.

“Sweep the Hooch is an opportunity to all work together for an extremely worthy cause,” says Tammy Bates, CRK’s Outings Director. “It’s not just about picking up litter, it’s about taking a stand for the health of our communities, along with the animals and natural beauty that depend on the Chattahoochee flowing free and clean.”

This year’s Sweep the Hooch is presented in cooperation with the National Park Service’s Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, which will host 18 cleanup sites.

Sweep the Hooch remains an integral part of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper’s work to achieve a Trash-Free Chattahoochee. In addition to Sweep the Hooch and smaller monthly cleanups, CRK also manages seven trash traps that stop floating litter in tributaries to the river.

Sweep the Hooch will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 26 at more than 50 different outdoor cleanup sites, where volunteers can walk, wade, or paddle to gather trash. CRK will provide all necessary supplies like trash bags and gloves, and will also say thank-you to volunteers with a complimentary t-shirt and one-year membership to the organization.

Teams, clubs, and community groups are welcome, but all are encouraged to sign up early, as sites will reach capacity. Interested volunteers can learn more and register at sweepthehooch.org.

Site hosts include:

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy
Carroll County
Chatt Hills Parks Commission
Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
City of Sugar Hill
Civilian Conservationists of LaGrange
Cohutta TU
Collier Hills Civic Association
Cool River Headwaters Outpost
Friends of Bolton Parks
Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park/Newnan Paddlers
Friends of Gainesville Parks
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Groundwork Atlanta
Grove Park Neighborhood Association
Gwinnett Department of Water Resources
Gwinnett Department of Water Resources
Hall County Soil and Water Conservation District
High Country Outfitters
Keep Forsyth County Beautiful
Keep Hall Beautiful
Keep North Fulton Beautiful
Murphey Candler Parks Conservancy
Nantahala Outdoor Center Roswell
Oconee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Peachtree Creek Greenway
Roswell Rotary
South Fork Conservancy
Soque River Watershed Alliance
Surfrider Foundation Georgia
Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Unicoi Outfitters

CRK is proud to recognize supporters and partners of Sweep the Hooch:

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Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy
Georgia Nature Photographers Association
Gnarly Marsh
Keep Carroll Beautiful
Surfrider Foundation Georgia Chapter

Media Sponsor



For more information on how to support Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's year-round cleanup efforts, visit chattahoochee.org/cleanups.

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About Chattahoochee Riverkeeper:

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to educate, advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, including its lakes, tributaries and watershed, in order to restore and conserve their ecological health for the people and wildlife that depend on the river system and in recognition of the important ecosystem functions provided throughout the region and planet. Established in 1994, the nonprofit organization is the 11th licensed program of more than 350 within the international Waterkeeper Alliance. Since its inception, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has now grown to include more than 10,000 passionate members. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper employs a variety of strategies to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and watershed, including water monitoring and testing, education, research, trash cleanups, legal action, and advocacy.

Media contact:

Julia Regeski, CRK Communications Manager

jregeski@chattahoochee.org

404-352-9828 x 129



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