



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

### **Sweep the Hooch volunteer river cleanup returns for 15th year**

Atlanta, GA – With the vision of a trash-free Chattahoochee in mind, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) is pleased to host the 15th annual Sweep the Hooch volunteer cleanup on Saturday, March 22. The cleanup will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at more than 60 locations throughout the Chattahoochee River watershed.

Litter pollution threatens rivers, lakes, and oceans around the world. The Chattahoochee River is no exception: trash in the river, its lakes, and its tributaries harms wildlife and prevents communities from enjoying outdoor spaces. Over time, plastics that are exposed to the elements break down into microplastics, which are potentially harmful to our water supply and to aquatic ecosystems.

In 2011, CRK organized a watershed-wide volunteer cleanup called Sweep the Hooch to address the problem of litter pollution in the Chattahoochee River Basin. That year, 360 volunteers helped remove 7,100 pounds of trash from our waterways in a single day.

Thanks to the continued support of community groups, businesses, municipalities, and volunteers, the impact of the event has grown significantly: last year, more than 1,200 Sweep the Hooch volunteers removed 65,000 pounds (or 32.5 tons) of trash and recyclables across the watershed.

“Sweep the Hooch began as an ambitious project to clean up the Chattahoochee,” says Tammy Bates, CRK Outings Director. “It has steadily grown into an event that people look forward to year after year. The impact is undeniable: since 2010, we’ve seen our volunteer base more than triple and the amount of trash removed increase nearly tenfold. It’s a testament to how communities truly care about the Chattahoochee River and all the people and wildlife who depend on it.”

Volunteers can sign up for a cleanup site near them at [sweepthehooch.org](https://sweepthehooch.org). Participation is free, but individual registration is required. CRK will provide necessary supplies. Teams, clubs, and community groups are welcome to participate, but are encouraged to sign up early; once a site reaches capacity, registration for that site will close.

Each volunteer will receive a one-year CRK membership to thank them for their hard work.

CRK is proud to host Sweep the Hooch and [many other litter cleanups](#) throughout the year as part of its mission to secure the protection of the Chattahoochee River now and for future generations. For more information about CRK, visit [chattahoochee.org](https://chattahoochee.org).

**Site hosts include:**

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy  
Atlanta Rowing Club  
Blight Bandits  
Blue Heron Nature Preserve  
Carroll County  
Chattahoochee Hills Parks Commission  
Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy  
Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area  
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper  
City of Chattahoochee Hills  
City of Cornelia  
City of Sugar Hill  
Cobb PARKS  
Collier Hills Civic Association  
Cool River Headwaters Outpost  
DeVine GA  
Don Carter State Park  
Dragonfly Trail Network  
Friends of Bolton Parks with Connect the Comet  
Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park  
Gainesville Parks and Recreation  
Groundwork Atlanta  
Grove Park Neighborhood Association  
Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources  
Hardman Farm State Historic Site  
Keep Newnan Beautiful  
Keep North Fulton Beautiful  
Lake Lanier Association  
Middle Chattahoochee Sierra Club Group  
Murphey Candler Park Conservancy  
Oconee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Peachtree Creek Greenway  
Riverwalk Atlanta  
Roswell Rotary Club  
Soque River Watershed Association  
South Fork Conservancy  
Students for a Sustainable World at Columbus State University  
Sweetwater Creek State Park  
Trust for Public Land  
Unicoi Outfitters  
Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
White County 4-H

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

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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 their important ecosystem functions 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 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.

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