



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

Volunteers remove 32+ tons of trash from Chattahoochee River

Atlanta, GA – Volunteers removed more than 32 tons of trash and recyclables from the Chattahoochee River at the 16th Annual Sweep the Hooch cleanup on Saturday, March 21. Organized by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK), Sweep the Hooch brought together nearly 1,400 volunteers at 67 parks, creeks, and river access points throughout the Chattahoochee watershed.

Participants set out on foot, waded in streams, and paddled in canoes and kayaks to collect trash for appropriate disposal. Of the 64,380 pounds (32.19 tons) of trash removed, 5,200 pounds consisted of illegally dumped tires.

Cleanup sites spanned 15 counties, starting at the river's headwaters in North Georgia and ending in the Columbus metro area. Sweep the Hooch is presented in collaboration with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, which hosted 15 cleanup sites within the Park boundaries.

The impact of Sweep the Hooch continues to grow thanks to the support of community groups, businesses, municipalities, and volunteers. In the past 16 years, Sweep the Hooch volunteers have removed a cumulative 341.5 tons of trash from the Chattahoochee watershed.

“We’re very proud of the impact that Sweep the Hooch has on our communities and ecosystems every year,” says Tammy Bates, CRK’s Outings Director. “An event of this scale is only possible with the support of our volunteers, host partners, team leads, and sponsors. Together, we all feel how rewarding it is to give back to our waterways.”

Sweep the Hooch will return for the 17th year on Saturday, March 20, 2027. Volunteer registration will open next February at sweepthehooch.org.

CRK is proud to host Sweep the Hooch and many other [cleanups](#) throughout the year as part of its Trash-Free Chattahoochee initiative. For more information about CRK, visit chattahoochee.org.

Site hosts included:

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy
Atlanta Rowing Club
Blight Bandits
Blue Heron Nature Preserve
Carroll County Parks Department
Chattahoochee Hills Parks Commission
Chattahoochee Outdoors
Chattahoochee River Conservancy
Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
City of Cornelia
City of Mableton
City of Roswell
Cobb County Parks
Collier Hills Civic Association
Columbus Botanical Garden
Consolidated Resources, LLC
Cool River Tubing and Adventures
Cross Creek and Hanover West Communities
Devine GA
Don Carter State Park
Durham Sears Real Estate
Emory University
Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park
Gainesville Parks and Recreation
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Grove Park Neighborhood Association
Gwinnett Dept of Water Resources
Hardman Farm
Heard County Outfitters
Keep Newnan Beautiful
Keep North Fulton Beautiful
Keep Roswell Beautiful
Lake Lanier Association
Middle Chattahoochee Sierra Club Group
Morgan Falls Overlook Park

Murphey Candler Park Conservancy
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Oxbow Meadows
Peachtree Creek Greenway Inc
Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Roswell Rotary Club
Soque River Watershed Association
South Fork Conservancy
South Fulton Sand Co.
Sweetwater Creek State Park + Friends Group
Trust for Public Land
Unicoi Outfitters
Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited
US Army Corps of Engineers
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
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CRK is proud to recognize supporters and partners of Sweep the Hooch:

Presenting Partner



River Hero



River Champion



River Defender

Archer Western
Builders
GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc.
Reduce
Ruby-Collins, Inc.
WEG Electric Corporation

River Advocate

DeKalb County Sanitation Department
Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation
Rapid Pro Pressure Washing
Republic Services
Riverwood Association
Trash Taxi

River Conservator

HBK Engineering
REI Co-op
Stratus

Nonprofit Sponsor

Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy

Media Sponsor



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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. For more information, visit <https://chattahoochee.org/>.

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