

RECREATION AND LITTER CLEANUP ADVISORY GROUP

September 9, 2021



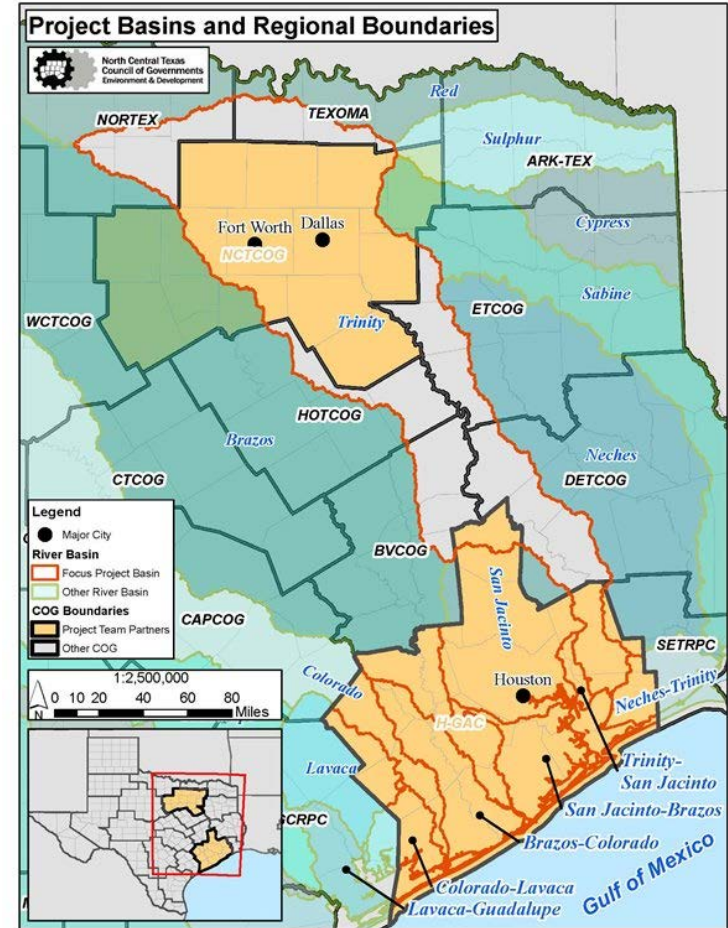
**TRASH
FREE
TEXAS**

Trash Free Waters Project

Project Partners and Regions:



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY





Trash Free Waters Project

Tasks and Goals of the Trash Free Waters Project:

- Promote the use of the Trash Free Texas (TFT) website statewide - www.trashfreetexas.org
 - Increase the Adopt-a-Spot cleanup locations on TFT from as many entities as possible
 - Publish a Local Government Trash Reduction and Educational Toolkit to TFT website
 - Develop a toolkit for new, engaging litter cleanup activities

Recreation and Litter Cleanup Advisory Group

- Comprised of:
 - Local governments
 - Recreation groups (running clubs, cycling clubs, walking groups, paddling groups, etc.)
 - Volunteers/non-profits
- Tackling questions of:
 - How to collect litter while exercising
 - Safety issues/concerns
 - How can local governments promote/support these activities
- Goal is:
 - Develop best practices/guides and toolkits
 - Encourage a cleanup culture in Texas!
- Timeline:
 - Sept. 9th, Oct. 21st, and Nov. 18th



The Litter Problem

- Approximately 362 million pieces of litter accumulate on Texas roads each year.
- 71% of litter consists of micro litter, which is two inches or smaller, such as cigarette butts, straws, and gum wrappers.
- Recyclables, such as beverage containers and paper, make up 25% of the litter on Texas roads. *Source: [Don't mess with Texas](#)
- Trash, packaging, and improperly disposed waste that originates on land accounts for 80% of the marine debris found on beaches during cleanups and surveys. * Source: [EPA Trash-Free Waters](#)

Addressing the Problem

- It is costly...

Over \$50 Million Spent Annually to Prevent, Educate, Abate, and Enforce Litter and Illegal Dumping Efforts in just 9 Texas cities*

*Source: Texans for Clean Water. Study of nine cities in Texas, representing 25% of the state's population, documented expenditures of more than \$50 million annually on prevention, education, abatement, and enforcement efforts to address litter and illegal dumping in their communities and waterways (Burns & McDonnell, 2017).

- It is an eyesore...



Photo Source: Teresa Patterson, Trinity Coalition

Encouraging A Cleanup Culture

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PLOGGING



Source: Creative Commons

PLALKING



Source: Creative Commons

PLIKING



Source: Xtracycle



What is plogging, plalking and pliking?

- Plogging = picking up litter while jogging
- Plalking = picking up litter while walking
- Pliking = picking up litter while hiking or biking

- The objective is to exercise while making your surroundings litter-free.

- You don't need a big cleanup event to make a difference, you can start incorporating picking up litter into daily activities!



Questions for Recreationists

- Can you help us identify safety measures and best practices for engaging in plogging, plalking, pliking and “pladdling”?
- What tools or resources would be beneficial to you that a local government could offer to encourage these types of activities?
 - Ability to get supplies (trash bags, litter grabbers or gloves) to use?
 - Convenient supply pick-up locations (library or community center at a park)?
 - Signage with information, etc?
- If you were to try plogging etc., either on your own or with a group, what would help you pick out a location?
- What resources or location attributes would encourage these activities (i.e. frequent access to trash cans along a trail/in a park)?



Questions for Local Governments

- If you were going to start a program or campaign to encourage these activities, how would you envision that program?
 - a) An actual program at parks,
 - b) An activity for which people can check out supplies,
 - c) Just an outreach campaign,
 - d) An outreach campaign combined with making it easier to participate by increasing trash cans, providing supplies, etc.?
 - e) Other

Questions for Local Governments


- What type of support could you provide?
 - Supplies? Which items?
 - Locations needing to be addressed/cleaned?
 - Rolloffs for larger collection efforts? (What lead time would be needed to facilitate this request?)
- Can you identify which department or person(s) would be the best point of contact for:
 - An outreach program or suggested site locations
 - Supply requests
- Could you support individuals/small groups or could you also support helping larger groups? How does support that differ?
- What resources would you need help with to get these efforts started?

NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

Who Can Participate?

- Everyone in the North Central Texas Region! We want our communities to get involved in the challenge and be inspired to make environmental stewardship a priority.
- Cities and organizations can sign-up for accounts to add and manage their hosted cleanup events
- Individuals are encouraged to participate beyond organized events by cleaning up their local parks and neighborhoods

September 1st – October 31st



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and navigation menu (LEADERBOARD, LOG CLEANUP, FIND EVENTS, DFW TO THE GULF, TOOLBOX). The main content area is titled "REPORT **AMAZING** WORK" and features two columns. The left column has a photo of a smiling young boy and a "Log Cleanup Event" button, with a description: "Use this form to log cleanup events hosted by an organization." and a "LOG EVENT/GROUP CLEANUP" button. The right column has a photo of a person in yellow gloves cleaning up and a "Log Individual Cleanup" button, with a description: "Use this form to log cleanup efforts by one or more individuals." and a "LOG INDIVIDUAL(S) CLEANUP" button.

To learn more about the program, visit:
www.CommunityCleanupChallenge.com

NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

What Counts Towards the Totals?

- Cleanups organized by:
 - Cities
 - Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates
 - Scout Troops
 - HOAs
 - Environmental clubs
 - Adopt-A-Spots
- Individual actions by residents



Resources

Subscribe to the Trash Free Waters: North Central Texas Newsletter – [here](#)

Subscribe to the Trash Free Texas Houston-Galveston Region Monthly News & Updates - [here](#)



May 2021

Trash Free Waters: North Central Texas Newsletter



Trash Free Texas
News & Updates

July 2021

Thank you for subscribing to the Trash Free Texas News and Updates. Beginning this month, we will send out the update quarterly. The next issue will be in October.

We want to hear from you about [your upcoming events and activities](#) and want to know if you've adopted a spot and would like to [be featured in the spotlight](#).

If you know of someone who would like to receive this quarterly update, please forward it to them and invite them to [subscribe](#).



Next Meeting

- **Date:** Thursday, October 21st (11:30 am – 12:30 pm)
- **Objective:** Review of ideas discussed at September 9th meeting, further refine or add to list of recommendations and resources, overview of what NCTCOG & H-GAC can do to support recommendations.

Contact

Crysta Guzman

Environment & Development Planner II
North Central Texas Council of Governments

cguzman@nctcog.org

817.695.9107

Kendall Guidroz

Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council

Kendall.Guidroz@h-gac.com

713.993.2469

Cassidy Campbell

Program Supervisor
North Central Texas Council of Governments

ccampbell@nctcog.org

817.608.2368

Connect

Trash Free Texas

 <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/trashfreetexas/>

 <https://twitter.com/TrashFreeTexas>

 <https://www.facebook.com/TrashFreeTexas>

NCTCOG's Trash Free Waters Project Webpage

 <https://nctcog.org/trashfreetwaters>

H-GAC Trash Free Waters Project Webpage

 <https://www.h-gac.com/water-outreach-and-engagement/trash-free-texas>

THANK YOU!