



# North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

## 2022 Wrap Up Report

The second annual North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge had another great year as a new regional initiative targeting litter and floatables in the environment and our waterways! This year, the Community Cleanup Challenge was held from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, with ten communities who signed on to participate. NCTCOG would like to thank all the individuals, organizations, and communities who participated and helped spread the message of environmental stewardship throughout the region. Check out the infographic at the end of this report for a snapshot of the impact and results of the 2022 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

### PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

The following **ten** communities signed on to participate in the 2022 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge:

- Carrollton
- Fort Worth
- Grand Prairie
- Irving
- Little Elm
- Mansfield
- Mesquite
- Plano
- Rowlett
- Shady Shores

The City of Grand Prairie rose to the top of the leaderboard as winner of the 2022 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge. Congratulations to Grand Prairie for being a regional leader when it comes to connecting with residents and local businesses, promoting a multitude of litter cleanup opportunities to engage them in!

NCTCOG would also like to recognize all the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who participated in the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge through their local communities. Many of them have made a commitment to regularly clean up Adopt-A-Spot (AAS) locations. If you are a local government and would to add your list of Adopt-A-Spot locations to the Trash Free Texas website, learn more by visiting the webpage Become A Coordinator, <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/become-a-coordinator>. If you are an individual interested in learning about how to find and adopt your own spot, please visit the Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot webpage, <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/adapt-a-spot>.

### EVENT CALENDAR

A total of **ten** events were added to the event calendar on the Community Cleanup Challenge website. This allowed participating communities to have a greater reach, connecting potential volunteers to events happening across the region.



## VOLUNTEERS

There was no shortage of volunteers willing to get out in their communities! A total of 14,799 volunteer hours were logged by 7,093 volunteers across the region. Of these 6,264 were adults and 829 were youth under the age of 18. The large number of youth volunteers is encouraging to see as they are learning to be good stewards of our environment and will be the next generation to take ownership of protecting our natural resources.

## LITTER

The total amount of litter collected from 270 different locations during the Community Cleanup Challenge filled the equivalent of 9,102 bags of trash which weighed somewhere between 68,685 to 96,321 pounds!

Starting with the 2022 Community Cleanup Challenge, participants made the switch from reporting their data through the NTCCC website to reporting through the Texas Litter Database (<https://txlitter.org/>). This change was made to help support the statewide effort to centralize the reporting of all trash and litter data from across the state into one repository. This centralized location, which is free to access, helps support the studying of data across the state and can be used to impact or support policies centered around trash and litter.

## LOCALITY

The many different locations where litter was cleaned up by participants were varied in both size and geography, but they can be simply quantified as:

- 2 Miles of Roadways - That is about the equivalent of the National Mall in Washington D.C.
- 8.5 Miles of Waterways – This distance is 5 times the length of the Golden Gate Bridge!
- 6 Acres – Which is four times the size of the White House.

## ADDITIONAL LITTER RESOURCES

Sometimes litter can be widespread and unintentional such as when unsecured trash blows out of the back of a vehicle or overflows a waste bin located outside. These sources of litter can often be easily addressed through education and behavior changes. Illegal dumping, however, can become a more complex and costly problem to solve for local communities. If you happen across an illegal dumping site, you can report it to Report Illegal Dumping DFW by calling the hotline at 1-888-335-DUMP or submitting a report online at [www.reportdfwdumping.org](http://www.reportdfwdumping.org). If you have items that you are not sure how to dispose of properly, check out these resources to help you find a way to recycle or properly dispose of them, so they don't wind up tossed in an alley or field.

- Recycling Drop-off Locator Map - <http://www.timetorecycle.com/locator/map.asp>
- Alternatives to Illegal Dumping - <http://www.timetorecycle.com/stopillegaldumping/>



## 2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

The 2022 Community Cleanup Challenge may barely be over, but we are already planning and looking forward to the 2023 Community Cleanup Challenge which is scheduled to take place from **March 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023**. Participants have until **April 1, 2023**, to sign-on to the Community Cleanup Challenge and the Mayors' Challenge. All cleanup data will need to be submitted by **June 30, 2023**, to be eligible. To join the optional Mayors' Challenge, communities simply need to have their Mayor or Commissioners issue a proclamation that the community is joining the challenge. Hopefully a challenge is also issued to a neighboring community to keep the friendly competition going! You can find an example of a proclamation on the Community Cleanup Challenge website under the Partner Resources and Downloads in the Toolbox here: <http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com/resources/Template-Proclamation.pdf>.

We are excited to announce that starting in 2022 we began linking to the Texas Litter Database, <https://txlitter.org/>, to collect the litter data reports. To learn more about how to use the Texas Litter Database, please check out the recording from the webinar *Texas Litter Database: Deep Dive Training*, held on October 20, 2021 located here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/723451581780807171> .

We've also created a *Quick Guide for Using the Texas Litter Database*, found on this webpage <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/stormwater/community-cleanup-challenge>, as a resource to help walk you through the basics. When entering your cleanup data for 2023 in the Texas Litter Database, be sure to use the code "CCC23" in the External ID field, which can be found near the bottom of the Trash Report.

To learn more about the program, please visit the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge website at [www.communitycleanupchallenge.com](http://www.communitycleanupchallenge.com). Background information on the Community Cleanup Challenge and resources such as an FAQ, Wrap-up Reports, and Infographics can be found on the program page on NCTCOG's website here: <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/stormwater/community-cleanup-challenge>

For questions about the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge, please contact Crysta Guzman, [cguzman@nctcog.org](mailto:cguzman@nctcog.org).



# NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

## 2022 RESULTS

**270**

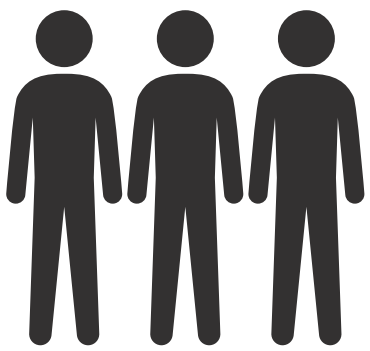
**LOCATIONS**

were cleaned across the  
North Texas region



**9,102 BAGS**

of litter were collected



**7,093**

**VOLUNTEER  
INSTANCES**



**14,799**

**VOLUNTEER  
HOURS**

the estimated range of litter  
picked up during the challenge  
weighed between

**68,685 TO 96,321 LBS.**

which is the equivalent of

**65 COWS!**

