



# North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

## 2024 Wrap Up Report

The fourth annual North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge had yet another great year as a 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>, 2024, with nine 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 2024 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

### PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The following **nine** communities signed on to participate in the 2024 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge:

- Burleson
- Carrollton
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Frisco
- Garland
- Grand Prairie
- Mansfield
- Plano

The City of Burleson rose to the top of the leaderboard as winner of the 2024 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge. Burleson has demonstrated they are a regional leader in connecting with residents and local businesses; promoting an array of litter cleanup opportunities for residents to engage in!

The City of Burleson also topped the leaderboard for the Mayors' Challenge! NCTCOG would like to thank Mayor Fletcher for taking a leadership role in this effort by issuing a proclamation of commitment to the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

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 Volunteer webpage, <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/volunteer>.



## VOLUNTEERS

There was no shortage of volunteers willing to get involved in their communities. This year, the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge saw nine cities participating in the challenge, some for the fourth year in a row! This cohort of communities motivated their residents to get out in droves. A total of **8,806.3** volunteer hours were logged by **5,163** volunteers across the region.

## LITTER

The total amount of litter collected from **141** different locations during the Community Cleanup Challenge filled the equivalent of **19,324** bags of trash which weighed somewhere around **156,416 lbs.!**

Participants reported their data through the Texas Litter Database (<https://txlitter.org/>) in an effort to support the statewide effort of centralizing 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:

- 153 Miles of Waterways – Almost the distance between Denton, TX and Oklahoma City, OK!
- 422.3 Acres – Which is equal to about 320 football fields.

## 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 like not leaving trash or light items in the back of moving vehicles or securing the lids on outside waste bins. Watch this video on [Litter](#) on the [Stormwater Education YouTube Playlist](#) to learn more. 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 are a resident that has items you are unsure how to dispose of properly, check with your city to find out what options are available to you or look into these resources to help you find a way to recycle or properly dispose of them.

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



## 2025 NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

The 2024 Community Cleanup Challenge may barely be over, but we are already planning and looking forward to the 2025 Community Cleanup Challenge which is scheduled to take place from **March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025**. Participants have until **April 15, 2025**, to sign-on to the Community Cleanup Challenge and the Mayors' Challenge. All cleanup data will then need to be submitted by **June 30, 2025**, 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](#) under the Resources section on the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge program page.

In October 2024, the Texas Litter Database, <https://txlitter.org/>, which is used to collect the litter data reports for Community Cleanup Challenge participants, will undergo a major update and switch to the ArcGIS Online platform. NCTCOG will watch for information on how this impacts our use of the database and inform NTCCC participants of any relevant changes.

To learn more about the program, and find resources such as FAQs, past Wrap-up Reports and Infographics, please visit the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge program page at <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/stormwater/community-cleanup-challenge>.

For questions about the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge, please contact program staff at [stormwater@nctcog.org](mailto:stormwater@nctcog.org).