



**NORTH TEXAS
COMMUNITY CLEANUP
CHALLENGE**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments Presents the

NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE 2021 WRAP UP REPORT



INTRODUCTION

The inaugural North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge had a great first year as a new regional initiative targeting litter and floatables in the environment and our waterways! Despite delays due to COVID, the inaugural Community Cleanup Challenge was successfully held from September 1st through October 31st, 2021. Twenty-one communities signed on to participate with four communities taking the additional step and participating in the Mayors' Challenge. 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 2021 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.



PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

The following **twenty-one** communities signed on to participate in the 2021 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge:

Allen	Ennis	Greenville	Mesquite
Anna	Fort Worth	Irving	Plano
Arlington	Frisco	Lake Dallas	Rowlett
Carrollton	Garland	Little Elm	
Cleburne	Grand Prairie	Lucas	
Denton	Grapevine	Mansfield	

The following **four** communities took on the addition of participating in the Mayors' Challenge by issuing a Proclamation to further engage and encourage their residents and business to participate:

Anna
Fort Worth
Grand Prairie
Mansfield

The City of Fort Worth was the winner of the 2021 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge as well as the Mayors' Challenge. Congratulations to Fort Worth for being a regional leader when it comes to connecting with residents and promoting a variety of litter cleanup opportunities for them to engage in!



Figure 1. Trophy Presentation to City of Fort Worth

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

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

A Daughter's Love OES No. 82 (AAS)

ALPFA UNT

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Arlington/Grand Prairie Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi (AAS)

Aspiro Agency (AAS)

Bethlehem Baptist Church – Mansfield (AAS)

Boy Scout Troop 298

Corbell Elementary

Cub Pack 1978

Dalworth Park Church of Christ Youth (AAS)

Denton Benefit League

Denton Breakfast Kiwanis (AAS)

Diversified Direction (AAS)

Ennis ISD

First Baptist Grand Prairie (AAS)

Frontier STEM Academy

Girl Scout Troop #1373 (AAS)

Girl Scout Troop #3559 (AAS)

Girl Scout Troop #6885 (AAS)

Global Leadership Academy at Barbara Bush Elementary NEHS (AAS)

Grand Prairie Host Lions Club (AAS)

Grand Prairie LULAC (AAS)

Grand Prairie Maverick Rugby Football Club (AAS)

Grand Prairie Metro Rotary (AAS)

Grand Prairie Unity Coalition (AAS)

Halff Associates, Inc.

Haryanvis in Texas (HARIT)

Hebron High School Earth Club

HER Campus

I-20 Riders MC (AAS)

IKEA of Grand Prairie (AAS)

Immaculate Conception School – Grand Prairie (AAS)

In Memory of Al Mighty Koop and Mama O (AAS)

In Memory of Brandon Tillmon Sr (AAS)

InterACT (AAS)

Keep Denton Beautiful

Keep Ennis Beautiful

Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful

Keep Grapevine Beautiful

Keep Greenville Beautiful

Keep Irving Beautiful

Keep Lake Dallas Beautiful

Keep Mesquite Beautiful

Keep Rowlett Beautiful, Inc.



Figure 2. Girl Scout Troop #3790 - Frisco Stream Clean Event



Figure 3. City of Fort Worth Neighborhood Litter Stomp



Figure 4. Grand Prairie Adopt-A-Street - Menfee Family and Friends

South Grand Prairie High School JROTC (AAS)
 Starwood Schools
 Swiss Avenue Historic District Association
 Tarrant Regional Water District
 TD Foundation (AAS)
 Teixeira Realty Group
 The Light of the World Church – Grand Prairie (AAS)

Lambda Chi (AAS)
 Laticrete International (AAS)
 Legacy Basketball Team
 Liberty High School Student Council
 Little Guys Movers (Adopt-A-Spot)
 Living Waters Park Organization
 Makeda Chapter No. 101 OES (AAS)
 Mary Grimes Education Center (AAS)
 Mesquite Hornets Peewee Football
 MTO Sustainable
 National Charity League
 Burlson Mansfield Chapter
 National Hookup of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter (AAS)
 New Day Masonic Lodge #655 (AAS)
 NHS Downtown Litter Patrol – Ennis
 Nonprofit Leadership Student Association – Denton

Noon Rotary Club (AAS)
 Nottingham Neighbors Club (AAS)
 Ochoa ECO Citizens Recycling Crew (AAS)
 Packard Building Services (AAS)
 Phoenix Lodge #237 (AAS)
 Queen Esther Chapter #30 (AAS)
 Red Bee Media (AAS)
 Richard & Angie Effirim & Dakota Dickerson (AAS)
 Robson Ranch Democratic Club (AAS)
 S.A.R. Starks #208 (AAS)
 Sons of Hiram Lodge 007 (AAS)
 South Grand Prairie ECHS Beta Club (AAS)

Titan Theatre
 TRANE (AAS)
 True Inspiration Organization (AAS)
 TWU – ASSET (AAS)
 TWU Terry Scholars (AAS)
 UAW Local 276 Veteran's Committee (AAS)
 UNT Hispanic Student Association
 UNT National Society of Black Engineers
 UNT Pre-Physical Therapy
 Valley Creek Church – Denton
 YWLA at Lake Crest (AAS)



Figure 5. City of Grand Prairie - Bowman Creek Cleanup

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Aashika Ingersal
AJ Roscoe
Allison Dean
Amber Bermudez
Amy Lou Gutknecht
Andrea White
Barbra Thomas (AAS)
Charlene Willingham
Christine Klebba
Ciraco Family
Claire Bradley
Claire Harvey
Cristian Villegas
Dana Biedangan
Dennis Carlson
Devan Simmons
Devyn Kote
Diana Hernandez
Donahue/Sylvester Family (AAS)
Dr. Pam Flint
Eric C Pierce



Figure 6. City of Mesquite Trash Bash

Evan and Skylar Segovia (AAS)
Fran Burns
Garcia Family
Gian Vindel
Gladys Sosa (AAS)
Grant Cottingham
Greg and Aliss Gannon (AAS)
Hernandez Family (AAS)
Hood Family
Jennifer Long
Jocelyn Baxter
John Briggs Family (AAS)
Johnston Family (AAS)
Jose Garcia
Julie Champain
Keiser Family (AAS)
Keith Johnson
Kerry Gonzalez
Kyser Family
Lacy Kwasnick Lamb
Linda Balkey
Linda Finley
Lindsey Wilhite (AAS)
Lisa O'Brian
Lucas Newman
Mary & CW Eisenmann (AAS)
Mary Grimes (AAS)
Matt Wenthold (AAS)
Matthew and Olivia Wolston (AAS)
Mayor and Mrs. Ron Jensen
Menifee Family and Friends (AAS)
Middleton Family (AAS)
Mike Riley
Mixon Family (AAS)



Figure 7. City of Frisco Stream Clean

Morgan Family
Oletu Family (AAS)
Patricia Johnson
Privette Family
Ramona Jansen (AAS)
Raul Gonzalez
Richard Delmark (AAS)
Riley Lamb
Samantha Kaschel
Schreck Family
Selver Newman
Sherry Parhn
Tokunbo & Ayo Fasoro (AAS)
Tulley Family (AAS)
VanDella Meniffee Family
Vinaya Endapally
Wayne & Kaye Gilbert (AAS)



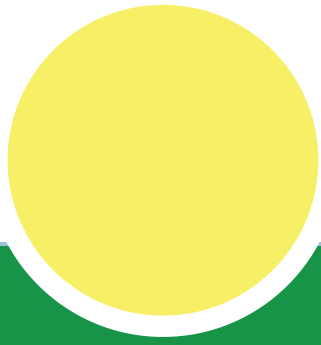
Figure 8. City of Mansfield Fall Sweep



Figure 9. City of Mesquite Trash Bash



Figure 10. City of Ennis Weekend Warriors



EVENT CALENDAR

A total of twenty-nine events were added to the event calendar on the Cleanup Challenge website. This allowed participating communities to have a greater reach, connecting potential volunteers to events happening across the region. The community with the most events posted on the calendar was the City of Ennis, who posted twenty-one opportunities for volunteers to get involved!

VOLUNTEERS

There was no shortage of volunteers willing to get out in their communities! A total of 19,634 volunteer hours were logged by 6,086 volunteers all across the region. Of these 3,485 were adults and 2,601 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. There also appeared to be no shortage of four-legged good boys and girls who pitched in and helped their owners clean up!



Figure 11. Fort Worth



Figure 12. Carrollton

LITTER

The total amount of litter collected during the Community Cleanup Challenge filled 7,665 bags and weighed somewhere between 65,775 to 78,670 pounds! That is about the weight of 85 horses! The most reported item that was picked-up by participants was plastic bottles, accounting for 192 instances. A breakdown of the number of instances a type of litter was reported throughout the Community Cleanup Challenge is below. Please note this does not represent the total number of each type of item that was collected but rather the number of times it was reported by volunteers.



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:**

402 Miles of Roadways

That is the equivalent of driving from Dallas to Orange Grove or traveling in a straight line between Gainesville and Corpus Christi.

129 Miles of Waterways

This distance is close to half the length of the Grand Canyon!

708 Acres

Which is just less than half the size of Cedar Hill State Park.

181 Miles of Sidewalks

A distance that is just short of the mileage between Dallas and Austin.



Figure 13. Picked up litter – Carrollton

THINGS WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS

Some participants left comments on their cleanup reports which helped provide a glimpse into what the conditions were like that they encountered or the frustrations that they felt.

“Cleaned up lots of Styrofoam cups and plastic water bottles along creekbank that had caught in brush.”

“Same area day 3!!! I cleaned up an illegal dump.”

“In addition to the 320 pounds that we collected in bags, we also collected 5 cubic yards of bulky trash such as construction debris, broken furniture, and fallen limbs.”

“I-45 was just mowed and there is shredded TRASH E.V.E.R.Y.W.H.E.R.E!”

“SO MUCH TRASH!!!!!!!!!!”

“Archer (6 years old) wants to know “Why are people so mean to nature?”



Figure 12. Litter in stream - Lake Dallas

We may not have a good answer we can give Archer as to why some people don't take care of the environment but we take heart that so many others do! In fact, some participants showed their concern for the environment by proving that no amount of litter is too insignificant or too small – if you put your mind to cleaning it up – by letting us know the specific things they focused on during their efforts.

“Cleaning butts out of our flower beds at the Welcome Center.”

“Microtrash - bottle caps, cigarette butts, confetti - pain in the hiney!”

“Cigarette focused cleanup.”

“We were surprised how much debris we cleaned up as the park looked fairly clean until we began to walk the park.”

Some of our favorite comments received from participants and local governments highlighted the wonderful efforts of so many different volunteers and the positive and collaborative effect they had on their communities.

“This was a multi-neighborhood clean-up. So proud of our citizens for working together!”

“Had a family stop and thank us for cleaning the neighborhood.” accomplished!”

“Family has cleaned their neighborhood since the beginning of the pandemic.”



Figure 13. Volunteer Devan - Carrollton

“2nd grade clean-up of school campus, parking lot area and sidewalks surrounding campus. They had a blast!”

“This cleanup was performed by a participant in the Grand Prairie Homeless Outreach Organization’s GPHOO volunteer and job training program called GPHOO Works. In this case, Mr. G. walks by this area frequently and noticed the trash. Aware of the GPHOO Works program, he asked for trash bags and volunteered his time to give back to the community as a thank you for the services he receives.”



Figure 14. City of Mesquite Trash Bash

“This cleanup was part of our celebration of our 25th wedding anniversary! We wanted 25 volunteers or 25+ hours! Goal accomplished!”

“The area looked so much better when we were done.”

MOST UNUSUAL ITEMS COLLECTED

While not everyone encounters strange objects while out picking up litter, some volunteers had a few surprising finds. Here is a roundup of some of the most unusual or interesting items found by volunteers.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Sports equipment such as a football, a frisbee, a child's bike, and a kid's surfboard.

CLOTHING

Clothing items included red boxer shorts, a soccer shoe, and multiple reports of socks.

TOYS

Toy items such as a toy sword, a toy tiger, and an Elsa doll which somehow someone let it go.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS

Food and beverage items were plentiful and included a box of pizza, a bag full of fast food, a vodka bottle, a tin of biscuits, and a box of dry food.

CAR PARTS

The car parts assortment was represented by a muffler, tires, an oil pan, and other used car parts.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

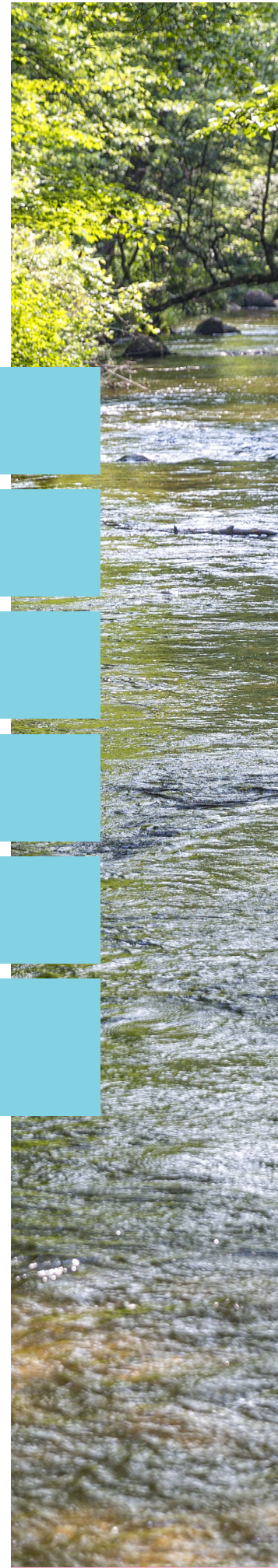
There was also no shortage of household items such as an office chair, panels of sheetrock, Halloween decorations, window screens, a sleeping bag, carpet, new pencils, rubber bands, plastic bins, a wheel barrel, a metal straw, and a baby stroller.

Rounding out the list are those items that sometimes make us wonder how they wound up where they did like several shopping carts, train track screws, and street reflectors.

These unusual items highlight how sometimes littering can be accidental. A toy sword in excellent shape is likely to be missed by its owner and was likely not intentionally tossed. Other items, such as decorations or used car parts, are a reminder that illegal dumping can be a problem in all areas around the region. 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. 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 ally or field.

Recycling Drop-off Locator Map - www.timetorecycle.com/locator/map.asp

Alternatives to Illegal Dumping - www.timetorecycle.com/stopillegaldumping/





2022 NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

The 2021 Community Cleanup Challenge may barely be over, but we are already planning and looking forward to the 2022 Community Cleanup Challenge which is scheduled to take place from March 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022. Participants have until April 1, 2022, to sign-on to the Community Cleanup Challenge and the Mayors' Challenge. All cleanup data will need to be submitted by June 30, 2022, 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:

www.communitycleanupchallenge.com/resources/Template-Proclamation.pdf.

We are excited to announce that starting in 2022 we will be linking to the Texas Litter Database, www.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 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 2022 in the Texas Litter Database, be sure to use the code "CCC22" 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. 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: 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. For technical assistance (creating/managing account, city profile, data entry, etc.) please contact Brian Geck, bgeck@nctcog.org.



NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP CHALLENGE



The weight of litter picked up equals to

85 HORSES

The estimated range of litter picked up in the challenge is between 65,775 lbs. and 78,670 lbs.



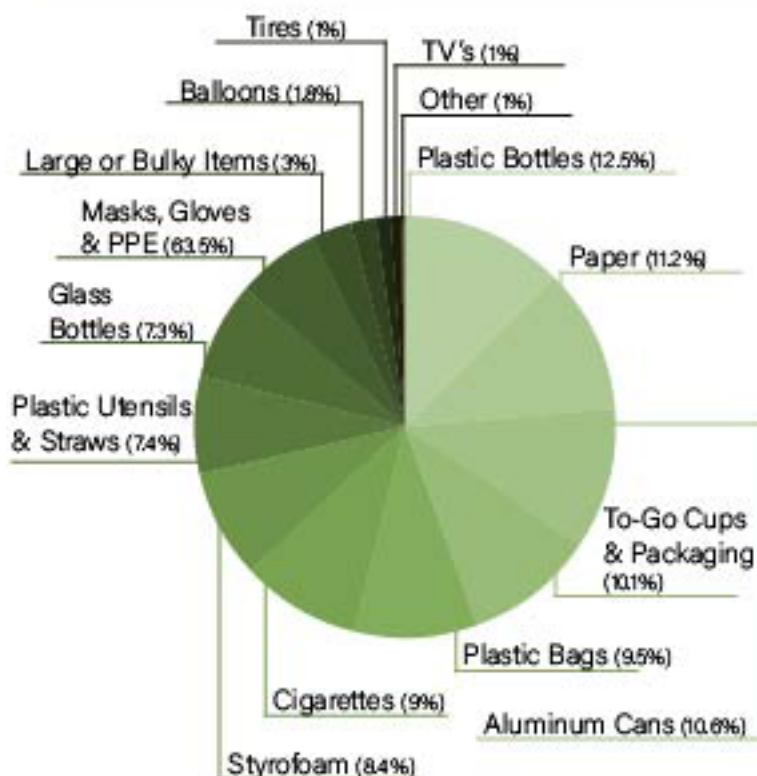
ABOUT 20,000

Volunteer hours recorded. There were 32 events posted to our online calendar.



1 7

participating cities in the North Texas area.



MORE THAN 400

Locations cleaned in the North Texas region.

Some of the "most unusual" reported items were:

- A bag full of fast food
- A surfboard
- Red boxer shorts
- A shopping cart
- A shoe
- A baby stroller

7,665 BAGS

Of litter were filled during the event.



OVER 6,000

Volunteer instances.

The North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is a friendly competition among North Texas communities to see who can pick up the most litter per resident. Communities, churches, boy scouts, girl scouts, companies, activists, or just ordinary citizens can organize litter cleanup events in their communities or simply log existing events and efforts as they occur. At the end of the contest, the community with the most litter cleaned up per resident will receive the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge award that they can proudly display in their city hall. Each year the trophy will move from community to community, each adding their name to the legacy of litter cleanup efforts.

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