

North Central Texas  
Council of Governments



November 2022

## Trash Free Waters: North Central Texas Newsletter

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*NCTCOG is working to build a coalition of partners and organizations to work collaboratively together to build on the many North Central Texas and statewide initiatives focused on the challenge of reducing trash in waterways, and litter in general.*

*The North Central Texas Council of Governments received funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for this project, including the development of this newsletter, through a partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council and Texas State University.*

Subscribe to future editions of  
this newsletter.

Don't forget to *like* and *share* posts on the Trash Free Texas [Twitter](#),  
[Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages!



## North Central Texas Spotlight



### Single- Use Plastic Reduction Workgroup Meeting

The Trash Free Texas team from the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the Houston-Galveston Area Council cordially invites cities, restaurants, third-party delivery providers, chambers of commerce, and restaurant patrons to participate in the next meeting of the **Trash Free Texas Single-Use Plastic Reduction Workgroup** on **Monday, November 7, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The purpose of this meeting is for the Trash Free Texas team to receive feedback on two draft toolkits, one for cities and one for restaurants, that include

resources, templates, and strategies for voluntarily reducing the use of single-use plastics in restaurants. To review the toolkits and RSVP, click the "**Register to Attend**" button below. Can't make the meeting? Click the "**Review Toolkits Only**" button to still share feedback.

**Register to  
Attend**

**Review Toolkits  
Only**

After the toolkits are finalized, the Trash Free Texas team will be seeking cities and restaurants to pilot some, or all, of the strategies in the respective toolkits for an amount of time that best suits your entity. Organizations who are interested in piloting can sign up at the meeting or by clicking the "**Sign-Up to Learn More About Piloting**" button below, and the project team will reach out to you in January 2023 with more details.

**Sign-Up to Learn More  
About Piloting**

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# Trash Free Waters Project Update

## Community Cleanup Challenge Results



The results are in and the 2022 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge (NTCCC) had another great year surpassing the 2021 results thanks to the efforts of all the participating communities and volunteers. Congratulations to the **City of Grand Prairie** for coming in on top of the leaderboard with an estimated 31,778 pounds of litter that was collected across their city during the challenge! We are thankful for all the effort that went into keeping our communities beautiful and litter free and are looking forward to another great Community Cleanup Challenge next year. You can learn more about the NTCCC by visiting the [information page](#).

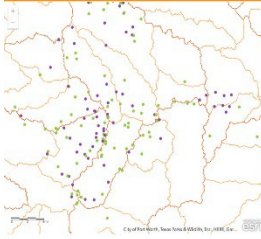
## Feedback Requested on Community Cleanup Challenge Resources



The Trash Free Texas team is seeking feedback from communities who have either 1) participated in the [North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge](#) or 2) used the resources in the [Community Cleanup Challenge Toolkit](#) located on the [Trash Free Texas](#) website.. If your community has utilized the resources to help plan, organize, or host a cleanup challenge, large or small, we'd love to hear from you!

[Provide Feedback Here](#)

## Trash Free Texas Welcomes New Partners Who Added Litter Cleanup Sites to the Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map



**TRASH  
FREE  
TEXAS**

Find a Cleanup  
Site Near You  
Today!

Welcome to the newest organizations that have partnered up with the Trash Free Texas website by adding their litter cleanup sites to the Trash Free Waters Adopt-A-Spot map since the last newsletter! The newest partner organizations are:

- **City of Princeton**

[The Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map](#) is a great tool you can use to show volunteers where cleanup is needed. If you would like to add your organization's sites, simply fill out the [Adopt-A-Spot Data Submittal Form](#); be sure to scroll down to the middle of the page. There is also a brief ["How-To" video](#) that takes you through the process step-by-step.

Need additional help? Visit the [Trash Free Texas Frequently Asked Questions](#) page or feel free to contact the Trash Free Texas team at [contact@trashfreetexas.org](mailto:contact@trashfreetexas.org) or Elena Berg at [eberg@nctcog.org](mailto:eberg@nctcog.org). We would love to see you on our website! If you have not had the opportunity to add your logo to our website, "partner up" by clicking [here!](#)

## You Can Support Our Efforts by Becoming a Trash Free Texas Partner!

Not a Trash Free Texas Partner? No problem! Becoming a Trash Free Texas Partner is easy and costs you nothing. Click on the "Partner Up" button below to fill out the Partner Form. Then, you are free to use the "Partner Resources" on the the [Trash Free Texas Partner page](#), such as logos, flyers, and social media templates, to spread the message about Trash Free Texas. And, you can upload your organization's logo to the form so we can showcase your organization with the other partners scrolling on the bottom of the Partner page. You also automatically become a Trash Free Texas Partner when you submit your litter cleanup sites to the Trash Free Texas Adopt-A-Spot Map.



[Partner Up with Trash Free Texas!](#)

## EPA Webinar Recording: Illegal Dumping - Best Practices to Address a Complex and Persistent Problem

Illegal dumping is a persistent problem that can have significant impacts on public health and the environment. Although illegal dumping occurs in many regions across the U.S., the causes and consequences vary widely. This webinar provides an overview of illegal dumping, what we know about the underlying causes, and the challenges that communities face in responding to and preventing illegally dumped waste. The speakers shared insights and lessons learned from their experiences researching the issue or implementing programs to mitigate illegal dumping.



[View Webinar Recording](#)

## Trash Free Texas Partner Updates

### Texas Recycles Day and America Recycles Day Showcase the Value of Recycling

Keep America Beautiful will be highlighting recycling efforts with its annual America Recycles Day on November 15. This is the only nationally- recognized day reserved for honoring recycling methods throughout the country! Texas Recycles Day is on the same day and seeks to educate Texans on best practices to eliminate litter and increase recycling efforts. This day focuses on trash reduction through public education on topics such as reducing consumption, appropriate recycling methods, and encouraging participants to pledge to recycle wisely and more frequently. To plan your own celebration, visit the [Keep America Beautiful Events](#) Page. There you will find toolkits and other event resources



to make your day a success!

### Enter the Take Care of Texas Video Contest!

Take Care of Texas is accepting submissions for the Take Care of Texas video contest now through December 2nd. Students grades 6-12 may submit a 30-second video portraying positive ways citizens can conserve water, keep our water clean, improve air quality, or reduce waste. Students grades 9-12 are eligible to win scholarship money, with the first prize being \$2,500! Students grades 6-8 can win gift cards valued up to \$800. First through third place submissions will be awarded prizes. For official contest rules and details, visit the [Take Care of Texas Video Contest page](#).

### GovLove Podcast Highlights Trash Free Waters Efforts



[GovLove](#), a podcast produced by Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL), recently hosted Layne Marshall, of the US EPA, and Julie Patton Lawson, a Trash Free Waters partner out of DC, to discuss the Trash Free Waters program. The podcast centered on the [Curbside Disposal Education Campaign Pilot](#) and discussed the project's methodology, results, and the implications for future educational campaigns regarding waste disposal and containment. Give the episode a listen [here](#). Those interested in more episodes can subscribe to GovLove on [Apple](#), [Google](#), and [Spotify](#).



## Stay Involved This Winter

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** will be on Monday, January 16, 2023. This day has been designated as a National Day of Service since 1994 to honor the memory of the late civil rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Give back to your community by hosting a clean-up at an adoptable spot, or by participating in a local service project near you. Visit the [Trash Free Texas Volunteer page](#) to find a way to contribute!

It's not too late to be involved with **Keep Texas Beautiful's Fall Sweep** clean-up, running now until November 20th. Registrants may choose any public area to clean up, such as parks, waterways roadways, etc. To start the fall sweep, register on the [event page](#). Visit the [Keep Texas Beautiful Calendar](#) to find an event that works for you!

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## Recent Legislation

### Biden Administration Signs Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

This past August, the Biden Administration signed the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#), which makes it the "largest investment in history to combat climate change". The act, in addition to improving job prospects and reducing deficits, looks to establish environmental justice grant programs that would prevent disadvantaged communities from experiencing "disproportionate impacts of climate change". The Act proposes to reduce pollution, improve clean transit, make clean energy more affordable and accessible, and finally, strengthen resilience to climate change. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Michael S. Regan, expressed the EPA's support of the legislation in a [released statement](#), stating that the "EPA is ready to advance President Biden's bold environmental agenda, ensure these investments reach the communities that need them most, and make people's lives healthier today and in the future".

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## What's Caught Our Eye

- [The AI Contribution to Waterway Clean-Up Efforts](#)
  - [NOAA Marine Debris Program Grants Funding to Eight Marine Debris Prevention Projects](#)
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Past editions of the Trash Free Water: North Central Texas Newsletter can be found under the green newsletter bar here:  
[www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters](http://www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters)

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For questions or additional information on any of these items, please contact:

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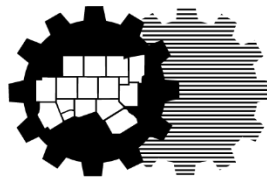
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