



North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

2023 Wrap Up Report

The third 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 1st through May 31st, 2023, with fourteen 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 2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

The following **fourteen** communities signed on to participate in the 2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge:

- Burleson
- Carrollton
- Dallas
- Ennis
- Frisco
- Garland
- Grand Prairie
- Grapevine
- Mansfield
- Mesquite
- Plano
- Princeton
- Richarson
- Rosser Village

The City of Mansfield rose to the top of the leaderboard as winner of the 2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge. Mansfield has demonstrated they are a regional leader in connecting with residents and local businesses; promoting an array of litter cleanup opportunities to engage in!

The City of Mansfield also topped the leaderboard for the Mayors' Challenge! NCTCOG would like to thank Mayor Evans 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 Adopt-A-Spot webpage, <https://www.trashfreetexas.org/adapt-a-spot>.



EVENT CALENDAR

A total of **nine** 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 involved in their communities. This year, the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge saw fourteen cities participating in the challenge, some for the third year in a row! This cohort of communities motivated their residents to get out in droves. A total of **15,370** volunteer hours were logged by **5,370** volunteers across the region.

LITTER

The total amount of litter collected from **204** different locations during the Community Cleanup Challenge filled the equivalent of **9,924** bags of trash which weighed somewhere around **135,079** lbs.!

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:

- .4 Miles of Waterways – This distance is about double as tall as the Eiffel Tower.
- 26.7 Acres – Which is equal to about 20 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. 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. 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/>

2024 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

The 2023 Community Cleanup Challenge may barely be over, but we are already planning and looking forward to the 2024 Community Cleanup Challenge which is scheduled to take place from **March 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024**. Participants have until **April 1, 2024**, to sign-on to the Community Cleanup Challenge and the Mayors' Challenge. All cleanup data will need to be submitted by **June 30, 2024**, 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 **2024 in the Texas Litter Database**, be sure to use the code **"CCC24"** 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: <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.




NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP 2023 CHALLENGE



 **204**
LOCATIONS
were cleaned across the
North Texas Region

 **9,924**
BAGS
OF LITTER
were collected


5,370
volunteer
instances 

26.7
total reported
acres cleaned 
that is equal to
20 FOOTBALL FIELDS

 **15,370**
volunteer
hours

the estimated **weight of litter**
picked up in the challenge:

14 
total participating
communities

135,079
POUNDS 
that is equal to
the weight of
10 ELEPHANTS 