



November 2021

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.

Subscribe to future editions of this newsletter.

North Central Texas Spotlight

North Texas Community Clean Up Challenge

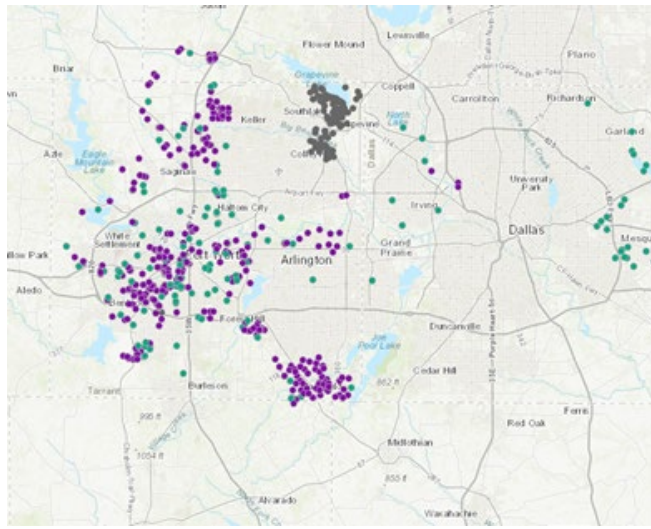
If your community is participating in the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge don't forget to log all cleanup data to the website by Tuesday, November 30th! You can view the cleanup challenge [leaderboard](#) to see who is currently in the lead and root for your hometown!

We want to recognize all of our participating 2021 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge communities who have committed to making our region a cleaner and better place to live, work and play! We also want to thank all of the individuals and other organizations who are regularly cleaning their communities year-round!

2021 NTCCC Participating Communities

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

Let the Trash Free Texas Adopt-a-Spot Map Work for You!



Trash Free Texas Layers

Adopt-a-Spot

Adoption Status

- Adopted
- Available
- Contact for Status

Use the [Adopt-a-Spot \(AAS\) map](#) to display the locations where your community or organization needs litter cleanup assistance. The City of Fort Worth, which has many sites on the AAS map, has noted that the AAS map has been a great resource to show volunteers where litter cleanup is needed so volunteers can choose the site(s) that work best for them. Your community or organization then still maintains control of the site's cleanup or adoption requirements. And, coming soon! Communities and organizations who add sites to the map will receive a Partner Packet, complete with outreach resources about the AAS map and logos to display showing your entity's partnership with the Trash Free Texas website and support for litter cleanup efforts.

Adding your sites to the map is a relatively quick process. And, you don't need to add all your sites at once. Just start with a few if you like, and then go back later to add more. To add your sites, go to the Trash Free Texas website [here](#), scroll down the page, fill out the AAS Data Submittal form, and upload the AAS Data Submittal form to the Trash Free Texas website. Submitting your sites as a GIS shapefile is also an option. If you have questions or need assistance, email Elena Berg at eberg@nctcog.org, or Contact@TrashFreeTexas.org.

NCTCOG, H-GAC and the Meadows Center would like to acknowledge the communities and organizations who have added their sites to the map as part of the Trash Free Waters grant effort, as well as those who already had sites on the map prior to these efforts. These entities are listed below.

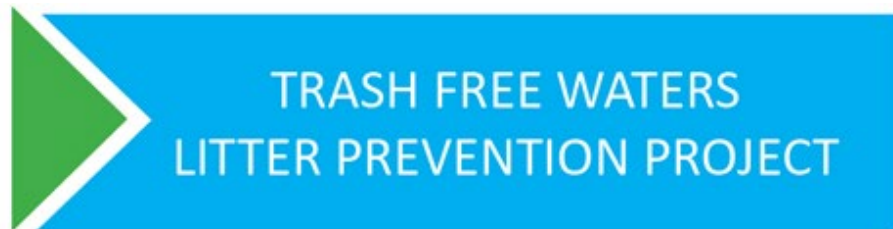
Entities who added sites through the Trash Free Waters grant:

- Groundwork Dallas
- Keep Lake Dallas Beautiful
- Keep Midland Beautiful
- Coastal Bend Council of Governments
- Village of Surfside Beach
- Keep Kennedale Beautiful
- Keep Corinth Beautiful
- City of Mansfield
- Keep Grapevine Beautiful
- Keep Rowlett Beautiful

- Keep Ennis Beautiful
- City of Mesquite
- City of Pattison
- Keep Cleburne Beautiful-City of Cleburne
- Keep Haltom City Beautiful
- Galveston Bay Foundation
- The Woodlands Waterway Warriors

Entities who added sites earlier:

- Keep Fort Worth Beautiful
- Keep Austin Beautiful
- Keep Arlington Beautiful
- Keep Irving Beautiful
- Keep Aransas County Beautiful
- Keep Denton Beautiful
- Keep Waco Beautiful
- Keep Garland Beautiful
- Bayou Preservation Association
- Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful



Join the Plastic Reduction Workgroup!

In Texas, over 435 million pieces of visible litter accumulate on roadways each year. Litter control efforts cost the American taxpayers over \$11 billion each year. And approximately 80% of the trash in our waterways originates from land-based sources, such as roadways.

In an effort to address these issues, the Trash Free Texas team is working with a variety of stakeholders including restaurants and third-party delivery services to identify ways to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic, which helps restaurants save money while cleaning up our communities and waterways.

The Plastic Reduction Work Group will meet virtually on November 30, 2021 to discuss and share input on challenges and opportunities associated with reducing single-use plastic consumption. Using the information and guidance derived from these discussions, the project team will develop a Tool Kit of best practices for instituting effective plastic reduction strategies.

The anticipated timeline for the Work Group activities is:

- **November 30 at 2 p.m.** – Work Group Meeting #1, participants will discuss the project and begin identifying strategies for reducing the use of single-use plastics. [Registration](#) required.
- **January 2022** – Work Group Meeting #2, participants further refine the strategies for reducing the use of single-use plastics and begin developing the Tool Kit and Case Studies.
- **April 2022** – Work Group Meeting #3, the project team will share the Tool Kit and Case Studies with participants. Opportunities for further partnership will be discussed.

To join the Work Group email list or to learn more about the project, email kathy.janhansen@h-gac.com.

New Tool for Reducing Litter

Texas's First Litter Database Launches



Released in July 2021, the Texas Litter Database, which can be found here: <https://txlitter.org/>, is an online tool for entering, storing, and viewing trash and marine debris data collected in Texas. Anyone can use and view the trash data in the Texas Litter Database and everyone is encouraged to do so, especially volunteers and litter cleanup event organizers. As more and more users enter data into the database, it will become a more robust dataset

for all. The Texas Litter Database was created by Keep Texas Beautiful, the Houston Advanced Research Center, and Black Cat GIS, and funded by the Garver Black Hilyard Family Foundation.

If you have any questions about how to use the Texas Litter Database, there are many resources available to help. Brief "How-To" videos on the Texas Litter Database can be found under the User Guide tab at the top of the Texas Litter Database webpage. In addition, Keep Texas Beautiful is offering [Office Hour Sessions](#) every Tuesday in November from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. where you can get your specific questions answered and even share your screen. See the list below for even more resources you may find useful.

[Webinar Recording](#) - *Texas Litter Database: Deep Dive Training*, October 20, 2021
[Database User Guide](#)
[KTB Event Wrap Up Guide](#)

Upcoming Events of Interest

Ditched – The Movement of Trash in Our Waterways

Join local artist Becky Wilkes for this discussion and presentation that explores the implications of our throwaway society through the examination of debris found in our waterways. Through this interactive presentation, Wilkes aims to answer the question, "Who can we hold responsible if not ourselves, and how can we think creatively to solve this problem?". This event is being hosted by Dallas Contemporary.

Date: November 7, 2021

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm CST

Register: [Link Here](#)

Help Clean-up Your Community by Participating in the Keep Texas Beautiful Fall Sweep



Keep Texas Beautiful is holding its annual Fall Sweep is from September 11, the National Day of Service, through November 20, 2021. All cleanup activities must occur within this time frame to be eligible for free cleanup supplies. You can choose to either host a Fall Sweep cleanup event in your community or join a Fall Sweep cleanup event. Don't forget to submit your cleanup data into the [Texas Litter Database](#) when you are finished!

Learn More: <https://www.ktb.org/fall-sweep>

Keep America Beautiful's Financial Impacts of Litter & Illegal Dumping Survey for Counties and Cities

Keep America Beautiful is asking for communities to participate in a survey that helps shed light on the costs that local communities and states incur as they are managing litter and illegal dumping. The survey, Financial Impact of Litter and Illegal Dumping Survey, should take as little as 10 minutes to complete.

This research will increase awareness that litter and illegal dumping costs billions of dollars annually, that these costs are often hidden across multiple organizations and departments, but there are solutions to drive down those costs. If you are involved or know about litter prevention, education, abatement and cleanup, or enforcement in your community or state, then you can help out by taking the survey.

Even if you are not aware of how much the activities cost in your organization or in your community, your participation can help identify the people who are involved with budgets. If you are aware of

budgets, prior to starting the survey, please gather or be prepared to estimate the annual operating budget for calendar year 2019 and 2020 or fiscal year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

If you are a local or county government entity, click the following link to start the survey
<https://kab.surveymonkey.com/r/FinancialImpactLitterLocalGovt>

If you are a state government entity, click the following link to start the survey
<https://kab.surveymonkey.com/r/FinancialImpactLitterState>

For all questions about the survey, please reach out to David Scott at dscott@kab.org or Veronica Roof at vroof@kab.org.

What We're Reading/Listening To/Watching

- McDonald's pilots world first cup take back scheme in Northampton. ([Circular Online](#))
- A new law in France will save 1 billion pieces of single-use plastic annually. Learn more at ([WeForum](#)).
- Art activist [Von Wong's](#) latest project focuses on [#TurnOffThePlasticTap](#).

NCTCOG will be posting past editions of the North Texas Trash Free Water Newsletters here:
www.NCTCOG.org/TrashFreeWaters

View additional events and training opportunities at www.nctcog.org/envir/events.
For questions or additional information on any of these items, please contact:

Staff Contact:

Cassidy Campbell, AWB, LEED® Green Associate

Program Supervisor

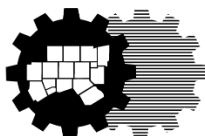
Department of Environment and Development

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Join Trash Free Texas efforts on Twitter and Facebook and share posts and information!



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