

## **RIVERS ALIVE CLEANUPS TARGET GEORGIA WATERWAYS**

**ATLANTA, GA, September 1, 2021** – Rivers Alive volunteers throughout Georgia are preparing to spend their fall weekends cleaning up the state’s more than 70,000 miles of waterways and coastline. The annual campaign to clear trash from our rivers, lakes and coastal waters is underway. The cleanup is expected to be once again the largest single volunteer effort to beautify Georgia’s water resources.

Rivers Alive, a program of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), was created in 1999 to organize the numerous cleanup events held throughout the state. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources.

“Rivers Alive is an immense volunteer effort that brings together all community members to make a measurable impact on the overall quality of waterways around the State,” said Richard Dunn, Director of the Georgia EPD. “We thank all the volunteers for what they have done to improve Georgia streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters.” Volunteers and sponsors removed 274,460 pounds of trash from Georgia’s waters last year alone. More than 10,000 volunteers cleaned 910 miles of waterways, hauling out tires, refrigerators, cans, bottles, cigarettes, and other debris.

For 22 years, Rivers Alive has educated citizens on the importance of community involvement and environmental stewardship to protect local water resources. This year, Rivers Alive will highlight the dedication of its volunteers through the theme: United We Flow. Volunteers continue to help care for and protect Georgia's waters one cleanup event at a time. Educational materials and activities for volunteers, organizers, community leaders and teachers can be found on the Rivers Alive website at [www.RiversAlive.Georgia.Gov](http://www.RiversAlive.Georgia.Gov).

Statewide sponsors providing generous financial support and assisting with local cleanups include International Paper, Georgia Power, Burns & McDonnell Foundation, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Perdue Farms, Southwire Company, Wild Heaven Beer, Fieldale Farms Poultry, JDS Inc., Eversheds Sutherland, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders, and Zee Company. Dozens of other local organizations will be sponsoring individual cleanups around the state.