



ANNUAL REPORT

"I'm proud we have so many parents and adult mentors teaching our youth the value of community awareness and involvement."

- Melissa Staton, City of Conyers



OUR MISSION:

CREATE AWARENESS OF AND INVOLVEMENT IN
THE PROTECTION OF GEORGIA'S WATER RESOURCES
THROUGH WATER WAY CLEANUPS



"Our community consistently turns out for this event each year, and we have wonderful community partners!"

- Laurie Riley, Keep Newton Beautiful

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2022, we followed the '*Rules of the River*' with **132 cleanup events** and **5,143 bags of trash** collected. *We discovered new paths* with **623 miles** cleaned. *We made positive ripples* with **11,432 volunteers** and **36,968 cleanup hours**. And *we remembered those downstream* by collecting **401,285 lbs of trash!**

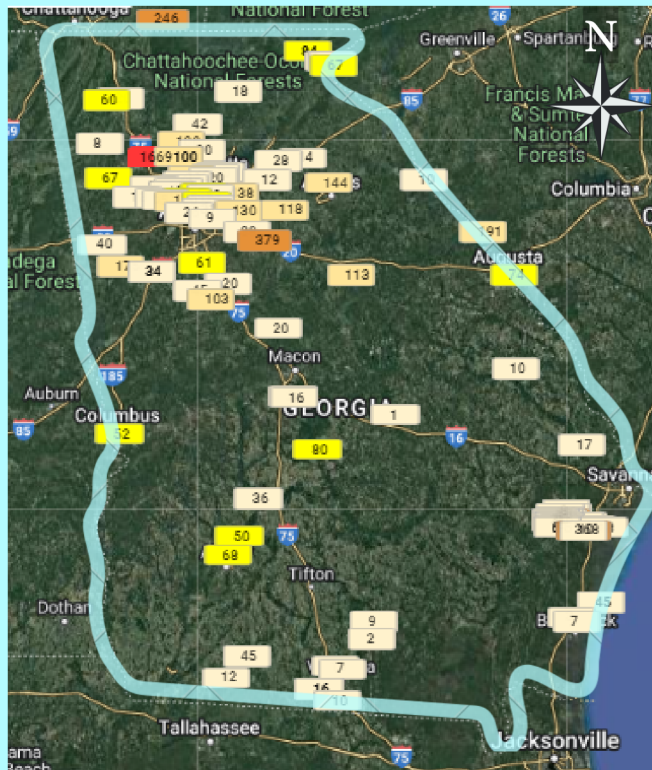
Tremendous thanks to our volunteers, organizers, and sponsors. Your time, energy, effort, and support made such a difference to the beauty and well-being of our state. We could not have done it without you.

As we look ahead to this year, 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of Rivers Alive. Since 1999, over **500,000 volunteers** with over **1,892,000 volunteer hours** have helped to remove over **12,000,000 lbs of trash** from our waterways. A great impact has been made over the years. Thank you, thank you, thank you. With exciting things in store for our organization, we look forward to the upcoming cleanup season and the next 25 years.

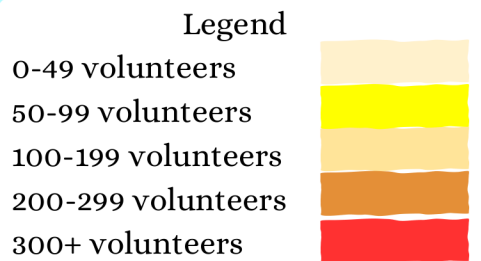
The River is calling!

Meagan Whitehead
Rivers Alive Chair

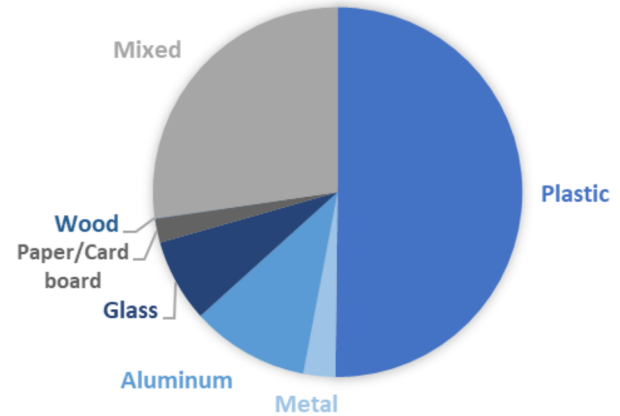
2022 DATA



Map of 2022 Cleanup locations.

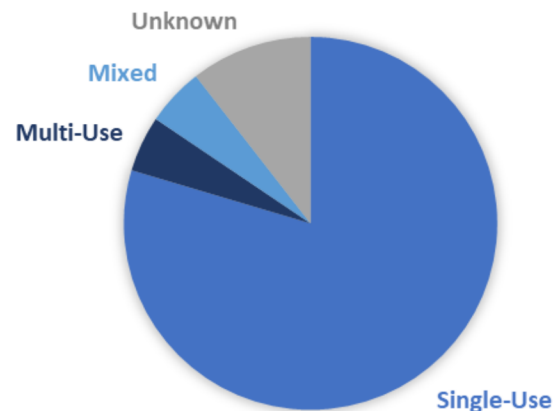


TRASH BY MATERIAL



Trash collected in 2022 by material.
50.19% was plastic.

TRASH BY USAGE TYPE



Trash collected in 2022 by usage type. Single-use is defined as materials produced for only one use. 79.6% of trash collected was single-use. Multi-use are materials produced for multiple uses. Some units usage type was unknown, while others could be either (mixed).

ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

15,916

Cigarette Butts

9,924

Plastic Bottles

9,690

Beverage Cans

6,573

Food Wrappers

5,690

Glass Bottles

3,687

Plastic Grocery Bags



UNIQUE FINDS

1950's Refrigerator

1960's TV

Rubber Bulldog Statue

Passport

Time Card Machine

Outrigger



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education and Messaging:

Rivers Alive cleanups continued to connect and educate citizens throughout Georgia on the importance of water quality. The 2022 theme, "River Rules," celebrated the 50 year anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Education posters were provided, which featured information about EPA regulations, a water filtration activity, and ways you can prevent non-point source pollution at home. Volunteers also received bookmarks featuring student art and poetry from Georgia River of Words. Quarterly e-newsletters were sent to organizers and sponsors with up-to-date news on the program and highlights.

Event Coordination and Outreach

Local organizers were provided with cleanup materials, including trash bags, field data forms, waivers, T-shirts, and COVID-19 cleanup guidelines. The 2021 Annual Awards Ceremony Luncheon was held at Park Tavern in person. This event recognized and celebrated cleanup groups, volunteers, and partners contributing to Rivers Alive cleanups in 2021. We had a small group for the first in-person event since COVID and used the outside event area for the first time.

Fundraising

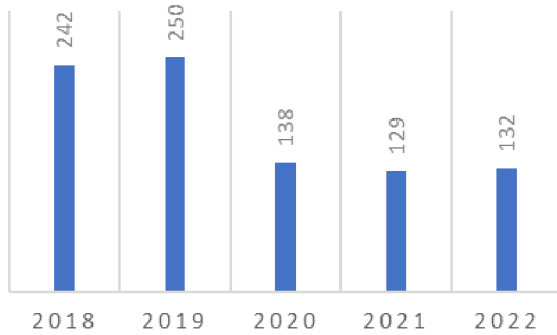
100% of T-shirt requests were fulfilled to support cleanup groups. Local sponsors also provided extra trash bags, gloves, first aid kits, and other materials to groups in their community. Additionally, some organizers procured food and other refreshments for their hard-working volunteers.

T-shirts

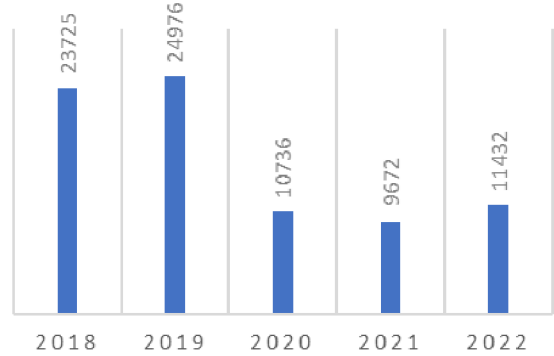
Rivers Alive T-shirts are our most coveted "thank you" to our volunteers. This year's design was created by Satisfactory Design in Athens, GA. Over 30,000 t-shirts were produced and distributed to volunteers.

THROUGH THE YEARS

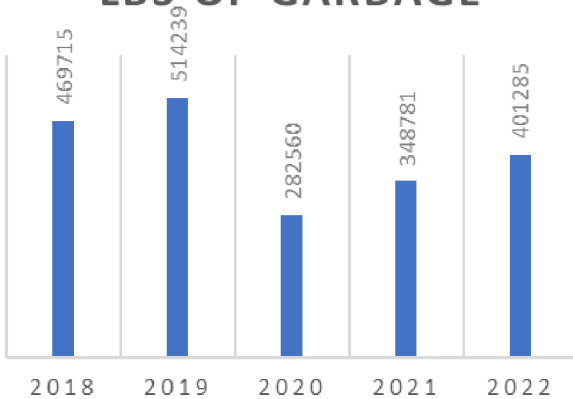
EVENTS



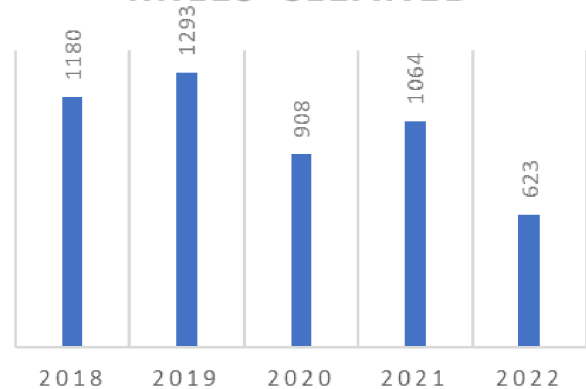
VOLUNTEERS



LBS OF GARBAGE



MILES CLEANED



FORT BENNING'S HELP THE HOOCH

"This years cleanup was a resurgence of interest in Help the Hooch for the Fort Benning community. We had participation from soldiers, along with volunteers from a variety of organizations. We even had a former

Garrison Commander participate in the cleanup! The community support for this years cleanup excited many people throughout Fort Benning's Environmental Management Division. Not only did the number of volunteers double from last year, but the amount of trash that was picked up doubled as well. The morale amongst volunteers was high throughout the cleanup. Many volunteers arrived at the cleanup eager and excited, and left the cleanup wanting to know the date of the next event. We're already thinking of ways to make next years event an even bigger success."

- Jasmine Truitt, Help the Hooch Event Coordinator



RIVER RULES



"This event is hugely successful and impactful! It is always well attended and allows us to really focus on protecting and preserving the resources we have while raising awareness about the need to protect them." - Stephanie Marquardt, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful

"The Sedalia Park Target class has sponsored a cleanup for close to 10 years. Each year a new group of students join together to take on our water responsibility. The children love this opportunity and often encourage their families to join." - Cheri Craft, Sedalia Park Target, Cobb County

**RIVERS ALIVE VOLUNTEERS
CONDUCTED A TOTAL OF
36,968 HOURS OF SERVICE IN
2022, WORTH OVER \$1.18
MILLION IN VOLUNTEER
DOLLARS!**



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

CELEBRATING OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Our Silver Jubilee, a quadranscentennial celebration! For 25 years, Rivers Alive has been uniting environmental stewards and cleanups across the state. An idea born in 1998 and fully launched in the fall of 1999, Rivers Alive is still *alive and kicking!*

Over the years, Rivers Alive has collected almost 12.5 million pounds of trash spanning over 36,600 miles and deployed hundreds of thousands of volunteers. Here's to another 25 years and thousands more cleanups!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SPONSORS

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER



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To learn more or to volunteer as an organizer,
participant, or sponsor please visit
RiversAlive.Georgia.gov



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