



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: [STATEWIDE CONTACT]
[ORGANIZATION]
[PHONE]**

Rivers Alive Cleanups Target Local Waterways

[AREA] VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN [AREA] WATERWAYS IN ANNUAL RIVER CLEANUP

[AREA], September 1, 2016-[AREA] area residents will wade into [AREA] rivers, lakes and coastal waters as part of the continuing statewide campaign to clean and preserve over 70,000 miles of Georgia’s rivers and streams. The effort will be part of Rivers Alive, a program of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The annual Georgia Waterway Cleanup is expected to once again be the largest single volunteer effort to beautify Georgia’s water resources.

Volunteers in [AREA] will stage their cleanup at [TIME] on [DATE] at the [EXACT LOCATION]. They will be joining an estimated 30,000 other volunteers statewide participating in the annual river cleanup. This fall over 200 cleanups will collect trash and similar debris in streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and the ocean from the Conasauga River in North Georgia to the St. Marys River in the South.

“[LOCAL ORGANIZER QUOTE]”, said [ORGANIZER, TITLE/LOCAL ORGANIZATION]. In addition to [LOCAL ORGANIZATION], [FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL ORGANIZATION], the cleanup in [AREA] will be sponsored by [LOCAL SPONSOR] and [LOCAL SPONSOR].

During the 2015 river cleanup more than 24,000 volunteers cleaned over 2,400 miles of waterways and removed over 417,000 pounds of trash and garbage including tires, plastic bottles, shopping carts and refrigerators from Georgia’s waterways, according to Harold Harbert, Outreach Manager with the Environmental Protection Division. Harbert expects Rivers Alive 2016 to involve thousands more volunteers and to continue to be one of the South’s largest waterway cleanup efforts.

Statewide sponsors providing generous financial support and assisting with local cleanups include: Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power, Southwire, Golder Associates, Brown and Caldwell, Sutherland, Anheuser-Busch, Jones Day, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Shaw Industries, Burns & McDonnell, Environmental Planning Specialists, Storm Water Systems, GE Power Systems, Black & Veatch, Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Alston & Bird LLP. Dozens of other local organizations will be sponsoring individual cleanups around the state.

To volunteer for the [AREA] cleanup, contact [LOCAL ORGANIZER] at [PHONE AND/OR WEBSITE]. For more information about efforts in other areas or the statewide campaign, call (404) 651-8514 or go to www.riversalive.org.