



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps to celebrate National Public Lands Day with river cleanup

WALLISVILLE, Texas - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Wallisville Lake Project Office invites volunteers to the 8th Annual Trinity River Cleanup, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, to celebrate National Public Lands Day, one of the largest annual coast-to-coast, single-day volunteer efforts to improve America's public lands.

Volunteers should meet at the Wallisville Lake Project Office, located at 20020 IH-10 East Feeder Road, in Wallisville, Texas, at 9 a.m. Cleanup events will last through noon.

"Last year, Hurricane Ike destroyed lives, property and the Wallisville Lake Project Office's ability to host National Public Lands Day," said Russell Malahy, a park ranger with the Galveston District. "This year's event will offer volunteers a variety of opportunities to assist with trash pickup along the banks of the Trinity River and Old River Lake, hands-on learning on how to care for Purple Martin houses, non-native aquatic vegetation removal or water hyacinth, visitor information center landscape improvements and other activities to beautify your public lands."

Volunteers are asked to wear sturdy, comfortable shoes or boots and clothing, hats; bug spray and sunscreen are optional depending upon weather conditions. Drinking water, gloves, trash bags, hand tools and litter picks will be provided by the project office.

"This year, we are making a special 'hail' call to our boating and waterfowl hunting community," said Malahy. "This special group of volunteers will help remove the aggressively growing non-native aquatic plant, water hyacinth."

"If you would like to participate in this special mission, we ask that you bring your hunting or fishing boat to help load up as much water hyacinth as you can safely handle in your vessel and bring it to a predetermined unloading site," said Malahy.

Our partner for this event, the Waterborne Education Center, will provide free hot dog and chip lunches for participating volunteers, according to Malahy. An awards and recognition ceremony will be held immediately following lunch.

This year's National Public Lands Day marks the 16th year this nationwide event has been held, bringing together thousands of volunteers to more than 900 registered sites. Volunteers build bridges and trails, plant stream banks, restore lakes and wetlands, remove invasive plants, improve wildlife habitat, repair cultural resources and recreational facilities and learn about the importance of public lands to the nation's environmental, economic and social health and about specific environmental issues facing local managers.

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has six registered sites in Texas this year.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call a Wallisville Lake Project Office park ranger, Russell Malahy or Ruth Millsaps, at (409) 389-2285. Visit the Galveston District Web site at www.swg.usace.army.mil or the National Public Lands Day Web site at www.publiclandsday.org.

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(Note: Traditionally, National Public Lands Day events are held the last Saturday of September. Due to inclement weather and a high cancellation rate, the Wallisville Lake Project Office has rescheduled the event date to Nov. 7.)