



Great American Clean Up

Volunteers from various communities participated in the nation's largest annual community improvement program, the "Great American Cleanup". These events are sponsored by Keep America Beautiful in partnership with the "Don't Mess With Texas" campaign, from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The cities of McAllen, Edinburg, Harlingen and Valley Proud Environmental Council all sponsored clean up events on April 2, 2005. Cities partnered with other entities such as the Boy Scouts, School Districts, etc. to gather volunteers for these events.



City of McAllen Clean Up Event



City of McAllen Clean Up Event



City of Harlingen Clean Up Event



City of Harlingen Clean Up Event



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Plastic Bottles by the Numbers

America's thirst for bottled water is dropping the overall plastic recycling rate. Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages, which includes alcohol, juices and soft drinks. Although plastic bottled water is the largest growth area in bottled beverages only about 12 percent were recycled in 2003. The recycling rate for plastic soft drinks is around 30 percent, but the overall rate is dropping mostly due to the boom for bottled water and low water bottle recycling. Three major reasons for recycling plastic bottles are 1) less petroleum is consumed, 2) the litter factor and 3) the plastic recycling industry faces a shortage because much of the recycled plastic is being exported to China. Recycling at homes and businesses, as well as educating the public are the best methods of dealing with this container waste.



National River Cleanup Week *May 14–22, 2005*

National River Cleanup Week is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise the public's awareness of the magnitude of trash accumulating in our nation's waterways.

Since 1992, more than 430,000 National Cleanup Week volunteers have participated in 4,180 cleanups covering more than 88,000 miles of waterways: Last year alone 47,706 volunteers representing 340 registered groups collected an estimated 1200+ tons of trash and debris. National River Cleanup Week traditionally occurs during the second or third week of May each year. It was originally conceived in 1991 by America Outdoors® in response to a recognition that America's streams and rivers were in need of cleaning due to the careless disposal of trash and other debris. National River Cleanup Week is sponsored nationally by America Outdoors with support from the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest service. For more information contact the National River Cleanup Week—PO Box 10847, Knoxville, TN 37939 Ph: (865) 558-3595 or go to their website www.nationalrivercleanup.com

National River Cleanup Week 2004 Results:

340 CLEANUPS
47,706 VOLUNTEERS
10,320 MILES OF WATERWAYS

In 2004 the groups collected 63 car bodies, 1667 tires, too many shopping carts to count, and an estimated 213 tons of trash.

Stormwater

Who causes water pollution? People like you and me! You see, when rain or water from garden hoses and sprinklers flows over our streets and yards, it carries pollutants into the storm drains; pollutants like motor oil, paints, grass clippings, and pet waste. In most places, whatever goes down a storm drain flows directly-without treatment into local creeks, streams and rivers, and eventually to the ocean, threatening water quality for humans and wildlife. You are the solution to water pollution! Recycling and properly disposing of paints & solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, used motor oil & oil filters, yard & grass clippings and Pet waste is the solution.



Coastal Water Quality Education & Outreach

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council has completed the Coastal Water Quality Education and Outreach Activities Plan as part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality contract #582-5-70806. The Plan lists three pollution prevention measures identified in the Texas Coastal Non-point Source Pollution Central Program that affect water quality problems in our area. These measures include 1) the improper storage, use and disposal of household hazardous chemicals, including automobile fluids, pesticides, paints, solvents, etc; 2) Lawn and garden activities, including the application and disposal of lawn and garden products and the improper disposal of leaves and yard trimmings; and 3) Improper operation and maintenance of onsite disposal systems. Copies of the Activities Plan or outreach material are available at the LRGVDC office upon request. Please call our Environmental Department for more information.



Port of Mansfield Closed Landfill



Raymondville Closed Landfill

LRGVDC Finalizes Closed Landfill Inventory

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) has completed the Closed Landfill Inventory (CLI) and is in the process of identifying some unauthorized sites included in the CLI. Many of these sites will be deleted from the inventory because they have already been identified as closed landfills or insufficient information as to the location of the site was available. The Closed Landfill Inventory will be included as part of the LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Plan Amendment and has already been submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for approval and adoption. Both the CLI and Plan Amendment are available at the LRGVDC office and will be available on the LRGVDC web page once adopted by TCEQ.

Curbside Recycling

The City of McAllen is the only city in the region providing curbside recycling to its residents. Curbside recycling services began in 1994. The LRGVDC provided partial funding for its first demonstration project which included providing recycling bins to some multi-family units and education material on recycling. The City of McAllen's Recycling has progressed tremendously and has been recognized by the State as the first City in Texas to provide curbside recycling. The City is coordinating recycling efforts with other entities such as the City of San Juan, PSJA School District, Sharyland School District, City of Mission, McAllen School District and the Border Patrol. Recycling materials include cardboard, plastic, paper, aluminum cans, and tin.



Drop-off Recycling

Drop-off Recycling is provided by many local communities for its residents, accepting general materials such as paper, plastic, aluminum cans, etc. Some of the Drop-off sites are:

Alamo Recycling
423 N. Tower Rd.
Alamo, Texas
787-8321

Edinburg Recycling
3102 S. Highway
Edinburg, Texas
383-7515

San Juan Recycling
500 W. 1st Street
San Juan, Texas
702-6945

McAllen Recycling
4101 N. Bentsen
McAllen, Texas
688-3266

Harlingen Recycling
1006 S. Commerce
Harlingen, Texas
427-8824

Weslaco Recycling
Mile 5 & Border Ave.
Weslaco, Texas

La Feria Recycling
Dodd Ln & La Feria St.
La Feria, Texas
797-2261

Willacy County Recycling
3 Miles S. Highway 77
Raymondville, Texas
689-3393

Resource & Information Center

The LRGVDC's Resource and Information Center is open to the public. It provides information on topics relating to Colonia Data, Environmental Resources, Solid Waste Information and Census Data. You are welcomed to any information the Center has by contacting the Planning Department at (956) 682-3481.

Topics

- Solid Waste Management Composting Methodology
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Re-buy
- Water Quality, US & Mexico and Water Conservation
- Environmental Resources
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Flood Insurance
- Educational Data
- Colonia and Rural Development Data



LRGVDC Resource and Information Center



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Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Members

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee consists of 25 voting members and over 20 non-voting members. The Committee reflects a broad range of interests in solid waste management. Members include representatives from public sector (county, city, etc.), private sector group, educational group, environmental group and private citizen group. The non-voting membership includes TCEQ representatives and any interested individuals from cities, private, county, citizens, etc. The main objective of the SWAC is to deal with regional issues concerning solid waste management.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Voting Members

Arturo Guajardo, Chairman	Frank Bejarano, Cameron County	Roy Quintero, Hidalgo County	Simon Salinas, Willacy County Judge
David Ivory, Brownsville	Miranda Key, Harlingen	Elvira Alonso, McAllen	Ramiro Gomez, Vice-Chairman
John Avilez, San Juan	Don Medina, Pharr	Juan Flores, Weslaco	Alicia Baldovinos, Port Isabel
Darla Jones, La Feria	Luciano Ozuna, Jr., Alamo	Al Gonzalez, Private Sector	John Dick, Private Sector
Jessica R. Gomez, Private Sector	David Cooper, Private Sector	Esteban Gonzalez, Education	Laura Maxwell, Environmental
Deborah Cox, Environmental	Darrell Mangham, Private Citizen	David Winstead, Los Fresnos Mayor	Hector J. Lopez, Port of Brownsville