



FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER

Willow Street Estuary July 24th, 2021

Finally our CleanUp has reached Long Beach! Last weekend volunteers joined us at a very unique stretch of river. At Willow Street Estuary, the LA River meets the Pacific Ocean. This is where the impact of our volunteer efforts all comes home - our Long Beach cleanups are our last chance to intervene and remove unwanted waste and harmful plastics from riparian and marine habitats. So far we have all together removed +26,500 lbs of trash of all shapes and sizes from cigarette butts to discarded television sets. Big shout out to Long Beach Conservation Corps and the City of Long Beach Clean Team for coordinating this cleanup with us to ensure it can be as impactful as possible. The Great LA River CleanUp would not be possible without the support of our agency partners or our dedicated sponsors. Let's finish CleanUp strong with our final weekend at Golden Shore Marine Reserve.

This volunteer is prepared for riparian cleanup with waders and grabbers (L), Weird items like this computer hard drive are commonly found in the LA River (Center), volunteers sporting their REI gaiter (R).





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Cleaning up in a riverbed full of sunflowers (L), CleanUps are great for corporate volunteers looking to contribute to our mission to keep the River clean (R).

BY THE NUMBERS

- 218 total volunteers, (1,448 vols over seven weeks)
- 425 bags of trash, (3,598 total over seven weeks)
- Weird items: Christmas lights, five shopping carts, an AC condenser, a television and a horse saddle.
- Wildlife on-site: Canadian geese, black-necked stilts, song sparrows, red-winged blackbirds, and a turtle!

+26,500 lbs of trash removed from the LA River

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FoLAR Board Member Ed Othmer, from Stantec, pulled his weight at Willow Street.

Thank You Stantec

We were happy to welcome Ed Othmer to our cleanup this weekend. Ed is a FoLAR Board Member and Stantec's Vice President, Sector Leader of Stormwater and Wet Weather Flow. We're grateful for Stantec's financial support of our cleanups and all the insights and leadership Ed brings to our board as we continue to plan for and advocate for a LA River that is resilient to climate change and equitably accessible to all Angelenos.

Special Thanks to Returning Volunteers

One thing incredibly special about our yearly cleanups is seeing volunteers who have been with us for the long haul. Some volunteer families and groups have attended cleanup for years - if not decades! - and it is not lost on us that your continued support fuels cleanup and propels the River Movement. Last year's inability to conduct cleanup deprived us our yearly meetup - but seeing you again has been a true reminder that River Movement is impossible without volunteers. Go Team River!



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CleanUp powers FoLAR's work year round!
With sponsor support we work to:

- Restore 110 acres of river wildlife preserve with invasive species removal.
- Protect urban riparian habitat for 1,200 species of wildlife.
- Generate 600 public comments to public agencies on impactful environmental policy.
- Advocate for 51 miles of river that serves our need for climate resiliency.
- Connect 3000 Title I students a year to nature in an outdoor or virtual classroom experience on the banks of the LA River.



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