



FRIENDS OF THE LA RIVER

The 31st Annual Great LA River CleanUp Summer 2021

It's been a long, hot summer, but thanks to the hard work and sweat of our volunteers, we've left the LA River a better place than we found it two months ago. Thanks to all of you, we've done our parts together on the banks of the Los Angeles River. Our 31st year of CleanUp looked a bit different than our previous thirty - but that doesn't mean we were any less dedicated to the crucial work of protecting our urban waterway by removing harmful plastics, unsightly waste, shopping carts, and more from the River. All together from the headwaters to the mouth of the River 2,034 volunteers removed 35,925 lbs of trash. This report covers our summer-long efforts and calculates our cumulative impact. Thank you once again for being a Friend of the Los Angeles River.

Volunteers maintained social distancing and proper mask protocol in the river. (Willow Street Estuary)





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Haskell Creek



Bond Park



Golden Shore Marine Reserve

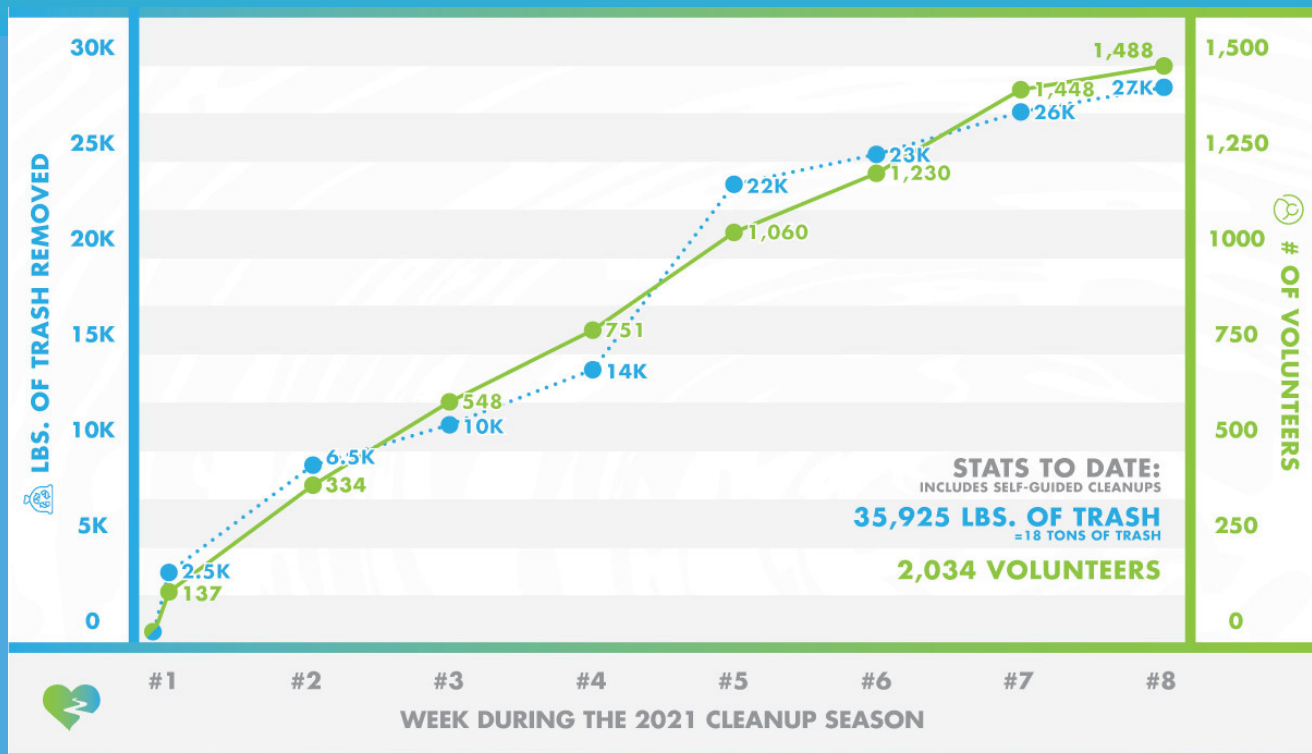
From the headwaters to the mouth of the LA River

Our new cleanup model allowed us to cover more surface area of the LA River than was possible during previous years. Here are the sites from San Fernando Valley all the way downstream to Long Beach where our volunteers pulled their weight for our waterway.

1. Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex
2. Bull Creek
3. Haskell Creek
4. Sepulveda Basin South Reserve
5. Bette Davis Picnic Area
6. Glendale Narrows Riverwalk
7. Bond Park
8. Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park
9. Elysian Valley Gateway Park
10. Steelhead Park
11. Compton Creek
12. Willow Street Estuary
13. Golden Shore Marine Reserve



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CleanUp at a Glance

- 38 Shopping carts removed from the LA River!
- 522 Self-Guided CleanUp participants and 24 Source to Sea Scholars logged their cleanup efforts throughout the county. They joined our 40 Golden Shore Marine Reserve volunteers in this week's final tally.
- All sites bio-monitored to inspect for bird nesting and evidence of any migratory birds. We pride ourselves in respecting the river's ecology.
- Site specific impact reports are online at: folar.org/cleanupimpact
- Stay tuned for a video of our cleanup impact coming out this month!

2,034 volunteers removed
+35,925 lbs of trash from the LA River

SPONSOR SHOUT OUT

Thanks to all our sponsors who brought teams to CleanUp in 2021





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Thank You River Champs

One of the great honors of hosting the largest urban river cleanup in the nation is that we are proud to welcome river lovers who represent FoLAR and our supporters in the halls of government at the city, state, and federal levels. This year we were proud to welcome Congressman Jimmy Gomez (top) to Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park. He shared messages of encouragement with our supporters and drew the direct link to how our support of the LA River actively cares for an ecosystem crucial to building resilience in the face of climate change. Newly elected Councilmember Nithya Raman (center) joined us at our Bette Davis Picnic Area site, and supported our event by partnering with us to co-host the site. Finally, Assemblymember Mike Gipson (bottom) stopped by Compton Creek and presented FoLAR with a certificate of recognition for our cleanup efforts. One thing is for sure - these representatives aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and do the dirty work with us. Our river is better for having these representatives working on behalf of the LA River and in alignment with FoLAR.

We also rely on our local Neighborhood Councils throughout the watershed to conduct our CleanUp. Special thanks to Lake Balboa, Encino, and Atwater Village Neighborhood Councils for their enduring financial and boots on the ground support.



CleanUp powers FoLAR's work year round!

With sponsor support we work to:



- Protect urban riparian habitat for 1,200 species of wildlife by restoring open spaces and removing invasive plant species.
- Advocate for 51 miles of river that serves our need for climate resiliency.
- Connect 3,000 Title I students a year to nature in an outdoor or virtual classroom.

To join the River Movement and sponsor FoLAR's 2022 CleanUp contact:
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