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Dive Volunteers

What is the Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup?

The Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup began in 1994 as an informal gathering of divers in the Lake Travis area who turned their recreational diving ventures into a small-scale cleanup effort. Due to the popularity of the program, the LCRA and the Colorado River Foundation became involved a few years later to help facilitate boat support and proper waste disposal. Keep Austin Beautiful and Travis County joined as partners shortly thereafter to add a shoreline cleanup component, maximizing the impact of having hundreds of volunteers ready and willing to make a difference.

In recent years, we have added a post-cleanup celebration and lunch complete with a DJ, t-shirts and door prizes to properly thank volunteers for a job well done. The Lake Travis Underwater & Shoreline Cleanup has grown in size and scope each year, attracting more volunteers, garnering more media attention and securing more in-kind support from local area businesses.

How do I volunteer?

Volunteers are invited to participate in the Cleanup as a dive volunteer, shoreline volunteer or party volunteer. Dive volunteers must be certified divers and provide their own tanks and equipment.

Volunteer registration will open in early August, so check back soon for more information and the [link to register](#). HURRY! There are a limited number of volunteer positions. Also, you'll want to register early to secure your preferred site.

All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, lunch and the chance to win a great door prize at the Volunteer Party at The Oasis after the Cleanup.

Why volunteer?

Lake Travis is one of the state's most important water reservoirs. As part of the Colorado River and Highland Lakes, Lake Travis provides vital water supply for drinking and municipal use, wildlife habitat, electrical power generation, irrigation, industrial production, recreational enjoyment and a thriving tourism industry. As well, the health of our coastal estuaries and bays depends on a healthy flow of water from fresh water sources like the Colorado River as do the numerous fish and wildlife that call the River home.

The ongoing historic drought has exacerbated the problem of limiting the amount of water in Lake Travis. Due to the drought of 2011 lake levels have gone as low as 626 feet, a staggering 55 feet below maximum capacity, making it the third lowest level ever. The decrease in water gives way to an increase in exposed shoreline and shallower waters, which also reveals the amount of trash and debris that is hidden beneath the surface. Much of the litter we take away from the lake each year are is the result of preventable actions.

The Lake Travis Underwater & Shoreline Cleanup not only helps to monitor the current health of the water and keep this precious resource clean, but also acts as a venue to spread the message of responsible resource protection and environmental stewardship to thousands in the area each year.

What are the volunteer times/shifts?

Volunteers are invited to participate in the Cleanup as a dive volunteer, shoreline volunteer or party volunteer. Shifts are dependent upon the type of volunteer and position requested. Shift requirements will be specified in position description when registering. However, you can expect to work as follows:

Dive Volunteer: 3 hours (8:00-11a.m.)

Shoreline Volunteer: 2 hours (9:00-11a.m.)

Party Volunteer: 3 hours (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 10:30-1:30p.m.)

Where is the Volunteer Thank You party?

The Oasis
6550 Comanche Trail Austin, Texas 78732
512-266-2442

How do I get my T-shirt?

T-shirts will be distributed at the Thank You party. Be sure to select your size and quantity required during your registration.

Can I volunteer for an underwater dive position if I am not certified?

No. Dive volunteers must be certified divers and provide their own tanks and equipment.

Where are the shoreline cleanup sites?

Arkansas Bend Park

From Highway 183, take FM 1431 south 11 miles to Lohmans Ford Road. Turn left on Lohmans Ford Road and travel 4 1/2 miles to Sylvester Ford Road. Turn left on Sylvester Ford Road and travel 1 1/2 miles to the park entrance.

Bob Wentz at Windy Point Park

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, take RR 620 south 1.3 miles to Comanche Trail. Turn right on Comanche Trail and travel 3.1 miles. Park entrance is on your left.

Cypress Creek Park

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, take FM 2222 (Bullick Hollow Road) west 2 miles. The park entrance is on your left, just before the intersection of Bullick Hollow Road and FM 2769 (Old Anderson Mill Road).

Low Water Crossing

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, take RR 620 south 3.7 miles to Low Water Crossing Road (just below Mansfield Dam) travel north again and take the first road to the right which leads to the low water crossing.

Hippie Hollow

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, take RR 620 south 1.3 miles to Comanche Trail. Turn right on Comanche Trail and travel 2 miles. Park entrance is on your left.

Mansfield Dam Park

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, travel south 4.9 miles. Turn right onto Mansfield Dam Road, just south of Mansfield Dam. The park entrance is on your left.

Mansfield Dam Overlook

Please follow the same instructions as Mansfield Dam Park, except don't turn right onto Mansfield Dam Road, continue straight until you reach the overlook.

Pace Bend Park

From the intersection of RR 620 and Hwy. 71, take Hwy. 71 west 11 miles to RR 2322 (Pace Bend Park Road).

Turn right on RR 2322 and travel 4.6 miles to park entrance.

Sandy Creek Park

From the intersection of RR 620 and FM 2222, take FM 2222 (Bullick Hollow Road) west 2 1/2 miles to FM 2769. Turn left onto FM 2769 and travel 4 miles to the town of Volente. In Volente, turn right onto Lime Creek Road and follow Lime Creek Road 6 miles to the park entrance. Park entrance is on the left.

Will the parks charge an entrance fee?

Travis County has waived fees for all volunteers on the day of the event. Mention that you are a member of the Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup for free access to the park.

Where do I get my cleanup supplies?

Cleanup supplies will be provided by the site leader at your designated park. After arriving at the park you will receive gloves, trash grabbers, trash/recycle bags, and any other event supplies after you sign and turn in your liability form.

Where can I find past results?

Past results can be found at <http://www.keeperpaustinbeautiful.org/underwater>

Where can I find photos of the event?

Past photos can be found at KAB's [Facebook](#) and [Flickr pages](#). Please allow 1-2 weeks for this year's photos to be compiled and uploaded.

Can I submit photos of my cleanup site/group?

Yes! We encourage any and all photos to be submitted to our dropbox account. Please email your desire to upload photos to cora@keeperpaustinbeautiful.org . Once the email is received, the directions and link to the dropbox folder will be shared with you.

Where can I get updates for the cleanup?

You can find updates at either of the following sites, <http://www.laketraviscleanup.org/> or <http://www.keeperpaustinbeautiful.org/underwater>. You may also sign up for KAB's monthly newsletter to keep updated about the Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup and other exciting volunteer opportunities.