

Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



Behind the Scenes at the Trash-Off

KIB recently held its annual spring cleanup, the “Don’t Mess with Texas Trash-Off,” where 213 volunteers gathered at Trinity View Park with the common goal of making our community cleaner and greener. The event was a big success, and ran quite smoothly, but what you might not realize is that a lot of work goes in to making that happen. Months of planning take place, starting with reserving the location and date with the Parks Department, requesting a roll-off container from Solid Waste Services, setting up online registration and promoting the event through traditional and social media outlets.

As volunteers arrive at the park, their first stop is the sign-in table, staffed with seasoned KIB veterans Elouise McMillian, Nancy Medina, Meg Mueller and Lisa Ross. This team made sure that everyone had the proper signed release forms, then directed them to the supply tables. A mix of North Lake College Phi Theta Kappa and Service Learning students distributed vests, gloves, trash and recycle bags, and litter pickers to the cleanup crews. They were then sent to the first aid area where KIB Board member Scott Wilson gave them instructions and a safety speech. As the volunteers were cleaning up throughout the park, Code Officer Luz Zavala, assisted by Cary Birdwell, drove the roadways and collected full bags of trash or recyclables and delivered them to the collection area. At the end of the cleanup, volunteers were treated to a hot dog lunch, prepared and served by another veteran team made up of several city employee volunteers, led by Code Manager



This is a popular group every year at the “Don’t Mess with Texas Trash-Off,” the food service team that feeds our hungry volunteers.

Mike Edwards. Perennial sponsor Frito-Lay provided chips, as they have for many years at KIB events, and the presence of several other sponsors was evident - and the banner made and donated by FASTSIGNS Irving/Las Colinas included them all. Verizon sent a hard-working employee team who not only collected litter, but were actively tweeting and posting pictures on social media. Kroger provided a gift card as one of the prizes, and the Rambler Newspaper interviewed volunteers for a future story. But there are many sponsors who were behind the scenes, such as Vizient, Xylem, Irving Family YMCA, North Lake College, and the Burb magazine, who support KIB programs throughout the year. On behalf of the Keep Irving Beautiful Board and staff, we thank these sponsors, city departments, and all of our volunteers for the great work they do.

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Did You Know?

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off engages Texans in a variety of activities to help keep our state clean, and is also part of the Great American Cleanup. The statewide results from 2016 were:

- 1,359 events
- 34,191 volunteers
- 3,957 miles of road cleaned
- 1.5 million pounds of litter collected

The nationwide Great American Cleanup results (March 1 - May 31) were:

- 40,000 community events
- 5.4 million volunteers
- 100,000 miles of road and shoreline
- 62 million pounds of litter and debris



One of many volunteers who helped keep things running smoothly was North Lake Service Learning student Ami Suzuki (above), who distributed supplies like the yellow safety vests.

Save the Date for Irving Night at AirHogs Park

June 9 will be Irving Night at the Texas AirHogs Stadium in Grand Prairie as the AirHogs host the Wichita Wingnuts in an American Association of Professional Baseball Game. Not only will you see some great baseball, but Keep Irving Beautiful will receive a donation with every ticket purchased online when you use the code **IRVING** (all caps). Walk-up purchases will also be credited if you mention Irving Night when you buy your tickets. Game time is 7:05 p.m., but get there early to see City Manager Chris Hillman take the mound to throw out the first pitch. Come out to represent Irving and help Keep Irving Beautiful hit a home run with this fundraiser! To purchase tickets, go to:

<http://www.airhogsbaseball.com/home/> or scan the QR code below to link directly to the ticket website. Start by entering the code IRVING in the “Special Offer Code” box, and hit submit. Then be sure to enter the number of tickets you want to purchase in the “City of Irving/KIB Night” box. The tickets are \$12 each, and KIB will receive \$3 for each ticket purchased using this code.

It should be a great night at the ball park, and KIB thanks you for your support!



Be sure to use the code **IRVING** when you purchase your box seat tickets for the June 9th game between the Texas AirHogs and the Wichita Wingnuts.

