



Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



Trash Bash Much More Than a Cleanup

Keep Irving Beautiful recently held another successful Trash Bash, the 26th annual, which was also a part of National Public Lands Day. On the surface, events like this may seem to be just “picking up trash,” but at KIB, we try to make them much more than that by offering a variety of educational and entertaining options for the volunteers to experience. A total of 419 volunteers came to T.W. Richardson Grove Park on the beautiful Saturday morning of September 30, to join in the common cause of keeping litter out of the nearby Elm Fork of the Trinity River. After collecting 760 pounds of trash and 1,440 pounds of recyclables, volunteers were treated to a lunch of hamburgers, a choice of beef or veggie, prepared by City of Irving employees who have volunteered their time and talent for several years as the cook team. Along with the burgers, our friends at Frito-Lay once again provided the chips. Volunteers also had the opportunity to visit a variety of vendors and exhibitors, who helped turn the event into more than a cleanup. These included perennial favorites Jon Halsey with a vast collection of artifacts and fossils collected from the area over many decades, and Barry Allen with his reptiles, including a very popular tortoise. New to the event were Parker Wellness Clinic with interns providing complimentary posture screenings, and Nissan North America, who brought their electric vehicle, the Leaf. The Water Utilities Department returned for a second year, and had a table with spinning wheel and prizes, along with cold water for the



Members of the University of Dallas Men's Lacrosse Team (above) were among the 419 volunteers at the 26th Annual Trash Bash.

thirsty volunteers. The Verizon Green Team not only helped with the litter pickup, but also distributed 300 swag bags to the volunteers. The event was also a canned food drive to benefit Crisis Ministries Food Pantry, with 539 cans of food donated. The event ran smoothly from the start, thanks to the efforts of the Singley Police Explorers, who volunteered their time directing traffic and helping with parking. As always, our sign-in team was very efficient in checking volunteers and guiding them to the supplies and safety stations. Thanks also to Solid Waste Services for providing roll-offs and weighing the bags that were collected.

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Did You Know?

KIB was not the only affiliate to hold a “Trash Bash” or similar cleanup event in Texas this fall. The 406 Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) affiliates throughout our great state have put up some impressive numbers during the 2016-7 year, as recently reported by KTB:

- Volunteers: 111,399
- Hours: 556,995
- Audience reached: 21 million
- Pounds of litter collected: 5 million
- Pounds electronic waste: 305,969
- Trees planted: 1,084
- Community gardens created: 294

KIB is proud to be a part of this affiliate network. Together we can do great things.



Singley Academy Police Explorers helped control the traffic and guide Trash Bash volunteers to parking.

Trees, Trees, Trees, This Fall

Keep Irving Beautiful is very tree-focused this fall, which is the ideal time for planting trees here in Texas. As a Keep America Beautiful affiliate in good standing, KIB is eligible to apply for certain grants from corporate partners. One of those partners is the UPS Foundation, and for the fourth consecutive year, KIB received one of their \$5,000 Tree Planting grants, and purchased a variety of native trees with those funds. On October 19, UPS employee volunteers planted 31 trees at Sam Houston Trail Park and 10 trees at T.W. Richardson Grove, which replaced those lost to flooding and high winds. The trees were a mix of bald cypress, cedar elm and bur oak, and will be enjoyed by park visitors for many years to come. A second tree planting project is on the schedule for November 4 with the “Loving Our City” group from Calvary Church. Through a generous donation from the Verizon company, the Calvary volunteers, assisted by North lake College Service Learning students, will plant a variety of trees at Wyche Park. The annual Arbor Day celebration with The Irving ISD, KIB and the Parks Department, will take place at T.J. Lee Elementary, the top paper recycler in the district, and they will plant a tree on the school ground. With all these projects, a big thank you goes to our Parks Department, who prepares the area for planting, instructs the volunteers in proper planting techniques, and takes care of the tree maintenance after they are planted.



UPS employee volunteers planted 41 trees at Sam Houston Trail and T.W. Richardson Grove Parks on October 19.

