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The San Diego River Park Foundation's Annual Kayak Clean-up A Success

Volunteers remove over two tons (4,000 lbs) of trash from the Estuary



Photos by Pat Rice

San Diego, CA (January 10, 2023) - Once a year, the San Diego River Park Foundation gets special permits to take kayakers out into the water at the San Diego Estuary (where the river meets the ocean near Ocean Beach). The organization carefully coincides this event with the [King Tides](#), and to avoid the nesting season for specific endangered species, such as the [Light-footed Ridgeway Rail](#). This year's event took place last weekend with support from more than 75 Green & Clean community clean-up volunteers, working on kayakers and onshore, collectively removing over two tons of trash.

Removing trash from the river is vital to the San Diego River Park Foundation's efforts to preserve a clean and healthy river. Everything from utensils, straws, cups, tennis balls, shoes, pizza cartons, you name it - was pulled out of the river. Much of the pollution removed washed downstream into this important wildlife area during the recent rain storm making it a crucial time to maximize restoration and clean-up efforts. On a bright note, volunteers reported fewer plastic bags than in years passed, likely due to recent bans on plastic bags in San Diego County.

Since 2004, San Diego River Park Foundation team members and volunteers have removed more than three million pounds of trash from the River! In 2022, over 100 Tons (200,000 lbs) of trash were removed through our Clean & Community clean-up events.

You can get involved! On Saturdays throughout the year, volunteers gather to help create a healthier, cleaner, safer San Diego River Park system. Not only is this a great way to give back to the community and improve the health of the River, but this is also a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

For dates, times, and meeting locations for upcoming clean-up events, please visit our calendar: <https://sandiegoriver.galaxydigital.com/need/>

About The San Diego River Park Foundation

The San Diego River Park Foundation's mission is to engage people to work toward a better future for the historic San Diego River and create a 52-mile river parkway from the mountains to the ocean. The San Diego River Park Foundation is a non-profit community-based organization founded in 2001 that believes the San Diego River has incredible potential as a cultural, ecological, and recreational treasure for our region.

To learn more, visit: <https://sandiegoriver.org/>

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