

March 19, 2012

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Jump in with both feet and volunteer to beautify Burleson on April 21 during the Great American Cleanup/Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off.

The event is 9 a.m.-11 a.m. It is citywide. A free thank-you lunch complete with door prizes will follow at 11 a.m. at Warren Park on Johnson Avenue.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Volunteers who are younger than 18 must be supervised by an adult. Volunteers will be removing litter and debris from retail corridors, residential drainage channels and streets.

This event is part of the Great American Cleanup national campaign organized by Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off organized by Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation. The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas' signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest community improvement program, taking place annually from March 1 through May 31. During Burleson's 2011 event, 70 volunteers contributed 200 service hours and removed 1,000 pounds of trash.

Also in 2011, 1,905 Great American Cleanup events were hosted, with more than 90,000 volunteers contributing 417,448 hours in 912 communities across the state. More than 6 million pounds of trash were collected and recycling events collected more than 1.2 million pounds of electronics, 34,340 pounds of batteries, and 71,439 tires. Over 8 million pounds of paper, 845,894 pounds of plastic and 2.3 million pounds of metal were also collected. Additionally, awareness events and workshops were held, graffiti was abated, buildings were painted and repaired or removed, community gardens, flowers and trees were planted and illegal dump sites were cleaned.

To sign up as a volunteer and get your site assignment for the April 21 Texas Trash-Off in Burleson, call Environmental Programs Specialist Bianca Chafin at 817-426-9842 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 19.