Town of Riverdale Park Earth Day Clean-Ups 2017-2020

The Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) has collaborated with the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) in 2017, 2018, and 2019 to host sites for their annual Earth Day clean-ups. Combined with over 30 other sites that participate in the Maryland counties of Prince Georges and Montgomery as well as within Washington D.C., this regional effort removes trash and other debris impacting the environmental health of the watershed. TRP selected sites because of their proximity to the North Branch of the Anacostia River. TRP provided staff support to pick up supplies from AWS as well as providing additional supplies for volunteers (e.g. tables for volunteer sign in, gloves, grab sticks, and snacks). Each year the town promoted the event in the Town Crier. Between 30 and 45 volunteers participated each year. Student volunteers earned community service hours for participating.

In 2017, the Town hosted a site along the North Branch of the Anacostia River in Anacostia River Park along Tanglewood Drive (5671 Tanglewood Dr, Riverdale Park, MD 20737). The Town published an article about the event in the <u>April 2017 edition of the Town Crier</u>. Volunteers collected 50 bags of trash, various bulk items, and 57 bags of recyclables. The most unusual find was a foosball table.







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In 2018, as advertised by TRP in the <u>March</u> and <u>April</u> 2018 Town Crier newsletters, volunteers again cleaned up Tanglewood Park. For 2018 AWS asked for a focus on collecting plastic straws. Volunteers collected a small bucketful of straws, 50 bags of trash, 60 bags of recyclables, and various bulk items. The most unusual find award was for "Abigale", a two-foot tall, doll-like, plug-in, holiday decoration.









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In 2019, the Anacostia Watershed Society was celebrating their 30-year anniversary of Earth Day Clean-ups. Another crew of dedicated volunteers tackled the woods behind Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowl along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River (6322 Kenilworth Ave, Riverdale Park, MD 20737). The 2019 Earth Day Clean Up was advertised by TRP in the April 2019 Town Crier newsletter beforehand and celebrated afterwards in the May 2019 Town Crier. Twenty-eight volunteers collected 30 bags of trash, 48 bags of recyclables, an estimated 400 pounds of bulk items, 24 tires of various sizes, and much more! Sponsors and partners who made this event possible included: AWS, Riverdale Park Sustainability Committee, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Rinaldi's Riverdale Bowl, Denizens Brewing Co., and Riverdale Park Farmers Market Inc. The most unusual find was competitive between eight bowling balls, two mermaid dolls, a fish tank, and a cell phone. But the winner was the complete set of ju-jitsu pads and equipment.





The 2020 clean-up has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and is currently scheduled to be held from 9:00 am to noon at Riverside Neighborhood Park (Riverside Dr, Riverdale, MD 20737) on Saturday, October 3. The Town of Riverdale Park is fortunate to have so much beautiful green space and we will continue to work to keep it clean!