

October 2010

## TCA's "Rivers Alive" pulls out over 8 tons of trash and recyclables

On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 2, 280 volunteers – white, black, Asian and Hispanic ranging from middle school children to gray-haired seniors – joined forces in Tucker to clean up a portion of South Fork Peachtree Creek heavily abused by dumping and litter. In just three hours they pulled out over eight tons of trash and recyclables.

This was the third annual "Rivers Alive" project sponsored by Tucker Civic Association. The volunteers came from churches, neighborhood associations, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Tucker Middle School and Tucker High School students.

Teams of volunteers spread out at 9:15 a.m., some into the ankle-deep creek, some working on the grassy buffers above the creek. By noon, they had collected 82 tires, 38 different car parts, three sofas, three chairs, 450 glass bottles, a vacuum cleaner, lawn mower, carpet cleaner, a bicycle and bike tires, a computer, refrigerator, a toilet seat, a television, 7 paint cans, 2 guns, and three feet of gutters, plus 55 bags of recyclables.

The volunteers met at 8:30 a.m. at the staging area at Macy's Warehouse on Sarr Parkway and were treated to a breakfast of fruit, bagels, chicken biscuits and juice. Following the clean up, there was a celebration party at Drayton Woods Recreation Club with pizza, live music by local Tucker talents Zach Whiteis and Donna Hopkins, and a drawing for prizes including a digital camera and gift cards to area restaurants and retail stores.

Reflecting on the day, TCA's project coordinator Pam McNall said, "This was the third year in a row that TCA has had a huge success cleaning out this specific Tucker waterway. To see hundreds of people come out on a Saturday morning to clean trash out of a creek is truly inspiring. When we started 3 years ago, the oxygen level in the creek was so low, there was almost no sign of life. Now, we see minnows, crawfish, turtles, frogs, and predatory birds such as Great Horned Owls. Our 'Rivers Alive' initiative has brought people from

many different organizations together to build community spirit, and now we are proving that community spirit can directly affect our local environment.”

Individuals and groups that contributed to TCA’s “Rivers Alive” project include; A-1 Driveway Replacement, ARC Medical, Inc., Fabrication & Welding Services, Inc., First Baptist Church Tucker, Handy Ace Hardware, H.B. Fuller, Matthews Cafeteria, Pilgrim Mat Services, Rep. Kevin Levitas, Senator Steve Henson, Tucker Optimist Club, Vulcan Material Co., Chick-fil-A Northlake Mall, Chick-fil-A Tucker Station, Chick-fil-A Druid Hills DTO, Coca Cola, Kingdom Investment Ministry, McDonald’s Tucker, My Brother’s Keeper, Riverside Pizza, St. John Holiness Church, Starbucks Tucker, Stevi B’s Pizza, The Bagel Palace & Deli, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Aldo’s Italian Restaurant, Best Buy Northlake, Brusters Tucker, Cofer Brothers, Delta Graphics, Donna Hopkins Band, Drayton Woods Recreation Club, Enzo’s Pizza, Firehouse Subs, Five Guys Burgers & Fries, Kroger-Tucker, Macy’s Logistics & Operations, Michael’s Northlake, Moe’s Hugh Howell Road, My Brother’s Keeper, New World Graphics, Old Navy, Oldcastle Precast, Rayna Rasmussen Photography, Rita’s Italian Ice, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sam’s Club #6409, Sangria’s Mexican Café, Sheridan’s Frozen Custard, Sonic Drive-In Tucker, Stone Mountain Park, Taqueria Los Hermanos, tahCha Tea House, Toys-R-Us Northlake, Tucker Flower Shop, Walgreens Tucker, Walmart #2584, and Zach Whiteis.

“Rivers Alive” is promoted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources each October to encourage local residents to clean up area waterways.

For a photo gallery and more information on Tucker Civic Association’s 2010 “Rivers Alive” project, visit [www.tuckercivic.org](http://www.tuckercivic.org).