

The Great Texas River Clean Up

2 Days, One River (the San Marcos River)

36th Annual - February 27 AND March 6, 2021

The 2021 Great Texas River Cleanup (San Marcos River)

From the San Marcos River Retreat downstream (all the way to Palmetto Park - if we can) will be held on February 27. The date for the downstream cleanup was rescheduled due to a conflict with the Buffalo Bayou race in Houston which is set for March 6th.

The City of San Marcos will still hold their portion of the cleanup, walking the banks of the watershed and the sections of river within the city limits on Saturday, March 6th. Those who would like to participate in the upper San Marcos portion of the annual clean up should visit the watershed map (<http://bit.ly/GTRCU-MAP-2021>) and select one of the available watershed locations or contact Keep San Marcos Beautiful at 512.393.8419 or akirwin@sanmarcostx.gov.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, folks from all over Texas will be participating in the world's longest river clean up. We will be picking up trash along most of the San Marcos River (approximately 60 miles).

PRE-REGISTRATION: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT PRE-REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (ESPECIALLY IF YOU WANT A TO-GO MEAL AND/OR A T-SHIRT). YOU MUST CONTACT A SECTION LEADER TO PRE-REGISTER. AND YOU SHOULD LET THE LEADER KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR PLANS AND CAN'T PARTICIPATE

WHITEWATER PADDLERS

There are some sections of river that require whitewater skills. For those sections, only persons capable of handling a canoe full of trash in whitewater should volunteer. This is primarily for section 2, 7 and 8.

CANOE RACING ENTHUSIASTS the lower sections of the river will be cleaned up by the Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association. Some sections of river, like Staples to Fentress and Zedler Dam to Palmetto State Park, have long stretches with few bridge crossings and for that reason, we are asking

canoe racers (especially teams that have competed in the Texas Water Safari) to volunteer for those sections: sections 5, 7, 8 and 10.

FREE CAMPING

Everyone participating in this event is invited to camp free at either Shady Grove Campground/ Spencer Canoes or at the San Marcos River Retreat for the weekend of Feb 26 and 27 (Shady Grove is offering one free night of camping for volunteers) People should reserve their camping spot. For Shady Grove call: 512-357-6113. For the San Marcos River Retreat call: 512-787-5574

MEAL SATURDAY NIGHT, FEB 27.

Starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday evening there will be to-go BBQ meals distributed to the clean up volunteers (who pre-register with a section leader by Feb 24) at the chapel at the San Marcos River Retreat. Because of covid, there will be no indoor dining, but folks are welcome to social distance and grab a picnic table near the chapel or in the campground.

MEETING TIMES AND SHUTTLES

Everyone is expected to contact the section leader for the stretch of river he or she intends to clean and reserve a spot on that team. Because of covid, we may have to limit the number of participants on any section. That leader will keep a list of volunteers and also make a note of folks who intend to receive a to-go plate of BBQ. The section leader will tell all the members in their group where they will meet on the morning of Feb 27. At that meeting, trash bags will be handed out and shuttles will be arranged.

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RIVER SECTION LISTINGS:

1. Thompson's Island to The San Marcos River Retreat (3.5 miles)

This is an all day clean up, volunteers should plan on being on the river until about 4 p.m. Volunteers are guaranteed to experience trash jams that resemble the trash compactor (complete with monster) from the original Star Wars movie. This section of river is not recommended for the faint of heart.

Section leader: The Eyes of the San Marcos River David Zambrano
senorzambrano@gmail.com 512-296-8492

2. San Marcos River Retreat to Sculls Crossing (4 miles).

This is a whitewater section of river. If you don't know what a draw is, don't choose this section.

Section leader: Frank Ohrt fgohrt@gmail.com 713-865-6482

3. Sculls Crossing to Spencer Canoes (2 mi.)

This section involves carrying your canoe around Martindale Dam. And a little bit of moving water from the dam to Spencer Canoes

This section has been adopted by the San Marcos River Ranch, and they have enough volunteers at this time.

4. Spencer Canoes to Staples - Hwy 1977 (5 miles)

This section is being cleaned by the Informal River Bureaucracy (aka Jeff Pine and friends) and they have enough volunteers

5. Staples to Fentress - Hwy 20 (9 miles)

Section Leader: TCKRA, Holly Orr paddler357@yahoo.com 512-749-2350

6. Fentress to Prairie Lea 1 (2miles)

Some fast moving water; some trees in the river.

Section Leader: Susan Eda susaneda@mac.com 713-203-2452

7. Prairie Lea 1 to Stairtown (5 miles)

Some fast moving water; some trees in the river.

Section Leader: TCKRA, Holly Orr paddler357@yahoo.com 512-749-2350

8. Stairtown to Luling - Hwy 90 (6.5miles)

Some fast moving water; some trees in the river.

Section Leader: TCKRA, Holly Orr paddler357@yahoo.com 512-749-2350

Luling Hwy 90; I have a boy scout troop out of San Antonio who have volunteered to clean the park at hwy 90. So, Holly, hopefully it will be clean when your group finishes there, and Lynn, hopefully they will be cleaning it when you are getting ready to launch.

9. Hwy 90 to Zedler Dam (6 mi.) A TPWD paddling trail

Some fast moving water; some trees in the river.

Section Leader: Lynn Andrus lcandrus@gmail.com 512-292-9968

10. Zedler Dam to Palmetto State Park (14.4 mi.)

Long hard stretch for people with the Water Safari on their mind (in other words, for crazy people).

Section Leader: TCKRA, Holly Orr paddler357@yahoo.com 512-749-2350

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to the San Marcos River Retreat

On google maps we show up as the “San Marcos

Coming from Interstate 35 in San Marcos, get on Highway 80 and head toward Luling for 1.8 miles. Take a right on county road 101. Take an immediate left onto county road 102. Go 1/2 mile on 102 and take a right on Pecan Park road. Keep going straight (past TG Canoes and Kayaks) and the road will end at the San Marcos River Retreat office. For more info visit our website at [San Marcos River Retreat](#)

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