



Cascade Park Focus of Cleanup; Almost 2,940 Pounds of Trash Cleared in 2010

*Janet O'Neill
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In what's sometimes billed as a kind of community-minded scavenger hunt, dozens of volunteers will comb Cascade Park on Sept. 17 as part of the Great Sierra River Cleanup.

It's the third consecutive year the Shasta Land Trust has hosted the event, a regional effort that coincides with the statewide Coastal Cleanup Day. Volunteers will focus on the park on Girvan Road in south Redding, where trash finds its way into Olney Creek and [the Sacramento River](#).

"It's really a beautiful creek, really secluded," said Caitlin O'Hara, an AmeriCorps conservation associate at the trust and organizer of the cleanup.

O'Hara said she suspects some of the items that wind up in waterways in the Cascade Park area come from vehicles traveling Highway 273.

"There's all sorts of beverage containers, bottles, assorted clothing items, cigarette butts," she said. She's also found the occasional discarded car seat.

More than 50 people volunteered for last year's cleanup, focusing on an area of Boulder Creek in north Redding. Volunteers netted nearly 2,940 pounds of trash and recyclables that day.

In 2009, the target was a city-owned piece of land behind Raley's Supermarket on Hartnell Avenue.

Lunch is provided to volunteers, who are asked to sign up by Wednesday. Clubs, organizations and individuals are encouraged to attend.

Water will be available at the site, but participants should bring their own water bottles and work gloves, and wear closed-toe shoes.

The event gives volunteers a sense of contributing to their community, O'Hara said, "and it's kind of fun, too. It's true you're picking up trash, but you never know what you're going to find out there."

How to volunteer

WHAT: Great Sierra River Cleanup

WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 17

WHERE: Cascade Park on Girvan Road in south Redding

WHO: Hosted by the Shasta Land Trust

REGISTER: Registration and signed waiver are required. Go to shastalandtrust.org or call Caitlin O'Hara at 241-7886 for more information.