

Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) has played an integral role in supporting The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash® program, contributing to its success for three decades. As a key partner of the Texas Conservation Fund (TCF), GCA has provided invaluable administrative support, financial services, site coordination, and a dedicated volunteer force. Each year, GCA's commitment begins in September, with approximately three to four employees participating in monthly planning calls to strategize for the event.

From October to March, administrators manage sponsorship outreach and accounting, dedicating over 100 hours to ensure financial transparency and sustainability for the program. On the day of the event, GCA mobilizes its resources extensively. Three to four employees organize the logistics at one of GCA's wastewater treatment facilities, where supplies are collected and distributed to the various clean-up locations across Houston down to Bastrop Bayou. This coordination is crucial, as Trash Bash relies on effective organization to facilitate the efforts of its volunteers. Furthermore, two GCA facilities participate directly in the site management on the day of the event, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

Trash Bash, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, has become the largest single-day waterway clean-up in Texas, attracting around 2,000 volunteers each year across 13 sites. Founded in 1994 by the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, this initiative has amassed nearly 8,000 volunteers over the past five years, collectively removing over 174 tons of trash and 3.34 tons of recycling from Texas waterways. Despite challenges, including a canceled event in 2020 due to the pandemic, GCA's steadfast support has helped maintain the program's momentum.

The success of Trash Bash is bolstered by the generosity of sponsors, which allows participants to engage in meaningful environmental stewardship while enhancing their visibility in the community. Volunteers are encouraged through incentives such as t-shirts and post-clean-up festivities, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community involvement.

Through its long-standing partnership with TCF, GCA exemplifies a commitment to environmental education and community service, helping to promote a healthier Galveston Bay Watershed and inspiring others to join in the fight against pollution.

# GULF COAST AUTHORITY

## TRASH BASH

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



#### 30 Years of Results

Volunteers	Trash (tons)	Tires	Recycled (tons)	Shoreline (miles)
121,705	2,505.17	12,410	23.41	2,067.92



2 facilities participate in site organization, along with 15-20 GCA employees.

3-4 employees organize supply pick-up at GCA's Washburn Tunnel site for the entire event.



Providing crucial administrative support, financial services, site coordination, and volunteers for 30 years.

3-4 GCA employees attend monthly planning calls beginning in September.



2 administrators send out & receive sponsorships from October to March & perform accounting duties over 100 hours.



Gulf Coast Authority  
Protecting the Waters of Texas