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Locals to Clean up Downtown's Christina River with Help of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

WILMINGTON, Del. — Volunteers working with the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) will combat litter during the [Christina River Watershed Cleanup's](#) 25th anniversary on April 9, from 8 a.m. to noon. According to site captain [Jeff Long](#), his nonprofit is prepared to host at least 100 people at the ["Riverfront Wilmington" site](#), located at 600 Justison Street in the Shipyard Center.

"Believe it or not, volunteers filled three dump trucks with litter from this site last year," said Long. "The most common thing we find is plastic bottles, and our strangest find ever was an empty beer keg."

Long's site is among 15 from which volunteers can choose. These span New Castle County, from Christiana to Wilmington.

Over the years, organizers have expanded the cleanup to include five outlying sites. These include Fox Point State Park and Naamans Creek near Arden, both of which flow to the Delaware River. Others flow to the Brandywine River, like Brandywine Creek State Park and First State National Historical Park.

"Many of our volunteers come year after year, like the Islamic Society of Delaware, who first signed up in 2010," said Long. "But we'll take anybody, even if they've never picked up litter in their lives."

Site captains like Long will welcome volunteers with free t-shirts, refreshments, gloves, trash bags, and more. All volunteers need are long sleeves, pants, mosquito spray, and sunscreen. Waders or knee boots are also recommended at sites using boats.

Visit ChristinaRiverCleanup.org to register, or call (302) 307-2757.

The Christina River Watershed Cleanup is made possible thanks to collaboration among various groups. These include the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Christina Conservancy, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and others.

More than 20 local businesses sponsor the Christina River Watershed Cleanup. Some, like Delmarva Power, contribute funding. Others, like Energizer, provide free supplies, like Playtex gloves. Horizon Services, Noramco, and others even mobilize their employees for a day of bonding and community service.

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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is a nonprofit organization that brings together people, businesses and governments to restore and protect the Delaware River and Bay. From its headquarters in Wilmington, the PDE focuses programs and scientific research on the entire environment affecting the estuary — from Trenton to Cape May, New Jersey and Lewes, Delaware. We encourage collaboration among the estuary's many stakeholders and seek practical solutions to help restore the natural vitality of the Delaware River and Bay on which plants, wildlife, people and businesses rely.