

Will Work For Trash; Volunteers Pick Up Litter Near Redding Waterways

By Sean Longoria
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Barbara Cosindas (right) and other volunteers pick up trash Saturday during the third annual Great Sierra River Cleanup hosted by the Shasta Land Trust. This year's event concentrated on removing trash near Olney Creek and the Sacramento River at Cascade Park in south Redding. "It's a great opportunity for Shasta Land Trust to partner up with a variety of local organizations and community members to make a real difference in our local environment," said Ben Miles, executive director of Shasta Land Trust.

PHOTO BY GREG BARNETTE

Some 55 people spent several hours Saturday morning cleaning up local waterways.

It was the third annual Great Sierra River Cleanup, hosted by the Shasta Land Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing natural habitats and agricultural lands.

"We had a pretty good response from our volunteer recruiting," said Ben Miles, executive director of Shasta Land Trust.

The volunteers hit the Olney Creek and Sacramento River areas at Cascade Park in south Redding. That location also gave the group access to Clear Creek, Miles said.

"It's nice to be close to the Sacramento River because that's where our creeks flow anyway," he said. "The trash, if we don't get it out of our creeks, it ends up in the river."

About a half-dozen members of the Shasta High School Key Club joined the group for the cleanup, Miles said. Volunteers were treated to a free lunch for their work.

Miles singled out the efforts of AmeriCorps member Caitlin O'Hara, who organized much of the cleanup event.

"She did all of the heavy lifting to get the project going," he said.

Bob Brannon, community service officer for the Redding police, also helped out, providing a dump trailer for the trash. He hauled the trash to the city landfill.

"That's a big help," Miles said.

The Shasta Land Trust picks a different spot every year for the cleanup, Miles said. The sites usually are chosen with help from landowners and the city of Redding.

"They've been very supportive in what we've done," he said.

The land trust is beginning to plan next year's cleanup and is considering possible sites.

"We've got a couple of good ideas, including Clear Creek perhaps, but we're still looking," Miles said. "It's a fun day, and we removed over 1,000 pounds of trash this year."