

## Lend A Hand At The 16th Annual Great Mississippi River Clean-Up

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ALTON - Sierra Club Illinois' Three Rivers Project, Alton Main Street, and the Army Corps of Engineers are calling for volunteers to support the 16th annual Mississippi Earthtones Festival Great Mississippi River Clean-up. The river clean-up will be held on September 24 in conjunction with the Mississippi Earthtones Festival, which celebrates our river through art, music, and conservation. During the clean-up, which takes place the weekend after the festival, volunteers will work together to remove trash and debris from the beautiful Mississippi River and its shorelines. Interested community members can register to volunteer at the clean-up via [bit.ly/MEFRiver22](https://bit.ly/MEFRiver22).

“To date, the Mississippi Earthtones Festival Great River Clean-up has netted over 45 tons of trash and has recycled 10 tons of materials,” said Christine Favilla, Co-

Coordinator of the Three Rivers Project of Sierra Club Illinois. “The river clean-up is hosted in honor of National Public Lands Day and provides an exciting opportunity for our community to work together to protect and conserve the river that sustains us.”

“We’re proud to partner with the Greater Alton community to aid in the Mississippi Earthtones Festival Great River Clean-up,” said Josh Schulte, Natural Resources Specialist and Recreation Lead with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “National Public Lands Day is a time for us to foster community engagement and encourage citizens to get out and enjoy their public lands by being active stewards of their conservation. We hope to see a great turnout for the Great River Clean-up.”

The Great Mississippi River Clean-up is held from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on September 24, the Saturday following the Mississippi Earthtones Festival. The exact launch point of the boat ride will be determined closer to the event, so volunteers should register to participate to receive event updates. Volunteers will receive a free boat ride, lunch, and a t-shirt! Sierra Club Illinois will also provide gloves and bags to aid in the trash pick-up. Interested community members can learn more about the river clean-up and register to participate at [bit.ly/MEFRiver22](http://bit.ly/MEFRiver22).

### ***About the Sierra Club***

*The Sierra Club is America’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.8 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person’s right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).*