



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Mobile District

News Release

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For Immediate Release:

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2006 National Public Lands Day Event Flat Creek Cleanup September 30th

During National Public Lands Day, the Corps of Engineers will focus an intense clean up of the Flat Creek area near Balus Creek Park. This event will coincide with the Lake Lanier Association's 18th Annual Shore Sweep and with a Rivers Alive clean up.

Many volunteers will be needed for this event. US Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers Michael Lapina and Chris Arthur are coordinating the cleanup efforts. "We have several volunteers already signed up, but the more we have the more successful the event will be", said Arthur. Lapina has partnered with nearby Seaside subdivision for access to the cleanup site by land. "It is great that the whole community works together for these events" Lapina said.

The Corps has access to a small river boat and a 30' work pontoon boat for transportation of the volunteers and removal of the debris. Volunteers are welcome to bring their boats to help access the various coves at the mouth of the Flat Creek. With the lower lake levels, it is easier to collect the trash, but some of the coves are difficult to reach by land.

To join in this event, simply meet at Balus Creek Park at 8am on September 30th. The event will begin with a short safety rally and a discussion of the events game plan. We hope to be on site shortly thereafter. The event should be wrapped up shortly after noon so that volunteers can attend the Shore Sweep picnic. Bring your gloves, boots and life jackets to this event. If you want to volunteer for the event or need more information, please call Ranger Chris Arthur at 770/945-9531.

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To get to Balus Creek from Gainesville, go south on HWY53/McEver Road and turn right on Mountain View Road, the road ends at the ramp.

Flat Creek begins its journey through Gainesville, Georgia near I-985 exit 5. When you cross over Flat Creek in Gainesville, you might not even notice it because of its small size. The stream winds its way through the heart of Gainesville and then emerges into Lake Sidney Lanier, just north of Balus Creek Boat Ramp. As the water of Flat Creek flows through Gainesville, it collects runoff from the city streets. When it rains, litter from the roadways washes into the creek and flows towards the lake. The trash flows down the creek and then accumulates where the stream opens into a lake, Lake Lanier!

The small litter flushed into the creek is not the only trash that needs picked up. Hundreds of plastic and glass bottles and aluminum soft drink cans are scattered everywhere in the creek channel at Lake Lanier. In addition, other trash also finds its way into Flat Creek. Shopping Carts, tires, large blocks of foam from boat docks, and all sorts of trash has collected in the basin. With this much trash, a large volunteer turn out is the only way to make any progress.

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