

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter

## Discovering and Protecting the Trinity

Irving is bordered on the east by the Elm Fork and on the south by the West Fork of the Trinity River. The Campion Trails system of parks along the river offers residents and visitors the opportunity not only to discover the Trinity, but also gain an appreciation of the importance of protecting this natural resource.

At over 710 miles, the Trinity is the longest river which is completely in Texas, and traverses five of the state's ten ecosystems: Piney Woods, Oakwood and Prairies, Blackland Prairie, Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes, and the Rolling Plains. It originates from four separate forks—the Elm, West, Clear and East—in North Texas and travels through 38 counties on its course southward, finally emptying into the Trinity Bay at Anahuac. There are 22 reservoirs within the Trinity River Basin, supplying water to millions of Texas, an estimated 40–50% of the state's population. After the Elm and West Forks join together just east of Irving, the river flows through the Great Trinity Forest, the largest urban bottomland hardwood forest in the country.



Kayaking is a great way to discover what the Trinity River has to offer. Just ask KIB Coordinator Rick Hose, above.

The Trinity Watershed is also home to a plethora of wildlife. At least 275 bird, 27 mammal, 28 fish, 13 amphibian, and 36 reptile species have been identified. Some of the animals you might see as you explore the Trinity are red-eared slider turtles and white-tail deer, along with beavers, skunks, raccoons and you might even spot a bobcat or Texas' official small mammal, the armadillo.

You can do your part to keep this natural resource litter-free by joining KIB on Saturday, April 11, at the **“Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off.”** This is part of Keep America Beautiful's “Great American Cleanup,” the nation's largest community improvement program. Volunteers will meet at Trinity View Park at 9:00 a.m. Register at [www.keepirvingbeautiful.org](http://www.keepirvingbeautiful.org).

## KIB Events

KIB is gearing up for an event-filled year. Rick and Julie attended the North Lake College Service Learning Fair on February 12 to speak to students about volunteering with KIB this semester. The new group has registered, and have already started earning their

hours. Service Learning and Phi Theta Kappa students joined the Nimitz High School FFA for a cleanup and paint project at Trinity View Park on February 21 to kick off the National FFA Week. A total of 37 volunteers gave 148 hours of service, painted a pavilion

and handrails, and collected over 230 pounds of trash and recyclables. Service Learning students also will assist at the Home Buyer Fair on February 28, by working at the KIB table, monitoring recycling, keeping the grounds litter-free and donning mascot costumes.

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### Did You Know?

Our Earth911 facts this month are all about water. Did you know that...

- Only 3% of the earth's water is suitable for human consumption
- “Minor” household water leaks account for 1 trillion gallons of wasted water per year
- During the Ocean Conservancy's 23rd International Coastal Cleanup, 6.8 million pounds of trash was collected from 6,485 waterway sites across the world
- According to the EPA, over 50% of marine debris originates on land.



Nimitz FFA students, above and below, did their part to keep litter out of the Trinity on February 21.

