

IT'S YOUR RIVER.

We Protect It.

River Cleanup

Where we started

- Formalized in 2016
- With the goal of filling a community need
 - Community members were asking if the Riverkeeper could help lead groups
 - There was an obvious need observed along the River banks
- Grew organically with the needs of the community



River Cleanup

Big Picture

- The Mission of the Spokane Riverkeeper's River Cleanup program is to promote a clean and healthy River through volunteerism



River Cleanup

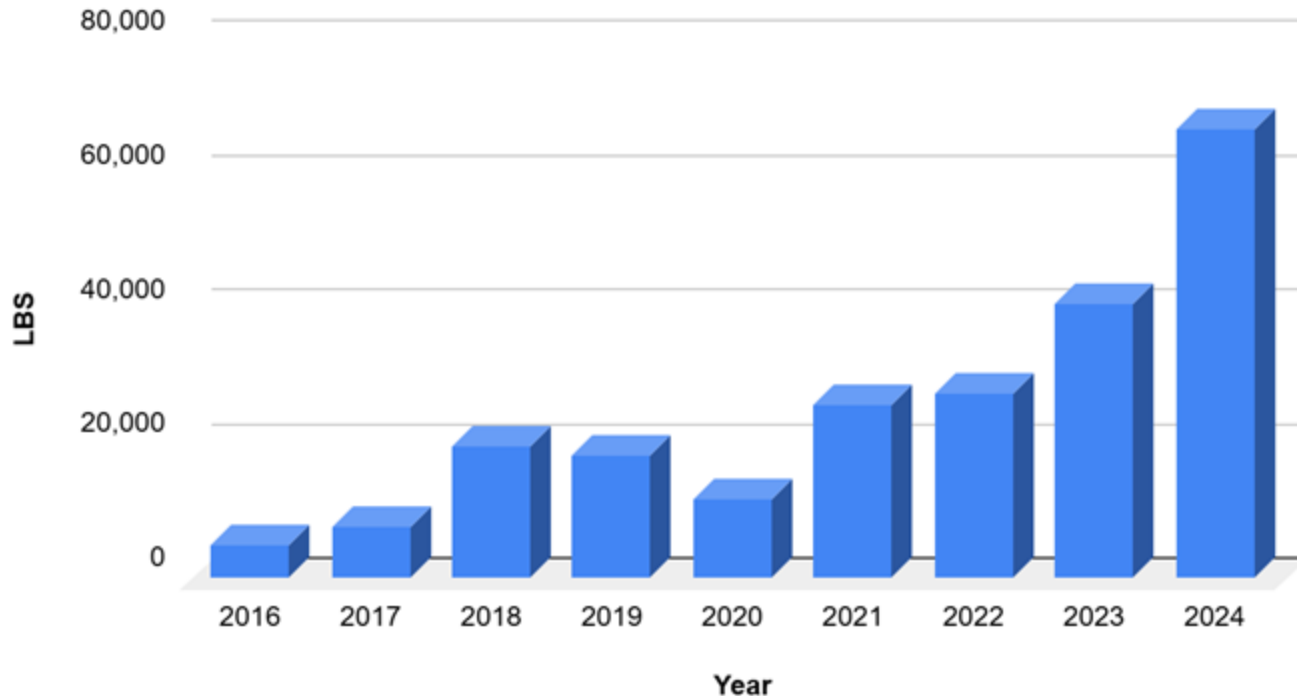
Growth Through The Years

Year	# of Cleanups	# of Volunteers	Lbs of Trash
2016	29	143	4,780
2017	28	421	7,600
2018	34	558	19,550
2019	45	711	18,450
2020	41	473	11,970
2021	68	1,060	25,790
2022	87	2,200	27,535
2023	88	1,997	40,854
2024	129	2,318	67,110
Totals:	545	9,827	219,724

River Cleanup

Growth Through The Years

Annual Trash Totals



River Cleanup

Cleanup Types

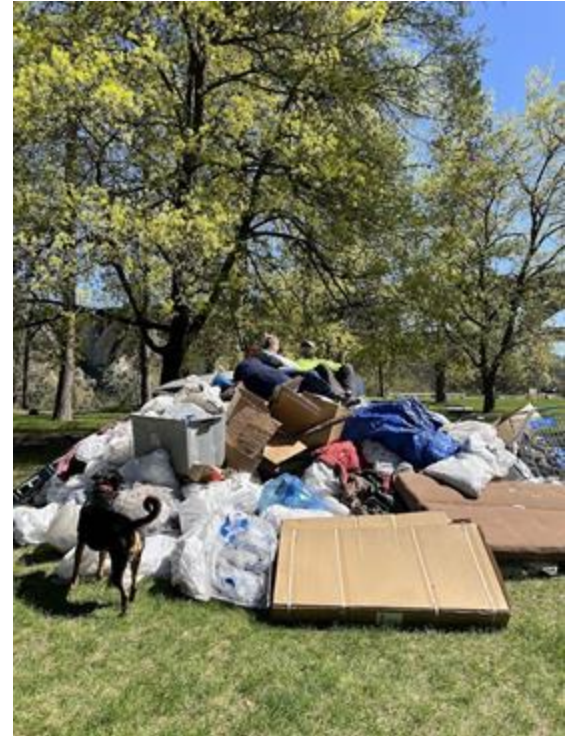
- Public River Cleanups
- Walk and Talk River Cleanups
- Private Group River Cleanups
- DIY River Cleanups
- On-Water River Cleanups
- On-water Homeless Outreach



River Cleanup

Public River Cleanups

- Anyone can sign up
- 4 of these a year
 - Earth Day
 - Summer Cleanup
 - Upriver Scrub
 - Trash-o-ween
- Focused on one location



River Cleanup

Walk and Talk River Cleanups

- New as of 2024
- Combines River cleanup with an educational topic
- Great for expanding partnerships and engaging new populations
- We hosted 8 of these events in 2024



River Cleanup

Private Group River Cleanups

- Our most common event, we held 58 of these in 2024
- Can be requested by anyone
 - School groups
 - Businesses
 - Neighborhood groups
 - Clubs
- 6 Person minimum, no maximum



River Cleanup

DIY River Cleanups

- Held 14 of these in 2024
- We lend out gloves, bags, and pickers
- Help with location selection and trash removal
- These have become less popular since COVID
- Great place for small (1-6) volunteer groups



River Cleanup

On-Water River Cleanups

- Cleaning hard to reach spots
- Often partner with code enforcement
- 31 of these in 2024
- Make up the bulk of our trash collection weight
- Fun Fact: Our Heaviest Boat load ever was 2,020lbs



River Cleanup

What People Find the Most Of

Single-Serve Alcohol Bottles	Food Wrappers and Containers	Miscellaneous Wood Pieces	Riverkeeper River Cleanup Survey, 2024
Plastic Items	Straws	Beer Cans	
Needles	Clothing/wet clothing	Toilet Paper	
Glass Bottles	MicroTrash	Drink & Food Cans	
Burned Piles of Trash	Encampment Waste	Paper & Plastic Bags	
Cigarettes/Cigarette Butts	Plastic Bottles	Random Papers	
Fast Food Packaging	Blankets	Napkins	
Food Waste	Fishing Line	Bedding	
Cardboard	Motorcycle	Confetti	
Sleeping Bags	Bike Parts	Shopping Carts	

Homeless Outreach

On-Water Homeless Outreach

- 15 Floats a year
- 123 Bags handed out, 120 bag returned.
- Medical services provided to 21 people



Homeless Outreach

On-Water Homeless Outreach Partners

- SNAP
- Chas Street Medicine
- Spokane Regional Health District
- Catholic Charities
- Compassion Addiction Treatment



Homeless Outreach

Moving Forward – Clean Camp Program

- Encourage behaviors that prevent trash from ending up in the River in the first place
- Modeled after the Russian Riverkeeper
- Empower and educate instead of kicking out
- Will require a partnership with an outreach organization for frequent contact with homeless population



THANK YOU!

Become a Supporter!



Join Our Email List



Follow us on Social Media

@spokaneriverkeeper



Jule Schultz

Waterkeeper

jule@spokaneriverkeeper.org

Katy Scott

Water Protector

katy@spokaneriverkeeper.org

Katie Thompson

Managing Director

katie@spokaneriverkeeper.org

Liv Kindl

River Clean Up & Outreach Lead

liv@spokaneriverkeeper.org

