

How to Develop a Successful Watershed Clean-Up Event

Dr. Karen Miles
Coordinator

Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge Clean-Up

OCLWA Annual Conference



Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge →

Lake Overholser →





STINCHCOMB

CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY
PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

WILDLIFE REFUGE

VEHICLES & FIREARMS
PROHIBITED ORD. 17-187







2006 Clean-Up (Year 1): 12 volunteers



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY



**Welcome to the
Lake Overholser and
Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge
Clean-up**





Lessons Learned from 1st Clean-Up

- Begin the process by at least January.
- Arrange early for a place to meet.
- Solicit raffle prizes from many businesses.
- See what GAC sponsors can offer
- Apply for grants
- Have different bags for recyclables
- Provide lunch

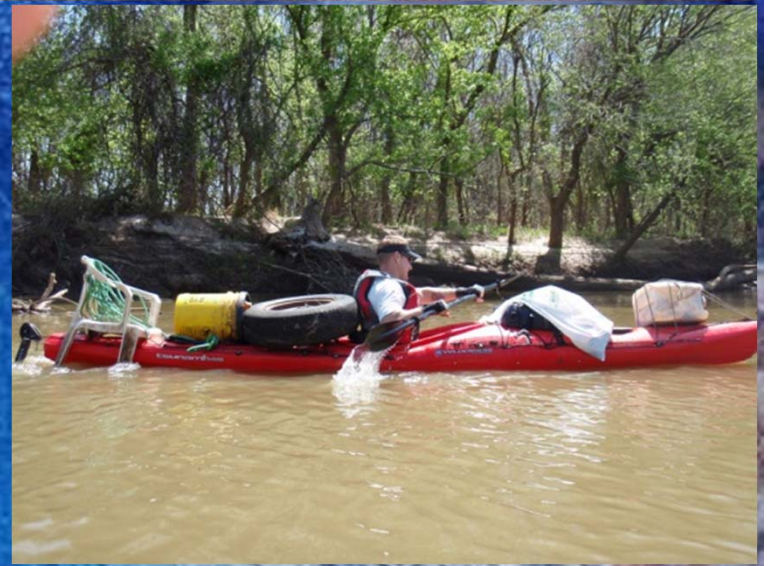
2007 Clean-Up (Year 2): 35 volunteers

- Met at the Overholser Pavilion for 1st time
- Received a Start-Up grant from Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) and OG&E
- Had dark bags for trash and white bags for recyclables.



2008 Clean-Up (Year 3): 60 volunteers

- Took “before” and “after” photos.
- Got a bullhorn
- Began having volunteers in kayaks
- Had lunch provided by Earl’s Rib Palace and burgers from the Cimarron Steakhouse.
- Consolidated some trash
- Began having “Rovers”



Rovers



2009 Clean-Up (Year 4): 75 volunteers

- First year of a grant with Chesapeake Energy
- First year with the National River Clean-Up
- First year with staff t-shirts



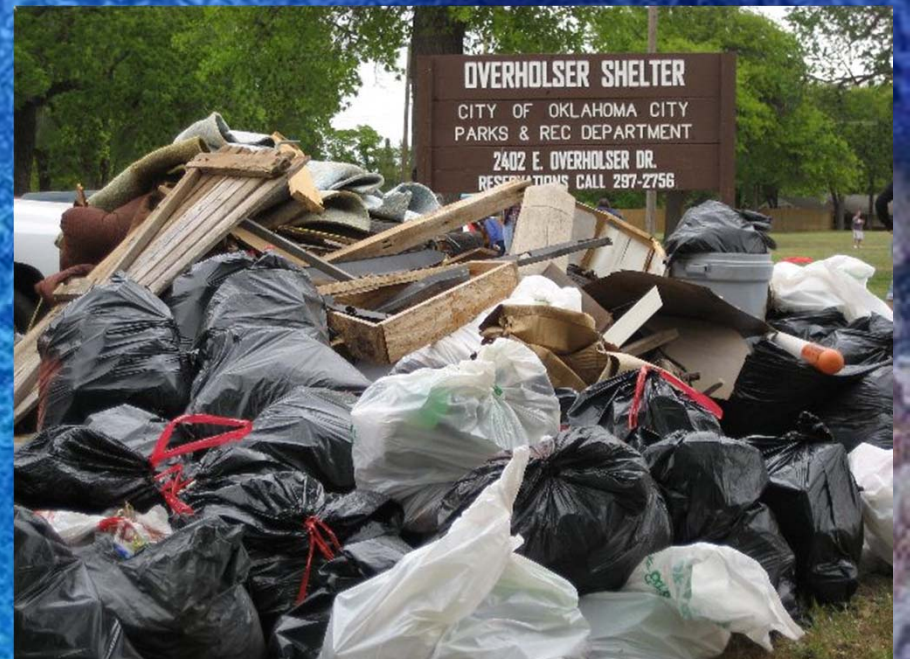
2010 Clean-Up (Year 5): 125 volunteers

- First year with OKC Kayak
- First year with Jersey Mike's Subs
- First year sorting and weighing recyclables.



2011 Clean-Up (Year 6): 125 volunteers

- Received a grant from OCLWA
- Designated a volunteer to just take photos
- Put clean-up photos on Picasa
- Had group photo taken earlier



Location of Land Teams

Overholser Teams



Stinchcomb Teams



Key Points that I've Learned

- Start early!
- Use all available resources.
 - KOB GAC/DOT “Trash-Off”
 - OKC Beautiful’s Litter Blitz
 - National River Clean-Up
- Get the word out early.
- Much of the money you need for this year you got last year.
- Get posters made up early.

2012 Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge Clean-Up

Saturday, April 21st from 8:30am - 2:00pm
Meet at the Overholser Pavilion - NW 14th and E Overholser Drive



To register for the clean-up or for questions, contact Karen Miles at karen.miles@deq.ok.gov or 405-702-8192



To participate via kayak (courtesy of OKC Kayaks), you will need to register beforehand by contacting Rodney Boegel at rodneyboegel@att.net or 405-802-3678.



Free lunch will be provided courtesy of Earl's Rib Palace, Jersey Mike's Subs, and Cimarron Steak House.



The clean-up will be held whether rain or shine. Participants should bring heavy gloves, wear long pants, sturdy shoes, sunblock, and insect repellent.

2012

Overholser/Stinchcomb Clean-up Sponsors



The City of OKLAHOMA CITY



Key Points that I've Learned

- When asking for raffle prizes, don't limit yourself. Here are some of mine for 2012:

Birdhouse from the Audubon Society, free tickets to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, certificates for free oil changes (Hibdon Tires Plus/John's Goodyear Auto Service Center in Bethany/Rockwell Lube & Auto Repair), gift card from Schlegel Bicycles, two tickets to the Lyric Theatre's production of "Call Me Madam" at the Civic Center, coffee klatch from Java Dave's on 9th street (coffee and free pastry for the bearer and eight friends), gift card from Buy-4-Less, gift card for a complimentary small chocolate fondue for two at the Melting Pot, a pair of tickets to the Jewel Box Theatre's production of "Around the World in Eighty Days", a free one-hour massage in your home by Kat, two Amphibian/Reptile books and a Landscaping for Wildlife book from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, a pedicure, gift certificate for four to attend any Barons home game, an electric tool and knife sharpener from Westlake Ace Hardware in Bethany, and bags of coffee from Starbucks. There are also food gift cards or certificates from Taco Cabana, Rib Crib (on Meridian and in Yukon), Panera Bread, Focus FCU (for Braum's), Kamp's 1910 Café, Western Sizzlin/Mackie's Steakhouse, Kaiser's American Bistro, Bad Brad's, Red Cup, Ludivine, Paseo Grill, the Beatnix Café, the Wedge Pizzeria, Chilis, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhurgers, Gopuram, Hensley's Top shelf Grill, Interurban, Johnny Carino's Italian, Logan's Roadhouse (free appetizer), and \$3 off coupons from Louie's Grill & Bar in Yukon.

Key Points that I've Learned

- When a business donates something for the raffle, be sure to get a name, preferably a business card. If they have an e-mail, ask them for their logo.
- After the clean-up, be sure to write your thank-you letters!

What is Next?

- As “Friends of Lake Overholser & the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge”, adopt Lake Overholser through OKC Beautiful.
- Work to become a 501(c)(3)

If you have coordinated a
clean-up, what else would you
recommend?



A scenic photograph of a pond. In the foreground, there are tall reeds and green plants along the water's edge. A single duck is swimming in the middle of the pond. The background is filled with lush green trees under a cloudy sky. The text 'Thank you!' is overlaid in the upper center in a large, dark blue font.

Thank you!

Contact info:
Dr. Karen Miles
Karen.Miles@deq.ok.gov