

Texas Litter Database User's Guide

Resources and Definitions

Audit – A full count (catalog) of all litter collected by type

Event - A litter cleanup organized to consist of one or more reports on a given day or set of days. Events are usually created by an organization who shares the Event for individuals to submit affiliated Reports.

Report - Litter counts (of any detail level) at one particular date, time and place, affiliated with an Event.

STOP - Study, Track, Report and Prevent. A detailed litter survey performed over a transect of any length (e.g., 100 ft), created by the TX Litter Database

Take 2 for Texas – a two-minute collection and count of beverage bottles performed by a single person. This method is meant to be fast, convenient, and easy to replicate anywhere in Texas.

Transect – a straight line of a measured length (e.g. 100 feet) along which samples are collected.

EPA – (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency has their method for litter surveys available here: [Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol \(ETAP\)](#)

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has their method for litter surveys available here: [Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project](#)

Trash Free Texas – A multi-partner project designed to track trash removal activities and promote the adoption of litter removal locations across Texas through the Trash Free Texas “Adopt-a-Spot” site and Online Mapping Tool.

User's Guide

Welcome to the STOP TX Litter Database!

Did you Take 2 For Texas? Just picking up all the plastic bottles you can find in 2 minutes will help us get a better idea of how we can help stop plastic pollution in Texas. You can enter that data [here](#) or by clicking the **Create** button and choosing **Take 2 For Texas** in the pop-up.

If you are interested in entering litter count/audit data, you will need to create an event or use an event that has already been created.

Do you have a link or QR code to get here? **Sign In** and enter your data.

You will need to create a username and password to enter litter count/audit data.

Cleanups are organized by **Event** (i.e., “HARC Earth Day Cleanup”) which may be one day or last several days, under which there can be multiple **Reports** (i.e. “Blue Trail Creek”, “West Parking Lot”). Every Report must be under an Event.

Reports should be from a single location and collection effort. If you must combine multiple cleanups into a single Report, please indicate that in the **Notes** field.

To create a new Event or Report, use the **Create** button on the upper left.

To see your Events and/or Reports, login and use the **Dashboard** button on the upper right. The Dashboard will display shortcuts to your events, trash reports, and Take 2 for Texas reports. You can also download a field data sheet.

Dashboard

Welcome Back, ekinney@harcresearch.org

My Submission

My Events

My Trash Reports

My Take 2


[Download Field Sheet](#)

You can also search all Events on the **Event List** page.

STOP [Create](#) [Home](#) [User Guide](#) [Event List](#) [Maps & Charts](#) [About](#) [Dashboard](#)


Welcome to Texas Litter Database

STOP EVERY PIECE COUNTS!



Create New Event

Have 2 minutes? Help us count the




Create New

Trash Clean-up Event
Create a new event to help crowdsourcing trash data. You can share your event via direct link

STOP: Texas Litter Database
Enter your trash collection data here

Take 2 For Texas
A quick 2-minute survey to count plastic bottles: 1 minute to count, 1 minute to enter (no login required)

[OK](#)




FAQ:

- > Definitions
- > What is STOP?
- > What is Take 2?
- > How do I start?
- > What's the background?

STUDY TRACK REMOVE + PREVENT

TEXAS LITTER DATABASE



Total Trash Counts
25,581

Total Volunteers
5,553


Total Events
40

Total Reports
109

100+ Plastic Film Fragment Reports
1

100+ Hard Plastic Fragment Reports
4

Highest Weight (lbs) in One Cleanup
30,000



Last updated on September 10, 2021 12:33 PM

STOP [Create](#) [Home](#) [User Guide](#) [Event List](#) [Maps & Charts](#) [About](#) [Dashboard](#)

New Trash Report

STOP: Texas Litter Database
Every Piece Counts!

- Track a line (enter in distance below, say 100 ft) and pick up every single piece of trash you see (if you did a Take 2 bottle count, use the same location).
- Try to get any piece of trash the size of a cigarette butt or larger.
- Record the number of individual items.

* On fragments, there may be just too many broken bits to count. You can do a visual estimate in those cases.

Loading...

Report Info

Location: [Locate](#)

Date:

Time:

Site Name:

Total Hours:

Take 2 Program Bottle Count:

Targeted Count: Check if you are targeting one or two specific trash items in a count (i.e. only counting cigarette butts or plastic straws, etc.)

Partial Audited: Check if you only audited a portion of your total collection (i.e., half sample)

Trash Can: Check if you saw a trash can at this site


Recycling Bin: Check box if you saw a recycle bin at this site

Cleanup Summary

Trash Picked Up (lbs):

Small Bags of Trash:

0-9 Gallons



Total Trash Counts
25,581

Total Volunteers
5,553


Total Events
40

Total Reports
109

100+ Plastic Film Fragment Reports
1

100+ Hard Plastic Fragment Reports
4

Highest Weight (lbs) in One Cleanup
30,000



Last updated on September 10, 2021 12:33 PM

Please enter a valid Event ID to report

Event ID: [Enter](#)

Don't have an Event ID? Event ID matches the Event group and date with the trash data. Find your Event ID below to start entering data or create a New Event.

[Find](#) [Create](#)

[Home](#)

STOP | Create Home User Guide Event List Maps & Charts About Dashboard

New Event

* Event Name:

* Start Date: 09-10-2021

End Date:

Organization:


* Lead Person Name:

Lead Person Email:

Lead Person Phone:

Notes:

By clicking Submit, I certify that the above data are accurate to the best of my knowledge and I release these data for use by the Texas Litter Database and all registered users for research and/or education purposes.



Total Trash Counts
25,581

Total Volunteers
5,553


Total Events
40

Total Reports
109

100+ Plastic Film Fragment Reports
1

100+ Hard Plastic Fragment Reports
4

Highest Weight (lbs) in One Cleanup
30,000







Last updated on September 10, 2021 12:33 PM

TEXAS LITTER DATABASE

© 2020 - 2021 Houston Advanced Research Center - All Rights Reserved

The Texas Litter Database was created for Keep Texas Beautiful by HARC in partnership with BlackCat GIS with funding from the Garver Black Hilyard Family Foundation.

When you create an **Event**, choose a name that is descriptive and will make it easier to find later – either by you or by partners who might be submitting Reports under this Event. We recommend something like: Organization Event title General location Date Year (i.e. HARC Earth Day Cleanup The Woodlands 2021). You will need to enter a start date, organizer name and contact info – either email or phone number.

To search for an **Event** that already exists, click on Event List and browse or search for your Event. The default list is for Events 6 months prior to today and 6 months from today. You can also select Show All Events to browse the whole record.

Recent Event List

(03/10/2021 - 03/10/2022)

Show All Events

Search By Name

Search by event or organization name

ID	Name	Organization	Start Date	Action
E-L2	HARC Fall 2021	HARC	09/04/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LE	GreenUp: Fall Sweep	The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department Keep The Woodlands Beautiful	09/04/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-Lp	Public waterway golf ball recycling	SWING IT AGAIN GOLFABLE GOLFBALLS FOR YOU	09/01/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LG	KTB Fall Sweep 2021	Keep Texas Beautiful	09/01/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LD	Berri Moffett	Houston Audubon	07/25/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LU	Litter Clean-up Buffalo Bayou	Texas Conservation Alliance	07/23/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LC	Summer Cleanup	Keep Texas Beautiful	07/17/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LL	Levy Crossing Clean Up	Keep Nolanville Beautiful	07/16/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-LK	Spur Research Nolanville 2021	Keep Nolanville Beautiful	07/15/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-F	Stephanie Glenn		05/21/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-o	TestSGlenn	HARC	05/18/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-Y	Trash Off	NCTCOG	04/29/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-r	KTB Litter Audit - The Woodlands	Keep The Woodlands Beautiful / The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department / The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.	04/24/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>
E-S	STOP Paul Hopkins Park	Black Cat GIS and Biological LLC	04/09/2021	<input type="button" value="Add Data"/>



Total Trash Counts

25,581

Total Volunteers

5,553

Total Events

40

Total Reports

109

100+ Plastic Film

Fragment Reports

1

100+ Hard Plastic

Fragment Reports

4

Highest Weight (lbs) in

One Cleanup

30,000



Last updated on

September 10, 2021 12:33 PM

To enter data, create a **Report**. On the Report, you can enter an address, use the location on your device, or drop a pin on a map. You will also need to enter a date and time, site name, and site type. You may enter multiple site types, but please consider submitting separate reports if you have truly distinct site types.

New Trash Report

Related Event
 ID: EL2
 Name: HARC Fall 2021
 Start Date: 09-04-2021
 Organization: HARC
 Update

STOP: Texas Litter Database
Every Piece Counts!

- Track a line (enter in distance below, say 100 ft) and pick up every single piece of trash you see (if you did a Take 2 bottle count, use the same location).
- Try to get any piece of trash the size of a cigarette butt or larger.
- Record the number of individual items.

* On fragments, there may be just too many broken bits to count. You can do a visual estimate in those cases.

Report Info

Location: 30.17605,-95.51544 Locate

Date: 09-10-2021

Time: 1:33 pm

Site Info

Site Name:

Site Types:

Total Hours:

Take 2 Program Bottle Count:

Targeted Count: Check if you are targeting one or two specific trash items in a count (i.e. only counting cigarette butts of plastic straws, etc.)

Partial Audited: Check if you only audited a portion of your total collection (i.e., half sample)

Trash Can: Check if you saw a trash can at this site

Recycling Bin: Check box if you saw a recycle bin at this site

Cleanup Summary

Statistics:
 Total Trash Counts: 25,581
 Total Volunteers: 5,553
 Total Events: 40
 Total Reports: 109
 100+ Plastic Film Fragment Reports: 1
 100+ Hard Plastic Fragment Reports: 4
 Highest Weight (lbs) in One Cleanup: 30,000
 Last updated on September 10, 2021 1:33 PM

The TX Litter Database is designed to allow all types of data to be reported. You do not need to fill in every field, but the more information you can provide, the better. If you created a detailed count or audit of your litter collection, you can answer the preliminary questions and then toggle the **Detailed Trash Classification** button to expand and view all of the data entry categories. Please be sure to enter your Distance surveyed, and if you used Volunteers, enter how many and their approximate ages.

If you only audited some of your total collection, indicate how much of your total cleanup you counted under **Site Info**.

Several trash audit methodologies exist in addition to the TX Litter Database's [STOP method](#). NOAA and EPA also have their own methodologies. Our goal is to provide a place for all Texas litter cleanups, regardless of methodologies.

You can download a printable field data sheet to help count your litter. It is organized to make entering your data into the Texas Litter Database easier.

STOP (Study, Track, Remove and Prevent) Instructions:

Step 1: Measure or pace off a line along the shoreline, roadside, or streambank. Along this line, pick up every single piece of trash you see. Try to do 100 ft long lines. If that's too much, go for a shorter length. Just make sure to record whatever length you are using to report in the database.

Step 2: After you've collected all of the trash, record the number of individual items on the STOP datasheet downloaded from [TXLitter.org](https://txlitter.org). Write down the length of your transect and be sure to record your location. You can do that on the app by opening a **Report** in TXLitter.org and recording your location. You can either add your items at that time or save your report and go back to it later.

If you can only count a portion of your data, note how much you actually collected and how much you audited.

Maps & Charts

Maps

Two maps display a subset of the data in the STOP Texas Litter Database. The full data count associated with each site and all types can be obtained through data download.

The first map “Cluster”, selected at the top of the map window, shows a cluster of nine selected trash types by location. You can select the trash types that you would like to see displayed in the box under

the map and then click “update” to view your selection. The nine types of trash are representative of some of the most common types found in field audits.

The second map, “Heatmap”, selected at the top of the map window, shows relative amount of those nine types of trash collected at different locations around Texas. You can also select certain trash types that you would like to see displayed in the box under the map and then click “update” to view your selection.

Charts

You can explore the data by viewing [summary graphs](#) of the data in the STOP Texas Litter Database.



The top left chart shows the amount (pieces) of litter collected in each category by date. Categories can be turned on and off by clicking the colors in legend at the top of the chart. The green line indicates the number of reports represented by the counts. Using the mouse to hover over a bar in the chart reveals a text box with the counts for each litter category. You can contract the dates range of the x-axis by clicking on one end of the gray box below the chart and dragging it one way or another.

The top right chart shows the amount (pieces) of litter collected of eight selected types by date. Litter types can be turned on and off by clicking the colors in legend at the top of the chart. The green line indicates the number of reports represented by the counts. Using the mouse to hover over a bar in the chart reveals a text box with the counts for each litter type. You can contract the dates range of the x-axis by clicking on one end of the gray box below the chart and dragging it one way or another.

The bottom left chart shows the number of plastic bottles collected by Take 2 for Texas surveys by date. The green line indicates the number of reports represented by the counts. You can contract the dates range of the x-axis by clicking on one end of the gray box below the chart and dragging it one way or another.

The bottom right chart shows the relative amounts (counts) of litter types collected on each date. Using the mouse to hover over a color in the chart reveals a text box with the counts for that litter type. You can also click on a color in the chart, and the chart will adjust to center the chosen rectangle. Below the chart, dates can be scrolled through using the arrow button or a time-lapse can be displayed by clicking on the red “play” button.

Data Download

The primary function of the Texas Litter Database is to provide users with the ability to contribute to and access a repository for Texas-wide litter collection data. You can quickly [download](#) all of the data in the database after you check the box agreeing to the data disclaimer. The data will download in a zip file and be available in .csv format.

Data Download
The dataset was last updated on September 10, 2021 1:33 PM

Data Use Disclaimer:

The Texas Litter Database is intended to provide a central repository for litter and trash data for the state of Texas, making it available to the public for tracking, mapping, and research purposes.

This product is for informational purposes only and may not be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an official survey and represents only the approximate relative location of features and boundaries. Mapping may not necessarily reflect on-the-ground conditions. This product and those involved in its production make no claims as to the accuracy or reliability of the data, and neither assumes, nor will accept liability for their use. We highly recommend reviewing metadata files prior to interpreting these data. The user assumes the entire risk related to use of these data. Texas Litter Database is interested in hearing from you. If you've experienced or witnessed something that you feel we need to know about please use this form to report it.

I have read, understand, and agree to the data disclaimer.

[Download](#)

Total Trash Counts
25,581

Total Volunteers
5,553

Total Events
40

Total Reports
109

100+ Plastic Film Fragment Reports
1

100+ Hard Plastic Fragment Reports
4

Highest Weight (lbs) in One Cleanup
30,000

Last updated on September 10, 2021 1:33 PM

If you have any questions, you can email txlitter@ktb.org for assistance.