

Caloosahatchee Riverwatch Hosts Cleanup Event

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If You Go:

WHAT: Billy's Creek Cleanup

WHO: Caloosahatchee Riverwatch

WHEN: 9-12:00 noon. Friday, Nov. 4

WHERE: Shady Oaks Park, 3300 Marion St., Fort Myers

PRICE: Free, (volunteer event)

MORE INFO: <http://fdnudo.wixsite.com/billycreekcleanup>

WHY: Help us protect the Caloosahatchee River by cleaning up Billy's Creek!

Additional background:

Billy's Creek is a tributary of the Caloosahatchee River and contains mangrove vegetation. The creek was named after the Seminole chief Billy Bowlegs who was forced to surrender there by United States forces in 1858.

Billy's Creek has its beginnings as meandering water from a canal and is unique in that it is a scenic urban waterway. Joint efforts to improve water quality from various government agencies allowed the construction of the Billy Creek Filter Marsh and adjacent nature park.

The water that flows through Billy's Creek is filtered through marshes before making its way into the Caloosahatchee River. The Caloosahatchee River is in the top ten most imperiled rivers in the United States. In an effort to protect the Caloosahatchee River, our efforts focus on cleaning up the area while providing educational opportunities to volunteers and the surrounding community on the importance of filter marshes, and the proper disposal of trash and recyclables.

It doesn't matter what you call it, trash, litter, aquatic debris, or junk, it's dangerous to our safety, our wildlife, our economy, and most importantly, our water. Aquatic debris is also a threat to our favorite recreational activities, such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Wildlife are harmed each year because they mistake litter and plastic debris for food or become entangled in ropes and lines.

During our cleanup event participants take action against pollution and get dirty to help these areas stay clean. They see firsthand the negative effects that litter has on our rivers, creeks, and marshes. With our combined efforts, we can partner to restore the environment and build community awareness.