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## Boats in, garbage out on Clackamas

ENNIFER WILLIS

The Portland Tribune Sep 4, 2006

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Ready to talk some trash? It's time for the Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas.

Each year, volunteers spend the day floating along a 13-mile stretch of the Clackamas River — from Barton Park to Clackamette Park — picking up trash.

It's our way of giving back to the community and to the river that we paddle so frequently," Sam Drevo says of the Sunday outing, the fourth annual such cleanup. Drevo is the director of eNRG Kayaking, which organizes the event alongside the Clackamas River Basin Council and Portland State University Outdoor Program.

Last year's event drew about 250 people and close to 100 boats.

"We've got scuba divers out there," Drevo says. "We've got inflatable kayakers, kayakers, rafters, tubers, canoers — you name it."

The boats are divided into 15 pods that cover three sections of the Clackamas River.

Drevo estimates that in 2005 volunteers pulled 2.7 tons of trash out of the river. Recyclables are sorted out, and the rest goes into a series of Dumpsters.



L.E. BASKOW / PORTLAND TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO The Clackamas River is no stranger to the floating masses, but during this weekend's cleanup boaters will be picking up trash, not just splashing around.

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The Clackamas River — which provides drinking water and also sustains salmon and steelhead populations — sees a great deal of summer recreation activity, and a lot of garbage gets left behind.

“It’s definitely a significant effort,” Drevo says. “In September, the river really needs it.”

If you don’t have your own boat, tube or snorkel, you can still reserve (free) space in one of 15 rafts donated by Allstar Rafting. Life jackets are provided to those in rafts, and no previous boating or cleanup experience is required. Private boaters with nonmotorized watercraft are also welcome.

All participants are encouraged to sign up for the event on eNRG Kayaking’s Web site, [www.enrgkayaking.com](http://www.enrgkayaking.com).

Noah’s Bagels, one of the event sponsors, will provide a brunch of coffee and bagels to kick off the cleanup, and there’s a barbecue to close out the effort in the afternoon, with live music from Lewi Longmire Band.

“There’s a big dinner we cook up,” Drevo says. “It’s a way to give back to all the volunteers. It turns it into a great community event.”

What should you bring? “Just a willingness to get wet,” Drevo says.

As rocks can be slippery close to shore, good footwear is recommended, as is strong sunblock.

“If you enjoy the river,” he says, “you should be out there.”

### Clackamas River cleanup

When: 9:30 a.m.

to approximately

4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10

Where: Carver Park, South Clackamas River Drive and Springwater Road off Highway 224, Carver

Registration: [www.enrgkayaking.com/rivercleanup](http://www.enrgkayaking.com/rivercleanup)



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