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Thousands Turn Out for Anacostia Cleanup Effort

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WASHINGTON - Thousands of people joined forces Saturday for a little spring cleaning, targeting local neighborhoods, streets and waterways.

Cheverly resident Rud Moe hasn't spent much time on the Anacostia, but Saturday he got a first hand look at the river's trash troubles.

To thin out the debris, Moe joined thousands of others for the annual river clean up. The almost 3,000 volunteers spread out across 29 different sites in Maryland and the District, including the Seafarers Yacht Club in southeast.

"We were able to pick up just a tremendous amount of trash that congregates along the side of the river bank," said Kelly Gibson of Washington Gas.

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The volunteers also pulled out tires, chairs and some more unusual items.

"I found a car door," Moe said.

"This is a great one-day effort, but it is unfortunately a problem because every rain brings a new slug of trash," Jim Connolly of the Anacostia Watershed said

With just days before Earth Day, volunteers at the river weren't the only ones out cleaning the community. In Georgetown, residents and students hit the pavement to clean

"To come out a day a year--just to come and clean-- it helps the community," said Just

Community is what it's all about for Rud Moe who says he is happy to be part of something that is bigger than himself.

"You feel like a job well done. It's well worth the while to clean up - you get immediate satisfaction," Moe added.



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