

Please see below a recap of the Clean Up's history as told by Linda Hartsfield of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

"The Cleanup originally had been created in 1986 to serve a twofold purpose, first to serve as a "hands on" educational experience for the public awareness of harmful effects that litter and waste can have on their natural resources, secondly, to clean the shoreline of tons of trash and debris, protecting the environment and its resources, and saving thousands of taxpayer's dollars. Since that time, partnerships with organizations and businesses has expanded as the role of the cleanup becomes ever more important. Rapid development in the area and increasing visitation to the lake only strengthens the need for this environmental and educational event.

The Great Allatoona Cleanup has become recognized as one of the oldest conservation cleanup's in the United States and is annually in the top three National Public Lands Day events in the nation. In the 30 year history of the cleanup, 120,000+ volunteers have collected nearly 100,000 bags of trash equaling over 475 tons of garbage and debris. Despite increased visitation and development, the amount of trash found around Allatoona Lake has drastically been reduced from over 30 tons collected in the first Cleanup in 1986 to 5.6 tons in 2014.

It has won five national Take Pride in America Awards (1986-89, 1991), three Certificate of Environmental Achievement Awards from Renew America (1996-1998), one Public Lands Day Award (1986), and a Keep America Beautiful Award in 1995. The 2004 edition was awarded for excellence in a litter prevention program by the "Keep Bartow Beautiful" organization.

LAA/GLAC was recognized by GA Governor Deal with a Proclamation: The Honorable Governor Nathan Deal in recognition of the hard work and perseverance of all those involved in organizing and participating in "The Great Lake Allatoona Clean Up" has proclaimed September 28, 2013 "Public Lands Day" in Georgia. GLAC was selected the 2014 Nonprofit Organization award winner.

In 2007 the Corps of Engineers transferred the responsibilities of the Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and partnership with Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority (LAPA). In 2011, LAPA transferred the responsibilities to the Allatoona Lake Association (LAA), a duly incorporated 501(c)3 community based volunteer driven non-profit corporation.

LAA plans and manages the GLAC; including all logistics (removal of all trash and debris collected, food, entertainment), Volunteers, Procurement and Accounting, Promotions/Public Relations, and Fundraising. LAA also coordinates information with partners and establishes public awareness through relationships with local media and support sponsors.

The Corps of Engineers continues to provide access to the trash pickup collection points and the picnic venue. The COE continues to monitor the cleanup and provide safety patrols during the event."