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## Canal cleanup seeking volunteers

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Car parts, tires, aluminum cans, shopping carts, road signs and neon orange cones.

Volunteers with the Big Thompson Watershed Forum's Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup even found an engine block last year.

The Forum is hosting the third annual cleanup of the Greeley-Loveland Canal this Saturday in conjunction with Earth Day.

Kathy Hartman, Forum community projects assistant, said last year 80 volunteers picked up about 5 tons of trash.

Besides clearing out a highly visible canal that snakes alongside the Loveland Recreation Trail in areas, the cleanup instills a sense of stewardship for waterways, Hartman said.

"All of the waterways are part of the watershed," she said. "Even though it's an irrigation canal, it's our water."

Oftentimes people forget that a ditch is not a disposal area, she said, and that everyone gets water downstream from somewhere.

Normally, the event is held in May on National River Cleanup Day, Hartman said. This year, however, the Forum staff decided to move it up in order to avoid the spring runoff.

The Forum is hosting the event with the city's Stormwater Division.

Joe Chaplin, Loveland storm water quality specialist, said the irrigation canals that run through the city are included in the storm water discharge permit issued by the state. He said the city receives credit for helping to educate the public on improving quality in the area's waterways.

Hartman said the Forum is still looking for volunteers to register for the event. People can sign up online or that morning at the city Municipal Building. **If you go**

To register, go to [www.btwatershed.org](http://www.btwatershed.org) and click on the Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup link. Or sign up the morning of the cleanup at the Loveland Municipal Building, 500 E. Third St.

The **April 22** event runs from **9 a.m. to noon**. Participants are advised to wear work clothes, gloves, a hat and appropriate shoes. Trash bags and drinking water — along with goody bags — are provided.