

Santa Cruz River Clean-Up

The Rio Rico High School Interact Club held a clean-up on the Santa Cruz River near the Barrio De Tubac on January 26. Club members and volunteers filled a giant dumpster with the trash removed from the clean-up site.

Piles of debris and trash such as Styrofoam and plastic bottles wash down the Santa Cruz River each year and gather into large dams, dubbed bottles dams by many locals. Several of these dams accumulate along the river and community organizations work to rid the river of these each year. The piles of garbage are not only an eyesore but are harmful to aquatic life as well. The area where the clean-up was held is lined by steep banks and the trash had to be hauled up and out of the river bottom. Thousands of bottles and other debris, including tires were hauled out of the bottle dam area.

Other organizations which supported the clean-up were the Friends of the Santa Cruz River, the Anza Trail Coalition, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Santa Cruz County Public Works Department and Gary Brasher. The Rio Rico High School Interact Club plans to hold two more clean-up days this spring.