



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John Peyton, Mayor

March 31, 2009

Dear River Cleanup Volunteers:

Thank you for your participation in the 14th annual St. Johns River Celebration cleanup event. This amazing body of water that defines our city was given the special treatment it deserves through the donation of your time and effort.

It is heartwarming to see the many people who wanted to be involved in this project. I was taken aback by how the army of volunteers has grown from 1,300 in 2008 to more than 2,000 this year. Special thanks goes to our more than 1,000 volunteers from Jacksonville Naval Air Station who cleaned up our riverbanks along the base and at Tillie Fowler Park. The coordination of the event by our community partners – Clean It Up, Green It Up and The River Keeper – provided the necessary tools and motivation for an efficient and productive day of work.

In total, volunteers collected more than 42,000 pounds of trash including shopping carts, bicycles, a plastic 55-gallon drum, truck tires and more than 40 bags of bottles.

As you know, preservation of the St. Johns River is a primary goal of my administration. We have passed legislation to regulate the use of fertilizers and placed restrictions on irrigation and runoff. A Storm Water Utility is being developed to treat water before it returns to the St. Johns. We are also working to prevent the withdrawal of additional water by users to our south.

It is obvious that through your hard work this past weekend you share my belief that the St. Johns River is our responsibility. Thank you for doing the heavy lifting that helped return our river to its most beautiful state possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Peyton".

John Peyton
Mayor

