

Volunteers busy at Saw Mill River cleanup

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R.J. Chu, left, Kenny Chu, Christina Weir and T.J. Weir pick up trash along the trail near the Saw Mill River Parkway in Ardsley on Saturday as part of the Great Saw Mill River Cleanup. / Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy/The Journal News

ARDSLEY — Ann Hein spent Saturday morning walking along the South County Trailway, just off the Saw Mill River Parkway, armed with a large, orange trash bag and a litter stick.

The 69-year-old Dobbs Ferry woman was one of a steady stream of volunteers who spent hours picking up trash from the streets, parks, streams and trails along the Saw Mill River watershed.

The event, dubbed the Great Saw Mill River Cleanup, was sponsored by the Saw Mill River Coalition, an arm of the Yonkers-based nonprofit Groundwork Hudson.

Volunteers worked from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at six sites including Yonkers, Hastings, Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington and Thornwood.

“I want to do good deeds and [help the environment](#)

,” Hein said.



Among the trash Carmilla Tan and her 12-year-old daughter, Sydney, picked up were unusual things like unopened bottles of wine and water.

“But we also got the usual [plastic](#)

bottles and bags with dog poop,” Sydney Tan said.



Holly Malekian, a development director at Groundwork Hudson, said she was thankful for all the volunteers who showed up for an important job.

“The Saw Mill River is not treated with respect. It has become a dumping ground for old tires and plastic bottles,” Malekian said.

“Last year, we collected two tons of trash.”

Once a month, during fall and winter, the coalition also clears up invasive vines from trees.

“These invasive vines choke the life out of the trees, and once they die, the health of the river deteriorates,” she said.

Carmilla Tan’s husband, Rex, tackled another section of the trailway with their younger daughter, Emily.

“It’s nice to set aside time to help the community and [the environment](#)

and teach kids social responsibility,” Tan said.

