

2018

# INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP RHODE ISLAND REPORT & CALL TO ACTION

**SAVE THE BAY®**

NARRAGANSETT BAY

# It's Not Okay to Trash the Bay



Trash on the beach is more than just ugly and unsanitary; it is a threat to the health of our oceans. Marine animals consume bits of plastic, leading to injury and death. Plastic bags and discarded fishing line can fatally entangle wildlife. And plastics are accumulating in the ocean at an alarming rate.

But thanks to volunteers around the world, the International Coastal Cleanup has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean. Save The Bay is proud to coordinate Rhode Island's part in the International Coastal Cleanup. Our Ocean State volunteers join with others all over the world to say that the solution to trash and plastics in our waters begins with us. From simply being responsible with our trash, to participating in and leading cleanups, to calling our legislators in support of policy action on marine debris, we can all make a difference.

This report highlights the results of Rhode Island's 2018 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

*The 2019 International Coastal Cleanup is on Saturday, September 21, 2019.  
Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER).*



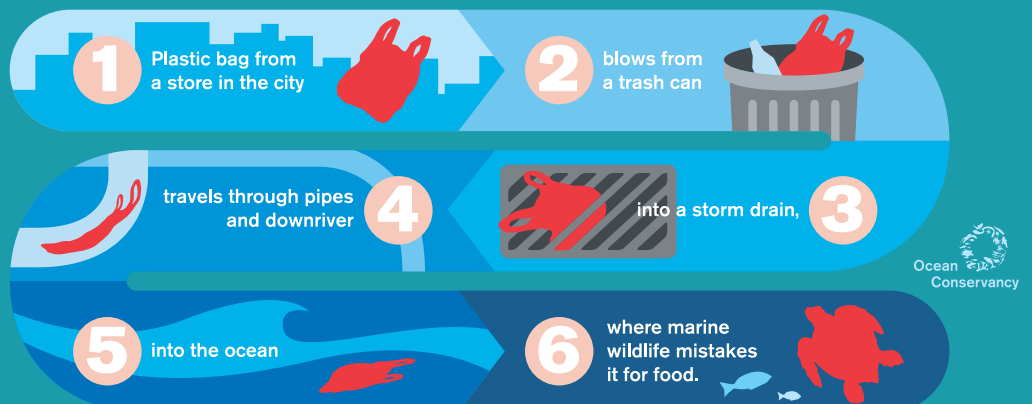
The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 700,000 volunteers worldwide work together to clean up beaches and shorelines in all corners of the world.



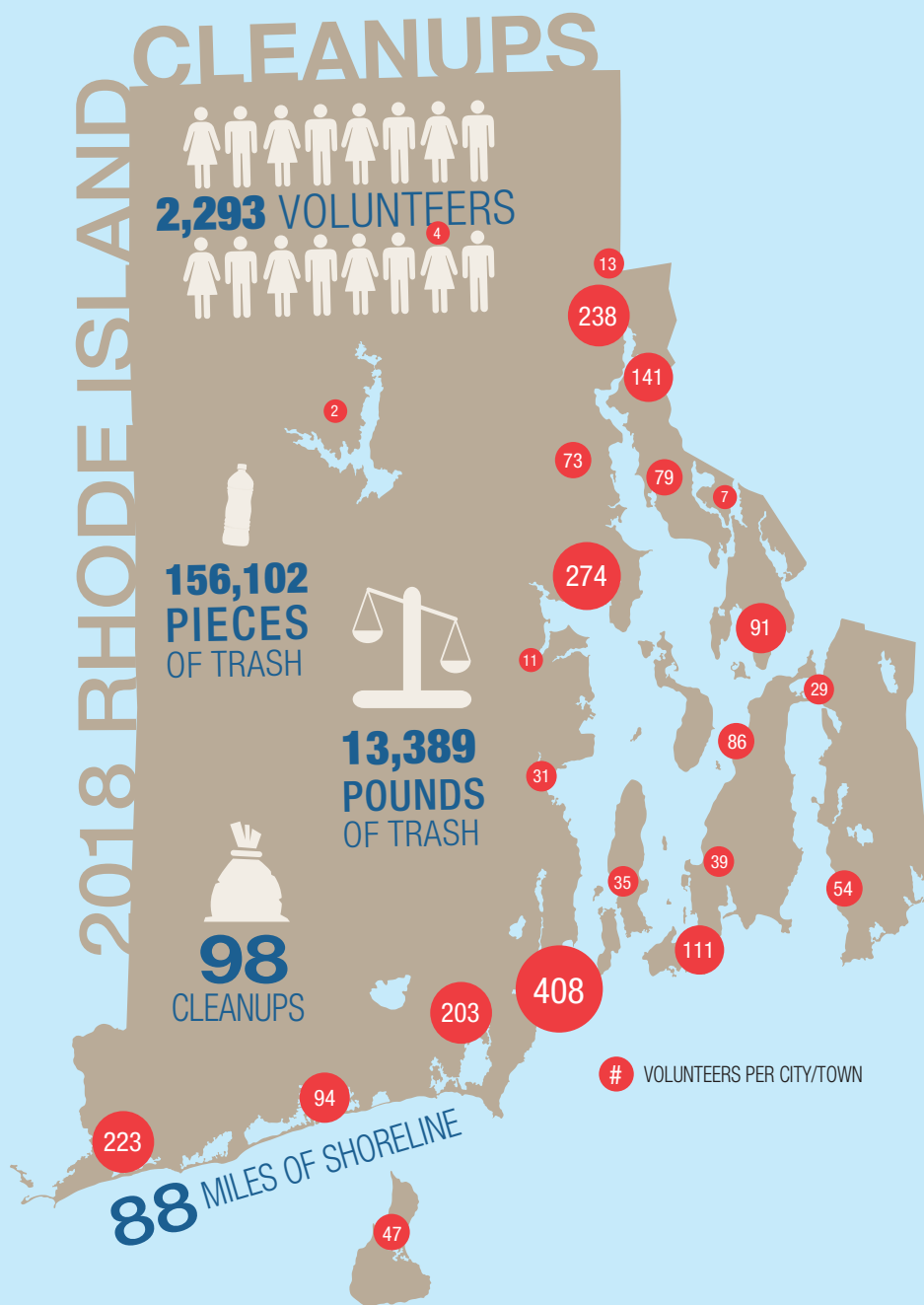
## DID YOU KNOW?

*Even miles from the water, litter finds a way to our Bay.*

You'd be surprised how trash makes its way to our oceans. Sure, plenty of it is left there carelessly by people on the shore. But beach trash also originates in our inland cities and towns, where litter left on the ground is carried to our waterways.



Ocean  
Conservancy



*"ICC cleanups are vital to Save The Bay's mission. Recording the type and amount of debris at International Coastal Cleanup sites is changing policy locally and worldwide."*  
 ~ Stan Dimock,  
 Beach Captain, Colt State Park

All data represents early results. Numbers may increase when the final international report is published in the spring. For more International Coastal Cleanup data and reports from around the world, visit [COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG](http://COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS IN NARRAGANSETT BAY



### CONTAIN YOUR BUTTS.

Cigarette filters are NOT biodegradable. Use a container for your butts so they don't reach waterways and the ocean.

### CARRY IT OUT.

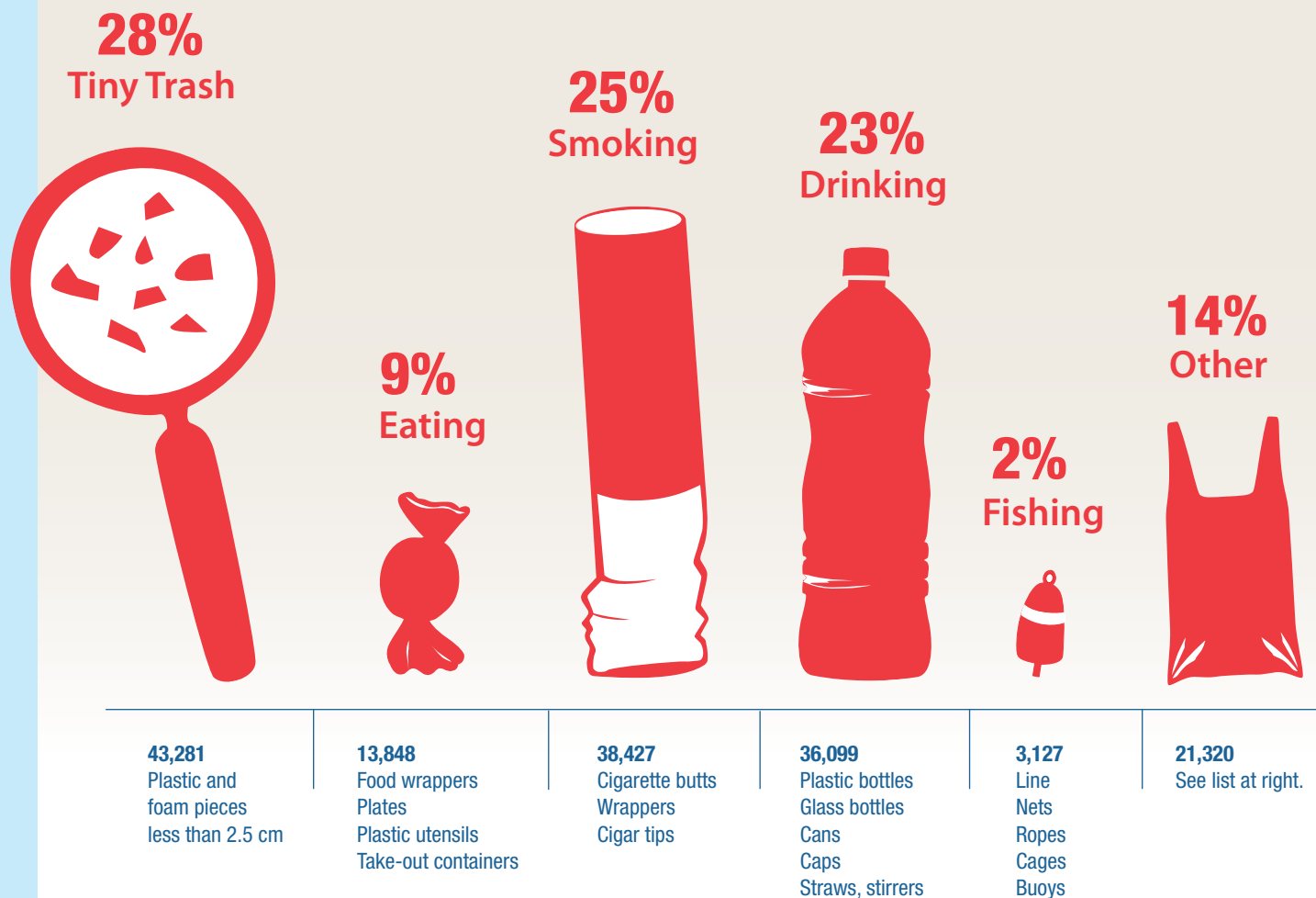
Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

### TOSS IT IN.

Trash tossed out on streets and sidewalks, even far from the shore, ends up in storm drains and washes into the Bay. Use trash cans.

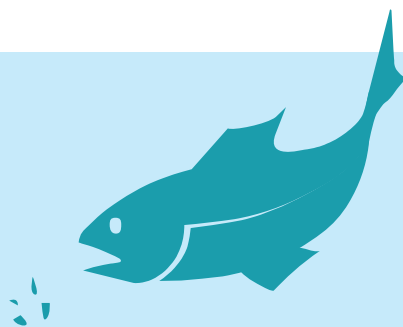


## TOP TRASH COLLECTED



### TINY TRASH IS A BIG PROBLEM!

Plastics never go away; they just break down into tinier and tinier pieces that end up being ingested by marine life, and, in turn, by us humans. These “microplastics” are found in plankton, arctic sea ice, and the gills and digestive tracts of the seafood we humans eat. How much plastic do YOU want to eat?



### PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that contaminate our waters and seafood and make humans sick.



### SET AN EXAMPLE.

When you go to the beach, take a trash bag with you and pick up surrounding trash you see. People are less likely to litter on a clean beach.

### SHOUT IT OUT.

If you see friends and family members littering, let them know it is NOT OK to trash our Bay.

## UNUSUAL ITEMS



SCOOTER

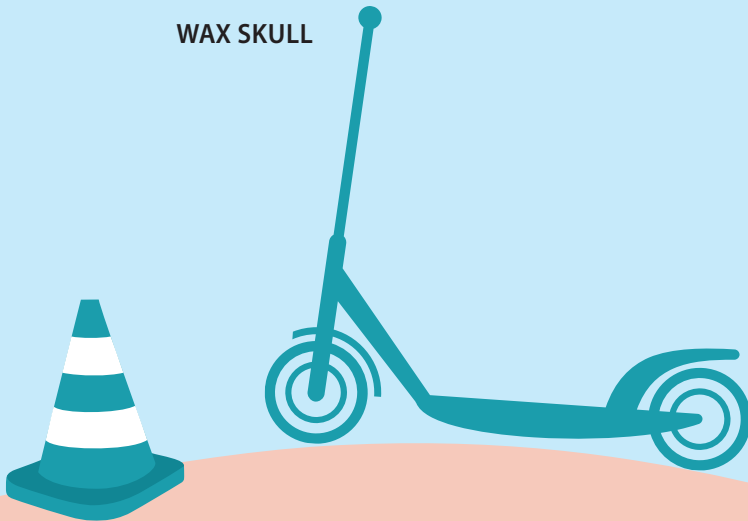
TRAFFIC CONE

HEADLESS DUCK DOLL

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

BED FRAME

WAX SKULL



## ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	36,147	23.16%
Plastic Pieces	23,296	14.92%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	10,841	6.94%
Glass Pieces	10,671	6.84%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	9,550	6.12%
Foam Pieces	9,314	5.97%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	6,935	4.44%
Straws, Stirrers	4,966	3.18%
Bottle Caps (metal)	4,606	2.95%
Beverage Cans	4,071	2.61%
Other Plastic Bags	3,714	2.38%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	3,701	2.37%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	3,377	2.16%
Lids (plastic)	2,015	1.29%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	1,928	1.24%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	1,862	1.19%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	1,749	1.12%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	1,738	1.11%
Cups, Plates (foam)	1,317	0.84%
Construction Materials	1,278	0.82%
Strapping Bands	1,207	0.77%
Paper Bags	1,167	0.75%
Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	1,153	0.74%
Forks, Knives, Spoons	1,113	0.71%
Tobacco Packaging/Wrap	1,098	0.70%
Cups, Plates (paper)	1,085	0.70%
Cigar Tips	862	0.55%
Fishing Net & Pieces	752	0.48%
Take Out/Away Containers (foam)	741	0.47%
Balloons	737	0.47%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	410	0.26%
Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps	405	0.26%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	361	0.23%
Cigarette Lighters	320	0.20%
Fireworks	316	0.20%
Other Trash (Clean Swell)	267	0.17%
6-Pack Holders	255	0.16%
Condoms	214	0.14%
Syringes	163	0.10%
Diapers	134	0.09%
Tires	92	0.06%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	56	0.04%
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)	42	0.03%
Toys	40	0.03%
Personal Hygiene (Clean Swell)	31	0.02%
Other Packaging (Clean Swell)	5	0.00%
<b>Total Pieces of Trash</b>	<b>156,102</b>	

*"I have been doing the cleanup since it started.  
The beach is much cleaner than it was on my  
first cleanup in the last century!"*

*~ Bill Aldrich, Beach Captain, Passeonquis Cove*





## VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The success of Rhode Island's beach cleanup efforts depends on their generosity of time and love for our environment. Thank you to all our volunteers and to our Volunteer Beach Captains who lead dozens of other volunteers at each cleanup location!



*"I was stunned by the compounded effect of our single-use lifestyles after collecting a dizzying amount of trash. Events such as ICC show how our everyday choices can make an impact in a positive or negative way. Leading ICC cleanups made me face my own consumption, and, consequently, contribution to the international litter problem plaguing us today." ~ Deborah Woolley, Beach Captain, Moonstone Beach, Salter Grove, Tongue Pond and others*

*"We had thirty volunteers who were appalled by how much trash would have gone into the river. I feel like each science department in every single school should talk to kids about how watersheds work, why and how it is that tiny cigarette butt, that tiny candy wrapper, gets into our public waters."*  
~ Amanda O'Bannon, Beach Captain, Woonasquatucket River



### GET INVOLVED.

**Be a Beach Captain:** Shoreline cleanups are a popular activity, and what we need most are leaders! Learn how to organize a cleanup in your community at our trainings at the Bay Center in Providence. Visit [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savebay.org/volunteer) or email [volunteer@savebay.org](mailto:volunteer@savebay.org) for the dates and times of upcoming beach captain trainings.

**Volunteer for a Cleanup:** Save The Bay holds beach cleanups from April through November. Bring your family, a group of friends, or even just yourself.

➤ Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savebay.org/volunteer)

**Use the CleanSwell App:** Lead your own small cleanup on your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Download the CleanSwell app, take a bag with you to the beach, record the litter you pick up in the app, and take the trash home with you when you leave. The app tracks your efforts, and you can even share your results on social media with a selfie. Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database! [OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL](https://oceanconservancy.org/cleanswell)





## SPONSORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Thanks to our generous sponsors and partners who host cleanups, bring teams of employee volunteers, and provide gloves and trash bags, first aid kits, hazardous waste disposal, sunscreen and bug spray and more!

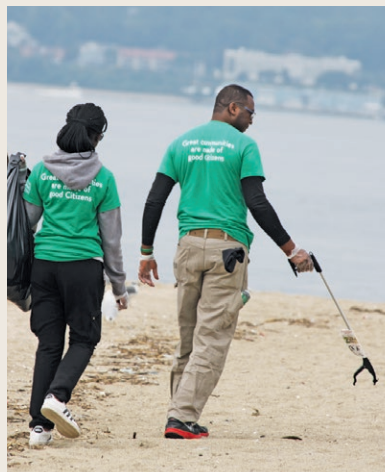
*"Through the ICC, our colleagues joined forces to make a big impact by collecting hundreds of pounds of trash, including the number one collected item—cigarette butts.*

*This partnership advances our purpose of helping people on their path to better health and supports our commitment to help people lead tobacco-free lives!"*

*~ Eileen Howard Boone,  
Senior Vice President of  
Corporate Social Responsibility  
& Philanthropy, CVS Health*



*"Bradford Soap supports Save The Bay and the International Coastal Cleanup because we take pride in this beautiful state that has been our home for 142 years. Bradford is doing our part to reduce packaging by creating condensed personal care products that contain little or no water, but we also know the importance of cleaning up garbage that is already polluting our beaches and bays." ~ Deborah McDonough, VP of Marketing, Bradford Soap Works*



*"Our coastline is one of our state's great treasures and is critically important to the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Citizens is proud of our colleagues' continued support of the International Coastal Cleanup to ensure that our coastline is healthy for generations to come."*

*~ Barbara Cottam, Rhode Island Market  
Executive, Citizens Bank*

## 2018 SPONSORS:

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Thank you for your support of Narragansett Bay. Please pass this report on to a friend who may want to know more about how they can help us protect and restore our Bay. Find out more about Save The Bay at [SAVEBAY.ORG](http://SAVEBAY.ORG)

**SAVE THE BAY®**

NARRAGANSETT BAY

DESIGN: DonnaDeForbesCreates.com