



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 Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our oceans. Save The Bay is proud to coordinate Rhode Island's contribution to the International Coastal Cleanup. Our Ocean State volunteers join 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 2022 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

The 2023 International Coastal Cleanup will take place September-November 2023. Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.savebay.org/volunteer).

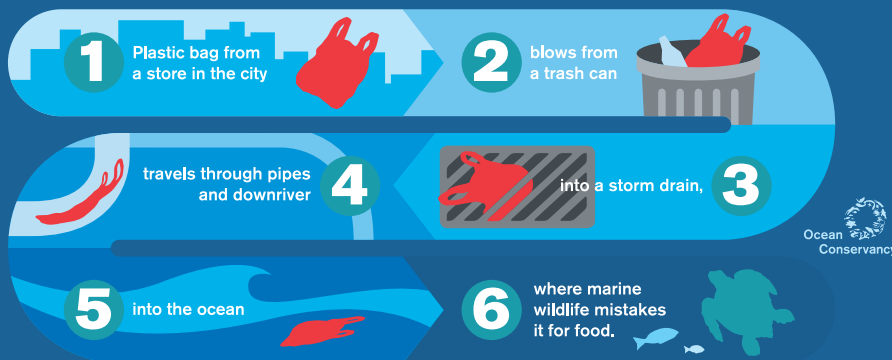
DID YOU KNOW?

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

While plenty of trash is carelessly left by people on the shore, that's not the only way trash makes its way to our oceans! Beach trash also originates in our inland cities and towns, where litter left on the ground is carried to our waterways.



The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 1 million volunteers worldwide work together to clean up beaches and shorelines in all corners of the world.



2022 RHODE ISLAND AND NARRAGANSETT BAY CLEANUPS

2,465 VOLUNTEERS

22,655 POUNDS OF TRASH

114,919 PIECES OF TRASH

132 MILES OF SHORELINE

456

390

178

629

812

VOLUNTEERS PER COUNTY



This year, with the support of Save The Bay's new landing craft, the M/V Rosemary Quinn, volunteers participated in cleanups on the shorelines of three of Narragansett Bay's many islands: Dyer, Patience and Prudence.

All data represents early results. Numbers may increase when the final international report is published in the summer. For more International Coastal Cleanup data and reports from around the world, visit 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.

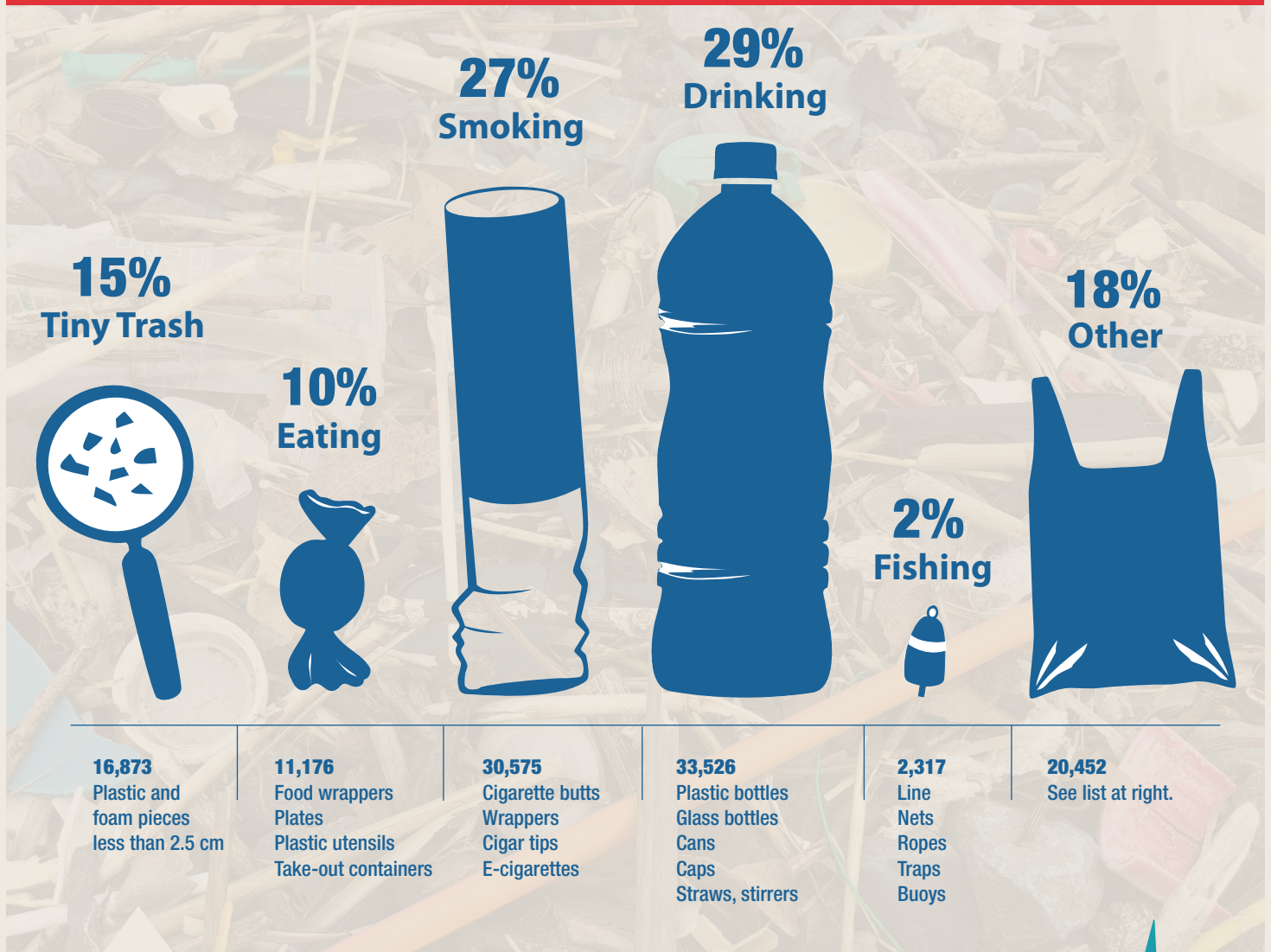
Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

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



SOCCER BALL

YOGA MAT

BABY BOTTLE

FAKE CHRISTMAS TREE

ZODIAC BOAT



ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	28,976	25.21%
Plastic/Foam Pieces	16,873	14.68%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	8,421	7.33%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	7,194	6.26%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	6,711	5.84%
Other Plastic Waste	5,270	4.59%
Beverage Cans	3,908	3.40%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	3,596	3.13%
Straws, Stirrers (plastic)	3,332	2.90%
Bottle Caps (metal)	2,833	2.47%
Other Bags (plastic)	2,809	2.44%
Foam Packaging	2,316	2.02%
Fishing Lines, Nets, Traps, Rope, etc.	2,314	2.01%
Other Waste (metal, paper, etc.)	2,170	1.89%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	1,802	1.57%
Lids (plastic)	1,616	1.41%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	1,543	1.34%
Tobacco Products (lighters, cigar tips, etc.)	1,280	1.11%
Food Containers (plastic)	1,184	1.03%
Cups, Plates (paper)	1,150	1.00%
Cups, Plates (foam)	1,139	0.99%
Construction Materials	984	0.86%
Utensils (plastic)	943	0.82%
Paper Bags	742	0.65%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	710	0.62%
Food Containers (foam)	628	0.55%
Strapping Bands	577	0.50%
Balloons	510	0.44%
Clothing	462	0.40%
Gloves and Masks (PPE)	429	0.37%
Beverage Sachets/Pouches	416	0.36%
Tampons and Applicators	357	0.31%
Toys	325	0.28%
Foam Dock Pieces	221	0.19%
Footwear (shoes, slippers, etc.)	168	0.15%
E-cigarettes	162	0.14%
Other Tobacco (packaging, etc.)*	157	0.14%
Syringes	139	0.12%
Condoms	124	0.11%
Diapers	107	0.09%
Tires	98	0.09%
6-Pack Holders	88	0.08%
Electronic Waste (phones, batteries)	61	0.05%
Cotton Swabs	52	0.05%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	12	0.01%
Other Packaging (Clean Swell)*	7	0.01%
Fishing Gear (Clean Swell)*	3	0.003%
Total Pieces of Trash	114,919	

*Items no longer tracked as of May 2022

"[I recently read a newsletter from a park in] the U.S. Virgin Islands. They had an article on their beach cleanups, which were inspired by the International Coastal Cleanup, and I instantly felt a sense of connection across hundreds of ocean miles [...] ICC events help broadcast our shared responsibility to keep all the coastlines clean."

- Carrie Drake, Blackstone Parks Conservancy

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 volunteer Beach Captains who lead dozens of other participants at each cleanup location!

"I am so excited to be able to lead cleanups for the ICC because you see an immediate positive impact on not only the site, but also the volunteers. It is an amazing and inspiring feeling to see the smiles and sense of accomplishment everyone feels after pulling together to improve our environment, beaches and water access sites."

*- Michelle Vitale,
Public St and Allens Ave ROW beach captain*



"Leading shoreline cleanups gives me a warm fuzzy feeling. It is especially heartwarming to see our younger generation engaged in this just cause as they will be our future educators and policy makers to ensure preservation of our nation's coastlines."

*- Alesia Sadosky,
Weekapaug and Quonnie
Breachway Beach Captain*



GET INVOLVED.

BE A BEACH CAPTAIN: Learn how to organize a cleanup in your community. Visit [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savebay.org/volunteer) or email 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 just yourself — and remember, we can accommodate team sign-ups, too!

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

USE THE CLEAN SWELL APP: Lead your own small cleanup on your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Download the Clean Swell 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! Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database! [OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL](https://oceanconservancy.org/cleanswell)



PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Our generous partner organizations and sponsors host cleanups, organize teams of volunteers, provide supplies, and more. Thank you to all our partners for making this year's International Coastal Cleanup a success!



PARTNER ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT: CLEAN OCEAN ACCESS

Clean Ocean Access manages an inspiring volunteer cleanup program that focuses on Aquidneck Island, Newport County, and surrounding areas. Their 2022 fall cleanups took place at more than 20 sites, engaged 371 volunteers, and resulted in the collection of 1,171 pounds of trash! These impressive results and Clean Ocean Access' collaborative approach make the organization an incredible partner in Rhode Island's International Coastal Cleanup effort!

We extend additional thanks to the following partner organizations that also went above and beyond this season: Ocean Recovery Community Alliance (ORCA); Boy Scouts of America; University of Rhode Island; Riverside Renaissance; Friends of Salter Grove; Conanicut Village Association; and Dell Technologies.

"Save The Bay is a critical organization helping to protect and preserve the waters that surround our state. Knowing that both our customers and employees live, work, and play on Narragansett Bay everyday, we're committed to supporting their work. We're proud to be a partner with Save The Bay and the vital role they play in Rhode Island."

- Brian Schuster, Director of External Affairs, Rhode Island Energy



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SAVE THE BAY®

NARRAGANSETT BAY

Your organization can get involved, too! If your organization holds cleanups and you'd like to contribute to Rhode Island's International Coastal Cleanup effort, we can help you get started! Learn more at volunteer.savebay.org/international-coastal-cleanup.