

It's Not Okay to Trash the Bay

2020 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP / RHODE ISLAND REPORT & CALL TO ACTION



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

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 around the world to say that the solution to trash and plastics in our waters begins with us.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic presented major challenges to cleanup efforts. But with adapted safety procedures, small groups, and individual cleanups using the Clean Swell app, volunteers came together to #CleanOn in 2020!

This report highlights the results of Rhode Island's 2020 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

The 2021 International Coastal Cleanup will take place September-October 2021. Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.savebay.org/volunteer).

DID YOU KNOW?

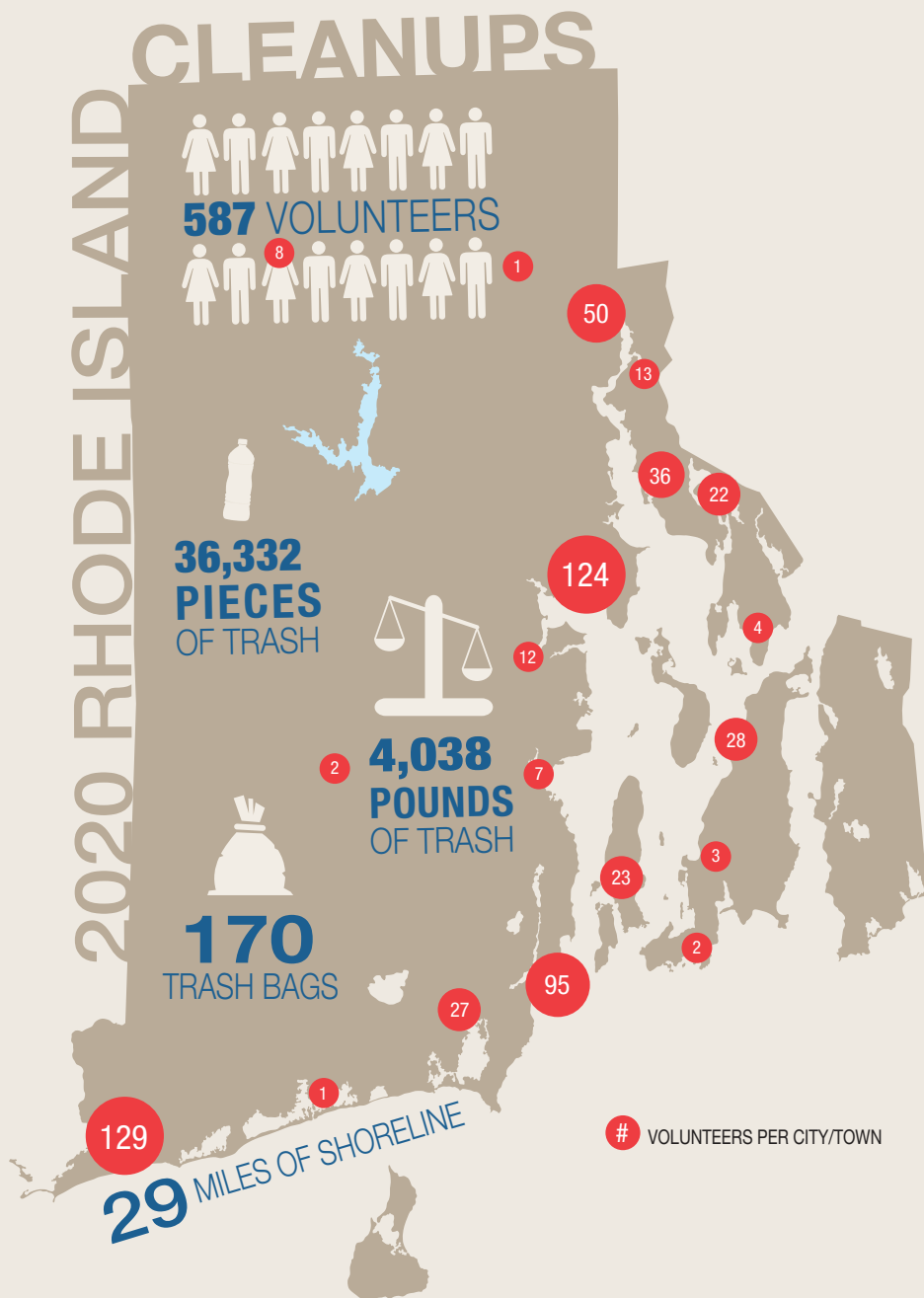
Even miles from the water, litter finds a way to our Bay.

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. ***Read more about our 2020 storm drain marking efforts inside!***



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.





"The International Coastal Cleanup is important because of the data that we collect. Because the survey includes many examples, it helps the volunteers think about how complex the problem of pollution is. It highlights how many different objects end up on beaches."

~ Andrew Lohmeier, Salter Grove

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](https://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.

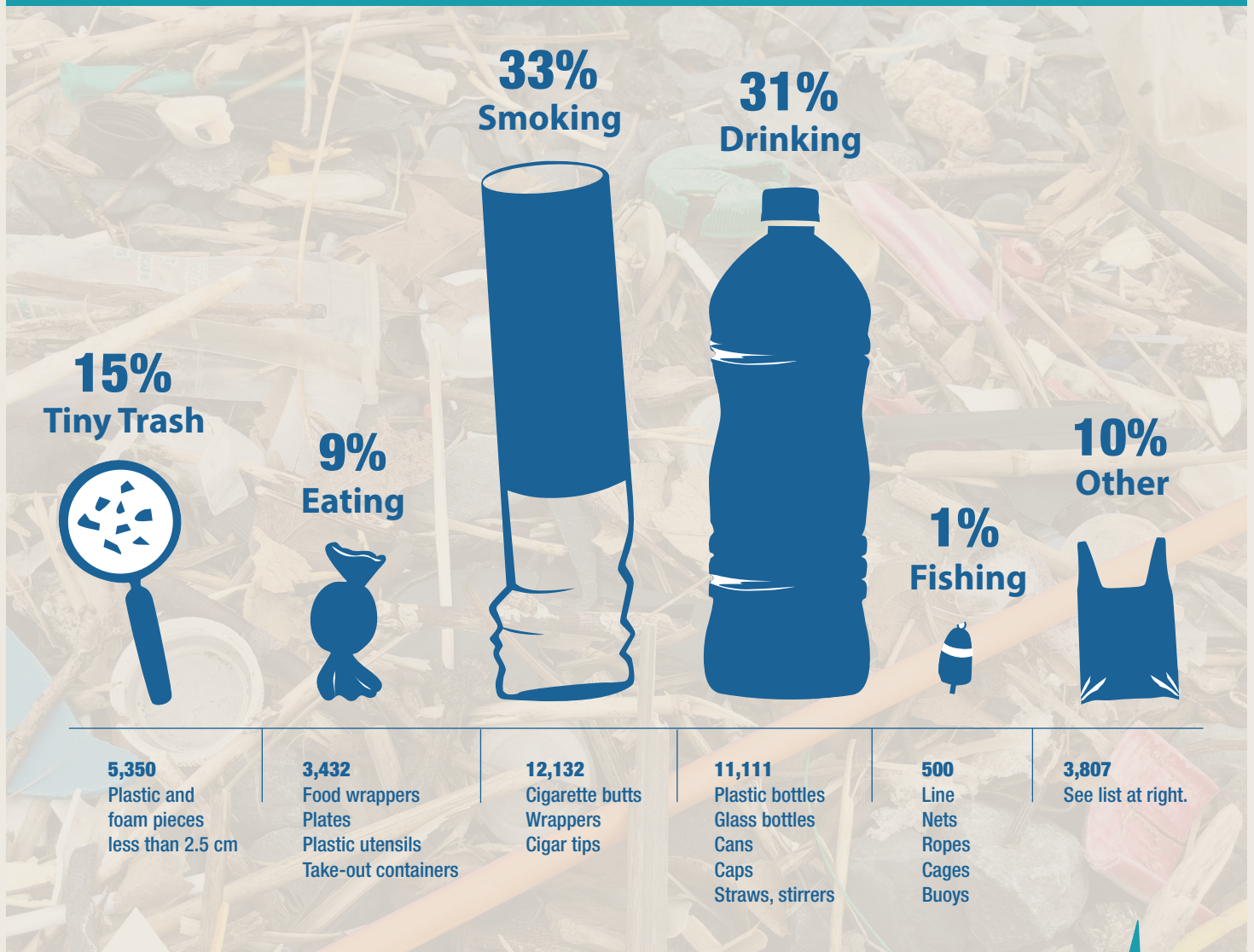
Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

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.

NEW CATEGORY!

**GLOVES AND MASKS -
303 collected**



ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	11,662	32.10%
Plastic Pieces	5,250	14.45%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	2,623	7.22%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	2,349	6.47%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	1,727	4.75%
Straws, Stirrers	1,610	4.43%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	1,362	3.75%
Beverage Cans	1,292	3.56%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	1,254	3.45%
Bottle Caps (metal)	1,028	2.83%
Other Trash*	897	2.47%
Lids (plastic)	679	1.87%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	633	1.74%
Take-out/away Containers (plastic)	477	1.31%
Fishing Gear*	475	1.31%
Tobacco packaging, cigarette lighters	398	1.10%
Forks, Knives, Spoons	346	0.95%
Personal Hygiene*	337	0.93%
Gloves and Masks (PPE)	303	0.83%
Other Packaging*	297	0.82%
Take-out/away Containers (foam)	260	0.72%
Strapping Bands	203	0.56%
Construction Materials	197	1.54%
Beverages/Sachets	117	0.32%
Toys	104	0.29%
Balloons	89	0.24%
E-cigarettes	67	0.18%
Glass Pieces	61	0.17%
Foam Pieces	39	0.11%
Other Plastic Bags	30	0.08%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	27	0.07%
Cups, Plates (paper)	22	0.06%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	21	0.06%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	19	0.05%
Paper Bags	18	0.05%
Cups, Plates (foam)	17	0.05%
Tires	16	0.04%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	9	0.02%
Cigar Tips	5	0.01%
Fishing Net and Pieces	4	0.01%
Condoms	4	0.01%
6-Pack Holders	1	0.00%
Diapers	1	0.00%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	1	0.00%
Syringes	1	0.00%
Total Pieces of Trash	36,332	

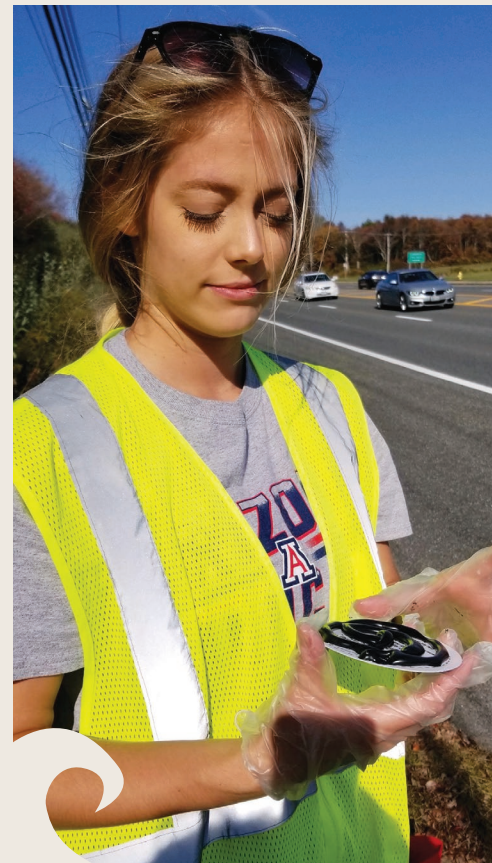
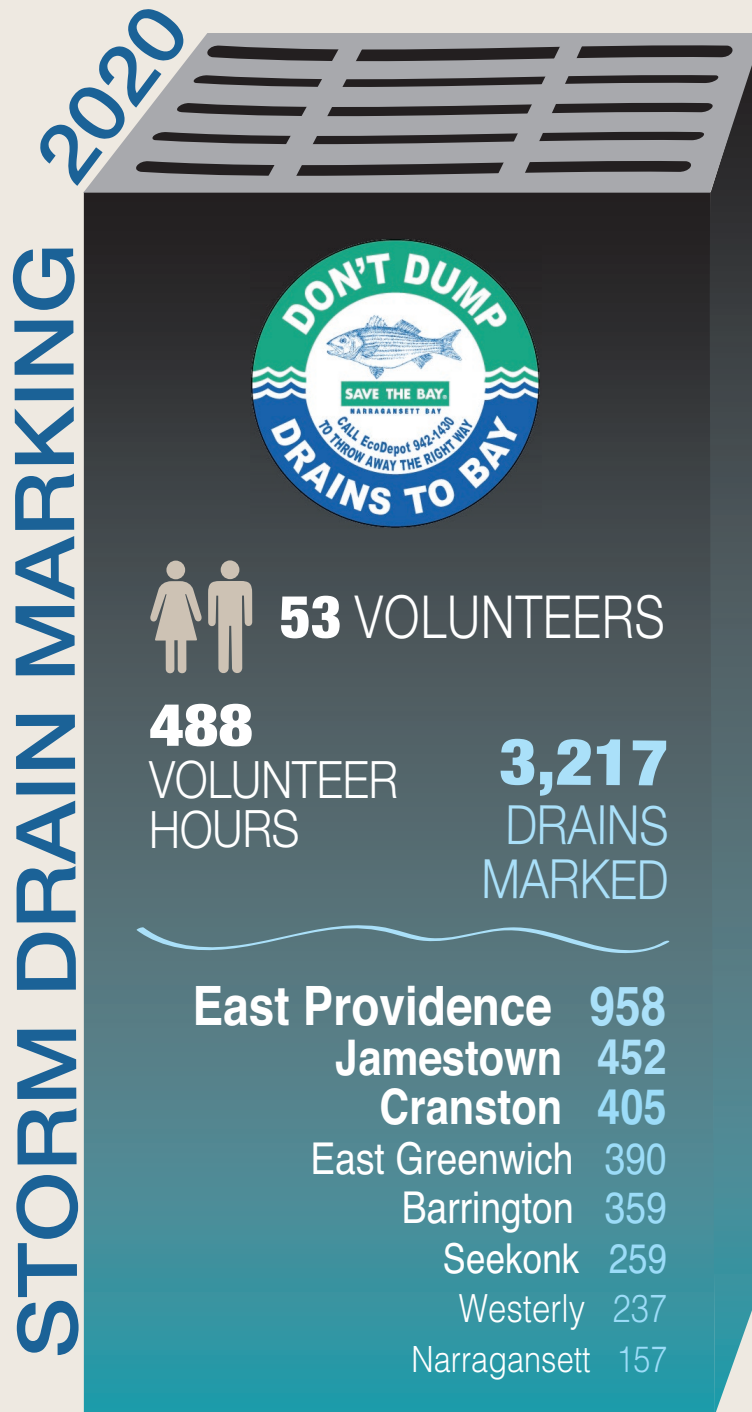
*Recorded using the Clean Swell app

"Participating in the International Coastal Cleanup makes me feel like I'm doing my part to keep our state beautiful. The most rewarding part is seeing the bags of trash we picked up and how much better the sites look!"

~ Rebecca McGrath, Bold Point

STORM DRAIN MARKING

Storm drain markers help remind residents that the waste left by or placed in storm drains flows into nearby rivers and streams, and ultimately ends up in Narragansett Bay. In 2020, volunteers marked 3,217 storm drains across eight Bay communities in an effort to help prevent litter and pollution at its source.



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](https://www.savebay.org)

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 participants at each cleanup location!



BEACH CAPTAIN

"I love pulling out my red 'Beach Captain' shirt every year. It makes me feel like a superhero."

*~Dana Goodman,
Weekapaug Breachway*

"People still cared about the Bay even though there was a pandemic. You could tell by the enthusiasm of the volunteers that came out to help."
~ Gloria Krajewski, Bold Point

50TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS:

Sage Family Foundation
Navigant Credit Union
CVS Health
REI Co-op
F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company
Absolut
Amica Insurance
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
Moo.com
Roger Williams University
Brown University
Coast to Coast Promotional Products
Citrin Cooperman
Starkweather & Shepley

EVENT SPONSORS:

Bank of America
National Grid
Citizens Bank
UNFI
F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company
Rhode Races
Conanicut Marine Services, Inc.
Water Scents
BayCoast Bank
Greenleaf Compassionate Care
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Regency Plaza / Chestnut Hill
CASE Construction
Citrin Cooperman
Starkweather & Shepley

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 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 even just yourself.

➤ Sign up at 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 with a selfie. Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database! **Learn more at** OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL



SAVE THE BAY'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY

BANK OF AMERICA 

DESIGN: DonnaDeForbesCreates.com