

2019

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP RHODE ISLAND REPORT & CALL TO ACTION



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 2019 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

*The 2020 International Coastal Cleanup is on Saturday, September 19, 2020.
Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.savebay.org/volunteer).*

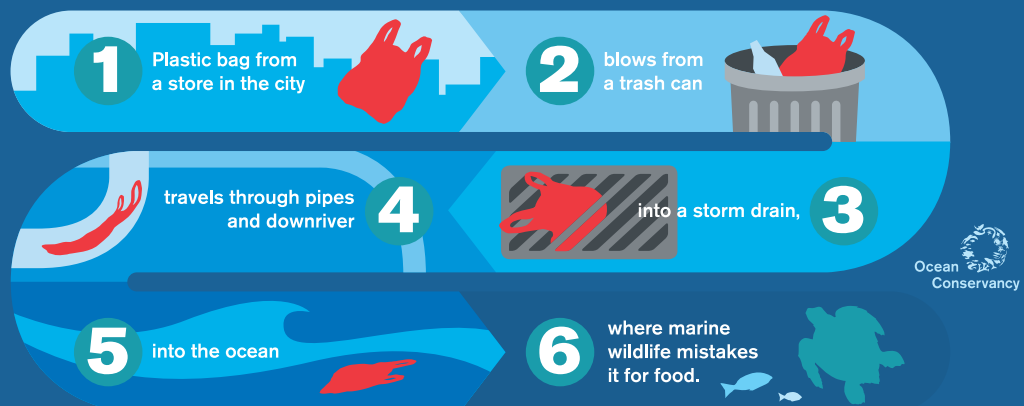


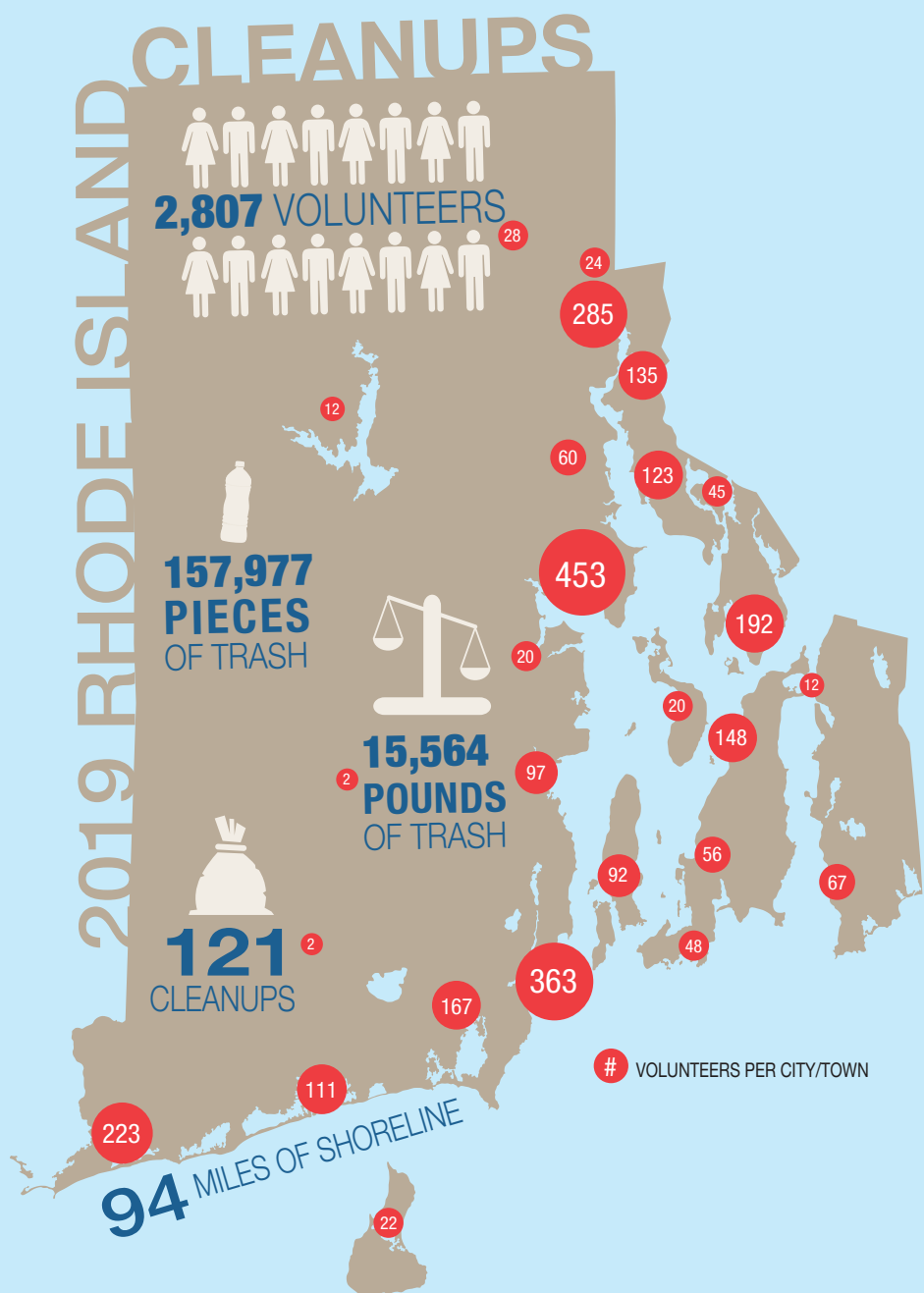
The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 1 million volunteers worldwide work together to clean up beaches and shorelines in all corners of the world.



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.





"Over half of the individuals who helped with our cleanup had never been to those beaches and seen Narragansett Bay from that perspective. They were just blown away by the beauty and were so thankful they could contribute to keeping our state wonderful."
 ~ Kathy Vigness-Raposa,
 Land Conservancy of North Kingstown,
 Quonset Point Beaches

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

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.

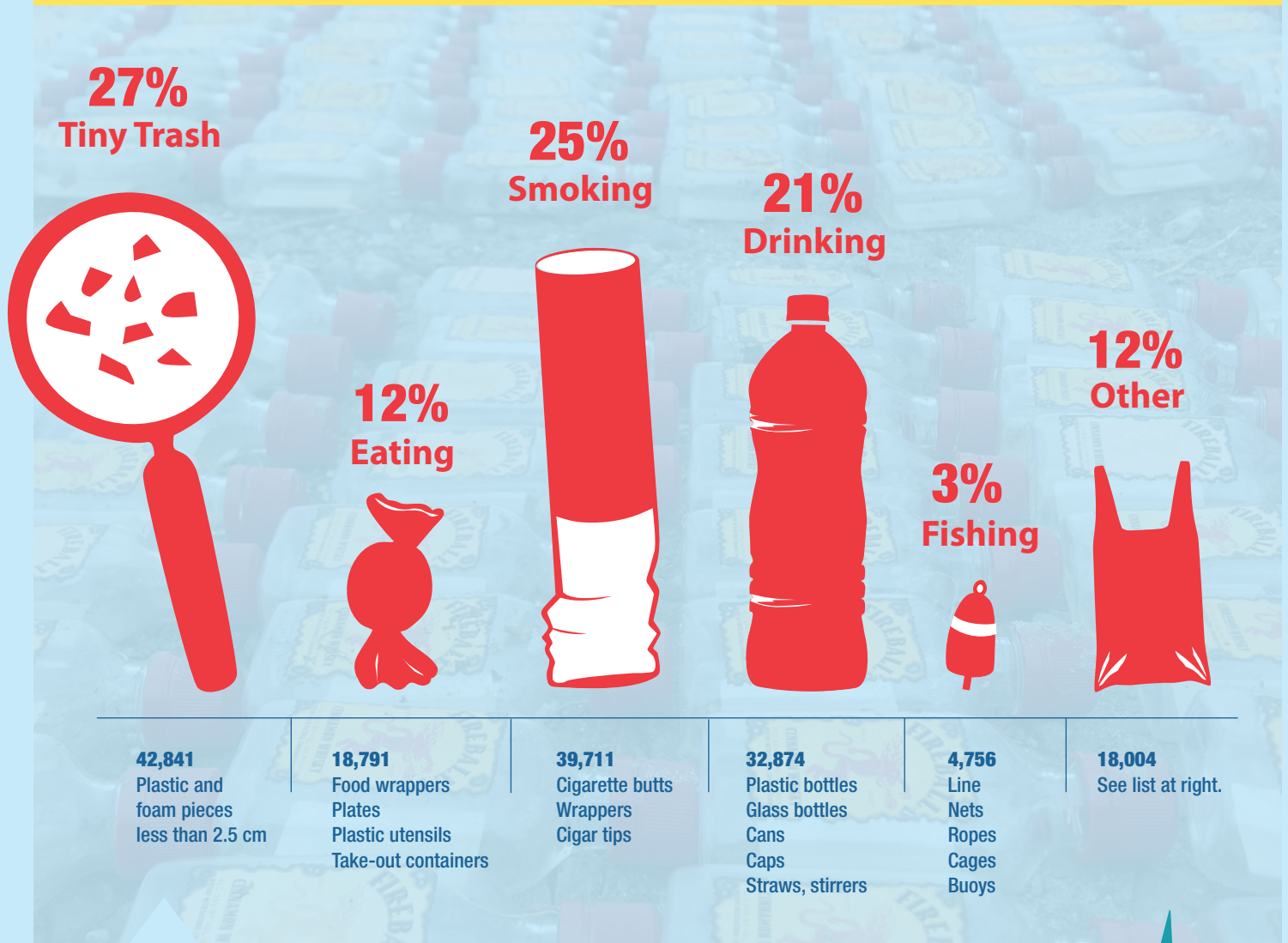
Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

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.



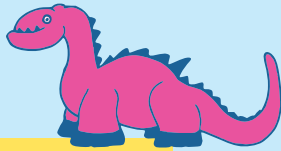
SET AN EXAMPLE.

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



CHRISTMAS TREE

PINK DINOSAUR TOY

GUN AMMUNITION MAGAZINE

BOTTLE OF BBQ SAUCE

DISASSEMBLED LAMP IN BOX

CAR SEAT

HULA HOOP



ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	37,193	23.69%
Plastic Pieces	21,055	13.41%
Glass Pieces	13,818	8.80%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	11,136	7.09%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	8,541	5.44%
Foam Pieces	7,968	5.08%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	6,842	4.36%
Straws, Stirrers	4,629	2.95%
Beverage Cans	4,159	2.65%
Other Plastic Bags	3,970	2.53%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	3,682	2.35%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	3,451	2.20%
Bottle Caps (metal)	3,079	1.96%
Construction Materials	2,320	1.48%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	2,278	1.24%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	2,243	1.43%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	1,956	1.25%
Lids (plastic)	1,942	1.24%
Cups, Plates (foam)	1,363	0.87%
Other Trash*	1,344	0.86%
Cigar Tips	1,244	0.79%
Cups, Plates (paper)	1,201	0.77%
Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	1,178	0.75%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	1,098	0.70%
Forks, Knives, Spoons	1,050	0.67%
Paper Bags	1,038	0.66%
Tobacco Packaging/Wrap	980	0.62%
Take Out/Away Containers (foam)	907	0.58%
Fishing Net & Pieces	723	0.46%
Strapping Bands	560	0.36%
Fireworks	523	0.33%
Balloons	503	0.32%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	476	0.30%
Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps	423	0.27%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	367	0.23%
Cigarette Lighters	294	0.19%
Fishing Gear*	234	0.15%
Other Packaging*	231	0.15%
6-Pack Holders	205	0.13%
Diapers	167	0.11%
Condoms	152	0.10%
Personal Hygiene*	135	0.09%
Tires	98	0.06%
Syringes	92	0.06%
Toys	80	0.05%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	49	0.03%
Total Pieces of Trash	156,977	

*Recorded using the Clean Swell app

"We had such a nice clear autumn day that it is hard to believe we could make the beach more beautiful. But knowing we made it a better place for people and wildlife by removing 118 pounds of garbage did just that."
- Jennifer Fishman, Scarborough Beach

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!



"It's rewarding seeing the difference we can make in a morning. But it's even more rewarding to see the differences we've made over the years. People are less likely to litter at a site that is clean, so keeping a place clean reduces the amount of trash we find over time. I think it's helped change the habits of the people who frequent our site, too." - Meredyth Whitty, Collier Point Park

"It is important to bring volunteers together to clean up our beaches, not only to improve our natural environment, but also to show people that pollution is a serious issue, and it is imperative that we reduce the amount of trash we produce and improve the way we dispose of it."

- Connor Gralton, Save The Bay intern



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 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



SPONSORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

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

"UNFI is proud to help Save The Bay keep our shorelines clean and beautiful! It's inspiring to see the difference we can make in eliminating coastal litter by coming together as a community."

~ Alisha Real, Sustainability and Philanthropy Manager, UNFI



"Giving back to the communities where our employees live and work is ingrained in the culture at Amica. We're grateful that our employees are committed to helping others, and their efforts around the country support causes that foster strong community bonds and a better quality of life for all. The programs we support, although different, all have a transformative, life-changing impact."

~ Patti Paolantonio, Lead Sponsorship Coordinator, Amica Insurance

"At Bradford, we believe that water is a valuable resource that we all need to protect. By sponsoring the International Coastal Cleanup, we can help ensure the cleanliness and safety of our bays, oceans, and the surrounding environment."

~ Deb McDonough, VP Marketing, Bradford



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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



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