



Black River Trash Bash

What, Who, Where, When, Why and How?

What?

- Cleanup event
- Data collection
- Started in 2010 to mark the release of the BRW Plan
- Raise awareness about this important resource

Where?

- Anywhere in the Black River Watershed
- Inlet, Watertown, Eatonville, Hawkinsville Dam, JCC, Lyons Falls

LITTER MONITORING FORM



Volunteer Instructions:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL WEIGHT

Clean-up Steps:



1

WORK IN GROUPS



2

KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU COLLECT



3

ADD UP ITEMS YOU PICK UP



4

WEIGH TRASH



5

RECYCL

Note to Team Leaders— Please tally your results onto a final data form a www.greatlakesadopt.org

ITEMS COLLECTED

Pick up ALL debris items that you find. Only listed below. If you find an item that is a con listed below, mark in the "Misc. Items" secti

TOP 10 ITEMS	TALLY
Example: Item A	II
Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	
Beverage Cans	
Bottle Caps (Metal)	
Bottle Caps (Plastic)	
Cigar Tips	
Cigarette Butts	
Food Wrappers	
Lids	
Plastic Bags	
Straws/ Stirrers	
TINY TRASH < 2.5 cm	TALLY
Foam Pieces	
Glass Pieces	
Plastic Pieces	

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LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS	TALLY	TOTAL
Balloons		=
Beverage Bottles (Glass)		=
Construction Materials		=
Cups & Plates (Paper)		=
Cups & Plates (Plastic)		=
Fireworks		=
Grocery Bags (Plastic)		=
Paper Bags		=
Take Out Containers (Foam)		=
Tobacco packaging/ Wrap		=

FISHING GEAR	TALLY	TOTAL
Fishing Line (1 yard = 1 piece)		=
Fishing Net & Pieces		=
Rope (1 yard = 1 piece)		=

PERSONAL HYGIENE	TALLY	TOTAL
Condoms		=
Diapers		=
Syringes		=
Tampons/ Tampon Applicators		=

OTHER TRASH	TALLY	TOTAL
6-Pack Holders		=
Cigarette Lighters		=
Clothing		=
Discarded Food		=
Other Plastic Bottles		=
Paper Pieces		=
Shotgun Shells		=
Tires		=
Toys		=

MISC. ITEMS	TALLY	TOTAL
		=
		=
		=

When?

- Typically in late summer or early fall, to coincide with the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup
- Data is received by the Alliance for the Great Lakes all year round

LITTER MONITORING FORM



Volunteer Instructions:

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

TOTAL WEIGHT

Clean-up Steps:

1



WORK IN GROUPS

2



KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU COLLECT

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ADD UP ITEMS YOU PICK UP

4



WEIGH TRASH

5



RECYCLE WHAT YOU CAN

Note to Team Leaders—Please tally your results onto a final data form and enter your data online at www.greatlakesadopt.org

ITEMS COLLECTED

Pick up ALL debris items that you find. Only record info listed below. If you find an item that is a concern or in a listed below, mark in the "Misc. Items" section on the back.

TOP 10 ITEMS	TALLY
Example: Item A	II
Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	
Beverage Cans	
Bottle Caps (Metal)	
Bottle Caps (Plastic)	
Cigar Tips	
Cigarette Butts	
Food Wrappers	
Lids	
Plastic Bags	
Straws/ Stirrers	
TINY TRASH < 2.5 cm	TALLY
Foam Pieces	
Glass Pieces	
Plastic Pieces	

Note to Team Leaders—Please tally your results onto a final data form and enter your data online at www.greatlakesadopt.org



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Cups & Plates (Plastic)		=
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Grocery Bags (Plastic)		=
Paper Bags		=
Take Out Containers (Foam)		=
Tobacco packaging/ Wrap		=
FISHING GEAR	TALLY	TOTAL
Fishing Line (1 yard = 1 piece)		=
Fishing Net & Pieces		=
Rope (1 yard = 1 piece)		=
PERSONAL HYGIENE	TALLY	TOTAL
Condoms		=
Diapers		=
Syringes		=
Tampons/ Tampon Applicators		=
OTHER TRASH	TALLY	TOTAL
6-Pack Holders		=
Cigarette Lighters		=
Clothing		=
Discarded Food		=
Other Plastic Bottles		=
Paper Pieces		=
Shotgun Shells		=
Tires		=
Toys		=
MISC. ITEMS	TALLY	TOTAL
		=
		=
		=

Who?

- Lewis County WQCC
- Jefferson County WQCC
- Haderondah 4H Club of Old Forge
- Lyons Falls Alive
- John Reape (500 lbs on his own)
- Jefferson Community College
- Adirondack Communities Advisory League



Why?

- CITIZEN SCIENCE
- Awareness
- Part of a global movement to keep beaches, waterways and the ocean trash free



BLACK RIVER WATERSHED SCALE

Black River Trash Bash 12 Year Summary



Trash Bash Year	Number of Participants	Weight of Trash Collected (pounds)
2010	36	735
2011	23	290
2012	57	505
2013	29	726
2014	28	570
2015	50	431
2016	57	405
2017	74	500
2018	53	627
2019	82	978
2020	14	155
2021	23	219
Running Totals	526	6,141

Five Year Compilation (2017 – 2021)

Includes:

- 2,105 Food Wrappers
- 3,864 Cigarettes (butts)
- 349 Plastic Grocery Bags
- 1,157 Tiny Pieces of Plastic (not including beverage bottles)
- Other items of concern over the years:
 - Vapes
 - Tires
 - Syringes
 - Baby Pool
 - Balloons
 - Meth Lab

GREAT LAKES SCALE

How Adopt-a-Beach Data Makes a Difference

- Tim Hoellein, an Associate Professor at Loyola University Chicago
- Shows how Adopt-a-Beach data has informed his research
- Trash science: Research from Adopt-a-Beach Volunteers
 - A. Litter is Variable
 - B. Litter is Moving
 - C. More volunteers = More collected
- Dataset positions researchers to examine the impact of policies such as a plastic bag ban

GLOBAL SCALE

2020 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP By the Numbers

Top Ten Items Recorded

1	Cigarette Butts	964,521
2	Beverage Bottles (plastic)	627,014
3	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	573,534
4	Other Trash* (Clean Swell)	519,438
5	Bottle Caps (plastic)	409,855
6	Grocery Bags (plastic)	272,399
7	Straws, Stirrers	224,170
8	Take Out/Away Containers (plastic)	222,289
9	Beverage Cans	162,750
10	Beverage Bottles (glass)	146,255

221,589
People

5,229,065
Pounds

2,371,864
Kilograms

49,635
Miles

79,880
Kilometers

8,066,072
Total Items

Why collect data about litter?

- **Publications using Adopt-a-Beach™ data**
- Hoellein, Timothy J.; Westhoven, Megan; Lyandres, Olga & Cross, Jamie, (2014). **Abundance and environmental drivers of anthropogenic litter on 5 Lake Michigan beaches: A study facilitated by citizen science data collection. Journal of Great Lakes Research**
- Vincent, Anna; Drag, Nate; Lyandres, Olga; Neville, Sarah & Hoellein, Timothy, (2016). **Citizen science datasets reveal drivers of spatial and temporal variation for anthropogenic litter on Great Lakes beaches. Science of the Total Environment**
- Driedger, Alexander G.J.; Durr, Hans H.; Mitchell, Kristen & Van Cappellen, Phillippe, (2015). **Plastic debris in the Laurentian Great Lakes: A review. Journal of Great Lakes Research**

How?

- Greatlatkes.org Adopt-a-Beach
- Ocean Conservancy oceanconservancy.org
International Coastal Cleanup
- Or Contact me or any of my colleagues in this room 😊
- Thanks to the BRAC for our Trash Grabbers
- Thanks to White's Lumber for work gloves