

# NEWS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release Date: September 5, 2019

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## **Trash Travels - Help Keep Litter Out of Our Waterways**

*Registration is Open for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania*

Registration is open for the 2019 Pick Up Pennsylvania, a fall cleanup program supporting the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful invites individuals, families, friends, civic organizations and businesses to coordinate a cleanup or join an existing cleanup to remove litter from our neighborhoods and local waterways to prevent it from reaching our oceans.



A significant portion of waterway pollution originates on land. When it rains, trash on sidewalks and streets accumulates and is swept into storm drains. Most storm drain systems discharge directly into the nearest creek or river, eventually flowing to the ocean taking all the trash with it. To prevent litter from ending up in our waterways, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful coordinates Pick Up Pennsylvania, in support of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, from September 1 through October 31.

As the largest volunteer effort aimed at improving the health of our oceans, the International Coastal Cleanup, engages hundreds of thousands of volunteers

from around the world to remove millions of pounds of plastics and debris from inland areas and waterways.

"Cleaning up your local park or street that you live on might seem unrelated to healthy waterways, especially when there isn't any water in sight, but I think we have all seen litter blocking storm drains. Cleaning up that litter before it has a chance to be washed into the creek will significantly reduce the amount of trash that reaches our local waterways and eventually, our oceans," explained Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Please lend a hand and join us in a cleanup this fall."

To register visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org) and choose the Pick Up Pennsylvania button at the top of the homepage. Gloves and bags are available for registered events while supplies last. For questions regarding Pick Up Pennsylvania, please contact Michelle Dunn, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Cleanup Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 Ext. 113 or [mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org). Cleanup tools and resources to help organize a safe and successful cleanup can be found [here](#).

Last year, 577 events were held across Pennsylvania - 13,297 volunteers removed 523,855 pounds of trash and tires from Pennsylvania's waterways, coastal regions, parks, sidewalks, streets and neighborhoods, preventing litter and debris from making its way downstream.

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**About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 141 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).