



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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92,342 Volunteers Organize Over 5,000 Events as Part of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2019 Great American Cleanup of PA

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) has announced the results of the 2019 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful [Great American Cleanup of PA](#) that runs annually from March 1 through May 31.

This year, the event engaged 92,342 invaluable volunteers in 5,356 events across the state that focused on community greening, beautification and cleanups. Organized groups, civic organizations, families and friends took to Pennsylvania parks, trails and streets to reclaim their neighborhoods by picking up over **7 million pounds of trash and recyclables, 19,082 tires and planting 8,580 flowers, bulbs and other plants** in an effort to keep Pennsylvania beautiful. As in years past, all 67 counties participated in this annual community improvement event. Click [here](#) for a breakdown of stats by county to see how your county performed in 2019.



Community projects, completed between March 1 and May 31, include:

- Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group, Allegheny County - Twenty-eight members from the Allegheny County anti-littering group convened in April to pick up 45 bags of litter from Long Road. "Litter begets more litter," Faith Milazzo said. "People tend to litter in places where there's already litter. We are trying to set a standard by cleaning it up before it attracts more."
- Camel's Hump Farm, Lehigh County – A team of more than 40 GIANT associates joined Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and The Friends of Johnston, Inc. to beautify the first mayor of Bethlehem's iconic estate. Together the groups planted more than 200 trees, shrubs, native flowers and willows. "GIANT wants to make sure we are staying true to our promise and helping to ensure a healthy planet for future generations and we are proud to work with organizations like Friends of Johnston and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful who share our commitment," said Ashley Flower, Manager External Communications and Community Relations, GIANT Food Stores.
- City of Reading, Berks County - Hosted by the Reading Parks Department and Reading Beautification, Inc., over 1,000 volunteers participated in the city wide cleanup where nearly 500 bags of trash was collected from roadways, waterways, playgrounds, parks and other public spaces. The event also included vendors and exhibitors at Riverfront Park to help educate the public on the importance of keeping the City of Reading clean.

"We are so grateful for the ongoing participation of our local community groups, volunteers and affiliates who coordinate cleanup, beautification and

collection events for the residents of Pennsylvania year after year during our Great American Cleanup of PA event. The contribution of everyone's time and energy towards keeping our communities clean, healthy and beautiful is appreciated beyond words. We also want to thank our sponsors, Business Partners, volunteers, local municipalities and local businesses who donated goods and services or made a monetary donation," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Without these partnerships and the tireless work of the volunteers the Great American Cleanup of PA would not be possible."

The 2019 program was held in partnership and with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Sheetz, Wawa, Inc., Weis Markets, Inc., Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Giant Food Stores, Inc., Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Mahantango, Republic Services, and Wegmans.

To inquire about becoming a sponsor for the 2020 Pick Up Pennsylvania, in support of the Great American Cleanup, contact Barb Christner at bchristner@keppabeautiful.org or 724-836-4121 x114.

Registration for the 2020 Pick Up Pennsylvania, in support of the Great American Cleanup, will open in January. During this period, events registered through www.gacofpa.org will receive free bags, gloves, and vests from PennDOT District offices, as supplies last. As part of this event, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association will sponsor Let's Pick It Up PA – dates to be determined. During Pick It Up PA Days, registered events will be able to take the trash collected during their cleanup to participating landfills for free or reduced cost.

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About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make 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.keppabeautiful.org.