

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Two Weeks Left to Join Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania Initiative



Volunteers from the Upper Merion Street and Stream Cleanup.

(November 10, 2020) There are still two weeks left to participate in the annual [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Pick Up Pennsylvania](#) statewide initiative that supports the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup! The cleanup program runs through the end of November. Register a cleanup of your favorite road, park, trail or neighborhood and receive free trash bags, gloves and safety vests compliments of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, Keep America Beautiful, GLAD Products Company and the Ocean Conservancy, as supplies last.

Litter affects the health and safety of humans and wildlife, is visually unpleasant and sends a message that no one cares. Once it reaches our waterways, it transports chemical pollutants, threatens aquatic life, and interferes with river, marine and coastal environments.

"The goal is to keep litter from reaching our oceans. We support all cleanups, whether they are water-based or on land, since a significant portion of waterway pollution originates on land.

Individuals, families, neighbors, students, civic organizations and local governments are all invited to participate,” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

So far, over 200 cleanups have taken place under the Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative since it began on September 1. Many individuals and groups large and small, seeking some time outdoors with like-minded friends, family and neighbors, grabbed a trash bag and picked up litter and larger debris that was either blown from trash cans or intentionally put there.

- The Upper Merion Street and Stream Cleanup in Montgomery County took place on October 10. Seventy-two members of the community picked up 300 bags of trash.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers cleaned up 10 bags of trash, 2 appliances and 9 tires from a four-mile stretch of the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River in Huntingdon County, from Corbin's Island to Point Access Area.
- In Dauphin County, nearly 200 volunteers participated in the Great Harrisburg Litter Cleanup, a citywide event where 1,100 bags of trash and 708 tires were collected.

“It’s something that everybody can do. It’s a great feeling, the results are immediate and you are helping reduce litter’s economic, environmental and social impact,” said Reiter. “I want to thank everyone who volunteered to clean up and all the municipalities that have supported those cleanups.”

The group suggests doing a cleanup either solo or with household family members and encourages adhering to the recommendations for social distancing. All that is needed is a trash bag, gloves and bright colored clothing, if you are cleaning up near a roadway.

To find out more, visit [keeppabeautiful.org](http://keeppabeautiful.org) and choose Pick Up Pennsylvania. Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or [mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org).

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### **About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has worked with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the state to pick up nearly 147 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania’s roadways, waterways, greenways, vacant lots, forestlands and other community spaces. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation’s largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).