

# NIE Connect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues, in your community and how you can get involved.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/Anna McCartney

The PALEICC is held rain or shine unless threatening weather endangers volunteer safety.

## 20 Erie sites need cleanup helpers

You or your group can volunteer for this year's International Coastal Cleanup this Saturday at any of the sites listed below. For a map and meeting locations, visit [www.goerie.com/coastal-cleanup](http://www.goerie.com/coastal-cleanup). For questions, call Jake Moore of DEP's Coastal Resources Management Program at 217-9634 or e-mail [jacmoore@pa.gov](mailto:jacmoore@pa.gov). Arrive at the meeting sites between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Site coordinators (in neon green or orange vests) will give you supplies, including bags, data cards and directions, before you proceed to the cleanup locations. Cleanup begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon.

### Erie County ICC sites:

- Raccoon Creek Park
- Avonia Beach Park
- Erie Bluffs State Park
- Elk Creek Access Area
- Upper Walnut Creek/

- Asbury Woods Park
- Walnut Creek Access Area
- Bridger Park on Walnut Creek, Millcreek Township
- Presque Isle State Park
- Cascade Creek/ Frontier Park
- West and east Bayfront
- East Avenue Boat Launch
- Upper Millcreek/Belle Valley
- McDannell Run/John Horan Garden Apts.
- Lower Four Mile
- Upper Four Mile
- Seven Mile Creek / Glinodo Center
- Headwaters Park/Erie County Conservation District
- Shades Beach Park
- North East Marina/Freeport Beach/Twenty Mile Creek
- Edinboro Lake

— Anna McCartney



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By collecting garbage and data, Perry Elementary students help to create a local and global snapshot of the types of marine debris.

## Students can clean up school, neighborhood

PA Sea Grant has a special school cleanup program. Teachers can involve students in cleanups of school grounds and neighborhoods anytime between now and Oct. 4. The data they collect will be added to the PA Lake Erie ICC which is sent to Washington D.C. and added to the worldwide totals. Don't delay. Get your students involved in real-life learning by participating in this powerful worldwide movement that keeps harmful trash from entering our waterways. The results and student writing about the cleanups along with other student-led environment projects will also be featured on this weekly page. Contact Anna McCartney at [axm40@psu.edu](mailto:axm40@psu.edu) to register your school or classroom and to reserve bags, gloves, data cards and instructions. You can

decide on a convenient day, and once your cleanup is complete, you will share the data with PA Sea Grant. If you don't already receive the Tuesday newspaper, you can order them at [www.nie.goerie.com](http://www.nie.goerie.com) or email [Christopher.LaFuria@timesnews.com](mailto:Christopher.LaFuria@timesnews.com).

### Schools that participated in 2014:

- Fairview High School
  - Harding Elementary
  - Iroquois Elementary
  - Joanna Connell School
  - Neighborhood Art House
  - North East Middle School
  - Northwestern High School
  - Our Lady's Christian School
  - Perry Elementary
  - Perseus House Charter School
  - Pfeiffer Burleigh
  - Union City High School
- Anna McCartney



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Each year on the third Saturday in September, local volunteers participate in the International Coastal Cleanup and collect information on what they find so that sources of marine debris can be targeted for education or pollution-prevention campaigns in Erie County, Pennsylvania and worldwide.

# Pick of the litter

## Annual shoreline cleanup needs you on Saturday

By ANNA MCCARTNEY  
Contributing writer

Citizens of all ages, representing all walks of life, will mobilize on Saturday for the Ocean Conservancy's 30th International Coastal Cleanup.

The yearly event has become an Erie County tradition in which volunteers collect debris and data from sites along the Lake Erie shoreline, tributaries, school grounds and neighborhoods

From the Raccoon Creek Access Area to sites in North East and many in between, some of the same

volunteers have been collecting trash and data year after year, shedding light on the marine debris problem in Lake Erie.

This volunteer-driven event would not be possible without the Pennsylvania Lake Erie ICC committee, site coordinators, students, families, friends, Scout troops, businesses, fishing organizations and others who devote precious time to organize, clean up and tally every single item they recover that day.

In 2014, 1,662 volunteers collected and documented more than 5,168 pounds of

trash — 48,238 items — from more than 41.5 miles of streams, inland areas, school neighborhoods and the Lake Erie shoreline in Pennsylvania.

This year's ICC event offers you a hands-on opportunity to make a difference in your local community. You can join volunteers at any of the 20 sites in the Erie region as they join millions of people all over the world who are working hard to find solutions to this preventable problem.

For more information, visit [www.nie.goerie.com/coastal-cleanup](http://www.nie.goerie.com/coastal-cleanup) or contact Jake Moore of DEP's Coast-

al Resources Management Program at 217-9634 or e-mail [jacmoore@pa.gov](mailto:jacmoore@pa.gov).

Visit [www.facebook.com/erieinternationalcoastalcleanup](http://www.facebook.com/erieinternationalcoastalcleanup) for the most up-to-date information.

Help get the word out. Mention the cleanup to your friends, co-workers, classmates and family. Let them know what it's all about and ask them to join us.

ANNA MCCARTNEY, a communications and education specialist for Pennsylvania Sea Grant, can be reached by e-mail at [axm40@psu.edu](mailto:axm40@psu.edu).



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Site coordinators provide bags, gloves, data cards and pencils. Bring water, preferably in reusable containers, sunscreen/insect repellent, and wear sturdy shoes.



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Inland locations are important sites for the ICC because most marine debris starts its journey in cities and towns around the world. Cigarette butts top the ICC list.



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Students from Allegheny College lend a hand for the 2014 PALEICC at Raccoon Creek.



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The participation of organizations such as the PA Steelhead Association is vital for the PALEICC to succeed.



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Gannon University students help young volunteers clean up McDannell Run at the John Horan Garden Apartments.



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Community volunteers, including Penn State Behrend faculty and students, collect trash on Four Mile Creek.

This page brought to you by:



Check out these websites to learn more:

- <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>
- [www.oseagrants.org/](http://www.oseagrants.org/)
- [www.oceanconservancy.org/](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/)
- <http://nie.goerie.com/coastal-cleanup/>

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter and your assignment is to write an article about how trash has changed over the last 100 years. Were there as many single-use items as there are today? What other changes have led to so much trash in the ocean? Submit your article for possible publication to [axm40@psu.edu](mailto:axm40@psu.edu).

