

New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup

Forty cleanups were conducted, with some sites cleaned multiple times (primarily Foss Beach in Rye) (Table 6) between September 7 and October 29. Foss Beach is listed separately below as results were tallied separately for the public and for a group from Pinkerton Academy.



Table 6. Cleanup sites and dates during the New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup.

Site	Date	Site Name
1	9/7/2007	Foss Beach-Cisco
2	9/12/2007	GBCW Sampling Sites
3	9/13/2007	North Beach
4	9/13/2007	Seabrook Harbor
5	9/14/2007	Great Bay NERR- Private Site
6	9/14/2007	Hampton Beach State Park-Students
7	9/14/2007	Hampton Beach-Student
8	9/15/2007	Durham Landing & vicinity
9	9/15/2007	Foss Beach-Public
10	9/15/2007	Hampton Beach-Public
11	9/15/2007	Hampton River-DIVERS
12	9/15/2007	Jenness Beach
13	9/15/2007	New Castle Common
14	9/15/2007	North Hampton State Park
15	9/15/2007	Odiorne Point (Seacoast Science Center)
16	9/15/2007	Peirce Island
17	9/15/2007	Ragged Neck State Park
18	9/15/2007	Rye Turnoffs
19	9/15/2007	Sawyer's Beach
20	9/15/2007	Scammell Bridge Access points
21	9/15/2007	Seabrook Beach-Phillips Exeter
22	9/15/2007	Seabrook Harbor Beach
23	9/15/2007	Under the Hampton/Seabrook Bridge
24	9/15/2007	Wallis Sands
25	9/15/2007	Wentworth-by-the Sea shoreline
26	9/16/2007	Leaches Island
27	9/16/2007	New Castle Bridges
28	9/16/2007	Plaice Cove
29	9/17/2007	Seabrook Beach-Lonza
30	9/19/2007	Pirates Cove
31	9/22/2007	Odiorne Point-Turnoff #1
32	9/24/2007	Newington Town Beach
33	9/28/2007	Hilton Park
34	9/29/2007	Bass Beach
35	9/29/2007	Jenness Beach
36	10/4/2007	Foss Beach-Nute Middle School
37	10/8/2007	Flounder's Cove
38	10/18/2007	Foss Beach-Philip Morris USA
39	10/21/2007	Foss Beach-UNH Students
40	10/21/2007	Ragged Neck-Newfields Girl Scouts

A total of 1,094 volunteers (461 adults, 634 children) participated in the cleanups, collecting 5,758 pounds of debris and filling 309 trash bags. Thirty miles of the New Hampshire coastline along the ocean, Piscataqua River, Oyster River and Great Bay were cleaned. The Appendix shows total data for the cleanup, along with data recorded for each cleanup site.

Student Cleanup

It is interesting to look initially at the results of the student cleanup, as there were a great number of students involved and much debris collected. Due to the success of last year's student cleanup, we decided to coordinate the event again this year. There was a lower participation rate this year (330 volunteers this year slightly down from 396 in 2006), and many teachers expressed difficulties with transportation to the beach, scheduling conflicts, or the difficulty of organizing a field trip so early in the school year. In our efforts to recruit schools, we offered free presentations to schools about marine debris in addition to providing information about the student cleanup and art contest. Two schools took advantage of presentations, and we visited those schools during the week prior to the cleanup. The presentation consisted of a PowerPoint show about the cleanup and its importance, and what to expect on cleanup day, and followed with interactive activities related to marine debris and a question and answer session. The presentations were a great success and we hope to be able to offer them in the future.

Participation

Three schools participated in the Student Cleanup, amounting to 75 adults and 255 children. One school (Little Harbour Elementary) was local, but the others were from further away (Hampstead Academy in Hampstead and Sant Bani School in Sanbornton).

Two schools cleaned Hampton Beach, and one school (Sant Bani) cleaned Hampton Beach State Park. Arrival times were staggered so that each group had time to receive instruction from the site coordinators, break into teams, and get supplies. The site coordinators sent groups to opposite ends of the beach to ensure as much area was covered as possible.

Debris Collected

Table 7 summarizes the results for student cleanup day. The number one item found was, by far, cigarette butts, with over 21,000 cigarette butts collected, primarily at Hampton Beach. This was a big decrease from the 39,000 thousand collected last year. Other commonly found items were food wrappers, bottle caps and lids, straws, and picnicking discards, such as cups, plates and plastic eating utensils. The weather was very warm and sunny, and 298 pounds of trash were collected, filling 30 trash bags. Full results for all cleanup sites are available in the Appendix.

Public Cleanup

During the public cleanup on September 15, weather was drizzly but volunteer turnout was high. The public cleanups officially also included many cleanups conducted throughout September and October, most with larger groups.

Table 7. Summary data for student cleanup.

Participants	
Students	255
Chaperones	75
Total volunteers	330
Pounds & Miles	
Bags filled	30
Distance cleaned	1.5 miles
Total weight	298 pounds
Top Items collected	
Cigarettes/cigarette filters	21,320
Food wrappers/containers	2,285
Caps/lids	1,519

Figure 13. Coastal Cleanup day. Left – A family affair: Terry Allard and daughter Cathy Coletti at Foss Beach. Right - Rye Girl Scouts at Sawyers Beach.



Figures 14 and 15 show a summary of volunteers and weight collected. Other than the student cleanup, the sites with the highest number of volunteers were Hilton Park, which had a large student group from St. Mary Academy, and Foss Beach, which is where we directed most of the public inquiries for the cleanup day on September 15.

Figure 14. Volunteers per cleanup site during the NH Coastal Cleanup, September-October 2007.

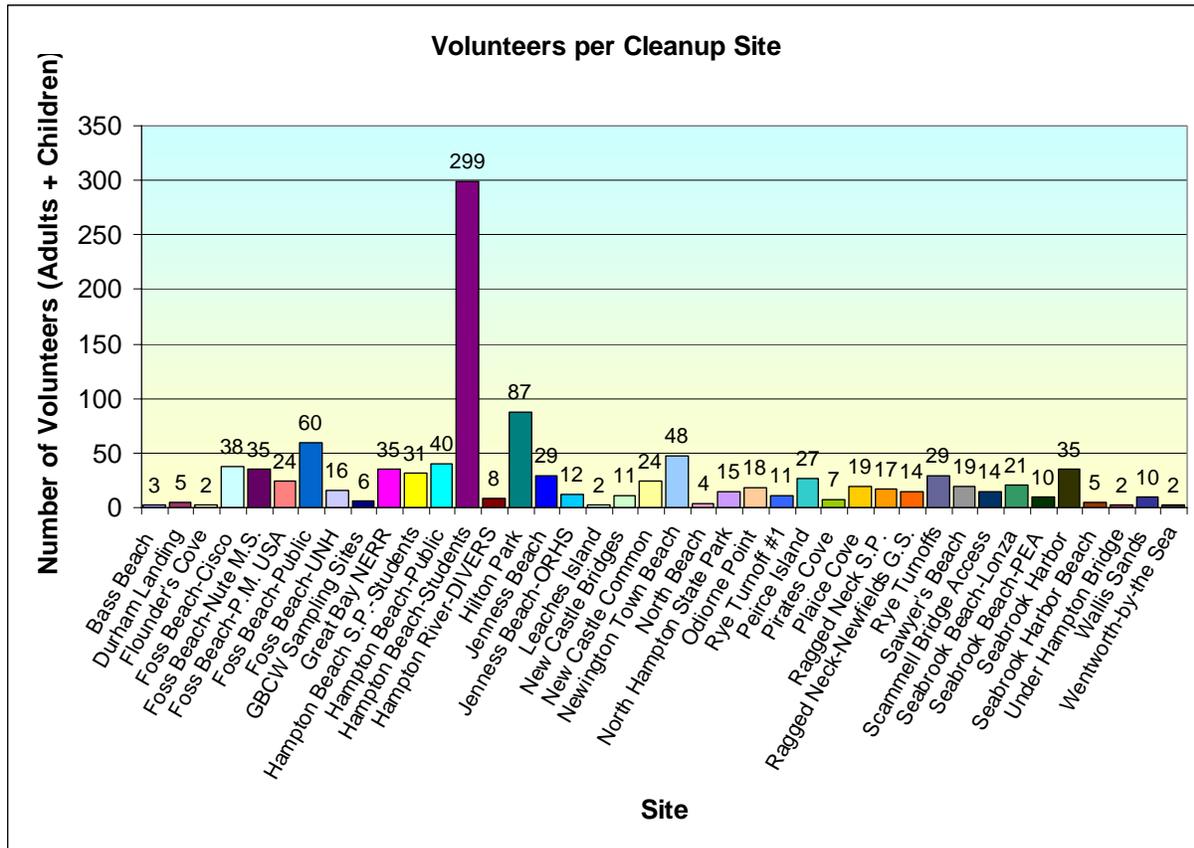
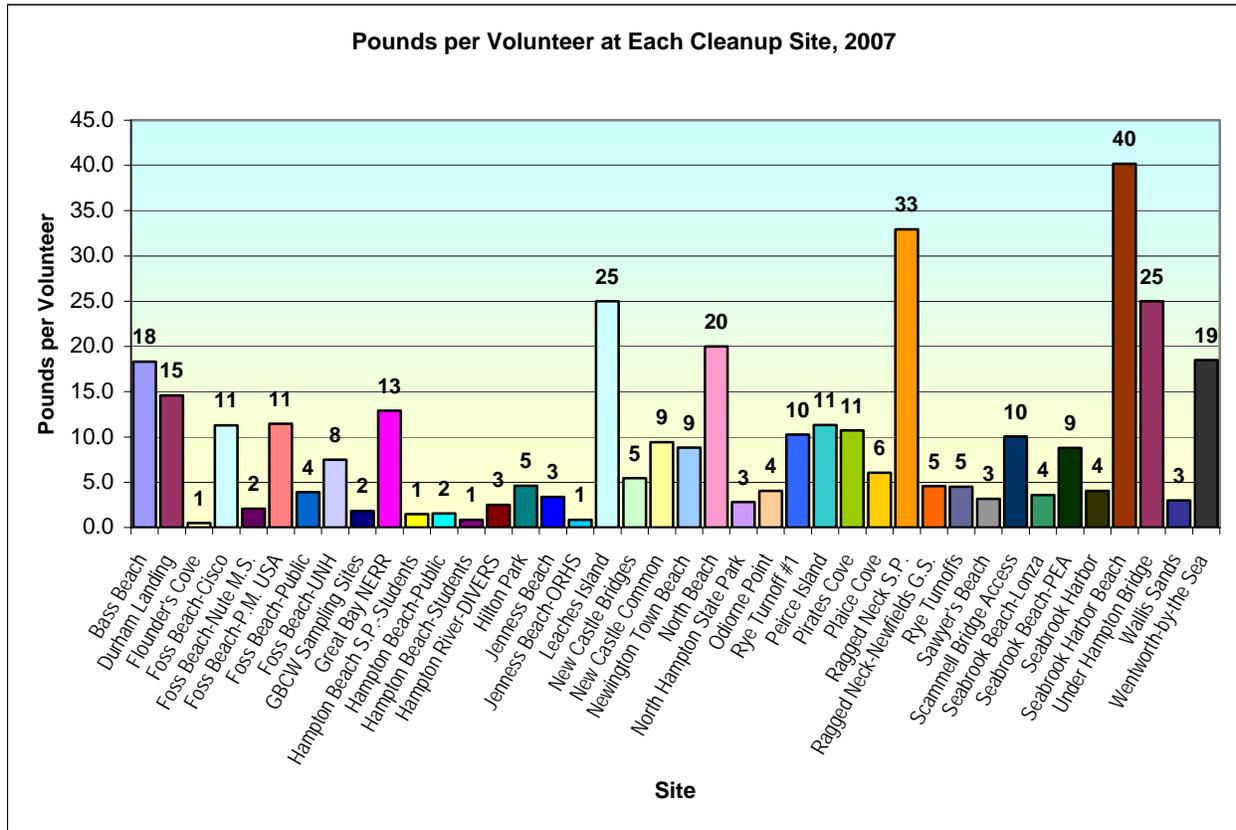


Figure 15. Pounds per volunteer at each cleanup site during the NH Coastal Cleanup.



The sites with the most pounds of debris collected were private land within the Ragged Neck State Park (est. 560 pounds), Great Bay NERR (452), and Foss Beach (429 pounds during a cleanup with Cisco Systems).

As with the student cleanup, the number one item recorded was cigarette butts. These were followed by rope (possibly the result of so many cleanups at Foss Beach, which tends to collect a lot of rope), food wrappers/containers, and bottle caps/lids (Table 8).

Table 8. Items recorded for all cleanup sites.**

	Item	Number
1	Cigarettes	41,074
2	Rope	5,924
3	Food/candy wrappers	5,854
4	Caps, lids	3,489
5	Cups, plates, utensils	2,342
6	Beverage cans	2,245
7	Beverage bottles (glass)	1,770
8	Bags	1,764
9	Straws	1,683
10	Beverage bottles (plastic)	1,100
11	Strapping bands	732
12	Plastic sheeting/tarps*	728
13	Fishing line	677
14	Clothing, shoes	638
15	Lobster traps	522
16	Toys	493
17	Pull tabs	388
18	Cigar tips	377
19	Buoys/floats	370
20	Tobacco packaging	350
21	Building materials	299
22	Bait containers	258

	Item	Number
23	Balloons	220
24	Shotgun shells	198
25	Fishing nets	180
26	Cigarette lighters	95
27	Fishing lures	82
28	Cars/car parts	68
29	Six-pack holders	59
30	Bleach bottles	55
31	Tampons	51
32	Tires	50
33	Crates	39
34	Condoms	38
35	Batteries	35
36	Diapers	31
37	Oil/lube bottles	27
38	Pallets	17
39	Light bulbs	16
40	Appliances	11
41	Syringes	3
42	55-gal drums	2

* some people may confuse this category with just pieces of plastic.

** includes only items recorded (not items that were not on the data card, e.g. pieces of plastic, Styrofoam, etc.)

Participating Groups

In addition to our generous sponsors, many businesses, schools, and organizations participated in the cleanup, which greatly increased the number of volunteers, awareness of the cleanup and the overall impact of the cleanup itself. Participating groups included:

- Cisco Systems
- Cub Scout Pack 162
- Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council
- Hampstead Middle School
- Little Harbour School
- Oyster River HS Community Service Club
- Oyster River Watershed Association
- Philip Morris USA
- Pinkerton Academy
- Portsmouth High School Volleyball
- Lonza Biologics
- Measured Progress
- Newington Public School
- North Hampton Cub Scout Pack 162
- Nute Middle School, Milton
- Sant Bani School, Sanbornton
- Seabrook Station
- Seacoast Science Center/Odiorne Point
- St. Mary Academy, Dover