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LEND A HAND FOR LOCAL WATERWAYS
Community Beach Cleanups Connect Hands-On Action
with Local Wildlife and Water Quality



CLEVELAND, OH – Greater Cleveland Aquarium (Nautica Waterfront District, 2000 Sycamore Street, Cleveland, OH 44113; 216.862.8803; greaterclevelandaquarium.com) **invites the public to take part in one or more free, registration-required community beach cleanups on June 18 (10am – noon), July 10 (1 – 3pm) and August 17 (10am – noon),** helping keep debris out of Lake Erie and local waterways throughout the summer.

Volunteers meet at the Aquarium and walk together to Wendy Park to pick up litter along the shoreline. The roundtrip walk is approximately 2.5 miles. All ages are welcome; participants should dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

“A beach cleanup quickly reveals the impact of our everyday choices on the environment,” says Matt Debelak, Director of Education at Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Decades of Great Lakes beach cleanups have shown that most shoreline litter is made up of plastic, including small fragments like food wrappers, bottle caps and cigarette butts—items that can easily enter waterways.

Community cleanups help remove debris before it breaks down further and support ongoing efforts to protect Great Lakes ecosystems. “Beach cleanups also give people an opportunity to connect with conservation organizations in the community and actively participate in protecting the habitats we talk about every day at the Aquarium,” says Debelak. Because Lake Erie is part of a drinking water system that serves tens of millions of people, shoreline protection is a public health issue as well as an environmental one. “Even small actions add up, and it’s powerful for participants to see how everyday litter can impact water, wildlife and our lives.”

Following each cleanup, participants are invited to return to the Aquarium using complimentary, same-day admission and explore galleries like Ohio Lakes & Rivers, where the importance of their stewardship is illustrated with a “pollution exhibit,” and they can learn about local species that depend on clean, healthy waterways.

Greater Cleveland Aquarium’s summer beach cleanups are presented in partnership with [Splash Fund of Greater Cleveland Aquarium](#), [Northeast Ohio Sewer District](#) and [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#).

For more information or to register, visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com/event/beach-cleanup/.

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GREATER CLEVELAND AQUARIUM Up-close and immersive views let you go nose-to-nose with native species and head deep under the sea while daily interactive experiences put you in touch with the living world and your natural curiosity. Ready to dive into an aquatic adventure? We’re open 363 days a year. Plan your visit at greaterclevelandaquarium.com.