

Summary: The 16th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup week had another successful year. The week-long effort was self-reporting and we were able to compliment the effort by hosting our volunteers at 25 cleanup sites from Hobe Sound to Sebastian on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

The heat was brutal this year, however together, our team of 1146 volunteers combined to remove 3.47 tons of trash. This compares to 1181 participants who removed 3.87 tons of trash in 2022. With a slight decrease in our volunteer force, **we collected .4 tons less than 2022**. Since 2008, we've removed 102.72 tons of trash. That is the equivalent to 8.5 school buses.

Our results often identify environmental, social and economic trends. Here are a few simple take-aways for 2023:

- Many volunteers continue to report finding less trash than past years
- Smaller items being collected such as, food containers of all kinds, small pieces of plastic, cans & Styrofoam
- We saw a slight increase of disposal of hazardous materials such as discarded containers of gas & oil mixture & roofing tar.
- Since, we've been mostly spared any major weather events such as hurricanes, we are not seeing much large debris and are not seeing illegal dumping of construction debris.
- Together, we are making a difference! Recreational activities (both land and water) are areas that together we can strive to improve

Miscellaneous Trash:

- Bottles, cans, plastic and glass beverage containers: 3,713 **(5,609 in 2022)**
- Articles of clothing: 370 **(403 in 2022)**
- Straws: 614 **(1127 in 2022)**
- Fishing Lures: 192 **(124 in 2022)**
- Fishing Poles: 13 **(24 in 2022)**
- Coolers: 15 **(23 in 2022)**
- Cigarette Butts: 4,254 **(8,464 in 2022)**
- Face Masks: 37 **(177 in 2022)**
- Gloves: 32 **(223 in 2022)**
- Toys: 106 **(152 in 2022)**
- Golf Balls: 13 **(37 in 2022)**
- Tennis Balls: 22 **(13 in 2022)**

Unique Items:

- A complete boat (approximately 17' LOA) stranded way up in the mangroves @ Jimmy Graham Park & Boat Ramp - Still there!
- 2 seated Paddle Boat
- Guitar String
- Boat Bow
- Mattresses
- 8' Ladder
- Necklace

Thank you and see you next year!