



GREAT FUNDY COASTAL CLEANUP

Information Guide

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INTRODUCTION

The Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup

The **Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup** is a movement to tackle debris in the Bay of Fundy and across the province of New Brunswick.

Coastal pollution poses a threat to migratory birds, marine mammals, marine life, and to humans. Debris such as ropes, nets, and other plastic can cause environmental harm due to ingestion, entanglement, and contamination.

It is our responsibility as citizens of New Brunswick - home to the world's highest tides and many unique habitats for diverse species - to be good stewards and work as a community to protect our coastal ecosystems and the wildlife that call our shorelines home.

Join the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, our incredible partners, communities of stewards across the province, and hundreds of individual volunteers, in cleaning up a shoreline, beach, park, trail, forest or your own neighbourhood, because everything leads back to the ocean!

This guide will provide you with steps and tips to organize your own Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup event, from beginning to end.

Thank you for helping to steward the shorelines in this beautiful province!



The Nature Trust of New Brunswick

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick is a charitable land conservation organization which focuses on **conserving** and **stewarding** private land and **engaging** New Brunswickers about the importance of protecting our province's unique natural heritage and biodiversity.

Since 1987, the Nature Trust has conserved over 12,000 acres (4,855 hectares) of ecologically significant land in more than 75 beautiful and diverse nature preserves throughout the province.

With more than 20 nature preserves along the Bay of Fundy coastline and stewardship as one of the integral pillars of our mission, the removal of marine debris continues to be a major priority for the Nature Trust.

In 2016, partners from non-government organizations, industry, government, and volunteers, like you, helped us travel to remote islands, led cleanups, and removed harmful debris from New Brunswick's treasured coastlines for the first Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup. Since then, the cleanup has continued to grow year after year, with more volunteers, sites, and partners than ever before!

We thank you for taking part in the cleanup this year and doing your part to combat marine debris!

BEFORE THE CLEANUP

Choose a Location

Pick a location that is safe and suitable to be cleaned up. This could be a shoreline, beach, park, trail, forest, or neighbourhood near you.

Scout out your site in advance. Things to consider when choosing a location include:

- The amount and types of debris present;
- How people will get to the site;
- Parking and restroom availability;
- Size and difficulty of navigating the site;
- Presence of species at risk;
- Any safety hazards;
- Weather impacts (such as flooding);
- Public health guidelines;

Make sure you have permission to host a cleanup at your chosen location. Check with your local authority for site specifications and access restrictions.

Choose an accessible meeting spot at the site for folks to gather at the start and end of the cleanup.

If you are unsure about getting cleanup permission or are interested in hosting a cleanup at one of our nature preserves, **connect with us** – we would love to hear from you and help you out!



Photo: Justin Dutcher

Set a Date & Recruit your Team

Select a date and time for your cleanup. Consider what the weather will be, and if there are any restriction to the times you can clean up, such as park closures or tide schedules. Plan a back-up date in case the weather is poor.

Let friends and family know about the cleanup you are planning and invite them to volunteer to help!

Once you have an idea of who is attending your cleanup, create work teams and select team leaders - nobody should work alone.

Things to make sure each team/team leader knows:

- The team members;
- The area they will be working on;
- Supplies they will need with them;
- Safety rules / emergency contact information;
- Data collection procedure (see our data sheets)

Once you're all set, **register your cleanup location, date, and team!**

Gather Supplies & Materials

Gather your cleanup supplies and communicate with your team members to bring the following items:

- Sturdy shoes or boots (no sandals or flip flops);
- Work/gardening gloves or rubber gloves;
- Garbage and recycling bags;
- Tools such as rakes, shovels, or grabbers;
- Datasheets, clipboards, and pens/pencils;
- Snacks (pack in reusable containers);
- Reusable water bottles;
- Hand sanitizer;
- First Aid Kits;
- Bug spray & sunscreen;
- Masks (if required; please follow local public health guidelines);
- “Sharps” container and heavy-duty gloves (optional, these can be found at your local pharmacy);
- Camera or smartphone - we want to see your pictures/videos!

Download the **Clean Swell app** from the **App Store** or **Google Play** for easy data collection right on your smartphone. If you prefer recording your data by hand, print the Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup data sheet and survey from our website.

www.naturetrust.nb.ca/en/great-fundy-coastal-cleanup



Plan Garbage/Recycling Disposal

Before you go to clean up, decide how to dispose of the garbage and recycling you are going to collect.

Look for garbage and recycling bins near the cleanup site or designate volunteers who will transport debris to a waste disposal site after the cleanup.

Things to consider for waste disposal:

- Will you need permission to use nearby dumpsters?
- Where are other nearby waste bins? (in case some bins become too full)
- Where are nearby recycling depots / bottle exchanges?
- Review the recyclable items for your area (common recyclables are also marked on the data sheets)
- Please note that items must be clean to be recycled.
- Plan to properly dispose of PPE (personal protective equipment) – cut the ear loops of masks before disposal. Place all masks together in a sealed or tied bag.

You can find more information about your local waste disposal and recycling programs here:

www.recyclenb.com/regional-commission-programs

AT THE CLEANUP

Today is the day! You're hosting your very own Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup!

Here are a few tips to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable cleanup day:

Volunteer Check-In

Plan to arrive 15-30 minutes before the cleanup start time to make sure that everyone knows the day plan and safety information.

Welcome your team to the site and check-in participants as they arrive. Make sure that everyone has contact information for their team leaders and emergency services.

Review any hazards in the area to be aware of (ex: incoming tides, slippery areas, cliffs, poisonous plants etc.)

Distribute supplies and designate the areas that groups are going to focus cleaning on. Try to spread groups out to cover the whole area.

It is usually easiest for folks to walk to their cleanup areas without picking up debris and then pick up debris on the way back, to avoid carrying heavy bags both ways.

Take pictures! Before the cleanup starts, get a group photo, and take before pictures of your cleanup area. Once you're finished cleaning up, take photos of the newly cleaned area to see your progress.

Data Collection

Data about the items you collect during your cleanup is important - it helps us better understand and manage shoreline debris.

Assign a member of each team to keep track of the amount and types of items you find through the **Clean Swell app** or by filling out a **printed Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup data sheet**.

If you are using the **Clean Swell app**, follow these four easy steps:

- 1 Download & Sign in**
- 2 Confirm the basics** Click "Start a new cleanup" and fill out the form.
- 3 Collect & record** Tap the icons to record findings. Press and hold the icon to enter larger amounts or edit totals.
- 4 Finish the cleanup** Click "Finish this cleanup" and don't forget to celebrate and share!

For more information on how to use the app, **check out this helpful video!**

If you are using a **printed data sheet**, record each item you find using tally marks on the sheet. Once you're done cleaning up, tally up the amounts for each item type.

How to fill out the data card:		
Example		12

Complete the post-event survey once your data sheets are finished.

Please send a photo or scan a copy of the completed **data sheet** and **survey** and email it to engage@ntnb.org



Health & Safety Tips

- **COVID-19:** Follow local public health guidelines and monitor your health before cleanup day. Ask folks not to come to the cleanup if they are feeling unwell.
- **Wellness:** Confirm that everyone has water with them and take regular hydration and snack breaks. Encourage folks to wear and reapply sunscreen and bug spray.
- **Staying Clean:** Make sure that all volunteers have gloves and suggest folks avoid touching their face, body, or public surfaces when handling debris.

Encourage use of wipes or hand sanitizer when taking snack breaks.

After you finish collecting items, carefully remove gloves. Wash your hands and arms with soap and hot water for 20 seconds.

- **First Aid:** Ensure that each group has a first aid kit. Make sure that everyone knows where the first aid kits are located and are familiar with the items in them. Find out if any of your members have first aid training as well.
- **Hazards:** Stay a safe distance away from the water's edge and be aware of the tide (is it coming in or going out?). Be careful on slippery rocks.
- **Sharps:** If you find syringes, sharp objects, or hazardous waste, they need to be disposed of in a sharps container. **Do not** dispose of them in a bag or dumpster. Tongs and heavy duty gloves are encouraged, and only adults should handle collecting sharps items.

If you don't have a sharps container with you, use a wide-mouth container with a lid (an old detergent bottle).

Important: If no one in your group is comfortable collecting these items, please make note of the location and contact your local pharmacy or regional commission for more information about disposal of sharps: www.recyclenb.com/regional-commission-programs

- **Wildlife:** Avoid approaching any animals, dead or alive. Don't remove nature – leave shells, coral, wood scraps, etc. the way that you found them.

If you find a live animal that has become entangled, **do not** attempt to disentangle the animal, contact:

The Atlantic Wildlife Institute:
(506) 364-1902 / info@atlanticwildlife.ca

OR

NB Department of Natural Resources:
(506) 453-7171

Wildlife & Sensitive Habitats

The Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup is intended to support and protect coastal wildlife and their habitats.

We need to consider ways to be respectful and careful in natural environments to avoid causing unintended harm or disturbance to sensitive species and habitats.

Taking Care: Try not to disturb or destroy species or biophysical elements of the habitat you are in (removing logs, driftwood, seaweed, etc.).

Avoid walking near or on eroding cliffs. This reduces shoreline erosion and protects possible bird or turtle nesting areas.

Stay on existing trails when possible, and avoid venturing into sand dunes or salt marshes, in case birds are nesting there.

Avoid use of vehicles at coastal sites. Wheelbarrows, boats, barges, and sleds can all be used for removal of debris.

If pets are present, keep them on leashes to avoid wildlife disruption.

Awareness: Critical habitats for species at risk have been identified in areas across mainland and coastal New Brunswick. Make sure cleanup participants are aware of any species at risk and critical habitats in or near your location.

If you are hosting a coastal cleanup during shorebird migration season (mid-July to October) work at low tide to avoid disturbing roosting birds, and be sure to leave pets at home.

You can find more information about wildlife occurrences and sensitive habitats here:

ebird.org/home

www.accdc.com

inaturalist.ca

www.naturenb.ca/healthy-coasts-nb

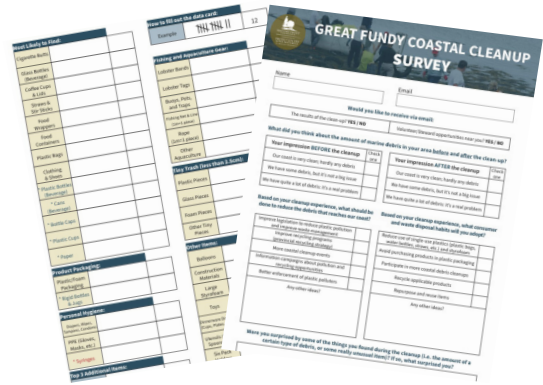


AFTER THE CLEANUP

Congratulations! You completed a Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup! Here a few last things to keep in mind:

Submit your data to the Clean Swell app or send your data sheets & surveys to the Nature Trust team

Take some time to ensure you have submitted your data to the Clean Swell app or that your printed data sheets and surveys are filled out. Send photos or scanned copies of the completed print data sheets and surveys to engage@ntnb.org.



Share your photos for a chance to win a Nature Trust prize pack!

If you host a cleanup as part of the Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup, you can enter to win a Nature Trust sustainable prize pack!

To enter the draw:

- Take a photo of your cleanup crew and the debris you collected;
- Post it on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter;
- Tag the Nature Trust (@NatureTrustNB) and use the hashtag #GreatFundyCoastalCleanup;
- Photos may also be submitted by emailing engage@ntnb.org



THANK YOU!

The success of the Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup is only possible thanks to the hard-work and dedication of so many incredible volunteers, partners, funders, and supporters.

Cleanups make a big difference on the health of our coastal ecosystems and the wildlife that call our shorelines home, but they are just one part of the solution.

Learn about other opportunities to collaborate with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, through conservation, stewardship, and engagement, to protect and celebrate our province's unique natural heritage and biodiversity:

www.naturetrust.nb.ca



@NatureTrustNB

Thank you for taking action to combat marine debris in the Bay of Fundy and beyond!

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the rocks are dark and jagged. The perspective is from above, looking down at the sea and the rocky shore.

CONTACT US

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S GREAT FUNDY COASTAL CLEANUP!

Photo: J. Edward Hurley