



**KEEP
ROCKLAND
BEAUTIFUL**

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



Photo taken by Steve Aaron in Piermont (and images of Valley Cottage inside)



Palisades



New City

Kids and teens made up 53% of all volunteers. Some were even lucky enough to find our gnome mascot KiRBy and win a prize!



Valley Cottage



Tappan

A Rite of Spring

Despite lots of rainfall this spring, the 2019 Great American Cleanup was one of the best ever! Several Community Cleanup Events – where neighbors come out on the same day to roll up their sleeves together – enjoyed record turnout, with big spikes in Haverstraw, Piermont, Suffern, Tappan, and Valley Cottage. Two brand new Community Cleanup events in New Hempstead and Monsey drew hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers.

These gatherings have become a rite of spring for many, a celebration of sorts as people finally head outside after the long winter. The campaign is ushered in with some unique “daffodils” – our bright yellow banners along busy roadways.

This year’s campaign kicked off at the end of March on a beautiful day in Hillburn. As if guided by Mother Nature herself, our cleanup events landed on a clear day in a season of soggy weekends. But even when it rained, such as during events in Nanuet and West Nyack, the bright spirit and energy of the volunteers came through.

The results? This year, over 3,700 volunteers registered to clean up and reported 2,015 bags of trash, 660 bags of recyclables, 99 tires, and loads of debris too big to fit into bags. That’s over 62,285 lbs. of trash! Listen closely - you can hear Mother Nature say “aaaaaaah!”

Empowering Everyone

Yes, things are immediately cleaner, greener and healthier. But cleanups do much more: they empower and educate people of all ages and abilities to care for their local environment and communities. A few cases in point: 53% of all volunteers this year were teens and children – who learned while doing and basked in the instant gratification of their efforts. Several groups came from organizations like Camp Venture, which serves our neighbors with disabilities. At the West Haverstraw Community Cleanup, there was a sign language interpreter on hand who helped explain why “Clean Streets = Clean Water” and the benefits of recycling. Everyone learning & doing together.

Awesome Add-Ons

Several Community Cleanups included improvement projects, like planting and painting. In Piermont, volunteers pulled invasive plants. In West Haverstraw, the village provided e-shredding services. In Nyack, volunteers were able to enjoy an Earth Day Fair after their cleanup. At many events, volunteers enjoyed snacks or a meal together – including hot dogs served by the Lions Club in Stony Point; breakfast & lunch in Hillburn, West Haverstraw and at the fire house in Tappan; and ice cream cones for all in Monsey.

Everyone learning & doing together!

Students from Jesse J. Kaplan School heading out (left)

Friends with a great sense of irony finishing up (right)



Congers



Airmont



Gearing up in Valley Cottage

This year, 27 Community Cleanup Events took place all over Rockland – thanks to the commitment of these Super-Volunteers...

2019 Community Cleanup Leaders

- Airmont - Marc Grun
- Blauvelt - Melissa Grau
- Bowline Point Park* - Tom Kyle
- Congers - Rich Anderson
- Haverstraw - Alex Guarino, Steven Moetzing & Sarah Rose
- Hillburn - Tommy Conklin
- Hook Mountain* - Andy Nicodema
- Lake DeForest - Caitlin Doran & Bill Madden
- Monsey - Mort Becker & Josef Margaretten
- Nanuet - Valerie Moldow
& Nanuet Chamber of Commerce
- New City - Dan Caprara
- New Hempstead / New City - Karen Martin
& Laura Metallo Biden
- Nyack - Sonia Cairo
- Nyack Memorial Park* - Tom Perry
- Palisades - Carol Knudson
- Pearl River - Susan DeAngelis
- Piermont* - Kelly Ruby
- Sloatsburg - Carin Shapiro
- Sparkill - Robert Tompkins & Kevin Kilner
- Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance
- Spring Valley - Nathan Mungin III, Sherry McGill & Matthew Jones
- Spring Valley Memorial Park - Natalie Patasaw
- Stony Point - Larry Brissing & Nicole Jessie
- Suffern - Cathy Mills
- Tappan - George Garrecht IV & Goerge Garrecht V
- Valley Cottage - Christy Blanchette
- West Haverstraw - Katie Welsh
- West Nyack - Maddy Muller

*Riverkeeper Sweep Events



Big haul from Sparkill Creek

Collaboration Central

The Campaign is also great for partnering with other groups with an environmental mission. This included Riverkeeper and Hackensack Riverkeeper for Sweep Events along the Hudson and a cleanup of Lake DeForest; and the Sparkill Community Cleanup, which is spearheaded by the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance.

In addition to all those who participate in Community Cleanups, loads of individuals and groups head out with grabbers for independent cleanups. This list is always rich in school groups, places of worship, community-service seeking teens, Scouts, civic groups and local businesses. Community-minded businesses and organizations also provided essential funding for the campaign via sponsorships (*see reverse*).

Elected officials and candidates joined in the effort, such as Legislator Aney Paul, Senator David Carlucci, Spring Valley Trustee Sherry McGill, and Clarkstown Town Council candidates Scott Milich and Dan Garcia, who all led large cleanup groups.

THE KRB TOP 10 INTRIGUING ITEMS FOUND

1. Big Orange Cube
2. 100's of Rubber Balls
3. Kylo-Ren Toy
4. Giant 6' Halloween Spider
5. Pitchfork
6. Four Fire Hoses
7. "Largest bottle of Hennessy I've ever seen"
8. Pontoon
9. Many Coconut Shells
10. Mets Fan Troll Doll

Eyes, Ears, Hands & Hearts

Without the support of the County, Towns & Villages, DPW/Highway Departments, and RC Solid Waste Management Authority, none of this would be possible! They are wonderful, supportive partners who go above & beyond during the busy months of April & May. This also includes Orangetown Highway Department, which under-



Haverstraw



Monsey

Cleanups are tremendous teaching tools - and a great chance to talk about recycling and how critical it is to keep trash out of storm drains.



Perfect spot for a KRB banner to sprout...right by a solar field

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

Here are all the community-minded businesses, organizations, and individuals who made the Great American Cleanup possible.

CAMPAIGN SPONSORS

Aptar Pharma
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 DocuWare Corp.
 Orange & Rockland R.County Solid Waste Management Authority
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 Town of Ramapo

COMMUNITY CLEANUP SPONSORS

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 Town of Haverstraw

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 Dependable Exterminating Co.
 FitChick CPR
 Greater Nanuet Chamber of Commerce
 Green Meadow Waldorf School
 Hon. Toney L. Earl, Rockland County Legislator
 Koenig Management, Ltd.
 Murphy & Weaver, Attorneys at Law
 Nyack Pediatric Dentistry
 People's United Bank
 Rockland Audubon Society
 Scott Millich
 Sloatsburg Chamber of Commerce
 Spilotras Painting, Ltd
 Steve Weiss Landscaping
 Village of Hillburn
 Viscardi Resources

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Become a Business Member and get a listing in our "Cleaner, Greener Directory." Details on the KRB website!



Serving our community at New Hempstead/New City Cleanup (above) and with the North Rockland ROTC in Thiells

writes an intern to support the campaign. This year, Ryan DiSanto, a Pace University Senior and Tappan resident, was a huge help!

A special thanks to KRB's Board Members who were hard at work at virtually every Community Cleanup. Some, like Dan Caprara, ran his own in New City (when he wasn't busy hanging up and taking down banners!). In-office volunteers – Vivian and Maria – helped wrangle our data. Mike Hardy made the website flow. Crews from ARC and YAI helped fill our Supply Sheds – which have been provided by Yaboo Fence and given a home at New City Bowl. Yes, it takes a village!



Some of Team KRB in Nyack

We look forward to rolling up our sleeves with everyone again next year – and during many other cleanups along the way.

TEAM KRB KRB Board: Ben Leopold (President), Dan Caprara (Chairperson), Spencer Lauterbach, Esq. (Vice President), Jennifer Handelsman (Treasurer), Shannon Purdy (Secretary), Randi Colton, Diane Hutt, Laurie Puca, Irfan Sabir, Sara Tucker,

Eti Znamirovski-LeMoullec KRB Staff: Sonia Cairo (Executive Director), Jennifer Longo (Administrative Officer), Susan Wilmink (Cleanup Coordinator)

