



MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

2024 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Hi there! Welcome to the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program Seasonal Newsletter.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program (MSCCP) is an educational program that promotes the conservation of our local marine environment by influencing active stewardship within our community. This program is housed at the Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, MS.

Check out what we've been up to!

REQUEST A BIN INITIATIVE

Can't make it to one of our scheduled events? The MSCCP can provide groups with guidance and all the supplies they need to **perform their very own cleanup**. *Our only requirement - volunteers must collect data!* We do this at each of our cleanup events and we want to know how much and what types of trash you are picking up. Supplies provided include gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers, buckets, a first aid kit, hand sanitizer, hanging scale, and data collection materials.

So far in 2024, **142 Request a Bin volunteers** have collected **601.50 lbs. of litter** in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

[REQUEST A BIN INFO](#)



INLAND CLEANUPS

The **Mississippi Inland Cleanup Program**, in partnership with **SWAPS** (Sustainability with Awareness and Prevention Solutions), has been bringing prevention and removal strategies to school-aged children in Coastal Mississippi counties. So far this year, **59 volunteers** in Jackson and Harrison Counties have collected **127.87 lbs. of litter**.

[MS INLAND CLEANUP PROGRAM](#)





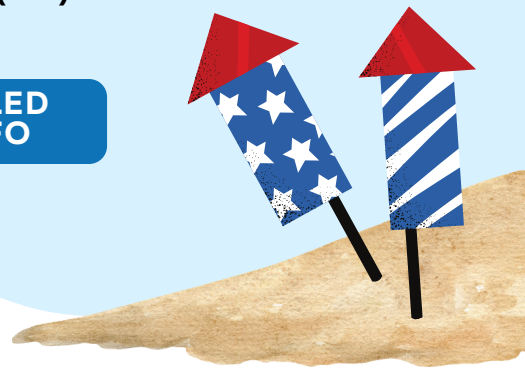
STAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP

On Saturday, July 6th, **270 volunteers** braved the heat for our 2024 Star-Spangled Cleanup! This cleanup is aimed at removing remaining firework debris from the beaches before it can be washed or blown into the Mississippi Sound. During this time, we also have our beloved shorebirds nesting, making it a top priority to keep our beaches clean and free of debris. Overflowing trash bins and litter puts chicks at risk for predation and entanglement.

During this cleanup, **3,050 pounds** of debris and trash were collected, filling over 180 bags. The top 5 items found were **fireworks (10,202)**, **plastic pieces (2,316)**, **cigarette butts (2,239)**, **food wrappers (932)**, and **plastic bottle caps (730)**.



STAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP INFO



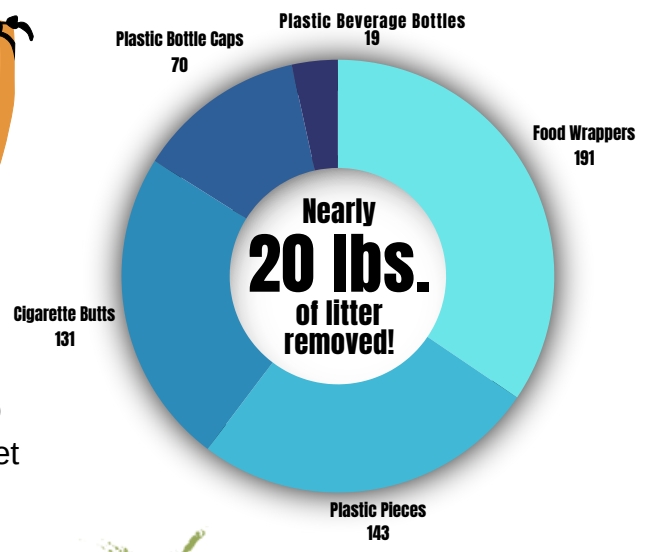
BALLPARK CLEAN SWEEP

Winning the game against litter! At Woolmarket Youth Baseball & Softball fields, a cleanup and brand audit were conducted in May.

Food wrappers, cigarette butts, and plastic pieces won by a landslide as the **top 3 items collected**. During this cleanup, **19.96 pounds** of litter were removed.



TOP 5 ITEMS FOUND:



A huge thanks to the volunteers who pitched in to clean up the Woolmarket baseball & softball fields!





SUSTAINABILITY WITH AWARENESS AND PREVENTION SOLUTIONS (SWAPS)

This summer the SWAPS team in collaboration with Plastic Free Gulf Coast attended Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp at the Maritime Museum in Biloxi!

The team visited camp during lunch and worked with campers to learn about plastic brand audits. Waste was sorted into bins that contained plastics, metal, paper and leftover food! After lunch, we talked about the ways we can avoid using some plastics and how composting food waste can help eliminate landfill waste. While it may not be as much fun as fishing, learning about waste reduction and more sustainable alternatives to plastic can be quite beneficial to coastal Mississippi! But campers also got to be competitive through games like “Nurdle Hunts” and “Name That Resin”!

SWAPS



GENSEA BLUE ECONOMY SPOTLIGHT!

This summer, GenSea sponsored four internships at the Coastal Research & Extension Center. Interns got the opportunity to engage in all activities revolving around research, outreach & extension, and many of our education programs! Two of the interns decided to present SWAPS during the GenSea Poster Presentation!

For more information about the SWAPS Program or any of our educational materials, you can visit our **NEW** website at msucoastal.com/swaps where you'll find the team's contact information.





BARRIER ISLAND CLEANUP INITIATIVE

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup would like to introduce a new sub-chapter, the Barrier Island Cleanup Initiative! Funded in partnership with the U.S. National Park Service, MSCCP is now hosting volunteer-based cleanups on the Gulf Islands National Seashore barrier islands. Volunteers have opportunities to help us remove marine debris from the Mississippi Sound on Cat, Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois barrier islands.

GOALS OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE

What?

The goal of this new initiative is to remove marine debris along all 68 miles of the barrier island chain shorelines over the course of 3 years.

When?

The cleanup season will begin in the spring of 2024 and occur monthly until October each year.

Where?

Volunteers will have opportunities to help us remove marine debris in the Mississippi Sound on Ship, Cat, Horn, and Petit Bois barrier islands.

How?

Volunteers will be shuttled to the cleanup location on charter for-hire boats to spend 4-5 hours with our team before enjoying a cool ride back.

A huge thank you to our charter captains and volunteers for generously dedicating their time and resources to make this initiative a success! Together we can make a difference!



BARRIER ISLAND CLEANUP INITIATIVE



In an effort to provide more data on marine debris in the Mississippi Sound, quarterly aerial mapping missions of the Gulf Island National Seashore are expected to begin in the Fall of 2024. Our newest and coolest uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) is a Flight Wave Edge 130! This high-tech UAV allows us to conduct long mapping missions with a battery life of 120 minutes and with its on-board 3-camera system, these 12.5 MP lenses can collect 37.5 MP of data per second!

The purpose of these flights is to help us identify marine debris hotspots for future cleanups, but these can also be used for other research such as tracking sediment movement along the beaches or assess dune vegetation or even monitoring nesting bird colonies in the summertime!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are our upcoming events. All events have online registration volunteers must fill out prior to attending.

August 10th, 2024
Horn Island Cleanup
@ Horn Island

September 14th, 2024
Petit Bois Island Cleanup
@ Petit Bois Island

October 12th, 2024
Island Cleanup
@ Island TBD

October 19th, 2024
Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event
@ multiple cleanup sites across the MS coast.

*** Please note, weather happens! Therefore, all events are subject to cancellation.*



ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP EVENT

Every October, thousands of volunteers gather across the coast in efforts to rid our waterways, beaches and bayous of marine debris. The Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup takes place in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties. Each cleanup location will have a Site Captain stationed to provide volunteers with supplies and guidance during the cleanup event. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt for their participation. This cleanup marks the end of our cleanup season!

Cleanup Locations:

Bay St. Louis: Washington Street Pier & Boat Launch

Biloxi Beach Boardwalk

Biloxi Lighthouse

D'Iberville:

Gulfport: Jones Park

Ocean Springs: Front Beach (meet at harbor end)

Long Beach Harbor

Pascagoula Beach Front

Pass Christian Harbor (meet on the west side by Shaggy's)

Wolf River



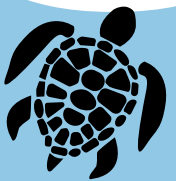
ANNUAL MS COASTAL CLEANUP EVENT



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