



GREAT FUNDY COASTAL CLEANUP

Independent Cleanup Guide

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Choosing a location

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

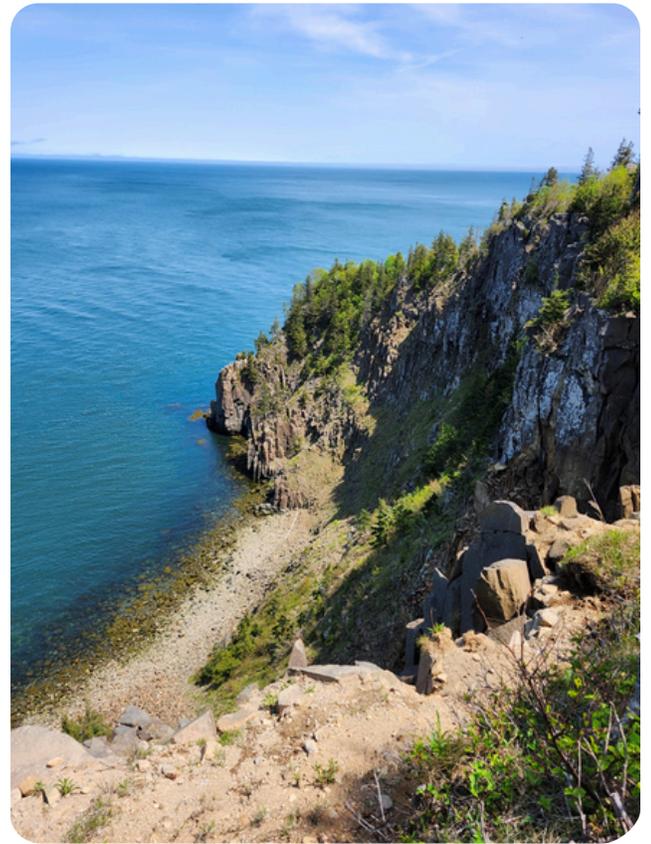
Scout out your site in advance. Things to consider when choosing a location include:

- 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 that is free of any safety hazards.

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!



Set a date & recruit your team

Select a date and time for your cleanup. Consider what the weather will be, and if there are restrictions 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 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 where they will be working;
- Safety rules / emergency contact information;
- Data collection procedure (Clean Swell mobile app)

Once you're all set, register your cleanup location, date, and team by emailing engage@ntnb.org!

Gather supplies & materials

Gather your cleanup supplies and coordinate 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;
- Snacks (pack in reusable containers);
- Reusable water bottles;
- Hand sanitizer;
- First aid kits;
- Bug spray & sunscreen;
- ‘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.



Plan garbage/recycling disposal

Before you go clean up, decide how to dispose of the garbage and recycling you will 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 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).

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

www.recyclenb.com/regional-commissions



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:

Using the Clean Swell app

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 track the amount and types of items you find using the Clean Swell mobile app.

To use 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 the video on the Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup webpage.

Complete the post-event survey once your data is submitted—and please send a photo or scan a copy of the survey and email it to engage@ntnb.org!

Volunteer check-in

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

Make sure that everyone has contact information for their team leaders and emergency services. Review any hazards in the area to be aware of, such as incoming tides, slippery areas, cliffs, poisonous plants, etc.

Distribute supplies and designate the areas that groups are going to focus cleaning. 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. We'd love to see your pictures!

Send them to engage@ntnb.org





Photo: J. Edward Hurley

Health & safety tips

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 the use of wipes or hand sanitizer when taking snack breaks. After you finish collecting items, carefully remove gloves. When you're able, 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 collect sharps items. If you don't have a sharps container with you, use a wide-mouth container with a lid (like an old laundry detergent jug).

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 the 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, so you don't disturb birds nesting there;
- Avoid the 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're organizing your own cleanup at one of our preserves, we can help with this! Get in touch with us at engage@ntnb.org to find out about sensitive habitats or species at risk in the area;
- 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's a few final things to keep in mind:

Submit your data to the Clean Swell app

Take some time to ensure you have submitted your data to the Clean Swell app.

Send photos to engage@ntnb.org.



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

For each cleanup you host as part of the Great Fundy Coastal Cleanup, you're entered into a draw for a chance 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 or Instagram;
- Tag the Nature Trust (@NatureTrustNB) and use the hashtag #GFCC2024;
- 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 in 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!

CONTACT US

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 603 Station A, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 5A6, Canada

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

