The Jones Beach Energy & Nature Center is proud to be working with Parley for the Oceans and Artist James Prosek to offer unique Ocean Plastic® tote bags that help remove marine plastic waste from the world’s oceans.

Every Parley Ocean Bag is made from approximately 5 plastic bottles, and your purchase funds the removal of another 20 pounds of marine plastic waste by the Parley Global Cleanup Network. It also supports programming at the Center.

The featured artwork is a rendition of Prosek’s Jones Beach Composition No. 1, prominently featured in JBENC’s lobby. His silhouettes of animals, clustered together into tight compositions, are a nod to our earliest representations of animals in nature – essentially outlines of animals on cave walls that eventually became our first written languages, hieroglyphs and pictographs. They also depict the idea that in an ecosystem, every creature depends on every other in a complex exchange of energy and resources. All the creatures on this piece can be found in the Long Island area, including Long Island Sound.

An estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic trash ends up in our oceans every year, causing global health impacts to humans, waterways and marine wildlife. Littered shorelines degrade the quality of life in coastal communities and damage habitats. Plastic marine debris interferes with navigational safety and causes economic loss to fishing and marine industries. Every year, tens of thousands of whales are entangled by plastic marine debris, while millions of birds, turtles, fish and other species accidentally ingest plastic waste. Plastics in our oceans not only injure and kill marine and coastal wildlife, they raise questions about the safety of our seafood.