First annual RI ROW Cleanup Day a success

The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), along with its partners Rhode Island Sea Grant (RISG), Save The Bay, and Clean Ocean Access, held the first annual Rhode Island Rights-of-Way Cleanup Day at a number of CRMC rights-of-way and shoreline public access locations all over the state on October 2, 2021.

CRMC, Save The Bay, and Clean Ocean Access had staff present at a number of CRMC rights-of-way, as well as other access points around the state. Staff from the CRMC and Rhode Island Sea Grant led the cleanup at the recently designated Wilbur Park CRMC ROW in North Kingstown, and CRMC and Save The Bay staff were also at Public Street CRMC ROW in Providence. Save The Bay spearheaded a cleanup at Atlantic Beach in Westerly, Pasquannock Cove in Warren, and the Mount Hope boat ramp in Bristol.

Clean Ocean Access reported that there were 35 volunteers at the Gulf Cove cleanup, including people from the Naval College and Brown University Medical School. A group of about 30 Save Regs University students volunteered at Marine Avenue in Newport.

In addition to the cleanup, to recognize the official unveiling of the Public Street Right-of-Way and to recognize these integral to its designation, the CRMC, Save The Bay, and the City of Providence held a short ceremony to unveil the RI ROW signage and thank those partners in the process.

Three facilities designated under RI Clean Marina Program

Three Rhode Island marinas and boat yards were designated as Clean Marinas under Rhode Island’s Clean Marina Program, administered by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) in 2007, and revamped and streamlined through a public-private partnership in 2020. The ceremony took place at the Newport Boat Show on Saturday, Sept. 18, where Watch Hill Boat Yard, Newport Yacht Club, and Salabarber/Waldorf Cove were recognized with certificates and pennant flags they can display at their facilities.

This effort was one between the CRMC, Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), and industry representatives, the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center (CRC), and Rhode Island Sea Grant. The voluntary program was designed to protect the ocean’s coastal waters and benefit the marina industry.

Read more here about the RI Clean Marina Program.

Save The Bay's cleanup were also part of their annual International Coastal Cleanup. Twenty volunteers helped pick up 35 pounds of trash, including boat parts, chunks of foam, and a small motor, at the Wilbur Park CRMC Rights-of-Way and boat ramp area in North Kingstown. In Public Street, in Providence, 25 volunteers helped clean up 165 pounds of trash, according to Save The Bay.

Read more here about the first annual RI ROW Cleanup Day.

Street view image shows the CRMC ROW located at Public Street in Providence (Foto: Save The Bay)