



sanitation

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Neat Neighborhoods: DSNY Celebrates Record Number of Community Cleanups in Fiscal Year 2021

The New York City Department of Sanitation partnered with an estimated 7,200 New Yorkers on 278 volunteer cleanups during Fiscal Year 2021, which concluded June 30, 2021. The cleanups represent a marked increase from Fiscal Year 2020, when DSNY assisted 43 cleanups, and from pre-pandemic Fiscal Year 2019, when DSNY assisted 97 cleanups.

“The Department of Sanitation is thrilled to partner with the thousands of residents who have taken the initiative to clean public spaces in their own neighborhoods. Their efforts make a noticeable difference throughout the city, and we look forward to building on these partnerships in the coming year,” said Edward Grayson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation.

In addition to providing tools and bag pickup for all 278 cleanups, DSNY personnel attended 54 of those events and worked alongside the volunteers. Among the five boroughs, Brooklyn led the volunteer efforts with 89 community cleanups, followed by Queens with 83, Manhattan with 57, the Bronx with 33 and Staten Island with 16.

These cleanups were supported by the Sanitation Foundation, the official non-profit partner of DSNY. The Sanitation Foundation worked with eight corporate partners, two community groups and one agency partner to host eight community cleanups and four zero waste trainings. The cleanups supported by the Sanitation Foundation removed 4,500 pounds of litter from New York City streets. The Sanitation Foundation also purchased new tools and equipment to expand community cleanup efforts.

“Thanks to grant funding and corporate sponsorship, the Sanitation Foundation was able to build capacity to grow DSNY’s volunteer program. We purchased new tools, designated a branded van, provided reusable bottles to volunteers and hired a volunteer assistant. The Sanitation Foundation looks forward to building on these efforts in the coming fiscal year,” said Julie Raskin, Executive Director of the Sanitation Foundation.

DSNY offers many ways for New Yorkers to get involved, including educating neighbors, adopting your own litter basket or getting your hands dirty – and your street clean – by participating in community cleanups. The Department supports local community groups and block associations in their volunteer efforts to keep their neighborhoods clean through local

block and street area cleanups. Free loans of clean-up tools and equipment – such as brooms, shovels, etc. – are available. For information, call 311 or visit nyc.gov/sanitation.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 705 salt spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.

About the Sanitation Foundation

The Sanitation Foundation, founded in 2016, is the official nonprofit organization of the New York City Department of Sanitation. Our mission is two-fold: celebrate and support the essential Sanitation workforce and advance the Department's ambitious zero-waste agenda. We accomplish this by fostering innovative public/private partnerships between DSNY, businesses, and community organizations. The Sanitation Foundation is supported, in part, by grants from the Closed Loop Foundation, JEMP-D, the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute, NYC Service, and the Robin Hood Foundation.