## Website

### Dedicated Webpage

**Call to Action:**
Explaining the “why”

Every day we see the damage that plastic has on local wildlife and habitat in the Hudson River. Hudson River Park is taking steps to fight plastic pollution. And, you can help, too!

Park Over Plastic is an initiative among Park staff, vendors, and community members to help reduce our plastic footprint and improve the health of the Hudson River.

- Globally, plastic waste is harming the health of our wildlife.
  - Since the 1950s, more than 1.3 billion metric tons of plastic have been produced, and virtually every place ever made of plastic still exists in some shape or form.
  - About 2 million plastic bags are distributed around the world every minute.
  - Globally, 7% of beach litter is plastic debris, such as beverage bottles, straws, and fishing equipment.
  - Nearly 22,000 plastic debris have been counted and removed from Hudson River Park’s shoreline since 2015.
  - By 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish (by weight).

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### How you are taking action: what are your commitments?

**What we’re doing in HR Park**

- Increase single-use bottle recycling
- Increase recycling bins
- Distract the distribution of single-use water bottles at Park events
- Reduce single-use products and packaging across Park vendors through the Green Partnership program
- Continue research on the contamination and impacts of plastic in the Hudson River Estuary
- Involve and educate our local community on plastic pollution through public programs, school field trips, and volunteer shoreline cleanups

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**Park Over Plastic News**

- **Community Conversations:** We wrapped up a two-year study of the Park Over Plastic Initiative by looking at our plastic sources. Read the report [here](https://example.com).
- **Expanded Outreach:** We expanded our education program and outreach on plastic pollution.
- **Sustainable Initiatives:** HRPA’s partnership with Coca-Cola is helping make meaningful strides to reduce single-use plastic by changing out plastic bottles in vending machines with cans.

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### Park Over Plastic Toolkit: Messaging

#### Community Participation: From small changes at home to larger, group actions.

- **Reduce Plastic Consumption**
  - Single-use plastics have become an easily invisible staple in our day-to-day lives but by making a few simple changes when you come to the Park, you can help add up to a greater open space.
  - Bring a reusable water bottle. You’ll find convenient bottle-filling stations all over our [map](#).
  - Recycle smart. Recycling in your Park is easier than ever; use the bins, and be sure you know what’s recyclable!
  - Refuse Single Use Plastics. Reusable bags, metal straws, and more — there are ways to swap out your single-use plastics. Check out options in [Hudson River Park Resource Guide](#).

- **Get Involved**
  - Whether you’re eager to lend a hand, get your organization on board or share the word with your communities, you can take an active role in Park Over Plastic.
  - Join a Shoreline Cleanup. Estuary Lab scientists regularly host shoreline cleanups, open to members of the public like you. You’ll remove plastics from our shores and record more pristine data, taking part in our ongoing plastics research. Check out the [Estuary Lab page](#).
  - Become a Green Partner. Green Partners are the backbone of HRPK Park Over Plastic — find out how your local business can get involved. More info forthcoming. Stay tuned!
  - Become a Sustainability Sponsor. Show your organization’s support for a greener NYC Contact Tom Lindon, JR of Marketing and Events at [thyphoon@hrpark.org](mailto:thyphoon@hrpark.org) to learn more.
  - Spread the Word. To build a greener Park, we need your social help! A built our Park Over Plastic community by sharing on social media. Drop your email below, and we’ll send you our Park Over Plastic social media package — so you can let your friends and family know you choose Park over Plastic.

### Additional Pages

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Hudson River Park’s 400-acre Estuarine Sanctuary is a natural resource of national importance. Our Sanctuary waters and the ecological abundance they support inform the Park’s mission as well as robust [science and education](#) programs that reach more than 30,000 people annually. Our work to protect and restore the Sanctuary has shown us the growing harm that plastic pollution causes our waterways. As stewards of the Sanctuary, we are committed to understanding and addressing this issue through research, community engagement and coordinated action.

Over the past decade, the Hudson River Project has been engaged in research projects to monitor the scale of the plastic pollution problem. In our waters, scientists at [coastalcoasts.com](http://coastalcoasts.com) have removed and cataloged over 200,000 pieces from Park shorelines since 2015 and contributed findings to NOAA Marine Debris Program national database. Since 2015, the River Project has also conducted the ongoing running Hudson River Estuarine Research initiative in partnership with Clatyon College. Marine debris clearance and introducing research both...
## Park Over Plastic Toolkit: Messaging

### Shoreline Cleanups & Research

**Marine Debris Study**
Hudson River Park staff and NYC Parks volunteers worked to collect and analyze data on the extent of marine debris that impacts the shoreline of the Park. The study was conducted in 2016, and data was compiled to assess the extent of marine debris that impacts the Park.

### Get Involved! Schedule a Shoreline Cleanup
Hudson River Park staff and volunteers have organized group beach cleanups to support the marine debris study. Workers are trained to recognize different types of marine debris and are stationed throughout the Park. Participants can contact the Marine Debris Study Coordinator to schedule a cleanup.

### Education Materials

**Plastic Rapid Survey Lesson**
This lesson demonstrates how plastic is used in the Hudson River and prompts students to investigate plastic use in their daily lives. Students will conduct a survey to explore differences between single-use and reusable plastic items found in their homes. The activity concludes with a brainstorming of alternative materials to minimize our demand for plastic and ultimately protect our environment.

### Reports & Data
Download the Marine Debris Study Report and other reports available on the Hudson River Park Foundation's website.