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2023 Black River Trash Bash – Your Chance to Make a Difference

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK – The 2023 Annual Black River Trash Bash will take place in several locations during September and October. Over the last thirteen years, participants have removed over 6,000 pounds of trash from the Black River Watershed, filling over 350 trash bags! Volunteer groups interested in cleaning up a site, or seeking guidance on organizing their own cleanup, should contact Gabriel Yerdon at gabriel@tughill.org or (315) 785-2387. The Tug Hill Commission is partnering with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Jefferson and Lewis Counties to host cleanups on September 13th and 26th, respectively. Reach out to Gabriel Yerdon if you would like to participate.

The Black River Trash Bash raises community awareness for healthy shorelines and watersheds by engaging citizens of all ages and in their local watershed cleanup efforts. This event is also part of a broader citizen-science data collection project and a worldwide effort to promote clean water. The Black River Trash Bash is part of the ongoing [Adopt-a-Beach program](#) through the Alliance for the Great Lakes, which uses data collected from these cleanups to study plastic pollution sources and better inform policy-makers on ways to protect the Great Lakes.

The Black River Trash Bash was born out of a grassroots effort to draw attention to the Black River after its watershed management plan was completed in 2010. It encompasses cleanup events at multiple sites in Jefferson, Lewis, and Hamilton counties, and would welcome new sites in Oneida and Herkimer counties. Data on the trash removed during this event is recorded on data cards, summarized at the Tug Hill Commission, and then sent onward to the Alliance for the Great Lakes, which compiles data from hundreds of events across the state.

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The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.