

## Port Tampa Bay's commitment to Trash-Free Waters

[Port Tampa Bay](#) is deeply committed to environmental sustainability and natural resource protection. As one of the first ports in the nation with a dedicated [environmental program](#), the port is proud of its [environmental track record](#), which focuses on trash-free waters in our community. The port partners with [Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#) and other community members to preserve the health and cleanliness of Tampa Bay.

In 2018, the port's Board of Commissioners signed a proclamation committing the entire organization to support the "Trash Free Waters Partnership." The Trash Free Waters Program is a call to action to create sustainable communities, counteract behaviors and prevent activities that pose water quality issues and habitat concerns in Florida.



The Water Goat is used to keep Florida waters trash-free

Port Tampa Bay's focus on the Trash Free Waters campaign grew with the adoption of a Water Goat™, which sits at the mouth of a creek that historically delivered polluted water and debris into Tampa Bay. The Water Goat™ is made with a series of shallow nets and buoys to trap floatable debris before it enters the Bay. Last year the Water Goat™ removed over 2,000 pounds of floatable debris.

Port Tampa Bay hosted their first-annual Great Port Clean-up in honor of Earth Day, April 22, 2021. During this inaugural event, port partners and other dedicated community volunteers safely remove trash and marine debris from several sites near the port. The event was a tremendous success! Led by Port Tampa Bay, some 342 volunteers from the port community removed over 19,000 pounds (9.6 tons) of debris from our local waters. While the majority of this debris originates from outside of the port, Port Tampa Bay is dedicated to doing its part to eliminate marine debris and support trash-free waters in our community.

Community members after a beach cleanup.

