

## From HESNI's Wendy Peterson: Two Neighbors Take On Summer Challenge



Wendy Peterson and Ben Cirrus pick up litter in their Lakeshore East neighborhood.

Two neighbors, Wendy Peterson and Ben Cirrus, find ways to make picking up trash fun. Who can pick up the most? Who can find the oddest piece of trash? It's become their thing as part of the Chicago River Day Summer Challenge, and they are just getting started.

Wendy and Bill, who live in Chicago's Lakeshore East neighborhood near Randolph Street and Lake Shore Drive, picked up more than 100 pounds of trash in two litter cleanups in June. Wendy, who serves on the board of the Healthcare Engineers Society of Northern Illinois (HESNI), organizes the cleanups. HESNI is in its fourth year as a sponsor of the Summer Challenge.

"It can be fun. This year we are finding lots of car parts," said Wendy. We picked up along roadsides, near the lakefront and along off-ramps at Lakeshore Drive. We spent two hours just in the Randolph-Lakeshore Drive area. We always pick up lots of glass, aluminum, plastic bottles and all sorts of plastic and paper in all forms including some things I can't even mention."

Wendy and Bill are great examples of how Friends' volunteers can work together, but safely apart, all summer long to create a Litter Free Chicago River. The Summer Challenge combines individual litter cleanups with online educational programming.

"The Summer Challenge is a great opportunity to be outdoors with your family and your friends to do something good for the environment and your community. It feels great to make a difference and we'll go out again and again all summer."

[Click here to learn more about the upcoming Summer Challenge education programs.](#) Friends also has a [Litter Free Chicago River Toolkit](#) available to safely organize a litter cleanup.