

Environmental Advisory Committee comments - July 10, 2025

- The Lowcountry volunteer group Mujeres Latinas emphasizes environmental & animal causes.
- For the past couple of years, they've done litter sweeps - likely 2 times a year or more on IOP.
- They came out July 5th and braved the high winds & some rain, collecting more than 1,000 litter items.
- IOP Cleanup Crew has shared supplies with them & they keep in touch with me - so we are connected but they act independently
- Mujeres Latinas also came up with a plan - on their own - to add toy bins and litter bucket storage shelves to beach access paths. They've actually created a couple already.
- Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew & the City have already installed a No Toys Left Behind bin at Front Beach that has been very successful.
- The Community Enrichment Task Force also recommended exploring the idea of bins, bucket trees and benches at major beach access paths.
- A positive about the Mujeres Latinas group is that they seem to be interested in maintaining the toy bins as well.
- I could help arrange for Mujeres Latinas to attend the next EAC meeting and help bring in Natasha Viswanathan, the realtor who established the Fill A Bag bucket stand at Front Beach for a larger conversation to include IOP Cleanup Crew.
- We understand that the City will need to weigh in on placement and may need to get blessing from state environmental officials.

Also, Linda Rowe with SC Aquarium's conservation team assisted Mujeres Latinas at their July 5 sweep. While they reported a lot of left behind chairs, towels, etc, Linda noted that they did not seem to encounter as much fireworks litter as in years past - this is anecdotal & somewhat subjective because of all the different factors that might impact counts - but may validate the changes the fireworks contractor was expected to make to reduce plastic litter from the July 4th show.

Also a shoutout to Public Works for adding in a contracted litter crew that has been doing runs every other week since May. This includes the beach, commercial and parking areas at Front Beach, as well as roadside cleanup from City Hall and the IOP Connector up Palm Boulevard to at least 41st Avenue and the Marina. They collected 22 40-gallon bags of litter Sunday, July 6th.

Finally, 100+ volunteers attended Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew's Monday July 7th All Hands on Deck litter sweep with IOPPD and SC Aquarium's conservation team with SC Federal Credit Union providing treats. Litter counts still being tallied.