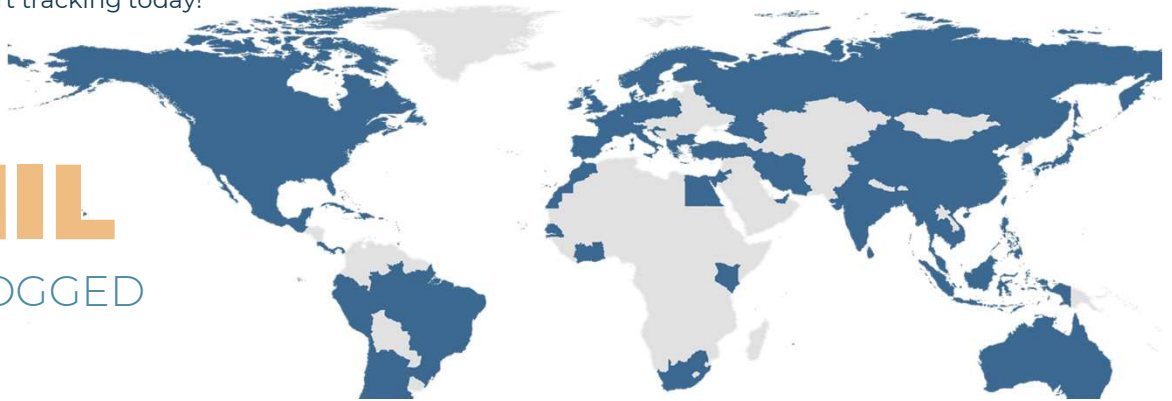


# PLASTIC POLLUTION & THE OHIO RIVER



The Ohio river flows 981 miles through six states, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Cairo, Illinois. There, the Ohio meets the Mississippi River, eventually connecting it to the Gulf of Mexico. We both rely on and impact the river. More than 25 million people live in the Ohio River Basin and over five million people use on the river as their source of drinking water. But the river is threatened by plastic pollution, when everyday items like plastic bottles and food wrappers enter the waterway from our communities. We need you help to characterize plastic pollution along the Ohio River. Debris Tracker is a free, easy-to-use mobile app that unites the power of technology and citizen science to flight plastic and other types of pollution that harm our environment. Every day, dedicated educational, non-profit, and scientific organizations and passionate citizen scientists from all around the world record data on inland and marine debris. You can join us and start tracking today!

**5 MIL**  
ITEMS LOGGED



Debris Tracker volunteers are creating a growing, open dataset on plastic pollution that would be impossible for scientists to build without your help. The data you collect in the Ohio River Basin will help us understand the state of plastic litter along the Ohio River's banks and in communities adjacent to the river, ultimately generating a plastic pollution map that will help local stakeholders including policy makers, businesses, and citizens take action.



1

Get started by downloading the free Debris Tracker app on [Android](#) or [iOS](#).

2

Open the app and allow it to [access your location and photos](#), so we can collect geospatial data on where you're tracking and where you're finding litter. The app is a high-tech data card, designed for data collection in the field to generate the highest quality scientific data.

3

[Log in](#) or create an account. Select "[Start Tracking](#)" and search for US Rivers under organizations. Select the "US Rivers" list and continue.

- 4 Once you've selected the list, you're ready to start tracking litter that you see. **Scroll** through the categories to see litter items. You can also **search** for specific litter items with the search bar at the top of the screen.
  - 5 Record the number of items you find of each litter type by tapping the "Add" button. You can use the **+/- buttons** to change the number or click directly on the number to type in the amount. Once you tap "Add" you'll see the count increase on "Manage Items." This will display the total number of items logged in your session.
- Tip: If you hold down the "Add" button, it will pin the item to the top of the list in a custom Favorites section for easy access,
- 6 If you click **Manage Items**, you can see a map of what you've tracked so far. Here, you can also **delete items** if you've added something accidentally.
  - 7 When you're done tracking, click "Continue." Answer a few **quick survey** questions. Then save your survey.
  - 8 You'll see a summary of what you've collected. You can also **add photos** to your log by clicking "Select Images." When you're ready, click "Upload Session."
  - 9 Wait for your data upload to go through. You'll see a **checkmark** when it's complete. You're all done! Thank you for tracking! You can access your data and data from other volunteers on our website.

You can use Debris Tracker without cell service or Wi-Fi. Just ensure you open the app and load the US Rivers list prior to tracking. When you're done, select "Upload Later". When you're back in service, open the app and select "Upload Saved Session" on the home screen. You can also upload data after the fact by logging into our website and selecting "manually upload data."

