

# CONSIDER LITTER

Vanessa van Heerden, Ph.D.  
vanheerden1@lsu.edu



Pontchartrain  
Conservancy

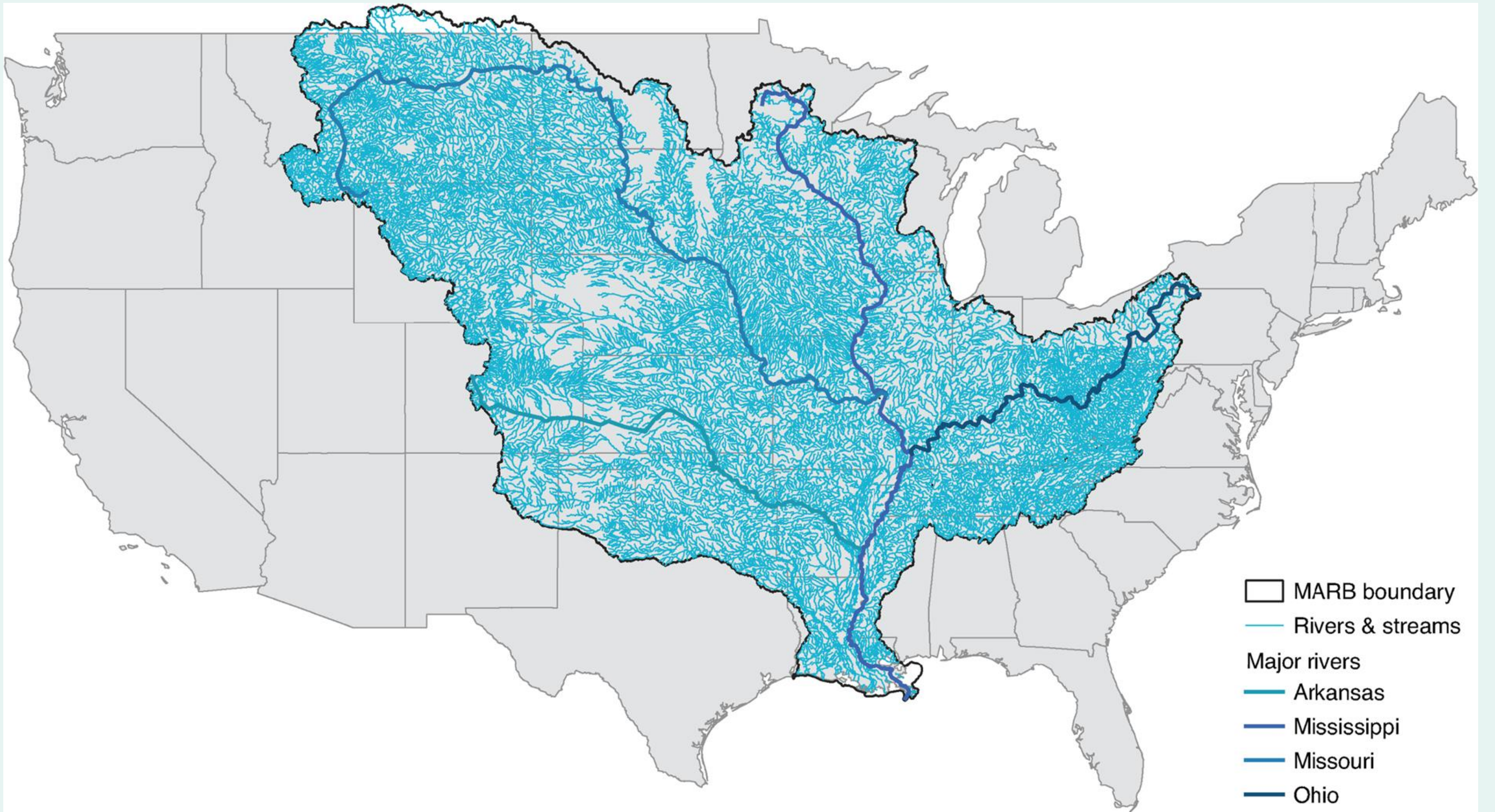


**Sea Grant**  
LOUISIANA

# data-driven & community- centered approach

**TO MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION & MITIGATION**

- Answers a need for land-based litter initiatives
- Provides detailed data on collected debris
- Facilitates locally-driven marine debris assessments, removals, and prevention projects in Louisiana



# THE PROJECT

Implementing monthly clean-ups on school campuses and adjacent areas

- Student driven litter clean ups on site
- Data collection & analysis on litter

Builds environmental literacy and stewardship through research-based litter collection.

## EXAMPLE

Environmental Science: lead litter clean up  
Math: lead litter data collection & analysis  
Civics: lead action project at end of year

Two-fold outcome:

- 1) Understanding of land-based litter
- 2) Stewardship of their school campus



# The Approach

## THE AUDIENCE

4th - 12th grade students

Teachers in the sciences, math, social studies, and all others!

## THE STEPS

1. Teacher professional development day
2. Monthly clean ups and data collection
3. Teachers enter data into online platform
4. Students and teachers create action plan for their school



**STUDENTS  
SORTING**

# METHODS

Schools use the EPA Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) for clean ups and assessment

- Site selection and boundary determination
- Site characterization and cleanup
- Data entry and analysis

Consider Litter team creates and provides clean-up kits to each school

Consider Litter team works with schools to set up:

1. Building class participation schedules
2. Integration of the activities into their existing curriculum
3. Use of online tools for data analysis and action projects

## U.S. EPA Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP)

### *Reference Manual*

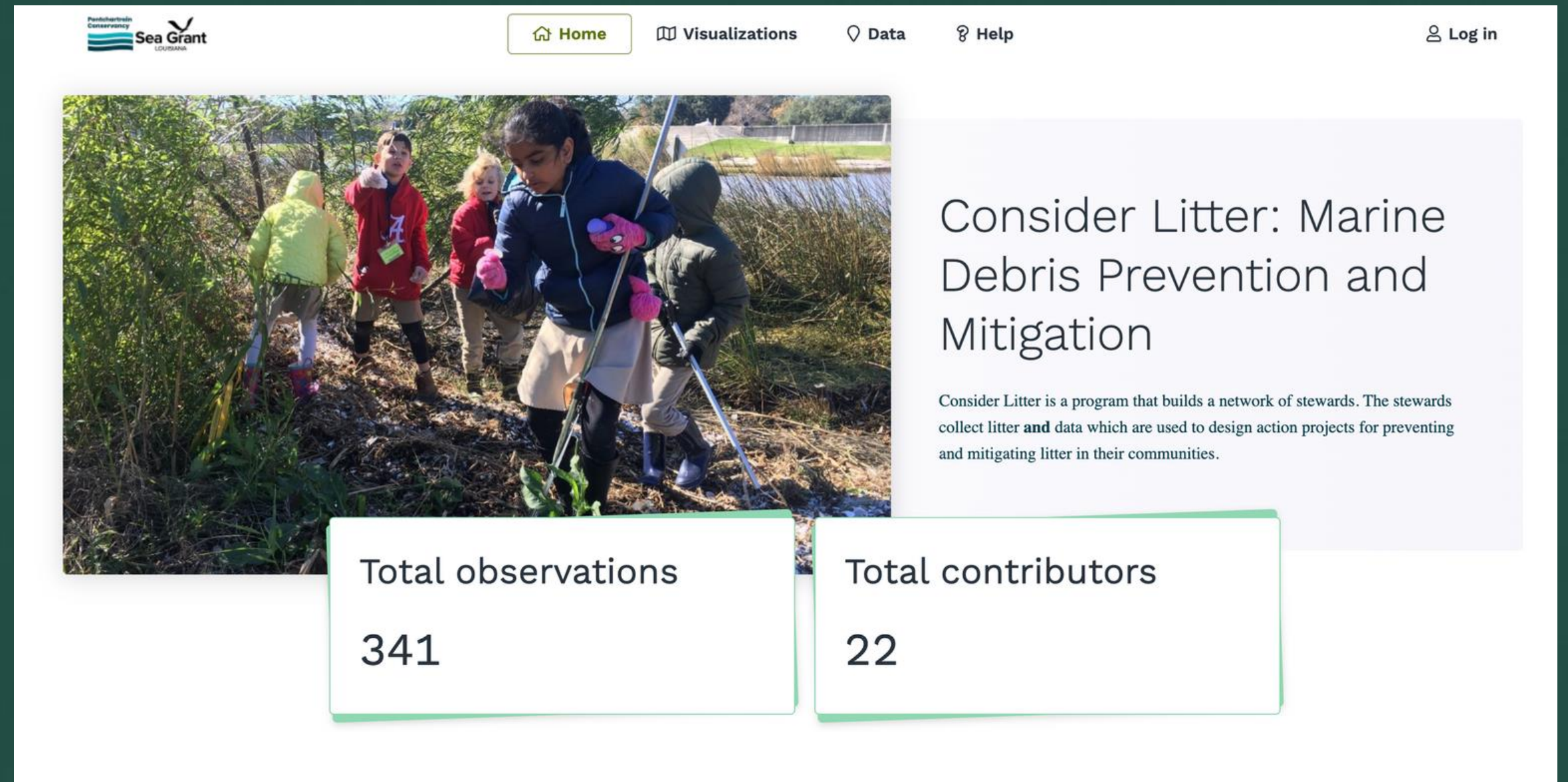


# FIELDSCOPE

Interactive mapping platform where students, teachers, and community members can view, analyze and understand litter in their community.

Provides an easy, manageable approach to data collection and storage for teachers.

Our project:  
[considerlitter.fieldscope.org](https://considerlitter.fieldscope.org)



The screenshot displays the FieldScope interface for the 'Consider Litter' project. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Visualizations', 'Data', and 'Help' links, along with a 'Log in' button. The main content area features a photograph of children participating in a cleanup activity. To the right of the photo, the project title 'Consider Litter: Marine Debris Prevention and Mitigation' is displayed, followed by a brief description: 'Consider Litter is a program that builds a network of stewards. The stewards collect litter and data which are used to design action projects for preventing and mitigating litter in their communities.' Below the photo, two data boxes are shown: 'Total observations' with a value of 341, and 'Total contributors' with a value of 22.

Metric	Value
Total observations	341
Total contributors	22

← Observation

Station \*

- Your previous stations
- All stations

Select a station

You can add a new station or select a different station on the map below.



Observation details

Observation date \*

Select date

Litter Observations

Choose Item Group & Type \*

Select one

Item Conditions: How many items are intact/un-fouled? \*

Item Conditions: How many items are degraded/heavily fouled? \*

Weight \*

 lbs

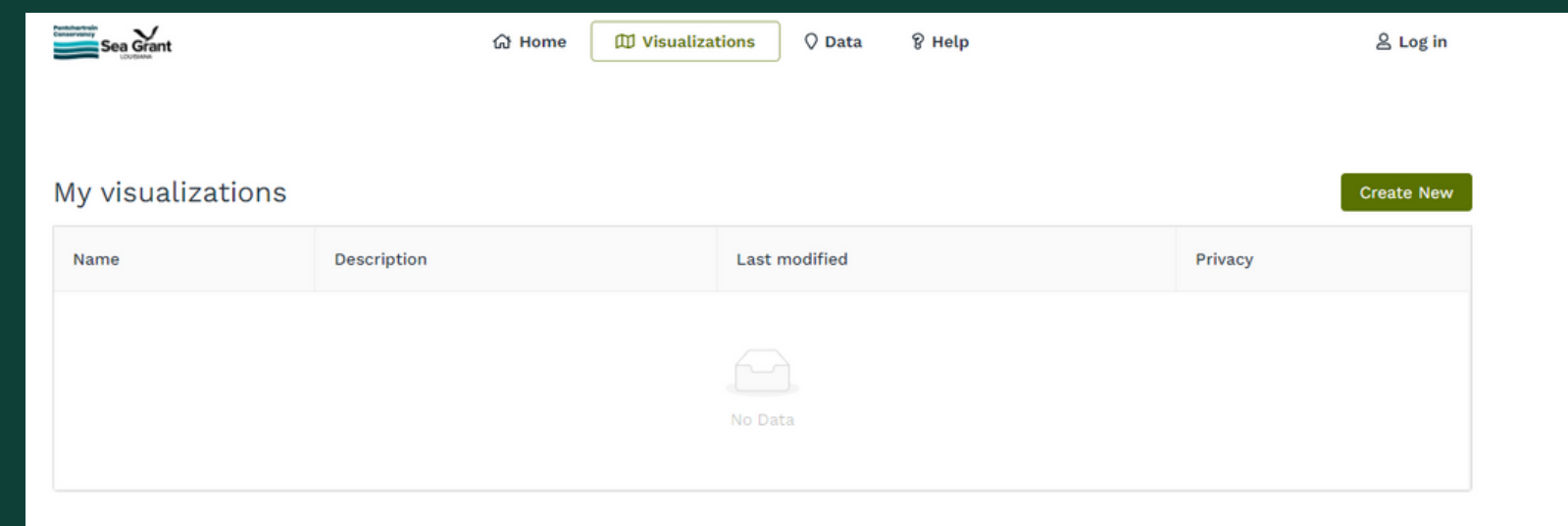
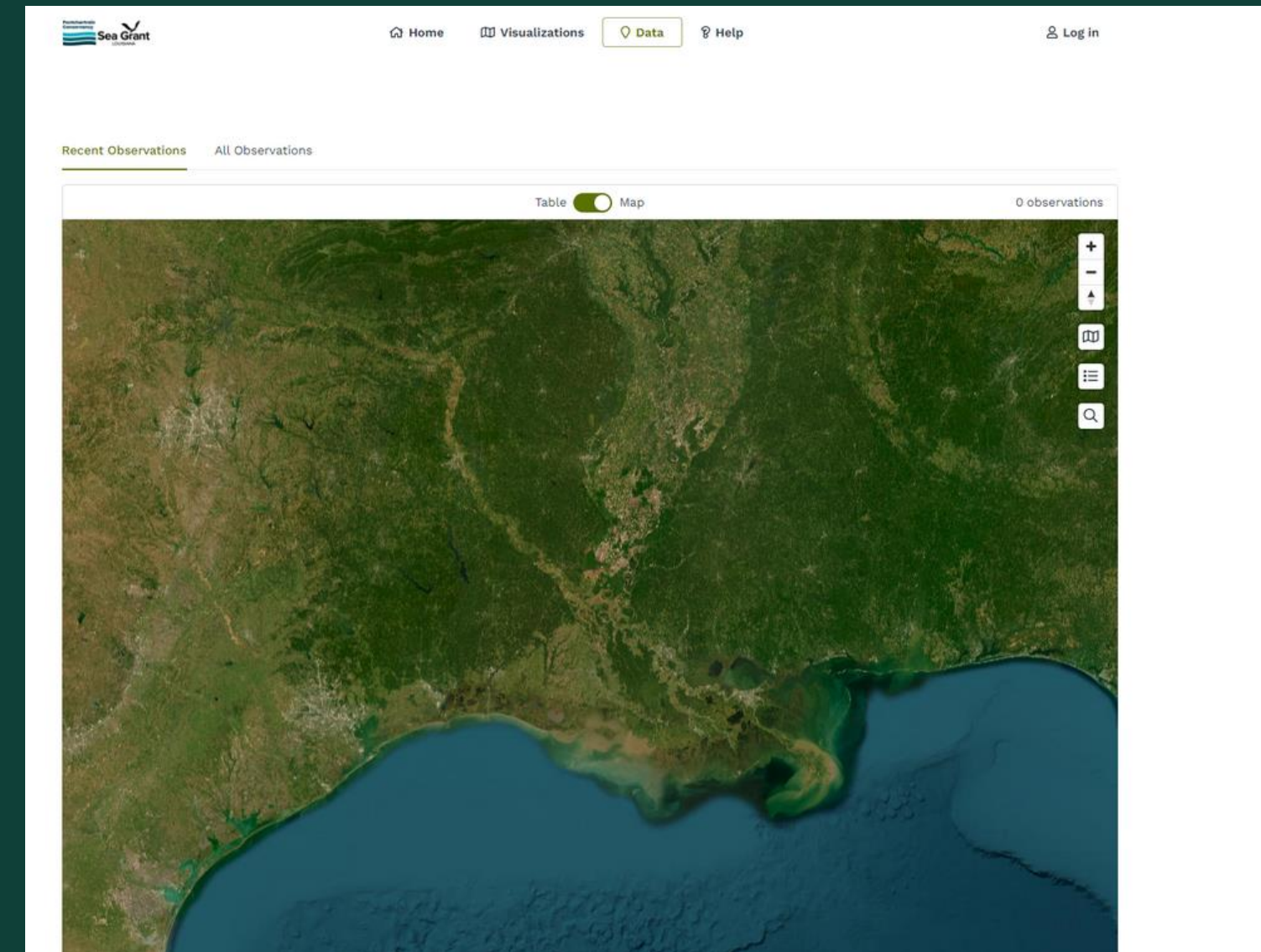
Summarized item notes \* ⓘ

## Teachers:

- Input each monthly clean-ups data
- Have an account for their school

## Students:

- Look at, analyze, and download data
- Create visualizations on the data





# DATA DRIVEN EDUCATION & ACTION

Table  Map 341 observations

(d...	Has Media	Choose Item Group & Type	Item Conditions: How many items are intact/un-fouled?	Item Conditions: How many items are
4	Yes	Smoking - Cigarettes & Canna...	3	6
4	No	Automotive - Other	1	0
4	No	Other - Textiles, Clothing & Sh...	1	5
4	No	Other - Balloons	1	0
4	No	Other - Toys, Sports & Rec Eq...	2	1
4	No	Other Paper	2	0
4	No	Plastic Straws & Stirrers	2	1
4	No	Plastic Bottle Caps & Tabs	4	0
4	No	Plastic Food Wrappers & Snac...	10	20
4	No	Plastic Utensils	1	0
4	No	Plastic Small Fragments	0	1
4	No	Other Plastic	2	0
4	No	Other Foam	2	0
4	No	Other Paper	1	4
4	No	Glass Small Fragments & Othe...	0	3



Graphic by: Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition and Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group

# OUTCOMES

- Students and teachers will increase their knowledge and awareness of the origins of litter
- Students and teachers will increase stewardship of their campus = decrease in litter over time
- Understanding of their role in protecting their local piece of the greater Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin.



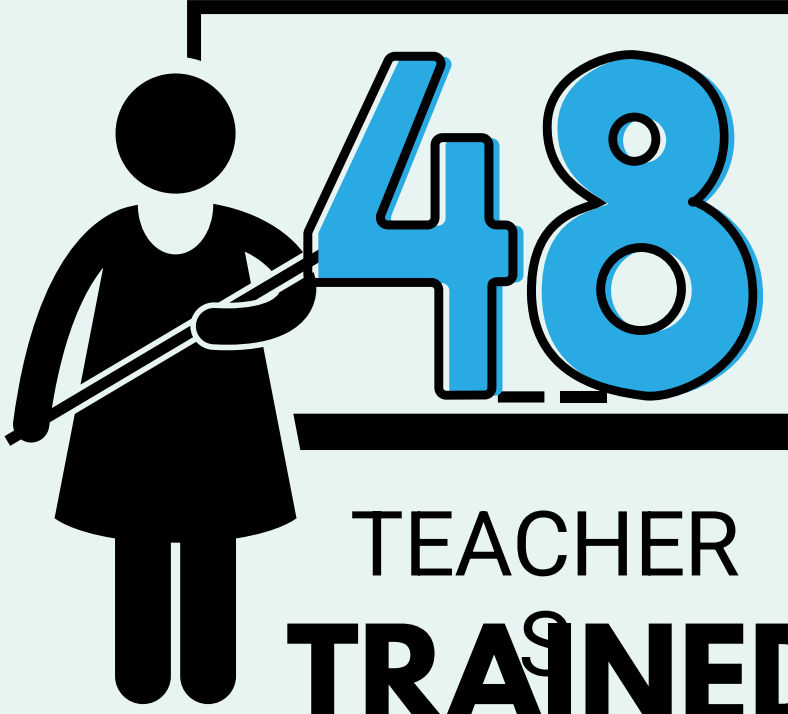
**HOW DID THIS  
GET HERE?**

**WHY DOES IT  
KEEP BLOWING  
AWAY?**

# CONSIDER LITTER: BY THE NUMBERS

**12** 

**SCHOOLS  
SIGNED  
ON**

  
**48**  
**TEACHER  
TRAINED**

**1,950** **STUDENTS  
ENGAGE**

**D**



**TEACHERS COLLECTING & SORTING DURING TRAINING**



AFTER 15 SCHOOL CLEAN UPS, A TOTAL OF...

3,900

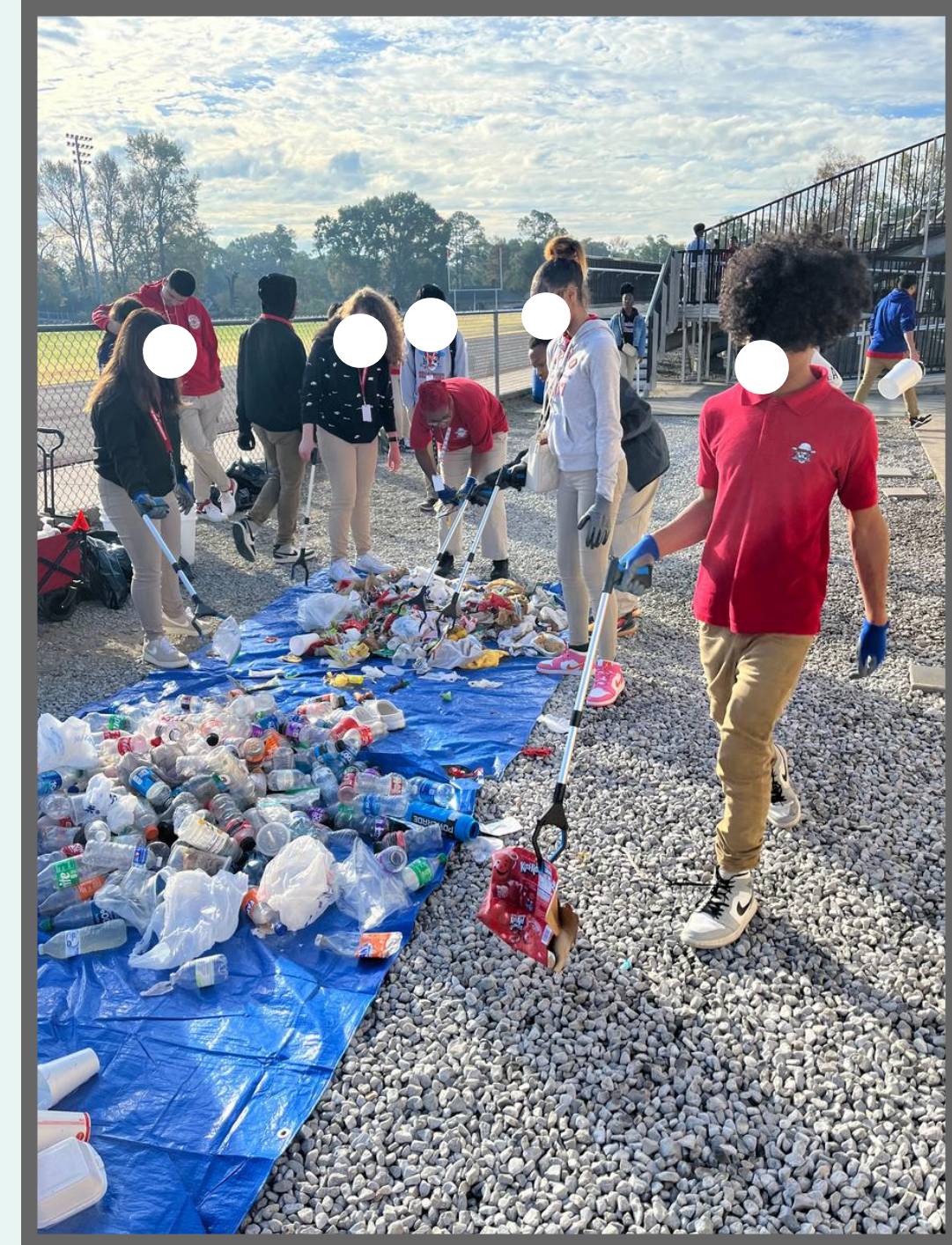
PIECES OF LITTER

&

OVER 170 LBS.



**STUDENTS WEIGHING**



**STUDENTS COLLECTING AND PRE-SORTING**

...HAS BEEN COLLECTED, CATEGORIZED, QUANTIFIED, AND DISPOSED OF.

---

# THANK YOU.

vanheerden1@lsu.edu  
laseagrant.org



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