

use for about 30 minutes, it will hang around (the environment) for about 500 years.”

And with warmer weather around the corner, the rubbish plague is only going to get worse as more people flock to our beaches and parks to soak up the sun.

But while a substantial amount of litter is left in the sand, most flows into the bay via the Yarra and Maribyrnong rivers — after being thoughtlessly dropped on the ground.

The Love Our Street group supports BeachPatrol by hosting monthly clean-ups of

neighbourhood streets to try to stop rubbish getting into the waterways.

So far this year, groups in Elwood, Caulfield, Ripponlea, Melbourne, Maribyrnong and Werribee have picked up a huge 1270kg of litter, including 4541 bottles and cans.

Make sure future generations aren't left buried in trash and pledge to join the LoveOurBay campaign.

We all need to be bitter about litter.

Find out more about monthly street and beach cleans at beachpatrol.com.au

Get involved

UPCOMING BEACH CLEANS

■ **St Kilda:** September 8

■ **Elwood:** September 15

■ **Port Melbourne:** October 6

■ **South Melbourne:** October 20

■ **Spring Clean the City:** Help tidy the streets on September 15 between 9am and 1pm.

Details: bit.ly/2Cc5UdZ

■ **Instagram:** Show us how you're tackling the litter scourge by tagging @portphillpleader and @cityofportphillip in your pics using #thatsrubbish and #LoveOurBay

Join waste war

MAYOR BERNADENE VOSS

As Mayor, I never fail to be amazed at the great work our community can achieve when we work together.

Now more than ever, our city needs your help. We are becoming inundated with litter. It's polluting our streets and ending up in our beautiful bay.

On a recent Saturday, I went out with over 150 volunteers to clean up Port Melbourne and South Melbourne. In three

hours we collected 119 bags of rubbish, including 46 used syringes. In one street alone, I gathered 96 bottles and cans alongside bags of litter. Much of this was single-use plastics or things that could have been easily recycled —

instead they were destined for the bay to become a threat to our vulnerable ecosystem.

I am calling on everyone in our community to pitch in.

The council has developed a new waste strategy — 'Don't Waste It!' — which will see us reducing household waste and redirecting food waste from landfill, but litter is everyone's problem.

I want you to join me in pledging to clean up our city.

I'd like to hear from readers: what's your pledge? Pick up the rubbish outside your house, in your street, in your park. Organise a clean-up event and invite your ward councillors.

We'll be measuring the amount of rubbish gathered — so make sure to tell us how much you've collected. Your pledge will make a big difference. Together we can #LoveOurBay

