

Cleaning up at the beach

Volunteers can join the SOLVE spring cleanup or make it a part of daily life

By Lyra Fontaine
Cannon Beach Gazette

Bottle caps, small plastics and ground-up debris that appears to be from the Japanese tsunami.

These are only a few things Tracy Sund, with the Cannon Beach Public Works Department, and volunteers find along the Cannon Beach shoreline.

Cannon Beach will participate in the annual statewide SOLVE Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup on March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteers "keep coming back" and bringing more volunteers with them, said coordinator Jeneé Pearce-Mushen, who supports volunteers, whether by providing safety information or a pair of gloves.

The cleanup, which aims to keep beaches healthy and minimize impact on marine life, covers the shoreline from Arch Cape to Ecola State Park.

The most common items found on Oregon beaches are tiny bits of plastic and cigarette butts, which can negatively impact shorebirds and marine life, according to SOLVE.

Cannon Beach normally has several hundred volunteers for the spring cleanup. Last year, about 200 volunteers removed 4,620 pounds of trash.

SOLVE organizes the effort, Recology Western Oregon donates disposal and recycling services, Cannon Beach Police Department ensures safety, Mo's Restaurant donates snacks, and Pacific Alarm Systems helps with refreshments and setup.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Cannon Beach resident Stacy Benefield found a glass float while cleaning up the beach.

"If it weren't for the community working together, this would never work," Pearce-Mushen said. "It's about what the city has done and what the other partners do."

She emphasized that volunteers should never turn their backs to the ocean. "Safety is always a priority."

About 35 people from a Boy Scouts troop from Portland, including their parents, will come to Cannon Beach to join the SOLVE cleanup.

"We have to make sure young people understand what community service is all about," Pearce-Mushen said. "If I can help a parent teach their kids what's important, then that's pretty awesome."

Year-round effort

As Sund, with the Cannon Beach Public Works Department, completes his regular morning beach cleanup along the Cannon Beach shoreline, he greets volunteers along his route that assist in picking up debris almost every day, rain or shine.

SOLVE need to know:

- ✓ Volunteers can check in at Cannon Beach City Hall on 163 E. Gower Ave.
- ✓ Dress for rain or shine. Wear sturdy shoes.
- ✓ SOLVE will provide bags and gloves.
- ✓ An old colander or kitty litter scoop can help sift through sand for small items.
- ✓ Never turn your back on the ocean.
- ✓ Avoid logs in the water and marine mammals.

The annual spring cleanup brings hundreds of hands to help pick up trash on the beach, but the city and conscientious volunteers make a difference year-round.

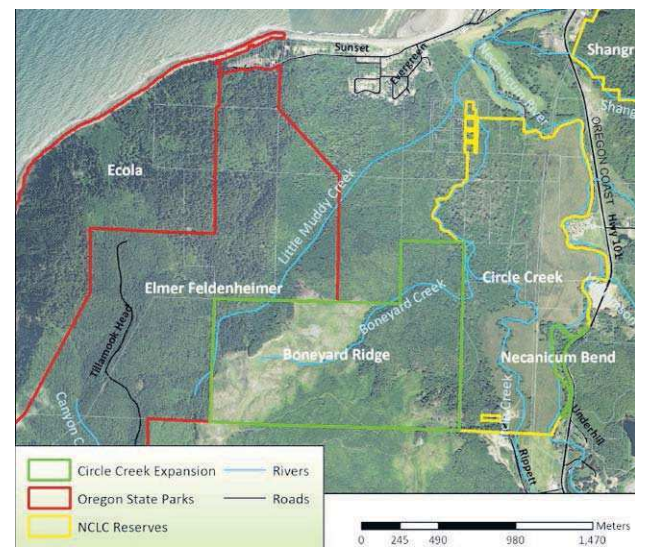
Sund usually cleans up the shore twice a week, but has taken his truck to the beach every day for the past week due to the high volume of debris.

"Volunteers have been working overtime, picking up the smaller things down to the size of a bottle cap," he said, adding that the residents' daily cleanups are "extremely helpful" to the city.

Volunteers either take a bag of trash home with them or coordinate with Sund where they leave it, and he picks it up.

Anyone interested in being a part of the year-round effort to clean up the beach can get contact information from the city.

Beach visitors who help clean up the shoreline may wind up finding unexpected treasures, such as a glass float, three of which washed up recently.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/EO MEDIA GROUP

A map with the Boneyard Ridge area outlined in green.

Conservancy to buy Boneyard Ridge

Boneyard from Page 1A

Originally Campbell Global had agreed to sell the land at a "reasonable price," she added.

They had also pledged to keep the land untouched before its potential sale, but price and purchase date weren't set until this week.

After transfer, the conservancy will hammer out details as to how the property will be managed,

Voelke said. This could include a trails component or other recreational opportunities.

The purchase will be funded by individual donors and a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Voelke said. Together, they have raised about \$1.1 million of the \$1.3 million total.

"All we need is another \$200,000," Voelke said. "It's the final push."

Start collecting now for the Marine Debris Art Contest

Are you looking for a fun civic activity that combines beach-combing, creativity and litter reduction? If so, the Marine Debris Art Contest is a perfect opportunity.

Participants are invited to collect beach debris and use it to make art. Bring creations to the Cannon Beach Chamber Community Hall Monday, April 11, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. All artwork will be displayed at the hall

and assessed by a panel of judges. The winner will be announced at the City Potluck event Friday, April 15. The winner will be presented with the Steve McLeod award.

All materials must be debris that is collected off the beach.

For questions or additional information, contact Jean by emailing gjeanwilliams@hotmail.com.

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