

[Home](#) ▶ [Story](#)

Pacifica Tribune September 16, 2009 Every Pacifican can take part in Saturday's Coastal Cleanup Day

By Jane Northrop | *Pacifica Tribune*

POSTED: 09/16/2009 04:00:00 PM PDT |

COMMENTS

Walking outside the house and picking up a piece of trash in the neighborhood is a simple way for every Pacifican to play a role in the statewide cleanup day this Saturday.

The Pacifica Beach Coalition, the organizer of the local cleanup day, under the direction of Lynn Adams, its president, has signed up community groups to clean up 17 sites including local beaches, bluffs, creeks and streets around the creek. For the last five years, the Pacifica Beach Coalition has moved the cleanups gradually into the neighborhoods, because this is often the source of most of the litter.

Besides the local groups, which include the paragliders, the Pacifica Gardens, GGNRA, Chamber of Commerce, schools and youth organizations, residents are forming their own groups to clean up their own neighborhoods and local creeks.

Last year, 1204 people participated in the cleanup. This year, more than 2000 are expected.

This is the cleanup where pieces of litter are counted so local grassroots organizations, legislatures, and manufacturers know where the problem areas are and how well they are doing making progress at reducing litter. They also learn what the most prevalent form of litter is and what is

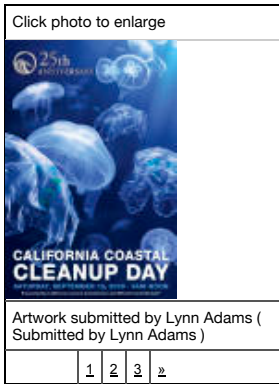
causing the most harm in the environment.

Last year, volunteers picked up 3,920 pounds of trash and recycles in Pacifica. That included 29,347 cigarette butts, 4,208 food wrappers, 3,444 bags, 2,211 pieces of styrofoam, 1,907 bottle caps and lids, 168 fishing lines, 155 balloons, 109 strapping bands, 85 batteries and 55 cigarette lighters along with other debris such as TV's, tires, shopping carts, tennis balls, auto parts, and more.

On Earth Day, the Pacifica Beach Coalition drew attention to the plight of the steelhead trout and salmon in the waters of California. This year, they are focusing their education efforts on the massive Pacific Gyre, the place where the ocean currents meet and where a debris field twice the size of Texas floats.

"The plastic debris is more than 100 feet deep and has tiny particles in it that have broken down from larger pieces. We are trying to capture the litter and plastic from the beaches, bluffs and streets before the winter storms come and carry it out into the ocean and on to the Pacific Gyre," Adams said. "The bottle caps and everything that sits in the gutters and storm drains will wash to the creeks when flushed from the storm drains. Once in the ocean, the currents will break it all down into smaller and smaller pieces, killing wildlife throughout its journey. These pieces can and probably will end up in that Pacific Gyre."

Coastal Cleanup Day is sponsored by the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program and California Coastal Commission. It is part of International Coastal Cleanup Day with



(/POPULAR)

[DAY \(/POPULAR\)](#) [HOUR \(/POPULAR\)](#) [NEWS \(/POPULAR\)](#)

[SPORTS \(/POPULAR\)](#) [BIZ \(/POPULAR\)](#) [A&E \(/POPULAR\)](#)

[EMAIL \(/POPULAR\)](#) [LIFE \(/POPULAR\)](#)

[CCS football playoffs scoreboard \(http://www.mercurynews.com/high-school-sports/ci_26991940/ccs-football-playoffs-scoreboard?source=most_viewed\)](http://www.mercurynews.com/high-school-sports/ci_26991940/ccs-football-playoffs-scoreboard?source=most_viewed)

[Purdy: Stanford teaches Cal tough lessons in Big Gan \(http://www.mercurynews.com/sports/ci_26995767/pu source=most_viewed\)](http://www.mercurynews.com/sports/ci_26995767/pu)

[Sharks' home woes continue in shootout loss to Arizona \(http://www.mercurynews.com/sharks/ci_26996406/sh home-woes-continue-shootout-loss-arizona?source=most_viewed\)](http://www.mercurynews.com/sharks/ci_26996406/sh)

[Thompson: Murray could have helped Raiders' running game weeks ago \(http://www.mercurynews.com/marc thompson/ci_26982822/thompson-raiders-choice-at-running-back-is-clear?source=most_viewed\)](http://www.mercurynews.com/marc)

» [More most-popular sports stories \(/popular#pop-sp](#)

San Jose Local Guide (<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com>)

Featured Businesses

Dave Reeder
(<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/walnut-creek-CA/community/political-organization/Dave-Reeder-650-823-2543>)
River Islands Developments
(<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/lathrop-CA/real-estate/real-estate-agents/River>

events around the world. This is the twenty-fifth year thousands of Californians will work together along beaches, shorelines and inland waterways to clear cigarette butts, cans, bottles, plastic bags, grocery carts, old tires and other debris.

Last year, more than 3,800 volunteers in San Mateo County removed 35,000 pounds of trash and 6,000 pounds of recyclables. Statewide, more than 73,000 volunteers hauled off a record 1.6 million pounds of trash and recyclables that would otherwise soil the state and threaten the health of wildlife.

The vast majority of the debris wasn't dropped on beaches or tossed into a watershed. Instead, most of the debris started out as garbage on urban streets and was carried by storm drains or blown by the wind.

"We are all connected to the shoreline and creek banks by storm drains," said Ana Clayton, San Mateo County Cleanup Day Coordinator. "The storm drains whisk litter you see on the sidewalk to our waterways. Most storm drains don't flow to a sewage treatment plant. They flow to our vulnerable waterways. It's important to remember that we need to do our part and keep trash and pollutants out of storm drains before they reach the ocean and bay."

To participate in the cleanup, join in at any of these sites from 9-11:30 a.m. Please dress for cold or warm weather, wear sturdy shoes, wear sunscreen, and if you have one, bring a five gallon bucket and light gardening gloves (reduces plastic in the landfill).

Mussel Rock Beach and Bluff —Take Manor Drive exit off Hwy 1, Right on Palmetto, Left on Westline Drive. Meet in the parking lot north of the transfer Station at the end of Westline drive.

Manor Bluff — Take Manor Drive west to the ocean. Meet in front of the Post office.

Sharp Park Beach — Meet at the start of the levee near the picnic tables on Beach Blvd at Clarendon just south of the Pacifica Pier.

West Sharp Park Streets — Join IBL students in cleaning up the Streets of West Sharp Park. Meet at the flagpole just south of the Pacifica Pier - this starts at 10.00am

Rockaway Beach —Meet at the west end of Rockaway Blvd

Pacifica State Beach at Linda Mar —Meet at the south end of Linda Mar State Beach parking lot near Taco Bell.

San Pedro Creek (at the Mouth) — Meet at the north end of Pedro Point Shopping Center by NorCal surf shop

San Pedro Creek (inland) — Meet at the end of San Pedro Terrace Road off of Peralta

Big Inch Creek — A team of people will be cleaning up Monterey, Nelson, Chester, Norfolk streets surrounding this creek. They will start on Monterey between the Beaumont and Hickey intersections

Salada Creek — Meet by the 7-11 on Clarendon join Ocean High School at this cleanup

Mori Point — Join the Parks Conservancy and GGNRA, Meet at Bradford Lane and Mori Point Road by the Moose Lodge

Roberts Road — Meet on Roberts Road just up the hill from the post office north of Crespi Dr.

Pacifica Community Center, Skatepark, and Wetlands — Meet at the Pacifica Community Center on Crespi at Hwy 1.

Calera Creek in Vallemar — Meet at the East end of Reina Del Mar at Bier's Grove. Both litter pickup and habitat restoration will be targeted at this site.

Fassler Avenue — Meet at the top of Fassler Ave. at Crespi.

A celebration for all volunteers begins at 12 p.m. at Sharp Park (near the picnic area at the corner of Beach at Clarendon) with refreshments and a drum circle. Bring your own drum or music maker.

Call the Pacifica Beach Coalition at 355-1668 or email pickituppacifica@gmail.com (<mailto:pickituppacifica@gmail.com>), if you have a new group who wishes to clean up a new site.

"I want to thank all of the residents who have heartily joined us. People come back year after year, cleanup after cleanup and help at places in need. Coastal Cleanup Day and Earth Day have been embraced by the community. So many member of our community pick up litter on their daily walk. It is making a difference and saving so many wildlife," Adams said. "When we are all a part of the solution, litter pollution will be a thing of the past."

Islands-Developments-209-879-7900)
Goodguys Rod & Custom Association
(<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/pleasanton-CA/arts-and-entertainment/events/Goodguys-Rod-and-Custom-Association-925-838-9876>)
Pho 909
(<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/milpitas-CA/restaurants/smoothies/Pho-909-408-946-1937>)
Gordon, Stephen
(<http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/saratoga-CA/legal/legal-services/Gordon-Stephen-408-857-2643>)

Find San Jose Attractions

Search for a business

Search by keyword or Zip

Add your business here +
(http://mylocal.mercurynews.com/#add_bus)