

Cleanup efforts need volunteers for beach areas

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Volunteer for two upcoming cleanup events in Delray

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Call it some serious spring cleaning. Tidying up **Delray Beach** is a community effort that two local organizations are spearheading. The 2016 Great American Cleanup will take place along Delray Municipal Beach on April 23. Then, the second Atlantic Dunes Park Restoration Day will take place April 30.

"The inspiration behind the Great American Cleanup is a community improvement project, which helps engage volunteers to help keep our beaches clean and beautiful for all to enjoy," said Danica Sanborn, executive director of Sandoway Discovery Center in Delray Beach. "You can register for the cleanup by calling the Sandoway Discovery Center at 561-274-7263 or show up the morning of the event. We will supply garbage bags, gloves and pickers as well as free shirts for the first 200 volunteers."

Sanborn also advises residents to reuse, reduce and recycle as an everyday practice to keep green spaces clean.

The second restoration day will involve cleanup as well as some new greenery being planted.

"We were contracted through the city of Delray Beach to do an assessment of Atlantic Dunes Park," said Cara Abbott, The Institute for Regional Conservation's education and outreach coordinator. "We will be removing invasive plants and replanting plants that were historically there."

According to George Gann, chief conservation strategist who completed the survey of plants at Atlantic Dunes Park for the city of Delray Beach last fall, some of the exotic plants being removed from the park include Brazilian pepper trees, oyster plants and Chinese violets. Native plants will be added to the park such as Florida silver palm, sea lavender, sea rosemary and Florida Keys blackbeads, among others.

"This park is a very special place and it's a hidden beach, which also offers some great trails," Abbott said. "The public is welcome to show up to volunteer and help, but we ask that you call us at 305-304-6610 to let us know you're coming so we can make sure we have enough supplies."

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ay Discovery Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd. The
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