

Opportunities abound in San Mateo County on Coastal Cleanup Day

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It's time to don those gloves and can-do spirit for California's 27th-annual Coastal Cleanup Day.

On Saturday, San Mateo County residents have their pick of the litter when it comes to locations for trash pickup, as sites are spread along the coast and bay throughout the county. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own cloth gloves and buckets to cut back on waste, but supplies will be available at the sites.

San Mateo's Department of Public Works puts on a popular cleanup event, which begins with registration from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and is expected to draw more than 1,000 volunteers to Ryder Park on J. Hart Clinton Drive. One of the highlights there is "Catch of the Day," when volunteers present their most unusual finds. The day begins with yoga for volunteers who'd like to stretch out before picking up trash and concludes with a celebratory barbecue at 11:30 a.m.

The Pacifica Beach Coalition has 22 beach and street cleanup sites scattered throughout Pacifica. (Visit www.pacificabeachcoalition.org (<http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org>) for a complete list.) An after-pickup celebration begins at 11:30 a.m. at the south parking lot at Rockaway Beach and includes light refreshments and a live music performance.

"Pacifians are really taking it to heart when it comes to bringing their own buckets and things," said Pacifica Beach Coalition President Lynn Adams, "Several sites aren't using bags at all."

Coastside Land Trust, a nonprofit land-preservation organization located in Half Moon Bay, will contribute this year with a new inland site along Pilarcitos Creek. Cleanup begins at 9 a.m. and goes until noon. Volunteers will meet up in the Odwalla parking lot at 120 Stone Pine Road in Half Moon Bay for some light refreshments before heading out to pick up trash.

Coastside Land Trust organizes about five cleanup days each year but is taking part in the statewide efforts for the first time in 2011. "We'll be cleaning up the trash around the whole area and that will keep it out of the creek and ocean," said the organization's executive director, Jo Chamberlain.

Local organizers have designated South San Francisco's Colma Creek as a "hot spot" for much needed cleaning. Organized cleanup for that site goes from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers meet at 180 Utah Ave.

For a complete list of the county's cleanup locations and more information regarding parking and registration, see www.flowstobay.org (<http://www.flowstobay.org>).

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