

# MY TOWN (/PACIFICA)

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## Participate, clean up, learn about and celebrate Earth Day in Pacifica on April 21

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On Saturday, April 21, in Pacifica, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., thousands of community members will head out of their homes and their places of work to plant trees, participate in habitat restoration and pick up litter from beaches, bluffs, creeks, parking lots, streets and schoolyards. The event is Pacifica Beach Coalition Earth Day 2012 and the Coalition has organized dozens of sites where groups or individuals can register to be part of a number of "hot spot projects." (Visit [www.pacificabeachcoalition.org](http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org) (<http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org>) for information on site locations and to sign up.) In addition, many individuals create their own projects by adopting a beach, a park, a street or a stream. (The Pacifica Beach Coalition, a registered nonprofit, is a project of Pacifica's Environmental Family.)

Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition (PBC), said this year's Earth Day efforts are dedicated to the sea turtle. And all over town, PBC flyers shout — "Be turtley cool, take action this Earth Day."

"These ancient sea dwellers have been around since before dinosaurs!" Adams noted. "Sadly, all seven species of sea turtle are now either critically endangered or threatened."

There are many dangers sea turtles face as they swim the seas including entanglement in fishing gear, poaching, loss of nesting and feeding sites due to coastal development, but their top threat is ocean pollution. These magnificent creatures easily mistake plastic bags and other plastics for jellyfish, one of their favorite meals.

"Help us keep the ocean free of plastic debris by joining the cleanup efforts on Earth Day!" Adams said.

The first time a great many citizens really came out to take a stand for Mother Earth happened right after a catastrophic event in Santa Barbara, January of 1969. On that day, at 10:45 in the morning, workers on a Union Oil Platform were pulling the drilling tube out of a well. The tube was stuck, but the workers continued pulling. This caused the pressure inside the well to disastrously increase which in turn caused cracks in the seafloor around the well. Three million gallons of crude oil poured into the Pacific Ocean. Marine life died by the thousands while volunteer and emergency rescue workers in the area and millions of television viewers watched in horror. As a result, environmental groups formed all over the States and pushed for legislation to protect the environment.

On April 22, 1970, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) put his voice behind a massive grass roots demonstration, an environmental teach-in, and 20 million people participated. The first official Earth Day was born. Earth Day has since become an international observation with now more than 500 million people and 175 countries participating annually each year.

As is tradition in Pacifica, following the cleanup is the Pacifica Beach Coalition's Earth Day celebration at Linda Mar Beach, South Lot (11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) This year's celebration features keynote speakers Wallace J. Nichols, PhD, world renowned turtle scientist and ocean activist, as well as Chris Pincetich, PhD, Marine Biologist and founder of The Sea Turtle Restoration Project. Special guests include Congresswoman Jackie Speier, California

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Assemblyman Jerry Hill, San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley and Pacifica Mayor Pete DeJarnatt. Additionally, student representatives from local schools will share their school activities on taking care of the Earth.

Along with the speakers, what's to do at the Earth Day Linda Mar Beach celebration? Cindy Abbott, Pacifica Beach Coalition member and part of the Earth Day Coordinating Committee, had the answers.

"For the kids there is 'Knock Down Litter' (bowling activity) hosted by Pacifica Patch," Abbott said. "There is also 'Art Project' hosted by Sanchez Art Center, 'Facepainters' hosted by Pacifica Girl Scouts, 'Personalize Your Own Shopping Tote' hosted by Linda Tringali, 'Fish Feed' (bean bag toss activity) hosted by the Pacifica Beach Coalition, 'Sea Creature Rope' (visual display of size against a backdrop of the Pacific Ocean), and 'Segway Demonstrations' (sponsored by Silicon Segway Rockaway Beach)."

Along with the Pacifica Beach Coalition and Pacifica's Environmental Family, there are a great number of organizations participating in Earth Day and its follow-up celebration, too many to mention, but it includes [Seaturtle.org/Sea](http://Seaturtle.org/Sea) (<http://Seaturtle.org/Sea>) Turtle Restoration Project, The Marine Mammal Center, the American Cetacean Society, Pacifica Shorebird Alliance, Pacifica Gardens, Pacifica Garden Club, Pacifica Land Trust and the Pacifica Beautification Committee.

As to fine Earth Day dining, Abbott said, "The Pacifica Sea Lions will be participating for the second year selling hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, fruits, chips and beverages.

Then there are the bands at the beach. Singer, songwriter, guitarist Jim Ocean, an environmental and science-themed songwriter, will be up first. The Russian River resident will play solo, primarily, except when he is joined by long-time musician, writer, television host, environmentalist Ian Butler on bass. Next up is Butler's band, Ian and the Humpbacks. The popular local band will perform many of Butler's well-loved tunes on the environment. Closing things out is the rock band Haunted by Heroes, five 11-year-olds from Pacifica, whose rock prowess landed them a recent gig on NBC's "Good Morning America."

At the Pacifica Beach Coalition's annual Earth Day event the green carpet is rolled out and everyone is welcome.

April 21, Pacifica, Earth Day Action, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Earth Day Celebration at Linda Mar Beach, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

#### OTHER EARTH DAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pacifica Land Trust will be leading a Habitat Restoration workday from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. Volunteers should meet at the Pedro Point Firehouse at 8:45 a.m. for a carpool to the Headlands access point.

In other Headland news, volunteers have finished planting almost 1,000 plants in the new slide on the headlands and the late spring rains are helping them tremendously. The 6-acre parcel of land known as the Tronoff property has been purchased and designated as permanent public open space through the collaboration of the City of Pacifica and California Coastal Conservancy.

- Mother Earth needs the children and the children need Mother Earth. Thankfully there will be a lot of Earth Day action in the schools the week of April 16 involving all of the students of Pacifica. Elementary schools are planning lots of classroom activities in addition to schoolwide campus cleanups to spruce things up and remove all stray pieces of litter and plastic that flow to the ocean with wind or rain. Gardening, weeding, spreading wood chips, gathering recycles, picking up litter, building worm bins and compost piles, painting, writing, and talking about the turtles; these activities and more will give our children ample opportunity to get their hands dirty and help Mother Earth.

On April 21, activities at the schools are also being planned. Sunset Ridge will be weeding and planting the Whale Lookout and entry planter box, planting a magnolia tree, and cleaning the parking lot. Ocean Shore will be cleaning the front parking lot, weeding the circle drive, spreading wood chips, and weeding the fence line on Oceana and Monterey. Vallemar will be creating a Sea Turtle mural near the creek and planting an area.

Ortega will be hosting a gardening day. Cabrillo will be cleaning up the streets around their

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schools. Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School will clean all of the streets of West Sharp Park, conduct a campus cleanup, and join together to beautify and transform an empty outdoor space into an inviting garden/hangout spot for the students to enjoy.

Oceana High School will conduct a gardening work day and campus cleanup. Extra students will head out and clean up the streets around the school while others join the Partnership for a Safe and Healthy Pacifica to clean Lakeside Way and the streets around the golf course.

Terra Nova High School has big plans this year hoping to involve hundreds of their students and faculty in improving their campus grounds by removing litter, weeding and planting their outdoor planter boxes, cleaning the streets around their school, planting 15 Coast Redwoods on campus, and cleaning up San Pedro Creek from the Convalescent center off Peralta and near Pedro Point Shopping Center.

Biologist Chris Pincetich from [Seaturtles.org](http://Seaturtles.org) (<http://Seaturtles.org>) will be providing an assembly for most of the schools. He plans to share information with the students about the Sea Turtles of the world and specifically the plight of the Leatherback Sea Turtle who swims off our coast hunting jellyfish. He will also host a group of High School students who will do a plastics study at Linda Mar Beach on Earth Day.

#### EARTH DAY HOT SPOTS STILL OPEN FOR ADOPTION

Litter -- Palmetto Avenue (from IBL to Walgreens), Palmetto (by McDonalds), Park Mall, Monterey Blvd/Hickey from Oceana up, Oddstad Boulevard, Rosita Road, Pigeon Trail. Edgemar Drive

Weeding / Habitat Restoration -- Old County Road (end of Higgins Way), Bike path to Linda Mar from Rockaway, Special Pampas grass teams.

#### BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS SIGN UP FOR EARTH DAY

Two groups that answer the call in a big way are the Boy and Girl Scout troops of Pacifica which includes the Brownies and Cub Scout Packs. Eleven troops have signed on to adopt projects including picking up litter at the Pacifica Community Center, Rockaway beach, streets around Cabrillo school, and Vallemar shopping area; removing weeds at Ocean Shore School, Rockaway Beach, and the Community Center planter boxes; as well as setting up and taking down the Earth Day Celebration site and facepainting at the celebration. Some of the troops are partnering together to tackle projects bigger than their abilities.

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