



Friends of Whidbey State Parks Adopt-A-Beach Volunteers Partnering with WSU Community Beach Litter Cleanup - (CLCP)

Are you looking for a fun and easy volunteer opportunity in Whidbey State Parks? How about picking up litter as you walk along the shoreline?

The shorelines of our state parks on Whidbey are bombarded year-round with litter. The parks do not have the resources to monitor these beaches on a regular basis. Litter that accumulates can be a danger to marine wildlife. Birds mistake small plastic pieces and Styrofoam for food. Seals can become entangled in discarded fishing line, nets and buoys that are left to wash out into the sound.

CLCP conducts regularly scheduled beach cleanups at Keystone Spit, Fort Casey, Ebey's Landing, Joseph Whidbey and Deception Pass State Parks. Every week, groups of volunteers comb the beaches for litter that has accumulated since the previous visit.

You can: • Join scheduled CLCP beach cleanups • Work independently through the **Purple Card** program • Participate in both!



Deb demonstrates the fully outfitted Beach Litter Volunteer

What is the CLCP?

The Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) is funded through a tax levied on manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of certain products which contribute to the litter problem in this state. Traditionally, counties have used these funds for roadside litter cleanup. Since we have a robust Adopt-a-Road program that ensures our roadsides are kept clean, Island County has chosen to use CLCP funds to clean public and private shorelines and provide litter prevention educational presentations. This program is administered locally through the WSU Extension, Island County office in Coupeville.

The CLCP Beach Cleaning Program in Island County has been in existence for over twenty years. It consists of three parts: regularly scheduled weekly group cleanups, community litter education and the **Purple Card**.

How to Get Started with CLCP

To begin participating just volunteer for one of the regularly scheduled cleanups.

You can find the current schedule at <https://extension.wsu.edu/island/nrs/beachlitter/>

You can have the schedule emailed to you every time it's updated. Just contact the CLCP Program Coordinator, Stinger Anderson: stinger.anderson@wsu.edu and ask to be added to the CLCP email list.

You don't need to sign up ahead of time but if this is your first beach cleanup with CLCP, or you would like to be notified of changes or cancellations, please contact Stinger a couple of days in advance of the event.

- Open to all adults, 18 or older
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and footwear for walking over sand, cobble, and driftwood
- Bags, gloves, and other equipment will be provided
- Schedule may change due to adverse weather conditions
- A one-day park access pass for volunteers is available if you don't have a Washington State Parks Discover Pass

Adopt-A-Beach Volunteers – Working Independently in the State Parks

If you prefer to clean up State Park beaches independently, or volunteer at a State Park like Possession Point (which does not have group CLCP beach cleanups) here's the process:

1. Let the Friends group know you plan to Adopt-A-Beach. Email: FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks@gmail.com
2. In order to work independently in Parks, you'll need to receive clearance by Washington State Parks. Download the information sheet: **Working Independently in the Parks** at: www.FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks.org.
3. When you have been notified that you are cleared, show up at one of Stinger's Beach Cleanups. He will give you the **Equipment** you need, **Details** of how you may conduct your own beach cleanups, information on **Reporting** what you picked up and a **Purple Card**. Then you will be ready to clean beaches on your own schedule.

Equipment, Details, Reporting and the Purple Card

Equipment (what you get):

Gloves, litter bags, a Purple Card and even a long-handled grabber if you like, at no cost to you.

Details: Stinger will cover beach safety, safe handling of items found on the beach and:

1. What volunteers pick up
 - a. Plastics, wrappers, cans, glass, etc.
 - b. All types of Styrofoam, including large blocks, Styrofoam attached to wood, plastic or tires
 - c. Dangerous items like sharps or unknown liquids
 - d. Large items like tires and boat parts
2. What volunteers don't pick up
 - a. Wood of any sort including painted wood
 - b. Creosote coated wood: notify park employees if found
 - c. Other organic materials that will safely break down naturally
3. How we deal with large items: Report to park employees

Reporting what you picked up:

Following each beach cleanup and litter disposal you will report on your litter pickup by filling out a simple online form. The form takes only seconds to complete. It provides important information about beach cleaning activities in Island County and ensures continued program funding.

You will be asked to provide your name, how many volunteers helped pick up beach litter, location of the beach (State Park), details of what was collected and any comments you would like to share.

The **Purple Card** looks like a credit card and can be taken to any of the Island County Solid Waste facilities to dispose of litter collected along public or private Island County beaches without cost to the volunteer.

Reporting Your Volunteer Hours

You can either sign in on a CLCP beach cleanup timesheet when you work with Stinger **or** on a State Park Volunteer timesheet when you work independently (only one timesheet for each beach cleanup). If you have adopted a Trail or Park Area, you can add the time you spend cleaning the beaches to your Individual Timesheet.

Keep track of your Adopt-A-Beach volunteer hours on a State Park **Volunteer Timesheet for Individuals**. If you are an Adopt-A-Trail or Park Area volunteer, you can add your beach volunteer hours to the same timesheet.

At the end of each month, **sign** and turn in your timesheet to Sharon Young-Hale, Program Director at Ft. Casey. You can hand-deliver your form; scan your timesheet and email it to her at: Sharon.Young-Hale@PARKS.WA.GOV; or mail it: Sharon Young-Hale, Ft. Casey State Park, 1280 Engle Road, Building C, Coupeville, WA 98239-9805.

Keep a copy of your timesheets. When you have volunteered 24 hours in one year, take your timesheets to Ft. Casey and receive vouchers that you can complete and submit to receive a free Discover Pass (good for 1 year).

Thank you for volunteering to help keep our beaches clean and safe for people and wildlife!

Stinger Anderson

Community Litter Cleanup Program Coordinator
(360) 639-6060
stinger.anderson@wsu.edu

Friends of Whidbey State Parks

friendsofwhidbeystateparks@gmail.com
www.FriendsofWhidbeyStateParks.org



Island County
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

