

Saving Our Parks

Our parks are starting to become a garbage can, and we need some way to clean them up. At a local park, there has been litter everywhere including our nature trails, oceans, and picnic shelters. Our sand dunes have been eroded, and hikers have been ruining shrubs, bushes, and trees by not staying on the trails. I think to solve these problems, we should plant grass around the sand dunes, place gates around the hiking trails, and to place more recycling bins around the park.

The first solution would be to place grass around the sand dunes. According to *Dune Protection and Improvement*, "Planting grass around the sand dune is known to be the most effective way to stop erosion. It traps windblown sand around the grasses." In addition, when grass begins to grow taller, it becomes a protective barrier for the sand dunes. This impacts the park in a positive manner by decreasing the amount of erosion on the sand dunes.

The second solution would be putting gates around the hiking trails. According to the article, *Why Stay on Trails*, "By putting gates around hiking trails, you would be giving people maximum exposure to park features in addition to the environment staying healthy and undamaged." This would be a tremendous asset to help keep our beaches clean for years to come.

The final solution would be putting recycling bins around the park. According to the article, *Land Pollution* by Ducksters Education, "Land pollution doesn't only hurt animals and their habitats, but it destroys the beauty of nature." By recycling, we would be able to reduce land pollution.

In my opinion, I think all of these solutions would help keep our area clean. However, the best solution to keeping our beaches clean is to encourage our city to plant grass around the sand dunes. This would help keep our beaches safe from harmful erosion.

Ayla Butler, Aynor Elementary School
1st Place, 2018 Horry Soil & Water Conservation District Essay Contest

If parks are being cleaned up step-by-step, then parks would eventually no longer look like a trash bin. It would be a beautiful park that everyone would appreciate and wants to visit. By putting grass around the sand dunes, placing gates around the park, and putting recycling bins around our parks, we would be one step closer to making our parks and beaches a better place. You can see why making our parks and beaches a better place is what the world needs.