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### Ways We Can Help the Environment

Careless human interactions with the ecosystem are causing pollution in our parks and beaches. Factors contributing to this are littering and people failing to clean up after their parties, beach erosion, and jet skis and boats leaking oil and gas. Since it is people who are damaging the ecosystems, it should be their responsibility to replenish it. Three conservation efforts that could save the environment are planting vegetation on sand dunes, doing beach and park sweeps, and educating others to help.

One way we can help with conservation is by planting dune grass. Wind and waves are eroding beaches and the dunes as time passes. The sand dunes protect the coastal regions from bad winds and storms. According to the passage, “Who Calls the Sand Dune Home?” dune grass is a popular vegetation to plant on dunes because it grows in sand, needs plenty of sunlight, and can hold up to sea spray. Furthermore, the grasses have long spreading roots that greatly help keep the sand dunes together. In conclusion, these sand dunes also provide a good home for insects and rodents who roam there. The article also states that insects such as flies, beetles, spiders, and more feed on the vegetation of the sand dunes and dig burrows in the dunes to make homes. This conservation effort will help the beaches and dunes because if we first protect the dunes and build them back up it will help with waves and storms so they can protect the coast. This will also cause the environment’s animals to come back because the insects and rodents

need the dunes. It gives the animals' food and a home. Since this will help with conservation this will also make not only the ecosystem build up, but make it come back together as something reunited.

A second way we can help with conservation is by doing beach and park sweeps. There has been up to 153 million pounds of garbage (Cleaning up our Waters). Doing these sweeps can help because it will help with conservation in parks and on beaches. According to the article, "Cleaning up Our Waters," sweep volunteers collected nearly 9 million pounds of trash in one day. This is a good way to clean up our environment because if people make up a group to clean the areas and they work hard because they care, then they will end up making a good contribution to the environment there. However, if people don't do anything about the trash, it will spread and become a bigger problem.

One last way we can help with conservation is by educating others when it comes to Jet Skis and boats leaking oil and gas. Jet Skis and boats leaking oil and gas have polluted the waters in the oceans. According to the article, "Taking Community Action," it demonstrated steps people took to help with educating others and dealing with the oil spills in the oceans. This will help with the problems that interact in the ocean because if you take things gradually, and keep going you will achieve a higher rate of success just like these people did when working to help spread awareness about the oil spills in the oceans. However, if you don't think it's worth it to help the oceans and waters, the environment will remain polluted and only get more polluted as time goes by. Also, think of the watersheds that store up the water that goes through the ground. If there's pollution, the water goes through and pollutes all the water, and we need clean water to survive.

I personally think planting the vegetation on dunes and building them up, as well as educating others about the oil spills, are good ways to help with conservation. However, I believe organizing a beach and park sweep will have the highest impact in the conservation effort. If we want to build the ecosystem back up, we first need to clean up all the trash.

In conclusion, you can see that planting vegetation on sand dunes, doing beach and park sweeps, and educating others of the oil spills are effective conservation efforts. I bet that with people doing enough hard work and really trying, we can make a successful effort to help the environment come back.