

Deniz Ender

Carolina Forest Elementary

Ms. Hyman- 5th Grade

Preservation of Parks

Picture this. You go on a field trip to the state park to enjoy a nice day in the sun. However, before you reach the main campground you see garbage scattered on the grass, cookouts remains left everywhere, and trees destroyed. You continue walking until you see the ocean. You see the sand dunes collapsing on themselves as a result of the children playing on them. You see trash and fishing lines spread out coming in with the tides. There is trash and litter everywhere. How sad! What can we do to save our parks? Conservation methods like decreasing the toxic chemicals used near the park, having more trash and recycling cans, making safety rules to preserve the dunes, and limiting the development of roads and highways would help protect the park's environment.

The main causes of pollution and erosion in parks is the dangerous chemicals in the air, not enough recycling, the damage done to the sand dunes, and the building new roads and highways. In the article "*Air Pollution- Its Nature, Sources and Effects,*" it says that toxic chemicals in the air create "vegetative discoloration and growth disruption from ozone, loss of aquatic species from stream acidification, shifts in nutrient availability from acid deposition, and erosion of building surfaces and rock formations." Those chemicals poison the park and make more pollution. People leave their trash in the parks and litter all over. Studies show that every year millions of tons of litter go into waters. They pollute the water and they kill animal life too. Erosion is another big problem. Sand dunes protect against erosion. They are the barrier for wind and storms that cause erosion. When we build roads and highways, we destroy the plant life and habitats. They also bring air pollution to the parks.

There are many conservation efforts that can be used to help the environment. One way to help is to have more recycling and trash cans in the park on the trails and the beaches. People can use them instead of throwing their garbage on the ground. Recycling also saves the water and the animals that live in it. Secondly, beach grass can be planted on dunes to help protect the dunes from human destruction and erosion. "Beach grass is a hardy plant, amazingly tolerant to high salinity conditions, direct sun, extreme heat, lack of fertile soil and a fluctuating water supply..." (*Shoreline and Waterway Management*, 2015). Crossovers can additionally be built for visitors not to walk on the sand dunes. This will help the grass continue

to grow and prevent erosion. If we plant beach grass, we can also protect the animals that make their homes in the sand dunes.

All efforts of conservation are important, but recycling is the most crucial one. Recycling affects the whole park; recycling protects the animals, their ecosystems, the soil, and the water. In "Pollution" from the *World Ocean Review* it says, "Risks to human health, including the threat of injury from broken glass, syringes from stranded medical waste, etc., or from exposure to chemicals." Recycling stops animals from eating garbage and dying because of pollutants. Recycling also prevents the soil from being poisoned with waste, and the ocean water and animals safe from stray hooks and trash that people leave on the beach.

Although there are many positive effects of conservation, there are a few negative ones too. It is not cheap to save the environment. The costs of planting beach grass, building crossovers, and having more trash and recycling cans cost hundreds of thousands of dollars over time. It also requires time and labor. Somebody needs to do all of this and give up their time. However, the positive effects are much larger than the negative ones.

In conclusion, we can do many things to save the environment. Decreasing the toxic chemicals near the park, placing more recycling and trash cans on the trails and beaches, planting grass to save the dunes, and building crossovers over the dunes would help protect the parks. We might organize volunteers to help collect trash too. Using these methods we can save the: soil, water, plants, habitats, and animals, and have a clean environment in the parks. Conservation would make state parks a great place to visit. We can all enjoy our clean and safe parks together.

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Last updated 04/02/2015.
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