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Over 4,000 SOLVE volunteers celebrated Earth Day across 126 Oregon Spring Cleanup events over the span of ten days

Portland, Ore., April 23, 2024 – The Oregon Spring Cleanup, in partnership with Portland General Electric, concluded on Earth Day yesterday with resounding success. Between **April 13 and April 22**, more than **4,000 volunteers across Oregon and SW Washington** gathered for a celebration of Earth Day, where they **collectively picked up 21,981 pounds of litter and marine debris and removed 21,900 square feet of invasive plant species** such as English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry. Families, community members, neighborhood associations, youth groups, and environmental enthusiasts once again made the Oregon Spring Cleanup the **highlight of SOLVE's annual calendar**.

Oregon Spring Cleanup History

Rooted in SOLVE's longstanding traditions, the Oregon Spring Cleanup merged two of the organization's most cherished events—the Spring Oregon Beach Cleanup, dating back to 1986, and SOLVE IT for Earth Day, which began in 1990.

Oregon Spring Cleanup event highlights

SE Portland Eco-Disco: Litter Cleanup & Silent Disco, April 20th:

In collaboration with Heartbeat Silent Disco, this unique Earth Day celebration, in partnership with Portland General Electric, drew 114 volunteers to Portland's Central Eastside. Following the cleanup in the Buckman neighborhood, where 800 lbs of litter got collected, the festivities continued with a free silent dance party, adding an extra layer of celebration to the cleanup efforts. Volunteers were provided with wireless headphones with personal volume control and adjustable fit, allowing everyone to enjoy the music while respecting the natural surroundings.

Cityscape Sparkle: Earth Day Cleanup at Sport Oregon, April 22nd:

This litter cleanup event took place on Earth Day and went beyond tidying up the neighborhood streets. 100 participants came together for a day of community, cleanliness, and local love at Sport Oregon to foster a sense of unity and enhance the local environment.

"Once again, we were thrilled to witness **the vibrant array of events orchestrated by our community**, showcasing the power of collective action in honoring Earth Day," enthuses Kris Carico, CEO of SOLVE. "This **annual event series continues to serve as a beacon**, drawing together volunteers and SOLVE partners from across the Pacific Northwest in a joyous celebration of our planet. From the shores of Oregon's northernmost tip in Astoria, down the coast to Brookings, and extending to riverside locations such as Cascade Locks, Sandy, and Breitenbush, as well as reaching Baker City in Eastern Oregon, the spirit of Earth Day resonated through every cleanup endeavor." Carico highlights the diverse range of initiatives, including the **impactful efforts of the Portland chapter of Women Who Explore**, bringing together 20 women for a Pre-Earth Day Riverside Cleanup at Kelley Point Park. A **Girl Scout group** also picked up trash along the Molalla River in Clackamas County and the Clark County **Master Gardener group** held an impactful Service Day in Vancouver, Washington. "These events exemplify the spirit of community and environmental stewardship that lies at the heart of SOLVE," Carico adds.

Photo Contest

There is still time for volunteers and event leaders to send in the pictures they have taken during their cleanup events and habitat restoration projects. Everyone who submits their photos and videos by April 28 will enter the SOLVE photo contest with chances to **win a 1-year AAA membership**. Ways to enter include tagging SOLVE on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), using #OregonSpringCleanup2024, or sending us their footage via email to info@solveoregon.org. SOLVE likes to see **volunteers in action, before and after cleanup shots, the largest and tiniest items** you've picked up, and most importantly, **your smiling faces!**

Anyone who couldn't attend an Oregon Spring Cleanup event this year **can support SOLVE by individual giving**. A donation of any size helps SOLVE to host more events year after year and to provide volunteers with **free supplies, event leader training, and all the support they need** to run a successful event.

Oregon Spring Cleanup Sponsors 2024

Along with Portland General Electric, other event sponsors include Clean Water Services, AAA Oregon/Idaho, Fred Meyer, Metro, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, KOIN, The Oregonian, The Standard, Swire Coca-Cola, Holman, Demarini-Wilson, TriMet, and PepsiCo.

About SOLVE

SOLVE is a statewide non-profit organization that brings people together to improve our environment and build a legacy of stewardship. Since 1969, the organization has grown from a small, grassroots group to a national model for volunteer action. Today, SOLVE mobilizes and trains tens of thousands of volunteers of all ages across Oregon and Southwest Washington to clean and restore our neighborhoods and natural areas and to build a legacy of stewardship for our state. Visit solveoregon.org for more information.
