



Contact: Heidi Pedicone  
Tel: 724-836-4121  
Email: [hpedicone@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:hpedicone@keeppabeautiful.org)  
Web site: [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Department of Environmental Protection and PennDOT Kickoff Earth Day with an Event at Sun Village Park, Delaware County** *Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides seed money for park improvements*

**(April 25, 2018)** – To kickoff Earth Day celebrations across the state, [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org), [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation](http://www.penn.gov) (PennDOT), Keep Chester Beautiful, Covanta, local officials and residents came together at Sun Village Park in the City of Chester, Delaware County, for a Great American Cleanup of PA beautification event on Friday, April 20. Local volunteers engaged in a litter pick up, mural and bench paintings, flower planting and mulching. This event is a continuation of an ongoing park revitalization led by community cleanup organizer, Bonnita Taylor, from Bonnie's Community Development Corporation. As part of Friday's celebration, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful presented the group with a \$1,000 grant to continue the park's transformation.

"We are honored to play a role in Sun Village Park's renaissance and to participate in this Earth Day kickoff event with our sponsors, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell and PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "It is inspiring to see the dedication and commitment of individuals, groups and entire communities all across the state making great strides in revitalizing our common areas. Thank you!"

With sunny skies and pleasant temperatures, volunteers were out in full-force across the state this past weekend in honor of Earth Day. Some noteworthy [Great American Cleanup of PA](http://www.gacleanup.org) events include:

- Nearly 90 local residents turned out to participate in a community-wide cleanup that included the **James Sharp Landing in Allegheny County**. The Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization, Sharpsburg Environmental Advisory Council, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Girl Scouts of PA, the Wounded Warrior Project and Sharpsburg Councilors Matthew Brudnok, Brittany Reno, and Jonathan Jaso were among those who helped pick up over 120 bags of litter, various scrap metal and three tires from areas throughout the community.
- Shamokin Area High School student, Rosalind Kane, organized a community cleanup of multiple sections of **Shamokin City and Coal Township in Northumberland County**. Turning out for the event were students from the University of Pittsburgh, Shamokin National Honor Society, Cub Scout Pack 2354, Boy Scout Troop 254, St. Johns United Church of Christ, Shamokin head coach and former NY Giants fullback, Henry Hynoski, Mayor John Brown and Councilman Dan McGaw. The City of Shamokin disposed of the 175 bags of trash that was collected. Local authorities and firefighters assured the safety of volunteers. This is Rosalind's seventh community-wide cleanup. Her first was held on Labor Day 2012.
- Keith Ruhl, Solid Waste Specialist from the North Central Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection and several local government agencies and businesses teamed up for

a community cleanup in Deerfield Township, Tioga County. Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority supplied the containers and disposal for the 6,340 pounds of trash that was collected. 277 tires were also collected.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful coordinates the Great American Cleanup of PA, which runs through May 31, with support from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, PA Waste Industries Association and other supporters. To participate in or register and event go to [www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org).

**About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org).

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