

## THIS WEEK

Top News Stories  
Top Sports Stories  
Ocean Star Classifieds  
Letters To The Editor  
Obituaries

## RECENT HEADLINES

## CONTACT US

Subscribe Now!  
Update Subscription  
Photo Reprints  
Press Releases  
Classified Ads  
Local News/Sports  
Send Us A Letter  
Engagements  
Weddings  
Births  
Anniversaries  
Graduations/Dean's List

## EMPLOYMENT

## ADVERTISING INFO

## ABOUT US

Tuesday, December 20, 2005 03:53 PM Site last updated: 12/16/05 at 02:21 PM

# C.R.A.B. volunteers install dune fence on Maryland Avenue beach

By **Katelyn Hayes**

Volunteers of C.R.A.B. [Citizens Right to Access Beaches] were able to help the beach they love so much last weekend, thanks in part to a matching grant the group received from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation Grant-In-Aid Program.

The organization was able to attain a matching grant of \$600 from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, therefore a total of \$1,200 was applied to the project.

C.R.A.B. members and volunteers were out on the Maryland Avenue beach in Point Pleasant Beach Saturday morning preparing and restoring the dunes just in time for the summer season.

This first phase of the project had the group of eight to 10 volunteers installing fencing around the dunes for protection and to separate the area from the general beach.

According to Ralph Coscia, the ongoing project is meant to restore the dune ecosystem "that has been damaged by improper public access and to educate the public on the role dune structures play in environmental protection while contributing to the aesthetics of the beach experience."

Mr. Coscia said the goal of the project was to restore the dunes and make them self-sufficient. This first phase was done in an effort to protect the dunes and make the public aware that they should not enter the area.

In an additional effort to increase public awareness about the fragility of the dune system, Mr. Coscia said informational plaques will be posted along the dunes during a later phase of the project. According to Mr. Coscia, the plaques will contain information on how important a dune ecosystem is to the beaches' survival.

"Current signs simply state 'Keep Off The Dunes' and do not serve to educate individuals as to the vital role dune structures play in maintaining and protecting the beach area.

"The dunes can become an excellent educational tool," Mr. Coscia said. "We hope to educate the public on stewardship and why it is important

Current W



If a Lender  
Seems too

Are They  
Hiding  
Something?

Manas  
Saving

Visit our sister ne  
for Monmouth Cou

The Coast



to protect the dunes.”

Mr. Coscia said it is important for C.R.A.B. to not only promote public access to beaches, but also the proper care and maintenance of those beaches.

“We talk about public rights to beaches but we also want to stress the public’s responsibility to protect and maintain those beaches,” Mr. Coscia said.

According to Mr. Coscia, the dunes serve many purposes, not only for the beach, but also for residents living in the immediate area.

“The enhanced dune area will provide necessary storm protection to the beachfront as well as homes west of the dune,” Mr. Corsica said, “It will also provide additional privacy for beachfront homeowners concerned about the loss of such privacy to public access.”

In order to design the most efficient plan of attack, C.R.A.B. first mapped out the entire dune area to see what areas were in most need of repair. The area they chose to work on begins at the entrance to the Maryland Avenue beach and extends southward towards Delaware Avenue Mr. Coscia said.

For the next phase in the project, the group researched which plants were currently growing on the dunes and which would best promote further dune restoration.

The ultimate goal of the project is to “encourage the natural migration of sand to the area as well as providing and environment for the growth of vegetation,” Mr. Coscia said.

Mr. Coscia said the next step of the project — planting native vegetation — will not take place until later in the season. He said this is not the best time of year to introduce new plants to the environment, which is why the group will hold off on a major planting. He did say however, the group will try to plant a small number of dune plants next weekend.

He also said he is happy the first phase of the project was completed prior to Memorial Day weekend because the dunes have now been stabilized in time for the summer season.

Mr. Coscia said he hopes the project will, “protect the dune structure and enhance public awareness of the need to respect our precious natural resources.”

---

*File last updated 09/23/2004 at 09:53:57  
Entire contents copyright ©2004 by Coast Star Newspapers, Inc.  
All rights reserved.*

**[webmaster@theoceanstar.com](mailto:webmaster@theoceanstar.com)**