

Dune Patrol Program

Thanks for your interest in the program. This is self paced independent program that is an invaluable service provided to the Town of Ocean City.

The dune patrol is our first line of defense. They are our eyes on the front-line. Should problems arise where the dunes need some attention, the volunteer assigned that area will be our first contact. However, that is not a very common occurrence. The primary duties as a Dune Patrol Volunteer is to survey the assigned dunes and keep them clean of trash, debris, litter, wood, garbage, etc. This is very important to keep the dunes free of debris not only for the aesthetics reasons but for the stability of the dunes. The vegetation is critical in the stability of the dunes. Debris can smother and kill the vegetation. Walking on the dune vegetation will also kill the vegetation so care must be given stepping around the plants. The volunteers also can gently remind people not to go in the dunes but not to extremes. We are here to educate not prosecute.

The program is a self paced and independent. Volunteers schedule clean-ups according to their availability. Some areas may need to be cleaned up every week and some areas quarterly. It is up to the individual volunteer to determine how often their dunes need attention. We send out a semi-annual reminder one in April around Earth Day and one in September around Coastal Clean-up Day for organized cleanups. Supplies and literature are available in the Engineering Office Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm.

Please contact the Engineering Office if you want to volunteer and be assigned a section of the dune to steward at 410-289-8825 or email gblazer@oceancitymd.gov.

Once again, thank you for your interest in the Dune Patrol.



This is a photo of the Dune after a severe Nor'easter. You can see the roots of the Dune Grass are over 12' long. This photo illustrates the protective power the dune vegetation can have on the stability of the dunes.