

**For Immediate Release:**

18 March 2017

More Information:

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

6 Plum Island Turnpike

Newburyport, MA 01950

(978) 465-5753

## **Beach Clean-up at Parker River NWR**

Parker River NWR will hold a beach clean-up on Saturday, March 25 from 9 am to 3pm. Held each spring and fall, this is a community effort to help clean up the Refuge beach and raise awareness about beach litter. It is impressive the amount of litter that can be picked up when there is a concerted effort. Usually, about 50-75 volunteers will gather beach rubbish, old tires, and broken lobster traps—enough to fill a large dumpster to overflowing.

Cleaning up the beach not only improves the beach's appearance,, but also makes it a safer place for wildlife. Fishing line, hooks, nails, and bottled cleaning solvents are regularly picked up on the beach. These items can cause injury or kill marine mammals and shorebirds. April 1 is the beginning of the plover nesting season and what better way to greet our seasonal tenants than to present them with a cleaner and safer beach!

Anyone wanting to participate should show up at Lot 1 between 9am and 3 pm. The event will be held rain or shine. Participants should wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes, and bring work or rubber gloves. Trash bags are provided. Individuals, companies and clubs are encouraged to get together and volunteer their time for this worthy cause. For more information please call refuge staff member Jean Adams at 978-465-5753 ext 208. No pre - registration is required, just show up and wear warm clothes!