

## Get involved with area cleanup day

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Ruston will get green and clean on March 20 during the second Community-wide Cleanup Day. This event is a part of the Great American Cleanup, a program by Keep America Beautiful. The Great American Clean-up is a national community improvement program that Keep America Beautiful estimates more than three million volunteers in 36,000 communities were involved in 2009.

Registration for the green-cleaning event begins at 8 a.m. in Railroad Park.

After registration, groups will spread out and tackle litter in certain areas of Ruston, including near the interstate, which is often heavily speckled with trash.

This is a worthwhile event that will beautify the area and assert to those passing through the pride we have in our city. It will also speak highly of Ruston residents, as it indicates their level of class and conscientiousness.

After the cleanup, volunteers can return to Railroad Park, where by 9:30 a.m., more than two-dozen informational community booths will be set up. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about "going green" or pick up information from the Ruston Garden Club, Save the Sparta or Louisiana Tech University, among many others.

As a treat, First National Bank will serve complimentary lunch to all who registered for the cleanup, and Randy Moore and Principal Entertainment will provide music. There will be sponsor raffles and giveaways in the park until 1 p.m.

People should make plans to attend this important cleanup day. It is especially critical that parents bring their young children and teenagers to volunteer and to learn about green initiatives at the booths in Railroad Park. Participation will teach them valuable lessons about respecting their city and the earth. What they learn will follow them into adulthood as they grow to be the future leaders of Ruston.

One of the areas of focus for Ruston 21, the city's master plan for the future, is community greening. Ruston citizens' involvement in the cleanup day on March 20 will help to make that vision for the city a reality, and it will affirm a commitment to respecting the area by not littering.

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