



The City of Treasure Island, Florida
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NEWS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 20, 2008 Jeff Jensen, Public Information Officer 727-547-4575 ext. 247

To boldly go where no dunes have gone before

Treasure Island is seeking volunteers from the community to help plant sea oats on Treasure Island on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Once planted, the sea oats will trap sand and create a new line of dunes parallel to Treasure Island's beach trail sidewalk.

The Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee will show you how to plant sea oats properly. Volunteers should meet at 8:30am at the parking lot in front of the Sunset Vista Hotel, between 120th and 121st Avenues. Bring a shovel or a spade.

The Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management provides the plants, about 10,000 in all.

Planting 10,000 sea oats seedlings sounds like a daunting task, but it goes surprisingly fast, says Beach Stewardship Committee Chairman Dennis Velasco. "On prior sea oats plantings, we usually do that many in three to four hours with about 30 volunteers. Of course, the more volunteers we have, the faster it goes."

The goal is continuous dune line along Treasure Island's 3.8 mile beach.

Sea oats are important because they help to stabilize the sand on the dunes and can help the dunes to accumulate sand, rather than eroding. "Planting sea oats in areas prone to coastal erosion can help restore and protect the dunes that in turn help protect the homes and businesses behind the dune area," Velasco added.

Volunteers may contribute any amount of time they have available. So far, community response and interest in prior sea oat planting projects has been exceptional.

Contact Dennis Velasco at 727-360-1901 or the City of Treasure Island Public Information Office at 727-547-4575 to volunteer or for more information.

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