

## Keep the Pinellas Trail Beautiful by: Samantha J. Ryan

On December 29, 2012, I took a visit to the Pinellas Trail with my mother, Elizabeth Ryan. When most people look at the Pinellas Trail, they don't see the filth hidden under the grass. My mother and I only walked down a 1 mile stretch of the trail extending from Target on Park Street along Bay Pines Boulevard to the Boca Ciega Bay and yet still found some horrific stuff. Just walking down one small cutoff we found enough Styrofoam to fill a 5 gallon trash bag, a corroded battery in the estuary, an absolutely horrendous amount of litter left by construction workers, and an astonishing 249 cigarette butts. We filled four 5 gallon buckets and a large trash bag.

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I did this community service project for an organization called Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB). KPB is a nonprofit company that is a division of Keep America Beautiful, but they only focus on Pinellas County. Bill Sanders is the Chief executive officer or leader of Keep Pinellas Beautiful. He tries to get key points in Pinellas to grant him contracts, donate resources or provide volunteers so he can schedule beautification projects such as cleanups and planting native plants. Keep Pinellas Beautiful does not own any of the land they care for. They do it for the environment.

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Keep Pinellas Beautiful has many interesting cleanups. In February I am going to a canoe cleanup and in June I am going to a wading cleanup. They have many more cleanups listed on their website [www.keppinellasbeautiful.org](http://www.keppinellasbeautiful.org). There, they help young pupils turn into recycling machines!

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