

# ***KMB Monthly***

*October 2025*

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**7,320**

CLEANUP EVENTS

**697**

*2,324* VOLUNTEERS

**12,600+** Sea oats

**251,186**

***POUNDS OF TRASH!***

We were **scary** busy in 2025 and we couldn't have done it with all YOUR help! Read on to learn more about the incredible stats we compiled in the year since hurricanes Helene and Milton walloped coastal and inland areas throughout Manatee County.

## Recapping 2025

**E**ach September, I go about the task of tallying all of our annual statistics. These numbers are then relayed to our state partner agency, Keep Florida Beautiful for record keeping. But we also use those numbers to apply for grants and corporate sponsors throughout the year.

Because of the incredibly busy fall we had following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we started the year with an absolute jolt (in the best possible way)! By spring, we'd already collected more **145,000 (!!!) pounds** of trash and storm debris in the hardest hit areas of Manatee County.

But that was just the beginning of an absolutely breakneck 2025. From our regular First Saturday and First Tuesday gatherings to countywide efforts led by adopt-a-groups and corporate partners, there was hardly a week when someone wasn't out there working to make Manatee County cleaner and greener. With your help, KMB tallied **697 cleanups** since Oct. 1, 2024. It's a mind-boggling number!

In total, **2,324 volunteers** gave of their time this year. That's more than two thousand individuals who made a conscious decision to put care for their community ahead of convenience. Together, you contributed **7,320 hours of service**. The State of Florida values a volunteer hour at \$31.59, which means your efforts combined for a value of **\$231,058**.

Environmental stewardship extended beyond storm and routine cleanup. In July, 300 volunteers joined us to plant more than **12,000 sea oats** throughout Anna Maria Island during the largest dune restoration project in

Manatee County history! The effort helped stabilize the shoreline against erosion and restored critical habitat following recent storms.

Earlier in the year, we distributed **2,000 trees** during busy Saturday mornings at the downtown Bradenton market. Those trees (we hope!) are already adding shade and long-term environmental benefits to neighborhoods across the community.

Beyond the statistics, these projects created opportunities for education, collaboration, and civic pride. Families planted side by side, school groups learned the value of conservation, and local businesses found new ways to invest in the places where they live and work. These moments reflect the broader mission of Keep Manatee Beautiful: not only improving today's environment, but building a culture of care and responsibility for the future.

The past year's accomplishments stand as a testament to what can be achieved when volunteers, partners, and community members come together around a shared purpose. With continued commitment, Manatee County will remain a place where natural beauty is preserved and future generations can thrive!

Thank you so much, to our volunteers, government partners and corporate sponsors who work with us throughout the year to Keep Manatee Beautiful.



**Jennifer Hoffman**  
Executive Director  
Keep Manatee Beautiful

# From Recovery to Growth: KMB Adds New Roles for 2026

The outpouring of support from the community has not only fueled the incredible cleanup statistics we mentioned in earlier in this newsletter – it also created new opportunities for Keep Manatee Beautiful to grow.

Thanks to this momentum, the organization is adding two new team members whose work will strengthen partnerships and expand volunteer engagement in the year ahead.

**Hunter Jensen** will serve as KMB’s lead on corporate solicitation and events. His role will focus on building relationships with local sponsors such as Kriscraft and Detweiler’s. He’ll help organize cleanup events in partnership with local companies and work to bring them on board as long-term sponsors and adopt-a-groups. This position is funded by the tremendous community support KMB received in 2025, and the goal is for Hunter’s efforts to generate sustaining growth so the organization can continue to expand its impact year after year.

**Edwin Robinson**, a Parrish resident with a strong background in nonprofit programming, joins KMB through a storm-recovery grant from CareerSource Suncoast. He will oversee outreach in Parrish and Lakewood Ranch, connecting with civic and social organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis and more. His focus will be on developing adopt-a-groups, broadening volunteer participation and ensuring that communities across the county have opportunities to contribute to KMB’s mission.

Together, the new roles represent a significant step forward. By expanding both corporate partnerships and community outreach, KMB is emerging from the storms not only restored, but stronger, more connected, and better positioned to serve Manatee County in the years to come!



Hello! I’m Hunter Jensen, and I could not be more excited to begin this new chapter with Keep Manatee Beautiful!

I grew up in Philadelphia and moved to Florida in 2022 to attend the University of South Florida, where I earned my bachelor’s degree in political science, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

After graduating, I planted my roots here in Manatee County where I live with my fiancé and our dog, Sailor. Alongside my civilian career, I proudly serve in the United States Air Force Reserve.

I’ve had the honor of leading Keep Sarasota County Beautiful since 2024, working with thousands of volunteers to remove more than 25,000 pounds of litter while also building partnerships, expanding volunteer roles and modernizing data collection to better target litter.

Now, I’m thrilled to bring that same passion to Manatee County and to join Jennifer and the incredible KMB team!

This community is full of natural beauty and amazing people, and I can’t wait to roll up my sleeves, work alongside you, and continue the mission of keeping Manatee clean, green and beautiful for generations to come!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, Oct. 4 @ 9 a.m.

## October First Saturday Cleanup

**Bayfront Park**  
310 North Bay Blvd.  
Anna Maria Island



Tues. Oct. 7 @ 4:30 p.m.

## October First Tuesday Cleanup

**Sutton Park**  
100 Sixth Street West  
Palmetto



Saturday, Nov. 1 @ 9 a.m.

## November First Saturday Cleanup

**Ft. Hamer Boat Ramp**  
1605 Ft. Hamer Road  
Parrish



Tues. Nov. 4 @ 4:30 p.m.

## November First Tuesday Cleanup

**Lewis Park**  
3120 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. W.  
Bradenton



# COMMUNITY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Join us for a cleanup along our adopted road, 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave West! All equipment will be provided along with cold drinks & a **FREE** hotdog lunch thanks to **Detwiler's Farm Market!**

## What To Bring:

- Protective Clothing
- Closed Toed Shoes or Boots
- Come Hydrated & Ready to Help

## What We Provide:

- Equipment; Gloves, Bags, Pickers
- Cold Drinks & Free Lunch
- Sign-Off's on Community Service Hours

**PLEASE REGISTER**

[seamoneycleanup.eventbrite.com](http://seamoneycleanup.eventbrite.com)  
or email  
[seamoney.tribe@gmail.com](mailto:seamoney.tribe@gmail.com)

**SATURDAY**  
NOVEMBER 15 2025  
8AM-11AM

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MEETING LOCATION  
**MANATEE CO. GOLF COURSE**  
6415 53RD AVE W  
BRADENTON, FL

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

