Watch Out for Rip Currents!

April in Texas is Rip Current Awareness Month. Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves, and they account for more than 80% of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards nationwide. These currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore that can pull even the strongest swimmers out to sea.

As waves roll toward shore and over sandbars, a pressure gradient is created due to the changing water levels between the sand bars and the channels alongside them. Sometimes you can spot a rip current because it can look darker than surrounding waters. They are areas where waves do not break, but with breaking waves on either side. You can sometimes see water, or seaweed, moving away from the beach in a channel between the breaking waves.

If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard and throw the victim something that floats. Many people drown while trying to save someone else from a rip current.

Information compiled from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Lifesaving Association, and the Weather Channel.

If you are caught in a rip current, here are some safety tips (from NOAA):

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly. Rip currents do not pull people under water, they pull them away from shore.
- Never fight against the current.
- Think of it as a treadmill that can’t be turned off, which you need to step to the side of.
- Swim out of the current in a direction following parallel to the shoreline.
- If you are unable to swim out of a rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim toward shore.
- If you are still unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arm and yelling for help.

Save the Date!
The Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:00 a.m. to noon
Make plans to join us on Saturday, April 20th for our Spring Coastwide Cleanup! Online registration is open and we recommend pre-registering your group so you can stay informed in case any changes are made to your check-in location. We clean rain or shine, but we will not send volunteers out if the location is deemed unsafe. This includes if the area becomes inaccessible due to flooding or storm damage, or severe thunderstorms. Please pay close attention to the weather on cleanup day!

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1. Sea Rim State Park
   Jefferson County
   Check-in: Park entrance, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87 South
   Contact: Madeline Martin 409-971-2559
   madeline.martin@texasadoptabeach.org

2. Bolivar Peninsula
   Galveston County
   Check-in: On the beach at the end of Crystal Beach Road, approximately 11 miles from the ferry landing
   Contact: Brenda Flanagan 409-291-9092
   brenda.flanagan@texasadoptabeach.org

3. Galveston Island
   Galveston County
   Check-in: Menard Park, 2222 28th Street, on the Seawall
   Contact: Sheryl Rozier
   sheryl.rozier@texasadoptabeach.org

4. Surfside
   Brazoria County
   Check-in: Jetty Park, 101 Parkview Road
   Contact: Nathan Murphy 979-864-1541
   nathan.murphy@texasadoptabeach.org

5. Quintana
   Brazoria County
   Check-in: Quintana Beach County Park, 330 5th Street
   Contact: Patty Brinkmeyer 979-233-1461
   patty.brinkmeyer@texasadoptabeach.org

6. Sargent Beach/County Park
   Matagorda County
   Check-in: End FM 457 at the County Park (Canal Drive)
   Contact: David DuPont 713-956-5240
   david.dupont@texasadoptabeach.org
   Jeremy Johnson 832-833-3391
   brian.king@texasadoptabeach.org

7. Matagorda Beach
   Matagorda County
   Check-in: Matagorda Jetty Park
   Contact: James “Cinco” Davant
   james.davant@texasadoptabeach.org

8. Palacios
   Matagorda County
   Check-in: South Bay Marina on South Bay Blvd.
   Contact: Amy Nowlin 979-245-4100
   amy.nowlin@texasadoptabeach.org

9. Magnolia Beach
   Calhoun County
   Check-in: Miller’s Point Pavilion, off Miller’s Point Road
   Contact: RJ Shelly 361-552-9747
   rj.shelly@texasadoptabeach.org

10. King Fisher Beach, Port O’Connor
    Calhoun County
    Check-in: Pavilion at King Fisher Beach
    Contact: Roxanne Ochoa 361-746-4965
    roxanne.ochoa@texasadoptabeach.org

11. Aransas Pass/Redfish Bay
    Aransas County
    Check-in: Lighthouse Lakes Park, 4 miles east of Aransas Pass on Highway 361
    Contact: Richard Gonzales 361-779-7351
    richard.gonzales@texasadoptabeach.org

12. Portland
    San Patricio County
    Check-in: Sunset Lake Park, 201 Sunset Drive, adjacent to Hwy 181
    Contact: Kristin Connor 361-777-4670
    k kristin.connor@texasadoptabeach.org

13. North Beach, Corpus Christi
    Nueces County
    Check-in: Texas State Aquarium parking lot, 2701 North Shoreline Boulevard
    Contact: Nicole Gaertner
    nicole.gaertner@texasadoptabeach.org

14. Cole Park
    Nueces County
    Check-in: 1526 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi
    Contact: Eric Jaramillo
    eric.jaramillo@texasadoptabeach.org

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Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup • Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00 a.m. to noon

1-877-TXCOAST • www.texasadoptabeach.org
15. Mustang Island State Park, Corpus Christi
Nueces County
Check-in: Park Headquarters Parking Lot, 17047 State Highway 361
Contact: Eric Ehrlich 361-749-5246 eric.ehrlich@texasadoptabeach.org

16. Packery Flats
Nueces County
Check-in: Parking lot off Hwy 361, on Mustang Island near Packery Channel
Contact: Satosha Patterson 361-882-3439 or 760-212-8123 satosha.patterson@texasadoptabeach.org
Jace Tunnell 361-882-3439 jace.tunnell@texasadoptabeach.org

17. North Padre Island, Corpus Christi
Nueces County
Check-in: Padre Balli Park Office, 15820 Park Road 22
Contact: John Vaughn 361-779-0477 john.vaughn@texasadoptabeach.org
Jim Needham james.needham@texasadoptabeach.org

18. Padre Island National Seashore
Kleberg County
Check-in: Malaquite Visitor Center, 20420 Park Road 22
Contact: Kelly Taylor 361-446-9074 kelly.taylor@texasadoptabeach.org

19. Baffin Bay/Loyola Beach/Riviera
Kleberg County
Check-in: Kaufer-Hubert Park, FM 628
Contact: Letty Couch 361-522-9861 letty.couch@texasadoptabeach.org

20. South Padre Island City Beach
Cameron County
Check-in: White Cap Circle, City Access Point #8 on Gulf Blvd., between East Swordfish and East Red Snapper Streets
Contact: Victor Baldovinos 956-433-1089 victor.baldovinos@texasadoptabeach.org
Angie Cantu 956-761-8123 angie.cantu@texasadoptabeach.org

21. South Padre Island/Andy Bowie Park
Cameron County
Check-in: 7300 State Park Road 100, at Access Road 2
Contact: Blanca Macias 956-761-5494 Blanca.macias@texasadoptabeach.org
Melissa Flores 956-761-3700 melissa.flores@texasadoptabeach.org

22. Boca Chica
Cameron County
Check-in: End of Highway 4 on the beach
Contact: Fernando Ramirez 956-459-9611 fernando.ramirez@texasadoptabeach.org
Pati Matamoros Pati.matamoros@texasadoptabeach.org

Please help us thank our 2024 Cleanup Sponsors:

Please help us thank our hotel sponsors:
The following hotels have graciously offered discounted rates to Adopt-A-Beach volunteers during our cleanup weekends:

LA PORTE
Comfort Suites 281-842-9200

GALVESTON
Clarion Pointe Galveston 210-781-1262

CORPUS CHRISTI
Doubletree by Hilton 361-883-9700

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
Isla Grand 956-761-6511 Use code: 04024BEACH

Please help us thank our 2024 Cleanup Sponsors:
Fall Coastwide Cleanup Results!

On September 23rd, more than 6,500 volunteers came out to participate in the 2023 Adopt-A-Beach Coastwide Fall Cleanup. During the one-day event, a total of 220,816 pounds of trash was removed from 22 unique sites that stretched all the way from Port Arthur to South Padre.

“As Land Commissioner and a former resident of Galveston Island, it was an honor to participate and serve alongside the thousands of volunteers dedicated to ensuring Texas beaches remain clean and safe for all to enjoy,” said Commissioner Dawn Buckingham. “The stewardship of our coastal lands and the habitats and ecosystems they support is imperative to safeguarding our precious coastline. With over 220,000 pounds of trash removed up and down 123 miles of the coastline in a single day, it is evident that the General Land Office’s Adopt-A-Beach program plays a significant role in preserving our beautiful beaches.”
Nearly 600 volunteers participated in the 2024 Adopt-A-Beach Winter Cleanups and removed more than 8,000 pounds of trash from six sites during the two-day event on South Padre Island and across the Coastal Bend.

"Despite rough weather at some locations, hundreds of volunteers picked up 4.1 tons of trash during these important cleanups that mark this year’s first chance to give back to our coastal communities and support the future of the Texas coast through the GLO’s Adopt-A-Beach program," said Commissioner Buckingham. "This cherished program will continue to be an essential part of GLO’s mission to preserve Texas’ shoreline for recreational use and protect its crucial marine habitats for our wildlife."

The Adopt-A-Beach program began in the fall of 1986, when 2,800 volunteers picked up 124 tons of trash. Since then, more than 575,000 Texas Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up nearly 10,000 tons of trash from Texas beaches.

This year’s cleanup sponsors include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Valero, the Texas Coastal Management Program, SLB, Ocean Conservancy, Wild Spirit Wild Places, Flint Hills Resources, and SESCO Cement.

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Get the Adopt-A-Beach License Plate!

The Texas General Land Office specialty license plate design features a photo by Texas’ own Kenny Braun. Braun’s work has been featured in Garden and Gun, Texas Monthly, Wired, Southern Living, Texas Highways, This Old House Magazine and more.

The plates are available to purchase for $30 in addition to your annual registration fee, with $22 of that donated to the Adopt-A-Beach program’s all-volunteer effort to keep trash off Texas beaches.

The license plate was designed by the Texas General Land Office in coordination with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. To order a specialty Adopt-A-Beach license plate and get yours, visit https://texasadoptabeach.org/contribute/license-plates/index.html.
## Fall Cleanup By The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CLEANUP SITE</th>
<th>VOLUNTEERS</th>
<th>POUNDS</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>FALL 2023</td>
<td>6,655</td>
<td>220,816</td>
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Two sites were cancelled due to red tide in the area.
THANK YOU BEACH ADOPTERS!

To see a map of Beach Adopters, visit our website at TexasAdoptABeach.org and go to the Volunteers tab.
NUECES COUNTY

(Bayside) North Beach at Birding Platform, under JFK Causeway - Tuloso-Midway Navy Junior ROTC
Cole Park - Mary Carroll High School Navy JROTC
Cole Park - Veterans Memorial HS Environmental Honor Society
Ropes Park - Richard Milburn Academy
Port Aransas: San Jose Island - Keep Port Aransas Beautiful
Port Aransas: St Jo’s Island - Tribe Vibe
Port Aransas: Horace Caldwell Pier to the north - Arriana McDonald-Espinosa
Port Aransas: Mile Markers 18-19 - Kathy & Stan Novey
Mile Markers 89-99, Access Road 2 - GLO Employees
Access Road 2 to the north - EOG Resources, Inc.
Mile Markers 87-79 - CarMax
MISP, from north entrance to the jetty - Beach Keepers
Mustang Island State Park - Randy & Dawn Bissell
Mustang Island State Park - Good Samaritan San Antonio YAC
Mustang Island State Park - Tidal Weights
Mustang Island State Park - Disney Streaming: The Cuppa Joes
Newport Pass Road (MM 196) to Access Road 3 and Packery Flats - CoffeeSock
Packery Flats near Packery Channel - Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
Packery Channel Park - Texas State Aquarium Aquateens
JP Luby Beach Park - Lazy Beach Brewing
South Packery Channel from Access Road 3 to Jetties - Beach Bums for Life
White Cap Beach - Weichert Realtors - The Place of Houses
White Cap Beach - Marlen Velazquez and the Spanish Club
White Cap Beach - Coastal Archery of Nueces County 4H and Freedom 4H
White Cap Blvd to St. Augustine Dr. - The Moody Family
Bob Hall Pier to Mile Marker 234 - Cleanunity
Access Road 6 area - Sea Pines Beach Cleanup Crew
Mile Markers 242-252, south of Bob Hall Pier - Benjamin’s Surf & Skate
Mile Marker 235 - Third Coast Cleaning

KLEBERG COUNTY

Mile Marker 236- Mile Marker 253 - The Jones Family
Mile Markers 232-302, Bob Hall Pier to PINS - Burners Without Borders
Corpus Christi
Padre Island National Seashore - Carmen Gonzales

WILLACY COUNTY

Port Mansfield East Cut, Miles 12 - 24 - Mama’s Fantastic 4
Port Mansfield - Willacy County Homeschoolers

CAMERON COUNTY

County Access Road 6 - ENGAGE - RGV Meetups for Homeschoolers
County Access Road 6 - TxDOT Pharr District Employees
County Access Road 3 area - Garver, LLC
County Access Road 3 area - UTRGV Athletics
County Access Road 2 (Andy Bowie Park) - KCI Technologies
County Access Road 2 (Andy Bowie Park) - Saint Joseph Academy
City Access #23 - Sapphire @ East Palmetto Drive - Save the Animals
Access Road #3 to Clayton’s Beach Bar and Isla Blanca Park - UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab
City Beach Access #3 - City of South Padre Island & Keep South Padre Island Beautiful
Poinsettia Circle to Neptune Circle - 13108 Encrypted
Isla Blanca Park jetties to the north - Friends of Isla Blanca
Isla Blanca Park - The Dovalina Family
Boca Chica Beach - Visit Boca Chica
Boca Chica Beach - SpaceX
Boca Chica Beach - GreenZone Enterprises

Save the Date!
Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00 a.m. to noon

Many employers offer charitable matching gifts programs for their employees. This means they will either match a charitable donation made by one of their employees, or they will make a donation to a charity where their employees volunteer. Check with your Human Resources department! Your donation to Texas Adopt-A-Beach may be tax deductible - check with your tax advisor.