



Help Wanted: *Volunteers willing to participate in an environmental stewardship program called Adopt a Beach. Volunteers will work in teams, cleaning and monitoring their adopted beach. This is a year-round assignment. Training will be provided. Lousy pay, but high personal rewards.*

Salem Sound Coastwatch Adopt a Beach Program

Adopt a Beach is Salem Sound Coastwatch's (SSCW) newest program. For twenty years, Salem Sound Coastwatch, a nonprofit watershed organization on the North Shore, has been dedicated to protecting and improving the environmental quality of our coastal resources.

What:

The first of its kind in our area, the goal of the Adopt a Beach program is to protect water quality, public health, aquatic habitats and marine resources by training teams of community based volunteers to serve as year-round "beachkeepers." The amount of time required varies from beach to beach. Beachkeepers will:

- Visually monitor for sources of pollution, signs of erosion, & evidence of invasive plants.
- Collect samples from stormwater outfall pipes and coastal streams for testing for bacterial contamination (where appropriate).
- Conduct or organize regular clean-ups, especially after storm events.
- Report on the effects of storms on the beaches.
- Identify other problems and issues affecting water quality.
- Participate in beach-profiling survey (where appropriate).
- Assist in fundraising to assure sustainability of the project.

How:

1. First step is a **training session**, approximately 2 hours long.
2. Next, SSCW and volunteers will meet to conduct a comprehensive **beach survey** which will identify assets and problems at the beach.
3. After the survey, an **action plan** unique to each beach will be developed.
4. Teams will then conduct **regular monitoring and clean-ups**.
5. SSCW will host an **interactive web site** where team members can post their results, pictures and communicate with each other.

Why?

Beaches are the first line of defense against human activities that degrade marine environments-- such as non-point source pollution, trash, and debris. Beaches can also shed light on other processes that can affect the marine environment, such as erosion, sedimentation, presence of plant and water-based invasive species, climate-driven impacts from sea level rise, and storm surge.

Clean and healthy beaches and coastal waters directly impact the health of the oceans worldwide. Plastic that is washed into the water can kill birds, sea turtles, and fish in several different ways. Protecting our beaches will safeguard water quality, public health, coastal habitats, and precious marine resources worldwide.

Recognizing how important it is to stop pollution at the source, initial program funding in 2010 was provided by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust through the sale of environmental license plates.



Interested? Contact Salem Sound Coastwatch: 978-741-7900;
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