



# PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

★ *of the City of Galveston* ★



# **Environmental Initiatives with the Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston**

# What is the Park Board?

Specialized unit of local government created for the purpose of directing tourism efforts for Galveston.

## Vision

The Park Board of Trustees' vision is to create a historic beach tourist destination that promises an exciting variety of experiences and a high quality of life for residents.

## Mission

The Park Board of Trustees' mission is to promote and support tourism on Galveston Island in order to foster an environment that establishes a great place to live, work and visit.

# Areas of Responsibility



- Destination Marketing Organization
- Beach Park Facility Managers
- Coastal Management
- Beach Patrol



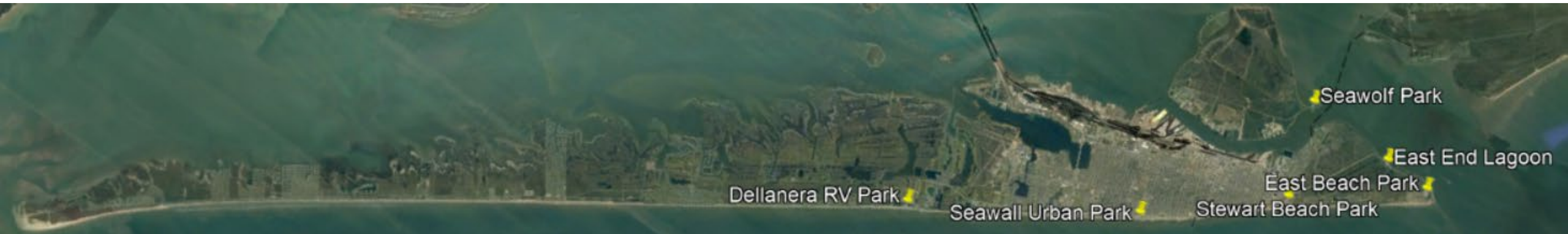


# Park Board Operations

**Management of all 32 miles of beachfront on Galveston Island**

## **Parks managed by the Park Board**

- R.A. Apffel (East Beach Park)
- East End Lagoon
- Stewart Beach Park
- Seawall Urban Park
- Dellanera Rv Park
- Seawolf Park





# Trash Initiatives

## History

In 2020 and 2021 Galveston beaches experienced a surge in visitation as outdoor recreation close to home became more appealing during the pandemic. With this increase in visitation, came an influx of solid waste on our beaches. A subcommittee was formed to discuss initiatives around combating solid waste and increasing recycling and stewardship programming.

## Results

Dubbed the “Let’s Talk Trash Roundtable Series”, volunteers strategized approaches over four facilitated sessions. Various programmatic approaches were identified and evaluated, and the committee ultimately landed on the following three priorities to address solid waste on Galveston beaches:

- 1) Standardize equipment, receptacles and collections across the parks and beachfront
- 2) Implement Ambassador/Pledge Programs
- 3) Instill stewardship among locals

# Trash Initiatives



## Park Board's Trash Initiatives

- Blue Flag Eco Award
- Activations on the Sand
- Women in Coastal Science
- Beach Ambassador Program
- Business Beach Ambassador Program
- What's Next?



# Blue Flag Eco Award: East Beach Park



A voluntary international eco-award program produced by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and run by National Operators in each country.

The program promotes

- environmental education and information
- environmental management
- safety and services
- social responsibility
- responsible tourism

Currently Blue Flag is in over 49 countries with over 4,800 sites.







# Activations on the Sand

## Up2U Galveston

- Inspired by the Up2U Litter Prevention Campaign
  - Originated in the Coastal Bend region of Texas
- Pilot Program for the island
  - 3 Separate boxes
    - East Beach Park, Seawall Urban Park, and on the West End
  - Public engagement
  - Entry of 3,000 bags





# Activations on the Sand



## Beach Toy Borrow Box

- Boxes on the beach for families to deposit beach toys they plan on throwing away for the next interested party to use.
- One box was built at the Galveston Children's Museum DaVinci Day
- Two boxes will be built by a local Eagle Scout



# Women in Coastal Science



May 27 - Dr. Sarah Piwetz - **Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network**


June 24 - Kari Howard - **Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research**

July 22 - Kristen Vale - **American Bird Conservancy**

Aug. 26 - Haille Leija - **Galveston Bay Foundation**

Sept. 23 - Kelly Drinnen – **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Oct. 28 - Lucy Flores - **Texas Beach Watch**




## WOMEN IN COASTAL SCIENCE

FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH MAY – OCTOBER  
9 A.M. AT EAST BEACH

Be inspired to make a difference. Meet the women who tackle the challenges our coastal environment faces. From rescuing marine mammals and sea turtles to understanding the impacts of extreme conditions on our Gulf shores, these women in science will share their journeys in their fields of expertise.

Light refreshments provided. Breakfast cocktails and small bites available for purchase.

  
GALVESTON  
ISLAND  
Park Board of Trustees





# Women in Coastal Science

**Winner in the H-GAC Parks and Natural Areas  
Awards in the Programming category**

Women in Coastal Science is a six-part program series showcasing women scientists who tackle the challenges our coastal environment faces.

Through sharing their stories, these women scientists are giving a voice to the coastal environmental fields which need support and enthusiast champions to protect and conserve our fragile habitat.



# Galveston Beach Ambassador Program



The Park Board noticed many dedicated individuals cleaning the beaches of Galveston on their own initiative and created the Galveston Beach Ambassador Program to highlight these individuals, provide resources, and create an open communication line for observations and data collected throughout the ambassador's cleaning efforts.







# Business Beach Ambassador Program

Instill businesses with an opportunity to 'go green' by small adjustments in behavior that indicate to the customer the business is conscious of its impact and doing its part to keep our island as clean and healthy as possible for all.

## What are the qualifications?

- Minimum of one staff member dedicated to the program
- Minimum of one staff member with CTA training
- Minimum of one trash can on the storefront
- o Trash can may be movable
- Sweep the storefront of the business twice a day for trash, collecting any trash before it can blow away
- Switch from a single-use plastic product to a more environmentally friendly option
- Offer an alternative to plastic bags
- Offer recycling to customers

With hopes to add Partner Programs to the list of possible criteria!



# Coming up!



- 21 Statues to be placed around the island
- Ribbon cutting on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>
- For the first time, these statues will not be behind a paywall





Thank you!



## The Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston

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**Elizabeth Schneider**  
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