

Coastal Zone Management

"The Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee was exceptionally active and accomplished many goals during the 2011-2012 fiscal year. From supporting the launch of a new litter campaign to supporting the SEAS initiative, and developing a cohesive strategic plan aligned with the Park Board, BMAC has effectively fulfilled its role in providing insightful recommendations to achieve goals defined by the Coastal Zone Management department."

-Jerri Mohn, BMAC Chair

The Coastal Zone Management department is responsible for the provision of seaweed removal and litter control services on Galveston's East Beach, Stewart Beach, Seawall beaches located between 10th and 61st Street, Dellanera RV Park, Seawolf Park and the West End Pocket Parks. The Coastal Zone Management department also performs debris removal as needed along the entire coast.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Coastal Zone Management department implemented extra litter detail along all 32 miles of the Galveston coast as a way to sustain the tourism increases experienced over the summer. Special attention was given to tourist areas with the highest traffic. Additional funds for the cleaning of Seawall beaches were obtained from the City of Galveston's Convention Center Surplus Funds

The summer tourism boom also elevated the demand for seaweed maintenance services across the island. As a result, the Park Board analyzed its budget and found it was taking significant portions of its beach maintenance funds away from the highly visited beach parks to serve areas outside its jurisdiction. Given these factors, and uncertainty surrounding the Severance v. Patterson ruling that heighten the property rights of landowners on what had traditionally been deemed public beaches, the board decided to dedicate its seaweed removal resources only to areas included in the organization's mandate. These areas include: R.A. Appfel Park, Stewart Park, Dellanera RV Park, the West End County Pocket Parks and the Seawall. Meanwhile, the board decided to continue litter and trash barrel maintenance on the West End and East End stretch between Stewart Beach and East Beach.

During seaweed season, the Coastal Zone Management also collaborated with Texas A&M University at Galveston to implement a new Sargassum Early Advisory System (SEAS). The program was designed to forecast seaweed influxes before they hit land, and was 90 percent accurate in its predictions over the summer. The Park Board of Trustees contributed \$2,900 for the project.

Another Coastal Zone Management initiative introduced during the 2011-2012 fiscal year includes the development of a science-based sand management strategy intended to prevent erosion of Galveston's shoreline and reduce the long-term costs of beach maintenance. The Galveston Park Board of Trustees worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to build a virtual tool to test hypothetical solutions and forecast the impact on the coastline. The results will determine the best structure for managing sediment on Galveston Island.

BEACH CLEANING FUND

\$ AMOUNT in 2011

Garbage	350,808.00
Raking	408,454.00
Handpicking	442,206.00
Carpentry	88,405.00
Mechanics	489,405.00
Capital Investments	291,535.00
TOTAL	2,070,813.00

