

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The City of Galveston, Park Board of Trustees, and West End Neighborhood associations are all committed to providing clean, safe beaches for visitors and residents alike. We all take pride in our stretch of coastal paradise and everyone works hard to ensure that everyone can enjoy their time on Galveston's beaches.

The Sargassum washing ashore with each wave is still a very important component to combatting coastal erosion; it forms the infrastructure for sand dune formations.

When managed, it continues to be moved to the toes of existing dunes in a manner that promotes dune growth without endangering precious turtle breeding grounds. Each incoming tide can deposit large amounts of this unpleasant but necessary natural protection onto the beach. **Please be careful when walking across any seaweed that has accumulated on the shoreline. Hidden debris, trash, and marine animals may pose a safety hazard if you step on them!**

In July of 2012, the responsibility for moving seaweed from the beach to the toe of the dunes throughout the West End changed hands from the Park Board to the individual neighborhood associations. This change, proposed by the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee after extensive

research, enables each neighborhood to deal with the Sargassum as it accumulates in their respective areas.

Each neighborhood association is responsible for deciding when - or whether - they will schedule seaweed cleanup. Schedules are dependent on many factors – tides, seaweed landing forecasts, weather, budget and if it is

turtle breeding season, to name just a few. Cleanup usually occurs early in the morning, after the first tidal cycle of the day. This allows for maximum productivity without interrupting most beach visitors.



Here in Galveston we continue to try to address the seaweed dilemma in a manner that benefits all of our beach guests – marine animals, visitors, and permanent residents alike! If you have any questions about beach cleanup around your vacation home, please contact our office at **409-797-5500 ext. 2** and speak with a reservationist.

