



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.*

Adopt a Beach Program

Who:

Adopt a Beach is Salem Sound Coastwatch's (SSCW) newest program. Salem Sound Coastwatch is a nonprofit watershed organization on the North Shore dedicated to cleaning up and protecting the environmental quality of the coastal waters and marine habitats in and around the Salem Sound watershed. Salem Sound is the body of water that extends along the coast from Marblehead Neck to Manchester-by-the-Sea.

What:

The first of its kind in our area, the Adopt a Beach program takes a holistic and comprehensive approach. The program includes not only picking up trash, but much more. It will be year round, not just during the summer months. Volunteer "beachkeepers" will be trained to:

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

How:

Beachkeepers will work in teams and they get to choose their beach. SSCW will create teams of interested people, or if there is a group that wants to adopt a beach together, they can become a team. Here's the process:

1. For those who are interested in becoming a beachkeeper, the first step is to attend an **information session** (if at all possible). *See schedule below*
2. The next step is a **training session** (2½ hours long).
3. A **beach survey** follows. SSCW will accompany teams on a visual survey-- looking for issues of concern for public health and environmental quality.
4. After the survey, an **action plan** unique to each beach will be developed.
5. Teams will then conduct **regular monitoring and clean-ups** (especially after storms).
6. SSCW will host an **interactive web site** where team members can post their results, pictures, and communicate with each other.

Why?

Adopt a Beach gives volunteers the opportunity to make a difference by “acting locally and thinking globally.” 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 funding for this program was provided by the Massachusetts Environmental Trust through the sale of environmental license plates.



Interested?

Come to one of the following information sessions:

Salem: Thursday, March 4, 7 - 8 pm

Beverly Cooperative Bank, Community Room
87 Lafayette Street (next to Wendy's)
Salem, MA 01970

Marblehead: Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Abbott Public Library, Meeting Room (lower level)
235 Pleasant Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

Manchester-by-the-Sea: Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Manchester Community Center
40 Beach Street
Manchester, MA 01944

And/or contact Salem Sound Coastwatch: 978-741-7900; info@salemsound.org.

Training:

Volunteers will be asked to attend a 2½ hour training session. Please fill out a volunteer sign up form and let us know:

- When you are available for training (week nights, week days, best time, etc.)
- Which beach you would like to adopt. Please write it in if it's not on this list:

Beverly:

Dane St. Beach
Independence Beach
Woodbury
Mingo Beach
Patch Beach
Rice Beach
Lynch Park
Obear Park
Gillis Park
West Beach
Tucks Point

Salem:

Collins Cove
Derby Wharf Beach
Forest River Park
Dead Horse Beach
Salem Willows
Furlong Park, North River
Winter Island

Danvers:

Sandy Beach, Danvers River

Marblehead:

Devereux Beach
Riverhead Beach
Grace Oliver Beach
Stramski Beach
Gas House

Swampscott:

Phillips Beach

Manchester:

Boardman
Black & White Beaches
Long Beach
Tucks Point Beach

Nahant:

Beach to be determined