



**Help Wanted:** *Volunteers willing to participate in an environmental stewardship program by adopting their favorite beach. Volunteer "beachkeepers" will conduct clean-ups, identify issues affecting their beach and visually monitor for sources of pollution. This is a year-round assignment. Training will be provided. Lousy pay, but high personal rewards.*

## Salem Sound Coastwatch's Adopt a Beach Program

For 25 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, which include beaches, rivers, salt marshes and the coastal waters.

**Join our volunteer program - Adopt a Beach.**

### What:

The goal of the Adopt a Beach program is to protect water quality, public health, aquatic habitats and marine resources by training volunteers from the community to serve as year-round "beachkeepers." **No set amount of time is required**--beachkeepers can make a regular schedule or clean-up and monitor whenever they visit their adopted beach.

Beachkeepers will:

- Visually monitor for sources of pollution, signs of erosion & evidence of invasive plants
- Conduct or organize regular coastal clean-ups, especially after storm events when debris is washed ashore
- Report on the effects of storms on the beach
- Identify other problems and issues affecting the beach and/or water quality

### How:

1. The first step is a **training session** which lasts approximately 1½ hours. The training includes beach ecology, sources of pollution, marine debris, and how to identify storm damage and invasive species.
2. Next, SSCW staff and volunteers 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. Beachkeepers will then **monitor and clean-up**.

### 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 affect the marine environment, such as erosion, presence of plant and water-based invasive species, climate-driven impacts from sea level rise, and storm surge.

Clean, healthy beaches and coastal waters directly impact the viability of the oceans. Plastics that are washed into the water can kill birds, sea turtles and fish through ingestion and entanglement.

Protecting our beaches will safeguard water quality, public health, coastal habitats and precious marine resources worldwide. **Adopt a beach volunteers make a difference by "acting locally and thinking globally."**

**Interested?** Contact Salem Sound Coastwatch: 978-741-7900, [info@salemsound.org](mailto:info@salemsound.org)