Adopt-a-Beach™ Routine Visit Form

Answer these questions during your beach visit. Use our companion Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide for question by question instructions on how to complete the form.

If you have questions about Adopt-a-Beach™, contact adoptabeach@greatlakes.org.

What to do with your data:
• Enter your results online in the Adopt-a-Beach™ pages at www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach by logging into your personal account.
• If you don’t have an Adopt-a-Beach™ account, create an account by visiting Adopt-a-Beach™ at www.greatlakes.org/adoptabeach.
• If you don’t have internet access, mail your results to Alliance for the Great Lakes, 700 Fulton St. Ste. A, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or fax to 616-850-0765

Beach name and location (city and state)

Adopt-a-Beach™ team name

Team Leader

Visit date

Visit time of day (e.g. 11:00 a.m.)

Number of volunteers

Estimated time spent completing the Routine Visit Form

Describe the boundaries of the beach area you have adopted using fixed objects, street names or other fixed reference points. Some groups have adopted a portion of a beach area and some groups have adopted an entire beach.

I. General Beach Conditions

1. Air temperature (Round to the nearest degree.)

☐ Celsius  ☐ Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

2. Wind direction ☐ No wind  ☐ S  ☐ SE  ☐ SW  ☐ N  ☐ NE  ☐ NW  ☐ E  ☐ W (Check the answer that applies.)

3. What is the wind speed? (Circle one of the options below.) *See Beaufort Wind Scale detailed in the Routine Visit Form Guide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knots</th>
<th>Under 1</th>
<th>1-3</th>
<th>4-6</th>
<th>7-10</th>
<th>11-16</th>
<th>17-21</th>
<th>22-27</th>
<th>28-34</th>
<th>34-40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Calm</td>
<td>Light air breeze</td>
<td>Light breeze</td>
<td>Gentle breeze</td>
<td>Moderate breeze</td>
<td>Fresh breeze</td>
<td>Strong breeze</td>
<td>Near gale</td>
<td>Gale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. When was the most recent rain event? (If it lasted more than one day, check the appropriate answer.)

Consider that 24 hours = 1 day, 48 hours = 2 days and 72 hours = 3 days.

☐ Less than 24 hours ago  ☐ Less than 48 hours ago

☐ Less than 72 hours ago  ☐ More than 72 hours ago  ☐ I don’t know
5. Describe the rain event, if one has occurred in the past 72 hours (3 days).

- [ ] Misting
- [ ] Light rain
- [ ] Steady rain
- [ ] Heavy rain

- [ ] No rain event in the past 72 hours
- [ ] I don’t know
- Other (e.g. snow, hail) describe: ______________

6. If it has rained within the past 72 hours and you have a rain gauge at the beach, measure the amount of rain in inches or centimeters. (If you do not have a rain gauge please select no rain gauge.)

__________ in/cm (round to nearest 10th degree)  [ ] No rain gauge

7. What are the current sky conditions? (Check one of the options below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sky condition</th>
<th>Sunny</th>
<th>Mostly sunny</th>
<th>Partly sunny</th>
<th>Mostly cloudy</th>
<th>Cloudy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of cloud coverage</td>
<td>No clouds</td>
<td>1/8 to 1/4</td>
<td>3/8 to 1/2</td>
<td>5/8 to 7/8</td>
<td>Total coverage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. What is the current wave height in feet? (Check one of the options below.) Wave height is determined by measuring the distance between the crest (tallest point of the wave) to the trough (the lowest point of the wave) just lakeward of where the waves are breaking.

- [ ] No waves
- [ ] Waves less than 1 foot
- [ ] 1-2 feet
- [ ] 3-4 feet
- [ ] 5-6 feet
- [ ] 6-8 feet
- [ ] Over 8 feet

9. Describe the intensity of the waves. (Check one of the options below.)

- [ ] Calm
- [ ] Medium
- [ ] Rough

10. Longshore current: What is the amount of time _____ (in seconds) that it takes your floatable object to travel 10 meters. See Routine Visit Form Guide for instructions on how to measure the longshore current.

To determine the speed of the longshore current use the following equation:

10 meters ÷ by _____ time in seconds = _____ speed in meters per second

Example #1: 10 meters ÷ 30 seconds = .33 meters per second
Summary: Your floatable object moves 10 meters in 30 seconds. Therefore, the speed of the longshore current is .33 meters per second.

Example #2: 10 meters ÷ 40 seconds = .25 meters per second
Summary: Your floatable object moves 10 meters in 40 seconds, therefore the speed of the longshore current is 0.25 meters per second.

11. What is the direction of the longshore current? ___________ (The longshore current runs parallel to the beach.)

- [ ] No current
- [ ] S
- [ ] SE
- [ ] SW
- [ ] N
- [ ] NE
- [ ] NW
- [ ] E
- [ ] W

12. Did you measure the longshore current?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

13. Comments or reason you did not measure the longshore current: ________________________________________________

14. General comments and observations about general beach conditions: ________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

If you don’t have internet access, mail your results to Alliance for the Great Lakes, 700 Fulton St. Ste. A, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or fax to 616-850-0765
II. Water Quality

15. Some adopters may have the ability to measure water pH. If you are one of these adopters, please enter the pH level of the water. ________

16. If a pH reading was taken, please indicate the testing method you used. (Check the appropriate answer.)

- [ ] pH paper
- [ ] pH liquid solution
- [ ] pH meter

17. Bacteria sample results. Please refer to the Adopt-a-Beach™ guide for specific protocol and to determine your results. Your water sample should be taken at the same location in the middle of your adopted beach where 24-30 inches (2 – 2.5 feet) of water depth is first encountered and at 6 inches below the surface. If you are using the Alliance’s test kits, fill in: E. coli – water (blue dots) and Coliform (red dots). Write in “not tested” for any test you do not conduct and include an explanation in the “comments” section.

Did your team do a bacteria test?  [ ] Yes  [ ] No

Sample #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test type</th>
<th>E. coli – water (blue dots)</th>
<th>Coliform (red dots)</th>
<th>Enterococcus</th>
<th>E. coli – sand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of dots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test type</th>
<th>E. coli – water (blue dots)</th>
<th>Coliform (red dots)</th>
<th>Enterococcus</th>
<th>E. coli – sand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of dots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. Comments or reason you did not conduct the water test: ______________________________________________________

Some adopters have the ability to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate where they take their water sample. If you can use a GPS device to measure your sample location, provide your results here:

_____ º _____ ’N (Latitude)  _____ º _____ ’W (Longitude)

19. What is the water temperature? ________ (Round to the nearest degree.)

- [ ] Celsius  - [ ] Fahrenheit (Check type of measurement taken.)

20. Have you noted any changes in water color from previous visits? (Check the appropriate answer.)

- [ ] Yes  - [ ] No  - [ ] This is our first beach visit

If you have noted a change in color, describe it. __________________________________________________________

21. Describe the odor of the water. (Check one or more of the options below.)

- [ ] No smell  - [ ] Sewage  - [ ] Algae (decaying plants)  - [ ] Fishy

- [ ] Sulfur (rotten eggs)  - [ ] Musty (wet soil)  - [ ] Other  If other, describe: __________________________________________________________
22. Describe the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water. (Check one of the options below.) Observe turbidity at the same location you take your water sample.

☐ Clear    ☐ Slightly cloudy    ☐ Cloudy    ☐ Opaque (solid)

23. Additional observations about water quality:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
III. Bather Load (Number of people at the beach)

24. For people IN or ON the water, not on the beach, describe the type of activity and number of people involved. (Use the table below to fill in the number of people involved in the activities listed below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Sailing/power boating</th>
<th>Canoeing/kayaking</th>
<th>Jet skiing</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Surfing</th>
<th>Windsurfing/kite boarding</th>
<th>Swimming/wading</th>
<th>Other (in and on the water)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of people engaged in this activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, describe the type of activity IN or ON the water:

25. What is the total number of people ON the beach, not in the water, EXCLUDING YOUR GROUP? _________

26. General comments and observations at the beach:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
If you don’t have internet access, mail your results to Alliance for the Great Lakes, 700 Fulton St. Ste. A, Grand Haven, MI 49417 or fax to 616-850-0765
### IV. Potential Pollution Sources

27. Identify any of these features up to 500 feet from the beach boundary that are visible. (See Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide to determine speed of current.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is this feature in your beach boundary?</th>
<th>River/Stream/Channel</th>
<th>Pond(s)</th>
<th>Wetland(s)</th>
<th>Outfall (pipe discharging to the beach)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount (Check the answer that applies)</th>
<th>Gushing</th>
<th>Steady stream</th>
<th>Trickle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Gushing</td>
<td>□ Steady stream</td>
<td>□ Trickle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed of Current (in seconds)</th>
<th>Brown</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Clear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Brown</td>
<td>□ Green</td>
<td>□ Black</td>
<td>□ White</td>
<td>□ Red</td>
<td>□ Clear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Color</th>
<th>Brown</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Clear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Brown</td>
<td>□ Green</td>
<td>□ Black</td>
<td>□ White</td>
<td>□ Red</td>
<td>□ Clear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics (Check all that apply)</th>
<th>Foamy</th>
<th>Algae</th>
<th>Debris</th>
<th>Oily sheen on water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Foamy</td>
<td>□ Algae</td>
<td>□ Debris</td>
<td>□ Oily sheen on water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other source (e.g. dump, boat launch), please describe the feature identified: ________________________________________

28. **Bacteria sample results.** If you did not have any features as outlined in question 27, you can skip this question. If you did have any of the features listed in question 27, use one of your *E. coli* test kits provided by the Alliance to test for bacteria in water at the feature listed above. Please refer to Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide #17 for specific protocol and to determine results. If you are using the Alliance’s test kits, fill in: *E. coli* – water and Coliform. Write in “not tested” for any test you do not conduct and include an explanation in the “comments” section.

**Did your team do a bacteria test for pollution sources listed for question 27?** □ Yes □ No

**Sample #1** (from the water feature at your adopted beach.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test type</th>
<th><em>E. coli</em> – water (blue dots)</th>
<th>Coliform (red dots)</th>
<th>Enterococcus</th>
<th><em>E. coli</em> – sand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of dots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29. **General comments about your water test:**
Some adopters have the ability to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate where they take their water sample. If you can use a GPS device to measure your sample location, provide your results here:

______ ° ______ ’N (Latitude) ______ ° ______ ’W (Longitude)

30. Are there floatables (items floating in the water) present?  □ Yes  □ No
If yes, please describe the floatables present. (Circle one or more of the options below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Street litter</th>
<th>Food-related litter</th>
<th>Medical items</th>
<th>Resin</th>
<th>Sewage-related</th>
<th>Building materials</th>
<th>Fishing related</th>
<th>Household waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>Cigarette filters</td>
<td>Food packing, beverage containers</td>
<td>Syringes</td>
<td>Tiny plastic pellets</td>
<td>Condoms, tampons</td>
<td>Pieces of wood, siding</td>
<td>Fishing line, nets, lures</td>
<td>Household trash, plastic bags</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. Describe the amount of debris/litter on the beach. (Circle one of the options below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>No Litter</th>
<th>Very Low</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage on beach</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1-10%</td>
<td>11-20%</td>
<td>21-50%</td>
<td>51% and up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32. Do you see an oily sheen on the water and/or along the beach? (Check the appropriate answer.)  □ Yes  □ No
   a. If yes, describe. ____________________________________________________________
   b. Can you identify the source? _________________________________________________

33. Describe the amount of algae in the water near the shore along the length of your adopted area of beach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>No Algae</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1-20%</td>
<td>21-50%</td>
<td>51% and up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. Describe the amount of algae on the beach along the length of your area of adopted beach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>No Algae</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1-20%</td>
<td>21-50%</td>
<td>51% and up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35. Describe the type of algae along the water’s edge and on the beach. (Check one or more options below.)
□ No algae  □ Attached to rocks, stringy  □ Blobs of floating materials
□ No obvious mass of materials  □ Matted  □ Other
If other, describe: ___________________________________________________________________

36. Describe the color of the algae along the water’s edge and on the beach. (Check one or more options below.)
□ No algae  □ Light green  □ Blue green  □ Dark green  □ Yellow
□ Red  □ Brown  □ Other  If other, describe: ___________________________________________________________________
37. Please describe and count the presence of wildlife and domestic animals on the beach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Geese</th>
<th>Gulls</th>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, describe: __________________________________________________________________________________________________

38. If you find dead birds along the shoreline, fill in the number found in the appropriate box below. (Refer to Adopt-a-Beach™ Guide for identification.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Common loon</th>
<th>Herring gull</th>
<th>Ring-billed gull</th>
<th>Double crested cormorant</th>
<th>Horned grebe</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number found dead</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If other, describe: __________________________________________________________________________________________________

39. How many dead fish are on the beach? _________

40. If there are other dead animals on the beach (not including fish and birds) list them here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of animal</th>
<th>How many</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41. How many garbage and recycling containers are there within 500 feet of your adopted beach boundary? (If there are no garbage containers on your beach enter 0.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garbage Containers</th>
<th>Recycling Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42. Describe use and condition of garbage containers at this location. (Check one or more of the options below.)

- [ ] No garbage cans
- [ ] Designated carry in carry out policy
- [ ] Garbage cans present with no lids
- [ ] Garbage cans present with lids
- [ ] Garbage cans well maintained
- [ ] Garbage cans overflowing or knocked over

43. Please add any additional comments or notes about your visit here:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

44. Did you take any action as a result of your beach visit? For example: educate other about pollution, contact your park authority to ask them to empty trash cans more frequently.

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If yes, describe: _____________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your time and dedication to keeping our beaches and shorelines healthy!