

**Vero Beach Lifeguard Association  
Monthly Beach Report  
For  
Jaycee Park  
Humiston Park  
South Beach Park**

**March 2020**



**Our Mission:  
To promote lifeguarding and water safety in Vero  
Beach and the surrounding communities**

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Website: [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org)**

STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	85,025
Preventative Actions	923
Minor Medicals	43
Major Medicals	1
Rescues	4
Average Water Temperature	70
Beach Erosion	Moderate
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

### **General Conditions**

The month of March historically has one of the highest beach attendances of the year. The record was set back in March 2018 with 95,000 visits. Considering the beaches were closed due to Corona Virus for one half of the month we still recorded 85,000 visits. Most of the park attendees were walking the beach or the boardwalks within our three lifeguarded parks. Lifeguards responded to 44 medical emergencies which included 1 major medical emergency. Most of the minor medical calls were for Portuguese Man O War stings. There were 4 water rescues bringing the total number of water rescues in 2020 to 8. Larger swells and strong currents carved out some parts of the dune along the shoreline. Many surfcasting fisherman were posted along the shoreline especially near South Beach Park. The ocean water temperature has risen to 70 degrees.

Beach Raker Inc, the subcontractor the City of Vero Beach hired to groom our beaches is doing an excellent job. Some may argue too good of a job because once sea turtle nesting season is in full swing, beach grooming will cease. Some patrons may start complaining about the amount of seaweed on the beach. Seaweed is a natural occurrence and part of a

healthy beach ecology. Removal of the seaweed may weaken the beach's foundation, prevent the formation of protective dunes, increase beach erosion and may damage sea turtle nests. Beach grooming is scheduled to cease on April 30th

All swimmers are advised to pay close attention to beach condition signs and flags, swim near lifeguard towers and avoid swimming during non-guarded hours.

### **Areas of Progress**

With help from Idea Garden, Waldo's, Minuteman Press, Coastal Technology Corporation, Hoos Architects, Mills Short Engineers, Farrow Construction, City of Vero Beach Recreation Department, and City Council, VBLA's goal of giving our lifeguards the ability to see more of the beach and react to emergencies faster by building a lifeguard tower and command center at Humiston Park is progressing. We are actively seeking a donor for the project.



## **Areas of Concern**

Whenever beaches are closed due to large surf, sharks or other emergencies, it is strongly advised that the public stay out of the water due to the dangerous conditions or the absence of lifeguards.

### **Key**

Park Attendance: an estimated count of park attendees to include boardwalks within each park and areas immediately north and south of each park

Preventative Actions: stopping potential incidents before they occur

Minor Medicals: a medical incident which is treated on-site by lifeguard/EMT personnel

Major Medicals: a medical incident that required Emergency Medical Services

Rescues: Any water related emergency to include rip current rescues, fatigued swimmers, surfing, kite boarding and/or boating accidents.

### **About VBLA**

This report is furnished by the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association, a non-profit, 501C3 organization. Its mission is to promote water safety and lifeguarding in Vero Beach and the surrounding communities. Contact us at

[VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com](mailto:VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com) or (908)797-8725. Visit us at [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org).

Donations are appreciated. Monies raised are used to purchase equipment, supplies, and training for the lifeguards from the city of Vero Beach. Please send donations to: VBLA, 1351 White Heron Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.