

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

May 2020



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

**Email: VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com
Website: www.VBLA.org**

*STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	91,943
Preventative Actions	1,061
Minor Medicals	16
Major Medicals	8
Rescues	14
Average Water Temperature	78
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate

*Does not include extended hours statistics

General Conditions

May 2020 beach attendance set a new May record with 91,943 visitors shattering the old record of 88,280 set in May 2019. Consistent easterly winds have contributed to some Portuguese Man-O-War washing ashore and some seaweed being deposited on the beach. Beach grooming (the removal of seaweed from the beach) stopped at the end of April and will resume once turtle nesting season is over on October 31st. The ocean water temperature has risen to 78 degrees. Sea turtle nesting has been very prevalent with scores of new nests being made every week. The sea turtle researchers are marking every 18th nest depending on the species and where the nests are located. Lifeguards responded to 24 medical calls of which 8 were serious enough that most of the patients were transported to the hospital. Some of the injuries included broken bones, heat related injuries and cardiac issues. Lifeguards rescued 14 people from rip currents in the month of May which occurred mostly at South Beach and Jaycee Parks bringing the total number of water rescues in 2020 to 22 (compared to only 9 by the end of May 2019). Volunteers from the VBLA installed some marker buoys on the PEP reef which runs along Central

Beach. All three guarded beaches within the City limits started extended hours on Sunday, May 24th. Lifeguards will be on duty from 9am to 7pm during the summer.

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

Lifeguards started extended hours during Memorial Day weekend on Sunday May 24th. They will be on duty until 7pm during the summer months which will keep our beaches safer.

EXTENDED HOURS (5-7pm) STATISTICS - 5/24-5/31	
Total Park Attendance	3,285
Preventative Actions	82
Minor Medicals	0
Major Medicals	0
Rescues	0

Some orange and white marker buoys have been installed on the Prefabricated Erosion Prevention (PEP) reef which extends from Humiston Park to The Village Spires along Central Beach. These buoys may prevent swimmers from being injured by the reef as it is located within the surf zone at a very popular section of beach.



The City of Vero Beach Police Department has stepped up their beach patrols. This is a welcomed sight to many beachgoers as community policing and safer beaches are important and very much appreciated.

Beach Raker Inc, the company hired by the City of Vero Beach to groom our beaches, in our opinion, has done an excellent job. The VBLA cannot remember a time when the beach looked so well maintained. We hope the public understands the need to discontinue the grooming during turtle nesting season and the fact that seaweed left on the beach helps to strengthen and protect our shoreline.

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.



Areas of Concern

Some patrons are 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 and increase beach erosion.

Many dog owners are violating the newly enacted policy of allowing dogs on the beach. Lifeguards are often distracted from keeping their eyes on swimmers when they must address dog owners who are violating the law.

As beach attendance grows more people are outside the guarded areas increasing the likelihood of accidents and drownings.

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 or (908)797-8725. Visit us at 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.