



EDUCATION,
SUSTAINABILITY, AND
TOURISM

APPLICATION TOOLKIT

Presented by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association

Resources Available to Sites

Workshop Recording
Slide Deck
Application Checklist

Application Format

Online Form

- Password Protected
- 8 forms, one for each section

Yes or No Questions, with short response explanations

Conditional Logic

Repeater Options

Blue Flag USA Application

Instructions

The Blue Flag application is divided into 8 individual forms. Questions are grouped by category and criterion. Each criterion is collapsible and may contain several questions. Criteria questions are automatically collapsed to provide the quickest navigation. The number of questions on each form varies. The form is set up to remove questions based on previous answers. Therefore, questions which do not apply to your site will be hidden once you choose a response. Questions are blank to begin with and can be modified before submission. However, once a question has an answer selected it cannot be returned to the blank status. Notify staff if you accidentally mark a question which does not apply to you.

Users can save their progress and return to the forms later to finish. The previous, next, and save buttons are at the bottom of each page. The submit button only appears on the last page of each form. If you submit a form, leave the page and come back, the form may show up again. Check the [application tracker](#) if you are unsure about the status of a submission.

First Time Applicants: Please submit all forms. If you have questions please reach out to staff.

Returning Applicants: When applications go live your responses from previous years will auto populate. Please check the responses for clarity, new information, or items which may need to be removed.

Applicants with multiple sites: Each site needs its own full application submission. Enter the information for site 1, submit it, and then enter site 2 information and submit for each form.

If you would like to use a single form please use this link: [Here](#). The individual forms are below:

Community Information – General beach information and contacts

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUNICIPALITY/COMMUNITY ^

Name of the municipality



Application Format

Online Application

- Password Protected
- Broken up into individual forms
- NEW! Tracking and quick edit links

Yes or No Questions, with short response explanations

NEW! Instructions include different applicant experiences



Application Process

Use the Checklist and toolkits to gather items ahead of time

Each Year a Full Application (all forms) need to be submitted

Forms can be submitted any time between
September 1-December 6



CRITERIA

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Environmental Education Activities

Information about the Environment

Code of Conduct

WATER QUALITY

Frequent Water Sampling

Excellent Bathing Water Quality

Appropriate Sewage/Industrial Wastewater Management

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management Plan

Waste Management

Sustainable use of Resources

Adequate and Clean Facilities

Proper Maintenance

SAFETY AND SERVICES

Emergency Plans

Lifeguards and First-aid Equipment

Accident Prevention Measures

Risk Assessments

Access for All



Section 1: Community Information

- Name
- Address
- Contact information
- Permanent residents vs visitors
- Beach name
- GPS
- Contact information
- General profile



Section 2: Environmental Education and Information

- Length of Site
- # of Information Boards
- Criteria 1-6



Section 3: Water Quality

- European Countries Question -
Read Only
- Criteria 7-11



Section 4: Environmental Management

- Criteria 12-26
 - Criterion 12 is guideline



Reminder about login information multiple people within an organization can access the application with your login credentials and the password. However, multiple people cannot access the account at the same time.

Section 5: Safety and Services

- Criteria 27-33
 - criterion 32 is guideline



Section 6: National Criteria

- Questions on WQ, Environmental Management, US regulations, and Safety and Services.
 - some may be repetitive
 - safety questionnaire
- Opportunity to attach documents



Section 7: Enclosures

- Included in your checklist
- All attachments
- Name Uploads with the number of the criterion

	E. Coli (no. per 100 ml.)	I.E. (no. per 100 ml.)
8		
9		
10	500	600
11	2	10
12	5	5
13	15	15
14	15	15
15	15	10
16	15	10
17	10	10
18	5	15
19	20	15
20	10	15
21	10	15
22	10	15

E. Coli (max 250 cfu/100 ml)		IE (max 100 cfu/100 ml)	
OK or exceeding?	log 10	OK or exceeding?	log 10
exceeding	2.698970004	exceeding	2.77815125
OK	0.301029996	OK	1
OK	0.698970004	OK	0.698970004
OK	1.176091259	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.176091259	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.176091259	OK	1
OK	1.176091259	OK	1
OK	1	OK	1
OK	0.698970004	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.301029996	OK	1.176091259
OK	1	OK	1.176091259
OK	1	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.176091259	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.176091259	OK	1.176091259
OK	1.176091259	OK	1.176091259
exceeding	2.698970004	OK	1.176091259
OK	2	exceeding	2.176091259
OK	2	OK	1.176091259
OK	2	OK	1.176091259

95th percentile Calculation			
MEAN	1.331528941	MEAN	1.247119944
Standard deviation	0.630465264	Standard deviation	0.448234663
1.65*std deviation	2.371796627	mean+1.65*std deviation	1.986707138
95th percentile	235.3946711	Upper 95th percentile	96.98557351
Compliance?	OK	Compliance?	OK



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Marine Annual Sanitary Survey for Recreational Waters

EPA 820-F-20-006
March 2021

PART 1: BASIC INFORMATION

Name of beach:

Date(s) of survey:

Time(s) of survey:

Name of waterbody:

Number of routine surveys used:

Name(s) of surveyor(s):

Longitude:

End:

Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)? yes no

USE IN THE WATERSHED

Commercial

Agricultural

Other (specify):



WELCOME TO THE BLUE FLAG PILOT PROGRAM AT EAST BEACH

MARCH - OCTOBER 2021



WATER QUALITY
Water quality at East Beach is monitored weekly by the Galveston County Health District. US Blue Flag criteria require beaches to monitor fecalococci levels weekly and that these levels not exceed 100cfu/100ml or the state's microbiological limit, whichever is stricter, 95 percent of the season. Results are posted here weekly and online at [TexasBeachWatch.org](https://www.texasbeachwatch.org).
E. Coli is monitored at least once monthly to meet Blue Flag international standards. E. Coli levels must not exceed 250cfu/100ml 95 percent of the season.
What do the Results Mean?
In the table you can see when the water has been analyzed and how many bacteria were found. A small number of bacteria indicates less likelihood of illness from contact with the water. A high number of bacteria indicates an increased risk of illness from contact with the water.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES
The Blue Flag program supports educational activities aimed to increase awareness of the environment, ecology, and species of the coastal zone. Please call or connect with [GalvestonParkland.org](https://www.galvestonparkland.org) for more information on upcoming activities in the community.

BEACH SAFETY AND SERVICES
• Emergency 911
• Beach Patrol (409) 762-4769
• Texas Marine Mammal Banding Network 1 (800) 942-6625
• Sea Turtle Patrol 1 (936) 747-1533 or 1 (800) 987-6536
• Lifeguard hours 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
FLAG WARNING SYSTEM
Green Flag: Conditions calm, swim with care.
Yellow Flag: Calm to moderate water, does not assure safe swim.
Red Flag: Heavy surf - dangerous currents - stay within water depth marker.
Purple Flag: Presence of venomous marine life.
Orange Flag: Indicates an environmental warning for air and/or water quality, see notice board for details.
RIP CURRENTS
Safety:
• Know how to swim.
• Never swim alone.
• If in doubt, don't go out.
• Swim near a lifeguard.




ATTACH WHITE BOARD HERE



RIP CURRENTS
KNOW YOUR OPTIONS
• Never swim against the rip current.
• Between rip currents, swim parallel to the shore.
• If in doubt, don't go out.
• Swim near a lifeguard.
Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer away from shore. If at all possible, swim near a lifeguard.



ATTACH WHITE BOARD HERE

Section 8: Signature

- The Blue Flag Commitment
- Responsibility
- GDPR Statement

Signature

Summaries

- Shows you your full application for review

button only appears on the last page of each form. If you submit a form, leave the page and come back, the form may show up again. Check the [application tracker](#) if you are unsure about the status of a submission.

First Time Applicants: Please submit all forms. If you have questions please reach out to staff.

Returning Applicants: When applications go live your responses from previous years will auto populate. Please check the responses for clarity, new information, or items which may need to be removed.

Applicants with multiple sites: Each site needs its own full application submission. Enter the information for site 1, submit it, and then enter site 2 information and submit for each form.

If you would like to use a single form please use this link: [Here](#). The individual forms are below:

Community Information – General beach information and contacts

Summary

Edit

Previous

Next

Save Draft

Environmental Education and Information – international questions

Name of Site: *

Submit!

- One final page with the submit button



PROCESSING

- APPLICATIONS OPEN SEPTEMBER 1
- APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF DEC. (DEC 6, 2024)
 - STAFF WILL REVIEW THE APPLICATION FOR COMPLETENESS AND CLARITY
- STAFF WILL WORK ON ANY KNOWN DISPENSATION NEEDS AND SHARE WITH APPLICANTS
- INVOICES WILL BE SENT ON SUBMISSION

PROCESSING

- APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL JURY REVIEW 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO MEETING
- NATIONAL JURY DETERMINES COMPLIANCE OR NON-COMPLIANCE AND APPLICANTS RECEIVE APPROVAL, DISPENSATION, OR REJECTION.
- INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO INTERNATIONAL IN FEB
- INTERNATIONAL JURY MEETING WILL BE IN APRIL TO DETERMINE AWARD STATUS
- MAY 1ST YOUR FLAG CAN GO UP - START THINKING ABOUT EXACT DATES