



Agenda Item: Update on Trash Initiatives - Timeline and Possible Projects

Background: In 2020 and 2021 Galveston beaches experienced a surge in visitation as outdoor recreation close to home became more appealing during the pandemic. With this increase in visitation, came an influx of solid waste on our beaches. A subcommittee was formed to discuss initiatives around combating solid waste and increasing recycling and stewardship programming.

Dubbed the “Let’s Talk Trash Roundtable Series”, volunteers strategized approaches over four facilitated sessions. Various programmatic approaches were identified and evaluated, and the committee ultimately landed on the following three priorities to address solid waste on Galveston beaches:

1. Standardize equipment, receptacles and collections across the parks and beachfront
2. Implement a Business Pledge Program that rewards committed local businesses with marketing opportunities
3. Create programs to instill stewardship among locals

Elizabeth Schneider was hired on as Environmental Coordinator in January of 2022 and tasked with building out the identified priorities. Elizabeth Schneider will provide updates on volunteer cleanup statistics, the Galveston Beach Ambassador Program, the Business Ambassador Program, and the Up2U Free Trash Bag Program.

Staff Recommendation: n/a

Funding Source (if applicable): n/a