



Adopt-A-Beach Beach Assessment Form

This Beach Assessment helps you to take the first steps in getting to know your beach and is for use with lesson 4.9 of the *Great Lakes in Our World* curriculum. Fill out the form as completely as possible. If you have a large group, you may split up the form so groups fill out different sections.

This form is designed to help you assess different aspects of the beach. As you answer the following questions, think about the areas that could be improved at your beach. Contact the Alliance for the Great Lakes if you have questions at adoptabeach@greatlakes.org.

Beach/Site name

School/Group Affiliation

Contact Person

Email

Phone

School District (if applicable)

Grade (if applicable)

Street Address

City/State/Zip

of volunteers/students

Visit Date (mm/dd/yy)

Visit Time (am or pm)

Shoreline Information

1. Sand color

- Beige
- Gray
- Black

2. Sand texture

- Fine
- Coarse

3. Describe any rocks present

- Small pebbles
- Large rocks
- Boulders
- None

4. Is there a designated swimming area?

- Yes
- No

5. Are there breakwater structures (structures parallel to the beach that slows wave action)?

- Yes
- No

6. Is there a pier or a groin structure (a structure that extends from land and slows sand movement)?

- Yes
- No

Surrounding Area/Landscape

1. This beach is in a
 - City
 - Town
 - Rural area
2. Is there a farm near the beach?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
3. The area around the beach has: *(Select all that apply)*
 - Rocks
 - Sand dunes
 - Pier(s)
 - Revetments/seawalls
 - Riprap *(rocks placed by humans)*
 - Wetlands
 - Bluffs
 - Streets
 - Playground(s)
 - Landscaped garden(s)
 - Grass
 - Trees
 - Tributary

4. Is the natural vegetation damaged?

- Yes
- No

If yes, describe:

5. Comments for improving the area & landscape:

Beach Health/Litter

1. How many dumpsters are in the parking lot?

2. How many trashcans are on the beach?

3. Describe the trashcans:

- No trashcans
- Well maintained
- Easily accessible
- Overflowing
- Knocked over
- No lids
- Recycling container(s)

4. Are there trash cans near the designated eating areas?

- Yes
- No
- No designated eating area

5. Are domestic animals allowed on this beach?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

6. Is water or another substance being deposited onto your beach or into the water through an outfall (a pipe or structure that empties onto the beach)? If so, indicate how.

Facilities

1. Check off all the facilities that are present on your beach. If present, circle the letters that describe the condition of the facility.

Facilities condition key:

- A. Very clean/well kept
- B. Dirty
- C. Graffiti
- D. Plumbing in need of repair
- E. New paint needed
- F. Crumbling, cracked or broken areas

- Drop/pit toilets A B C D E F
- Flush/sewer toilets: A B C D E F
- No toilets: A B C D E F
- Picnic table(s): A B C D E F
- Benches: A B C D E F
- Chairs: A B C D E F
- Drinking fountain: A B C D E F
- Lifeguard station: A B C D E F
- First aid station: A B C D E F
- Concession stand: A B C D E F
- Theater: A B C D E F
- Cultural center: A B C D E F

2. How many total toilets are on this beach?

3. If there are toilets, how many buildings on the beach contain them?

4. If there are restroom facilities, approximately how close to the water are they?

5. Is there a fish cleaning station? (table with a hose)

- Yes
- No

Access and Safety

1. Is there proper signage describing any beach restrictions?

- Yes
- No

Comments

2. Is the beach handicap accessible?

- Yes
- No

Comments

3. Can boats (motorboats, canoes, kayaks) be launched at this beach?

- Yes
- No

4. Is watercraft restricted in this area?

- Yes
- No

5. Is there a boat fueling station?

- Yes
- No

6. Is there a boat pump-out station for boats to empty their waste?

- Yes
- No

7. Type of parking

- No parking
- Paved lot
- Gravel lot
- Park on grass
- Street parking

8. Approximately how close is the beach to the parking lot?
