

# TEXAS COASTAL BEND BLUE WATER TASK FORCE

## 2024 Water Quality Monitoring Annual Report

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

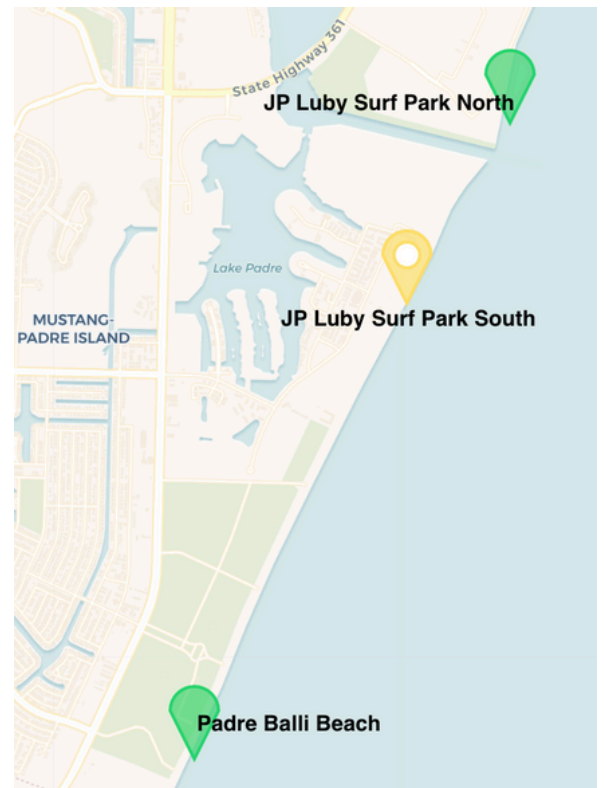
The [Blue Water Task Force](#) (BWTF) is the Surfrider Foundation's volunteer-run water quality monitoring program that provides critical information to help protect public health at local beaches. Water samples are tested for enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacteria that signals the possible presence of human or animal waste in the water. Elevated levels of enterococcus increase the likelihood that other harmful pathogens, which can make people sick, may also be present.



The goal of the Blue Water Task Force is to fill in monitoring gaps and quickly communicate with the public where it's safe to get in the water. Water quality results from the [Texas Coastal Bend BWTF](#) are compared to the standards used by the Texas General Land Office to issue swim advisories (Table 1), specifically when levels exceed 104 colony-forming units of enterococcus per 100 mL sample (104 CFU/100mL). Beachgoers should take precautions when swimming, surfing, or recreating after heavy rain events. Avoid any areas where warning signs for high bacteria are posted. Water quality data is available at [bwtf.surfrider.org](http://bwtf.surfrider.org).

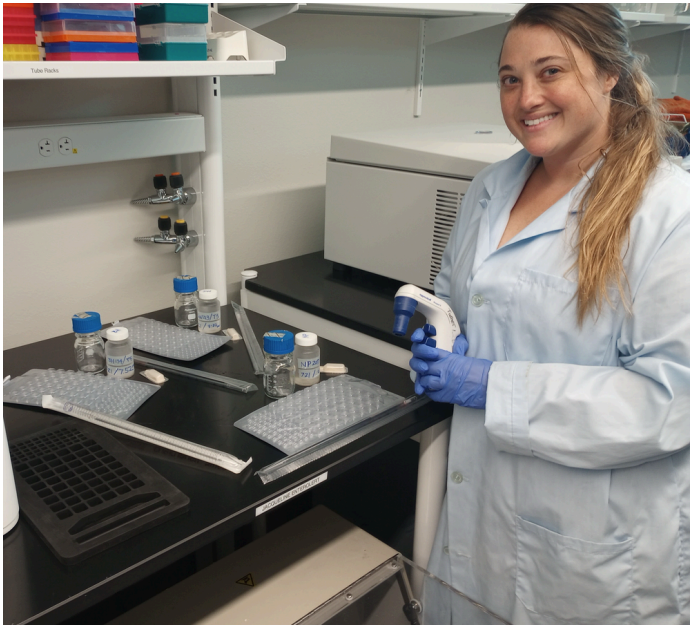
### WHERE AND HOW WE TEST

The chapter partners with Dr. Jeff Turner's lab at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. Every Thursday, Surfrider volunteers collect water samples from Padre Balli Beach and two sites near Packery Channel (JP Luby Surf Park North and South) and deliver them to Dr. Turner's lab, where his students test them for enterococcus bacteria. Results are ready by Friday, providing up-to-date water quality information for beachgoers planning their weekend activities. All of the chapter's data is posted on Surfrider's [Blue Water Task Force website](#) and shared through a water quality report via social media and email.





# RESULTS

In 2024 the Texas Coastal Bend BWTF collected 135 samples. Water quality was generally good throughout the sampling period. All samples collected at Padre Balli Beach met state health standards, and all but one sample at JP Ludy Park South and one at JP Ludy Park North also indicated safe water quality conditions. The few spikes in bacteria levels were recorded after heavy rains, which is expected due to stormwater runoff. Stormwater can wash oil and road dust, lawn chemicals, and fecal pollution from sewage overflows and animal waste out into the ocean. It's best to avoid entering the water after heavy rain events and to use caution until bacteria levels subside.



**Table 1.** Shows the health standards for recreational water set by Texas General Land Office

Enterococcus (MPN/100mL)	
Based on water quality standards set by Texas General Land Office	
	Low Bacteria (0 - 35)
	Medium Bacteria (36 - 104)
	High Bacteria (> 104)

**Table 2.** Percent of samples at each site that exceeded state health standards of 104 CFU/100 mL in 2024.

SITE NAME	TOTAL SAMPLES	% HIGH BACTERIA (>130 MPN/100ML)
JP Luby Surf Park North	44	2%
JP Luby Surf Park South	45	2%
Padre Balli Beach	46	0%