



Partners and Volunteers Unite for 2025 San Antonio Bay Shorelines Cleanup

PORT O'CONNOR, TX — The San Antonio Bay Partnership (SABP) wrapped up its 2025 Shorelines Cleanup week (October 13-18th, 2025) of coordinated effort across Port O'Connor, Seadrift, and surrounding areas uniting partner organizations and community volunteers in a shared effort to keep the San Antonio Bay system clean and thriving.

The week kicked off with partner organizations heading out from Seadrift to clean up San Antonio Bay shorelines. Crews from the International Crane Foundation, San Antonio River Authority, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Texas Water Trade, Audubon Texas, Keep Texas Beautiful, and Texan by Nature, joined forces and removed just under 4000 pieces of trash and marine debris. The day's "Most Unusual Find" award, went to Texan by Nature for finding and removing a seesaw from the San Antonio Bay shoreline.

The Houston Zoo brought a crew of employees for two days to pick up trash. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Zoo crew boarded boats in Port O'Connor and removed nearly 8,000 pieces of trash from Espiritu Santo Bay.

On Saturday community volunteers used their boats, kayaks, and plenty of muscle to haul away everything from plastic bottles, fishing nets, rope, and fishing line to shoes, toys, chairs, toothbrushes, and even toilet seats—a sobering reminder of how much debris finds its way into our bays. Saturday's effort resulted in the removal of 70 large contractor bags of trash including 922 plastic drink bottles, 912 plastic bags and 2200 pieces of plastic. The most unusual find on Saturday was a creepy baby doll.

A land-based crew of volunteers from Lavaca Bay Foundation and Formosa Plastics cleaned the Point Comfort side of the causeway. Their efforts resulted in the removal of 29 bags of trash including nearly 500 plastic drink bottles, 286 aluminum cans and 118 drink cups.

In total, 170 volunteers, 31 boats, and 4 kayaks removed 3.4 tons of trash, filling four roll-off bins. Over 24,051 individual items were documented this year, bringing the 6 year total to 99,435 pieces of marine debris removed from the San Antonio Bay system.

This year, H-E-B sponsored a pilot project for Bulky Marine Debris Removal, which removed oversized items that were too difficult for volunteers and required hiring contractors.

“These cleanups highlight the power of collaboration,” said Allan Berger, SABP Chair and Cleanup Coordinator. “When organizations and community members come together to tackle marine debris, we not only clean the bay but strengthen the partnerships that protect it. The real challenge is keeping trash contained and properly disposed of so it never reaches our waterways in the first place.” Berger emphasized that cleanup alone isn’t enough. “The real impact will come when we reduce the plastics entering our bays. I challenge everyone to skip single-use plastics on the water. Refillable bottles and cups make a real difference.”

Funding for the 2025 Shorelines Cleanup was provided by Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, with additional support from Bay Flats Lodge, Houston Zoo, Port O’Connor Chamber of Commerce, and donors like you.

To learn more or get involved in next year’s event, visit www.SABayPartnership.org or contact allanrberger@outlook.com or bejat@sabaypartnership.org



Allan Berger, Chair of the San Antonio Bay Partnership, briefs
Kirsten Sorensen of Keep Texas Beautiful



Partner Groups kickoff on Monday with the International Crane Foundation, San Antonio River Authority, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust, Texas Water Trade, Audubon Texas, Keep Texas Beautiful, and Texan by Nature,



Texan by Nature found a seesaw as the “Most Unusual Find”.



Houston Zoo headed out on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Formosa Taiwanese Interns volunteered to clean up under the Lavaca Bay Causeway.





Full Bins of Trash.



Clean Marsh.