

Beach Management for Safety

The Natural Resources Department is working with Code Enforcement and Public Safety to effect changes related to the digging of Holes on County Beach Parks

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Today's Objectives

- Provide a review of the County Park Ordinance addressing beach activities
- Establish a point of contact to coordinate preparation of a City Ordinance/Ordinance amendment to mirror County's code.



MC Parks Ordinance Language

Sec. 2-24-3. - Park property.

(1) *In general.* The following provisions apply to all county parks, including parking, office and related support areas:

.....

(c) *No holes on beach.*

1. No person shall possess on or about the sandy gulf beach a metal shovel of the type customarily sold in hardware stores (not a children's toy) unless part of a construction project permitted under the Florida Building Code or similar law.

2. No person shall dig a hole in the sandy Gulf beach deeper than one (1) foot below surrounding grade unless part of a construction project permitted under the Florida Building Code or similar law.



Recent Holes Dug on AMI Beaches



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Recent Holes Dug on AMI Beaches



NATIONAL

A girl dies after a sand hole on a Florida beach collapses

FEBRUARY 22, 2024 · 1:21 AM ET

By The Associated Press



Investigators on the beach in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fla., take photos of the scene of a sand collapse on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

Mike Stocker/AP

“Collapsing sand holes [led to 31 deaths](#), mostly kids and 87% male, from 1997 to 2007 in the U.S. During that period, [21 others](#) were in a reported sand hole collapse but survived, though many required CPR.”
(Stephen P. Leatherman FIU News)



Not just a human safety issue



Loggerhead turtle, Holden Beach



KEEP THE BEACH SAFE FOR SEA TURTLES

Here's how you can help

No Deep Holes

Deep holes pose risks to sea turtles and beach safety. Please avoid digging holes deeper than one foot deep. If you see a hole left behind, help us out by filling it in.



Leave the Shovel at Home

Small plastic shovels and sand play toys are fine, but metal shovels are not allowed on the beach.



Respect Wildlife

Keep an eye out for sea turtle nests and bird habitats. Avoid disturbing them and let nature thrive.



Lights Out

Keep lights off the beach after dark. Hatchlings use the light of the moon and stars to find their way and can become disoriented by artificial light.

Leave No Trace

When you leave, please remove any sandcastles and fill in any holes you dig. This ensures a safe and enjoyable beach for everyone.



Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch coordinates sea turtle conservation in Manatee County. Learn more at islandturtlewatch.com



If you see an injured sea turtle or hatchling in distress, please call Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch at 941-301-8434.

Manatee Co. Code of Ord. 2-24-3 (1)(c) prohibits deep holes and the use of metal shovels on the beach.



Signs at M.C. Beach Parks

- What procedures can be initiated do consider alignment with County Ordinance?
- Who can be a Point of Contact for additional information?

