



# City of Galveston Beach Access Plan - Updates

City Council Workshop  
February 27, 2020

# Summary/Timeline



**January 24, 2019** – Council adopted Ordinance 19-012, amending Beach Access Plan to incorporate new fee schedule for Beach User Fee (BUF) for parking at Seawall Beach Urban Park.

**February 12, 2019** – Ordinance 19-012 submitted to GLO for their review and consideration of certification.

**March 26, 2019** – GLO responds, requesting additional information from the City regarding the proposed BUF, and submits an inventory identifying 16 Beach Access Points they find are non-compliant with the City's existing Beach Access Plan.

**July 25, 2019** – Ad Hoc Committee Completes and presents their recommendations to Council.

**August 20, 2019** – City receives memo from GLO outlining additional Beach Access Points (a new total of 33) they find are non-compliant.

# Summary/Timeline



**September 13, 2019** – City responds to August memo with additional information about the proposed Beach User Fee, and an implementation plan to respond to the GLO’s non-compliant assessment of 33 beach access points.

**November 18, 2019** – letters sent out to POAs of areas where non-compliance issues exist.

**November 20, 2019** – Meeting between City and GLO staff in Austin to discuss the proposal for free/paid parking spaces along Seawall Blvd, the City’s response to additional information regarding the proposed BUF, and the City’s implementation plan response to the GLO’s non-compliant assessment.

**December 2019** – staff begins holding meetings with POAs RE: non-compliance.

**January 2020** – staff institutes bi-monthly reporting to GLO on non-compliance progress.

# Summary of Non-Compliance Issues



## Most common issues:

- Verify number of required parking spaces is provided
- Install Signage identifying
  - location of public beach parking areas
  - public walkovers/paths to the beach
- Install/Rebuild public walkovers/paths to the beach

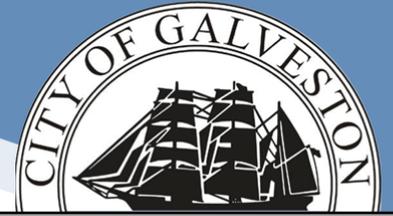
# Summary of Non-Compliance Issues



## Other Issues:

- Remove gate obstructing access to beach (Beachside Village - AP-8)
- Remove unpermitted dune walkovers that obstruct access to beach (Bermuda Beach, AP-12)
- Remove 'No Parking' Signs (Pirates' Beach - AP-15A, Palm Beach - AP-15B)
- Install Correct "Seasonal Access" signage on beach (Bay Harbor - AP-33, Miramar - AP-34)
- Restore Access to Pocket Parks #3 and #4 (AP-13, AP-32)
- Verify Access Point is Accessible to Public (Salt Cedar Ave - AP-36, San Luis Pass - AP-41)

# Summary of Non-Compliance Issues



Non-Compliance Issue	Original Finding	Current Situation
Verify # of Parking Spaces	<b>24</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b> found to have sufficient parking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b> are pending solutions for sufficient # of parking spaces.</p>
Install Signage for Parking	<b>20</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b> Complete</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b> pending GLO approval.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b> pending signage, per signage master plan (under development).</p>
Install Signage for Walkover/Path	<b>20</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b> pending GLO approval.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b> pending signage, per signage master plan (under development).</p>
Install or Rebuild Walkover/Path	<b>7</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b> pending approval of funding for County (Pocket Park #2).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b> pending solution from POA.</p>
Other Issues	<b>10</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b> complete/addressed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b> pending: Removal of unpermitted walkovers at Bermuda Beach (AP-12), Reconstruction of Pocket Parks #3 (AP-13) and #4 (AP-14)</p>

# Update on Non-Compliance Issues



## Next Steps:

- Developing GIS-based Signage Master Plan for all Access Points.
- Continue Meeting/Follow-up with Property Owners' Associations regarding parking shortfalls and re-building of public walkovers/paths to the beach.
- Develop and Implement plan to replace parking spaces lost to Seawall Improvements.
- Coordinate with other Partners to Develop plans and identify funding sources for Pocket Parks #3 and #4.

# Seawall Beach User Fee (BUF)

GLO has asked for additional information about the proposed Beach User Fee for Seawall Beach Urban Park, including:

- More substantial list of short-term and long-term goals to be accomplished
- More detailed analysis of cost of providing services and facilities.
- Budgetary analysis including revenue projections.

Most recent feedback from GLO received February 10, 2020.

Staff is drafting a response and supporting materials.





# Beach/Dune Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations

# Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations

Committee wrapped-up recommendations and presented to City Council on July 25, 2019.

Recommendation were made on:

- Beach Access Plan
- Dune Protection Standards
- Beach Maintenance Standards

[Link to recommendations](#) on City website.



# Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations



## Beach Access Plan

- Substantial majority of committee's recommendations are pertaining to existing non-compliance issues (i.e. signage needed, rebuilding Pocket Parks, walkovers, off-beach parking areas)
- Recommendations for 24 of the 41 Access Points require an amendment to the City's Plan before they can be implemented, and may require additional review by staff and an informal review by the GLO before a staff recommendation can be made.
- Other recommendations will require additional vetting by other agencies/stakeholders (e.g. build highway pedestrian crossings, acquire land, hire coastal engineering consultant to study drainage issues)

# Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations



## Dune Protection Standards

- Of the 12 recommendations, 11 would require an amendment to the City's Plan.
- Many of these recommendations represent substantial changes to policy that warrant additional study to better understand implications before they are adopted (e.g. possible regulatory takings).

# Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations



## Beach Maintenance Standards

- Topic was discussed at January 23, 2020 Council Workshop.
- Staff finds a substantial majority of these recommendations fall under existing state and local rules/ordinances and can be implemented without any Plan change.
- Some recommendations fall outside the purpose/intent of the Dune Protection Act and the Open Beaches Act. May require additional review by staff and discussion with Council (e.g. prohibiting the disturbance of wildlife, requiring wildlife monitors).

# Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations



## **Next Steps:**

After substantial efforts have been made to address Beach Access Non-Compliance Issues:

### **Beach Access Plan and Dune Protection Standards**

- Staff to evaluate and study possible implications of implementation of Committee Recommendations, develop staff recommendations and implementation timeline, and present to Council.

### **Beach Maintenance Standards**

- Receive Direction from Council on how to Proceed with Recommendations that are not related to Beach Access or Dune Protection.