



City of Galveston

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

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Memorandum

To: Hon. Mayor and City Council Members
From: Dustin Henry AICP, Coastal Resource Manager
cc: Brian Maxwell, City Manager
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Re: **Progress Report from the Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan Review Ad Hoc Committee**

Mayor and Council, the enclosed information is intended to supplement today's progress report from the Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan Review Ad Hoc Committee.

Included with this memo is a copy of the Guiding Principles for Beach Access. This document was created by the Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of establishing guidelines to drive consistent recommendations from the committee for improving public beach access.

Additionally, below is a list of resources that staff and the Ad Hoc Committee would like to share with you regarding beach access:

Beach & Dune Ad Hoc Committee website:

<http://www.galvestontx.gov/956/Beach-Dune-Ad-Hoc-Committee>

(Current) City of Galveston Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan, Chapter 29 of Municipal Code:

https://library.municode.com/tx/galveston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOCI_CH29PLEAACDUPRBEFRCO

Texas Beach Accessibility Guide:

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/coastal-management/forms/files/texas-beach-accessibility-guide.pdf>

Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapter 61. Use and Maintenance of Public Beaches

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/NR/htm/NR.61.htm>

Enclosed: Guiding Principles Document (1 page)





Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan Review Ad Hoc Committee

Guiding Principles, in accordance with the Open Beaches Act:

- Free and unrestricted beach access should be available to the citizens of Texas, meeting or exceeding the Open Beaches Act standards.
- Promote diversity of uses in a safe and sustainable manner.
- Ensure the integrity and sustainability of the natural system and resources.
- Respect and recognize the rights of adjacent private property.
- Meet the GLO's accessibility (ADA) guidelines.
- Encourage beach patrons to utilize beach access points with amenities.
- Provide consistent, clear, and adequate signage.

Action Items:

1. **Vehicular Access and Parking:**

- a. Explore opportunities, where feasible, to relocate on-beach vehicular access to off-beach parking locations.
- b. Locate parking in areas that minimize traffic and safety hazards when locating off-beach parking on neighborhood streets.
- c. Meet or exceed the GLO's accessibility (ADA) guidelines.
- d. Meet or exceed the minimum required parking standard for off-beach vehicular parking.
- e. Identify specific locations where off-beach paid parking access points are appropriate to fund operation & maintenance of amenities.

2. **Signage and Wayfinding:** Consistent location, design, and message on signage at each access point to notify the public of the following:

- a. Consistent location and identification of the access points.
- b. Parking capacity.
- c. Where parking is allowed (and, in some cases, where it is not).
- d. Pedestrian path/walkover locations.
- e. Accessible/ADA access locations.
- f. General beach rules (what is allowed, what is prohibited, reference ordinances, who to call for wildlife, public safety).

3. **Improvement of Access Points:**

- a. Identify locations where access point amenities are appropriate (bathrooms, showers, off-beach parking areas).
- b. Identify parking control measures (bollards, sand fences).
- c. Consolidate and enhance off-beach parking and access point locations.
- d. Preserve and enhance access for the diversity of beach access users: recreational, fishing, surfing, kayaking, and ADA.
- e. Minimize on-beach vehicular access on eroding beaches.

4. **Restoration & Preservation of Natural Resources:**

- a. Minimize impacts to natural resources where on-beach vehicular access/parking is provided.
- b. Utilize pervious surfaces where off-beach parking and amenities are provided.
- c. Minimize wind-blown sand from leaving the beach area with effective sand management.
- d. Encourage beach access roads and pathways to comply with GLO guidelines (width, angle and elevation).
- e. Promote dune walkovers and stabilized mats for pedestrian beach access pathways.
- f. Monitor beach access points and amenities to ensure compliance.

Revision History:

9/11/2018 - Drafted and Voted on by the Committee
10/17/2018 - added "Restoration &" to title of Action Item #4