



North Topsail Beach and its adjacent waters are treasures. In order to preserve these treasures, the Town practices and encourages good environmental stewardship. Please join us in protecting our natural habitats.

Be aware that the unique plant and animal life found here is here because this is their home. Help us preserve it so that those who follow may enjoy it as you have.

North Topsail Beach and all of Topsail Island is a haven for sea turtles. Our residents and guests take great pride in preserving the turtle’s nesting grounds and helping the turtle population survive and thrive. Every morning, May through August, each mile of Topsail Island’s 26 mile shoreline is surveyed to identify and mark sea turtle tracks and nests.

In North Carolina, the nesting season is mid-May through August. The loggerhead sea turtle comes ashore to nest 3 to 5 times during a nesting year. She deposits an average of 120 eggs per nest. The eggs will incubate in the sand for about 60 days. After all of the hatchlings have pipped out of their eggs, they emerge from the nest together and race to the sea. Many visitors and residents are lucky enough to see this fascinating event! This race to the sea and the rest of their journey is tough as there are many predators and it is a long swim to maturity. It is estimated that 1 in 1,000 survives the first year and as few as 1 in 5,000 to 10,000 survive to adulthood. Many adult females return to their natal beaches to lay their eggs.

Our neighbor to the south, Surf City, is home to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (off of Charles Medlin Drive on the mainland), also known as the “sea turtle hospital.” The center coordinates efforts to survey the beach and also rescues and rehabilitates sick and injured sea turtles. The center is open for tours and publicly releases the rehabilitated turtles back into the ocean on the shoreline of Topsail Island throughout the year. Check their website at www.seaturtlehospital.org for more information.

The ocean is one of nature’s most fascinating, yet volatile environments and can occasionally pose a threat to humans. The most common threat in the coastal Carolinas is rip currents. They can occur at any time and any place. Please familiarize yourself with how to “break the grip of a rip” in case you find yourself caught in one.

RIP CURRENTS

Break the Grip of the Rip!®

Rip currents are powerful currents of water moving away from shore. They can sweep even the strongest swimmer out to sea.

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

Important Things to Remember While on Vacation at North Topsail Beach

- Make sure you and your children know the address of your rental house—not the house name. Emergency personnel will look for an address.
- Please do not leave your pet in an automobile, even for a few minutes. Also, do not allow your pet to drink sea water. The result will be disagreeable. Make sure your pet displays the appropriate tags with your name and number on them. Follow the Town ordinances in regards to leashing your pet and cleaning up after them.
- Check smoke detectors in your rental home.
- Put out solid waste and recycling carts the night before pick up (a schedule can be found on the Town’s website at ntbnc.org and copies are available at Town Hall and most rental agencies).
- Please turn off all oceanfront lights at night, as the lights can be a distraction for sea turtles.
- Do not put grease down the drain. Let it cool, then put it back in the original container and put it in the trash.

If you are visiting, please leave this brochure for the next visitor.



NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH TOWN HALL
2008 Loggerhead Court
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460
(910) 328-1349/ 1(800) 687-7092

OFFICE HOURS
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (M-F)

Visit Us Online
www.ntbnc.org

Like us and follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

PLEASE DIAL 911 IN AN EMERGENCY

POLICE DEPARTMENT
(non-emergency)
(910) 328-0042

FIRE DEPARTMENT
(non-emergency)
North Station - (910) 328-2200
South Station - (910) 328-1400



**WELCOME
TO
NORTH
TOPSAIL
BEACH**

**A GUIDE TO THE TOWN OF
NORTH TOPSAIL BEACH
FOR
VISITORS & RESIDENTS**

**INCLUDING
BEACHFRONT ORDINANCES,
REGULATIONS,
&
SAFETY INFORMATION**

www.ntbnc.org

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES/ITEMS

Damaging Sand Dunes

It shall be unlawful for any person to walk over or cross over any frontal dune except at an authorized, marked crossover or designated beach access.

Leaving Large Holes on the Beach Unattended

To help prevent personal injury and damage to property, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation within the corporate limits of the Town of North Topsail Beach to dig into the sand on any part of the beach strand greater than twelve (12) inches deep without having a responsible person attending the area to prevent any person or persons from walking into any existing hole and risking personal injury, and to allow public safety vehicles the ability to respond to emergencies without the risk of damage to equipment or personal property. Prior to leaving the area and thirty (30) minutes prior to sunset, any hole greater than twelve (12) inches deep shall be filled to level with the surrounding area, leaving the area in the same general condition in which it was found.

Fireworks

N.C. has a zero-tolerance law prohibiting everything except display fireworks and consumer fireworks. These include: sparklers, fountains and novelty fireworks that do not explode (such as snaps and pops and glow worms). The State has banned the sale and use of certain devices that are especially risky. Fireworks not permitted North Carolina are: firecrackers, ground spinners, Roman candles, bottle rockets, mortars and any pyrotechnic that is intended to spin, leave the ground or fly through the air or has a report.

Camping

Camping overnight on the beach or otherwise using the beach as a domicile is hereby prohibited.

Glass Bottles & Litter

Glass bottles or glass containers of any type are prohibited on the beach. No person shall intentionally or recklessly throw, scatter, or place litter on the beach.

Fires on the Beach

No open fires are allowed. All fires must be contained in a small gas grill. Charcoal grills are not allowed on the beach strand.

Driving on the Beach (most areas)

Driving is allowed on the shoreline adjacent to New River Inlet which is also known as Beach Access #3. Vehicles must be 4-wheel drive, no permit is needed. **NO JOY RIDING OR MOTORBIKES/ATVs ARE PERMITTED IN THIS AREA.** Handicapped persons and commercial fisherman *may* be issued a beach driving permit through the Police Department which limits driving to a certain location and time of the year if they meet certain requirements per Town ordinance. Oceanfront beach driving is otherwise prohibited to protect the beach strand.

Golf Carts on Public Streets

Golf carts are not authorized to be operated on public streets and highways within the town. They are also not allowed to be operated on the bike/pedestrian path. Golf carts may only be lawfully operated on private property.

Riding without a Bike Helmet (under the age of 16)

In North Carolina, it is a law that all bike riders under the age of 16 ride with a helmet.

DOGS AT THE BEACH

All dogs within the territorial boundaries of the town shall remain under their owner’s or custodian’s immediate control. “Immediate Control” by the owner or custodian means: **1)** Restrained upon the property of the owner or custodian of the dog either by being tied, chained, within the confines of a fence designed to restrain the dog, or an electronic operated invisible fence sufficient to restrain the dog upon the property of the owner or custodian; or **2)** While being walked or exercised off the premises or property of the owner or custodian, the dog must be restrained by a leash connected to a collar or harness sufficient to restrain the dog from breaking loose. The leash must not be longer than twenty-five (25) feet in length (retractable). Pet waste must be picked up by owner.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Weddings

A permit is not required to have a wedding on the public beach at NTB. We ask that if you do have a wedding, that you leave the beach in the condition that you found it. Contact Town Hall if you would like to reserve the Town’s gazebo or picnic shelter for your event. Marriage licenses are issued through the Onslow County Register of Deeds.

Alcohol

Some types of alcohol such as malt beverages (like beer) and unfortified wines (wine coolers) may be consumed on the public beach by those of legal age (no glass bottles). Hard or spirituous liquors and fortified wines are prohibited for display and consumption in public, without at State permit. The consumption of any type of alcohol is prohibited at the Town Park and County Beach Accesses.

Parking

Please park in designated areas and obey roadside signs prohibiting parking in certain areas. The right-of-way areas of State maintained highways should not be utilized for recreational parking. If you must park in these areas, ensure that your vehicle is sufficiently located away from the traveled portion of the highway to allow other vehicles to safely traverse.

When parking on the right-of-way of public town streets please park in a manner that allows for the unrestricted flow of two-way traffic. Do not leave your vehicle parked within 15 feet of an intersection. Do not park opposing traffic. Do not park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Do not park in a private driveway or on private property without express permission of the owner. Do not park in handicap parking spaces without authorization. Do not park within the designated Emergency Vehicle Access points. Do not park on the grass within the confines of the Town Park, or on the Town bike/pedestrian path.

If you are planning on renting, please contact your rental company to ascertain how many vehicles your rental is capable of accommodating and adjust your travel plans accordingly.



Littering

No person shall intentionally or recklessly throw, scatter, or place litter on the beach.

Leaving Unattended Beach Equipment out Overnight

All beach equipment must be removed from the beach by its owner or permitted user on a daily basis. All personal items and beach equipment unattended and remaining on the beach strand between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. will be classified as abandoned property and will be removed and disposed of by the town. This section is in effect year round.

All beach equipment shall be set at least twenty (20) feet from any sea turtle nest. No beach equipment shall be placed seaward of a sea turtle nest for a distance of ten (10) feet north and south of a direct line between the sea turtle nest and the Atlantic Ocean.

No beach equipment may be placed within a twenty-five (25) foot perimeter of an emergency access or any beach strand access point.



All of the items in the photo above were picked up on a 30 minute stroll of North Topsail Beach (including the skim board).

Not only is this litter unsightly, it is harmful to the environment and marine life, including sea turtles which ingest these items because they look like food.