

Dunes

Please stay off all dunes. Use existing beach access points and crosswalks to enter the beach strand. There is a \$500 fine for walking on dunes.

Why Stay Off the Dunes?

Walking on the dunes causes deterioration of beach grass and other vegetation that helps to trap and hold the sand in place. Although beach grass is a hardy plant, and is tolerant to high salinity conditions, direct sun, heat, lack of fertile soil and a fluctuating water supply, it can not survive being trampled by vehicle or man. As part of its resistance to salinity and drying conditions the plant has developed a thick brittle stalk which snaps easily when trampled or driven upon. The passage of only one vehicle or a few people over the dune at the same point will kill a strip of grass. Without vegetation, the dune is exposed to wind erosion resulting in blowouts or breaches in the dunes. These breaches or low spots not only create a weak spot in the dune but, become channels for floodwaters to move inland during storm events. As a result, inland areas become more vulnerable during coastal storms. Protecting dunes helps prevent loss of life and property during storms and protects the sand supply that slows shoreline erosion.

