

Restroom
Timer adjustment

LOGO

Plant measurements
16 in extra sand in 2 yr

FORT MYERS BEACH
Adopt the Beach

The Fort Myers Beach **Adopt the Beach** program, an all-volunteer effort, is dedicated to preserving and protecting the beaches of Estero Island. Strong support from the private sector helps carry our **"Respect Our Beach"** message to all visitors and residents of Estero Island.

Keeping our beaches clean and safe is an economic as well as environmental priority. Coastal tourism and commercial fishing, together multi-billion dollar industries, demand clean beaches and a healthy gulf to thrive.

The Fort Myers Beach **"Adopt the Beach"** program strives to:

- raise public awareness about the danger of live shelling and dune management
- educate citizens about the source of debris
- generate public support for state, national and international action to clean up coastal waters.
- Encourage pride, responsibility and ownership of our beach

↑ importance of

Everybody loves the beach, but not everyone respects the beach.

Every year, beachgoers leave tons of trash on Fort Myers Beach and even more washes up from the Gulf of Mexico, or from streams and rivers.

Help us keep our beach and coast clean by joining a beach cleanup, becoming a Beach Guardian or by making a donation to help us further our work.

The Adopt the Beach program is a great way to do your part in keeping Fort Myers Beach clean. A clean beach is not only pleasant for us, but safer for beach wildlife, too! For more information or to see if your favorite area of beach is available for adoption, contact Marine Resources Task Force

Guidelines

All participants are required to attend a brief instructional and safety briefing

Do's and Don'ts Reminders for Volunteers

- **Common sense should be used at all times when you are representing the town**
- **Volunteer time is for daylight hours only**
- **Don't go out in inclement weather!**
- **Wear your volunteer t-shirt**
- **Wear sun block, a hat and carry poop/cigarette bags**
- **Always carry your cell phone**

- **Do be prepared to speak kindly to beach visitors about "respecting the beach" Ambassadors are beach stewards not law enforcement personnel**

- **Do not pick up litter near construction, maintenance or renourishment sites or near special events**

- **Avoid suspected toxic/hazardous substances; poison ivy, poison oak, noxious weeds; areas where herbicides have been recently applied; places where snakes, fire ants or other insects may be located.**

Do not pick up unknown or hazardous materials and note their location on your clean-up report.

REMINDERS for beach goers:

Keep naturally occurring organic material on the beach (seaweed, plants, and seeds etc). Carefully clean around seaweed and dune vegetation and avoid stepping on or trampling plants. Vegetation provides food for beach wildlife and helps capture wind-blown sand. Cleaning up small pieces of litter is just as important as larger items.

1. Don't feed or harass the animals, the birds or their nests. Feeding birds on the beach is taboo, regardless of the perfect photo op for your child and how much fun it may seem. Birds need to forage for food and domestic feeding causes them to lose their ability to fend for themselves in the wild. Additionally, most the birds on Fort Myers Beach are migratory. This area is a short resting stop for them and disturbing them may cause them to be unable to complete their migration.
2. Do keep your dogs on a leash and pick up after them. There are waste bags located in bins at every beach access. Feel free to load up and tie a bunch to your leash handle so you don't have to worry about running out. And, you can share with someone who doesn't have a bag.
3. Do throw away trash. Leaving trash on the beach increases the likelihood of attracting unwanted animals. The incorrect disposal of fishing line, plastic beverage containers, plastic bags and other things can seriously injure or destroy land and sea creatures. Cigarette butts left in the sand can harm scavenger animals not to mention that it's gross and disgusting to not pick up after yourself.
4. Do not remove live shells. Florida state law protects live shells. There is a \$500 fine for taking live shells from the water. Return any shell very gently to the sea.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR LITTER IS?

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number of Years to Break Down in the Environment</u>
1. Six-pack holders	400 years
2. Cigarette Butts	1-5 years
3. Orange and Banana Peels	2-5 weeks
4. Balloons	6 months
5. Plastic Bags	10-20 years
6. Aluminum Cans	50 years
7. Nylon (fishing line)	600 years
8. Leather	50-70 years
9. Wool Socks	1-5 years
10. Glass Bottles	1,000 years

Emergency wildlife contacts

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

All strandings, sea turtle (sick or injured sea turtles or marine mammals), wildlife concerns and violations, nest issues (depredation, vandalism, etc.): 888-404-3922

Beach safety

*Beach Patrol 239 463-5888

Turtle Time-Sea turtles (problems with sea turtles seen on the beach) Eve 239 851-1338

Sea turtle lighting violations: Keith Laakkonen 239 765-0202 ex 136

Fish kills (Florida Marine Research Institute) 800 636-0511

Florida Environmental Crimes Hotline (illegal dumping)

877-2-SAVE-FL (877-272-8335)

Marine mammal strandings

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: 888-404-3922

Oil and Hazardous Substances Spills State Warning Point

850-413-9911, 800-320-0519

Lee County Sheriff's Office dispatch

239 477-1000

FMB Maintained Beach Accesses Access Number Street

11 Flamingo

12 Gulf

13 Lanark

14 Aberdeen Lahaina Realty, Paula Kiker 239 463-0000

15 Sterling

16 Dakota	Keri Weeg, Island Sand Paper 239 994-8897
17 Strandview	
18 Gulfview	
19 Bayview	
20 Coconut	
21 Hercules	
22 Connecticut	Good Time Charter, Cristina Denegre 218-8014
23 Seaview	Chuck Schmidt 248 361-4938
24 Pompano	Chuck Schmidt 248 361-4938
25 Gulf Beach	
26 Chapel	
27 Mango	Mango Street Inn, Tree Andre 239 233-8542
28 Delmar	
30 Palm	Salty Dog Gifts & Gallery, Peter Pine 239 463-9900
31 Miramar	
32 Ave. E	Sea Gypsy, Walt & Melanie 586 823-9075
33 Alva	Chamber of Commerce, Bud Nocero 239 547-7500
34 Ave. C	
35 Ave. A	

36 Canal