

S.O.S. SAVE OUR SHORES

NEW BEACH ORDINANCE “LEAVE NO TRACE”

TALKING POINTS

•WHAT IS THE NEW BEACH ORDINANCE?

The new beach ordinance stipulates that items such as canopies, umbrellas, chairs and other personal property must not be left on the beach after sunset and before sunrise. City of Galveston Ordinance No. 19-017 Secs. 8-27

•WHEN DOES THE ORDINANCE GO IN TO EFFECT?

The Galveston City Council passed the ordinance on February 28 with enforcement being phased in over several months.

•WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR LEAVING ITEMS ON THE BEACHES?

Until May 24, Park Board beach cleaning staff will tag personal items and allow owners two nights to remove their property. After that, staff will remove and dispose of items.

From May 25 to June 29, Park Board staff will allow owners one evening to remove items.

Full implementation begins June 30 when Park Board staff members will discard items when they first notice them between sunset and sunrise.

•WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE?

The ordinance is intended to keep Galveston’s beaches and waterways clean. Personal items left on the beach can pose a hazard to marine life and have the potential to pollute the water. Additionally, these items make cleaning the beach difficult for the staff charged with doing so.

•WHAT’S NEXT?

The Park Board is working with the Galveston Bay Foundation to encourage visitors and residents to Reduce, Remove and Recycle. In addition to the new beach ordinance, other measures that will be adopted include placing more recycle bins along the beaches and encouraging beach vendors to reduce single-use plastic items. We’re also developing educational materials to be distributed to area businesses to spread the word about these conservation efforts.

•WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BEACHES?

For more information on Galveston beaches, including updates on water conditions, safety tips, special events and more, visit www.galvestonbeachinfo.com.

SAMPLE ORDINANCE TAG



ENFORCEMENT TIMELINE:

MARCH 1 - MAY 24
TWO NIGHTS TO REMOVE PROPERTY BEFORE DISPOSAL
MAY 25 - JUNE 29
ONE NIGHT TO REMOVE PROPERTY BEFORE DISPOSAL
BEGINNING JUNE 30
ALL PROPERTY LEFT AFTER SUNSET WILL BE REMOVED

