



NEWS

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County to employ “Trash Free Beach” policy

GLYNN COUNTY, Ga. – In an effort to modernize litter control, Glynn County, in coordination with Keep Golden Isles Beautiful and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, has developed a *Trash Free Beach* initiative to reduce waste on the beach, educate the public, and save taxpayer dollars in the process. This program removes trash receptacles off the beaches to convenient locations in the parking areas.

According to Public Works Director, Dave Austin, “Our goal is to develop a carry in, carry out mentality among our beach-goers that promotes a visually pleasing beach environment that reduces litter, odors, and pests on the beaches and saves public tax dollars.”

While there will not be trash receptacles on the beach, staff will be pick-sticking litter daily to ensure that the aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly atmosphere is maintained. Citizen patrols will also continue to be utilized to pick up trash on the beach.

By initiating a “Trash Free Beach” program like this, it is our goal that visitors take the trash generated while visiting the St. Simons beaches, with them, employing a “carry-in, carry-out” principle. Implementation of these principles by other beach communities has shown that approximately 80 – 95 percent of beach-goers will employ this method. This has been shown to be a successful program at the some of the most utilized public places in the nation such as the

National Parks System. This program helps the beach visitor and County resident in many ways. A *Trash Free Beach* program has many benefits, including:

- Providing a more aesthetically pleasing beach experience without the visual pollution of trash and trash cans on the beach.
- Reducing the amount of litter on the beach.
- Encouraging people to adopt a carry in, carry out principle.
- Fostering a partnership between visitors and the beach by encouraging people to take an active role in maintaining a trash free beach.
- Encouraging people to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Reducing trash and odors in boardwalk areas as you enter the beach.
- Increasing visitor safety by reducing the number of stinging insects, rodents, and other wildlife in the boardwalk area.
- Establishing a commitment to sustainability and responsible beach use that will carry on to future generations.
- Allowing staff time and funds spent on trash collection to be applied to other projects and improvements within the parks and beaches (these projects include facility and grounds maintenance and resource preservation).

For more information please view our Trash Free Beach program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document.

[FAQs attached]

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