

How can you help?

Help educate others about the importance of our dune systems.

Call the Shoreline Department with any questions you have regarding activities within the dunes.

South Padre Island is a barrier island separating the Gulf of Mexico from the Laguna Madre. The beach and dune system on the Island are integral parts of a very dynamic environment that is controlled by the wind, waves, and tides. This system is our first line of defense against any storms, flooding, and erosion. Coastal communities, such as ours, are protected by this system of vegetated dunes that act as our protective barrier through their unique root system.

The wind continuously blows the sand around on the beach by picking up the sand grains and dispersing them. When those grains hit something, such as a plant, they stop blowing and hit the ground. The vegetation within the dunes collect these sand grains around them. As the plants get buried, they continue to grow up and out. This is how the dunes grow vertically.

As the plants and dunes grow upward, the root system continues to grow down and horizontally. The roots of one plant interconnect with the roots of another plant, creating this web that stabilizes the dunes.

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Shoreline's
webpage.



Permits required

- A beach access walkover- a walkover is the only thing that is permitted to be constructed east of the historic building line.
- The placing of a Mobi-Mat.
- Any type of construction east of the Dune Protection Line.
- Any restoration of dunes including the placement of temporary sand fences, organic brushy materials, and mitigation.

Other Beach Related Permits

- Walkway and Retaining Wall Maintenance
- Beach Weddings
- Beach Use Permits (vehicles)

City of South Padre Island
Shoreline Department

321 Padre Blvd. SPI, TX 78597
(956) 761-3837

City of South Padre

Do You Need a Beach and Dune Permit?



Shoreline Department



The City of South Padre Island is committed to preserving and restoring the local beaches to maintain our quality of life and sustain the local tourism-based economy. Through the years it has received many accolades as being one of the most desirable coastal communities in the nation.

The City works extremely hard to protect and maintain our beach to ensure that our citizens and visitors can continue to have memorable and enjoyable experiences.

To continue this experience for years to come, the City wants to make certain we have the resilient coast we need to survive environmental impacts such as erosion, sea level rise, and major storms. With a stable, defined, and continuous dune system, we can achieve this.

How does the dunes protect SPI?

Texas Natural Resources Code § 63.001: ‘..it is necessary to protect these dunes as provided in this chapter because stabilized, vegetated dunes offer the best natural defense against storms and are areas of significant biological diversity.’

What is a dune?

A dune is an emergent mound, hill, or ridge of sand, either bare or vegetated, that is located on land and borders the water. They naturally form by the windward transport of sediment but can also be created via man-made vegetated mounds (TAC Title 31, Part 1, Chapter 15, Subchapter A, Rule 15.2).

City ordinances (Chapter 22)

A beach and dune protection permit is required for any activity East of the Dune Protection Line. This requires the review and approval of the Shoreline Task Force, General Land Office, and City Council.

The Dune Protection Line is east right-of-way of Gulf Boulevard throughout the City and east right-of-way of Park Road 100 within the Shores Subdivision.

Only walkovers that are meant to get patrons from their property to the public beach are allowed to be built east of the Historic Building Line. This line was established by the Texas Attorney General and is on file with the City.

Any activity would include building, bulk heading, filling, clearing, excavation, or substantial improvement to land or size of any structure.

The City strives to avoid any damage and destruction to the dunes. In the City’s Erosion Response Plan, one goal that is laid out is to try and minimize and reduce the amount of cut-throughs within the dunes.

State laws

All vegetation is protected under the Texas Natural Resources Code § 63.091 and 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 15

Natural Resources Code § 63.011: Must establish a dune protection line (DPL) for the purpose of preserving sand dunes; § 63.012: DPL shall not be located further landward than a line drawn parallel to and 1000 ft. landward of the line of mean high tide

Natural Resources Code §63.091: Unless a permit is properly issued authorizing the conduct, no person may damage, destroy, or remove a sand dune or portion of the sand dune seaward of the dune protection line or within a critical dune area or kill, destroy, or remove in any manner any vegetation growing on a sand dune seaward of the dune protection line or within a critical dune area.



Walkovers allow dune growth.