

Chapter E. Protection of Natural Features and Resources (Environmental Management)

Article V: Beach and Resource Protection

Section 1: Jekyll Island State Park, rules and regulations.

- A. All persons entering into Jekyll Island State Park (the “Park”) shall comply with the following rules and regulations, and failure to do so shall constitute a violation of this article. Unless otherwise stated, Park rules and regulations in this Section also apply to the use of state-owned public beaches associated with the Park in addition to the rules and regulations specific to beaches and dunes as stated in Section 2.
1. *Closed Areas.* It is prohibited for any person to enter into any area of the Park that has been marked by an Agency or Authority of the State of Georgia as an area designated for the conservation or protection of natural resources or wildlife, including nesting sea turtles and shorebirds. Nothing in this section shall supersede the existing regulations and jurisdiction of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
 2. *Fireworks.* It is prohibited for any person to use or ignite any consumer fireworks or fireworks, as defined under state law, in the Park.
 3. *Camping.* No person shall camp or sleep on the streets, beaches, dunes, parks, parking lots or other public areas, whether in automobiles, trucks, campers, recreational vehicles or other vehicle, or in equipment designed and intended for the purpose of camping, between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Such activity may be permitted in public areas specifically set aside and designated for camping by the Authority.
 4. *Use of Public Boat Ramps and Boat Docks.* It is prohibited for any person to tie up to or otherwise moor a vessel alongside any public floating dock or platform (i.e., a service dock), adjacent to or servicing a boat ramp, for longer than one hour.
 5. *Firearms and projectiles.* It is prohibited for any person to discharge any firearm, air gun, BB gun or any other weapon projecting any lead, missile or projectile; provided, however, that this restriction shall not be construed to prohibit any officer of the law from discharging a firearm in the performance of his duty, nor any citizen from discharging a firearm when lawfully defending persons or property.

6. *Vandalism*. It is prohibited for any person to intentionally mark, deface, damage, displace, remove or tamper with any site, building, facility, bridge, table, bench, fireplace, railing, paving or paving material, water line or other utility, permanent or temporary sign, placard or notice, monument, stake, post, boundary marker, or other site structure, equipment, or property.
7. *Nudity*. Public nudity is prohibited. Nudity shall mean exposure of genitals or anus or exposure of the areola or nipple of her breast, if female, or any lewd appearance in a state of partial or complete nudity. Nudity does not include breast-feeding by a mother.
8. *Historic Resources*. It is prohibited for any person to intentionally damage, disturb or deface, including by walking or climbing on, any historic or archaeological resource or part thereof.
9. *Collecting*. It is prohibited for any person to possess, catch, destroy, injure, deface, remove, relocate, dig, disturb, buy, sell, give to another, or accept as a gift in or from any site within the Park:
 - a. Plants or the parts or products thereof, except for non-commercially collected foodstuffs otherwise in compliance with law.
 - b. Historical or archaeological artifacts, structures, and traces, or parts thereof.
 - c. Paleontological resources, specimens, or features except for casual collecting.
 - i. Casual collecting means a reasonable amount of common paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use by surface collection.
10. Fishing in lakes and ponds. It shall be unlawful to fish at any time on any lake or pond that is on or directly adjacent to a golf course fairway. It also shall be unlawful to fish on any other lake or pond which is not marked by a sign which states that such fishing is permitted. The executive director, within his discretion, may authorize, in writing, fishing on any lake or pond on which fishing is otherwise not permitted.
11. *Exotic species introduction*. It is prohibited for any person to introduce into any natural area or public space any non-native plant or animal species by intentional abandonment, negligence, or for any other reason.
12. *Recreational "drone" flying*. It is prohibited for any person to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, also known as UAVs and commonly referred to as "drones",

unless operating in a professional capacity with permission from the Authority and in accordance with FAA licensing requirements.

13. *Off Lease disturbance.* It is prohibited for any person to cut or otherwise trim trees or shrubs, living or dead, maintain landscaping, disturb soil, or otherwise cause disturbance to Authority or state property.
14. *Non-smoking areas.* No person shall smoke in areas posted by the Authority as non-smoking areas.
15. *Pest control on leased property.* When necessary to maintain safe and sanitary and conditions for lessees, their employees, and their guests, removal of pest species not identified in the Jekyll Island Conservation Plan as Wildlife Priority Species may be conducted by legal, safe and humane methods provided that such methods are not known to cause risk of injury or death to wildlife other than that pest species being targeted for removal.
 - a. Anticoagulant rodenticides are known to be injurious or fatal to Wildlife Priority Species identified in the Jekyll Island Conservation Plan and are specifically prohibited from use within the Park.
16. *Metal/mineral detecting.* Use of a mineral or metal detector, magnetometer, side scan sonar, sub-bottom profiler, magnet, or any other device for the detection of metals, minerals, artifacts, or lost articles or for treasure hunting is prohibited. This paragraph does not apply to:
 - a. A device broken down and stored or packed to prevent its use while in site areas.
 - b. Electronic equipment used only for the navigation and safe operation of boats or the detection of fish.
 - c. Equipment used for authorized scientific or administrative activities. Pest control on leased property. When necessary to maintain safe and sanitary and conditions for lessees, their employees, and their guests, removal of pest or nuisance species not identified in the Jekyll Island Conservation Plan as Wildlife Priority Species may be conducted by legal, safe and humane methods provided that such methods are not known to cause risk of injury or death to non-target wildlife.

Section 2: State beaches, rules and regulations.

- A. All persons entering upon the public beaches, dunes, or structures erected thereon, within Jekyll Island shall comply with the following rules and regulations, and failure to do so shall constitute a violation of this article:
 1. *Placement of litter.* It is prohibited to throw, place, deposit, sweep or scatter, or cause to be thrown, placed, deposited, swept, or scattered, any paper, food,

cigarette butts, bottles, cans, trash, fruit peelings or other refuse upon the beaches or structures erected thereon. Beach goers must have all of their trash securely contained at all times.

2. *Glass or fragile containers.* It is prohibited for any person to take or carry upon the beaches or structures erected thereon any glass or fragile containers.
3. *Internal combustion engines.* It is prohibited for any person to possess or operate any generator, tool, or device that utilizes an internal combustion engine upon the beaches, dunes, or structures erected thereon except for authorized activities conducted by or for a state or local government entity
4. *Disturbing dune vegetation.* It is prohibited for any person to pick, gather, remove, or otherwise disturb the vegetation present on sand dunes, including sea oats, or walk in the dunes.
5. *Pets.*
 - a. It is prohibited for pets to be off leash or running free on the beaches and dunes of Jekyll Island at any time. To protect nesting sea turtles and shorebirds, it is further prohibited for a pet, whether leashed or unleashed or otherwise, to be on the beaches or in the dunes of Jekyll Island from the boardwalk at the south dunes picnic area (latitude 31.030564, longitude -81.415367) south and around the southern tip of the island north to a point (latitude 31.015594, longitude -81.433926) or equivalent to 2,000 feet south of the St. Andrews picnic area. This shall not apply to services animals trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.
 - b. It shall also be a violation of this chapter for the owner of any dog or other animal to fail to immediately remove the fecal matter of such dog or animal from any portion of the beaches or dunes.
6. *Motor vehicles.* It is prohibited to take any motor vehicle, as defined by state law, on to the beaches or structures erected thereon. This includes automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, golf carts, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and similar motor driven vehicles and craft. This does not include properly marked emergency vehicles while in the course of an emergency operation, other vehicles in the employ of the Authority or similar governmental entity or authorized by the Authority and engaged in a legitimate operation.
7. *Wind-powered crafts.* To protect nesting sea turtles and shorebirds, it is prohibited for any person to use or operate a kite buggy, beach-capable wind surfer, or any other wind-powered transport on the beaches of Jekyll Island from the boardwalk at the south dunes picnic area (latitude 31.030564, longitude -81.415367) south and around the southern tip of the island north to

a point (latitude 31.015594, longitude -81.433926) or equivalent to 2,000 feet south of the St. Andrews picnic area. Such craft are prohibited from use in the dunes at all times in all locations along the beaches.

8. *Fires*. Building or maintaining any type of open fire on the beach, including any type of charcoal or gas fire, is prohibited, whether or not confined to a grill or similar container.
9. *Beer kegs*. Such containers and similar devices for dispensing of large quantities of alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the beach.
10. *Jumping or diving from pier or public structure*. Jumping or diving from any pier or public structure is prohibited, except those that might be specifically built for that purpose and as may be specifically authorized in connection with a properly authorized special event.
11. *Walking or climbing on rocks*. Walking or climbing upon rock revetments, sea walls, or other constructed shoreline protection features on or adjacent to the beach is prohibited, except those that are designed and built expressly for the purpose of accommodating such use.
12. *Lanterns and flashlights*. To protect nesting turtles and shorebirds, and in accordance with Jekyll Island Authority Ordinance, Chapter E, Article IV Beach Lighting, the use of lanterns or flashlights on the nesting beaches is limited to lanterns and flashlights that produce light not less than 560 nanometers wavelength from May 1st to October 31st of each year.
13. *Unattended and Abandoned Property*. No personal property of any kind shall be abandoned or left unattended on the beaches or dunes. Unattended personal property shall be presumed to be abandoned after a period of 12 hours, or at any time after dark.

Section 3: Wildlife protected.

- A. It shall be unlawful to intentionally feed, trap, shoot, capture, take, or attempt to feed, trap, shoot, capture, take, harass, or molest in any manner any wildlife within public areas inside the boundaries of the Park under the ownership, custody or control of the Authority that would result in injury or destruction of said wildlife, or to intentionally damage the habitat or the nest of any such wildlife species; provided, this Section (3)(A) will not operate to prohibit the collection of fiddler crabs, mud minnows and similar bait species for recreational fishing purposes provided such collection is carried out in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law.

- B. It shall be unlawful to relocate or transport any living keyhole urchins (commonly known as “sand dollars”), butterflies, or fireflies, within the boundaries of the Park or to remove such animals from the Park.
- C. For purposes of this Article, the term “wildlife” shall have the same meaning as provided in O.C.G.A. Section 27-1-2.

Section 4: Exceptions to rules.

- A. Notwithstanding the prohibitions of Sections 3(A) and 3(B) of this Article, the Authority may authorize a holder of a valid license, permit, or stamp issued by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated or a permit issued pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act to conduct scientific or conservation-related activities authorized under such license, permit or stamp where the Authority determines such activities are in accordance with the objectives of the Authority’s Conservation Plan.
- B. The restrictions in this Article do not apply to contractors, concessionaires, permittees, or employees of the Authority or of other government entities authorized to conduct scientific or conservation-related activities in accordance with the objectives of the Authority’s Conservation Plan or other temporary activities or impacts pursuant to the Authority’s permission; provided the impacted areas are restored to at least the pre-impact conditions following the completion of such permitted activities or impacts . Nor shall these restrictions be construed to prevent emergency personnel or other duly authorized officials from responding promptly and effectively to threats to life, limb, or public health.
- C. Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed as prohibiting recreational or commercial fishing, shrimping, crabbing, shellfish harvesting, or the limited capturing of “passage” peregrine falcons as regulated and permitted by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Section 6: Enforcement of rules and regulations.

- A. Enforcement of these rules and regulations shall be by the members of the Uniform Division of the Department of Public Safety and/or duly authorized agents of the Authority.
- B. The duly authorized personnel are authorized to require persons using the beach or structures erected thereon to obey reasonable commands designed to protect the public and public property, and the failure to obey any lawful command of those individuals shall be a violation of this section.

Section 7: Penalty for violation.

- A. Penalty Generally. Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months and to perform community service for a period not exceeding 60 days any or all such penalties as ordered by the court. When found by authorized personnel as described above, the person responsible for the violation will be issued a citation and subpoena which identifies the violation and establishes a date for the violator to appear in the Magistrate Court of Glynn County to answer the charge. Violators may elect to pay the fine without appearing in court.
- B. Penalty for off lease disturbance. At the Authority's discretion, the number of violations assessed as off lease disturbances under Section 1. A. 11. may be quantified on a per instance basis, as a count of individual vegetation cuts, or as the number of square feet within an area of disturbance. For disturbances occurring in off-lease areas that are identified as Conservation Priority Areas in the Authority's Conservation Plan, the fine per violation will not exceed \$1000. For disturbances occurring in other off-lease areas, the fine per violation will not exceed \$500.
- C. Penalty for pet violations. The fine for the offense of violating Section 2 (A) 5., Pets, shall not exceed \$200.00 for the first offense and \$400.00 for subsequent offenses occurring within a 12-month period of a preceding offense.
- D. Penalty for litter. The fine for violating Section 2 (A) 1 shall not exceed \$300.00 for a first offense, \$600.00 for a second offense, and \$1000.00 for a third or subsequent offense. Each instance of littering shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder.