

Charlotte County Dog Parks

- Edgewater Paw Park
22410 Glass Lane
Charlotte Harbor
- Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park
6791 San Casa Drive
Englewood

Dog-Friendly Parks with designated areas open for walking your dog on a leash are:

- Bayshore Live Oak Park
23157 Bayshore Road
Port Charlotte
- Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Park
1688 Gasparilla Road
Rotonda
- Centennial Park
1185 Centennial Blvd
Port Charlotte
- Ollie's Pond Park
18235 Avon Ave
Port Charlotte
- Port Charlotte Beach Park
4500 Harbor Blvd
Port Charlotte
- Randy Spence Park
4333 Kerrigan Circle
Port Charlotte

Closest Dog Beach: Sarasota County

- Paw Park
1600 S. Harbor Drive
Venice

If you have any questions please contact:
CC Parks and Natural Resources
1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33953
941.613.3220

Are service dogs allowed on the beach?

In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act Title III regulations, disabled individuals are allowed to be accompanied by service dogs on any beach open to the public. A service dog is trained to do specific tasks directly related to the owner's disability. Emotional support animals, comfort animals and therapy dogs are not considered service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA and therefore are not permitted on beaches that are closed to pets. A service dog must remain under the owner's control at all times. Any individual whose failure to maintain control of a dog results in disturbance to wildlife will be asked to leave the beach and may receive a citation. CC Ord. 2019-029 Sec 1-4-36



Shorebird nest exposed on the beach. Would you see these eggs? You may not and your dog can smell them. Nests are easily trampled on and/or predated.

SHARE THE BEACH WITH NESTING SPECIES

*Be Wildlife
Friendly*



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Parks & Natural Resources

BEACH NESTING SPECIES. Shorebirds and Seabirds nest directly on the sand from February 15th to August 31st. Adult birds, eggs, and chicks are nearly invisible against the sand and shells. Their camouflage protects them from predators and helps them to survive on the beach. When disturbed and flushed off their nests by people or dogs, the eggs and chicks are exposed to temperature extremes and predation. They are also at risk of being trampled on by unsuspecting beach goers.

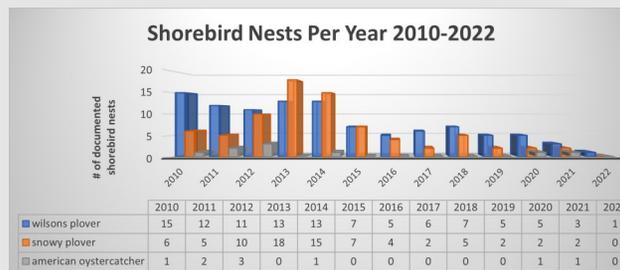
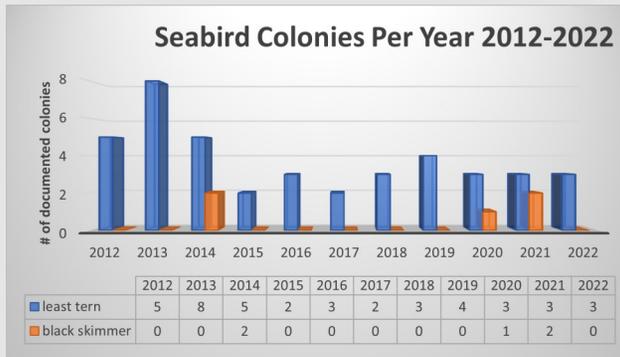
Female sea turtles come ashore and bury their eggs in the sand from May 1st to October 31st. When approaching the beach to nest, they are very sensitive to their surroundings and will abandon their nesting attempts if they feel threatened. When a nest has been laid it must incubate 45 to 60 days before hatching. Hatchlings emerge from the sand and make their way to the water. Only one in 1000 hatchlings survive to adulthood because sea turtle eggs and hatchlings are highly vulnerable to predation.

One of the greatest challenges that Florida's beach nesting species face is the presence of dogs on our beaches. To shorebirds and sea turtles, domestic dogs are predators just as a crow, raccoon, or coyote. In turn, dogs naturally see them as a source of prey or as something new to investigate. Even curious innocent encounters are dangerous for the beach nesters and often lead to nests being abandoned due to fear.

Temporary staking, roping, and signage around shorebird areas on the beach provide beach nesting birds a safe buffer zone to nest and raise their young. This also brings awareness to the public that beach nesting

birds are present. Protection of nesting areas is critical because it limits disturbances to the adult birds, eggs, and chicks. Temporary staking and flagging is also used to mark the location and provide protection to sea turtle nests which are buried below the sand surface. Please avoid posted areas.

ARE DOGS THREATENING THE BREEDING POPULATIONS OF FLORIDA'S BEACH NESTING SPECIES? In recent years there has been a downward trend of beach nesting Shorebirds in Charlotte County. Similar downward trends have been seen in beach nesting Seabird populations. Our numbers of Least tern colonies have reduced from 8 nesting sites in 2013 to only 3 colonies in 2022 (see graphs below). Parks and Natural Resources staff has been documenting the increasing number of predators and dogs on Charlotte County beaches in correlation.



Here Is How YOU Can Help To Best Protect Wildlife:

- Obey local and State Park rules on beaches closed to pets. **No dogs are allowed on Charlotte County and Florida State Park beaches. Dogs must be on a leash** in all other authorized locations unless otherwise specifically designated and posted. (CC Ord. No. 98-070 Section 1-4-31, CC Ord. 2019-029, & 62D-2.014 FAC)
- **Leave dogs at home when you go to the beach.** If you must bring your dog only go where authorized, follow the leash law and pick up and properly dispose of all pet waste.
- Keep out of and away from posted (roped/flagged) beach areas and dunes. **Dogs are perceived as a threat to birds and will disturb them.**
- **Keep your dog as far away from wildlife as possible.** Do not allow dogs to disturb/chase birds or dig holes, which could damage turtle eggs or trap both turtle and shorebird hatchlings.
- **Avoid walking your dog on the beach at night** during the sea turtle nesting season (May 1st-October 31st).
- If you see dogs disturbing wildlife

REPORT IT to the FWC Wildlife Hotline:

888-404-FWCC(3922) or *FWC on cell phone or text Tip@MyFWC.com