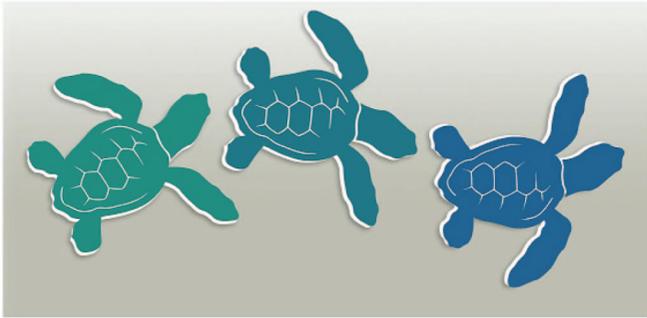


Welcome to the Beaches of Walton County

Whether as a visitor or a resident, we hope you enjoy the emerald waters and sugar white sands of our beautiful beaches. In addition to being a great place to enjoy the sun and surf, Walton County's 26 miles of coastline is home to several species of endangered or threatened nesting sea turtles and other coastal wildlife. As a beachgoer, boater, fisher or property owner, we hope you will help us protect our coastal wildlife & habitats.



The Walton County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted a Wildlife Lighting Ordinance (No. 2009-03), which provides guidelines for proper light management to minimize disturbances to nesting sea turtles, their hatchlings, and other coastal wildlife. Property owners are responsible for ensuring that all lighting along the beach is controlled so as not to directly or indirectly illuminate the beach.

All new construction within the Wildlife Conservation Zone (**750 feet from the Mean High Water Line of the Gulf of Mexico**) must now comply with the Wildlife Lighting Ordinance, while existing construction must comply with the Wildlife Lighting Ordinance in accordance with the following schedules:

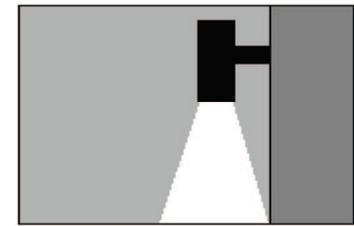


Single-family residences and multi-family residences with four (4) or fewer units, including rental properties, must comply by May 1, 2010, while all other properties must comply by December 1, 2010.

How Can I Help?

Minimize beachfront lighting by turning off, shielding, or redirecting lights away from the beach. Lights disturb nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.

- ▶ **Never leave beach chairs or other items out overnight.**
- ▶ **Turn off unnecessary lights.**
- ▶ **Close blinds and draperies in oceanfront rooms at night to keep indoor lighting from reaching the beach.**
- ▶ **Keep it Shielded: All light is directed down to the ground.**
- ▶ **Keep it Long: Use only long wavelength "turtle friendly" light bulbs.**



- ▶ **Keep it Low: Lower mounting heights are less likely to invade critical turtle nesting areas.**
- ▶ **Avoid using torches, lanterns, flash photography or flashlights while on the beach at night.**
- ▶ **Never approach sea turtles emerging from or returning to the sea. Nesting females are vulnerable and timid, and can be easily frightened away.**



Helpful Websites

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: www.myfwc.com/seaturtle/WildlifeLighting/index.htm

Florida Power and Light: www.fpl.com

Walton County: www.co.walton.fl.us

