



Town of
Pawleys Island
SOUTH CAROLINA

Rebuilding Oceanfront Boardwalks/Stairs

Hurricane Matthew took its toll on the beach, resulting in severe erosion and significant dune loss. Oceanfront properties depend on a healthy dune system to act as a layer of protection from wave action and water inundation created by severe weather often experienced on Pawleys. Due to the lack of dunes present along most of the beach after the storm, and the anticipated “king tides” predicted for the weekend after the storm, there was a critical need for an emergency berm to prevent additional damage to property and infrastructure. In order to alleviate the vulnerability to future threats the Town quickly decided to restore a protective dune along the entire 17,500 linear feet of beach, much like we did last spring in response to Hurricane Joaquin.

Many property owners have inquired about rebuilding their oceanfront boardwalks and/or stairs. You’re certainly welcome to rebuild these structures whenever you see fit but please keep in mind the new pushed up dunes will look much different in a few months. Property owners might want to consider waiting a few months before deciding to rebuild their damaged or destroyed boardwalks.

All construction, repair or alteration of beach boardwalks/stairs require a building permit from the Georgetown County Building Department. Please contact Town Hall at (843) 237-1698 if you have questions or unsure if your proposed work will require a permit.

Building Requirements for Oceanfront Boardwalks & Stairs

- 1) All components must be constructed of wood;
- 2) Have a maximum width of four (4’) feet;
- 3) a six (6’) foot long section landward of the OCRM baseline may be expanded with benches not to exceed six (6’) feet wide.
- 4) Conform with the contour of the dunes with a 2-foot vertical clearance between the surface of the dune and top of the walkway;
- 5) Displace no sand in a critical area;
- 6) Be constructed with as little environmental damage as possible;
- 7) Not be located within fifty feet of another walkway on the same parcel of property;
- 8) Be limited to no more than one of these structures per lot unless a limit of one would cause an unnecessary hardship as determined by the Department.
- 9) Be shore perpendicular, except as necessary for handicapped access.