**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Who is Save Historic American Beach?**

* Save Historic American Beach, Inc. is nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Florida representing residents, property owners and other stakeholders who are committed to protecting the area’s endangered wildlife and preserving the natural beauty and fragile ecology of Historic American Beach in Nassau County, Fla.

**Why was the group formed?**

* Save Historic American Beach Inc. is concerned about the damage beach driving causes and the threats it poses to the protected and endangered sea turtles that rely on our dunes and beaches to survive.
* We have appealed to Nassau County for many years to end beach driving with no success. We hope that by formalizing our effort we can amplify our voices and finally be heard.

**What are you trying to accomplish?**

* Protect threatened sea turtles whose nesting habitat is being damaged.
* Preserve the dunes that protect our community and our wildlife.
* Make Historic American Beach safe to run, walk, fish, swim and recreate without fear of vehicle traffic.
* Restore the area’s natural beauty.

**What threatened sea turtles may be affected?**

* Loggerhead turtles ([Caretta caretta)](https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/3897/119333622)
* Green turtles ([Chelonia mydas](https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/4615/247654386))

**What threat does beach driving pose to sea turtles?**

* Turtle hatchlings can become disoriented while navigating tires ruts in the sand.
* Tire tracks and ruts can impede delicate turtle hatchlings’ path to the sea. This makes them more vulnerable to predators and dehydration and requires more of their limited energy.
* Compacted sand from vehicle traffic can decrease nesting success of female sea turtles and threaten incubating embryos.

**What threat does driving on the beach pose to the protective dunes?**

* Driving on American Beach has and is preventing the natural accretion of sand and establishment of vegetation along the eastern toe of the dunes.
* Following the loss of dunes after Tropical Storm Nicole in November of 2022, the County relocated the driving posts to further landward, significantly reducing dune protection and the area available for natural dune expansion.
* Increasingly high tides leave less room for vehicles to drive and park. As a result, vehicles often drive too close to, and sometimes on, the dune line.

**Where is beach driving allowed in unincorporated Nassau County?**

* The Peters Point Road intersection with the beach area north to the city limits of Fernandina Beach
* Historic American Beach from Lewis Street north to the Summer Beach Resort and south to Amelia Island Resort
* Amelia Island State Park from the Nassau Sound side to Amelia Island Resort on the Atlantic Ocean side
* Scott Road intersection with the beach area

**Is beach driving allowed in residential areas in Nassau County?**

* Historic American Beach is the only residential beach community in Nassau County where beach driving is allowed by law.

**What are the next steps?**

* Attorneys for Save Historic American Beach Inc. mailed a Notice of Intent to the Board of County Commissioners, on February 6, 2025 stating that Nassau County is in violation of Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for the “take,” or potential harm, of ESA-protected sea turtles on American Beach.
* Nassau County has 60 days to take appropriate actions to stop violations of the ESA. Otherwise, Save Historic American Beach Inc. will be forced to file suit in federal court under the ESA’s citizen-suit provision.

**How can people learn more?**

* Learn more at [www.SaveHistoricAmericanBeach.org](http://www.SaveHistoricAmericanBeach.org).

**Who can people contact to learn more or to support this effort?**

* Mark Dawkins, mark.dawkins@comcast.net, 904-557-4937
* Janyce Dawkins, Janyce.dawkins@comcast.net, 404-542-9331.