

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



**Guidance for the Development of Local
Comprehensive Beach Management Plans**

Revised 2020

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

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Guidance for the Development of Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plans (LCBMPs)

Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (DHEC OCRM) is responsible for the management of the state's beachfront. The state Beachfront Management Act (S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-250 *et seq.*) establishes statutory guidance and state policies for the beachfront, including a requirement that ocean beachfront counties and municipalities prepare local comprehensive beach management plans in coordination with DHEC OCRM. Once adopted by the community, local comprehensive beach management plans are then submitted to DHEC OCRM for review and state approval.

In accordance with the state Beachfront Management Act, local comprehensive beach management plans are required, at a minimum, to include the following ten elements:

1. an inventory of beach profile and historic erosion rate data for each standard and inlet erosion zone under the local jurisdiction
2. an inventory of public beach accesses along with a plan for enhancing public access and parking
3. an inventory of all structures located in the area seaward of the setback line
4. an inventory of turtle nesting and important habitats of the beach/dune system and a protection and restoration plan if necessary
5. a conventional zoning and land use plan consistent with the purposes of the Act for the area seaward of the setback line
6. an analysis of beach erosion control alternatives, including renourishment of the beach under the local government's jurisdiction
7. a drainage plan for the area seaward of the setback line
8. a post disaster plan including plans for cleanup, maintaining essential services, protecting public health, emergency building ordinances, and the establishment of priorities, all of which must be consistent with the Act
9. a detailed strategy that highlights both short- and long-term planning objectives to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the beach/dune system.
10. a detailed strategy for achieving the goals of preservation of existing public access and the enhancement of public access to assure full enjoyment of the beach by all residents of this state.

Local oceanfront governments should work in concert with the DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner to develop a scope of work, share necessary planning information, and ensure that potential beach management issues are identified and analyzed. Timing of the beach management planning process will depend on the level of coordination and the information and issues that must be identified and addressed. The local comprehensive beach management plan is intended to be a useful tool in the local and state management of South Carolina's beachfront.

Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plans

How a Local Plan is Used

Local comprehensive beach management plans should be developed with a varied user group in mind. The local plan is intended to be comprehensive enough that any resident of the state who reads the plan can understand the general layout, conditions, issues, and management strategy of the community. The plan also needs to adequately document important management concerns, issues, or policies that may affect or be affected by federal, state, or local funding limitations. Local plans provide guidance to state and federal agencies on local policies, regulations, and procedures related to beach management. The local plan should be detailed enough that state agents can use the document as part of a beachfront emergency response and damage assessment program.

Steps in the Process

The state review and approval procedure for a local comprehensive beach management plan is divided into three phases:

1. Initial coordination
2. Preliminary review
3. State review and approval

Each phase includes a series of individual steps designed to ensure that the minimum requirements established by the state Beachfront Management Act in section 48-39-350 have been met.

Initial Coordination

In the first step, the beachfront county or municipality must hold an initial coordination meeting with the DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner to discuss the project schedule, local beach management issues, review criteria, state and local expectations, and the approval process.

Working with the DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner, the local government prepares and develops a preliminary draft of the local beach management plan.

When the local government has completed the preliminary draft, it is submitted to DHEC OCRM for preliminary review. The county or municipality should submit a copy of the draft document digitally in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat PDF format (including all maps and figures). All maps presented in the document should include a legend, scale bar and north arrow.

Preliminary Review

DHEC OCRM staff will review the preliminary draft document and provide comments to the local government, which the Coastal Planner will help address.

Once the county or municipality has revised the preliminary draft document to reflect the comments received from DHEC OCRM, the revised plan should be placed on public notice by the local government for 30 days, after which time the local government may hold a public hearing if deemed necessary.

The local government can now adopt the local comprehensive beach management plan by resolution, and should submit the locally adopted plan to DHEC OCRM for state review and approval. The county or municipality should submit a copy of the resolution and locally adopted document to the Coastal Planner in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

State Review and Approval

Upon receipt of the locally adopted plan, DHEC OCRM will initiate a 30-day Notice of Approval on DHEC's ePermitting Online Services website. If necessary, the DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner will afford the opportunity for a public hearing in the community indicating how the locally adopted beach management plan meets the ten requirements established by the state Beachfront Management Act in section 48-39-350. The DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner will address any comments received at the public hearing in a prepared response document as part of the state review and approval process.

Upon state approval, the DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner will issue a formal letter of approval to the community indicating the implementation date of the local comprehensive beach management plan.

Beach Management Plan Format

DHEC OCRM uses the local comprehensive beach management plans as part of administrative and program management decisions and as guidance for disaster response. For this reason, DHEC OCRM has prepared a standard format for all local comprehensive beach management plans that ensures consistency and uniformity in their composition. This format also ensures that the required elements are adequately presented. DHEC OCRM recognizes that each local plan may be unique in the beach management issues and enforceable policies.

The standard format of a local comprehensive beach management plan includes eight major sections each designed to address one or more required elements. The following guidance is provided to assist local governments in preparing sections of the plan. Following each heading and subheading is a brief explanation of the recommended local information and discussion that should be included.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Briefly describe why the plan is being prepared and summarize the overall objectives the county or municipality plans to achieve in writing the plan.

1.2 History of Plan Approvals and Revisions

Summarize the history of your local beach management plan. When was the plan first approved? Have there been any subsequent revisions? If so, what changed from the previous plan?

1.3 Overview of Municipality / History of Beach Management Approaches

Briefly describe your municipality and provide a history of beach management approaches utilized by your community, including beach renourishment, inlet realignment projects, structure relocation, etc. These include informal policies, formal policies enacted by local legislative bodies, and local standard operating procedures that have historically been used as beach management approaches. The community can also use this section to make known any policy statements, which must be discussed in more detail later in the plan.

1.4 Current Beach Management Issues

Summarize local issues that affect beach management in the community (i.e., beach erosion, maintaining public access, use conflicts, need for beach nourishment, etc.). Important issues that are identified must be addressed later in the plan. The DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner can help identify and frame local issues.

2. Inventory of Existing Conditions

2.1 General Characteristics of the Beach

Describe each section of the local beach morphologically. Provide information about the beach, describe dunes, and note if there have been major changes over time. Include a location map.

Resources and Tools

- *SC Beachfront Jurisdictional Lines Mapping Tool ([LINK](#))*

2.2 General Land Use Patterns

Describe land use within your municipality. Begin at a community-wide level and gradually focus on beachfront areas. Discuss standard planning information about the community's population and land use. This information can be taken from the community's comprehensive plan. Include any current or future land use maps.

Resources and Tools

- *Coastal County Snapshots ([LINK](#))*
- *C-CAP Land Cover Atlas ([LINK](#))*

2.2.1 Beach Uses

Describe each of the various uses of the beach, particularly if there are different uses between sections (i.e., swimming, boating, surf fishing).

2.2.2 Benefits and Values of the Beach

Provide an overview of the general benefits provided by the beach to residents, visitors, and prepare an estimated economic value associated with the local beach. This

information is extremely important when seeking funds for beach management and access improvements.

Resources and Tools

- *Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) Explorer ([LINK](#))*

2.3 Beachfront Developments and Zoning

Provide a conventional zoning and land use plan for the area seaward of the setback line. Identify and summarize the purpose and permitted uses of each zoning classification seaward of the setback line. A zoning map including the area seaward of the DHEC OCRM setback line must be included.

If possible, identify all major development projects (i.e., hotels, apartments, condominiums, planned unit developments) that are located adjacent to the beach. This discussion could include the name of the development, approximate number of buildings and units, date of construction and any relevant conditions of development agreements.

2.3.1 Beachfront Structural Inventory

Map and summarize all structures located seaward of the setback line. This summary should provide statistics and information on the type and number of structures seaward of the setback line. Provide a table (appendix) of structures that includes tax map numbers, distances to the setback line and baseline and a note indicating if a pool or an erosion control structure(s) is present. A sample table is provided in Section 7.2 of this document.

Resources and Tools

- *SC Beachfront Jurisdictional Lines Mapping Tool ([LINK](#))*

2.4 Natural Resources and Ecological Habitats

Summarize the habitat provided by the beach/dune system. Note the species of beach grass, common animals using the beach/dunes and habitats found just upland of the dune system. If necessary, provide a protection and restoration plan for any critical habitats. Habitat management, such as sand fencing, that can positively or negatively affect the system should also be noted.

2.4.1 Threatened and Endangered Species

Include a table of threatened and endangered species and their state and federal protected status. Any activities that may negatively affect threatened and endangered species should be summarized. If necessary, provide a protection plan.

Resources and Tools

- *SC Dept of Natural Resources (SC DNR) Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species Inventory* ([LINK](#))
- *NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Essential Fish Habitat Mapper* ([LINK](#))
- *OceanReports* ([LINK](#))

2.4.1 Turtle Nesting

Sea turtle nesting must be inventoried and discussed. Please include a table summarizing the number and species of sea turtle nests present over the last 5 to 10 years. If necessary, provide a protection and restoration plan for turtle nesting locations.

2.5 Existing Public Access and Map

Inventoried the existing public access locations and associated amenities (i.e., parking, signage, walkways, bathrooms) and present them in the plan in both table (table can be referenced and put in an appendix) and map form. An overall summary of the condition of existing public access along the beachfront should be included.

Resources and Tools

- *SC DHEC-OCRM S.C. Beach Guide Application* ([LINK](#))

The extent of “full and complete public access” as defined in the State Beach Management Plan (S.C. Code Ann. 30-21) must be included in both text and map form. Criteria for determining “full and complete public access” are summarized in the DHEC OCRM Public Beach Access Facility Classification Table below.

Type of Facility	Distance on Either Side of Access Point for Full/Complete Access Consideration	Minimum Facilities
Public Access Point	1/8 mile	Trash receptacle, walkover/improved surface access, signage, on-street parking for 6 vehicles

Local Public Access Park	¼ mile	As above, parking for 10 vehicles
Neighborhood Public Access Park	½ mile	As above, parking for 25 vehicles
Community Public Access Park	¾ mile	As above, showers, lifeguards, concession, handicapped access and parking, parking for 75 vehicles
Regional Public Access Park	1 mile	As above, parking for 150 vehicles or more

Table 1: DHEC-OCRM Public Beach Access Facility Classification Criteria

2.6 Community Rating System

If applicable, provide a summary of the community’s participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that rewards communities for engaging in activities that reduce flood risk with discounts on flood insurance premiums. Summary information may include:

- Current CRS Class (1 to 9)
- Current Category(ies) Receiving Credit
 - Public Information
 - Mapping and Regulations
 - Flood Damage Reduction
 - Warning and Response
- List of Current Activities (example, summary of open space)
- Plans for Involvement in CRS

Resources and Tools

- TNC South Carolina CRS Explorer ([LINK](#))

3. **Beachfront Drainage Plan**

Provide a brief summary of the community’s stormwater management plan and specifically discuss any drainage seaward of the setback line. If applicable, a map indicating outfalls seaward of the setback line and a summary of how the community is managing and reducing the impacts of stormwater on the beach should be included. If outfalls exist seaward of the setback line, the community must develop a plan of action and implementation schedule that will include the following:

- Strategy to provide treatment for or reduce the number of outfalls onto the beachfront
- Maintenance and improvement schedule to provide better treatment
- Strategy to eliminate pool overflows or deck outfalls from discharging onto the beach
- Methods for providing additional retention basins, infiltration systems and reduced flow.

Identify and summarize any upland drainage issues that affect the beach, as well as how the county or municipality will manage stormwater under the federal and state stormwater programs. The summary should include how those programs will specifically affect the beachfront.

4. Beach Management and Authorities

Provide a summary (preferably in a referenced appendix) of all federal, state and local agencies with regulatory or management authority over the beach and their role in management of local beaches. The DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner can assist with preparing this information.

4.1. State Authorities

4.1.1 Overview of State Policies (Beachfront Management Act)

The Beachfront Management Act includes several key legislative findings, including (summarized):

- the importance of the beach and dune system in protecting life and property from storms, providing significant economic revenue through tourism, providing habitat for important plants and animals, and providing a healthy environment for recreation and improved quality of life of all citizens
- unwise development has been sited too close to and has jeopardized the stability of the beach/dune system
- the use of armoring in the form of hard erosion control devices such as seawalls, bulkheads, and rip-rap to protect erosion-threatened structures has not proven effective, has given a false sense of security, and in many instances, has increased the vulnerability of beachfront property to damage from wind and waves while contributing to the deterioration and loss of the dry sand beach
- inlet and harbor management practices, including the construction of jetties which have not been designed to accommodate the longshore transport of sand, may deprive downdrift beach/dune systems of their natural sand supply
- it is in the state's best interest to protect and promote increased public access to beaches for visitors and South Carolina residents alike
- a coordinated state policy for post-storm management of the beach and dunes did not exist and that a comprehensive beach management plan was needed to prevent unwise development and minimize adverse impacts.

The Beachfront Management Act then established eight state policies to guide the management of ocean beaches:

1. Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the beach/dune system
2. Create a comprehensive, long-range beach management plan and require local beach management plans for the protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the beach/dune system, each promoting wise use of the state's beachfront
3. Severely restrict the use of hard erosion control devices and encourage the replacement of hard erosion control devices with soft technologies which will provide for the protection of the shoreline without long-term adverse effects
4. Encourage the use of erosion-inhibiting techniques which do not adversely impact the long-term well-being of the beach/dune system
5. Promote carefully planned nourishment as a means of beach preservation and restoration where economically feasible
6. Preserve existing public access and promote the enhancement of public access for all citizens including the handicapped and encourage the purchase of lands adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean to enhance public access
7. Involve local governments in long-range comprehensive planning and management of the beach/dune system in which they have a vested interest
8. Establish procedures and guidelines for the emergency management of the beach/dune system following a significant storm event.

DHEC OCRM is responsible for implementing these policies through a comprehensive management program that includes research and policy development, state and local planning, regulation and enforcement, restoration, and extension and education activities.

4.1.2 Beachfront Setback Area

Under Section 48-39-280 of the Beachfront Management Act, as amended, DHEC OCRM is required to establish and periodically review (once every seven to ten years) the position of the two lines of beachfront jurisdiction, the baseline and the setback line, as well as the average annual erosion rate for all oceanfront land that is developed or potentially could be developed. The purpose of these jurisdictional lines is to implement § 48-39-280(A) of the statute, which reads as follows:

“A policy of beach preservation is established. The department must implement this policy and utilize the best available scientific and historical data in the implementation. The department must establish a baseline that parallels the shoreline for each standard erosion zone and each inlet erosion zone.”

The baseline is the more seaward line of jurisdiction and is typically located at the crest of the primary oceanfront sand dune. The setback line is the landward line of jurisdiction and is established landward of the baseline at a distance equal to 40 times the average

annual erosion rate, as calculated from the best historical and scientific data, or at a minimum distance of 20 feet landward of the baseline for stable or accretional beaches.

To establish the baseline position, the shoreline must first be classified as an inlet zone or a standard zone. Areas that are close to inlets and have non-parallel offshore bathymetric contours and non-parallel historical shoreline positions are classified as inlet zones, while all other areas are classified as standard zones. Inlet zones are further classified as stabilized if jetties, groins, or seawalls are present, or as unstabilized. In unstabilized inlet zones, the baseline is located at the most landward shoreline position at any time during the past 40 years, unless the best available data indicates the shoreline is unlikely to return to its former position.

In stabilized inlet zones and standard zones, the baseline is located at the crest of the primary oceanfront sand dune using beach survey data or dune field topographic data such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). If the shoreline is armored with a seawall or bulkhead and no primary oceanfront sand dune exists, then a theoretical dune crest position is calculated from beach survey data.

4.2. Local Government and Authorities

Briefly detail which local authorities exist in your municipality, specifically with regards to beach management.

4.2.1 Municipality's Comprehensive Plan

Provide a summary of the municipality's current Comprehensive Plan. Focus on any goals, objectives, or policies that focus on the beachfront or areas affecting the beachfront.

4.2.2 Municipality's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Provide a summary of your county and local hazard mitigation plan(s) and any other efforts proposed or currently underway to reduce future storm-related damages.

Resources and Tools

South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan ([LINK](#))

County Plans

- *Charleston County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan ([LINK](#))*
- *Horry County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ([LINK](#))*
- *Georgetown County Hazard Mitigation Plan ([LINK](#))*
- *Berkeley County Hazard Mitigation Plan ([LINK](#))*
- *Dorchester County Emergency Management Plans ([LINK](#))*
- *Colleton County Emergency Operations Plan ([LINK](#))*
- *Beaufort County Hazard Mitigation Plan ([LINK](#))*

4.2.3 Municipality's Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Plan

Provide a list and summary of all preparedness plans as they relate to local emergency operations protocol, specifically preparedness and evacuation, recovery plans and mitigation.

4.2.4 Beachfront Development Regulations

Provide a summary of all local ordinances that are related to land disturbance, zoning, building or construction (including conditions following damage or destruction) in the setback area. Compare existing zoning requirements to DHEC OCRM permit requirements in the setback area and identify any differences. Identify changes needed to make current zoning at least as restrictive as permit requirements of DHEC OCRM. Include copies (or reference) of the relevant sections of ordinances in an appendix.

4.2.5 Regulations on Beach and Shoreline Protection

Provide a list and cite local mandates that have been implemented to support the state of South Carolina's beach preservation strategy.

4.2.6 Other Regulations on Beach Management

Discuss how the community manages the beach to ensure local beach management policies are met for the beach as well as offshore. Summarize all local ordinances that are related to management of the uses of the beach, specifically those related to dogs, beach scraping or beach raking, boat landings on beaches, sea turtle protection, dune habitat protection, vehicles on beaches and protection of sea oats. Include copies (or reference) of the relevant sections of ordinances in an appendix.

5. Erosion Control Management

5.1. Shoreline Change Analysis

Discuss shoreline zones as defined by the Beachfront Management Act and highlight which zones are present in your municipality.

5.1.1 Beach Profiles

Provide an inventory and summary of beach profile data for each standard erosion zone and inlet erosion zone in your municipality. Data should be presented in a table showing survey stations, survey date and volume of sand recorded. A map indicating all beach monitoring stations and numbers should be provided. The DHEC-OCRM Coastal Planner can help prepare this.

Resources and Tools

- SC DHEC-OCRM Beach Erosion Research & Monitoring Profile Viewer ([LINK](#))

5.1.2 Long-Term Erosion Rates and Shoreline Change

Explain the methodology of how long-term erosion rates are calculated if your community calculates erosion rates or relies on consultants to do so. Provide an analysis of long-term erosion rates and general shoreline change in your community. Analysis must include historic erosion rate data for each standard erosion zone and inlet erosion zone. Maps illustrating long-term erosion rates and shoreline change should be provided. The DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner can help prepare this information.

5.2. Beach Alteration Inventory

Provide a summary and inventory of groins, bulkheads, revetments and seawalls that may exist along the beachfront. Evaluate the condition of each structure. Utilize this information to determine if there are any generalized areas of disrepair or dilapidation. A map indicating all groins and erosion control structures should be provided.

5.2.1 Beach Renourishment

Provide a summary of all historic renourishment projects that have been undertaken along the beachfront. Detail location(s) of project(s), sources of sand, costs, successes, etc. Highlight how beach nourishment shaped your shoreline?

Resources and Tools

- *DHEC-OCRM SC Beach Renourishment Application* ([LINK](#))

5.2.2 Emergency Orders and Sandbags

Provide a summary of emergency orders in South Carolina and how emergency orders will be authorized during a local erosion emergency. Detail any past emergency orders or use of sandbags along the community's beachfront. A table indicating the date an emergency order was issued, location of emergency order, type of event that precipitated the emergency order and mitigation technique employed should be provided. Develop a strategy for avoiding future emergency orders. The DHEC OCRM Coastal Planner can help prepare this.

5.2.3 Previous Hurricanes or Storm Events

Briefly summarize hurricanes and major storm events that have influenced your community's shoreline.

Resources and Tools

- *NOAA Historical Hurricane Tracks Tool* ([LINK](#))
- *South Carolina State Climate Office Hurricanes and Tropical Storms Application* ([LINK](#))

5.3. Discussion of Erosion Control Alternatives

Provide an analysis of erosion control alternatives that have historically been utilized by the community. Identify beach erosion problems and possible solutions.

5.3.1 Beach Renourishment

Provide an overview of beach nourishment as an erosion control alternative and summarize any anticipated future nourishment projects. Discuss any sediment budget

evaluations that have been undertaken in the area. If renourishment is a viable option in the future, develop a plan of action and an implementation schedule in accordance with the DHEC OCRM's Guidelines for Beach Nourishment.

5.3.2 Other Measures

Highlight any other erosion control alternatives utilized by the community.

6. Needs, Goals and Implementation Strategies

6.1. Policy of Beach Preservation

The Beachfront Management Act states very clearly that the policy of the state of South Carolina is to protect, preserve, restore and enhance the beach/dune system. This act also calls for promoting wise use and development of the state's beachfront by implementing regulatory standards on the ocean side of the DHEC OCRM setback line. Management strategies within this area include limiting the size of habitable structures, requiring oceanfront habitable structures and pools to be located as far landward on a lot as possible, prohibiting new shore-parallel erosion control structures, and promoting beach and dune restoration projects.

Provide a summary of the local strategy for achieving the goals of the state's preservation policy. The plan should examine long-term erosion rates, identify problem areas, and outline strategies for how the municipality will address beach erosion and the problem areas beyond a ten-year planning horizon. The local strategy can include consideration for relocation of buildings, removal of erosion control structures, and the relocation of utilities. Is relocation a viable option as part of your strategy? Are there opportunities to reduce repetitive loss properties? Are land acquisitions or easements an option? Are local policies in place to address the abandonment of properties along the active beach? Is post-storm redevelopment planning/zoning regulation changes an option? Are you taking advantage of pre-disaster mitigation grants or other funding assistance? If not, discuss why?

The local strategy should also include current local regulations that complement the state's preservation policy. Any future needs (i.e. beach nourishment) should be identified. Finally, the local strategy should identify conflicts between any existing plans and ordinances with the state's preservation policy.

6.2. Strategy for Preserving and Enhancing Public Beach Access

Summarize the community's public beach access strategy to assure full enjoyment of the beach by all citizens of the state. Does existing public access meet the demand of the public? If not, why not and discuss opportunities to meet those needs. Are improvements to existing access needed? Is additional access needed? Does the community budget for these improvements?

7. Appendix

7.1 Beach Management Overlays

Provide land use maps with zoning and beach management overlays.

7.2 Inventory of Beachfront Structures

Provide an inventory table of all structures located seaward of the setback line. The structural inventory should include tax map numbers of all parcels with a structure located seaward of the setback line, and a note indicating the type of structure (i.e., habitable structure greater than 5,000 sq. ft., habitable structure less than 5,000 sq. ft, seawall, deck, pool, parking lot, pier). The inventory should also note how far the structure is located seaward from the setback line (ft). A template table is provided below:

Street	Tax Map Number	Parcel Number	Structure Inventory	Distance from OCRM Setback Line	Erosion Control Structure
Street Name	Tax #	Parcel #	A, F, P	30, 40, 50	BH
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A = Habitable Structure <5,000 sq ft.

B = Habitable Structure >5,000 sq ft.

D = Deck

E = Ancillary Building

F = Fence

P = Pool

BH = Bulk Head

PP = Private Pier

RA = Recreational Amenity

RR = Rock Revetment

SB = School Building

7.3 Public Access Inventory Table

Provide an inventory table of existing public access locations and associated amenities (i.e., parking, signage, walkways, bathrooms). The extent of “full and complete public access” as defined in the State Beachfront Management Plan should be discussed in Section 2.5 of this document. A stretch of beach is considered to be “accessible” to the public if the following are met: reasonable provision is made for transportation facilities, facilities are available year round, public walkways or access points to the beach are open and readily available, and access to the area is actually sought by members of the general public with reasonable frequency. Criteria for providing “full and complete public access” are summarized in the DHEC OCRM Public Beach Access Facility Classification Table found in Section 2.5 of this document. The public access inventory table should provide at a minimum the common name of the beach access location (street name), the tax map number, the parcel number, and the facility type. A template table is provided below

Street	Tax Map Number	Parcel Number	Facility Type
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Street Name	Tax #	Parcel #	PAP
Street Name	Tax #	Parcel #	LPAP

PAP = Public Access Point

LPAP = Local Public Access Point

CPAP = Community Public Access Point

RPAP = Regional Public Access Point

7.4 Prior Studies

Where possible, provide digital copies of previous and available studies completed relating to your local beach. Examples would include investigations or projects concerning planning, land use, geology, coastal engineering, or coastal processes.

7.4 Copies of Local Laws and Ordinances

Provide copies of all local laws and ordinances related to beach management.

Summary

Local comprehensive beach management plans are an important and effective management tool for local governments. These plans provide guidance to state and federal agencies on local policies, regulations, and procedures related to beachfront management. These plans are also an important resource for beachfront emergency response and damage assessment programs.

Local comprehensive beach management plans are required to be reviewed by the local government every five years. Additionally, updated revisions are required to be submitted for state approval every ten years. In an effort to assist local governments with this process, DHEC OCRM has developed these guidelines, and the Coastal Planner will provide technical assistance to local governments in the development and revision of the plans to ensure the process is not unduly burdensome.

For additional information or assistance with this process, contact DHEC OCRM's Coastal Services Division at (843) 953-0200.

