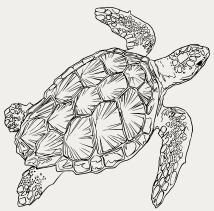


Saint Johns County had a record - breaking nesting season last year with 1,235 nests

SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS HERE



LIGHTS
OUT!

Nesting activities occur on St. Johns County's 41 miles of beach between **May 1-October 31** every year. Nesting activities include females entering the beach to lay eggs or hatchlings emerging from their nest. In 2022, Saint John's County Beaches had a record year of nesting - 1,235 nests compared to 822 in 2021. Residents and visitors have the honor of sharing their home with such an amazing species, and it is our duty to protect these vulnerable animals. If you have the luck to witness either of these activities, please make sure to watch from a distance, do not use any flashlights and do touch the animals.

- Fill in holes and knock down sand castles that may obstruct sea turtles' path.
- Do not leave toys, trash, tents, or beach furniture on the beach overnight.



No Flashlights or
Cell Phone Lights



Never
Touch Wildlife



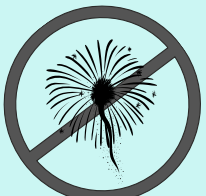
Stay Off
Vegetation



No
Balloons



Fires and Fireworks
are Prohibited Year Round



ADDITIONAL BEACH INFORMATION

Shorebird Nesting Season Runs March - August

Four species of shorebirds nest on SJC beaches: Least Terns, American Oystercatchers, Black Skimmers (all Threatened) and Wilson's Plovers.



Walk around groups of shorebirds - prevent flushing



Respect posted areas - If birds appear agitated or take flight - you are too close



Throw your garbage away



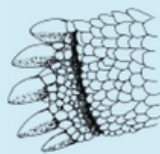
Turtle or Tortoise?



Juvenile gopher tortoises are often mistaken for hatchling/washed-back sea turtles, but this can be prevented by knowing a few distinctive differences.



- Gopher Tortoise shells are dome-shaped
- Can retract head and feet into shell
- Feet have claws
- Juveniles are usually yellow/orange in appearance



- Sea Turtles have flat shell
- Unable to retract head into shell
- Have long slender flippers
- Dark brown/blackish in appearance

- Nest at base of dunes, hatchlings emerge at night
- **Do not place back in water – please call the number below**



- Nest/burrow in sand dunes
- Enjoy walking on beach
- Do not attempt to disturb or remove from their home
- **Never place in the ocean, they will drown**

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
904-824-8304

ALL VEHICLES MUST EXIT THE BEACH BY 7:30 PM MAY-OCTOBER



@SJCBeaches

ENJOY THE BEACH

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.sjcfl.us/HCP/LightManagement.aspx>

