2016 Beach Renourishment

The Town of Hilton Head Island recognizes that its beaches are a vital asset to its residents and the Island’s economy. As part of the Town’s long-term strategy for beach restoration and maintenance, the Town began its 2016 $20.7 million renourishment project in June 2016. The funding source of the project is a longstanding 2% fee imposed on overnight lodging.

The 2016 renourishment of the Atlantic oceanfront shoreline was similar to the projects constructed in 1990, 1997 and 2006, with the exception that no sand was placed between The Folly and The Westin Resort. The project construction lasted about 6 months. Because the project was extremely large, construction operations proceeded around the clock and, on average, moved along the shoreline at a rate of about 200 to 300 feet per day. Only about 1,000 feet of beach access was restricted per day.

For more information regarding this project including maps, photos, FAQ’s, updates and more, please visit our website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov. Please visit our website for the latest beach renourishment project information as well as a variety of other topics.

The basics to replenishing Hilton Head Island beaches

Three years before the start date, engineers began surveying the ocean floor off the coast of Hilton Head Island to find which areas had the right sand consistency and quality to be used on the beaches.

The Town of Hilton Head Island's original survey plans, the Town created templates of beachfront that it wanted filled for the contractor.

AFTER

The contractors pump the slurry onto the beach, and then push the sand into the "template" to re-establish beachfront.

New beach

Dikes

Area determined through core testing to have optimum quality

The cutterhead moves back and forth

Satellite A.

Dredge is placed offshore above a sand-borrow site. A rotating device called a cutterhead cuts into the ocean floor, drawing sand into a pipe.

B.

Tugs and Global Positioning Satellite data are used to keep the dredge in place while taking sand from predetermined areas in the borrow site.

C.

The sand and seawater slurry travels through a 30-inch-diameter pipe.

D.

As the distance from the borrow site increases, a jack-up booster will maintain optimum output.

E.

A survey crab makes sure the placement of sand takes into account current survey information.

F.

The slurry is passed through a diffuser, spraying the mixture upward on the beach. Dikes allow the salt water to return while the sand settles on the beach.

G.

Bulldozers push the sand into the right spots.

H.

More pipes are added to the line so the project can progress along the beach.

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http://facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC

Our Beach is Open for Business!

This Map displays the total area that was addressed during the 6 month renourishment project.