

Status of Crossovers and Walkways in Bethany

The Town of Bethany Beach has fielded a number of queries in recent days regarding beach crossovers and walkways.

Unfortunately, the Town continues to be unable to place mats on crossovers because of the beach reconstruction project.

Certainly the beach replenishment project is needed, but it is creating a number of issues for beach goers. We have been unable to place mats on the beach because of the project. Installing mats on the beach is labor intensive, and depending on staff and beach conditions, can take a week to two weeks. Traditionally, mats are placed on the beach in early May.

We did not place mats on the beach earlier in the year because the project was supposed to begin May 1st, and then may 15th, and the project finally began on June 1st.! It would have made no sense to install and then uninstall the mats given the changing start date for the project.

The completed project calls for a hard walkable surface to be constructed for each beach crossover. This surface is walkable without a mat, but can quickly deteriorate depending on weather conditions. We will be placing mats as needed when this new surface becomes problematic throughout the rest of the summer.

Work on crossovers and beach fencing is slated to begin the second week in July and unfortunately construction on our handicap ramps at Ocean View Parkway and Wellington Parkway will not begin until later in the summer.

The dates and scheduling of any work associated with beach and dune reconstruction is outside of the Town's or the State's ability to schedule or control and is all part of the contract the United States Army Corp of Engineers has with the Great Lakes Dredging Company.

One positive note in all of this, because of the projects design, the Town was able to install mats at both Fourth Street and Fifth Street the week of June 25th.