

Account: South Carolina State Parks

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Thanks for messaging us. We will get back to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, make sure to visit our website at www.SouthCarolinaParks.com for up-to-date information.

Participants: Rebecca Rosado, South Carolina State Parks
at 12:40:04 on 11/08/2020 UTC



Rebecca Rosado

at 12:40:03 on 11/08/2020 UTC

We went to Myrtle Beach State Park yesterday. The weather was beautiful so we thought we would take a walk on the beach. But after being there ten minutes, we had to leave. There were so many horses on the beach it was hard for people to walk. All while trying to dodge the piles of manure the horses left behind. It was disgusting. And it's wrong that they are allowed to do that. That state park is one of my favorites, so it's very disappointing when we can't use the annual park pass we purchased and take a walk on the beach.



South Carolina State Parks

at 12:40:04 on 11/08/2020 UTC

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South Carolina State Parks

at 18:02:37 on 11/09/2020 UTC

Thank you for your message. While we understand your concerns with horses being allowed on the beach, unfortunately the situation is out of our control. The ride that is currently happening is the American Heart Association Heart-a-thon, which is an annual fundraiser for the organization. This is usually around the first weekend in November, and is an event that is permitted by the county and the city to allow horseback riding on the beach. The state park beach is under county jurisdiction, and the county police enforce the rules and regulations on the beach. There is a county ordinance that does state that the owners should pick up after their animals, but unfortunately, we have rarely seen the county enforcing it.

Horry County does allow horses on the beach during the off season. This goes from the third Saturday in November through the end of February. Horses can be on the beach from Springmaid (just north of us), south to Surfside Beach. The state park does allow horseback riders to access the beach from our park during this time period. While there is still horse poop on the beach during this time, the volume of riders is significantly less than during the heart-a-thon ride, so it's less prevalent.

Since Horry County is the entity that permits horses on the beach, we encourage our guests to contact County Council at 843-915-5120, or Horry County Beach Patrol at 843-915-7953 to voice their concerns. You can also contact Lakewood Campground about the current Heart-a-thon ride at 843-238-5161.

Thank you again for your message, and your patronage to Myrtle Beach State Park.



Rebecca Rosado

at 18:08:53 on 11/09/2020 UTC

Thank you for the response!