

January 5, 2026

Ms. Heather Finnell, Town Clerk
Town of Holden Beach
110 Rothschild Street
Holden Beach, NC 28462
Via email: heather@hbtownhall.com

Re: Public Comments Submission

Dear Ms. Finnell,

For the January 20, 2026 Town of Holden Beach Commissioners meeting, I submit the following two documents for public comments.

- Open Letter to the Town of Holden Beach Mayor, Commissioners and Staff (Pages 2 – 12)
- Let's Talk Paid Parking at Holden Beach (Pages 13 – 31)

Please add me to the list of residents planning to speak at the meeting. If you have any questions, you can reach me at karbek@me.com.

Sincerely,

Stephen Karbek
865 Heron Landing Wynd, Holden Beach



Holden Beach Happenings

Stephen Karbelk · 2 January at 02:17 ·

Open Letter to the Town of Holden Beach Mayor, Commissioners, and Staff

Dear Mayor, Commissioners, and Town Staff,

As we kick off 2026 in our beloved Holden Beach – "The Family Beach" – it's time to address the ongoing concerns about our paid parking policies. Many residents, property owners, and visitors (including Brunswick County neighbors) have shared frustration on social media and in community discussions. The year-round paid parking (enforced 9am-5pm daily at \$5/hour), higher rates, and related issues are creating real angst. While I speak for myself, these suggestions echo what I'm hearing from many in our community.

Here are some thoughtful recommendations to make things better for everyone:

1. **Switch back to seasonal paid parking (April 1 - October 31)** and make off-season parking free again. Nearby beaches like Oak Island and others follow seasonal enforcement. The shift to year-round seems tied to past issues (like the sea biscuit shelling rush), but now it's deterring locals who just want to enjoy our quiet off-season beach walks.
2. **Offer a flexible multi-vehicle annual pass for Brunswick County residents and property owners.** Families with 2-3 cars shouldn't have to pay \$175+ per vehicle for separate annual passes for each vehicle – that's hundreds of dollars that feel excessive. A single household pass allowing one vehicle at a time would be fair and encourage more local support, but still limit the use of the permit to one vehicle at a time.
3. **Step up maintenance of public bathrooms and trash services.** A very common complaint is overflowing/unclean restrooms and trash cans that aren't emptied often enough – especially on busy summer days. Since parking fees fund BPART-restricted services (beach protection, access, and recreation), you should deliver top-notch cleanliness and reliability. Excellent service justifies the paid parking charges; poor service just adds to our frustration.
4. **Improve communication and engagement with the community.** The lack of response to resident complaints over the past year has felt dismissive. Complaints aren't annoyances – they're chances to improve our family-friendly beach. Revamp your public relations: more timely responses, town hall forums where commissioners and town staff actually engage with the public, and regular updates on parking feedback.
5. **Switch to a more user-friendly parking app.** SurfCast by Otto gets a lot of criticism for freezing, crashing, taking forever to set up (manually entering cards, no Apple Pay), and overall a poor experience. Switch to something proven like ParkMobile for quicker, smoother payments – it would make paying for parking much less stressful.

It's okay to adjust policies that aren't working as intended. Pivoting now would show you're listening and committed to keeping Holden Beach welcoming for residents, locals, and visitors alike.

It's time for the complaints to end and for the Town of Holden Beach to act.

609

215 comments 21 shares

Like

Comment

Share

All comments ▾



Todd Morris

Agree but they won't listen they are to greedy

3d Like Reply Share

7

[View all 4 replies](#)



Jodee Kelly Rochelle
They don't care

3d Like Reply Share 2

[View all 2 replies](#)



Alvin Fields
Well stated

3d Like Reply Share 6

[View 1 reply](#)

 **Paula Folwell Linthicum**
Totally agree

3d Like Reply Share 4 

 **Marsha Richardson**
1000% YES! A discount for tax paying residents would also be very well received as well. Several neighboring beaches offer this.

3d Like Reply Share 10 

[View all 6 replies](#)

 **Tina Powell**
Thank you and i agree with your suggestion. It would be great if the Town of Holden Beach would revert back to a family friendly place.

3d Like Reply Share 11 

 **Judy Whaley**
And how would you implement #2???

3d Like Reply Share 4 

[View all 10 replies](#)

 **Nancy Knott**
Thank you Stephan.hopefully they will listen..maybe you should have ran for Mayor or Commissioner 😊

3d Like Reply Share 12 

 **JJ Farrell**
This is a far more effective approach than 99.9% of the posts I've seen on this topic! 👍

3d Like Reply Share 21 

 **Gary Love**
That is the most intelligent post I have seen

3d Like Reply Share 19 

 **Millie Ross**
Agree!

3d Like Reply Share 6 

 **Daniel Russ**
Well said. And liked the way you wrote out everything that I feel as a local. is pretty fair. I know others agree with me on that.

3d Like Reply Share 19 

 **Terri Douglas**
Excellent post

3d Like Reply Share 6 

 **Tracey Haney**
Well written. I agree completely with discounts for property owners as we contribute consistent revenue.

3d Like Reply Share 10 

 **Bob Doucette**
Well done! We retired to Supply and enjoy our walks on Holden Beach. We always support the local Holden Beach shops and restaurants.

3d Like Reply Share 5 

 **Krystal Lynn Smith**
Thank you from all of us that truly care and love our beach!

3d Like Reply Share 8 

 **Jason Nail**
This is a great start. And bring back the pier.

3d Like Reply Share 10 

 **Kristle Friddle Coble**
Email this to the town clerk to be read at the next meeting.

3d Like Reply Share 9 

[View all 2 replies](#)

 Raill Nett
All of this is a great start!
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Wesley Crisp
Better yet, make it free again. The beach was free for everyone to enjoy to begin with. We paid for every bit of needed maintenance through something called TAXES. Greed took over our beaches and it will destroy the businesses slowly, not to mention the memories of the upcoming generation. Paid parking is pathetic.
3d Like Reply Share Edited 10

[View all 3 replies](#)

 JohnnynStar Miller
Nicely stated! I hope the powers that be are listening.
3d Like Reply Share 6

 Patchouli Julie
Everything you said is 100 percent facts!
3d Like Reply Share 8

[View 1 reply](#)

 Larry Hyton
Great Post!
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Dawn DeAngelo
Well said. Thank you
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Randy Huneycutt
If it's a problem then don't come
3d Like Reply Share 3

[View all 3 replies](#)

 Jo Biggers Harward
Well said and agreed on! Definitely if I gotta pay it I'd like to include my other vehicles. Bathrooms and trash cans need more attention too.
3d Like Reply Share 7

 Tim S. Hiner
Keith Smith have you seen this here you go a solution to the problem
3d Like Reply Share 4

[View all 3 replies](#)

 Christine Scanniello
Agree great post
3d Like Reply Share 7

 Frank Ferrell · Follow
Good idea!
3d Like Reply Share 6

 Jane BraxtonMajors
Good ideas. I balk at having to pay for a pass for each of my vehicles. One pass is the answer. I am a part timer, but certainly pay taxes the same as everyone else. Hopefully the Town listens!! Nothing wrong with taking a step back and adjusting current policies.
3d Like Reply Share 11

 Cheryl Fuqua
Agreed!
3d Like Reply Share 3

 Jay Marcus
Off season parking fees hurt local businesses because anyone going to the beach will bypass Holden Beach in the off season to avoid the fee. They will spend local money at another beach offering free off season parking
3d Like Reply Share 10

[View all 5 replies](#)

 Toni Lollar Guffey
Agree 1000%!
3d Like Reply Share 5



Jackie Abernethy

This is well said and so true thank you for taking time to write this

3d Like Reply Share

6



David Black

For those of you that did not receive Tracey Thomas' letter of resignation email, here is an excerpt every resident and property owner should read:

During his campaign, Keith Smith promised to restore "trust, transparency, and teamwork." Unfortunately, these principles were disregarded at the outset. Revisions to the Rules of Procedure were neither shared with the public nor discussed openly before Commissioners Smith, Pate, and Dyer voted to revert to an outdated version. This outdated version is not only less transparent but also fails to account for modern laws regarding remote participation, and directly violates Ordinance 30.15 (A) [Ord. 07-04, passed 5-22-07].

Furthermore, the behavior witnessed at this meeting is a continuation of the hostile working environment fostered by Mayor Holden and Commissioners Rick Smith and Page Dyer over the past two years. This atmosphere of antagonism has consistently undermined the Board's ability to engage in civil, productive debate. It is deeply troubling to witness the very "backroom" decision-making and predetermined outcomes that were so heavily criticized now being used as primary tools of governance. By "calling the question" to prematurely end deliberation, the new majority has signaled an interest in an agenda of retaliation rather than collaboration.

I have grave concerns regarding the Board's insistence on "repairing" a pier that both the Town inspector and a reputable engineering firm have deemed a total loss.

Disregarding these professional evaluations to pursue a project that is not cost-effective places an undue financial burden on our taxpayers. Furthermore, based on recent public statements, it is apparent that certain members of the Board intend to prioritize the interests of non-residents over the taxpayers of Holden Beach. Any attempt to bypass the November 2025 referendum by leveraging revenue streams like parking fees or occupancy taxes would be disingenuous, unethical, and a violation of the public trust.

3d Like Reply Share

8

[View all 4 replies](#)



Robyn Gallagher

Well said and agreed.

I would like to add that residents of Holden should be offered a discount or free parking. A suggestion.

3d Like Reply Share

7

[View all 2 replies](#)



David Black

Holden is the only beach that sticks it to the locals all year long and no break on a year pass. I'm all for charging during the season but give the locals a break!

3d Like Reply Share

5

[View all 3 replies](#)



Sharon Comer

Agree with suggestions. Second the poor upkeep of bathroom facilities!

3d Like Reply Share

4



Angela Calabrese

Well said and I totally agree!

3d Like Reply Share

4



Debbie Sutton Watts

Number 2 are our sentiments! We drive different vehicles to & from the beach making it not worth purchasing an annual pass. But a household or property pass would be ideal for us.

3d Like Reply Share

7

[View all 3 replies](#)



Grounard Linda Danny

Fix the pier

3d Like Reply Share

9



Sarah Matt Watkins

I agree, especially with the off season free parking and the family pass for residents to Brunswick County. We visit often and not always drive the same vehicle each trip down.

3d Like Reply Share

5

[View 1 reply](#)

Charles Bass
Totally agree someone listen
3d Like Reply Share 4 1 0

Pamela Hearn
Brunswick beaches are sucky now.
3d Like Reply Share

Tracey Starling
The bathroom situation at the pier parking is really gross and crazy!
3d Like Reply Share 4 1 0

Sandra Lynn McKinney Williams
I use to love the small comfy feeling of owning property on Holden beach island. It's just become so crowded. I live in NMB now. Yes it's full of tourists also. Property owners that pay taxes to be close to the beach are treated fairly so far. Good luck to every property owner that live close to the beach.
3d Like Reply Share 3 1 0

Liz Jackson
Bravo! Working together for mutually beneficial solutions!
3d Like Reply Share 5 1 0

Mimi Norman Shinn
I am a frequent visitor to Holden Beach and honestly do not mind paying for parking, because I understand that it generates income for the beach, which is needed. As a visitor to other beaches, I have been impressed to see that Holden Beach has some type of restroom facilities at all the parking areas. This is rare on most beaches. Yes, they are often not the cleanest, but at least they are there. The people that use these facilities are the ones that are the ones that make the messes. I feel that permanent residents should not have to pay for parking at all. They are already paying plenty of taxes, so they should get a break on parking. Or they could get a yearly parking pass for a nominal fee. I would love to see a new pier. I do not really use the pier. I do not fish, but I think piers are an important part of the beach.
3d Like Reply Share 6 1 0

[View 1 reply](#)

Mary Staten Cox
This is excellent. Thank you!
3d Like Reply Share 7 1 0

Michael Barham
Pretty simple isn't it
3d Like Reply Share 3 1 0

Elizabeth Haynes
Bottom line you are losing revenue and the reputation of Holden Beach in other words. Shooting yourself in the foot....Do all beaches charge for parking? Does the NC Outer Banks charge for the pristine beaches???

3d Like Reply Share 1 0 0

[View all 3 replies](#)

Dee Batts
Highway robbery if you are a resident and pay county and city taxes.
3d Like Reply Share 6 1 0

Jessie Peterson
You should run for officeWell said ...Thank you
3d Like Reply Share 7 1 0

Connie Haithcox
Yes say it louder for the ones in the back. Lol
3d Like Reply Share 5 1 0

Wanda Puryear
Amen!
3d Like Reply Share 5 1 0

 **Hank Long**
Thanks for offering some positive ideas to move forward!

3d Like Reply Share 5 

 **Lisa Wheeler Andreoli**
Very well written. Thank you.

3d Like Reply Share 4 

 **Mandy Milligan**
I'm pretty sure this is on the next agenda meeting or coming soon just know the new and current elected officials are working diligently to improve the town

3d Like Reply Share 3 

[View all 2 replies](#)

 **Mike Gambill**
\$5 an hour is outrageous.
Didn't know the beach was in Hawaii.


3d Like Reply Share 7 

[View all 2 replies](#)

 **Tommy Mary Ellen Stilley**
Well thought out, intelligent post. Thank you.

3d Like Reply Share 6 

 **Steve Auten**
Well stated

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Shannon Revell**


3d Like Reply Share 2 

 **Helen Nelson Terry**
Very well said!

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Tracey DeMarco**
Agree with it all and greatly appreciate you drafting this letter. Thank you!

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Dale Gammons**
Property tax payers should not have to pay anything

3d Like Reply Share 8 

 **Ed Carr**
Nicely laid out and thoughtful suggestions. Hopefully Keith will address each of these suggestions.

3d Like Reply Share 4 

 **Celene Guandolo**
Thank you for addressing this.

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Joe Carozza**
I don't mind paying for parking however in county residents should receive a discount and also be provided multi vehicle discounts.

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Susan Gray**
And doubling the fine if not paid on the same day is insane.

3d Like Reply Share 4 

[View all 3 replies](#)

 **Billie Winters Phelps**
Very well said!

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Laurie Argenta-Lestage**
Well said. also add senior discount! My sister pays 1/2 for season pass at Myrtle Beach and has a ton of parking!


3d Like Reply Share 4 

 Jeremy Allen
A lot of great advice here, lets see if they listen
3d Like Reply Share 3
View 1 reply

 Laurie Sussner Winner
VERY well stated. I agree!
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Lynna Mayes
Thank you! Helpful and thoughtful suggestions. The multiple vehicle household issue occurs with us in SB, but we also like to visit HB, but not so much since year round parking. My husband and I either take his vehicle or mine when visiting. Only 1 pass attached to 1 vehicle, forces one of us to use their vehicle more often for these trips. There are times we'd rather use the other. I hope that HB considers these, as well as some other towns. We also concur, the bathrooms were not very well maintained this past weekend. Also lacked heat, or air at other times.
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Sue Griffith
The Beach belongs to the People, God made it for US to Enjoy!!
3d Like Reply Share 7

 Phyllis Derrick
Nothing is any better than it's management! Best wishes to the wonderful folks of Holden Beach! Sadly greed is at the core of problems of this nature! I said what I said!
3d Like Reply Share 5

 Brenda Pait
Thank you. I hope they make changes. My husband and I bought a place in Supply. He loved fishing on the pier. I loved just being on the beach, walking and looking for shells. My husband has passed. I would still enjoy walking on the beach and looking for shells, but I refuse to pay to park. I pay County taxes and I would probably get a parking pass if I could use it for 2 vehicles, but I think even those are kind of iffy. Happy New Year everyone
3d Like Reply Share 4

 John Merrill
Well said.
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Lynna Mayes
The other parking app sounds great! The Surfcast app is mediocre at best. One time at HB it took me quite a while to even get it to work and I already had it on my phone and had used it previously. Even the app that NMB/Cherry Grove uses works better.
3d Like Reply Share 3
View 1 reply

 Michael L Nolen
Amen
3d Like Reply Share 2

 Ann Goodman Bowers
This letter sounds like good common sense. A lot of good thought was put into this letter
3d Like Reply Share 5

 Jeff Phleifer
Just find the dollars elsewhere. Stop gauging locals who are fed up with this garbage. As soon as Oak Island went to paid parking, I stopped going to the beach. The Ocean is not owned by local government. It belongs to the people.
3d Like Reply Share 4

 Stephen P Evans
Sounds reasonable
3d Like Reply Share 2

 Michelle Valentine Fournier
Very thoughtful letter with great solutions offered!
3d Like Reply Share 3

 Peggy Bruce Bass
Amen!!
3d Like Reply Share 3

 **Becky Lutz**
Perfectly stated

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Christine Davan**
This is very well written thank you so much. I am a county resident that likes walking my dog in the beach. The best time is always off season. I am a senior and have handicap plates. During September and October there were a few days I had to hunt for a spot to park or just pay to park for a 20 minute walk. Thank you again for writing this.

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Pat Kinnaman**
Agree

3d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Randy Beck**
This is what happens when Yankees get voted in. Have they told you what the extra money is used for?
Families can not afford \$5 per hour to park. Carolina Beach has done about the same.

3d Like Reply Share 

[View 1 reply](#)

 **Li Davis**
I totally agree with this letter.

3d Like Reply Share 2 

 **Rick Ryan III**
No. Eliminate paid parking entirely. No state or federal aid at all to beach communities that charge to park on sand we paid for.

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Max Shaver Jr.**
Maybe time to give Holden Beach the Bud Lite Treatment!

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Kay Rowell**
Yes

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Jo JD Somers**
Sounds like very reasonable requests. Hope they are approved.

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Gregory Leech**
Well said, you should send it to everyone on the board and read it at the next monthly meeting.

3d Like Reply Share 

[View 1 reply](#)

 **Lee Dyer Collins**
Do any of you remember how bad/chaotic the parking situation was before paid parking? When people were parking in homeowners driveways and yards? Using homeowners outdoor showers as their own bathrooms? Leaving trash in homeowners yards? Parking in the wetlands areas? Filling side streets so no emergency vehicle could get through? Over growth in the county along with no respect for property that doesn't belong to you had more to do with paid parking than greed did.

3d Like Reply Share Edited 

[View all 8 replies](#)

 **Rachel T Hornsby**
There is a lot of senior citizens that does not use apps for making payments and it makes it hard on them to try to figure things out and the people that save up all year to go to the beach just can't afford to go. The only way to go is to rent a house ocean front or across the street from the ocean etc and that cost an arm and a leg. I was going to buy property down at holden beach until all of this an mainly the pier. They can make a lot of money redoing the pier because a lot of people love to fish 2

3d Like Reply Share 

 **Sandra Martin Webb**
Agree with all this, especially like the multi-vehicle suggestion. Sometimes we need to drive our truck to our beach house and we can't take it to beach without paying parking when our paid permit vehicle is sitting at home.

3d Like Reply Share 

 Kelly Calloway Crowe
Agree! Amen!
3d Like Reply Share 

 Rebecca Evers
Well said. The locals have gone along with the status quo for way too long. This stripping of locals rights to walk the beach without paying is the result. I'm sick of hearing about the pier which was left in disarray and non care also for way toooo long. Time may slow down when you are on the beach but it slowed way down if not stopped in the town govt. It's trifling and laughable. IMHO
3d Like Reply Share 

 Dustin Overman
The town has a 3rd party for parking people they dont control it
3d Like Reply Share

 Dustin Overman
The holden family is still over it yell at them also
3d Like Reply Share 

 Kelly D Early
It's a start...
3d Like Reply Share 

 Tami Overby Flowers
Add - give residents a discount.
2d Like Reply Share 

[View 1 reply](#)

 Barbara Turner
I live about 3 hours away and cannot afford to come down for a day AND have to pay \$20 to park. I guess I've seen the beach for the last time!
2d Like Reply Share
[View 1 reply](#)

 Claiborne Woods
Just remember those making decisions are elected not drafted. You deserve what you're willing to accept.
2d Like Reply Share 

 Liza Leigh
Agree
2d Like Reply Share 

 Lance Dunlap
Why just accept paid parking? The beach was wonderful for decades without it. Why exactly can't it go back?
2d Like Reply Share
[View all 4 replies](#)

 Cynthia Johnson
Well said. The garbage, bathroom situation needs to improve. I pay annually, but, it is the least we'll kept beach for facilities, trash upkeep. Kinda, embarrassing!
2d Like Reply Share 

 Debby Martin
That was a VERY well written post! No criticism, jabs at anyone, and great suggestions!
2d Like Reply Share 

 Jackie McGinnis
Agree!!!
2d Like Reply Share 

 Patsy Headley
5 orange thumbs up
2d Like Reply Share 

 Anonymous participant 694
Everyone think about the real reason they are charging for parking. It's not a money grab and no I don't like it.
Read above comment about people parking homeowners yards, driveways, wetland areas, dropping trash everywhere, fornicating in somebodies outside shower, urinating in yards, etc. The lack of parking is a big issue. The beach was over crowded and people would park anywhere. It was same at all beaches.
Paid parking does alleviate some of the issues mentioned, but I agree we need parking permits for residents or home owners in the county.
2d Like Reply Share 

[View 1 reply](#)

 **Sharon Bradham Deveney**
Myrtle Beach has free off season parking, an annual paid pass for Horry County residents as well as a City of MB resident parking pass (more parking allocated to City residents). Makes sense.

2d Like Reply Share 2 

 **Tara Callison**
I'm curious to know the rental numbers for the 2025 season, were they down? There were so many families that had come here for 20 to 30 years each season that said they were going elsewhere for vacation due to all the rising costs to come to the beach.

2d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Dee Leigh**
I totally agree. All these suggestions are valid and would make our beach more enjoyable

2d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Wanda Ward** 
Wonderfully written and hits every point. Great job!

2d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Dana Klutz Nance**
Very well said on every issue. I couldn't agree more.

1d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Steven Frye** 
DEFINITELY agree on the multiple car point.

1d Like Reply Share 5 

 **Heather Jean Hammett** 
Perfectly said!!!!!! Thank you for addressing this, as we all would like to see these changes!!!

1d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Lisa Hastings Brackett** 
I agree with off season parking should be free.

1d Like Reply Share 2 

 **Wendy Carter Graves**
Well said! One of the main reasons we no longer visit HB. 

1d Like Reply Share 3 

 **Spencer-Marshall Locklear** 
Vote 

1d Like Reply Share 1 

 **Ray Thomas**
Tamera Thomas

1d Like Reply Share 1 

 **Terry W. Alston**
Agree 100%! As a 30 year resident of Shallotte, Holden Beach was the draw. With all that has transpired with paid parking and its limitations the beach has lost its charm! Living here should have some advantages! Just saying....

1d Like Reply Share 4 

 **Toby Bronstein**
As a resident of Caswell Beach who loves Holden Beach, I refuse to visit there now that parking is year-round. I didn't much like it when it was seasonal, but accepted it. The Town needs to consider money and wages lost when locals refuse to patronize businesses because of this restrictive policy. Frankly, it's just plain dumb.

22h Like Reply Share 4 



William Hanrahan
Could NOT have said it better! Thank you!

19h Like Reply Share

3



Christopher Henry
No parking fee is a just parking fee. This is a private tax on publicly funded tax payers roads. This is a sham and will fatten the pockets of few while we all feel the pain for the rest of time. All the local beach towns board members should be ashamed of themselves for their greedy actions. \$5 a hour is blasphemy! And there's still potholes everywhere!

17h Like Reply Share



Paolo Scagliarini
Very well thought out and expressed post. Officials need to heed the concerns of residents.

5h Like Reply Share



Larry Ward
No pay parking, it is all about money. You keep on voting wrong people in office , I am not paying to park at no Beach, That money is pay from tax, Greed took over our beaches that is call democrats.

3h Like Reply Share



Mary Beth Leiby
THIS!!!

14m Like Reply Share



Holden Beach Happenings

Stephen Karbelk · 1 January at 21:26 ·

Let's Talk Paid Parking at Holden Beach – Please Read Before Commenting! 🌊

As a property owner/resident, I understand frustrations with paid parking, but constant complaints can feel disrespectful to those of us who live and own homes here, and those that operate businesses here.

Paid parking helps prevent overcrowding (since all nearby beaches have paid parking too!) and funds important beach improvements. Without it, Holden Beach would face the same issue many complain about: no available spots on busy days!

I researched current policies at nearby beaches – here's a fair comparison:

Holden Beach

- Seasonal Permit: \$175/year
- Rates: \$5/hour, \$20/day, \$80/week
- Enforcement: Year-round, typically 9 AM–5 PM (free outside those hours)
- Spaces: 445 vehicle + 61 golf cart spaces
- Revenue: ~\$880,000–\$916,000 (goes to restricted BPART Fund for beach preservation, access, recreation, and tourism – not general salaries or unrelated expenses)

Ocean Isle Beach

- Seasonal Permit: \$175/year
- Rates: \$5/hour, \$20/day, \$80/week
- Enforcement: April 1–Oct 31, 9 AM–5 PM
- Spaces: 380 vehicle spaces / 114 golf cart spaces (estimated)
- Revenue: ~\$500,000 (used for town/beach maintenance)

Oak Island

- Seasonal Permit: \$225 (limited supply)
- Resident Permits: Low-cost options available
- Enforcement: April 1–Sept 30
- Spaces: 1,366 vehicle spaces
- Revenue: \$1,313,000 (2025 estimate)

Surfside Beach

- Limited non-resident passes: ~\$225 (only 150 available annually)
- Resident: Free
- Rates: \$2–\$4/hour, \$10–\$15/daily caps
- Spaces: Number not publicly available
- Enforcement: March 1–Oct 31
- Revenue: \$911,466 (actual for 2024, estimates for 2025 not available)

North Myrtle Beach

- Limited non-resident passes: \$200 (500 available for non-residents/non-owners)
- Rates: \$4/hour (some lots cheaper)
- Enforcement: March 1–Oct 31
- Spaces: 1,000+ vehicle spaces
- Revenue: \$1,150,000 (2023 actual, estimates for 2024 and 2025 not available)

Key Takeaway: Holden Beach and Ocean Isle have the fewest spaces, making managed parking essential. Holden Beach residents and property owners are proud that our revenue stays restricted to beach/tourism improvements via the BPART Fund – it directly supports a better experience for everyone, including local businesses, beach goers, and rentals.

If you love visiting Holden Beach: buy a \$175 annual pass – that's just ~\$14.58/month for unlimited parking all year! A true bargain for family beach days.

If the new commissioners wanted to make an improvement to the paid parking policies, then Holden Beach should revert to the pre-March 2024 policy of only charging for parking between April 1 to October 31. While that may have a \$100,000 to \$150,000 impact on the budget, it would be a welcome benefit for the island residents and our neighbors.

Please, let's focus on enjoying our beautiful beach together and stop with the negative comments.

Remember, if parking was free at Holden Beach, you'd be lucky to find a parking spot in the summer. Since our neighboring beaches also charge for parking, Holden Beach would be overrun in the summer and it would negatively impact the beach experience.

Relax, soak up the sun, and be thankful you live near so many beautiful beaches! 😊

Happy New Year!

373

287 comments 11 shares

Like

Comment

Share

All comments ▾



Chris Brady

Parking isn't free and you're still lucky to find a spot in the summer

2

4d Like Reply Share

19

[View 1 reply](#)



Julie Ford Dixon

Sounds like a comprise is in order .. free parking oct- March....

4d Like Reply Share

16



Gabe West

4d Like Reply Share

4



Audrey Elaine Doucette

I pay and am perfectly fine with it. I'm doing my part for the upkeep of the beach whether it's parking or whatever. Love Holden Beach!!

4d Like Reply Share

14

[View all 7 replies](#)



Paula Poitras

This all sounds great but the ocean and the beach was created by God for everyone to enjoy and partake of not for people to charge and take money and say it is there's when it belongs to every breathing human being and animal. So I disagree with the charging to walk on God's beach

4d Like Reply Share

13

[View all 8 replies](#)



Gil Gilleland

Well said!

4d Like Reply Share 20



Susan Gibble

Thank you for posting!

4d Like Reply Share 20



Nancy Knott

So this is enlightening however, living off the island but still a full-time resident My only issue is I buy the yearly pass but sometimes there is no parking. Maybe have a parking area for full-time passes. And also parking pass should include up to 2 cars there are times when families switch out cars and that tag is not able to be used. They need to just do minor changes to make it work. For Holden Beach residents and Supply and Shallotte.

4d Like Reply Share

18

[View all 8 replies](#)



Kathy Seegers

How did the beaches survive before the paid parking

I m in my 70 s it was always free to park until the last few years

God created it so let us all enjoy it

4d Like Reply Share

21

[View all 3 replies](#)



Steven Glover

I'll just continue to vacation at other beaches, and go out of state to vacation at their beaches as well. Yes there's plenty of "free parking" beaches around, but Holden offers very little for what is charged to be there.

4d Like Reply Share

8

[View all 4 replies](#)



Barbara Green

Well stated! Thank you!

4d Like Reply Share



Keith Bowman

There are a lot of nice beaches in North Carolina and Holden beach isn't even close of being great just my opinion I live close and with no pier Ocean Isle and Sunset are way better and more to do !!!

4d Like Reply Share

8

[View all 4 replies](#)



Jackie Tart Atanasoff

Agreed! Having a second home in a waterway community, we visit year round. It would be great if they would go back to seasonal parking fees like ALL of the surrounding beaches. Hopefully they will do that.

4d Like Reply Share

7



Mike Angelo

Been going to Holden for 60 years and everything was good until the past few years, demolition of the pier house, condemned the pier, must have a smart phone and a major credit card to walk on their beach. Y'all have a bunch of woke Yankee liberals running that place now.

What a shame! Go look in the mirror and you'll see one of the problems

4d Like Reply Share

15

[View all 4 replies](#)



Lisa Coons

Totally agree with the improvement of making parking free off season. I believe Holden is the ONLY beach that charges during that time.

If they really wanted to make the best change... go back to the first year they charged... same rates because they've raised them twice since. And shorten the paid parking to keep in line with all the other beaches.

4d Like Reply Share

3



Andrew Smith

Agree with off season free parking! That pushes us away in the off season. During the summer months I have no issue paying though

4d Like Reply Share

11



Elaine Abernathy

Oct-March free parking.

4d Like Reply Share

14



Rusty Wilson

My family does our part we don't cross the bridge we live 2 miles from Holden beach we go to Oak Islands I buy a pier pass I get a year parking pass for \$25.00 for the whole island you don't have to pay for parking after September 30 but according to the powers to be Holden Beach Oak Islands going broke because they bought the pier  

4d Like Reply Share

8  

[View all 4 replies](#)



Mark Gill

We have a handicap daughter and can never find a Handicap parking space. When we do, it's usually being by someone who is leaving and. It even handicapped.

What about some one operating a shuttle service from the campgrounds and developments and dropping people off then returning later

That day to

Pick them up? Great opportunity for someone who would like to make some money running a business like that.

4d Like Reply Share

6 

[View 1 reply](#)



Miranda Yocom

The town needs to offer more parking spots at different places along the island. Use some of that parking revenue to buy the land.

4d Like Reply Share

6  

[View all 10 replies](#)



Vicki Whitfield

The problem I have is that I have a home

In Supply. I have 3 vehicles and can't pay for 3 passes. If we could get a sticker for 3 vehicles it would work. I purchased the season pass the 1st 3 years. I would often be on one if my other vehicles and still have to pay.

4d Like Reply Share

4  



Diana Coca

Wouldn't complain IF we could see where the money is going. Yesterday the 2 lowly porter potties at the now dysfunctional pier were FULL - to the top! Disgusting for this so called "family beach" Do better - build permanent bathrooms where you expect EVERYONE to park. (Yes, like the 2 that were built down the east end)

4d Like Reply Share

10  

[View 1 reply](#)



Joann Ortiz-Shenberger

Thank you for posting this! Great information! 

4d Like Reply Share Edited

2 



Beth Green Galyan

Going back to free parking Nov 1 - Mar 31 would be a great compromise!

4d Like Reply Share

21 



Jennifer Sweeney

Stephen Karbelk You suggest, "if love visiting Holden Beach: buy a \$175 annual pass". Does that guarantee you a spot? If not, how is it worth the purchase?

4d Like Reply Share

8  

[View all 6 replies](#)



Barry Morris

You shall pay at their altar. Jesus wouldn't doh. #CorporateGreed

4d Like Reply Share

...

[View 1 reply](#)



Myra Strickland-Sinz

Thank you for posting. People need to let it go. You pay to park everywhere!!!

4d Like Reply Share

6 

[View all 5 replies](#)



Kathy Sagarsee Frye

My question is if they are now charging for year round parking then the bathrooms need to be year round as well and not locked up for the winter! Just saying!

4d Like Reply Share

26 



Mandy Milligan

Well said! I know it sucks because I too have to buy a pass but it is improving the island! New bathrooms and more to come!

4d Like Reply Share

3 

[View all 3 replies](#)



Heather Blalock

But a lot of folks who live there probably can't afford it and they probably enjoyed going to the beach for the day before the whole pay for parking was implemented because it was free and it was somewhere for them to go and enjoy just everyone else and now those folks are being pushed out and that's not fair. I get controlling overcrowding blah blah, but that island ain't but so long and wide and no one was thinking about overcrowding when all those houses were being built either. I'm just saying. Why not increase taxes to offset whatever it is y'all wanna spend the money's on and not make people pay to park when the beach is free to anyone. How bout having a designated public beach area for the poor folks. IMO.

4d Like Reply Share

6 



Wally Guenther

Says a lot when they're the only beach around that charges year round. Money grubbers! 

4d Like Reply Share

15 

[View all 3 replies](#)



Tammy Sabin Griffin

Well said Stephen Karbelk

4d Like Reply Share 2 



Brooke Taylor Saintsing

I like the idea of October to March free parking as well.

4d Like Reply Share

15 



Marcie Bryant McRae

We go often, and have to pay to park. Generally we visit many times, September-May.

We rarely go in the summer. It's too busy and too hot.

I'd be okay with paying year round, IF the pier was being rebuilt with some of that parking money. I see no evidence of this...

4d Like Reply Share

8



Linda Frye Burrow

Would be nice to have off season to have no cost October-April .

4d Like Reply Share

9



Neely Bartlett Pruett

Holden was the first beach in the area to start charging so that doesn't make sense. Plus Holden is the only one charging year around. Don't really care what SC is doing.

4d Like Reply Share

10



Joe Hatch

Where do you get the yearly passes?

4d Like Reply Share

[View 1 reply](#)



Todd Morris

And where is the beach improvements I don't see them all I see is more money collected and more over crowding so what collecting parking going to stop next Holdens beach will be a private beach if they have there way so don't tell us that the moneys going to make the beach better

4d Like Reply Share

6



Debbie Honeycutt Grant

Agree in the summer season. Makes no sense in the off season. I think that's why people have the negative posts because it looks like greed or don't want people there. It's empty most of the time in the off season. Can't see where they make enough revenue to hurt the town's reputation on this subject. Wish you could register 2 cars on the parking pass but understood only one of those cars could be there at the same time.

4d Like Reply Share

11

[View 1 reply](#)



Halle Buggi

I think the problem is with the full year parking. It's annoying to pay for parking when there is 5 cars in the lot on a semi cold day. Even wrightsville doesn't do off season parking

4d Like Reply Share

18



Rusty Wilson

As soon as they can figure it out they'll put toll booths on the ICW to charge boats for using it

4d Like Reply Share

10

[View all 3 replies](#)



Larry Hylton

100% understand paid parking during the season but not the off season at all! Us That live here in Supply love coming down in the fall season but paying \$20 to just stop and spend an hour or even 2 enjoying the afternoon or the sunset is ridiculous. Plus the beach improvements just aren't happening and let's not forget the inaction on the pier!

4d Like Reply Share

17



Jim Kleinfelder

The annual fee is a bargain costing .50 cents a day when spread out over the entire year.

4d Like Reply Share



[View all 2 replies](#)



Allan Davis

You do not own the beach. Tax payer money from state and federal which we all pay keeps the beach up. Don't preach to me about you owning anything but the land your house sits on

4d Like Reply Share

13

[View all 2 replies](#)



Heather Hoffman

I totally get what you're saying, and agree with some of it. However, the beach was still the only thing "free" for families to take their kids on vacation. I have been a stay at home mom for over 24 years. I took my kids to wrightsville when they were little, got to expensive...with little to no parking. Then I moved on down the line to Carolina, then the same thing happened. I finally took them to Holden bc it was free, and the only thing I had to pay for was gas, which started being to expensive in 2008. So eventually my kids and I could no longer take day trips to the beach, bc I couldn't afford gas, AND parking. We moved to Holden in 2021 bc it was still "untouched," we were able to go and enjoy the day without worrying about paying bills. I actually bought an annual parking pass the first year, and when I would go...I didn't have a parking space, so I have not paid for one since.

4d Like Reply Share

9



Donald Furr

First of all you can't overrun Holden Beach with only 445 spots and second I personally haven't seen a single improvement as a result of Paid Parking!

Still have limited to no services at any accesses and trash seems to still be a concern!

Off Season PAID parking is an INSULT to the entire county!

4d Like Reply Share

14

[View 1 reply](#)



Zesty Herb

I hope food lion starts a paid parking program

4d Like Reply Share

5



Nick Petrasco

It seems like a self induced Public Relations fiasco. If the entire page is filled with parking complaints you have an issue.

4d Like Reply Share

5



Ashley Greene

I will say that this information shows that the other surrounding beaches are charging the same and more for their passes and they are not year round. In actuality they are quite a bit more expensive. I'm not defending year round passes, just was surprised that the other beaches are quite a bit more expensive when you look at the number of months the pass is paying for.

3d Like Reply Share Edited

5

**TJ Jordan**

Non residents need to understand one important fact about residents. Yes, we live but do not own the island. We pay taxes, town and county. We like everyone else must pay to park anywhere on the island other than our own property. I'm not saying I am happy about it but I am just saying we are required to pay full price like everyone else.

3d Like Reply Share

3

...

**Lynn Harrington Kelly**

My opinion—personally I didn't have a problem with the seasonal paid parking. But the year around enforcement is a slap to the mainlanders face. Basically because there is really no "free" time to amount to much in off season with the early darkness and later sunrises.

I figured the greedy commissioners would implement the off season paid parking when they saw how much revenue they were loosing when the droves of shellers were coming in after the dredging looking for those dang sea biscuits!! I kid you not—the first Jan after the dredging I was there on a Wednesday in the middle of the month trying to walk. There were so people on the beach you'd have thought it was mid summer. Now the sea biscuit craze is over and we're still stuck with off season paid parking Go back to seasonal like the other 2 beaches.

3d Like Reply Share

15

[View all 3 replies](#)

**Chip Herring**

As a homeowner on the island and taxpayer (city and county taxes), I don't see the need to pay for parking—especially if I have a HB Owner's sticker on my car.

Granted I don't use the parking very often but when I do, it's \$5/hour!

I had rather see the funds used for other things besides a basketball court, splash pad (at the beach?), and a transient dock on the ICW.

Why not maintain the sidewalk space and improve the "paid parking" areas instead of wasting the funds.

I guess it never dawned on the commissioners to use the funds to maybe lower the taxes?

3d Like Reply Share

4

**Mike Yanecko**

So if it's good for you and keeps people away from enjoying the beach it all good, I been parking free from 2005 never a problem, I see very little improvements, and that big money money people don't need worry about parking, before paid parking you got fined for parking in the grass areas now if you pay it's good. Rules are not clear and people without the big money are getting ripped as long as locals

3d Like Reply Share

3

**Lisa Woodell Chavis**

You will pay for parking no matter where you go. Just plan on doing that. Simple.

3d Like Reply Share

1

[View 1 reply](#)

**Marcie Bryant McRae**

Pawley's Island parking is still free...

3d Like Reply Share

3

**Lisa Woodell Chavis**

I have always found a spot and paid with no problem.

3d Like Reply Share



Marlinda Bergdoll

I never comment on this I just buy my pass and hush.. but last year we had to buy 3.. for different cars.. I just wish ever resident just had to buy one.. not ever car

3d Like Reply Share

9

[View all 2 replies](#)



Annedra Dunn Kirk

Well spoken.

3d Like Reply Share 2



StunningCherry3500

Jesus Christ shut up! You have nothing better to do in life than still complain about this? Take it up with the city. And the admin that keeps allowing this is part of the problem. Social media has made people think it's ok to be dumb asses.

3d Like Reply Share

4

[View 1 reply](#)



Georgia Blanton

Very well stated!!

3d Like Reply Share



Paula Folwell Linthicum

Just wish it was seasonal. I don't think it is worth paying someone in the off season.

3d Like Reply Share

5



TF Freetobeme

Paid parking enforced year round is ridiculous! You put a comparison and it clearly shows it is the only one enforcing year round. That's really sticking it to the locals!!

3d Like Reply Share

8



Chesley McQueen

Totally Agree !

3d Like Reply Share 2



Connie White

So...does buying a parking permit guarantee a parking spot?

3d Like Reply Share

7

[View all 2 replies](#)



Frank Ferrell · [Follow](#)

I just wish it was \$175 per family. My wife and I drive separately because we often have different daytime plans with kids. For us, it's \$350 per year unless we always drive the same vehicle to the beach. She may go down on Friday and I can't come down until Sunday. She may want to take the kids to the beach and I may need to work on a porch. I may want to look for sharks teeth at 5am and they get up at 9:00. Point is, we need a two vehicle pass but I'll walk from Charlotte before I pay \$350.

3d Like Reply Share

12

[View all 2 replies](#)



Larry Williams

News flash

Maintainance on beach access ramps don't go away from October to April , beach trash pick up continues year around , beach patrol still patrols , year around . Just because you aren't at the beach , don't mean the world stops to wait for your arrival.

And no, county, state and federal government don't pay for all those access ramps , and at 10-50,000 a hit , you do the math. On how expensive parking is .

No town, no business , no government can run indefinitely at a deficit , I don't really have a dog in the fight, I pay like everyone else if a park there , so the best I can tell you is if you aren't happy with Holden beach PLEASE

take your parking to some place that you are happy with , life is to short to go around miserable.

3d Like Reply Share

4

[View all 2 replies](#)



Mike Snyder

Been to Holden once as a teenager. Beautiful place. I tried to visit later in life when I discovered that you can't visit. Never again. You don't have to worry about beach improvements. God will always take care of that.

3d Like Reply Share

5



Mary Ellen Lloyd Biery

Thanks for compiling this data, Stephen Karbelk. It's great perspective.

3d Like Reply Share



Julie Schilawski

Thank you. Good information and rationally presented.



Jay Marcum

Paid parking in the off season is just greed. Good management will stop the need for paid parking in the off season. The other beaches do not have any problems not charging for off season parking

3d Like Reply Share

8



Keri Todd

We just bought our season parking pass today and all I got was a paid receipt and no information was provided (I could have missed it) as to how it works.

Do we get a physical sticker for our car? Do we have to scan the parking sign every time we go to the beach to show what spot we are in?

I just don't want a ticket after paying for the pass because I didn't "check in" to my parking spot.

TIA

3d Like Reply Share

[View all 5 replies](#)



Lucie Long

We locals do pay taxes...

3d Like Reply Share 3



Nancy Howard

I never pay to park at other beaches because I rent a beach house on the ocean or within walking distance. Where I stay, parking is free after 5pm, and also, there is free parking at local business lots when visiting that business such as grocery store, beach shops, restaurants. Some places apparently have computerized parking meters and the town attendant knows which meters expires and when, so they are right there writing tickets. What is the impact on businesses in Holden Beach as the result of parking fees?

3d Like Reply Share



Christy Cloer

Go ahead and drive visitors away, I guess average people won't get to enjoy one of God's beautiful sights because of the all mighty dollar. People that are struggling to survive may won't to take their family to the beach but between parking gas food and other things it's just to expensive. I hope you enjoy your view if you live there once you drive away visitors you are gonna have to come up with more money to keep things going

3d Like Reply Share

6



Bryan Brown

Year around parking is just plain GREED. There is no other excuse. Alan Holden and his Third Reich BOC are a bunch of thieves. And they keep reelecting him when nothing changes or gets any better. Now how stupid is that. Holden Beach the family beach? More like the greedy beach.

3d Like Reply Share

3

[View 1 reply](#)



Dexter Tate

Well said

3d Like Reply Share



James Sweeney

Revenue is not net income (profits). It's pretty much guaranteed that OIB and Sunset had a net operating loss last year with the amount of money they spent on initial setup. With the amount of houses currently projected to be built in Brunswick County it's just pure comedy to think you're going to discourage people from going to the beach with a paid parking pass.

3d Like Reply Share

2



George Bruton

paid parking is just another fing tax. nowwe get taxed more to go to the beach!!!

3d Like Reply Share



Justin Allen Imes

You don't own the beach. I swear to god. I never would have moved here if I would have known they would lock up the beach for the low income which over half of brunswick county is and most beaches don't offer the discounted pass to the island so our county taxes pay for you island but we don't get to enjoy it. And if your like me I get to live on the main land near a sewage pipe that we get to smell oak island crap all summer long. You entitled people think you own the world. Forget you.

3d Like Reply Share

8

[View 1 reply](#)



Mary Lou Gray Gaul

I don't have any issue with paid parking in general. However, I feel very strongly in the free parking October-April policy! Also, the season passes should be one per family, not each vehicle!

3d Like Reply Share Edited

10



Stephanie Ingle Kincaid

When is off season??? There is no off season anymore!!

3d Like Reply Share

3



Shannon Adams

My only complaint is why they are wasting so much of the mine by having way too many folks checking... 4 at a time some days. If you do the math there are not enough spots to require 4 people. If they write a ticket before you get 100 yards from car (bc the app sucks and it takes time to get it go through sometimes) that's a clear message that there are too many employees. Cut to a realistic number and use the funds wisely. For instance, for better water spigot stations, filling giant holes, etc.

My 2 cents

3d Like Reply Share



Brian Duncan

We pay every year and they never fix holes in parking lots

3d Like Reply Share



Ann K Shaw

I hear so many complaints about the paid parking situation at Holden, and everyone wants to park free during the off season, and some during summer months. My family has had a 2nd home at Holden which we have enjoyed visiting for many years. I don't think many people realize that not only does the town of Holden Beach takes care of the many services offered to residents and nonresidents during the summer months, but these services are also offered during the off-season months. Taking care of the beach is a yearlong job. Road repairs, dunes renourished and planted, beach trash serviced, beach patrols, police dept. and other first responders, recreational areas, water and sewer, and many more areas of service that do not end with the summer season. The residents/ homeowners of Holden Beach pay for not only county taxes, but separate town taxes also. Our town taxes also pay for the services offered to nonresidents during their time spent at Holden Beach, on and off season. You never hear complaints from the homeowners on the things we go through during summer months, such as people blocking our driveways to load and unload their beach equipment, or parking in our driveway thinking it is a vacant house, throwing their trash in our trash receptacles, using our outdoor showers, walking over the dunes instead of a walkway, or if you live near a walkway having trash thrown in your yard, broken beach equipment left, or being disrespectful to an owner when they are asked not to disrespect our property. I know of these actions personally, as having a 2nd home that is ocean front and near a public walkway, and they have happened to us. I have been blocked out of my driveway, and when asked to move their car or cars, I have been cussed out, I have been on the deck and in front of me, people have thrown their trash in my yard, use the deck and outdoor shower thinking no one was home, and the list goes on, I know this is just a small amount of visitors that come to Holden, but they set a bad example for all. I have offered my driveway to many people to unload their belongings who may have small children, handicap, or other reasons. I have even let some park in the driveway and no I don't charge them. I am sure other homeowners have done the same. I am just saying that there are two sides of every coin, the good and the bad. I know it may feel like a burden to many to pay for parking, and they feel it is unfair, but look at it in a positive way, that the small amount you pay for a day of being with your family, friends, etc. is a day of special memories being made, pictures taken to last forever, or past memories of other times spent at Holden Beach. I have lost the family I grew up with in this home at Holden Beach, and I sit inside or on the deck thinking and sometimes crying of those many memories from the past, many on the sand and water of Holden Beach. Please do not let a parking fee be the focus of your day, as that is not the memory you want to keep of your visit to Holden Beach.

3d Like Reply Share Edited



View all 2 replies



Josh Long

Make the tourists pay for parking, not residents. We already pay property taxes. Also we shouldn't have to pay out of peak season for parking.

3d Like Reply Share

4

...

[View all 4 replies](#)



Nick Petrasco

It sounds like a lot of people aren't going to Hold Up Beach in the future. I don't see how this helps the community or visitors.

It certainly isn't helping local businesses if people decide to not go to HB.

3d Like Reply Share Edited

7



Chris Sumner

Well said!!

3d Like Reply Share



Rick Morris

let's talk stop trying to stick it to everyone

3d Like Reply Share

3

...



Gwen Yandle Gallen

I do wish the off season had free parking again when there are plenty of spaces and not so many beach goers. I just like to hang out for 20-30 minutes and get back in the car.

I'm not likely pay for just me to look at the ocean for a few minutes. I'm not whining, it would just be nice.

3d Like Reply Share

9

[View 1 reply](#)



Catherine Harroun

My issues are with the Year round part of paid parking and the fact there are less handicapped parking spaces available than just 3 yrs ago. Making it almost impossible to find one especially during tourist season.

3d Like Reply Share

4



Takoda Yates

I had an old man on a golf cart run through my fishing lines last year (a few thousand doll worth of tackle and poles because he was flying down the beach on his golf cart not paying any attention. After I ran up yelling for him to stop and cussed at him for messing all my stuff up he said "if you know who I am you wouldn't be talking to me like that". And just like I don't gaf about who he was I don't gaf about what you have to say.

3d Like Reply Share

10



Linda Brown Eubanks

So what has happened is HB has made it a private island. Keeping people and families that don't have a lot of money to enjoy the beauty that God gave us all for free .

So who is going to pay to keep your beaches beautiful if you don't have outside beach goers?

...

3d Like Reply Share

11



Randy Riley

That's a beautiful place but it's controlled by greedy people.....

3d Like Reply Share

5

...

[View 1 reply](#)



Ann Wheeler

I try not to complain but we drive our Rogue most of the time. There are times when we drive the bigger Pathfinder because we need the space for hauling repair items. Maybe one vehicle per day per pass instead of one pass per car per year? This could be easily fixed by only allowing one vehicle per pass at the time.

3d Like Reply Share

3



Brian Mills

Not a fan of the paid parking but I do understand the need as beach erosion seems to be getting worse each year. However, I see no need to make the paid parking a 12 month tax, it should be mid April-Mid October and should not require one to have a smart phone to pay.

3d Like Reply Share

13



Joseph Parker

Why is this the only Holden Beach page that still permits all of this arguing over parking? Such a waste of air.

3d Like Reply Share



Beverly Bajkowski

Thank you for the information. It is greatly appreciated. And I would gladly pay every day to visit Holden beach.

3d Like Reply Share

3

[View all 2 replies](#)



Sun Day

How much of that revenue is spent on companies monitoring and all associated administrative costs ?

3d Like Reply Share



Carol Kelly Bain

Beautiful picture

3d Like Reply Share 2



Gall Cash

I have a list of several businesses, retail and restaurants that I don't like the service, food or some other reason, I just don't go there. Problem solved.

3d Like Reply Share

2

[View 1 reply](#)

**David Black**

So Holden is the only beach that has nothing for the locals like a discount on a pass like all other beaches . Oak island has front row parking for residents and paid parking ends when the season ends in Sept. Why does Holden stick to the locals ? Plus Holden is a just a beach nothing to offer at all but a beach . No pier , no nothing. A couple so so restaurants ? Go to ocean isle and sunset and oak island and you will see the difference.

3d Like Reply Share Edited

10

**Robin Ritter Burke**

I have a place on OKI, It helps! We would see people parking in yards and all over the roadways blocking access to areas just because they couldn't find a parking spot to park in. Which in turn caused a lot of headaches and honestly fighting. I'm glad we have paid parking it has created a more pleasant and enjoyable experience at our beach.

3d Like Reply Share

**Tony DeMarco**

Great information!!! thank you

3d Like Reply Share

**Teresa Lenihan Mann**

I would like to know the actual profits after revenue for the islands. What are the administration fees for paid parking?

3d Like Reply Share

2

**Gene Anderson**

Great post and makes complete sense ... thank you for the post ... maybe we can move on from that now and chat about some cool things happening at Holden beach !

3d Like Reply Share

3

[View all 3 replies](#)

**Evan Edwards**

Makes one wonder how these beaches existed without it. 😳 It couldn't be bad budgeting and poor planning .

3d Like Reply Share

9

[View 1 reply](#)



David Black

For those of you that did not receive Tracey Thomas' letter of resignation email, here is an excerpt every resident and property owner should read:

During his campaign, Keith Smith promised to restore "trust, transparency, and teamwork." Unfortunately, these principles were disregarded at the outset. Revisions to the Rules of Procedure were neither shared with the public nor discussed openly before Commissioners Smith, Pate, and Dyer voted to revert to an outdated version. This outdated version is not only less transparent but also fails to account for modern laws regarding remote participation, and directly violates Ordinance 30.15 (A) [Ord. 07-04, passed 5-22-07].

Furthermore, the behavior witnessed at this meeting is a continuation of the hostile working environment fostered by Mayor Holden and Commissioners Rick Smith and Page Dyer over the past two years. This atmosphere of antagonism has consistently undermined the Board's ability to engage in civil, productive debate. It is deeply troubling to witness the very "backroom" decision-making and predetermined outcomes that were so heavily criticized now being used as primary tools of governance. By "calling the question" to prematurely end deliberation, the new majority has signaled an interest in an agenda of retaliation rather than collaboration.

I have grave concerns regarding the Board's insistence on "repairing" a pier that both the Town inspector and a reputable engineering firm have deemed a total loss.

Disregarding these professional evaluations to pursue a project that is not cost-effective places an undue financial burden on our taxpayers. Furthermore, based on recent public statements, it is apparent that certain members of the Board intend to prioritize the interests of non-residents over the taxpayers of Holden Beach. Any attempt to bypass the November 2025 referendum by leveraging revenue streams like parking fees or occupancy taxes would be disingenuous, unethical, and a violation of the public trust.

3d Like Reply Share

4 

[View 1 reply](#)



Deb Walls Arnold

Is the big pothole still there at the pay for parking where the pier is? At the entrance.

3d Like Reply Share

5 

[View all 5 replies](#)



Shawn Abbott

No

3d Like Reply Share



Traci Brown

We live right on stone chimney haven't been to the beach since they made it year around paid parking , no discounts for locals either .

3d Like Reply Share

10 



James E Stewart

Your weekly pass and yearly pass do not guarantee you a parking spot. First come, first serve. So, if you try and find a spot to park and none is available, you are out of luck. Good luck.....

3d Like Reply Share

4 

[View 1 reply](#)



Amye Elizabeth

I pay high taxes and insurance to live here because its so close to the water. EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHOULD GET A PARKING PASS AS PART OF THIER TAXES. To all the people complaining about the complainers other beaches function just fine with the off-season being free . Stop being beach, greedy ~~greedy~~ and stop using our off shore resources such as hospitals, grocery stores unless you pay 20 dollars from 9 to 5.... No we will not move on

3d Like Reply Share Edited

8  



Kathy Skinner

Most people can't afford to bring their families to the beach and spend their money, because if they spend a week here that's money they can't spend in restaurants and hotels I think you are shooting yourselves in the foot. The beach is not owned by you.

3d Like Reply Share

7



Dave Gordon

"Prevents overcrowding" is largely because it keeps the less fortunate away. If the state supported and provided just a few reasonable public parks with beach access and facilities, this might be a minor issue for everyone.

3d Like Reply Share

6

[View all 2 replies](#)



Jackie Danielle

Honestly, the paid parking is nothing but a deterrent for me during off- peak months. I moved to the area so that I could go to the beach more and not pay to park and they started year- round paid parking right after. Now, I wait until my dog has to go to the vet in Southport and go to Caswell or OKI for free. I understand paid parking during tourist season, but some of us count on the free parking during the off- season. Not everyone has that kind of money to throw around like that. People should have the option to enjoy the ocean without corporate greed getting in the way.

3d Like Reply Share

10



Treva Lowthorp

Ditch the year round paid parking. That is ridiculously greedy. Just like to take my dog on the beach in the fall and winter. We have a place behind Provisions and came down before Christmas and still here. He'd love to enjoy the sunny beach at noon when the sand is not hot. Just be... Maybe go back to seasonal paid parking April thru October. We're only catching early mornings and sunset hours. Then dark:30. He's on vacation too. You don't own that island!



3d Like Reply Share Edited 5 0 0

[View 1 reply](#)



Brenda Pait

How does a yearly parking pass work? Can I park anywhere? Am I guaranteed a spot?

3d Like Reply Share

1

[View all 5 replies](#)



Beverly Gilliam Hudson
Danny Hudson

2d Like Reply Share



Lance Dunlap

Respectfully disagree. We don't have to accept paid parking.

2d Like Reply Share

5

[View all 3 replies](#)



Ricky Tindal

We vacation in the mountains in a private cabin I can't stand the beach and I was born in Horry County. Don't have that issue when we vacation and Gatlinburg.

2d Like Reply Share

1

[View all 3 replies](#)



Troy Akers

I think it is great you researched this and showed that parking is not free anywhere. Unfortunately, it's pay to park about anywhere you go now, beach or otherwise. Accept it, or don't participate in the program would be my thought.

2d Like Reply Share

2 0



Judie Mizanosi Talafoos

Well said and documented. You just can't please everyone. The ones that complain the loudest are those that don't live on the beach and just don't want to go the extra mile for a break in parking. If that's the case just stop complaint and live with it.

2d Like Reply Share

1 0



Jennifer Baldwin Tummons

But don't you think it makes sense to be like Oak Island and all of those people paying taxes already should be permitted a special set of parking?? Also it shouldn't be charged all year. No one else does that either Holden has gotten greedy.

2d Like Reply Share

2 0



Christina Isham

If a seasonal pass is purchased it is only valid from Jan 1 to Dec 31. If you buy it in June it expires that same year on Dec 31st. It should not expire until a year from the date it was purchased. There are not enough handicap parking available. If you are not going to have free parking during the winter, then reduce the fee during those months. Allow for family passes, not restricted to one vehicle, allow 2 vehicles to be registered. Open up more drop off areas. I am a resident of Brunswick county and having a discount for those that live in the county will help lower income families. Just because neighboring beaches have their rules and regulations doesn't mean you have to be the same. There is room for coming to a better middle ground. My resolution: I go to the beach after 5, I drop off a car load of people and leave. If I join them, I will for a limited time of an hr. It has been long enough time since the beaches have been charging and many have legitimate complaints, but what has occurred is the cost went from \$3 to \$4 to \$5 an hr. Listen to the people that pay and enjoy the activities of the beach or they too will drop a car load off and leave or only go after 5.

2d Like Reply Share Edited

7 0



No Mo

It is not about what the money goes towards. It's about taking money from people who paid taxes on the road that you're fining them to park on. It's about the constitution. It's about taking away our inalienable rights and taxation without representation. So Mr. Steven, do you support the constitution or do you think we should ignore the constitution to raise money so that we can keep the crowds away from the beach that they rightfully belong on. Just because you bought a house there and you don't want it to be overcrowded, doesn't justify that you want to enforce an illegal activity on the rest of us.

2d Like Reply Share Edited

5 0



Patti Boles Gray

Well if he's "all that" he should have paid for the damages!

1d Like Reply Share

1



Keith Bowman

Maybe someone needs to get a petition up and send to David Rouser !

1d Like Reply Share

1



Christopher Henry

Paid parking should be illegal. These roads were paid for with tax payers money. The profits generated are in the millions. If you add up all the beach towns now charging locally it's in the billions. The roads still have potholes in some beach towns. This only fattens to pockets of a few while the people have to pay yet another tax on top of all the unjust taxes we already pay. This will be my tea party igniter. Paid parking at the public beach! Haaa! You guys are crooks and should be ashamed at how these so called authorities steal our hard earned money as if \$175 a year is cheap! Can you tell I'm sick of this added tax?!?! George Washington is rolling in his grave like a tornado at this point! God even opposes unjust tax! Y'all will meet your maker one day and he will say, how did you treat your neighbor and did you vote for or more or less taxes? I'm sick of this paying for everything that once used to be free for the public. I wonder when we'll have to pay to use public restrooms at the beach too? I shouldn't give y'all any ideas!

1d Like Reply Share Edited

6 0



Kirby Laughlin

Each Holden Beach home or property owner should get a discounted rate on parking passes, weekly or daily rates. Anyone else should have the option to purchase a season pass or a weekly pass at discounted rates. Show the home owners some love! Comon Man!

1d Like Reply Share

2 0



Judie Mizanowski Talaous

I just don't know why people keep complaining it's a done deal. Live with it or go to another beach if that would make you happy. So tired of nothing but complaints. Let try to be more positive and talk about things that are good life is so short to be so stagnant on this issue

1d Like Reply Share



[View 1 reply](#)



Becky S. Taylor

Since there is so much Revenue from parking, the only complaint I have is why can't they do a better job maintaining the east end road to the handicapped spaces and bathrooms. There is constantly large potholes in the road. I think they could do a better job caring for this area.

1d Like Reply Share Edited



Gene Anderson

Great Post ... thank you for taking the time to do that !

23h Like Reply Share



Linda A-ring

I hope you won't charge during off season months. There are plenty of parking spaces then and I'm guessing not too many people use them. We don't go to Holden often in the winter months but would like to be able to visit without paying. Thank you.

19h Like Reply Share

[View all 2 replies](#)



Cindi Lou

Weird that everyone survived for decades without paid parking but now all of the sudden it's necessary 365 days a year. Without public restrooms, water spigots, or anyone filling in the potholes. And a pier in disrepair.... but yeah, we needed paid parking. Totally.

18h Like Reply Share



Alan Wright

The funny thing is that, when I retired I thought it was so great to find local beaches with free parking. I knew for sure that things would change soon, sure enough. We have to have paid parking because they have paid parking. Times change, I hope they do some benevolent things with the money. My favorite word is... adapt to change.

15h Like Reply Share



Jim Smith

All this paid nonsense started just a few years ago . It should have never been implemented at all . There have been ZERO IMPROVEMENTS anywhere .

13h Like Reply Share



William Hanrahan

How does paid parking prevent over crowding? And if you're going to charge to park, then the things you talked about should be getting done and they're not. I'm new to the area and the last thing I intend to do is tell you how it was where I came from. What I will tell you is the parking lot today that got me for \$25 bucks had overflowing toilets that I told my wife not to even look at. We had planned to walk the beach and have lunch. Instead I paid the \$25 bucks and went home. To many, perception is reality. To me there's usually a balance in what one thinks they see, and what's really the truth. HB looked like a ghost town full of too many for sale signs. That observation should be getting someone's attention. What is HB doing to advertise itself (inform) and market itself (to build a base of supporters)?? We had a nice dinner at Sorella's just this past Friday. Before we bough in Bolivia, we had a nice dinner on the island side. Why? Because we like to support small business and we don't mind paying along the way. What was almost funny was the meter maid in what looked like a privately owned vehicle trolling the parking lot and actually watching me peel the ticket off my truck's windshield. A truck that is supposed to have a DV Tag but for NC DMV telling me like a check...it's in the mail. Then the gleam in her eye as she watched was just as funny. Next time, we're going to Oak Island, and after the walk, our coffee or meal will be in one of their establishments! I can sympathize with HB and their budget plight, but pissing off the nation isn't going to properly frame the problem, and with public support...solve it!

12h Like Reply Share



Jennifer Carman

We pay for the yearly pass but can't find parking anywhere many times ...

10h Like Reply Share



Mike Britt

GREEDY BS

2h Like Reply Share

Heather Finnell

From: tracey thomas <tracey7.thomas@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Heather Finnell
Subject: Public Comment for Jan 20 BOC meeting
Attachments: Tracey Thomas_HB Commissioner letter of resignation.pdf

Heather,
Please include my attached letter of resignation as a public comment for the Jan 20, 2026 BOC meeting.
Thank you,
Tracey Thomas

To the Residents of Holden Beach and the Board of Commissioners:

I hereby submit my resignation as Commissioner of Holden Beach, effective January 1, 2026.

When I joined this Board, I did so with a commitment to integrity and fiscal responsibility. Regrettably, the actions taken during the first meeting of the new Board have made it clear that I can no longer serve in good conscience.

During his campaign, Keith Smith promised to restore "trust, transparency, and teamwork." Unfortunately, these principles were disregarded at the outset. Revisions to the Rules of Procedure were neither shared with the public nor discussed openly before Commissioners Smith, Pate, and Dyer voted to revert to an outdated version. This outdated version is not only less transparent but also fails to account for modern laws regarding remote participation, and directly violates Ordinance 30.15 (A) [Ord. 07-04, passed 5-22-07].

Furthermore, the behavior witnessed at this meeting is a continuation of the hostile working environment fostered by Mayor Holden and Commissioners Rick Smith and Page Dyer over the past two years. This atmosphere of antagonism has consistently undermined the Board's ability to engage in civil, productive debate. It is deeply troubling to witness the very "backroom" decision-making and predetermined outcomes that were so heavily criticized now being used as primary tools of governance. By "calling the question" to prematurely end deliberation, the new majority has signaled an interest in an agenda of retaliation rather than collaboration.

I have grave concerns regarding the Board's insistence on "repairing" a pier that both the Town inspector and a reputable engineering firm have deemed a total loss. Disregarding these professional evaluations to pursue a project that is not cost-effective places an undue financial burden on our taxpayers. Furthermore, based on recent public statements, it is apparent that certain members of the Board intend to prioritize the interests of non-residents over the taxpayers of Holden Beach. Any attempt to bypass the November 2025 referendum by leveraging revenue streams like parking fees or occupancy taxes would be disingenuous, unethical, and a violation of the public trust.

I am proud to have prioritized the Sand Fund and eliminated wasteful spending during my tenure. I leave the Town in a significantly stronger financial position than when I began my service. Given the current trajectory, I cannot in good conscience participate in proceedings that I believe undermine the integrity of our local government.

It has been a profound honor to serve the people of Holden Beach, and I remain deeply committed to the future success and well-being of our beautiful community.

Respectfully,

Tracey Thomas Commissioner, Town of Holden Beach

Heather Finnell

From: Susan Thompson <312833@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2026 6:55 PM
To: Heather Finnell
Subject: Tuesday's Meeting

Susan Thompson, 1237 OBW.

Wondering if there are rules regarding dead plants/trees on the island? I'm just hoping about the dead, rather tall tree at 650 OBW that's clearly been dead for at least 3 years. It's an eye sore, dangerous, and may possibly have termites. I believe it's 650 OBW. Thank you.

Also, per the agenda regarding paid parking. As much as Brunswick County is growing, I believe the town should allow some free parking days for those not having the luxury of living here. Perhaps one week per month between Nov-March. I doubt the fees incurred during this period of time are hugely significant.

Thank you again.
Sent from my iPad
Susan

Public comments for January BOC meeting
Agenda items 9, 12

Maria Surprise
159 OBE

Dear Mayor Holden, Commissioners Dyer, Myers, Pate and Smith, Town Manager Chadwick and Town Clerk Finnell,

On Election Day 2025, the four Commissioner candidates agreed that no matter who won, we would hold each other accountable to our campaign promises and agreement to work together for the benefit of the Town of Holden Beach. Commissioners Pate and Smith, you looked me in the eye and shook my hand and said, "no new concrete on Block Q."

As Commissioner candidates, Keith, Chad, Sylvia and I had several productive conversations about what the Block Q area could look like, keeping the area as green as possible. Imagine my surprise when I opened the meeting packet for the January BOC meeting and saw an 80'x80' footprint for the combined pavilion and dance floor. Is that really the best you can do? I strongly urge the BOC to reconsider this design and implement a more eco-friendly building and dance floor. Has using a rental stage and dance floor ever been seriously considered? Have the economics of gutting one of the last green spaces on Holden Beach been reviewed? Please explain during the discussion of item 9 how you came up with this design and why you believe it is the best solution for our town.

Also, I look forward to hearing you explain why, on the same night that selecting an engineering firm for the Town's stormwater project is on the agenda, we want to cover more of our beautiful island in concrete. How is that going to help with our island's stormwater drainage issues? And what kind of message are you sending to the RCCP team? The Resilient Coastal Communities Program kicked off in December 2025, with the goal of having several shovel-ready projects ready to submit for grants within a year. Please, help me understand how pouring huge slabs of concrete contributes to the resiliency of Holden Beach.

On item 12, the cover sheet is woefully inadequate. Mayor Holden submitted this agenda topic on January 8th, and the only corresponding information included is the following: "Several commissioners have requested to discuss the dates paid parking is enforced within Town limits." In the interest of transparency, please inform the public which Commissioners requested this discussion and why. Do you have data and estimates of the economic impact of any changes to the paid parking plan? Will this only be a discussion, or will any action be taken?

Thank you for your consideration.

Cheers,
Maria