

Gasparilla Island Parking Conditions

Field Survey Summary | Sunday, March 15, 2026 | 12:55 PM - 1:21 PM

Origin: Placida | Equipment: AZDOME M550 dashcam with side-view camera

Weather: low to mid-70s with sunny with scattered clouds; weather was sunny with scattered clouds throughout the survey; surfaces dry

Core Finding

This survey documents two conditions observed simultaneously on a peak-season Sunday afternoon: the permit-only street corridor from 1st through 19th St W was heavily underutilized, while every designated state park lot was full despite sunny with scattered clouds. A "PARKING AREA FULL" sign was posted at the Sandspur/Lighthouse complex entrance. No pedestrian traffic was observed on any of the side streets from 1st through 19th St W -- including on blocks where vehicles were parked -- while people were visibly on foot with beach gear at every state park lot.

The permit-only corridor and the designated state park lots represent two sides of a directly observable imbalance: a lightly used restricted corridor running the length of the island, and every state park lot at full capacity -- documented simultaneously on a sunny with scattered clouds Sunday afternoon.

Conditions at a Glance

Location	Time	Status	Notes
5th St Public Lot (3-hour limit)	12:57:53 - 12:58:30 PM	Full	Lot was full at time of observation; pedestrian beach activity visible
Permit-Only Streets 1st – 19th St W	12:55 PM–1:00 PM	Empty to Low	No pedestrian traffic on any side street; small number of vehicles across entire corridor
Range Light	1:01:08 PM	Full	Lighthouse range tower visible in the distance. Lot was full at time of observation with vehicles tightly packed across all rows; orange traffic cones placed in the drive aisle. Pedestrian activity visible at the lot entrance.
Sea Grape	1:04:16 PM	Full	Lot was full at time of observation; vehicles tightly packed across all rows.
Sea Wall (entry)	1:05:56 PM	Full	Lot was full at time of observation. Pedestrian activity visible — beachgoers loading and unloading beach gear (umbrellas, beach bags) at vehicles.
Sandspur (entrance approach)	1:07:20 PM	Signed Full	Sandspur/Lighthouse complex entrance. 'PARKING AREA FULL' sign posted at the entrance alongside the 'BOCA GRANDE LIGHTHOUSE' and 'PARK CLOSING AT SUNSET' signs. Orange traffic cones placed at the entry.
Sandspur (continued)	1:08:13 PM	Full	Continued full conditions through the Sandspur lot interior; vehicles tightly packed.
Lighthouse	1:09:10 PM	Full	Small lot at the south end of the Sandspur/Lighthouse complex (south of Sandspur, near the Boca Grande Lighthouse keeper's house). Lot was full with vehicles tightly packed; pedestrian activity visible (a person on foot in the lot).
Lighthouse (continued)	1:09:29 PM	Full	Continued full conditions through the Lighthouse lot; vehicles tightly packed with porta-potty units visible at the perimeter.

Location	Time	Status	Notes
Park Ave (Hudson's block)	1:16:15 PM	Moderate	Commercial block heading northbound through the village. Multiple vehicles parked along both sides of Park Ave with active commercial activity, pedestrians, and bicycle traffic. GPS verified: 26.74947, -82.26196.
E Railroad Ave (bus/RV parking area)	1:20:36 PM	Moderate	Designated bus and RV parking on E Railroad Ave. Public-use parking but restricted to buses and RVs only; no overnight parking permitted. GPS verified: 26.75201, -82.26174.
11th St E	1:21:54 PM	Moderate	11th St E (north side only) is unposted public access parking with approximately 10 spots, shared with employees and Inlet customers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has stated this is not a suitable replacement for the public parking eliminated by Ordinance 25-16. Side cam; map-located against 11 St E polygon.

Source: Dashcam field survey, Sunday, March 15, 2026. Origin: Placida. Footage captured using an AZDOME M550 dashcam with side-view camera via Dashcam Viewer Pro. The AZDOME M550 records continuous video with embedded date, time, speed, and GPS coordinates, and includes a side-view camera that captures cross streets looking west toward the beach. Survey originated in Placida. GPS coordinates confirmed against provided GeoJSON coordinate file. Status assessments are visual estimates from continuous dashcam footage. Full video and complete records are available upon request. All times are local (EST). A detailed technical companion report is available.