

Gasparilla Island Parking Conditions

Field Survey Summary | Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 11:12 AM - 11:38 AM

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

Weather: warm spring temperatures with sunny, clear skies; weather was sunny and clear throughout the survey

Core Finding

This survey documents two conditions observed simultaneously on a peak-season Sunday morning: the permit-only street corridor from 1st through 19th St W was heavily underutilized, while every designated state park lot was full despite sunny, clear skies. 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, clear skies Sunday morning.

Conditions at a Glance

Location	Time	Status	Notes
Permit-Only Streets 1st – 19th St W	11:12 AM–11:17 AM	Empty to Low	No pedestrian traffic on any side street; small number of vehicles across entire corridor
5th St Public Lot (3-hour limit)	11:14:23 - 11:15:18 AM	Moderate	Plenty of spaces available; all 4 ADA spots vacant; beach access ramp closed (cones across ramp at trash barrels)
Range Light (entry approach)	11:17:40 AM	Full	Lot was too congested to safely drive into. Vehicles tightly packed and people on foot with beach gear visible at the entrance. Side cam; map-located against Range Light polygon
Sea Grape (entry)	11:20:21 AM	Full	Lot was full at time of observation; vehicles tightly packed across all rows
Sea Wall (entry)	11:21:41 AM	Full	Lot was full; State Park welcome sign visible at entrance, traffic cone present
Sandspur (entry)	11:23:30 AM	Full	Flagpole visible at lot; all spaces filled
Sandspur (south end / departure)	11:24:25 AM	Full	White Jeep Gladiator and multiple vehicles parked tightly; lot full
Lighthouse (beach access)	11:25:39 AM	Full	Pedestrians on foot at beach access signs; lot full
Lighthouse (east edge)	11:25:47 AM	Full	Vehicles parked along east edge of lot
Park Ave (Hudson's block)	11:31:52 AM	Moderate	Commercial block north of 3rd St W intersection (Park Ave runs along the eastern edge of 3rd St W's eastern segment); vehicles parked along east side near restaurants and businesses; golf cart traffic; moderate use observed. GPS verified: 26.74917, -82.26200
E Railroad Ave (5th St E intersection)	11:33:02 AM	Low	Multiple vehicles parked along east side of E Railroad Ave at the 5th St E commercial intersection (business parking). GPS verified: 26.75192, -82.26175

Location	Time	Status	Notes
11th St E	11:37:39 AM	Full	North side of 11th St E was completely full of parked vehicles including red Ford Raptor, blue convertible, and additional cars; full row of parking observed. The north side of 11th St E is the only unposted public access parking on the island per County records, but contains only approximately 10 spots and is shared with employees and Inlet customers. The Army Corps of Engineers has determined this location is not a suitable replacement for the parking access lost under Ordinance 25-16.

Source: Dashcam field survey, Sunday, April 26, 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.