

Gasparilla Island Parking Conditions

Field Survey Summary | Saturday, May 23, 2026 | 12:03 PM - 12:26 PM

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

Weather: warm late-spring temperatures, around 90°F with partly cloudy; weather was warm and partly cloudy throughout the survey, approximately 90°F

Core Finding

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

Conditions at a Glance

Location	Time	Status	Notes
Permit-Only Streets 1st – 19th St W	12:03 PM–12:07 PM	Empty to Low	No pedestrian traffic on any side street; small number of vehicles across entire corridor
5th St Public Lot (3-hour limit)	12:05:19 PM	Moderate	~45 vehicles, parking available; exit side more congested; beach access ramp closed (cones across ramp at trash barrels)
Range Light	12:08:47 PM	Full	Lot was too congested to safely drive into; driver backed out. Vehicles tightly packed and visible through the entrance at 1 mph. Front cam, GPS verified inside Range Light polygon
Sea Grape	12:11:39 PM	Full	Lot was full at time of observation; vehicles tightly packed across all rows. Red Ford Explorer prominent at entry; no open spaces visible. Verbally confirmed no spots available. GPS verified inside Sea Grape polygon
Sea Wall	12:13:42 PM	Full	Lot traversed in full -- entering from the north going west, proceeding south through the interior, and exiting going east -- completely full throughout. Portable toilets and beachgoers on foot visible. GPS verified inside Sea Wall polygon on all frames
Sea Wall (south end)	12:13:57 PM	Full	South end of lot full; red pickup truck prominent; orange cone visible. GPS verified inside Sea Wall polygon
Sandspur/Lighthouse complex	12:14:54 PM	Signed Full	'PARKING AREA FULL' sign clearly visible at the complex entrance along with Boca Grande Lighthouse and Gasparilla Island State Park signage. A queue of 4-5 vehicles was stacked ahead at the entrance; driver turned back to avoid becoming trapped. Lighthouse lot not reached.
Park Ave at Hudson's market (5th St E intersection)	12:21:22 PM	Moderate	Hudson's Beverages/Ice/Food/Dairy visible on left; multiple vehicles parked along Park Ave including golf carts; active commercial area. GPS verified: 26.75102, -82.26198
E Railroad Ave	12:21:56 PM	Low	Three to four vehicles parked on right side including white SUV and red vehicle; E Railroad Ave / 5th St E intersection. GPS verified: 26.75176, -82.26170

Location	Time	Status	Notes
11th St E	12:26:15 PM	Full	North side of 11th St E completely full; vehicles packed bumper to bumper including black SUV and additional cars. Parking sign visible. Side cam; map-located against 11 St E polygon

Source: Dashcam field survey, Saturday, May 23, 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.