

# Virginia Beach Planning & Community Development Department Environment & Sustainability Office

## Dune and Beach Boundaries, Permits Required, & Allowed Activities

In Virginia Beach, activities that involve Beaches and Coastal Primary Sand Dunes are regulated by City and State Code. <https://vacode.org/28.2/14/>

As defined in the City & State Code, the Coastal Primary Sand Dune & Beach's landward jurisdiction limits end where there is a change in soil composition, the line of woody vegetation, or a physical form such as a bulkhead, revetment, or paved road. On nourished beaches, determining the Dune & Beach's landward jurisdiction limits is complicated. Final determination of jurisdiction on nourished beaches is always made by Wetlands Board staff. However, on the nourished beaches in Sandbridge, the Dune & Beach jurisdiction limits extend from the mean high water location landward to an existing bulkhead, or where no bulkhead exist landward to Sandfiddler Road. (Example drawings of Dune & Beach Boundaries are located on the back of this page)

Activities in jurisdictional areas of Primary Sand Dunes & Beaches (including but not limited to sand grading, excavation, & filling) require submission of a Joint Permit Application (JPA) for a Coastal Primary Sand Dune / Beach permit approval from the Wetlands Board. The JPA & Guidelines for JPA submittals are found here: <http://www.vbgov.com/eso/WetlandsBoard>

### SAND REMOVAL

**Lots with bulkheads:** In Sandbridge the Dune & Beach jurisdiction limits extends from the mean high water location landward to the bulkhead. Any excess sand removed landward of a bulkhead does not require a permit, & the sand may be placed on the beach in accordance with the Sand Replenishment requirements below, or disposed of in a lawful manner. However, the dunes or beach seaward of the bulkhead may not be graded in any manner without a permit from the Wetlands Board.

**Lots without bulkheads:** In Sandbridge the Dune & Beach jurisdiction limits extends from the mean high water location landward to Sandfiddler Road. Therefore, ANY sand removal or grading cannot occur without a permit from the Wetlands Board, Sweeping of hard surfaces such as decks, patios, driveways, or away from doors is allowed without a permit.

### SAND REPLENISHMENT - BEACH NOURISHMENT

Sand replenishment (placing good clean beach quality sand on the beach) is allowed without a permit from the Wetlands Board, provided no sand is removed (or graded) from any Coastal Primary Sand Dune or Beach unless authorized by permit, and provided no sand is placed upon existing beach or dune vegetation. No grading seaward of the bulkhead may occur without a permit. The Public Works Department requests you NOT place any sand within 100 feet of the Mean High Water line, or within 20 feet of Public Beach Access ways.

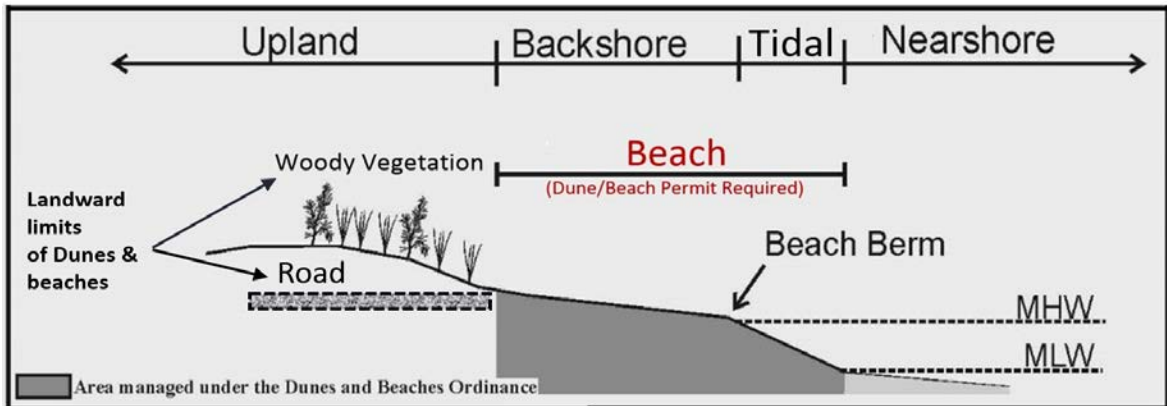
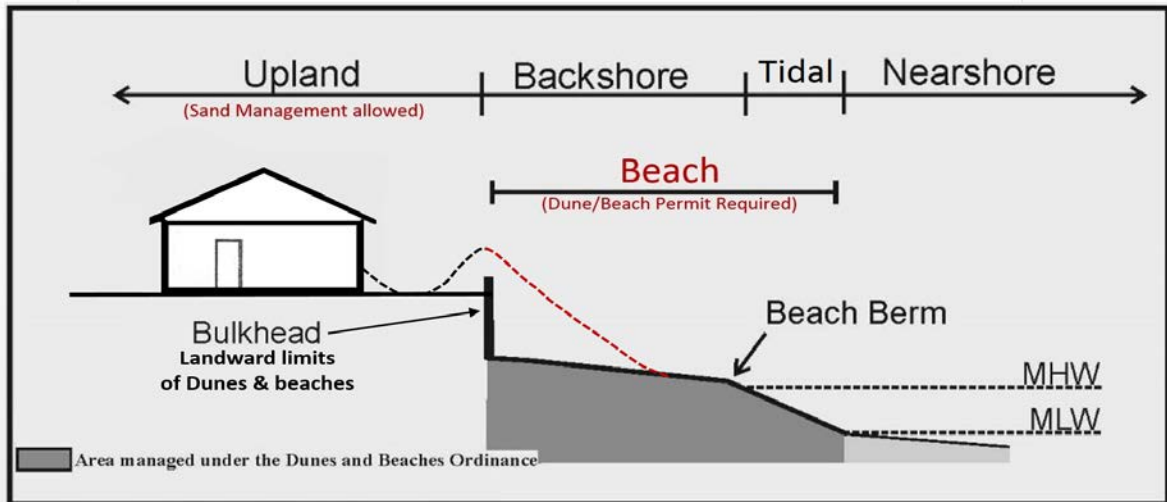
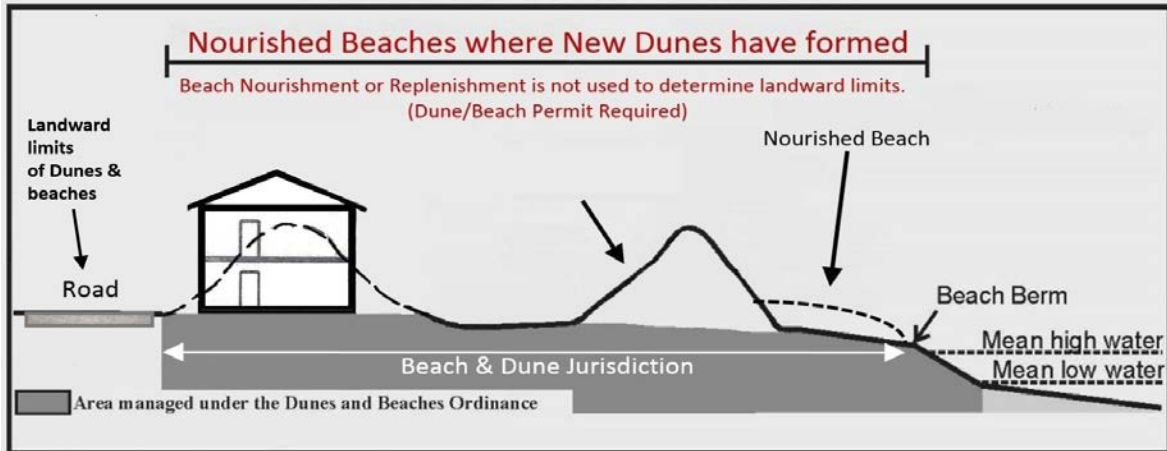
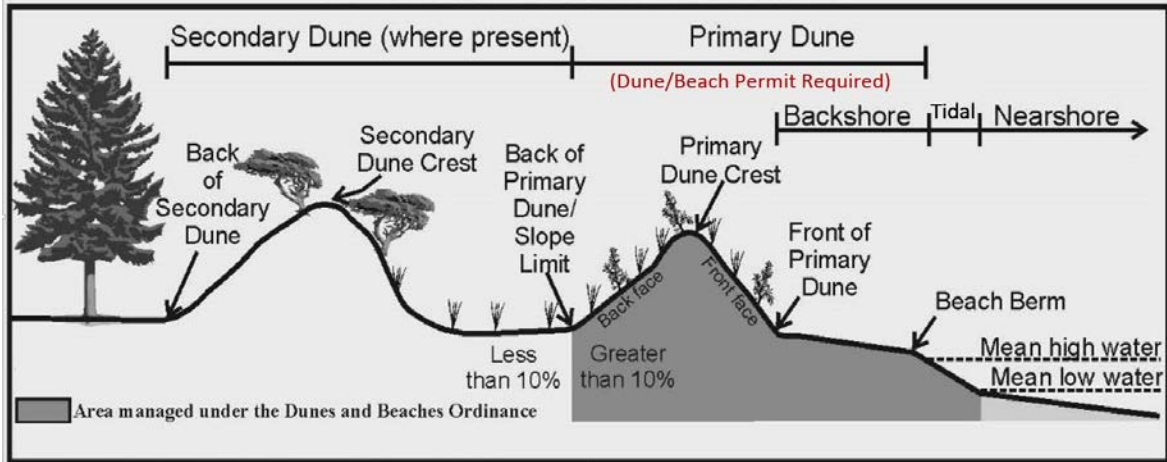
### SAND FENCING/PLANTING OF VEGETATION

The placement of sand fences or planting of beach grasses or other appropriate vegetation for stabilizing coastal primary sand dunes is allowed without a permit from the Wetlands Board.

**NOTE:** You should review the Public Works Department's guidelines for installing sand fence on Public Beaches: <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/coastal/Pages/Public-Beach-Sand-Fence-Installation-Guidelines.aspx>

If there are any questions, please contact Waterfront Operations in the Environment and Sustainability Office, at 757 385-8246 or email [eso@vbgov.com](mailto:eso@vbgov.com).

# Dune and Beach Boundaries



Please contact Staff for final determination of Coastal Primary Sand Dune & Beach jurisdictions.