

PARK DEPARTMENT PRAISES SFFB/FNA BEACH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM - Confirms Plans to Expand Clothing-Optional Section

The following is an excerpt from an email message sent to David Ovalle by Edith Torres of Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation, on behalf of Jack Kardys, Director of Operations, in response to questions David had for a newspaper article on Haulover's clothing-optional beach that appeared in May 2004 in the Miami-Herald:

Hi David, I didn't have your phone number so I'm sending you this email. When I provided the Operations Director with the sample questions, he went ahead and answered them and just emailed them to me. The answers follow below....

1. The popularity [*of the clothing-optional section*] is because it is a well managed, one of a kind resource in a popular park with great cooperative efforts between the naturists and the parks department--it gets great publicity because it is safe, clean, and has a great reputation for appropriate etiquette among its users.
2. Challenges are usually from the gawkers who either do not understand the appropriate etiquette expected on a naturist beach or who wish to challenge that etiquette. Lewd and Lascivious behavior is never tolerated by park managers, security, police, lifeguards or the [*South Florida Free Beaches*] Beach Ambassadors---enforcement is a must if control is to be maintained. From time to time there are a few people who are walking down the beach and not paying too much attention when they find themselves in the middle of the clothing optional area and are quite surprised, but in general we receive very few complaints from people who come to the north end of Haulover.
3. We have hired a consultant to do the planning for a dune that will include native plants to hold the dune at the proper height. The plan has been submitted to the State Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval. We expect to hear back from the state in six to eight weeks at which time we will begin the construction of the dune and the planting. Beachgoers can expect that an additional 300 feet (approx.) will be available to the south of clothing optional section of the beach by September or October of this year. [*Expansion originally requested by SFFB/FNA and included in the Haulover Park Master Plan approved by the County Commission in 2002 – Ed.*]
4. The Beach Ambassadors are the key to a successful clothing optional beach. They are the eyes and ears for the management and lifeguards and the police and they're daily attentiveness and advocacy to educating the users on the appropriate etiquette at the beach add a valuable level of communication and control--they are great partners with the Parks Department and police in making Haulover's clothing optional beach one of the most popular in the nation.