

In preparation for Marla Bay's busy summer season, the Marla Bay General Improvement District (GID) asked the Marla Bay Protective Association (MBPA) to announce the completed installation of the beach access gates at both the north and south stairs as well as the beach access ramp. Those gates/locks will be activated beginning **May 1, 2021 and used through the Labor Day weekend. A passcode will be required to open them.**

Last summer, the GID explained why the beach gates (funded from the GID budget --not the MBPA budget) were needed. In short, Marla Bay is not a public beach and does not have public beach amenities. And, it has become increasingly common knowledge in the area that Marla Bay has one of the last few remaining un-gated beaches. We have seen a growing number of outside people coming here during busy periods -- some of whom were quite hostile and confrontational when asked to leave. Finally, because our beach also provides access to their beach, the PineWild Homeowners Association asked the GID to put some beach access controls in place averting their need to install beach fencing which neither Pinewild nor Marla Bay residents want.

**Here is a picture of a gate and a closeup of the mechanical keypad:**



To use the gates, simply enter the appropriate access code as you would dial your phone. If the code is correct, the green light flashes along with a beep and the lock is opened for five seconds. If the code has been mis-entered, there is a red light and five beeps and the gate lock will not open. The gates auto-close behind you. There is no need to use the passcode when returning \*from\* the beach through the gates. At the moment, there is no lighting in the gate area however the GID is investigating some unobtrusive, low-level lighting for those who wish to access the beach after dark.

The *initial* codes are being sent directly to owners and residents in email. Contact telephone numbers for further information are included in that email message.

**We strongly request** that the codes **NOT** be posted in your household or rental. They should not be shared with people from outside the area who are not rental clients. We suggest that short term rental agents distribute the RENTERS code (only) with rental materials prior to rental client arrival.

**CAUTION:** If it appears that the codes are being shared or published and the influx of illegitimate visitors continues to grow, those codes will be changed frequently and maintained through a password-protected portal on the Marla Bay website. None of us want to make beach access more difficult – cooperation and understanding from owners, residents, and short-term rental clients in keeping these access codes private will minimize the need to change the codes.

Finally, we know that problems may arise at first as everyone becomes accustomed to using the beach gates. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work through unexpected issues. Remember, the objective is to keep our pristine beach private. Signage with contact information will be installed which informs OWNERS-RESIDENTS (ONLY) what to do if they have forgotten their code. NOTE: RENTAL clients will NOT be provided an access code over the phone because they cannot be verified— RENTERS will need to contact their rental agent if they have forgotten the RENTER code.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Marla Bay Protective Association and the Marla Bay GID