

# Town of Emerald Isle

## FAST FACTS

February 7, 2018



Permanent Population:	3,797	State of NC estimate; likely on the low side
Estimated Peak Summer Population:	40,000 +/-	
Total # of Housing Units:	6,735	2010 Census data; more housing units than any other municipality in Carteret County
Total Land Area:	5.2	square miles
Length of Ocean Beach:	12+	miles
Total Taxable Value:	~ \$2.7 billion	nearly 20% of Carteret County taxable value; approximately equal to Morehead City plus Beaufort plus Newport combined; approximately equal to the rest of Bogue Banks combined;
Total Town Budget, FY 17-18:	\$9.87 million	Town continues to carefully control expenditures
General Fund Tax Rate, FY 17-18:	15.5 cents	1.5 cents for beach nourishment, 14 cents for General Fund operations; 2nd lowest among the 21 NC beach towns
Total # of Town Employees:	61 89	full-time seasonal and part-time
		+ 6 inmate laborers

\* Room occupancy tax generates approximately \$7 million annually in Carteret County; more than 60% of this amount is collected in Emerald Isle.

\* Emerald Isle is nearly 90% built-out, but still has nearly 1000 vacant lots - plus redevelopment opportunities - enough to sustain historical levels of new residential construction for the next 20 years +

\* More than 80% of the Town's land area is zoned for single-family residential development.

\* Town maintains more than 75 public ocean beach access sites, and more than 25 public sound access sites.

\* Emerald Isle Woods Park - 43 acre soundside natural park; also storm water receiving area

\* Town maintains more than 350 public beach access parking spaces on or near the oceanfront.

\* Largest public boat launching facility on NC coast - 112 vehicle / trailer spaces; other public water access opportunities, Senator Jean Preston Memorial Playground.

\* Approximately 11 miles of dedicated asphalt bicycle paths and more than 2.5 miles of sidewalks.

\* By most measures, Emerald Isle is one of the largest beach municipalities in North Carolina. Other largest beach municipalities are Oak Island, Kill Devil Hills, Carolina Beach, and Wrightsville Beach.

### Key Town Values:

- Maintain "Family Beach" small-town atmosphere
- Maintain low tax rate for property owners
- Maintain high quality standard for Town services
- Priority on community aesthetics
- Healthy, wide beach strand & stable Bogue Inlet
- Maintain and expand public water access
- Maintain excellent water quality
- Friendly, civil community
- Proper balance between environmental protection, quality neighborhoods, and personal property rights
- Well-informed Town citizenry
- All 5 customer bases equally important - permanent residents, 2nd home owners, investors, visitors, and local businesses

### Current and Recent Major Projects / Initiatives:

- Nies v. Emerald Isle (public right to use beach)
- NC 58 roundabout construction, potential for others
- Revitalization of Islander Drive area
- Land acquisition, new park in Bogue Field flight path
- EMS transition to Town department
- Eastern EI beach nourishment project
- Next relocation of Bogue Inlet channel
- Fire Station 1 improvements
- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Defend against insurance issues, regulatory issues, and sales tax issue
- Bogue Inlet navigation dredging
- NC 58 and Coast Guard Rd bike paths
- Emerald Isle Woods storm water system
- Annual St. Patrick's Festival
- Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival
- Annual Marathon, Half-Marathon, & 5K races