

COMMUNITY STORIES

For generations, the local Black community made memories at Jason Beach. Locals fondly remember gathering here to socialize, dance, picnic, and attend church services and baptisms.

“Coming down the dirt road from the highway to the beach, it was just a little narrow dirt road.”

If you were clean when you came down, you’d get dirty before you’d get here ‘cause it was so dusty.”

— Carl Stanley



“Back then when it was segregated, the beach on the far side – the white kids played over there, and we played over here [at Jason Beach].

And one of the biggest questions we had was, “I wonder if they’re having as much fun over there as we’re having over here.”

— Jonathan Kellam



“We had the jukebox so we would go under the pavilion and dance. And there was good food we got from the concession stand.”

Sometimes during the summer [we went to Jason Beach] basically every day, every other day, but mostly we went on Sundays after church. That was when the biggest gatherings were.”

— Virginia Sneed



“I enjoyed Jason Beach because that was a meeting place for the community at large, to meet people from different parts of Sussex County. You would come there and have fun at the beach.”

— Howard West



“We had a great time at Jason Beach listening to the jukebox and dancing. We played jazz, Lloyd Price and James Brown.”

— Willie Mae Wortham



To hear and read more about the history of Jason Beach, scan this QR code