REFUGE INFORMATION, REGULATIONS, AND MAP

Coastal Wildlife Refuge and The Haulover
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Coastal-Local Wildlife Refuge
The Trustees of Reservations
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Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Cape & Islands Division, Great Meadow Refuge
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WELCOME!
Coastal Wildlife Refuge and The Haulover (488 acres owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Coastal-Local Wildlife Refuge (1117 acres owned by the Trustees of Reservations), and Nantucket National Wildlife Refuge at Great Point (owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) together protect more than 21 miles of ocean, sound, and harbor shoreline. The refuges are cooperatively managed for scientific, educational, conservation, and certain recreational purposes.

For Your Protection
Although surfing, shellfishing (by properly licensed individuals), picnicking, scientific research, nature study, bird watching, hiking, and scenic viewing are encouraged, there are no life-guard-protected beaches within the refuges. Extremely dangerous currents and riptide conditions exist at many shoreline locations, making swimming impossible for those unfamiliar with open water conditions. Two areas that are potentially life-threatening to all swimmers are the east and west beaches at Great Point (extending 200 yards southward from the former tip of Great Point). As harmless as these waters may appear to be, visitors should not venture beyond waist depth at these locations.

Refuge Profile
Coastal, The Haulover, Coskata, and Great Point lie north of Waumetin and can collectively be described as a barrier beach system. Composed of glacial debris and soft sands deposited by water and wind, the properties include beaches, sand dunes, salt marshes, and forests of wind-swepted oak and cedar. The area provides important habitat for sea, shore, and upland birds including American oystercatchers, herring and black-backed gulls, and rare and endangered piping plovers and least terns. Nantucket Harbor and its salt marshes support populations of bay scallops, soft-shell clams, quahogs, and mussels. From spring through fall, bluefish and striped bass are found in the near-shore waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Nantucket Sound.

Coastal—which means "At the Pine Woods"—was used by Native Americans and early settlers for grazing livestock. At the northeast end of Nantucket Harbor, an extensive tidal marsh (called "The Glades") provided a large area for harvesting salt hay. In November 1683, the U.S. Lifesaving Service opened a lifesaving station nearby on Coskata's north beach. It was operated until 1947.

"The Haulover," just north of Waumetin, was named for the location where fishermen would drag or "haul" their boats over the sand to get from the Harbor to the Ocean. In 1898, a Nor'easter cut a channel through this barrier beach that did not close until 1908. Similar breaks still occur to the north, along "The Gallis." Most recently, a breaching took place in October 1991, when Great Point was separated from the rest of the Island for four months.

The original lighthouse at Great Point was built as a 60 foot wooden tower in 1784. Destroyed by a fire in 1816, the lighthouse was rebuilt two years later as a 70 foot stone tower. After being threatened by shoreline erosion for many years, it was finally destroyed during a severe coastal storm on March 29, 1894.

Relying on measured drawings provided by the Historic American Building Survey, the present lighthouse was built to closely resemble its predecessor. Completed in 1896, the structure was built 100 yards westward of the original lighthouse site.

General Regulations
To protect each refuge and to assure the safety and enjoyment of visitors, all persons using these properties shall comply with the regulations that follow:
1. Disturbing birds or other wildlife is prohibited. The refuges provide important nesting, feeding, and nesting habitat for many sea, shore, and upland birds. Entering areas where nesting birds or chicks are present or disturbing seals are prohibited.
2. Kite flying, kite boarding and flying of drones is prohibited within 200 yards of nesting, territorial adult, or unfledged juvenile piping plover or tern colonies.
3. Use of fireworks is prohibited.
4. Cutting or removing plants is prohibited. Plant material—whether living or dead—helps to stabilize shorelines, dunes, tidal flats, and bluffs.
5. Entering fenced or posted areas intended to protect nesting birds or fragile coastal plants is prohibited.
6. The refuge are closed between 10 PM and 5 AM, active surfcasting excepted. Overnight camping is prohibited.
7. Cooking fires are allowed—but only on open beaches. Fires are strictly limited to gas stoves or self-contained charcoal grills. Please be thoughtful and careful when disposing of charcoal. All other fires are prohibited.
8. Listening is prohibited. Take your trash with you when you leave the refuges.
9. Hunting is prohibited on the National Wildlife Refuge at Great Point. For the safety of visitors, gun testing and target shooting are prohibited.
10. Dogs are not permitted from April 1 to Sept. 15. Not even in your vehicle.
11. Commercial activities—providing any service, product, or activity for which a fee is charged—are prohibited.
12. Non-commercial use of the refuges by groups of 20 or more is subject to the review and approval of the organization which owns the proposed gathering site. To be considered, written requests must be received by the owner not less than 14 days prior to a proposed gathering. All other group use is prohibited.
13. Removing, altering, delaying, or otherwise causing damage to any natural or historic feature, sign, fence, post, building, or other refuge property is prohibited.
14. Conduct which disturbs the tranquility of the refuges or their enjoyment by others is prohibited. The Foundation and Trustees reserve the right to prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages on their properties.

Vehicle Regulations
For the protection of these properties, as well as the safety and convenience of visitors, there is a system of existing soft sand roadways and marked crossovers maintained within the refuges. All drivers and vehicles using these areas shall be in compliance with the following regulations at all times:
1. In order to comply with federal and state guidelines regarding the protection of rare and endangered shorebirds, portions of these refuges must be closed to vehicles for extended periods of time, when nests and flightless chicks are present. These sites will be clearly posted and frequently patrolled. Entry into these areas is strictly prohibited. Kite flying is prohibited within 200 yards of the posted bird nesting areas.
2. A valid Oversized Vehicle Permit is required year-round for all vehicles. Transfer of this permit is allowed only if (1) when the original stickers are surrendered to the issuing organizations and (2) the vehicle is a vehicle of the same class and plate number and remains in the same ownership.
3. Without exception, all vehicles using the refuges shall be four-wheel drive and shall use existing roadways and crossovers in order to prevent damage to fragile beach plants. Tire pressure must be adjusted to not more than 15 p.s.i. prior to entering the refuges.
4. Vehicles exceeding 6,000 pounds gross— as well as dune buggies, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, trailers, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and cycles, ground-effect or air cushion vehicles, jet skis and the like—are prohibited. Such vehicles can jeopardize the extremely fragile environment of the refuges and the safety of refuge visitors. Furthermore, prohibited from use within the refuges are any over sized or undersized vehicles whose width, in the opinion of Property Managers, would cause repeated damage by breaking down the edges and/or center humps of established roadways.
5. All vehicle operators shall be properly licensed. Vehicles shall be properly registered and insured for use on private property.
6. For the safety and protection of visitors, each vehicle shall contain a shovel, a vehicle jack, a 12" by 12" (minimum) piece of 3/4" plywood to act as a jack up port, a full-sized spare tire, a low pressure tire gauge, and a tow rope or chain of reasonable length (3/4" by 20' polypropylene rope is suggested as a minimum).
7. Driving or parking on vegetation, sand dunes, or in nesting areas is prohibited.
8. Speed shall not exceed 15 MPH. Slow down when approaching people, other vehicles, and intersections. Obey all traffic control signs.
9. For the safety of visitors, riding on fenders, tailgates, roofs, or any other portion outside the vehicle is prohibited.
10. When traveling on beaches, drivers should make every effort to stay well away from the vegetated edge of all sand dunes and drive within established tracks where they exist. Access from interior roadways to beaches is permitted only at locations marked by an orange triangular sign. When possible, drivers are urged to avoid interior roadways after dark.
11. Vehicles shall not drive or park so to interfere with the flow of traffic.
12. Puts or holes caused by digging out a stuck vehicle must be filled in and all debris removed.
13. Vehicles using the refuges are prohibited from towing waterskiers, dune skiers, hanggliders, paragliders, or the like.
While every effort is made to reasonably accommodate all refuge users (vehicular, pedestrian, and boat), there is no substitute for common courtesy when dealing with fellow visitors. Continued vehicular use of roadways and beaches within the refuge depends entirely upon the cooperation of those driving. Your help is needed in enforcing these regulations. If you observe what you believe to be a violation, please report the license number and a description of the vehicle to a ranger or to the Wauwinet Gatehouse staff as soon as possible. Violators are subject to revocation of their Oversand Vehicle Permit and court complaint.

Limitations
The Nantucket Conservation Foundation, The Trustees of Reservations, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserve the right to close areas or impose limitations upon the number of vehicles permitted within the refuges at any given time.

Additional Conditions
Visitors are welcome, with the understanding that they use the areas at their own risk, respect the rights of private property owners within the refuge areas, and comply with all posted and posted regulations. Whoever disregards or violates any of these regulations is hereby forbidden to remain on these premises and is subject to arrest, fine, and imprisonment as provided by law. The Nantucket Conservation Foundation, The Trustees of Reservations, and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cannot assume responsibility for injuries or for the loss, theft, or damage of personal property.

DANGEROUS SWIMMING
There are no lifeguard protected beaches within the refuges. Potentially dangerous currents and rip tide conditions often exist at many shoreline locations, making swimming for those unaccustomed to open surf conditions hazardous and inadvisable.

SOFT SAND
All roads and beaches that are open to four-wheeled driving north of Wauwinet are deeply rutted tracks through soft sand. The recommended tire pressure is 12 p.s.i. Those who are not experienced at driving in such conditions are warned that refuge roads and beaches are extremely soft, especially on Coatue and along the Nantucket Sound beach at Coskata. Do yourself a favor and stay out of these areas.

NATURAL ENEMIES
Be prepared to deal with insects, poisonous plants, and stinging creatures—as well as the sun. In all shoreline areas and near salt marshes, mosquitoes and green-head flies can be a persistent annoyance. Grasses and shrubs that grow on sand dunes and uplands are ideal habitats for black legged ticks (formerly called deer ticks which can carry Lyme disease, babesiosis, and ehrlichiosis) and dog ticks (which can carry Rocky Mountain spotted fever). The shiny green, three-leaved configuration of poison ivy is a common sight in sand dunes and wooded areas. While in the water, be alert for jellyfish and Portuguese man-of-war. Whether the sky is clear, hazy, or foggy, the sun can quickly burn your skin. Guard yourself against the affects of the sun’s rays with adequate applications of sunscreen.

FACILITIES
From the Wauwinet Gatehouse, it is 1.4 miles to the nearest beach access, 5.4 miles to Great Point, and 9.0 miles to Coatue Point. There are no public buildings, concessions, restrooms or telephones within the refuges. Porta-potties are seasonally available near Great Point. An air pump is located 100 yards beyond the Gatehouse for revictualing tires to their hard-surface road driving pressure. Operators of disabled vehicles may, at their own expense, make arrangements with commercial tow truck operators by telephone from the Gatehouse.

REFUGE STAFF
Employees are on duty within the refuges from late spring into the early fall. A ranger working for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation is based in a cottage located at Bass Point. The area from Coskata to Great Point is regularly patrolled by Trustees of Reservations' staff. Maintenance personnel from both organizations are occasionally in the refuges maintaining roads and keeping roads and signs that are placed to identify and protect the refuges' delicate resources. Shorebird monitors and scientific researchers are working to find out more about the interrelationships of plants, animals, and birds occurring within the refuges and how people affect them. Gatehouse staff in Wauwinet register vehicles and assist visitors. Anyone with questions, medical problems, or a disabled vehicle or watercraft is welcome to speak with a member of the refuge's staff for assistance or guidance.

NESTING SHOREBIRDS
Areas within the refuges provide important nesting and feeding sites for rare and endangered shorebirds, including the piping plover, least tern, and American oystercatcher. To conform with stringent federal and state regulations, many beachfront sites within the refuges must be closed to all human activity when shorebirds are nesting or when rightless chicks are present. Elsewhere, longer term closures may be required. All restricted areas are fenced, clearly posted and regularly monitored for user compliance with the applicable federal and/or state statutes.

Seals are wild animals. When on the beach, visitors shall remain at least 150 feet (45 meters) from seals. They are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1973.

We sincerely hope that by calling these important, but often overlooked, details to your attention, we can help you avoid any inconvenience while visiting the refuges. Enjoy your visit!