

Crane Beach Frequently Asked Questions

Below are frequently asked questions regarding visiting Crane Beach. Click on the section you are interested in to view FAQs.

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Most Common Questions

Q: What is the admission price for Crane Beach?

A: Click here to view the admissions discounts based on Membership level at Crane Beach. Our ticketing system will determine your Membership level when you make a reservation and apply the corresponding discount.

Q: Do I need an advance pass, and when are passes released?

A: Yes, passes are required during the summer season on Friday-Sundays and Holidays. During the Summer Season, passes are released at noon on Monday for the upcoming Tuesday – Thursday, and noon on Thursday for the upcoming Friday – Monday. In the Off Season, passes are released every other Thursday at noon for the upcoming two weeks.

Q: Will I need to verify my Membership when purchasing Crane Beach passes online?

A: Yes, all Members are required to log-in to the Crane Beach reservation system, using their Member ID and last name, or email address, to receive the appropriate discount. You can confirm the status of your Membership and, if needed, retrieve your Member ID using this Membership lookup tool.

Q: I am an Ipswich resident; do I need an Advance Pass?

A: Residents arriving to the gate with a valid Ipswich Beach Sticker affixed to their vehicles do not need to reserve an Advance Pass.

Q: What is happening with the Bakers Pasture lot?

A: The Bakers Pasture lot will be used as a parking option during the summer season. In 2025, Bakers Pasture will be open on weekends and holidays only, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Advance passes are required to park in this lot and are available under the same admissions structure as the main lot.

Q: Do people who walk, ride their bikes, or use CATA need an advance pass?

A: All members who arrive by foot or bike enjoy free entry, and non-members pay \$5. Any member arriving via Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) bus, which runs from the Ipswich commuter rail station during the summer, can access Crane Beach for free for the 2025 beach season. No advance passes are required to ride the CATA shuttle, and service begins on Saturday 6/21/25. For more information, please visit: https://cantran.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/CATA_IEE_bi-fold_2025.pdf.

Please note, drop-offs outside the beach gate are not permitted due to safety concerns. Please plan your visit accordingly.

Questions Related to Safety and Water Closures

Q: What are some of the safety measures you are taking at Crane Beach this summer?

A: Due to the presence of juvenile Great White Sharks last fall in the waters off Crane Beach, we will be introducing several safety measures focused on the safety of our visitors and staff this summer.

We will do our best to monitor marked swim zones. The Crane Public Safety Team has worked extensively with Ipswich public safety officials, outside agencies and marine biology professionals to develop and implement enhanced safety training and beach operation protocols. Crane Beach lifeguards, EMTs, rangers and frontline staff will receive consistent safety and operational training to ensure visitor and staff safety remains our top priority.

Q: How will the area be monitored for sharks?

A: The Ipswich Harbormaster will perform daily patrols off the Crane Beach Swim Zone during the summer season. Crane Beach lifeguard staff will be routinely surveilling our marked swim zones from their elevated lifeguard chairs and with watercraft.

In addition, Crane Beach staff, along with Ipswich Police Department and marine biologists, will be installing at least one shark detection buoy in the area where sharks were confirmed to be present in 2024. It should be noted that The Trustees do not know if or when the sharks will be present at Crane Beach in 2025.

Q: What will happen if a shark is spotted at Crane Beach?

A: If sharks are confirmed, The Trustees will immediately report the sighting to the Ipswich Police Department, and they will initiate an appropriate emergency response.

In the event of a suspected shark sighting:

Visitors will be asked to exit the water until Public Safety Personnel can determine if a shark is present.

In the event of a confirmed shark sighting:

Confirmed sightings will prompt a water closure. During the water closure, the Trustees, working with guidance from Ipswich public safety officials, will thoroughly patrol the swim zone and determine eligibility for reopening.

Q: What is causing sharks in the area?

A: Last fall, we experienced an oceanic upwelling that dropped the ocean temperature over 10 degrees Fahrenheit. This upwelling pushed menhaden, mackerel and other small fish to the shore side of the offshore sandbars and close along our shoreline, which attracted striped bass, bluefish, and small tuna. The presence of all of these fish attracted the juvenile Great White Sharks.

Q: Will I be issued a refund if the water is closed during my visit?

A: Refunds are not given for water closures due to sharks, regardless of duration.

Q: How can I find information on beach status?

A: Crane is no longer using Twitter (X) for real time updates. All operational updates (parking, safety, greenheads, etc.) will be posted to the Crane Beach voicemail in real time, and to our [Facebook page](#). [The feed for this page is embedded on our Crane Beach webpage](#). All guests may call the Crane Beach information line at 978-356-4354 or email cranebeach@thetrustees.org for information.

Membership Questions

[Click here](#) to look up your membership information. For a tutorial on how to use our membership look-up tool, [click here](#).

Q: How long does it take to get my Membership Card?

A: If you purchased your Membership online, you may use the confirmation email received as proof of purchase until your Membership card(s) arrive by mail, usually in 3-5 weeks.

Q: I don't have my permanent Member ID yet; how do I reserve an Advance Pass?

A: Between the time of your Membership purchase and the time you receive your Membership cards, you can use the temporary number provided to you.

Ticketing Questions

Q: Will I be able to get a refund on an Advance Pass if I can't make it?

A: Property admission is nonrefundable and non-exchangeable, except for full property closure of 2 hours or more due to extreme weather (thunder and lightning). Admission refunds and exchanges are not granted for flooding on Argilla Road or for water closures due to dangerous conditions, regardless of duration. Please call Crane Beach at 978-356-4354 for the most up to date operational information.

Q: I just reserved an Advance Pass, but the confirmation wasn't emailed to me.

A: Please check your spam/junk folder in your email. If you still don't see it, please email cranebeach@thetrustees.org with your first name, last name, and reservation date to confirm.

Additional Questions

Q: What happens when I arrive at the Crane Beach gate?

A: Everyone is asked to stop and check in with a gate attendant, showing a printed or digital version of your Advance Pass. Ipswich resident vehicles will be checked for a valid sticker before proceeding to the Town parking lot.

Q: Can I leave and re-enter on the same pass?

A: We do not allow re-entry on an Advance Pass.

Q: What amenities are available at Crane Beach?

A: Restrooms are available year-round. Changing booths, outdoor rinsing stations, the Crane Beach Store, and Snack Shack are available daily from Memorial Day – Labor Day, weather permitting.

Accessible parking, beach wheelchairs, and an accessibility shuttle from the parking lot to beachfront are available. The accessibility shuttle can be requested at the Beach Store in the Summer Season and at the entry gate at all other times.

Q: Can I bring my dog to Crane Beach?

A: Dogs are allowed at Crane Beach between October 1 and March 31. See the Regulations and Advisories section of the website for more information.

Q: How are Crane Beach admission fees used?

A: Admission fees help to pay the annual costs to maintain the beach and facilities, protect public safety, carry out dune and wildlife protection programs, and maintain historic buildings and structures. When you visit Crane Beach, you are helping The Trustees protect and care for this special place.

Contact Information

For Advance Pass and ticketing questions regarding Crane Beach, email cranebeach@thetrustees.org

For general Advance Pass and ticketing questions email tickets@thetrustees.org

For Membership questions, email membership@thetrustees.org