



Islands Office
PO Box 2106
860 State Road
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
tel 508.693.7662
thetrustees.org

OVERSAND VEHICLE DRIVING GUIDE

CAPE POGE WILDLIFE REFUGE, WASQUE RESERVATION, NORTON POINT BEACH

The Trustees welcomes you! We strive for inclusive, welcoming places for all to enjoy. Our staff are here to help and work diligently to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience while protecting these critical and delicate natural areas. Please respect our staff, rules, and regulations to ensure all visitors can experience the beauty of these places for generations to come. Visitors in violation of policies, rules and regulations may be asked to leave the premises and/or have their permit revoked

DOG RULES AND REGULATIONS

We welcome dogs, leashed and under your control at all times. Please protect our beach habitat by cleaning up after your dog and keeping dogs away from shorebird habitat/protection areas.

BEACH CLOSURES

From time to time, The Trustees are required to close beaches due to nesting birds, storms, or full capacity beaches. **Please check for beach closures before coming to the beach at <https://www.facebook.com/trusteesmv/> or at 508.693.7662**

Trustees Wildlife Refuges are closed between 10 PM and 5 AM, except for active surfcasting.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENJOYMENT OF THE REFUGES, ALL VISITORS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Wildlife viewing from a safe distance is required and encouraged. Barrier beaches provide important nesting and resting habitat for many sea, shore, and upland birds. Did you know Massachusetts has the greatest number of breeding piping plovers, a state and federally protect species, along the Atlantic Coast? Please remain a responsible distance from all wildlife to keep them from being disturbed.
2. Vegetation, whether living or dead, helps stabilize shorelines, dunes, tidal flats and bluffs and its protection ensures a healthy and pristine beach for all. Please only view vegetation.



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3. Please respect our neighbors and their private property by enjoying only The Trustees' beach properties within the boundaries of the refuge.
4. Gas or charcoal contained grills are allowed at open beaches during beach daytime hours only. Please bury charcoal deeply to protect walkers. All other fires are prohibited.
5. Our properties are carry-in and carry-out. Trash receptacles are not provided on site. Please take your trash with you when you leave.
6. Hunting requires prior written permission from Trustees' management who determines hunting areas. All hunting requires proper licenses and compliance with Massachusetts hunting laws and regulations.
7. Commercial Activities (those providing service, product, or activity for a fee) require a permit from the Trustees' management.
9. Please respect all Trustees' properties and natural features. Disturbing, removing, defacing, cutting or otherwise causing damage to a natural feature, sign, poster, barrier, building, or other property is prohibited.
10. Behavior that disturbs the peace of Trustees' properties or its enjoyment by visitors is not allowed. Trustees staff reserves the right to prohibit the use of alcoholic beverages on their properties.
11. Trustees staff reserve the right to limit or prohibit the use of handheld kites based on the density of beachgoers in a given area.
12. Parties greater than 20 people require a permit by The Trustees' management. Please call 508-693-7662 for more information.

OVERSAND VEHICLE (OSV) PERMITS

ELIGIBILITY

Oversand Vehicle (OSV) access to the properties is restricted to registered permit holders with 4-wheel drive vehicles. AWD drive vehicles may be permitted if capable of oversand driving. Visitors are required to deflate tires to 12-15 PSI to enter the beach properties and vehicles should include a low-pressure tire gauge, shovel, an approximate 15-foot-long tow rope, jack support board, and full size spare tire.

Vehicles exceeding a gross weight of 6800 pounds are prohibited from Trustees OSV trails and will not be eligible for permits. Dune buggies, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, trailers, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and jet skis are also prohibited.



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ACQUIRING A PERMIT

OSV Permits are required year-round and are valid from April 1 to March 31. Permits can be purchased online at www.thetrustees.org/mvosv and picked up at the Martha's Vineyard Regional Office in Vineyard Haven (call 508-693-7662 for hours). Permits can also be picked up at Mytoi and Norton Point gatehouses from Memorial Day weekend through Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend. Permit stickers must be applied to front and rear bumpers of the driver side of the vehicle. Vehicles not displaying both stickers will be denied entrance. Replacements for lost or misplaced stickers will not be provided. Stickers will be reissued for sold or damaged vehicles if original stickers are surrendered at time of reissue.

FEES

Permit fees are subject to change, are used for the protection and restoration of the natural environment, and to help meet annual property management expenses.

RESTRICTIONS

By purchasing this permit the purchaser and their guests acknowledge the following. Trustees' rules and regulations are for the health and safety of themselves, others, and the protection of natural resources. The Trustees of Reservations reserve the right to impose limitations on the number of vehicles permitted on the OSV corridor. Vehicle occupants in violation of policies and rules may be asked to leave the premises, have their permit revoked (X marked or removed), be subject to court citation or law enforcement action if warranted by the severity of the violation. Trustees beach rangers or gatehouse staff are authorized to enforce violations of policies and rules witnessed or reported to them.

OVERSAND DRIVING TIPS

1. Tire pressure for all vehicles operating the OSV corridor must be deflated to 12-15 PSI to promote a safe ride, lessen damage to the beach corridor, and significantly lessen the chance of your vehicle getting stuck in the sand. Free air stations for reinflation are located at Mytoi Garden and near the entrance to Norton Point Beach.
2. It's recommended vehicles driving barrier beaches be four-wheel drive equipped. Permits may be issued to all wheel drive vehicles if designed to handle challenges of over sand driving. Trustees staff reserve the right to not issue, or revoke permits on AWD vehicles lacking sufficient clearance. All vehicles must be equipped with a shovel, jack and board suitable for support, tire gauge, tow rope or strap, and full-size spare tire. Trustees staff reserves the right to deny vehicles entry to Trustees' property if not properly equipped.



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3. Vehicles and pedestrians must use existing roadways and trails to prevent damage to dunes and vegetation. Wet intertidal sand and soft beach sand can cause hazardous driving conditions and should be approached with care. Do not drive below berm near the ocean.
4. Vehicle speed shall not exceed 15 MPH and be reasonable and prudent for given conditions. Speeds near posted shorebird nesting habitat shall not exceed 5 MPH.
5. If you are stuck do not spin tires. Check to ensure you are in 4x4, check that your stability control option is turned off, check your tire pressure and let more air out of the tires if necessary.
6. While driving beach trails take notice of marked turnouts. If you see a vehicle coming towards you use the nearest turnout so they can pass safely. If not near a turnout back up until you find one. Utilizing turnouts protects fragile vegetation and prevents traffic jams. Never drive on vegetation or dunes to create your own turnout as this is highly destructive to grounds and cause for permit revocation!
7. For assistance during gatehouse hours (9A-4:30P) call 508-627-3599 and a ranger will be dispatched. After hours call Dukes County Communications at 508-693-1212.