

Duxbury Beach Access Update

June 15, 2018

Contact: Duxbury Harbormaster Coastal Natural Resources Department
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The Town of Duxbury provides periodic updates on the status of nesting pairs of Piping Plovers currently inhabiting the Duxbury Beach and the potential impacts their presence may have on beach patrons. Since beach stickers are non-refundable, we provide this information to the public as soon as it becomes available so that individuals may plan accordingly in terms of whether or not they decide to make a purchase. This information is being provided by the Endangered Species Officer in conjunction with the Duxbury Harbormaster's office.

Beach Status

As of June 14, 2018, there are 23 plover pairs on Duxbury Beach. It is important to understand that additional plovers may continue to arrive to the beach. Plovers are still considered a Threatened Species (the level just below Endangered) by Federal and State Fish and Wildlife, and their protection is mandated by both State and Federal laws.

Beach Access

As mandated when restrictions occur, the maximum ORV limits may be reduced (below 250 Resident and 250 Non-Resident max ORVs allowed when no restrictions are in place) on the front beach to maintain compliance with the Duxbury Beach Management and Conservation Plan, and to maintain public safety and order.

Currently, only the First Crossover is available for ORV access with an ORV capacity of approximately 290 total vehicles (145 residents and 145 Non-Residents). Further, it appears as though on/around June 21st it is likely that further restrictions will be in place with only the first crossover ORV open and a capacity of approximately 100 total vehicles (50 Resident and 50 Non-Resident) will be available.

As a result of these restrictions, the Duxbury Beach Reservation will be providing free overflowing parking in the most northern parking lot (for those with ORV stickers) as has been done in the past. Beach staff will be able to provide patrons with directions to this parking area upon arrival.

It is important to note that these are wild animals and therefore are unpredictable and susceptible to tidal over wash, predation, and mortality from exposure to severe weather, as well as unpredictable movements throughout their habitat on the beach. ORV and Pedestrian restrictions for plover chicks last until they are able to fly for 50' feet, continuously (which can be more than 35 days), meaning these restrictions may or may not be incrementally altered. Also important to note is that many of these restricted areas may overlap to an extent in both space (area) and timing (time until chicks can fly) and may change based on movement of the chicks.

Where to Find Updated Information

Please continue to check for the latest updates as conditions and circumstances can change with little or no advance notice based on activities of wild animals. This information will be updated if conditions change or as new information becomes available. For further information about Duxbury Beach conditions, please visit the Town of Duxbury Harbormaster's website at:

<http://www.duxburypolice.org/beach-unit/pages/current-beach-conditions>.

The most up-to-date information pertaining to beach conditions including restrictions and access limitations may be found by following the Duxbury Harbormaster's Twitter feed at: https://twitter.com/Dux_HM

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to maintain as much pedestrian and ORV access as possible while managing protected species.