

Duxbury Beach Access Update

May 31, 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 May 31, 2018, there are 18 active plover nests on Duxbury Beach and 20 pairs of birds. Since it is still early in the season, 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

Based on projected hatch dates and available beach area, there should not be any Off Road Vehicle (ORV) capacity restrictions in place this weekend (Friday, June 1st through Sunday, June 3rd). 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.

It appears as though on/around June 5th it is likely that the second and third crossovers will NOT be available for ORV access. As such, only the first crossover with an ORV capacity of approximately 150 total vehicles (75 Resident and 75 Non-Resident) will be available.

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.