

### Special Dog Regulations

The following rules shall be in effect on Duxbury Beach property:

1. Any dog on beach property must be leashed at all times and under immediate and effective control of its handler. **NOTE:** "Immediate and effective control" is determined by Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division personnel.
3. If in accordance with all rules and regulations, dogs are allowed on beach property between the hours of 8:00am and Sunset, unless these hours are amended by the Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division. Dogs are prohibited between the hours of Sunset and 8:00am.
4. Unless specifically amended within these rules or by action of the Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division, all other Duxbury, state, or federal dog control regulations shall continue to apply. These include regulations under these "Special Dog Regulations" and contained within the "General Beach Regulations" section and the "Motor Vehicle Beach Regulations" sections of this Pamphlet, and Section 7.1 of the General By-Laws of the Town of Duxbury.
5. Dogs and their handlers are prohibited from all dunes, vegetation, marsh grass, posted bird or wildlife areas, and all Restricted Areas.
6. Dog handlers are required to remove droppings of their dogs from the Powder Point Bridge, beach parking lots, and all beach areas and dispose of droppings in provided trash receptacles or otherwise remove them from beach property.
7. All dogs are prohibited from the front beach, known as the Resident Beach, to the poles delineating the start of the ORV portion from April 1 to September 15.
8. All dogs are prohibited from the bayside beach north of the Powder Point Bridge adjacent to the Resident Parking Lot from April 1 to September 15.
9. Dogs and their handlers are prohibited from disturbing any protected species or wildlife on beach property. Dogs are not permitted to pass through Restricted Areas on the oceanside or bayside beach or dunes.
10. Any violation of these Rules & Regulations, the Duxbury Beach Guide, Duxbury General By-Laws, or federal or state law may result in non-criminal or criminal process, as well as provisions found in the Duxbury General By-Laws, and may involve the revocation of the dog permit for the remainder of the year. If a dog permit is revoked, such revocation shall be recorded at the Duxbury Town Hall, and the dog's owner and immediate family will not be eligible to re-apply for another permit until the following year.

Duxbury Beach is owned by Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc., a Massachusetts non-profit corporation. The Reservation works to preserve the beach as a barrier beach for the protection of Duxbury, as an environmental asset and, consistent with its primary ecological objectives, to operate the beach for recreation by the public. On an annual basis, the Town of Duxbury has leased a portion of the beach from the Reservation. Consistent with the lease, the Town provides management of the leased portion for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, and provides enforcement of the beach rules and regulations contained in this document, which are agreed to by the Reservation and the Duxbury Board of Selectmen..

All visitors are subject to the current beach rules and regulations, as amended or added to from time to time, and to all applicable laws.

Non-compliance with any current beach rule, regulation or applicable law may result in the loss of a beach vehicle permit and of beach privileges, in addition to other appropriate penalties.

#### Limitation of Liability

1. The Town of Duxbury and Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. accept no responsibility or liability for any personal injury or property damage sustained on Duxbury Beach.
2. Entry upon or use of Duxbury Beach by any person, including by foot, bicycle, motor vehicle, boat, or horseback, shall be at their own risk and such entry or use shall constitute a release by such person of the Town of Duxbury and Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. from any and all claims for personal injury or property damage sustained on Duxbury Beach, and such release shall be binding upon such person, their personal representatives, and all persons claiming through or under them.
3. All beach users must comply with current beach rules and regulations and the request or instructions of the patrolling Duxbury Police Beach Operations Division personnel and/or Police Officers.

To report an emergency, dial 9-1-1  
For non-emergencies, dial (781) 934-5656

The most up-to-date information pertaining to beach conditions including restrictions and access limitations may be found on the internet at [www.town.duxbury.ma.us/](http://www.town.duxbury.ma.us/)

Beach conditions and information updates can be found by following the Duxbury Police Beach Ops Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/DPD\\_Beach\\_Ops](https://www.twitter.com/DPD_Beach_Ops)

This pamphlet was produced by the  
Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division  
155 Mayflower Street, Duxbury, MA 02332

**Powder Point Bridge Length: 0.4 miles**

#### **Distances from the East End of the Powder Point Bridge:**

**1st Crossover: 0.3 miles**  
**2nd Crossover: 1.5 miles**  
**3rd Crossover: 2.4 miles**  
**Plum Hills: 3.2 miles**  
**Gurnet Gate: 3.5 miles**



# Duxbury Beach Guide & Rules

**Duxbury Beach is owned by Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc.**

**Duxbury Police Beach Operations Division oversees  
daily recreational operations**

### Management of Duxbury Beach

Duxbury Beach is a unique and ever-changing natural resource for the entire South Shore of Massachusetts. This barrier beach serves as natural protection for the towns of Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth, and as a conservation, scenic, and recreational area. Due to its constant use and vulnerability to the natural forces on the Eastern Atlantic Coast, the beach and its protection is constantly managed by its owner, the Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc., in connection with the Duxbury Beach Committee, a town advisory group; and the Duxbury Police Beach Operations Division, which directly oversees the daily recreational operations.

The beach grass on Duxbury Beach plays a vital role in holding the sand during wind and storm events. Beach grass is brittle and easily broken if stepped on. Just walking between the clumps of grass causes sand grains to break the fragile root hairs. Once broken, the plant immediately dies. It is essential to establish and enforce natural dune areas and keep them free of human impact. You will see that this management technique allows Duxbury Beach to recover naturally from high impact environmental forces such as storms. All beach erosion control devices such as fencing, grass and shrub planting areas, and cabling are here for the purpose of preserving the beach as a natural protective barrier and for your present and future enjoyment.

### Recreational Beach/Regulations

1. **Walking** is encouraged on Duxbury Beach. However, all persons, their animals, and vehicles must stay out of all dunes, vegetation, marsh grass, posted bird or wildlife areas, and Restricted Areas. Restricted Areas mean areas that are marked by fences, posts, signs, cones, or instructions or directions of authorized personnel. Please use designated crossovers and pathways only.
2. **Biking** is allowed on Duxbury Beach and its roadways. However, all bikers shall stay out of all dunes, vegetation, marsh grass, posted bird or wildlife areas, and Restricted Areas. All bikers shall abide by posted speed limits at all times. Bikers shall walk their bike through Restricted Areas, but only as permitted or directed by authorized personnel.
3. **Swimming** - All persons swimming or bathing at Duxbury Beach do so at their own risk (see "Limitation of Liability"). Lifeguards are on duty only in the designated lifeguard / bathing area. The designated lifeguard / bathing area is defined as the ocean side of the beach directly east of the Powder Point Bridge, 100 yards either side of the stationary lifeguard stand. Rafts, tubes, floatation equipment, face masks, and snorkeling and diving equipment are prohibited in the designated lifeguard / bathing area. Swimming in any other area of the beach is without lifeguard supervision. Swimming, diving, and jumping from the Powder Point Bridge is strictly prohibited. No swimming is permitted in the boat channel adjacent to the bayside beach.
4. **Boating** - Except for authorized emergency vessels, no vessels of any kind (boats, sailboats, sailboards, jet skis, etc.) are permitted within 150 feet of the water's edge of the oceanside beach except in designated vessel access areas, or within 150 feet of the water's edge of the bay side beach, 150 feet north and south of the Powder Point Bridge. In designated vessel access areas (a) all water skiing, swimming, and floatation devices are prohibited, (b) vessel anchoring is permitted, and (c) vessels may proceed at stearage speed only.
5. **Horseback riding** requires a special permit that must be purchased from the Treasurer's office at Town Hall. Riding is permitted daily, from sunrise to sunset, October through April. Riding is permitted, from sunrise to 9:00am and 6:00pm to sunset, May through September, weekdays only. All motor vehicle and parking regulations apply. Riders are responsible for removing all horse droppings from parking areas.
6. **Shellfishing** requires a special permit that must be purchased from the Inspectional Services Department at Town Hall. Motor vehicle access for this purpose must comply with all beach motor vehicle regulations.
7. **Fishing** from the bridge is permitted on the side-walk side only, as long as it does not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic. No fishing is allowed within the marked channel area. Fishing on the beach must be respectful of swimmers, and poles on the beach must be kept at the water's edge at all times while in the act of fishing. Bait and carcasses must be removed.
8. **Hunting** is prohibited on beach property at all times. Discharge of firearms is prohibited on beach property.
9. **Facilities** - Portable restrooms are available throughout the beach. Snacks are available seasonally at the Duxbury Beach Park Bathhouse.
10. **Drones** - The use of drones / unmanned aerial vehicles launched, operated, flown over, or retrieved on beach property is not permitted with the exception of flights specifically approved by Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc., Duxbury Police Beach Operations Division personnel, and the Marshfield Airport.
11. **Kites** - The use of kites is prohibited on beach property closer than 200 meters (219 yards) around or above territorial or nesting adult and unfledged juvenile Piping Plovers and Least Terns from April 1 through September 15.
12. **Kiteboarding** is permitted off of Duxbury Beach on the bayside, but only outside of Restricted Areas and no closer than 200 meters (219 yards) around nesting Piping Plover adults or unfledged chicks. Kiteboarders must use established vehicle pull-offs to park and access the water and must have an ORV driving permit. The primary access point is at High Pines. Pull-offs within Restricted Areas established due to protected species locations are closed to all vehicles, including kiteboarders. Landing kiteboards is not permitted within Restricted Areas or closer than 200 meters (219 yards) of any nesting activity.

### General Beach Regulations

1. All beach users must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, as well as with rules, regulations, and directions, requests, and instructions from the Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division personnel, Police Officers, Duxbury Beach Reservation Coastal Ecology personnel, and other authorized agency or department personnel.
2. When protected species are present on beach property, no person, their animal or vehicle shall disturb or attempt to disturb the protected species in any way and/or fail to adhere to the direction and instruction of the Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division personnel, Police Officers, and Duxbury Beach Reservation Coastal Ecology personnel, or other authorized agency or department personnel.
3. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on beach property.
4. Dogs must be leashed *and* under the immediate and effective control of their handler at all times. All dogs on beach property must be covered by a current Town of Duxbury Walking Permit issued by the Duxbury Town Clerk (see "Special Dog Regulations").
5. No sand, stone, vegetation, salt marsh hay, seaweed or other material may be removed from beach property. Erosion control fencing, access fencing and cabling or signs shall not be disturbed, damaged or removed.
6. Store and discard trash, especially food scraps, properly. Littering and dumping of household trash is prohibited. Glass containers are not allowed on beach property. Trash receptacles for incidental beach trash are available seasonally at the resident parking lot. Otherwise, beach policy is "carry-in, carry-out" at all times.
7. Bonfires and campfires are prohibited. Small cooking fires in a metal container are permitted but only on the ORV portion of the beach. No materials may be added to a fire within one hour of beach closing. All fires must be extinguished with water within a half hour of beach closing, and all fire remnants must be removed from beach property by the beach user.
8. Overnight camping on beach property is prohibited. Unauthorized vehicles access is prohibited.
9. Fireworks are illegal and are prohibited on beach property.

10. Loitering in the beach parking lots is prohibited after beach closing.
11. Beach functions or group gatherings of 20 or more persons, or any other special event or research, requires a special permit from the Duxbury Police Department Beach Operations Division. Applications for permits shall be received at least one week prior to the proposed function. Public demonstrations on beach property are prohibited.

### Motor Vehicle Beach Regulations

1. All vehicles on beach property must carry a current copy of the Duxbury Beach Guide & Rules.
2. All vehicles parked on beach property must visibly display a current Duxbury Beach sticker. Vehicles parked in any parking area at the east end of the Powder Point Bridge must visibly display a resident or rental resident beach lot sticker from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
3. All vehicles driving in or parked in ORV areas or parked in roadside parking areas south of the Powder Point Bridge must visibly display a current resident or nonresident ORV sticker appropriate for year round or off-season use.
4. Stickers shall be affixed under the "rearview" mirror to the vehicle windshield, never in tint. If not affixed in the correct position, the RFID system may not detect the sticker and a violation may occur. Unauthorized parking in all roadways, fire lanes, or vehicle crossovers is prohibited at all times. There are five types of Duxbury Beach permits:  
**Resident Beach Lot:** for use of paved parking lots (valid April - March)  
**Resident Oversand:** for (4WD) vehicles in paved parking lots, ORV areas, and roadside parking areas (valid April - March)  
**Resident Off-Season Oversand:** for (4WD) vehicles in ORV areas and roadside parking areas (valid October - March)  
**Non-Resident Oversand:** for (4WD) vehicles in ORV areas, and roadside parking areas (valid April - March)  
**Non-Resident Off-Season Oversand:** for (4WD) vehicles in ORV areas and roadside parking areas (valid October - March)
5. Permits are valid only for the vehicle for which they were purchased. The permit registration number must match the vehicle registration. Permits are nontransferable. Original permit sticker must be returned in order to receive a replacement due to sale of vehicle, windshield replacement, etc.
6. All other vehicles are prohibited, including motorcycles, minibikes, minicars, snowmobiles, paragliders, ATVs and ATCs (except when necessary for official use). No airplanes or helicopters are permitted to land on Duxbury Beach property except in an emergency.
7. All parking is on a first-come, first-served basis. When parking capacities are reached, vehicle access restrictions will be imposed.
8. Further restrictions may be imposed on the number of vehicles permitted on beach property for public safety, access management, and/or protected species management.
9. All off-road vehicles must have 4WD and the proper tire pressure for beach conditions (15PSI), as this pressure will lessen damage to beach roads and crossovers and promote a safe and comfortable ride. All off-road vehicles must be properly equipped before they are permitted on the beach, and vehicles may be inspected for the following equipment at any time: shovel; tow rope, tow strap, or chain; spare tire, jack, and 18" square plywood support pad; and tires that are properly pressurized for beach conditions. Vehicles lacking this equipment or tire pressure may be cited and/or refused entry for any missing items.
10. Parking Lot Hours: Hours are subject to change.  
**East End Parking Lot, North Resident Lot:** May-Aug: 8am - Sunset. Sept-Apr: 9am - Sunset  
**East End Parking Lot, Resident South Lot:** May-Aug: 6am - 11pm. Sept-Apr: 6am - Sunset
11. Off Road Vehicle Hours - Hours are subject to change based on, but not limited to, weather, protected species and wildlife management issues, and other environmental factors. The Off Road Vehicle Hours will be posted via social media and at the East End of the Powder Point Bridge on a daily basis.
12. Driving must be confined to designated routes and never in the water, on or over dunes, vegetation, marsh grass, intertidal areas, or Restricted Areas. Vehicles shall travel in established tracks. Vehicles shall park perpendicular to water's edge in an organized fashion and in a manner that will not interfere with the established track or traffic flow. Vehicles driving off the beach shall have the right of way. Vehicles are not allowed in pedestrian, mud-flat/shellfish, Restricted Areas, or protected species or wildlife areas. No vehicle shall travel or park within 10 feet of a sand fence, or symbolic string or post fence on the ocean side of the beach.
13. All vehicles must be operated for the safety and regard of the operator, vehicle occupants, pedestrians, protected species and wildlife, and beach resources. Maximum speed on the Powder Point Bridge, vehicle turnaround, paved parking areas, vehicle crossovers, and in designated ORV areas is 10 mph, conditions permitting. On the improved beach roadway the maximum speed is 15 mph, conditions permitting. In any protected species area, the maximum speed shall be reduced to 5 mph, and traffic may be further restricted or stopped by authorized agency or department personnel for protected species management.
14. All persons must ride within the confines of any motor vehicle and must be seated. Riding on fenders, tailgate, or roof, or standing in the vehicle, is prohibited.

**The roadway over the leased portion of the beach to Gurnet Gate is for use by off-road vehicles only. All Gurnet-Saquish traffic must use the roadway.**

Be advised that the ORV portion of Duxbury Beach, at times, may not be accessible during high tides. The ORV portion or sections of the ORV portion can be closed for many other reasons, including protected species activity, rip currents, and/or shark sightings. The hours of availability of the ORV portion or sections of the ORV portion on any day may be shortened, and/or the ORV portion or sections of the ORV portion may be closed at sundown for many reasons.

### ORV Driving Tips

If stuck, do not spin the tires. Let air out of your tires and try again. If your car frame is touching the sand, stop everything and follow this procedure: 1. Jack up each wheel and fill in the holes under each tire; 2. Drop the tire pressure further and attempt to back up car about 15 feet; 3. Fill in all holes; 4. Proceed forward.

**Duxbury Beach Guide**  
**For all Town of Duxbury ORV and Parking Lot Permit Holders - 2020**

**Introduction**

In 1986, Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) were listed as a threatened species under both the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Since 1991 Piping Plovers have nested on Duxbury Beach. Though the nesting population of Piping Plovers has continued to grow in Massachusetts and over two dozen pairs nest annually on Duxbury Beach, the Atlantic Coast population of Plovers as-a-whole is still in crisis.

In order to allow vehicles to travel on the beach roadway, use parking lots, and have over-sand vehicle (ORV) access on the beach, Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc., the owner of Duxbury Beach, successfully obtained a permit for increased management flexibility from MassWildlife under its Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Among other provisions, this Plan allows vehicles to travel in the vicinity of unfledged (non-flying) piping plover chicks on Duxbury Beach, but only under specified rules and conditions designed to protect the birds.

Piping plover parents return to Duxbury Beach in late March and chicks begin to hatch in mid-May. Typically, the last chicks will begin flying in late August-early September. Piping plover chicks leave the nest about two hours after hatching and are able to feed themselves. Piping plovers eat a variety of marine and terrestrial invertebrates such as worms and amphipods. They move from one tidal area to another, multiple times per day, crossing the roadway and foraging along both the oceanside and bayside beaches. Chicks blend into their surroundings very effectively because of their camouflaged plumage. They are highly mobile, very fast, and feed over large areas. When disturbed, they may run in spurts, stop, and hide in dune grass or small depressions in the sand.

**Access**

Recreational vehicles with a valid Duxbury Beach sticker are allowed access onto the property during the Plover season. Access may vary depending on when chicks hatch and where nests are and where chicks move. Nesting locations and chick movements change each season and so it is impossible to predict where and when closures may occur. Over-sand vehicles must have an ORV sticker and drivers must respect restricted areas and adhere to the Duxbury Beach Motor Vehicle Beach Regulations (listed in the Duxbury Beach Guide & Rules), bird monitor and beach operations instructions, and information on signs.

**What to Look For**

Piping plover broods (parents and chicks) exhibit several behaviors to look out for while driving along the roadway, beach, or through a parking lot. The plovers are spread throughout Duxbury Beach – north to south and east to west. Looking out for certain behaviors can help make sure that we keep them safe.

**Flying:** Be on the lookout for parent plovers flying in and out of the roadway. Typically, they will be calling or “peeping” while doing this, and it is a sign that the parents and chicks are going to cross the road. **Stop your vehicle and scan the road for other birds on the edge of the road or in the road if you see a plover fly in or out of the roadway.** Keep in mind that you may not hear them calling over the sound of the vehicle engine.

**Chick Movement:** At the start of crossing the road, the parents will lead the chicks into the road. Plover broods do not travel in a tight group, so entry into the roadway may be staggered. **If you see one or two chicks in the road, be on the lookout for more entering from either side of the roadway.** Plover parents will typically dart back and forth along the road to guide their chicks and keep an eye out for danger.

**Camouflage:** Chicks rely heavily on their camouflage to keep themselves safe. When faced with danger, such as a vehicle near them, their instinct is to freeze and crouch down where they are rather than run away. They may also take shelter in potholes, tire tracks, and other depressions, as well as vegetation growing along the side of the road. **Check the roadway thoroughly to make sure the chicks aren’t hiding before you move your vehicle.**

**Brooding:** Chicks can also take shelter under one of the parents in a behavior called “brooding.” One or more chicks will push themselves under their parent to hide. It is very difficult to tell how many chicks are under the parent, even with binoculars. You can tell a parent is brooding chicks because they will stand still and looked fluffed up. Chicks can brood like this for several minutes at a time. **Do not attempt to pass the birds while they are brooding.** Brooding also helps chicks maintain their body temperatures and disrupting this behavior could cause them to die from being too cold or hot.

**Movement Along the Road:** The parents and chicks may go straight across the road and into the vegetation on the other side, but they may also travel up or down the roadway to access a more suitable exit point. **If the birds start traveling away from you, do not follow them. Following the brood as they are trying to find an exit point can make the crossing take longer.**

**Hiding Under Vehicles:** **If the birds start traveling toward you, do not move your vehicle.** Plover chicks have been known to take shelter under stationary vehicles and crouch under tires for safety. If no Shorebird Monitors are around, one person inside the vehicle should carefully get out to check if there are birds under the vehicle. If they are still there, do not attempt to move the birds. Get back in the vehicle and wait for them to move on their own. Lingering in the road can make the crossing take longer.

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### Piping Plover Photos



At left, a Piping Plover parent on Duxbury Beach. The adults are roughly the size of a tennis ball and they blend in with the sand and cobble very well. Look carefully for movement, distinctive black bands, and listen for peeping. At right, Piping Plover chicks are perfectly suited to blend in with Duxbury Beach. They grow quickly from the size of a cotton ball to adult size in about a month. They must find food for themselves and spend much of their time feeding and moving. (Photo credit: Stewart Ting Chong)

Additional photos and videos may be found at [www.duxburybeachreservation.org/hcp](http://www.duxburybeachreservation.org/hcp)

### Driving Procedures

When driving on the back roadway, in parking lots, and in ORV areas on the beach, observe posted speed limits and look for Plovers. The maximum speed limit is typically 15 mph, but it is reduced to 5 mph within known Plover crossing areas. Headlight use is required during evening/nighttime hours. Adhere to all closures indicated by roped-off areas, barrels and cones. Orange fencing twine denotes areas where vehicles are prohibited.

Pullouts and sections of the back road may have limited access during the Plover nesting season. Drivers are responsible for adhering to any closures, including limited access down the back road. Drivers will be notified of such restrictions when entering the beach and are responsible for limiting travel on the back road to open areas.

During portions of the day, monitors will be on site to manage Plover crossings. When a crossing closure occurs, vehicles must follow instructions from bird monitors and must stop when a monitor has raised the stop sign or has signaled a driver to stop. Closures can last from a few minutes to two hours. Drivers are requested to stay in vehicle and avoid harassing the birds or the staff. Anyone traveling on Duxbury Beach should be prepared for such an extended stay and travel with any medications, water, and other necessities. In the event of a medical emergency, DBR staff will call 911 so that you may be taken off the beach safely.

While driving, keep your attention and eyes on the road. Use your peripheral vision to look for chicks near the edge of the roadway or travel corridor that may dart out. Chicks may also hide in small depressions in the sand, including in tire ruts, or in dune grass. They are tiny when newly hatched and rely on blending in with their surroundings. When chicks are close to people, the parent plover will often get excited, peep loudly (a rapidly repeated "peep-peep") and stand in the road. Adults may also pretend to have a broken wing; they may flap their wing on the ground while moving away from you. This biological defense behavior is commonly referred to as the "broken wing display." If you see this, be aware the adults are attempting to draw attention to themselves and away from chicks.

If you observe a Plover adult or chick in the roadway or parking lot and there is no staff present, stop your vehicle (do NOT drive around the bird) and wait until the Plover has left the roadway or parking lot. Scan the area very carefully to check for any other chicks or parents. Oftentimes the chicks do not move as a group. Do not attempt to keep driving if you see another chick on the side of the road or in the parking lot. Do not harass or frighten the bird or attempt to herd the bird out of the way.

Once the birds have made it safely out of the area, scan the area one last time to ensure there are no crouching chicks or stragglers just entering the area. Once you are confident there are no birds left in the area, you may move your vehicle. Proceed slowly until you are out of the area.

Due to varying high tides, changing beach condition, plover related closures and other reasons, portions of Duxbury Beach may be closed to traffic. Therefore, such closures should be anticipated and expected and are a reflection of the dynamic and healthy coastal landscape that we all love and rely on.

**IMPORTANT!** In the event of an emergency, and beach personnel are not present, please dial 911.

**VIOLATIONS:** Any violations of the aforementioned protocol will not be tolerated. Violators of the Duxbury Beach Guide & Rules shall be subject to sticker revocation, and their rights to operate a vehicle on Duxbury Beach will be suspended immediately for a period of one year from the date of the violation. A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE IN EFFECT AT ALL TIMES on all rules that compromise plover safety. Your cooperation in complying with these conditions and requirements is critical in determining future vehicle access on Duxbury Beach. You are active stakeholders in successful implementation of activities covered under Duxbury Beach Reservation's HCP permit. Thank you for helping to keep Duxbury Beach a safe and enjoyable place.

### Piping Plover Photos



At left, a Piping Plover parent on Duxbury Beach. The adults are roughly the size of a tennis ball and they blend in with the sand and cobble very well. Look carefully for movement, distinctive black bands, and listen for peeping. At right, Piping Plover chicks are perfectly suited to blend in with Duxbury Beach. They grow quickly from the size of a cotton ball to adult size in about a month. They must find food for themselves and spend much of their time feeding and moving. (Photo credit: Stewart Ting Chong)

Additional photos and videos may be found at [www.duxburybeachreservation.org/hcp](http://www.duxburybeachreservation.org/hcp)

### Driving Procedures

When driving on the back roadway, in parking lots, and in ORV areas on the beach, observe posted speed limits and look for Plovers. The maximum speed limit is typically 15 mph, but it is reduced to 5 mph within known Plover crossing areas. Headlight use is required during evening/nighttime hours. Adhere to all closures indicated by roped-off areas, barrels and cones. Orange fencing twine denotes areas where vehicles are prohibited.

Pullouts and sections of the back road may have limited access during the Plover nesting season. Drivers are responsible for adhering to any closures, including limited access down the back road. Drivers will be notified of such restrictions when entering the beach and are responsible for limiting travel on the back road to open areas.

During portions of the day, monitors will be on site to manage Plover crossings. When a crossing closure occurs, vehicles must follow instructions from bird monitors and must stop when a monitor has raised the stop sign or has signaled a driver to stop. Closures can last from a few minutes to two hours. Drivers are requested to stay in vehicle and avoid harassing the birds or the staff. Anyone traveling on Duxbury Beach should be prepared for such an extended stay and travel with any medications, water, and other necessities. In the event of a medical emergency, DBR staff will call 911 so that you may be taken off the beach safely.

While driving, keep your attention and eyes on the road. Use your peripheral vision to look for chicks near the edge of the roadway or travel corridor that may dart out. Chicks may also hide in small depressions in the sand, including in tire ruts, or in dune grass. They are tiny when newly hatched and rely on blending in with their surroundings. When chicks are close to people, the parent plover will often get excited, peep loudly (a rapidly repeated "peep-peep") and stand in the road. Adults may also pretend to have a broken wing; they may flap their wing on the ground while moving away from you. This biological defense behavior is commonly referred to as the "broken wing display." If you see this, be aware the adults are attempting to draw attention to themselves and away from chicks.

If you observe a Plover adult or chick in the roadway or parking lot and there is no staff present, stop your vehicle (do NOT drive around the bird) and wait until the Plover has left the roadway or parking lot. Scan the area very carefully to check for any other chicks or parents. Oftentimes the chicks do not move as a group. Do not attempt to keep driving if you see another chick on the side of the road or in the parking lot. Do not harass or frighten the bird or attempt to herd the bird out of the way.

Once the birds have made it safely out of the area, scan the area one last time to ensure there are no crouching chicks or stragglers just entering the area. Once you are confident there are no birds left in the area, you may move your vehicle. Proceed slowly until you are out of the area.

Due to varying high tides, changing beach condition, plover related closures and other reasons, portions of Duxbury Beach may be closed to traffic. Therefore, such closures should be anticipated and expected and are a reflection of the dynamic and healthy coastal landscape that we all love and rely on.

**IMPORTANT!** In the event of an emergency, and beach personnel are not present, please dial 911.

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