



Town of Barnstable
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Sandy Neck 508-790-6272
Sandy Neck Gatehouse 508-362-8300

Sandy Neck Beach Park Management Policies

Adopted by the Sandy Neck Board on February 7, 2005

*Revised; March 9, 2009, March 8, 2010, November 14, 2011, April 14, 2014
March 14, 2016, February 12, 2018, February 14, 2022, and March 11, 2024.*

Complaints concerning policies, regulations, and/or Sandy Neck staff conduct should be addressed to the Park Manager or Senior Natural Resource Officer.

Sections 7 & 8 are omitted from this document as they do not pertain to the off-road vehicle beach.

Section 1: Sandy Neck Fees

Sandy Neck user fees are at set rates depending on residency status. Residency must be proven per the Sandy Neck Beach Park Regulations and Sandy Neck Beach Park Policies.

Section 2: No Refund Policy

It is the Sandy Neck Beach Park Policy that no refunds will be granted. Included, but not limited, in this policy are personal emergencies, foul weather, evacuations, limitations on access, beach conditions, insects (greenhead flies, etc.) and water temperature.

The No Refund Policy pertains to any and all patrons that make use of any Sandy Neck Beach Park or Gatehouse facilities. All public beach users, Off Road Vehicle (ORV) day trippers, sticker purchasers, overnight camping and chase vehicles are subject to this policy and must comply accordingly.

Section 3: Parking Lot Policies

3:1 Dogs

Dogs are prohibited from all Barnstable bathing beaches (Town of Barnstable General Ordinances §403-8) from May 15 to September 15. Dogs are not allowed past the Gatehouse between May 15 and September 15 unless they are contained within a permitted vehicle that is traveling to the Off-Road Vehicle beach.

Dogs are allowed on Sandy Neck hiking trails anytime of the year as long as they remain on a leash year round.

All dogs on the ORV corridor must be leashed unless in the waters of the Cape Cod Bay. In addition, areas that have high wildlife value will be marked as “No Dogs Allowed.”

3:2 Drive-Thru(s) and Drop Offs

Parking lot business hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Memorial Day through Labor Day.

All vehicles traveling to the bathing beach during business hours must have a Sandwich or Barnstable Beach Parking Permit or a valid Barnstable Public Beach Day, Weekly or Landlord Pass.

Vehicles without one of the above attributes are not permitted to travel to the parking lot. This includes any dropping off of vehicle occupants or participation in any activity that does not involve parking.

3:3 Full Parking Lot

Per requirements of the Sandy Neck Board, only five vehicles are permitted to wait in line once the parking lot is full. This is mandatory procedure because of the need to keep the road clear for off-road and cottage owner vehicle access and to allow emergency personnel to get to the beach unimpeded.

The lot will re-open once five spaces become available and the five vehicles in line can fill the vacant spaces. The next five vehicles that arrive at the Gatehouse are then eligible to wait in line.

The Gate Attendant Supervisor or the Park Manager, for safety purposes, may deem that it is necessary for the parking lot to remain closed.

When the parking lot is full, no vehicles are permitted to travel to the parking lot for dropping off occupants, even if the vehicle has a Sandwich or Barnstable Beach Parking Permit or a valid Barnstable Public Beach Day or Weekly Pass.

Section 4: Proof of Residency

Sandy Neck provides discounted Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Permits to residents and/or property taxpayers of Barnstable. Proof of residency is defined in the regulations as:

Proof of residency is required in order to obtain a Barnstable ORV Permit. Residency can be proven by:

1. *Tax bill,*
2. *Minimum one year property lease,*
3. *Vehicle registration with a street address (PO Box is not sufficient),*

4. *Other legal documents such as a deed or will (this does not include utility bills, excise tax bills, etc.).*
5. *College students may provide a tuition bill with a Barnstable address.*

Barnstable residents wishing to obtain an ORV Permit must have their vehicle registered in their name (or the name of a person residing year-round at the same address) unless:

1. *They have written permission to use a company vehicle.*
2. *Proof of ownership of the company on the vehicle registration.*
3. *A minimum one year vehicle lease agreement.*

To clarify, the Barnstable resident/taxpayer must be the applicant. The vehicle must be (1) in the resident/taxpayer's name (2) in the name of a person living year-round at the same address or (3) in the name of the company that the resident/taxpayer owns or works for (with written proof).

****In the event that the Town has reason to believe that an individual providing a property lease as proof of residency does not reside in Barnstable, two forms of proof may be required. The following items will be accepted for the second form of proof:**

1. Appearance on Barnstable census for two consecutive years; or
2. Auto excise tax bill with Barnstable address; or
3. Water bill for residential dwelling in Barnstable; or
4. Valid driver's license with Barnstable address.

Section 5: Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permits

Barnstable General Ordinances Chapter 177, Article I, §177-2 requires that all over sand vehicles on Sandy Neck must have a current ORV permit. Only official vehicles (as determined by the Park Manager) are exempt from this requirement.

ORV permits are non-transferable. Permits may be re-issued to the same beach patron (or someone residing at the same address) providing the original permit is returned or there is documented proof that the permit was destroyed.

Any permit holder caught tampering with their ORV permit and/or the attached RFID tag may have their ORV permit revoked.

Section 6: Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Beach

6:1 User Conduct

All users of Sandy Neck Beach Park are expected to behave in a civil and responsible manner. Verbal abuse and/or aggressive behavior toward Sandy Neck Staff or other beach patrons will result in the violator's removal from the beach for not less than 24 hours. In addition, violators may have their ORV Permit revoked, incur fines for obscene language in accordance with Town of Barnstable General Ordinances §147-1 and/or be issued trespass orders.

6:2 Stuck Vehicles

Any vehicle (permitted or non-permitted) that is stuck on the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Beach, including the Access Trail is subject to being towed at the operator's expense and may be subject to fines. The operator of a stuck vehicle will be given 15 minutes to attempt to free their vehicle from the sand before the determination for a tow is made at the discretion of the Park Manager or Natural Resource Officer on duty (or any other employee designated by the Town Manager to enforce the regulations at Sandy Neck).

6:3 Air Compressors

It is recommended that all ORVs are equipped with a personal portable compressor as use of the complimentary Sandy Neck compressor is not guaranteed, even during peak times.