

Special Announcement



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

No. 13-05

Date: September 6, 2013

Subject: Update for Recreational Use of Wallops Island

The piping plover nesting area on northern Wallops is reopened for pedestrian and vehicle use. Monitoring by the Environmental Office has indicated that no piping plovers remain north of the cable barrier. From September 1, 2013 through March 15, 2014, the Recreational Beach will extend north to the posted signs warning of Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) hazards and south to the hazard sign prohibiting access to the newly restored beach south of V24. Pedestrians and ORVs can gain access to the Recreational Beach via the gravel road and dune crossing northeast of Camera Station V-100 (**ARTIST Radar site**). **This crossing is clearly marked and is the only authorized recreational ORV access point.** Except for this crossing point, ORVs are not to be driven on or over dunes or into closed areas.

The beach south of Z-40 and Z-41 is not open to recreational use due to hazards in the water and to beach restoration efforts. Please note that the road to the west of Z-41 that leads to Camera Station Z-100 has been enhanced and is now a UAV runway. This runway is off limits to all traffic. The marsh area along the Virginia Inside Passage waterway that runs under the WI bridge may also be used for recreational purpose; however, access to this area is by boat only. Please note that allowable recreational use does not include the use of any weapons.

The extreme north end of Wallops Island (WI) known as Gunboat Point and the large wetland area bordered by the heliport access road to its north and the high dunes along the Atlantic Ocean (see map) are "off limits" at all times due to the potential for munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) from historic Department of Defense activities. These areas are posted.

THE RECREATIONAL BEACH AREAS MAY BE USED ONLY DURING NONOPERATIONAL HOURS BETWEEN SUNRISE AND MIDNIGHT. Nonoperational hours are normally weekends and holidays and before 7:30 a.m. and after 3:30 p.m. on weekdays. Launch activities may require additional closure of the recreational beach areas outside of normal working hours. Failure to comply with beach use restrictions will result in closure of the Island for recreational use. Please refer to the "Wallops Island Recreation Map" for exact locations of closure areas and beach access points.

Please notify the Island Gate security guard if you observe anyone violating the protected areas, any wildlife habitat on WI, or accessing other areas that are off limits due to operations or explosion hazards. Your continued support will help to safely keep WI open for recreational use while protecting its natural beauty and threatened species.

All recreational users should remember:

1. Recreational areas are open from sunrise to midnight, nonduty hours only.
2. The launch areas are **NEVER** open for recreational use.
3. Maintain the natural state of the Island. Please properly dispose of all trash.
4. Open fires, pets, and weapons are not allowed on WI.
5. ORV access is limited to a single dune crossing via Camera Station V-100.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline R. Massey".

Caroline R. Massey
Assistant Director of Management Operations

Distribution:

100

200

400

500

600

700 800

Tenants

Contractors

WALLOPS ISLAND RECREATION MAP

(For Permanently Badged Wallops Employees and Guest Escorted In The Employee's Vehicle)

