

Special Announcement



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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

No. 16-01

Date: May 5, 2016

Subject: Recreational Use of Wallops Island

Wallops Island's beach and marshes offer Wallops employees and their sponsored guests wonderful opportunities for outdoor recreation. Use of Wallops Island for recreation is a privilege where we must balance our desire for fun and relaxation with our commitment to safety and our obligation to be good stewards of the natural environment and the taxpayer's trust. We must also protect endangered animal habitat, or recreational use may not be allowed in the future. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of the Island's recreational offerings, but please follow the guidelines below.

DO

- Enjoy the Recreational Beach during non-operational hours. These are:
 - Weekdays – sunrise to 7:30am and 3:30pm until midnight
 - Weekends and Federal Holidays – sunrise to midnight
 - Occasionally, operational restrictions may temporarily restrict access to certain areas of the Island, including the Recreational Beach.
- Drive straight to the designated Recreational area if using the Recreational Beach.
- Access the Recreational Beach at the V-100 Camera Stand (see attached map). This is the only entry point for Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) access. ORVs must be 4-wheel or all-wheel drive and proper off-road equipment (shovels, etc.) is recommended.
- Be aware that federally-protected birds such as piping plovers and red knots, as well as sea turtles, use the Recreational Beach for nesting and foraging. Therefore:
 - Drive slowly on the beach. Do not exceed 25 mph and reduce speed to 15 mph whenever coming within 100 feet of vehicles, wildlife, or pedestrians. When two vehicles approach in the same track, both operators must slow down, and the operator with the ocean on their right must yield the right-of-way by pulling out of the track.
 - Avoid all flagged or signed areas delineating nest sites for birds or turtles.
 - Walk, drive, or sit only on the hard-packed intertidal sand area (area between high and low tides) except at the posted entry point.
- Obey all posted signs and barriers. These include the cable barrier prohibiting access to the piping plover nesting area (closed to all recreational access March 15- September 1) and the signs prohibiting access to the replenished beach south of the Recreational Beach.
- Enjoy kayaks, paddleboards, surfing, and fishing, but please make sure your fishing gear (e.g. hooks, lines) does not get left in the surf or beach area as it presents a hazard for walkers, swimmers, and wildlife.
- Take all of your trash with you when you leave the beach (it cannot be buried or burned).
- Have a great time!

DO NOT

- Use any beach area other than the designated Recreational Beach. This means that any beach area south of Bldg. V-24 is off-limits to recreational use at all times.
- Drive near or use operational areas or buildings. These are off-limits at all times when entering the Island for recreational use.
- Walk or drive on or behind any of the dunes.
- Approach or harass any wildlife.
- Bring All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or jet skis onto the Recreational Beach.
- Cut tire circles or needlessly deface the beach.
- Walk or drive on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) airstrip located on the southern end of the Island.
- Allow passengers to ride on the fenders, hood, roof, sides, tailgate or in any other feature on the outside of a moving vehicle. No vehicle shall be used to tow a person or any recreational device over land or water, or in the air.
- Access the marsh west of (behind) Wallops Island except by boat. Recreational activities are restricted to fishing and shell-fishing at the edge of the marshes. Recreational hiking and other activities are prohibited in the marsh.
- Bring pets or weapons (not even in your car).
- Start open fires.

If the Recreational Beach is closed during non-operational hours (normal recreational use times), the Wallops Office of Communication will notify employees in advance that the Recreational Beach will be closed from Date/Time to Date/Time through a "Wallops All" email and ECHO message (for those employees that have signed up for ECHO notifications) so employees will know, and won't have to be turned away at the Island gate. Employees are responsible for monitoring these notifications to be aware of any updates or extensions to previous reported closing or opening times.

The Protective Service Division (PSD) officers are on the Island for your safety and protection. They not only patrol the recreation beach, but also monitor cameras of the entire island for compliance with the previously mentioned guidelines. Please contact PSD by the emergency number: (757) 824-1333 or the PSD non-emergency number (757) 824-1300 if anyone becomes stranded on the beach or is observed not following the guidelines presented here. By responsibly following these guidelines, you are doing your part to ensure that the Island can be sustainably used for recreational purposes for years to come. Please direct any questions to Caroline Massey by calling (757) 824-1959 or by email at Caroline.R.Massey@nasa.gov.



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