

# Special Announcement



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

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

No. 11-01

---

Date: March 14, 2011

**Subject:** Recreational Use of Wallops Island

Two areas on Wallops Island (WI) are open for permanently-badged Wallops employees and their escorted guests to enjoy for recreational use. The beach area north of the launch areas and south of the beach cable barrier is open. Pedestrians and off-road-vehicles (ORVs) can gain access to the area via the dirt road and dune crossing northeast of Camera Station V-100. Please note that the road leading to the dune crossing passes through the former Navy radar site. The road is open for public use but please exercise caution when transiting through this area. This crossing is clearly marked and is the only authorized ORV access point. Except for this crossing point, ORVs are not to be driven on or over dunes or into the closed area. The beach south of Z-40 and Z-41 is no longer open to recreational use due to hazards in the water and the shoreline stabilization 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. As in previous years, the south and north ends of WI are closed to pedestrian and vehicular use effective March 15, 2011. The closures are part of our continuing cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to protect the piping plover, a federally endangered species along the Atlantic Coast. The piping plover nesting areas, with the exception of those that fall within the MEC hazard areas, will reopen September 1, 2011.

The WFF Environmental Office will monitor plover activity on WI. If plovers do not establish breeding territories in the closed areas, they may be reopened for recreational use. Conversely, if plovers establish themselves in an area currently open for recreational use, such use may be restricted or prohibited.

## **THE RECREATIONAL BEACH AREAS MAY BE USED ONLY DURING NONOPERATIONAL HOURS**

**BETWEEN SUNRISE AND SUNSET.** Nonoperational hours are normally weekends and holidays and before 7:30 a.m. and after 4:30 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 restricted 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 sunset, 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.

Caroline R. Massey  
Assistant Director of Management Operations

Distribution:    100    200    400    500    600 700 800    Tenants    Contractors