



Town of Sandwich

Beach Rules and Regulations

In order to enable the public to safely enjoy the town-owned beaches and adjacent natural areas within the Town of Sandwich while protecting important but fragile coastal habitats, the Board of Selectmen have adopted the following rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of the Town of Sandwich By Laws, Chapter 2, Section 2.50, as amended.

1. No person or pet shall enter upon or cross over any dune or salt marsh on Town property including any Conservation Lands, whether by walking or in a vehicle, including bicycles, except at an authorized marked crossover or designated beach access, other than in the performance of duties of a federal, state or Town official. Owners shall be responsible for keeping pets off of the dunes. Also, it shall be unlawful for any person or pet to damage, destroy or remove any Town owned sand dune or part thereof, or to kill, destroy or remove any grass, shrubbery, trees or other vegetation growing on sand dunes unless authorized by the Town Manager. Violations of this section shall be subject to a fine per the Town of Sandwich Bylaw, Section 3.90, part 3b & 3c.
2. Littering, discarding, dumping, or placing rubbish or other foreign materials on any portion of any town beach or beach parking lot is prohibited.
3. Glass containers are prohibited on beaches and in beach parking lots.
4. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on beaches and beach parking lots
5. Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by an adult at all times.
6. Groups of more than ten (10) persons who plan to congregate on any public beach or beach parking lot between the hours of 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM are required to first obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. The permit application shall include the event or occasion for such permit, the date, time and place thereof, and the persons responsible for cleaning up any beach area used thereof. Persons wishing to congregate on any public beach between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM are required to first obtain a special permit from the Police Department in accordance with Section 3.20 of the Town's Bylaws.
7. Ball playing, kite flying, the use of beach umbrellas, and other beach activities are permitted as long as they do not disturb or endanger beach users, including state and federally-protected shore birds. Any such beach activity may be prohibited at the discretion of appropriate town staff or life guards.
8. Disorderly conduct is prohibited.

9. Bonfires are prohibited in all locations. A permit from the Sandwich Fire Department is required to build a “cook fire” on the beach. Cook fires must be built below the high tide line, and are prohibited in all areas on Town Beach east of the boardwalk. The maximum fire size is three (3) feet in diameter. The burning of painted or chemically-treated wood, driftwood, snow fence, pallets, or wood with nails is prohibited. Fires must be fully extinguished with water, and the area must be cleaned up after use.
10. Overnight camping, tenting, or sleeping is prohibited.
11. Possession or discharge of fireworks is prohibited.
12. In beach parking lots, vehicles shall be parked one (1) space per vehicle, and in designated areas only. Beach stickers, or day passes, are required during designated times, as posted.
13. Motorized vehicles and large tire bicycles, other than authorized vehicles and those permitted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, are prohibited from operating on all public beaches, dunes, and salt marshes. Bicycles are not prohibited from entering beach parking lots.
14. Vandalism or theft of town structures or property is prohibited.
15. From April 1 to September 15, pets (e.g., dogs, horses) are prohibited on any salt water public beach including dunes and beach parking areas. From May 15 to September 15, pets (e.g., dogs, horses) are prohibited on all other public beaches including beach parking areas. From September 16 to March 30, pets are permitted on salt water beaches and September 16 to May 14 on other public beaches. Owners are responsible for keeping their dogs under close control and picking up their pet’s waste, and disposing of it properly.
16. From April 1 to September 15, no person or their pets shall enter areas marked for the purpose of protecting critical habitat for state and federally-listed shore birds. Protected areas will be marked with lines, fencing, and/or signs when birds or nests are present.
17. Any person using any town-owned public beach and beach parking area shall comply with the directives of any Sandwich town beach staff or agents of the town, as they apply to these beach rules and regulations, and other applicable laws and bylaws.
18. Solicitation or “the sale of items or services” is prohibited unless first licensed by the Town of Sandwich in accordance with any applicable state and local licensing procedures, including but not limited to those set forth in G.L. c.140 (food and beverage licenses), G.L. c. 101(transient vendors, hawkers and peddlers) and Chapter 6 of the Town’s Bylaws (Permits & Licenses).
19. The Town’s liability for injury, death or loss of personal property is limited by law.
20. The Town of Sandwich reserves the right to amend, alter or revise these regulations at any time. If a conflict exists between any of these regulations and the Town of Sandwich Bylaws, the bylaw shall prevail over the specific regulation where the conflict exists.
21. Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a noncriminal disposition process as provided in G.L. c.40, §21D and the Town’s non-criminal disposition by-law. If noncriminal disposition is elected, unless otherwise specified, any person who violates any provision of this regulation shall be subject to a fine of \$75.00 for the first offense, \$150.00 for the second offense, and \$200.00 for the third and subsequent offenses of any of these regulations. Each day a

violation exists shall constitute a separate offense. Or whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the district court. Except as may be otherwise provided by law and as the district court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for each violation or offense shall be three hundred dollars (\$300). Enforcing persons referenced in Section 2.80 of the Town of Sandwich Bylaws shall be considered enforcing persons for these regulations.

22. These rules and regulations apply to all town beaches including but not limited to: Town Neck Beach, Snake Pond Beach, Oak Crest Cove beach, Ryder-Wakeby Park beach, the town-owned beaches in East Sandwich and any other town owned land adjacent to Cape Cod Bay or a pond including beaches or shoreline on lands managed by the Conservation Commission. In addition to these regulations, there are additional specific regulations are in place for Oak Crest Cove and Ryder-Wakeby Park. Sandwich Town Beach runs from the west side of the Town parking area adjacent to Hemisphere's Restaurant east to Old Harbor Inlet, and includes the barrier beach in its entirety along Cape Cod Bay, Mill Creek, and the Old Harbor Estuary.

Board of Selectmen
Adopted 06-24-10
Amended 07-28-16