



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE SANDY NECK BOARD

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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
and March 14, 2016.*

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

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 from March 1st through September 15th.

All dogs on the ORV corridor must be leashed unless in the waters of the Cape Cod Bay from March 1st through September 15th.

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).

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.

Section 6: 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.

Section 7: Property Owner Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Permits

7:1 Eligibility

Property Owner ORV Permits will be issued to Sandy Neck property owners, Sandy Neck property lessees (minimum one year lease) and immediate members of their family. Immediate family members include father, mother, sister, brother, husband/wife or partner, son and daughter (including step-son and/or step-daughter).

7:2 Proof of Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the applicant to prove ownership or lessee status. Immediate family relationships can be proven by a legal document such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate or notarized letter.

7:3 Property Owner ORV permit privileges

The Property Owner ORV Permit affords access (via open Sandy Neck trails) to the applicable cottage only. It also allows vehicle use of the front beach (open sections only) for recreational purposes and use of the air compressor. In addition, the cottage owner may use the Sandy Neck dumpster to discard ORV and household trash. Dumping of construction debris, hazardous waste, discarded equipment, or any other items that are not ORV or household trash is strictly forbidden and will result in fines.

7:4 Guests of Property Owners

Guests of property owners may park in the Sandy Neck Parking lot. However, in-season guests are responsible for appropriate daily fee or parking permit for the entirety of their stay. Guests may park in the parking lot out-of-season at no cost.

If the guest intends on driving to a cottage, he/she must purchase the appropriate Sandy Neck Non-resident or Barnstable ORV Permit. Sandy Neck staff will issue a trail pass only after the Cottage Owner has alerted the Gatehouse that a particular individual can access their cottage.

Section 8: Halfway House Usage

8:1 Intent

The purpose of this recommendation is to provide clear direction and consistency for the Park Manager and the potential users and/or advocates interested in maintaining the special nature and use of the Halfway House.

8:2 Eligibility

The Halfway House has a long and stable history of educational and research based occupancy (spanning more than 30 yrs). It was regularly used by the Barnstable High School as part of a coastal ecology program. For the last twenty years the Halfway House has been used as a college level research station.

However, there are groups of people besides scientists that can impart a lasting benefit to the ecology and unique nature of Sandy Neck and the community of greater Barnstable. These groups must receive no monetary benefit from access to the Halfway House rather they might request to access this shelter because of the uniquely serene and beautiful environs the Halfway House offers. For a set fee (or another form of donation acceptable by the Sandy Neck Park Manager) certified non-profit groups that run art or nature based educational programs should have the ability to visit and/or stay at the Halfway House.

In addition, the Halfway House should continue to be used by science based educators and researchers in exchange for services and/or monies that these groups have traditionally provided to Sandy Neck.

While the Halfway House can always provide emergency shelter for youth groups, it is not the intention of these policies to suggest that young people (who can make use of the existing camping facilities at Trail 4) should have access to the Halfway House unless there is a reason that camping is not feasible. Requests from such groups will be considered on their respective merit and judged by the Sandy Neck Park Manager on a case by case basis.

8:2 Permit Requirements

Interested non-profit educational, scientific and art groups may apply for consideration for use of the Halfway House. If selected, the organization would be granted a Special Permit that will set fees and usage guidelines. In addition, insurance and liability waiver requirements will be set forth under a Sandy Neck Beach Park License Agreement.