

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Assateague  
Island  
National  
Seashore**

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**Superintendent's Compendium**

Of Designations, Closures, Permit  
Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed  
Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Hawthorne", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Hugh Hawthorne, Superintendent**  
**01/21/2026**

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**A. INTRODUCTION**

**1. Superintendent's Compendium Described**

The Superintendent's Compendium is the summary of park specific rules implemented under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR). It serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of the park. The Superintendent's Compendium does not repeat regulations found in 36 CFR and other United States Code and CFR Titles, which are enforced without further elaboration at the park level.

The regulations contained in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, are the basic mechanism used by the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the park and to protect visitors and property within the park. Parts 1 through 6 are general regulations applicable to all areas of the National Park system, and Part 7 contains special regulations specific to individual parks. Each of these Parts has many sections and subsections articulating specific provisions. Within some of these Part 1-7 sections and subsections, the Superintendent is granted discretionary authority to develop local rules to be responsive to the needs of a specific park resource or activity, park plan, program, and/or special needs of the general public.

As an example, 36 CFR 1.5(a) *Closures and Public Use Limits* provides the Superintendent certain discretion in allowing or disallowing certain activities. The authority granted by the Section, however, requires the Superintendent to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act (6 USC Section 551), which requires public notice on actions with major impact on visitor use patterns, park resources or those that are highly controversial in nature.

Another example is 36 CFR 1.6 *Permits*, which allows the Superintendent to require a permit for certain uses and activities in the park. This Section, however, requires that a list of activities needing a permit (and a fee schedule for the various types of permits) be maintained by the park.

A final example is 36 CFR 2.1(c) (1) *Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources*, which provides the Superintendent the authority to designate certain fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells which may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. This activity can occur, however, only if a written determination shows that the allowed activity does not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

This Compendium should be used in conjunction with Title 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, to more fully understand the regulations governing the use and enjoyment of all the areas of the national Park System.

A copy of Title 36, CFR, can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

Superintendent of Documents  
P.O. Box 371954  
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

The CFR is also available on the Internet at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-36/chapter-I>

## **2. Laws and Policies Allowing the Superintendent to Develop This Compendium**

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted broad statutory authority under 54 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 100101 *et. seq.* (Organic Act of 1916, as amended) to "the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall promote and regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife in such manner and by such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (54 U.S.C. Section 100101). In addition, the NPS Organic Act allows the NPS, through the Secretary of the Interior, to "prescribe such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary or proper for the use and management of System units." (54 U.S.C. §100751a).

54 USC 100101(b) reaffirms the original intent of Congress in the establishment of the National Park Service by recognizing "...these areas, though distinct in character, are united through their interrelated purposes and resources into one National Park System as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage...."

54 USC 100101(2) reaffirms the high standard of protection defined in the original Organic Act by stating "Congress reaffirms, declares and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various System units shall be consistent with and founded in the purpose established by subsection (a) to the common benefit of all the people of the United States. "

54 U.S.C. § 100501 defines the National Park System as "...any area of land and water administered by the Secretary, acting through the Director, for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes."

In addition to the above statutory authority, the Superintendent is guided by established NPS policy as found in the *NPS Management Policies* (2006). The Superintendent is also guided by more specific policies promulgated by the Director, National Park Service, in the form of Director's Orders. As stated in the Management Policies, the primary responsibility of the NPS is to protect and preserve our national natural and cultural resources while providing for the enjoyment of these resources by visitor and other users, as long as use does not impair specific park resources or overall visitor experience. The appropriateness of any particular visitor use or recreational experience is resource-based and will vary from park to park;

therefore, a use or activity that is appropriate in one park area may not be appropriate in another. The Superintendent is directed to analyze overall park use and determine if any particular use is appropriate. Where conflict arises between use and resource protection, where the Superintendent has a reasonable basis to believe a resource is or would become impaired, than that Superintendent is obliged to place limitations on public use.

### **3. Consistency of This Compendium with Applicable Federal Law and Requirements**

The Superintendent's Compendium is not considered a significant rule requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866. In addition, this Compendium will not have a significant economic effect on a number of small entities nor impose a significant cost on any local, state or tribal government or private organization, and therefore does not fall under the requirements of either the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The actions and requirements described in this Compendium are found to be categorically excluded from further compliance with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in Department of the Interior (DOI) Guidelines 516 DM 6 and as such, an Environmental Assessment will not be prepared.

### **4. Development of the Requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium**

As outlined above, the NPS has broad authority and responsibility to determine what types of uses and activities are appropriate in any particular National Park System area. The requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium are developed through an analysis and determination process. The decision criteria used during this process are:

- Is there use or activity consistent with the NPS Organic Act and NPS policy?
- Is the use or activity consistent and compatible with the park's enabling legislation, management objectives, and corresponding management plans?
- Will the use or activity damage the park's protected natural and cultural resources and other protected values?
- Will the use or activity disturb or be in conflict with wildlife, vegetation, and environmental protection actions and values?
- Will the use or activity conflict with or be incompatible with traditional park uses and activities?
- Will the use or activity compromise employee or public safety?

### **5. Applicability of the Compendium**

The rules contained in this Compendium apply to all persons entering, using, visiting or otherwise present on Federally owned lands, including submerged lands, and waters administered by the NPS within the legislative boundaries of the park. This includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including all navigable waters.

### **6. Enforcement of Compendium Requirements**

NPS Law Enforcement Park Rangers enforce the requirements of the United State Code, 36 CFR, and this Superintendent's Compendium.

### **7. Penalties for Not Adhering to the Compendium Requirements**

A person who violates any provision of the regulations found in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, or provisions of this Compendium, is subject to a fine as provided by law (18 U.S.C. 3571) up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months (18 U.S.C. 3559), or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all court costs associated

with any court proceedings. You may receive a list of fines associated with any particular provision by contacting the Chief Ranger at the park address found below.

## **8. Comments on the Compendium**

The Compendium is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. The park welcomes comments about its program and activities at any time.

## **9. Effective Date of the Superintendent Compendium**

The Superintendent's Compendium is effective on the approval date listed on the first page of this document, and remains in effect until revised for a period up to one year.

## **10. Additional Information**

Some of the terms used in this Compendium may have specific meaning defined in 36 CFR 1.4 *Definitions*.

## **11. Availability**

Copies of the Compendium are available at:      Assateague Island National Seashore  
7206 National Seashore Lane  
Berlin, MD 21811

It may also be found at <https://www.nps.gov/asis/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.htm>

## **B. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM**

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 54 United States Code, 100101(a) *et seq*, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Assateague Island National Seashore. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

### **I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES**

**(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:**

#### **(a)(1) VISITING HOURS:**

- 1. Overnight parking of unattended vehicles is permitted only in the following designated parking lots:**
  - North Beach
  - Bayside Day Use Parking area
  - Old Ferry Landing

**Bull Pen users, OSV users, front country campers, and backcountry campers are permitted to park an extra vehicle in designated parking lots only. All other parking lots are closed to overnight parking.**

Determination: To maximize the number of available parking spaces for day users and to facilitate emergency responses for overdue visitors. Vehicles left overnight in undesignated parking areas alert Rangers to the possibility of a visitor in distress and may initiate a search process.

**(a)(1) CLOSURES:**

- 1. Willfully approaching, remaining, viewing, or engaging in any other activity within 40 feet of horses and other wildlife (excluding marine mammals) is prohibited.**

Determination: Wild horses and other wildlife at Assateague Island National Seashore are protected by federal law and must remain wild for their health and safety, as well as for the safety of visitors. The wild horses of Assateague Island National Seashore are free roaming, feral animals that retain all the instincts and behaviors of truly wild stock. While they are a popular visitor attraction, they are not domesticated, nor are they safe to approach. Any horse may bite, kick, or charge without warning period each band of horses is led by a dominant harem stallion whose natural role is to defend his mares and territory. Stallions are particularly aggressive, and the majority of biting incidents involved stallions protecting their bands. Visitors who approach too closely risk provoking defensive or territorial behavior, resulting in serious injury.

In addition to physical aggression, wild horses may transmit diseases such as rabies through bites or other contact. The presence of rabies in a wild horse population poses significant health risk further underscoring the necessity of strict distance requirements. Maintaining a minimum distance of 40 feet provides a safety buffer that reduces the likelihood of injury and protects visitors from disease exposure. The restriction also safeguards the horses by preventing harassment, stress, and habituation to human presence. Habituated horses are more likely to become food conditioned, aggressive, or dependent on humans, often leading to repeated conflict situations that can endanger both the animals and the visitors. In extreme cases, management intervention, including removal or euthanasia of the horse, may become necessary. Maintaining separation between visitors and horses is therefore essential for the well-being of both.

Maintaining a minimum distance of 40 feet allows wild animals to behave naturally without feeling threatened or pressured by human presence. Approaching too closely can cause stress, disrupt natural foraging and social behaviors, and increases the likelihood of dangerous encounters. By keeping a safe distance, visitors help ensure that wildlife remains wild, healthy, and safe while also protecting themselves and their families from unpredictable behavior.

This closure is consistent with the National Park Service's mission to protect natural resources and visitor safety. National Park Service Management Policies (2006) directs the service to minimize human wildlife conflicts and to prevent visitor activities that threaten the health and survival of park wildlife. Establishing and enforcing a minimum viewing distance from horses fulfills these mandates for promoting safe, sustainable visitor experiences while preserving the natural behaviors and integrity of Assateague's wild horse population.

This use limit does not apply to inadvertent or casual encounters with wildlife in developed areas where normal foot, bicycle, or motor vehicle traffic is required or essential, or in other areas where there is no reasonable alternative travel route. The prohibitions in this paragraph do not apply to park personnel acting within the scope of approved park and wildlife management activities.

**2. Approaching within 150 feet of marine mammals and sea turtles is prohibited.**

*Determination:* Approaching within 150 feet of marine mammals and sea turtles is prohibited to protect both the animals and visitors. Close human presence can cause stress and disrupt critical natural behaviors such as resting, feeding, nursing, and nesting. These disturbances may lead to long term harm, including injury, abandonment of habitat, or reduced survival and reproduction. Marine mammals and sea turtles are also federally protected species, and keeping distance helps ensure compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Maintaining at least 150 feet provides a safe buffer that minimizes the risk of harassment injury or accidental collisions, while still allowing visitors to enjoy and observe wildlife responsibly. Resting or stranded marine mammals and sea turtles can attract excessive attention that results in crowding, handling, or other dangerous and harmful interactions. The prohibitions in this paragraph do not apply to park personnel acting within the scope of approved park and wildlife management activities.

**3. Bait Launching cannons/devices: These devices are only allowed to be used between Kilometer 22 (KM 22) – Kilometer 27 (KM 27) on the Maryland Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone. When the designated section is closed, all bait launching activity is prohibited.**

*Determination:* The use of bait launching cannons and similar devices is authorized solely within the Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone between KM 22 – KM 27. This restriction is necessary to reduce the risk of injury to visitors from high-velocity projectiles and to minimize conflicts with swimmers, pedestrians, and other recreational users. Limiting this activity to the designated zone also serves to protect wildlife and sensitive habitats outside the area. When the designated section is closed, all bait launching activity is prohibited to ensure compliance with visitor safety standards and resource protection objectives.

**4. All colonial breeding bird colonies, including those located on small bay islands, are closed to public entry. Entry into areas by foot, boat, or any other means is prohibited unless authorized by the Superintendent for administrative, scientific, or emergency purposes.**

*Determination:* Colonial nesting bird colonies are highly sensitive to human disturbance. Species such as herons, egrets, gulls, turns, plovers, and skimmers nest in dense aggregations, often on small islands or isolated areas of the seashore. Human entry into these sites can cause adults to flush from nests, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to heat stress, predation, and trampling. Because plovers rely on well camouflaged nests on open sand or sparsely vegetated areas, their eggs and chicks are especially difficult for visitors to detect and are highly susceptible to accidental crushing or disturbance. Even brief disturbances can result in significant reproductive failure for entire colonies.

Small bay islands are particularly vulnerable because they provide limited refuge from predators and disturbances, and human presence often displaces nesting birds from the few suitable breeding sites available. Protecting these colonies is essential to maintaining the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the seashore.

This closure is consistent with NPS Management Policies (2006), the Endangered Species Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which obligate the National Park Service to protect native bird populations and their habitats. Restricting public entry ensures that colonial nesting birds can reproduce successfully while still allowing for public enjoyment of other areas of the park that are not as sensitive.

**5. All active sea turtle nest sites and associated areas are closed to public entry. Entry into areas by foot, boat, or any other means is prohibited unless authorized by the Superintendent for administrative, scientific, or emergency purposes.**

***Determination:** This closure is necessary to protect federally threatened and endangered sea turtle species that nest on Assateague Island. Sea turtle nests are highly vulnerable to human disturbance, trampling, and unintentional destruction. Even minor disturbances to nests can result in the loss of developing embryos or disorientation of hatchlings, which significantly reduces reproductive success and species survival.*

*Additionally, the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.) requires federal agencies, including the National Park Service, make sure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Closing active sea turtle nest sites to public entry is a direct measure to comply with this legal mandate.*

*The closures are limited in scopes to specific actively marked nest areas and are temporary and duration, lasting only as long as nests remain viable. This ensures that the restriction minimally impacts visitor access and recreation while providing essential protection to a sensitive and legally protected resource.*

- 6. The possession, release, or use of all balloons, including but not limited to latex, Mylar, or plastic, is prohibited within all areas of Assateague Island National Seashore.**

***Determination:** Balloons, when released or discarded, pose a significant threat to wildlife, including the park's wild horses, shore birds, and marine life. Animals may ingest balloon fragments or become entangled in balloon strings, leading to injury or death. Balloons also contribute to litter and pollution, degrading the natural and scenic values of the National Seashore. This prohibition aligns with the National Park Service's commitment to protecting wildlife and preserving natural resources while reducing human caused hazards to the ecosystem.*

- 7. The use of kites is prohibited above or within 100 meters of any area designated by signs as a "Closed – Bird Nesting Area", and on all lifeguarded beaches.**

***Determination:** Kite flying is prohibited on lifeguarded beaches because it presents hazards to visitors, including the risk of collisions, entanglement, and distraction of lifeguards from their duties. High winds can make controlling kites difficult, increasing the potential for accidents and injuries in crowded beach areas.*

*Kites also disturb nesting and breeding birds. Adult birds perceive kites as potential predators and may abandon their nests, leaving eggs and chicks vulnerable to high temperatures, blowing sand, and predators. This closure ensures visitor safety while protecting sensitive wildlife populations.*

- 8. Pedestrian use of the Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) entrance road between the OSV gate to the dune opening to the beach is prohibited. This restriction applies to all persons except those inside authorized vehicles.**

***Determination:** The OSV entrance road is a narrow, heavily traveled sand corridor designed solely for vehicle access to the OSV zone. It is the most difficult section of the OSV route for vehicles to navigate, as the soft, churned sand and constrained width create conditions where vehicles are more likely to become immobilized. The presence of pedestrians along this stretch further increases the risk of accidents and resource damage. Drivers are often forced to maneuver unpredictably to avoid pedestrians, resulting in vehicles becoming stuck in the sand, blocking the road, and creating traffic congestion. This restriction is necessary to reduce safety hazards to pedestrians, prevent vehicle accidents and strandings, and maintain the safe and efficient flow of traffic to and from the OSV zone. There is a boardwalk to access*

the beach from the South Beach Parking area for pedestrians to access the north portion of the OSV zone.

9. **The maximum number of motor vehicles that are allowed in the Maryland OSV zone at any one time is 145. Exceeding the maximum number of allowed motor vehicles is prohibited.**

*Determination: This limit is based on approximately 12 vehicles per Kilometer to provide for visitors' use of the resource, while protecting the fragile resources of the barrier island. This was established in the Assateague Island National Seashore Over Sand Vehicle Management Plan (2010).*

10. **The automated OSV entrance gate for the Maryland OSV zone is designed to maintain an accurate count of motor vehicles on the OSV zone, and to prohibit over-capacity (maximum: 145 vehicles). Only one vehicle is authorized entry per each full cycle (raising and lowering) of the gate. The gate must be allowed to lower after the entry of each vehicle. Preventing the gate from lowering or running multiple vehicles through the gate is prohibited.**

*Determination: Multiple vehicles accessing the OSV zone without allowing the gate to lower leads to vehicle count inaccuracies, which contributes to an excessive number of vehicles on the OSV.*

11. **The dwellings, associated structures, and surrounding property of buildings located south of the Maryland OSV entrance to the Virginia state line, including those in the Pope Bay area, are closed to public entry. A 150-foot closure zone is established around each structure, including deteriorating docks. Entry into these areas is prohibited unless authorized by the Superintendent.**

*Determination: These buildings, docks, and associated structures are in a state of significant disrepair and pose serious safety hazards to the public, including but not limited to the risk of collapse, unstable flooring, and sharp debris. The 150-foot closure zone ensures adequate separation between visitors and dangerous structures, minimizing the risk of injury. This closure is necessary to protect public safety until such time as the structures can be removed.*

12. **The maximum number of motor vehicles that are allowed in the Virginia Toms Cove Hook OSV zone at any one time is 48 (18 maximum when the hook is closed due to bird nesting; at which time the North OSV zone is opened for a maximum of 12 vehicles).**

*Determination: This limit is based on approximately 12 vehicles per Kilometer to provide for visitors' use of the resource, while protecting the fragile resources of the barrier island. This was established in the Assateague Island National Seashore Over Sand Vehicle Management Plan (2010).*

13. **Gatherings or Beach parties of more than 25 persons are prohibited in the Maryland Developed Area except were allowed by permit in the designated beach party area (North Beach, seaward of the dune, north of the lifeguarded portion) north of the Maryland lifeguarded beach area. Permitted groups are limited to a maximum of 100 people per site.**

*Determination: These restrictions are in place for reasons of visitor safety, to avoid conflict between visitors, and to protect natural resources.*

*Assateague Island National Seashore is managed for both conservation of its natural, cultural, and recreational resources and for public use and enjoyment. Large unpermitted*



*gatherings can pose risks to resources (dunes, habitat, wildlife) visitor experience, safety, and the ability of Rangers and lifeguards to maintain oversight.*

*The lifeguarded beach area provides enhanced safety services for park visitors. Restricting larger gatherings to areas outside or designated zones or requiring permits helps ensure those services can function without being overstretched.*

*Crowd size limits help protect the shoreline (from erosion, trampling of dunes) and limit noise, limit waste and litter impacts, and reduce the damage to the environment or interference with other visitors' enjoyment.*

*A permit process allows the National Park Service to review proposed events for safety, size, location, impacts such as noise trash traffic parking etcetera. And ensure that special events comply with all park policies. Having a clearly defined designated beach party area (North Beach, seaward of the dune, north of the lifeguarded portion) makes enforcement more feasible and makes it clear to visitors where larger gatherings are allowed under permit.*

**14. Tents and shade structures are permitted on Assateague Island National Seashore beaches between sunrise and sunset. Their use is prohibited on beaches overnight between sunset and sunrise.**

*Determination: Tents and shade structures are permitted on Assateague Island National Seashore Beaches between sunrise and sunset to provide visitors with protection from sun and weather during daytime recreational use. This allowance supports visitor comfort, safety, and enjoyment while maintaining the natural character of the beach environment.*

*Overnight use of tents or shade structures is prohibited to align with park camping regulations, which direct all overnight stays to designated campground where facilities are provided to protect visitors and park resources.*

*This regulation balances visitor use with resource protection ensuring that beach areas remain clean, safe, and accessible for all visitors while protecting Assateague's unique wildlife and natural habitats.*

**15. Camping is prohibited except in designated areas. Tent camping or sleeping overnight on beaches is prohibited. Areas are designated in § 2.10 (a).**

*Determination: These restrictions align with established camping regulations and are necessary to protect fragile coastal ecosystems, minimize impacts to wildlife, and reduce the risk of damage from unmanaged overnight use. Concentrating camping in designated campgrounds ensures that visitors have access to proper facilities, such as restrooms and waste disposal, which help maintain public health and safety while preserving the natural beauty of Assateague Island National Seashore.*

**16. The buildings, docks, grounds and all other infrastructure of the former Coast Guard Station at Toms Cove are closed to public access.**

*Determination: The piers, docks, and other structures were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. These damaged structures pose a serious risk of injury or death to visitors. Closure is necessary to protect public safety until such time as repairs can be completed and the site can be safely reopened.*

**17. Jumping and or diving from the Verrazano Bridge (MD) and Assateague Bridge (VA) are prohibited.**

*Determination: The waters beneath these bridges contain numerous submerged pilings and a sunken barge, creating significant hazards to public safety. Jumping or diving from these structures poses a high risk of serious injury or death due to these hidden underwater obstacles, constantly changing bay levels due to tides, and unpredictable currents. This closure is necessary to protect visitors and ensure safe recreational use of the waterways.*

**18. Fishing or crabbing off the Assateague and Sheephead Bridges (VA) and Verrazano Bridge (MD) is prohibited.**

*Determination: The waters beneath these bridges contain numerous submerged pilings and a sunken barge, creating significant hazards to public safety. Fishing or crabbing from these structures increases the risk of falls, entanglement and injury due to limited space, traffic proximity, and hidden underwater obstacles. Boat traffic passing under the bridge may become entangled in fishing lines or tackle. Additionally, these activities conflict with foot, vehicle, and bicycle traffic on the bridges, further increasing potential risk of accidents. This prohibition is necessary to protect visitors and ensure safe recreational use of the bridges, waterways, and roadways.*

**19. Possessing or using a neodymium magnetic device for the purpose of retrieving ferromagnetic objects (magnet fishing) is prohibited.**

*Determination: The use of neodymium magnets or other magnetic devices for the purpose of "magnet fishing" is prohibited due to multiple safety, resource protection, and visitor experience concerns. Magnet fishing poses significant hazards, as participants may receive sharp, heavy, or hazardous materials such as nails, rebar, firearms, or unexploded ordinance, which present injury risks to both the individual and bystanders. In addition, objects pulled from waterways may contain lead paint, fuel residues, or other contaminants that can pose environmental and human health concerns.*

*Magnet fishing also risks damaging submerged cultural resources, including historic shipwrecks and archaeological sites, by removing artifacts without proper documentation or treatment. Such actions constitute unauthorized collection of cultural resources and violate federal regulations protecting park resources. Furthermore, the activity conflicts with other recreational uses of park waters creating entanglement or interference hazards for swimmers, paddlers, anglers, and boaters.*

**20. The digging, collecting, possession, or removal of munitions debris, discarded military munitions (DMM), or unexploded ordinance (UXO) within Assateague Island National Seashore is prohibited except when conducted by the U.S. Military, the Department of Defense (DOD), or its authorized contractors acting under proper authority. Any person who discovers suspected munitions, munitions debris, or UXO must not touch, move, or attempt to render it safe and must immediately leave the area and notify park dispatch at (757) 898-2427 or 911.**

*Determinations: Munitions debris, discarded military munitions, and unexploded ordinance (UXO) present a serious and ongoing risk to public health and safety. UXO may detonate if disturbed, moved, or struck, and munitions debris may contain hazardous explosives or toxic constituents. Even items that appear inert may remain dangerous. Restricting disturbance or removal by the public minimizes the risk of serious injury or death to visitors, staff, and first responders.*

*This prohibition also protects natural and cultural resources from disturbance. Improper handling of munitions debris or UXO can spread contamination, damaged archaeological sites, and interfere with remediation efforts. Only qualified DOD personnel or authorized contractors, operating under strict explosives safety standards, have the expertise and authority to remove or neutralize these materials.*

*This regulation is consistent with existing federal laws. National Park Service regulations at 36 CFR §2.1 prohibit the unlawful taking or disturbing of natural and cultural resources, while 36 CFR §2.38 prohibits unauthorized use or possession of explosives. Further 10 U.S.C. section 2710 defines DOD's authority for munitions response and restricts handling to appropriate military or contractor personnel.*

- 21. The operation of ATV's is prohibited in all areas of the park. This prohibition includes all vehicles which are similar in function and purpose to ATVs but differ in that they have a side-by-side seating arrangement, steering wheel and pedals, seat belts, and rollover protection (utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) or multi-purpose off-highway utility vehicles that may have side-by-side seating, steering wheels and pedals, seat belts, and rollover protection.**

**This restriction does not apply to official agency and partnering agency use when such vehicles are operated for emergency response or administrative park management purposes.**

*Determination: The operation of ATV's, UTV's, ROV's, and similar off highway vehicles is incompatible with visitor safety and resource protection at Assateague Island National Seashore. These vehicles are designed for off road terrain, but present rollover hazards, collision risks, and other safety concerns when operated in the park's dynamic shoreline, soft sand, and marsh conditions. In addition, their use can cause substantial damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources, including fragile dune systems, salt marshes, wildlife habitat, and nesting areas for threatened and endangered species.*

*Further, only vehicles that are properly registered and tagged as street legal are permitted to operate on park roadways. The states of Maryland and Virginia do not provide for the registration of ATV's, UTV's, or ROV's as street legal vehicles, making their use on public roads and in the park unlawful. The prohibition is consistent with National Park Service policy and the parks enabling legislation which prioritize the protection of resources while providing safe recreational opportunities.*

*The exceptions are authorized only for official emergency and administrative use are necessary to protect public safety and carry out essential park management functions.*

- 22. The Maryland Park Headquarters housing area is closed to public access, except for invited guests.**

*Determination: The headquarters housing area is closed to public access, except for invited guests, to ensure the safety, security, and privacy of employees and residents. These facilities are not designed or maintained for public use, and unrestricted access could create safety hazards, interfere with official operations, and compromise the security of personnel and property. Allowing entry only to invited guests ensures controlled access while maintaining the integrity of park operations and the well-being of residents.*

- 23. The headquarters maintenance area is closed to public access except for official government business.**

*Determination: The headquarters maintenance area is closed to public access to prevent injury and ensure safety. This area contains hazardous equipment and materials, and restricting access protects both the public and park personnel while allowing maintenance operations to continue without interference.*

*These facilities are not designed or maintained for public use, and unrestricted access could create safety hazards, interfere with official operations, and compromise the security of personnel and property. Public closure ensures controlled access while maintaining the integrity of park operations.*

**24. The eastern half, or unimproved portion, of the north end jetty is closed to public entry.**

*Determination: The jetty is subject to constant, violent wave action and strong ocean currents, creating extremely hazardous conditions. Visitors who fall into the water in this area face a high risk of injury or drowning and attempts to rescue them would place responders in significant danger. This closure, in effect since January 1, 2010, ensures that the public is kept out of this inherently unsafe environment while minimizing the risk to emergency personnel.*

**(a)(2) DESIGNATIONS OF SPECIFIC USE AND ACTIVITIES**

**The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:**

**Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Operations**

**Launching, landing, or operating an uncrewed or remotely piloted aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Assateague Island National Seashore is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.**

*Determination: This restriction is necessary to prevent unacceptable impacts to park resources and values from the use of uncrewed aircraft. Potential impacts include harming visitors, interfering with rescue operations, causing excessive noise, impacting viewsheds, and disturbing wildlife. This restriction is required by NPS Reference Manual #60: Aviation Management, Chapter 12 – Uncrewed Aircraft Systems.*

**Kite Surfing- Authorized at the following locations and during the following times:**

- **From October 1 through March 15**
  - OCEANSIDE: All waters open
  - BAYSIDE: All waters open
- **From March 16 through September 30**
  - BAYSIDE: Open from Verrazano Bridge to 1 mile south of Bayside Peninsula (Bayside Rd Picnic Area). The southern limit of this use area is located approximately 150 yards north of Lumber Marsh Island.
  - OCEANSIDE: Open from the south boundary of Assateague State Park south to the area in the OSV zone known as the “Bullpen” (@KM 21.5) **except** for the National Park lifeguard protected beach areas (Memorial Day to Labor Day) and the OSV zone when closed.

*Determination: These time and area restrictions are necessary to balance recreational access with the protection of sensitive natural resources and public safety. From March 16<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, kite surfing activity is restricted to specific areas on both the bay side and ocean side to minimize conflicts with other visitor activities, including swimming in lifeguard-protected areas and vehicle use in the Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) zone. Seasonal restrictions are also required to protect nesting and foraging shore birds, including state and federally listed species which are highly sensitive to*

disturbance caused by kites and kite surfing equipment. Allowing kite surfing in designated zones and during appropriate seasons provides recreational opportunities while ensuring the protection of wildlife and reducing operational and visitor use conflicts.

### **Horses and Pack Animals**

- **Seasonal closure (May 15 – October 8):**

The NPS-owned portion of Assateague Island (Maryland District) is closed to horses and other saddle or pack animals from May 15<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup> of each year.

*Determination: this seasonal closure protects the health of Assateague island's wild horse herd. Domestic horses and other equine species may carry insect borne diseases such as equine infectious anemia, equine encephalitis, in West Nile virus these pathogens are most likely to be transmitted during the warmer months when mosquito and fly populations peak period wild horses cannot be vaccinated or quarantined, leaving them highly susceptible to infection. Restricting domestic equine access during this. Minimizes disease risk, supporting long term health and ecological integrity of the island's wild horse population.*

- **Permitted Use (October 9 – May 14):**

Horses and other saddle or pack animals may be brought to the NPS-owned portion of Assateague Island from October 9 through May 14, subject to the conditions set in §2.16.

*Determination: During the cooler months, insect activity and the risk of disease transmission are minimal, allowing for controlled domestic horse use. Designated trails and waste management requirements reduce environmental impacts such as erosion, nutrient loading, and introduction of non-native plant seeds. This seasonal allowance provides recreational opportunities for horseback riding while maintaining protections for Assateague's natural and cultural resources.*

### **Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity may require a permit, consistent with 54 U.S.C. 100905**

- Filming, still photography, and audio recording activity that occurs in closed areas, requires exclusive use of a site or area, or involves a set or staging equipment other than handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) requires a permit, unless the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.
- Filming, still photography, and audio recording that involves more than eight individuals requires a permit, unless the NPS has specifically notified an individual or group that a permit is not required, or if the activity is affiliated with an activity or event that has been allowed under a written authorization, such as a special use permit.
- If a permit is required for the reasons stated above, or if the NPS otherwise determines and then notifies an individual or group that a permit is required for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity, then engaging in that activity without a permit is prohibited. Violating a term or condition of a permit issued by the NPS for a filming, still photography, or audio recording activity is prohibited, and may result in the suspension or revocation of the permit, in addition to any penalties that may apply under 36 CFR 1.3.

*Federal law at 54 U.S.C. 100905 states that permits and fees are not required for filming, still photography, or audio recording in park areas if certain requirements are met. These requirements address various topics, including, but not limited to, group size, location, equipment, potential impacts to resources and visitors, and the likelihood that the NPS will incur related administrative costs. If any of these requirements are not met, the law allows the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the NPS, to require a permit for the subject activity. Permit requirements are imposed by the superintendent under discretionary authority provided by 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2),*

*which allows the superintendent to impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity, consistent with applicable legislation, to implement management responsibilities. The general regulations for permits in 36 CFR 1.6 do not apply to permits issued for filming, still photography, and audio recording, which instead are governed by the statutory provisions in 54 U.S.C. 100905. The imposition of permit requirements, on a case-by-case basis, for filming, still photography, or audio recording does not require rulemaking under 36 CFR 1.5(b). Requiring a permit with reasonable terms and conditions in accordance with statutory requirements at 54 U.S.C. 100905 is not highly controversial, will not result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the System unit, will not adversely affect the System unit's natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, or require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the System unit, because the permit requirement is limited in time and scope to the specific activities authorized by the permit, which contain terms and conditions that protect the values, resources, and visitors of the System unit, and implements federal law.*

#### **Passenger Carrying Buses:**

Engines must be shut down when not underway.

*Determination: The idling of bus engines adds unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air and diminishes the enjoyment by visitors of the peace and tranquility of the park.*

#### **Hunting:**

*Hunting is permitted by the enabling legislation of Assateague Island National Seashore, P.L. 89-195*

The Seashore is closed to all hunting from February through September. Hunting is permitted in designated areas and in accordance with state law as outlined in the annually approved Assateague Island National Seashore Hunting Program Guidelines: [2025-2026 Hunting Guide: Maryland District](#)

The document includes hunting guidelines and harvesting restrictions that are adopted as part of the Superintendent's Compendium.

#### **CCTV Policy Statement**

In accordance with National Park Service Law Enforcement Reference Manual 9 (RM-9), notice is hereby given that Assateague Island National Seashore uses Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) security camera monitoring.

The park's use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for law enforcement and security purposes will only be to visually monitor public park areas and public activities where no constitutionally protected reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Such CCTV use – which will have adequate privacy and First Amendment safeguards – will be to help ensure public safety and security; facilitate the detection, investigation, prevention, and deterrence of terrorist attack and crime; help ensure the safety of citizens and officers; help assist in the proper allocation and deployment of law enforcement and public safety resources; and help facilitate the protection of the innocent and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. (RM-9, 26.1)

This policy does not restrict the official use of CCTV in government administrative areas, including administrative buildings, jail holding facilities (RM-9, 26.3.7), revenue collection sites, etc., where the government may record/monitor its facilities. For example, the government may perform unrestricted video/audio recording at revenue collection points (entrance stations, visitor center counters, etc.). This policy does not restrict the use of an Audio/Visual Recording Device (AVRD) in patrol vehicles or officer-worn recording devices used by commissioned rangers. (RM-9, 26.1).

Operation of CCTV cameras, maintenance of recorded images and use of recorded images will be in accordance with NPS and Department policy and applicable laws and regulations. (RM-9, 26.1-26.4) No person will be targeted or monitored merely because of race, religion, gender, sex, disability, national origin, or political affiliation or views. (RM-9, 26.4.2)

Nothing in this policy statement is intended to create any rights, privileges, or benefits not otherwise recognized by law.

## **II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT**

**(f) The following is a compilation of some of the activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required.**

**Some filming, still photography, and audio recording (depends upon the facts and circumstances; contact the park for more information). 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2) and 54 U.S.C. 100905.**

**For information on Special Use Permits at Assateague: [Permits & Reservations - Assateague Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)**

**For information on Research Permits at Assateague please visit the National Park Service Research Permit and Reporting System: [RPRS - Welcome to RPRS](#)**

**For information on Concessions Use Authorizations at Assateague: [CUA - Assateague Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#). Email the Concessions Specialist at [ASIS\\_Permits@nps.gov](mailto:ASIS_Permits@nps.gov) with questions.**

- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (Taking of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)
- §2.10(a) The following camping activities:
  - A permit is required for front country and backcountry camping at Assateague Island National Seashore.
  - Refer to §2.10(a) under III General Regulations for specific camping regulations.
- §2.12 Audio Disturbances:
  - (a)(2) Operating a chain saw in developed areas
  - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas. This paragraph does not apply to vessels in areas where motor boating is allowed.
  - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51
- §2.17 Aircraft & Air Delivery:
  - (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means
  - (c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft
- §2.23(b) Over-sand vehicle use
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money goods or services (Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued under §2.50, §2.51 or §2.52)
- §2.38 Explosives:
  - (a) Use, possess, store, transport explosives, blasting agents
  - (b) Use or possess fireworks
- §2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printer matter that is not solely commercial advertising

- §2.60(b) Livestock use
- §2.61(a) Residing on federal lands
- §2.62 Memorialization:
  - (a) Erection of monuments (Requires approval from the NPS Director)
  - (b) Scattering ashes from cremation
- §4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight and size limits.
- §5.1 Advertisements - (Display, posting or distribution).
- §5.2(b) Sale of intoxicants on private lands.
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads (The superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the park when access is otherwise not available)
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc.
- §6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site
- Part 7 Special Regulations:
  - Sec. 7.65 Assateague Island National Seashore. (a) Hunting. (1) Hunting, except with a shotgun, muzzleloader or bow and arrow, is prohibited. Hunting with a shotgun, muzzleloader, or bow and arrow, is permitted in accordance with State and Federal law, and in accordance with regulations in the ASIS annual hunting plan.
  - §7.65 (b) (2) Over Sand Vehicle use (outside of established roadways) requires the purchase of an OSV permit

*Permits are required to manage uses that have potential for impact to natural resources and/or other visitors, and/or may not be in concert with overall NPS policies and mission.*

### **III. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

#### **36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**(a)(4) Using or possessing wood gathered from within the park area is prohibited, except that dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:**

- Maryland District only
- Driftwood (free of any metal objects such as metal bolts, nails, screws, etc.) in the Maryland district may be collected for personal use equivalent to the amount of one 5 gallon bucket per day or one arm-full. Driftwood collection is prohibited in the Virginia district by USFWS.

*ALL Driftwood with metal fasteners may be from archeological resources (shipwrecks) and must be reported to park staff by calling park dispatch at (757) 898-2427.*

**§2.1(c)(1) The following fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or possession and consumption restrictions:**

#### **§2.1(c)(2)**

- Blueberries – not to exceed 1 quart for each individual per visit.
- Blackberries – not to exceed 1 quart for each individual per visit.
- Grapes – not to exceed 1 quart per each individual per visit.
- Seashells Free of Animal Habitation – not to exceed 1 gallon for each individual per visit. (Shells may not be taken from archaeological sites)



- Pine Cones – not to exceed 50 pine cones that must be harvested off of the ground, per individual per visit.
- Pine needles (straw) may also be taken off of the ground, and should not exceed one 5 gallon bucket per individual, per visit.
- Horse Manure – Manure must be taken only from paved areas within the park (roads, bike paths, and parking lots) (no limits).
- Mussels – may be taken in accordance with tool and collection method restrictions. Visitors wishing to harvest mussels must acquire and review closely the latest mussel harvesting informational handout available at visitor centers and Ranger Stations.
- Game fish, clams, crabs may be harvested in accordance with applicable state regulations.

*Determination: The minor collection of any of these items will not result in an adverse effect to park wildlife, the reproduction of any plant species, or other park resources.*

### **36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:**

- Deer Check-In: All Hunters should reference the [annual Assateague Island National Seashore Hunting Program Guidelines](#) released each August for up-to-date information pertaining to hunting. Hunters are required to sign in, sign out, and self-report their harvest at the hunter information station. Deer will be weighed and rangers will confirm that Maryland Big Game Harvest Record is completed in ink and that the “Managed Hunt Deer” box is checked. Deer taken on Assateague Island will not count toward state bag limits. In addition all hunters are required to register their deer with Maryland Department of Natural Resources using the Tele-check System by midnight on the day the deer is harvested. The Tele-check system can be accessed using one of the following methods: 1) Via phone by calling the Big Game Registration Phone Line at 1-888-800-0121, or 2) Via the internet at [www.gamecheck.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.gamecheck.dnr.state.md.us). Hunters will be asked to provide a deer hunt code. The hunt code for Assateague Island National Seashore is 585.
- Waterfowl Check-In: All successful waterfowl hunters are required to check their harvest at the hunter information station.

*Determination: The collection of accurate harvest data is essential for the management and sustainability of Assateague Island National Seashore’s deer and waterfowl populations. Data gathered through check-ins allows the NPS to monitor population trends, evaluate hunting program successes, and make informed decisions regarding season dates, bag limits, and long-term wildlife management strategies. Timely and accurate reporting supports conservation goals, ensures equitable hunting opportunities, and maintains compliance with state and federal wildlife regulations.*

**(e) All areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of artificial lighting. This prohibition applies to all wildlife, including, but not limited to, active sea turtle nests and hatchlings. This prohibition does not apply to authorized scientific or administrative activities.**

*Determination: Sea turtle hatchlings rely on natural light cues from the horizon over the ocean to navigate from their nests to the water. Artificial lighting can disorient hatchlings, causing them to move inland rather than towards the sea. This disorientation significantly increases mortality due to predation, dehydration, and exhaustion. Similar adverse impacts can occur for other nocturnal wildlife sensitive to artificial light. This closure is necessary to ensure the protection of these species and to maintain the natural behavioral patterns essential to their survival.*

### **36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING**

**(a) In accordance with federal statutory law, fishing is authorized in the following areas, under the conditions noted:**

Anglers fishing in all salt waters in Maryland and Virginia must possess a valid Maryland or Virginia saltwater fishing license.

*Public Law 89-195 Sec.5: The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on land and waters under his control within the seashore in accordance with the appropriate State laws, to the extent applicable, except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management or public use and enjoyment: Provided. That nothing in this Act shall limit or interfere with the authority of the States to permit or to regulate shell fishing in any waters included in the National Seashore.*

### **36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE**

**(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:**

- **A permit is required for all camping activities at Assateague Island National Seashore.**
- **The designated bayside campsites in the backcountry of the island are closed to landing of motorized watercraft.**
- **Group campsites are limited to tents only (with one utility trailer located in parking lot). The minimum number of individuals for a group site is 7 and the maximum number is 25.**
- **Campers must have at least one adult aged 18 or older in their group.**

#### **Camping or overnight use is permitted at the following designated locations:**

- Bayside Campground
- Green Run (Bay side) campsite
- Group Campsites
- Little Levels campsite (Ocean side)
- Oceanside Campground
- Pine Tree (Bay side) campsite
- Pope Bay (Bay side) campsite
- Self-contained OSV Parking Area (Bull Pen)
- State Line campsite (Ocean side)
- Tingles Island (Bay side) campsite
- Horse Camp (Oceanside Campground)

#### **Camping time limitations are as follows:**

No person shall be allowed to camp in any campsite or moor or anchor their vessels within the boundaries of the seashore for more than a total of 28 cumulative days in a calendar year.

- A 14-day continuous stay or reservation limit is in effect for campers and boaters within the seashore. This limit applies to individuals as well as to all of their camping equipment.
- In backcountry campsites the limit is 7 consecutive days per visit and 28 cumulative days in a calendar year.
- Reservations exceeding the stay limits will be cancelled by the reservation company without notice.

*Determination:* Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. The intent of this regulation is to augment 36 CFR 2.61, "Residing on Federal Lands"; the establishing of resource-impacting and/or long-term campsites by people who seek to make the park their primary residence or seek to reside in the park while working elsewhere.

### **Front Country Camping Regulations:**

The following apply to camping at Bayside and Oceanside Campgrounds:

- Camping is allowed in designated campsites only and equipment must be within 30 feet of the metal grill located at each campsite.
- Camping is limited per site to six persons or an immediate family and no more than 3 tents.
- Large, organized groups or non-family groups with more than 12 people must camp in a Group campsite and are prohibited from staying in either the Bayside or Oceanside campgrounds.
- Two vehicles maximum per drive-in site and one vehicle maximum per walk-in site.
- All vehicles and associated trailers must be parked at the campsite within the confines of the paved area. All vehicles and equipment must be parked in such a way as to not block the flow of traffic.
- At walk-in campsites camping is restricted per site to tent camping only with no more than 3 tents, a maximum of six persons (or an immediate family).
- No vehicles are allowed within the boundaries of walk-in campgrounds.
- All vehicles assigned to campsites must display a campground parking pass.
- To retain a campsite the site registration must be completed and the site occupied. Sites not properly occupied or attended are subject to resale.
- Campground check-out is 11:00 am.
- Campground check-in is available after 12:00 pm.
- Tying or hanging any lines from trees, shrubs, signposts, vegetation or infrastructure is prohibited.
- The use of power generators is prohibited in the Walk-in campsites, as well as those campsites in designated "Generator Free Zones".
- Quiet hours, in all park campground areas, are from 10PM through 6AM.
- Campers must have at least one adult aged 18 or older in their group.

### **Backcountry Camping Regulations:**

The following apply to camping at Pine Tree, Green Run, Tingles Island, Pope Bay, Little Levels, and State Line backcountry sites.

- Backcountry permits are required for overnight use of backcountry sites.
- At bayside sites all camping must be within 50 feet of the various fire rings. At Oceanside sites all camping must be within posted boundaries (no camping on the dunes or beach) and not on top of any vegetation.
- Transportation of campers or their equipment to or from backcountry campsites by motor vehicles is prohibited.
- Food, refuse, and equipment used to cook or store food must be used in such a manner as to prevent and deter the ability of wildlife to interact with it in all areas of the park, including campgrounds, camping areas, and picnic areas. Where available, metal food storage boxes must be utilized for all food as well as food storage and preparation items.

*Determination:* Camping is an intensive use of park resources. The NPS promotes "Leave No Trace" camping. All of the camping regulations are in effect to protect (1) the natural features of the park from damage that can result when camping activities go unchecked and (2) to reduce visitor use

*conflicts while providing for the quality of the visitors' camping experience. Limitations on camping days and on persons per site seek to achieve this protection while still providing an equitable allocation of camping opportunities. All restrictions seek to avoid exposing visitors to potential public safety hazards or conflicts with wildlife and other user groups.*

#### **(d) Food Storage**

- All campers must store food and equipment used to cook and store food in their vehicle/camper or within the NPS provided food storage box in a strapped, hard sided container. Unattended food items and coolers are subject to confiscation by NPS staff.
- Food for day-use visitors must be secured inside hard sided storage\* (i.e. vehicle, camper, locked cooler, or other latched storage), zippered fabric or vinyl bags, or NPS provided food storage lockers. Unprotected/unsecured food is subject to confiscation by NPS staff. Styrofoam coolers are not considered hard sided containers. Animals such as horses and racoons can easily break through them to obtain food.

*Determination: Food and food scents attract animals. Animals which gain access to human food sources tend to return to these sources and may cause property damage or injury. Reducing habituated, food conditioned, and nuisance wildlife also reduces the potential for negative human/wildlife interactions (wildlife bites/kicks/exposure to disease (i.e. rabies etc.) and provides for the safety and well-being of both park visitors and wildlife.*

#### **36 CFR §2.12 – AUDIO DISTURBANCES**

**(a)(2) Operating a power saw in developed areas is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.**

**(a)(3) Operating any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit. This paragraph does not apply to vessels in areas where motor boating is allowed.**

**(a)(4) Operating a public address system is prohibited, except in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51.**

#### **36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES**

**(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions and designated areas noted below.**

**A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited.**

##### **(a)(1) Designated Areas:**

- **Virginia District:** Fires are prohibited except by permit below the mean high tide line within authorized receptacles (defined in this section below) within the National Park Service beach operating zone, defined as the beachfront area from the north end of Parking Lot 1 to the end of Parking Lot 4.
- *For permit information on the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and NPS Lands included within, contact the Bateman Visitor Center at 757-336-6122. Calls are handled at this line for both FWS and NPS permitting and will be routed to the appropriate agency.*

- **Maryland District:** Fires are prohibited in the Maryland portion of the Seashore except in the following designated areas, subject to other provisions (receptacles, disposal) in this section further below:
  - On the ocean beach below the normal mean high tide line.
  - In the Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) zones self-contained overnight parking area (Bull Pen)
  - At the Maryland Beach designated special events site.
  - Within campground receptacles (defined in this section further below).
- **Parkwide:** Fires and/or use of any cooking equipment is prohibited at all times (24 hrs.) in the Lifeguarded beach areas extending or 100 yards north and 100 yards south of the lifeguarded beach.

***Determination:** These restrictions are necessary to protect visitor safety, reduce the risk of wildfires, and preserve the natural and recreational values of the Seashore. Severe injuries have occurred in high-visitation areas, particularly between Assateague State Park and South Beach, where hot coals and debris from improperly extinguished or buried fires have caused burns to visitors. Fires left unattended or concealed in sand create a serious hazard to people walking barefoot, including children. The designated fire locations provide safe, controlled areas for visitor enjoyment while minimizing risks to public health and safety, wildlife, and natural resources.*

**(a)(1) Receptacles Allowed:**

- Fires may be built in grills, fireplaces or other receptacles/containers, including portable grills in Bayside Campground and Oceanside Campground and on the Virginia beaches below the mean high tide line within the National Park Service beach operating zone, defined as the beachfront area from the north end of Parking Lot 1 to the end of Parking Lot 4. Containers must have sides and a bottom.
- Fires may be built in the designated fire ring in the following backcountry campsites: Green Run, Pine Tree, Pope Bay, and Tingles Island.
- At Oceanside campsites Little Levels and State Line fires are only permitted on the beach below the high tide line.
- Fires must be built in grills in the following: Bayside Picnic Area, Oceanside Picnic Area and Maryland Visitor Center picnic area.
- Over Sand Vehicles that are self-contained in the Overnight Parking Area (Bull Pen) must provide and utilize their own grills. Containers must have sides and a bottom.

***Determination:** These restrictions are necessary to protect visitor safety, reduce the risk of wildfires, and preserve the natural and recreational values of the Seashore. Use of NPS provided or personal grills with sides and bottoms are required to reduce fire debris in heavily used areas. Severe injuries have occurred in high-visitation areas, particularly between Assateague State Park and South Beach, where hot coals and debris from improperly extinguished or buried fires have caused burns to visitors. Fires left unattended or concealed in sand create a serious hazard to people walking barefoot, including children. The designated fire locations and container requirements help eliminate the severe safety hazard created by fires that left burning or buried that are not in receptacles. These restrictions provide safe, controlled areas for visitor enjoyment while minimizing risks to public health and safety, wildlife, and natural resources.*

**(a)(1) Established Conditions for Fires:**

- A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable

liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited.

***Determination:** This action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities. Materials other than approved combustibles – especially fire accelerants and substances prone to wind transport or explosion – creates serious risks when used to light or maintain fires. These combustibles can ignite or spread wildfires that directly threaten people and valuable resources and assets. The burning of manufactured or synthetic materials can contribute to air pollution, contaminate soil and water, and be toxic to humans and the environment. Less restrictive measures, such as an education campaign informing visitors of the risks of using certain materials to light or maintain a fire, would not be commensurate with the substantial risks associated with those activities and could lead to adverse outcomes that might be prevented by establishing an enforceable condition.*

- Fires shall be continuously monitored by at least one person at least 16 years or older.
- Firewood shall be free of any metal such as metal bolts, fasteners, screws, nails, or any other metal objects. Any debris of this type must be removed from the fire area and disposed of properly. *Metal trash left behind from fires leaves a long-lasting trash impact to the seashore.*
- Partially burned firewood must be completely extinguished. Fire builders should attempt to use only the amount of firewood that can be completely consumed prior to their departure. *Partially burned firewood creates litter and destroys the scenic character of the beach.*

**(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:**

- Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use only by extinguishing with a non-flammable liquid. Smothering fires with dry sand is prohibited.

***Determination:** The requirement that all fires be extinguished with a non-flammable liquid, such as water, is necessary to ensure public safety and resource protection. Fires that are smothered with dry sand frequently continue to burn beneath the surface. These hidden embers can remain hot for many hours and may reignite after visitors have departed, posing a risk of wildfires, injury to people, or damage to property. Visitors walking or recreating in these areas may unknowingly step into concealed hot coals or ashes, resulting in severe burns. Prohibiting the use of sand is a method of extinguishing fires eliminates the risk of incomplete extinguishment and subsequent rekindling. The use of water or another non-flammable liquid provides a reliable and verifiable method to cool and fully extinguish a fire, thereby ensuring visitor safety, protecting natural resources, and reducing the likelihood of preventable fire incidents within the National Seashore.*

**36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION & REFUSE**

**(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property is prohibited.**

**(a)(7) Disposing of fish remains on land or in waters within 200 feet of designated swimming beaches or within developed areas is prohibited.**

**(a)(9) In non-developed areas, the disposal of human body waste within 10 feet of a water source, high water mark of a body of water, or a campsite, or within sight of a trail is prohibited.**

**36 CFR §2.15 – PETS**

**(a)(1) Possessing pets in public buildings, swimming beaches, and the following structures and/or areas is prohibited:**

- Pets are prohibited on land in the entire National Park Service Managed portion of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regulations.
- Pets are prohibited on lands within the Maryland portion of the Seashore north of Assateague State Park.
- Pets are prohibited in all backpack and canoe-in backcountry campsites, and on all trails.
- Pets are prohibited in the protected (life guarded) beach area from Memorial Day weekend through September 30.
- The bathing of pets utilizing park showers and/or potable water hydrants is prohibited.

**(a)(3) Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.**

**(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:** Pet feces are to be cleaned up by the owner and disposed of in trash receptacles.

**(b) The use of dogs in support of duck hunting must be in accordance with Federal and State laws and the following conditions:** Dog training or working other than during authorized waterfowl hunting season is prohibited.

*Determination: In order to improve public health and safety, to protect natural resources, and avoid conflict among user groups, pets must be on a maximum 6' leash and pet waste must be removed immediately.*

### **36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS**

**(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas:**

Horseback riding activities are permitted along the beach from the North Ocean Beach Parking Area dune crossing south to the designated Over Sand Vehicle zone. In the OSV zone, riding is limited to the areas authorized for Over Sand Vehicle travel. During full or partial temporary closures of the OSV, horseback riding is prohibited beyond the closure point for vehicles. In the developed areas, no riding is permitted on designated roadways.

**(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:**

- Horses may not be directly tied to any living or standing vegetation.
- The total number of horses for overnight stays in the horse campground may not exceed 12, with a total cumulative day use limit of 50 horses.
- Horse campsite maximum limits: 6 people, 6 horses, 3 camping units.
- Remove excess straw, hay, or other unwanted materials before departure.

*Determination: Restrictions on tying, numbers, and locations for horse use are necessary to avoid conflict among visitor use activities, resource concerns and to ensure public health.*

### **36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS & SIMILAR DEVICES**

**The use of roller skates/blades, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed only in the following areas:**

- The use of skates, skateboards, or similar devices on the NPS-owned portion of Assateague Island is prohibited, except on the bicycle path and housing headquarters areas in the Maryland portion of the Seashore.
- The use of motorized skates, skateboards, scooters and other similar motorized devices is prohibited. Electrically powered devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, Segways and other similar devices may be used by mobility-impaired persons to access Seashore trails where surfaces allow for their safe use. Visitors using electrically powered

devices to access Seashore trails are cautioned to watch for loose sand, washouts and other natural hazards that are constantly changing on a natural barrier island.

***Determination:** Roller skates, skateboards, and other such devices may create hazards when used on the same roadways designated for vehicles or sidewalks traveled by pedestrians. For that reason, specific areas have been designated for their use where they will conflict minimally with other user groups.*

### **36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING**

**(a) In accordance with Executive Order #13058, the smoking of tobacco products and the use of ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) is prohibited within all interior spaces owned, rented, or leased by the federal government, including visitors and visitor contact stations, and in any outdoor areas within 25 feet of air intake ducts (including doors, windows, etc.). In addition, the following portions of the park are closed to smoking as noted:**

- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited in all government vehicles.
- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited while attending interpretive programs.
- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited at fuel and flammable storage areas.
- Smoking and ENDS use is prohibited within all lifeguarded beaches and on all boardwalks and trails, including the Life of the Marsh and Life of the Forest Trails.

***Determination:** Certain areas are restricted to protect public health and structures from fire danger or smoke. This prohibition reduces the risk of fire or prevents conflicts among visitor use activities and is consistent with federal law. Additionally, if ingested, discarded cigarette butts can be hazardous to aquatic creatures and wildlife.*

### **36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES**

**(a) Recreation fees are established for the following use/entrance fee areas:**

<b>Entrance Fee Area</b>	<b>Per Vehicle</b>	<b>Foot or Bicycle</b>	<b>Motorcycle</b>	<b>Individual*</b>	<b>Assateague Annual Pass</b>	<b>Valid Pass Holders**</b>
<b>General Entrance</b>	<b>\$25: Valid for 7 days</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>\$20: Valid for 7 Days</b>	<b>\$15: Valid for 7 days</b>	<b>\$45: Valid for one year</b>	<b>Free</b>

\*Individual is defined as per person 16 years of age or older when entering by means other than a private, non-commercial vehicle, such as taxis and limousines providing transportation only; buses carrying passengers not on a pre-packaged tour such as school groups visiting for recreational purposes; and buses or vans registered to non-profit organizations such as churches or schools. A family traveling together shall pay no more than the vehicle fee.

\*\*This applies to all valid pass holders for various valid National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes (identified on [Recreational Passes | USGS Store](#)) as well as the Assateague Island National Seashore Annual Pass, Migratory Waterfowl Duck Stamp with Beach Parking Upgrade (see below), and Chincoteague NWR Annual Pass. **Entrance Passes purchased at Chincoteague NWR may be used to enter Assateague Island National Seashore and passes purchased from Assateague Island National Seashore may be used to enter Chincoteague NWR.**

**NOTE- The US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Waterfowl Federal Duck Stamp:**



- Cost: \$25, Required for Waterfowl Hunting during established hunting seasons within Assateague Island National Seashore.
- A \$20 Beach Parking Fee Upgrade available for those with Migratory Waterfowl Duck Stamps, allowing this to be used as a park entrance pass, which is valid July 1-June 30 annually.

\*\*\*Holder of National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, Annual Military Pass, Lifetime Military Pass, 4th Grade Pass, Senior Pass (formerly Golden Age Passport), and Access Pass (formerly Golden Access Passport) plus three individuals are entitled to free general entrance. **Only the holders of a Senior Pass or Access Pass receive one-half off the fee for standard campsites. There is no discount for group and horse campsites.**

For more information about ASIS and America The Beautiful: National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass sales and fees, visit [Fees & Passes - Assateague Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

For Virginia entrance fees please see [Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge fee schedule](#).

**Expanded Amenity Fees and Special Recreation Permits at Assateague Island:** Expanded Amenity fees and Special Recreation Permits are fees in addition to general entrance fees (listed above) for the listed activities:

**2) Over Sand Vehicle Zones (OSV) Passes.**

- OSV permits must be purchased online by visiting [recreation.gov](#). Permits must be picked up by the registered vehicle owner within 10 days from the date of purchase.

Permit	Valid Hours	Cost
OSV Access (General)	24 hours. Active Fishing only from Midnight to 5am	\$110 Annually
Bullpen Access	24 hours	\$200 Annually

Permit upgrades may only be made by presenting the original sticker and paying the difference in the cost of the permits. For information on the OSV and permits please visit [Over Sand Vehicle \(OSV\) Use - Assateague Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

**3) Interpretive Kayak Tours**

- \$20 per person.

**4) Backcountry Camping:**

- Camping fee is \$10 per person valid for 7 days.

**5) US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Waterfowl Federal Duck Stamp:**

- \$25, Required for Waterfowl Hunting within Assateague Island National Seashore during established hunting seasons. (NOTE: There is an optional \$20 Beach Parking Fee Upgrade available for those with Migratory Waterfowl Duck Stamps, allowing this to be used as a park entrance pass, which is valid July 1-June 30 annually- see above section.)

**6) Oceanside and Bayside Campgrounds:**

- Camping fee is \$40 per night for standard sites, or \$20 per night with Interagency Senior Pass or Access Pass. Camping fee is \$80 for group and horse campsites (no discounts apply).

Additional Information can be found: [Campgrounds and Reservations - Assateague Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

### **36 CFR §2.35 –ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:**

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in visitor centers and decks, ranger stations, nature trails, paved parking areas, boardwalks, and while attending interpretive programs
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited within the Virginia District of Assateague Island National Seashore.

*Determination: The use of alcohol is inconsistent with the purpose for which these areas and programs were created. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge regulations prohibit alcohol within the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.*

### **36 CFR §2.51 -- DEMONSTRATIONS**

**(b) Demonstrations of more than 25 people are allowed within park areas designated as available under paragraph (c)(2) when the superintendent has issued a permit for the activity.**

**(c)(2) The following locations are designated as available for demonstrations. See attached maps for specific locations:**

1. Park Headquarters: parking lot area



2. Barrier Island Visitor Center: pedestrian area



3. North Beach: beach front north of the lifeguarded area, and off the north beach parking lot west of the longer of two solar arrays.



4. Bayside: southeast corner of Bayside parking lot, bay front south of canoe/kayak rental stand and north of walkway



5. MD OSV entrance: in front of air compressor building





6. Toms Cove, Virginia: eastern-most section of the former visitor center parking lot, west of beach parking traffic circle



***Determination:** The designated locations are in a prominent locations that will allow individuals and groups to conduct demonstrations in a manner that will allow for effective communication of speech and other protected activities. At the same time, the designated locations leave ample space for visitors to enter and leave the areas safely and for the NPS to conduct administrative activities such as interpretive events.*

### **36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION**

**(b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit, or in designated areas according to conditions which may be established by the Superintendent:**

- The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.
- The scattering of remains by persons on the ground must be performed at least 100 yards from any trail, road, or developed facility.
- Other permit conditions may apply, depending on permit requests and balancing regulatory compliance with visitor use, as determined by individual requests for permits.

***Determination:** The scattering of remains can be disturbing to the general public and need to be controlled by the seashore so as to allow this in areas most appropriate considering visitation, legal policies, and protection of the permittee's privacy.*

### **36 CFR §3.8(a)(2) – BOATING OPERATIONS**

**The following areas/sites are designated for the launching or recovery of car top and trailered vessels:**

- Ferry Landing is open to trailered motorized boat launching/beaching only during the park's hunting season and by registered hunters only. *Boat launching/beaching sites are*

*designated for public safety, to reduce visitor use conflicts, and to protect park resources. See 36 CFR Part 7 Sec. 7.65 for PWC regulations.*

- Non-powered, trailered and “car top” style boats and self-propelled watercraft may be launched from:
  - All Bayside access points
  - Beach front, south of Assateague State Park boundary to Virginia State line (excluding lifeguarded beach areas). *For the safety of swimming visitors, all flotation devices and watercraft are prohibited from lifeguarded beaches.*
- Motorized vessels may be temporarily beached at all bayside access points, except that:
  - Beaching of vessels is prohibited within 100 yards of nesting shorebirds;
  - Beaching of vessels is prohibited within 100 yards of bayside backcountry campsites and their associated vessel launching areas
  - Beaching of vessels is prohibited within any designated closure;
  - Beaching of vessels is prohibited at Old Ferry Landing except as noted above.

### **36 CFR §3.17 – SWIMMING AND BATHING**

#### **(a) Designation of Swimming Areas**

The following posted areas are designated as swimming areas:

- The Maryland lifeguarded area, Memorial Day weekend through September.
- The Virginia lifeguarded area, Memorial Day weekend through September.

#### **(c) Restrictions in Designated Swimming Areas**

From the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through September 30<sup>th</sup>, the following Activities and items are prohibited within the lifeguard-protected swimming zones:

- Pets
- Kites
- Fires
- Glass and glass containers
- Fishing
- Boats
- Surfboards (a violation of part (b) of this section of CFR)
- All other flotation devices, except properly worn U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs).

For the purpose of these restrictions, lifeguard protected zones extend 500 feet out from the shoreline and 300 feet north and south of the protected beach. The lateral north and south boundaries of the lifeguarded areas are marked by yellow flags with a black circle.

*Determination: Swimming areas are designated to provide safe and clearly defined swimming opportunities for park visitors. These locations are staffed with trained lifeguards during the peak visitation months when swimming demands is highest and water-related risks are elevated.*

*Restrictions on pets, kits, fires, glass and glass containers, fishing, boats, surfboards, and other flotation devices are necessary in lifeguarded areas to ensure public safety. The designated swimming zones receive heavy visitation during the summer, including large numbers of small children and inexperienced swimmers. The presence of prohibited items and activities creates significant safety hazards, including:*

- *Pets may bite, cause injures and create unsanitary conditions and distractions for lifeguards.*
- *Kites present entanglement and line-strike hazards in crowded beach environments.*
- *Fires pose burn risk and create debris that can injure barefoot swimmers.*

- *Glass containers can break and cause severe lacerations in the sand and surf.*
- *Fishing introduces sharp hooks and lines into crowded swimming zones, posing risks of entanglement and injury.*
- *Boats and surfboards present high-speed collision hazards to swimmers.*
- *Non-U.S. Coast guard-approved flotation devices may provide inadequate buoyancy, create false security, and impede lifeguard rescues.*

*The prohibition of these items within the lifeguard protected zone helps maintain safe and controlled conditions for swimmers, reduces conflicts between recreational uses, and enhances the ability of lifeguards to perform surveillance and rescues without unnecessary obstructions or distractions.*

*These restrictions are consistent with the NPS mission to protect visitors and provide safe recreational opportunities, particularly during the peak season when visitation is highest, and the risk of injury is greatest.*

*Due to heavy visitation and the daily presence of small children in lifeguarded areas, the above items are prohibited for reasons of public safety.*

### **36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES**

**(a) NPS has opened these Park roads for travel by licensed motor vehicles:**

- Bayberry Drive
- Maryland Route 611
- Bayside Dr.
- Old Ferry Landing Rd.
- Oceanside Dr.
- Campground Paved Areas
- Designated Parking Areas

**(b) Routes and areas for off-road vehicle use are provided for in section 7.65 and in section 1.5(a)(2).**

### **36 CFR §4.11 – VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS**

**(a) Load, weight and size limits for off-road vehicle use are provided for in section 7.65.**

### **36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES**

**(f) Closures or other use restrictions**

- 1. In the Maryland Portion of Assateague Island National Seashore, bicycle use is permitted only on paved public roadways and alongside the same roadways on paved designated bicycle paths/routes.**

**When a designated bicycle path is available, bicycles are not permitted to operate on the adjacent roadway. This restriction applies specifically along Bayberry Drive where a designated bicycle path is present.**

*Determination: Bicycle use within the Maryland district of Assateague Island National Seashore is managed to ensure visitor safety, protect park resources, and minimize user conflicts. Bayberry Drive and similar paved roadways within the park experience high volumes of motor vehicle traffic, including buses, RVs, and other large recreational vehicles with limited visibility. When bicycle paths are available, cyclists operating on the roadway create significant conflicts with motor vehicles, increasing the likelihood of collisions. Restricting bicycles to designated paved bicycle paths where available eliminates this conflict and provides a safer travel corridor for both cyclists and drivers.*

## **2. Bicycles are prohibited on boardwalks, trails, and beaches.**

*Determination: Prohibiting bicycles on boardwalks, pedestrian trails, and beaches protects visitor safety and park resources. Boardwalks and pedestrian trails are often narrow and heavily used by walkers, families with children, and individuals with mobility aids; bicycles present a collision hazard in these constrained spaces. Beaches and natural surface trails are not designed to support bicycle traffic, and use in these areas accelerates erosion, damages sensitive habitats, and disturbs wildlife.*

*These restrictions balance recreational access with public safety and the protection of natural and cultural resources of the seashore, consistent with the National Park Service mission.*

### **(i)(1) Use of Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes)**

- The term “e-bike” means a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 hp).
- E-bikes are allowed in Assateague Island National Seashore where traditional bicycles are allowed. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited. Except where use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited.
- A person operating an e-bike is subject to the following sections of 36 CFR part 4 that apply to the use of traditional bicycles: sections 4.12, 4.13, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, and 4.30(h)(2)-(5).
- Except as specified in this Compendium, the use of an e-bike within Assateague Island National Seashore is governed by State law, which is adopted and made a part of this Compendium. Any violation of State law adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.
  - E-bikes do not include electric scooters, Razors, hoverboards, electric unicycles and skateboards, caster boards, orbit wheel skates, or any other type of scooter, skate, or skateboard.

## **36 CFR §7.65 – SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

### **(b)(4)(vi): Operation of Over Sand Vehicles:**

- The OSV Zone may be partially or fully closed to vehicles on a temporary basis due to emergency conditions or for wildlife management purposes. *Closure determinations are necessary for the maintenance of public safety and to protect natural resources.*

### **(b)(2)(iv): Over Sand Permits:**

- OSV permits are non-refundable and non-replaceable.
- Vehicle sale or transfer voids an OSV permit displayed on that vehicle. *The over sand permit is a special use permit issued under the authority of 36 CFR 1.6 and 4.10. The validity of each permit is limited to the specific permittee AND to the vehicle for which it was registered.*