



# NOTES FROM THE FIELD

## SANDY NECK NEWSLETTER



May 2025

### From the Staff,

May has arrived and it truly feels like spring in Barnstable. The weather is warm, the birds have all returned, harbor seal pups are sunbathing and **10:00 PM curfew** has returned! In addition to the beach staying open later, we also have the return of campfires which start at **7:00 PM** (*weather permitting*).

Along with these changes come the reduction of the ORV speed limit. We will return to the **5MPH** speed limit while protected shorebirds are on our beach.

While driving on the beach with your valid 2025 ORV permit, you're going to find lots of chaos in the first section of the beach. This area is part of our Habitat Conservation Plan. There's a method to the madness as we do our best to accommodate to both the birds and our patrons. This April, we worked with the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association to place hundreds of pallets and other forms of deterrence in this area to provide patrons partial access to the drive-on beach even when the shorebird nests hatch and chicks are on the ground.

It's not always assured, but over the past few years since managing this habitat we've not only seen the beach remain partially open for vehicles, but we've also seen a high success rate for these nesting shorebirds as they nest in more ideal locations along Sandy Neck.



*Upcoming*

### Events

**Sandy Neck Spring Flora and Fauna Hike**

**Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10am-Noon**

**ORV Operation 101 for Beginners**

**Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:30pm - 7pm**

Call the Sandy Neck Gatehouse for more info!



ORV Permit Application Here



### Important!

Campfires allowed starting at 7pm (weather permitting). ORV Beach hours are 8:00am to 10:00pm. Gatehouse is open to patrons from 9am-9pm daily. The gatehouse can be reached at **(508)362-8300**.