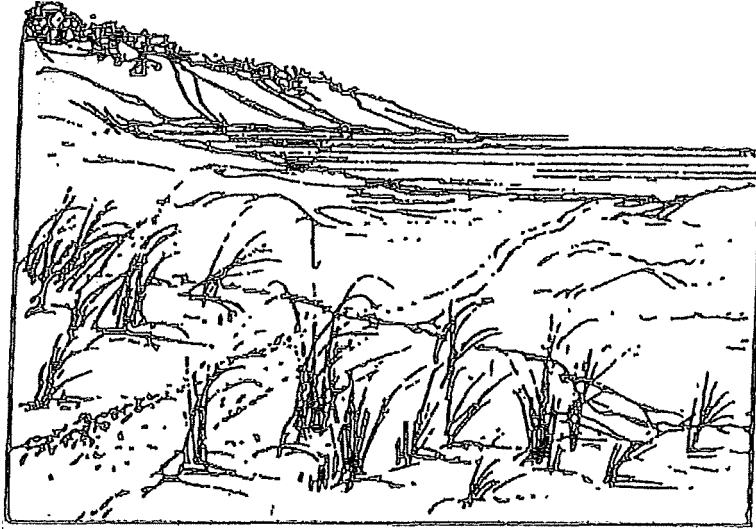


# Nauset Beach

## Rules & Regulations

### for Over Sand Vehicles (OSV)



This unique conservation and recreation area is under joint supervision by the Town of Orleans and the Town of Chatham. We hope that you will enjoy the natural and recreational values of Nauset Beach, as well as observe and obey the rules that have been adopted for its protection.



*All applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, town by-laws, town rules and regulations and all fire regulations shall apply and are enforceable.*

----- **GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS** -----

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION (STICKERS)**: Effective July 1 through June 30th (of the following year). Registration shall be obtained from the Orleans Sticker Office and the Chatham Sticker Office. Applicants of Nauset Beach will be issued stickers that must be affixed to a stationary window on the driver's side of the vehicle. No vehicle shall operate on the beach without a valid registration sticker. We will not be requiring OSV inspections for your newly acquired vehicle or but will be for first time self-contained. All registration stickers are non-transferable and non-refundable and expire June 30th of the following year. All previous years' stickers must be removed. *Over-sand vehicle permits are not valid for parking in the Nauset or Skaket Beach parking lots.*

**1.) REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**: All vehicles must carry the following at all times:

- a. **REGULATIONS** – a current copy of these rules & regulations (issued at the time of registration)
- b. **SHOVEL**
- c. **TOW ROPE** – chain, cable or other towing device that is not less than 14 feet in length with a minimum load strength of 1400 lbs. (chain size 5/16", cable 1/4", nylon 3/4", polypropylene 3/4", hemp 1"). The towing device will be equipped with grab hooks or other suitable attaching device on both ends.
- d. **JACK SUPPORT** – board or similar, to have a surface of not less than 144 square inches nor be more than 18" in length. Thickness to be not less than 1-1/2" of solid wood. Other materials must equal strength and durability of the standard wood supports.
- e. **JACK** – standard size and type which comes stock with the vehicle
- f. **TIRE GAUGE** – low pressure, able to register a minimum of 10 psi.
- g. **TIRE SIZE** – Minimum size tires for 13" is 185, 14" – 16" is 215. Note: No snow tires will be allowed on the beach except from November 1 through April 13.
- h. **SPARE TIRE** – meeting same standard as other tires required for type of vehicle in which it is carried.

**Self-Contained Vehicles** must be additionally equipped with (*not required for OSV*):

- i. ROD and REEL – for each occupant over 12 years of age
- j. PERMANANTLY MOUNTED BEDS
- k. PERMANANTLY MOUNTED SELF-CONTAINED WATER OR CHEMICAL TOILET

**2.) HOURS** - Permitted non self-contained OSV are allowed on the open areas only between the hours of 6:00 AM and 11:00 PM, unless "actively fishing". To be considered "actively fishing," a person must be taking all reasonable and necessary actions to maximize the probability of hooking and landing fish by rod using a baited rig or artificial lure. Fishing equipment must be kept at the water's edge and regularly tended and casted. For self-contained vehicle hours, see "self-contained vehicles." Please note that hours can be dependent on closures, restrictions, etc. See the Town of Orleans HCP User Guide for more information regarding hours.

**3.) SPEED LIMIT** - The speed limit of motor vehicles will not exceed 15 mph. The speed limit in the vicinity of shorebird nests will not exceed 5 mph. Reasonable speed limits will be enforced for low beach driving.

- 4.) **ALCOHOL**: Open containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited on Nauset Beach.
- 5.) **MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATION**: The provisions of Chapter 90, Mass General laws shall apply to the operation of all motor vehicles on the beach. (This simply means that if it is required on the road, it is required on the beach.)
- 6.) **TIRE PRESSURE**: Tire pressure shall not exceed 15 psi - no exceptions. You are required to decrease your tire pressure before entering the over-sand trails. Courtesy air stations may be available seasonally at the lower entrance lot of Nauset Beach South.
- 7.) **RIGHT OF WAY**: Vehicles driving off the beach shall have the right of way. Use the pull-off sections of the trail to clear the way for vehicles traveling off of the beach.
- 8.) **LEAVE NO TRACE**: Each visitor shall remove all property and trash from the beach. Dumpsters are provided at the beach parking lot. Emptying of holding tanks and disposal of human waste on Nauset Beach and its adjoining waters is prohibited. All pet owners are responsible for removing their animals waste. Always douse hot coals from contained cooking fires and extinguish ashes. In the event of an OSV requiring excavation to improve traction, holes are required to be filled.
- 9.) **SELF-CONTAINED VEHICLES**: Self-contained vehicles will be allowed to stay on Nauset Beach South for a maximum of ninety-six (96) consecutive hours and a seventy-two (72) hour period must elapse before they may return to the beach. Self-contained vehicles are prohibited on the Nauset Spit The Natural Resources Manager may reduce the maximum stay for self-contained vehicles at any time. All self-contained vehicles remaining overnight shall have permanently mounted self-contained water or chemical toilets and permanently mounted sleeping accommodations sufficient for all persons in the vehicle. All self-contained vehicles will be required to check on and off when the booth is staffed.
- 10.) **DOGS**: No dogs are allowed on the Nauset Spit from April 1 through Labor Day. From Trail #1 north to the Nauset Spit, dogs are prohibited from April 1 through Labor Day. From Trail #1 south to the Chatham inlet, all dogs must be on a leash no longer than 30 feet at all times from April 1 through Labor Day. Dogs must be transported by OSV to areas open to dogs south of Trail 1 from April 1 through Labor Day. Dogs are prohibited in closed areas at all times. (This is a zero tolerance policy). Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their animals.
- 11.) **CLOSED AREAS**: Vehicles and pedestrians are prohibited in symbolically fenced and signed areas. No vehicles may park within the OSV corridor. From Callanan's Pass south to Trail 1 is closed to OSV traffic. The Town of Eastham is closed to OSV traffic.
- 12.) **LOW BEACH DRIVING**: Seaward of the mean high tide line is closed to OSV traffic on Nauset Spit Seaward of the mean high tide line is closed to OSV traffic on Nauset Beach South from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend until the first Friday of November, unless otherwise directed. While low beach driving is open, driving above the high tide water mark in a closed area is prohibited. Reasonable speed limits will be enforced for low beach driving.

- 13.) **LIMITS:** The number and types of vehicles allowed on the beach at one time shall be set each year and may be changed depending on prevailing conditions and the amount of usable beach.
- 14.) **CAMP OWNERS:** Beach camps are private property. Motorized equipment or machines taken on the beach for camp maintenance must secure permission from the Orleans Natural Resources Manager. Beach camp lessees retain traditional lease rights for their leased property.
- 15.) **SLEEPING:** Sleeping in the open and the use of camping tents between 8:00 pm - 8:00 am on all beach areas is prohibited.
- 16.) **FIRES:** NO OPEN FIRES ON ANY BEACH AREAS. Contained cooking fires in grills are permitted. Douse coals and extinguish ashes before leaving and leave absolutely no trace.
- 17.) **EVENTS:** Groups of more than twenty (20) persons shall be required to carry a special permit (no additional fee) and shall name, in applying for such a permit, one individual in the group who shall agree to assume responsibility for the activities of all members of the group while on the beach. Such a permit shall be applied for forty-eight (48) hours in advance of its proposed use. The permit for the Orleans portion of Nauset Beach shall be issued by only the Orleans Natural Resources Manager, who shall designate the beach area on which such a party may be held.
- 18.) **RAFTS:** The use of rafts, tubes, inflatables and other similar types of swimming or bathing devices are *prohibited* on all of Nauset Beach.
- 19.) **FISHING:** Fishing gear must be kept at water's edge at all times while in the act of fishing. There shall be no more than five (5) fishing rods per person or more than twelve (12) fishing rods per vehicle to be in use at any one time.
- 20.) **SHELLFISH:** The Town of Orleans and the Town of Chatham shellfish regulations pertain to their respective portions of Nauset Beach.
- 21.) **PRIVATE PROPERTY:** Persons who visit the beach by boat, motor vehicle or on foot are required to respect private property and to conform to all regulations listed herein.
- 22.) **PROHIBITED VEHICLES:** Two-wheeled vehicles, motorcycles, minibikes, mopeds, snowmobile ATV's and trailers are prohibited. No towing of paragliders permitted. Airplanes or helicopters are prohibited, except in emergencies.
- 23.) **KITES /DRONES:** Kites *and* drones are prohibited April 1 through Labor Day. Dates subject to change.

*The Order of Conditions issued to the Orleans Park Commission, dated 06/24/14 and 2/13/91 are hereby incorporated herein and made a part of these rules and regulations.*

## ----- VIOLATIONS -----

***Penalties for infractions of any of the rules & regulations shall result in revocation of registration sticker, dismissal from the beach and/ or a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each offense.***

*Fines listed below may be imposed for violations of the Orleans DPW & Natural Resources Rules and Regulations and the Nauset Beach Rules and Regulations for OSV:*

- Operation of a motor vehicle on Nauset Beach in closed areas and off marked trails.
- Emptying of holding tanks and disposal of human waste.
- Violation of Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
- Flying Kites and/or Drones at all from April 1 – Labor Day
  - Fine for above offenses: \$200.00 and revocation of OSV Permit.

Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, any person who violates any of the Orleans DPW & Natural Resources Rules and regulations or the Nauset Beach Rules and Regulations for OSV shall be subject to the following penalties:

**First Offense:** Written warning

**Second Offense:** \$50.00

**Third and Subsequent Offense:** \$100.00

- Operation of a motor vehicle on Nauset Beach without a valid OSV Permit.
- Operation of a motor vehicle on low beach when prohibited
- Failure to air down tires to proper psi.
- Violation to rules and regulations related to dogs. In addition to any other penalties set forth in these regulations, any violation of the dog regulations in closed areas due to shorebirds will result in no less than automatic revocation of the offender's beach permit rights from the date of violation until May 1st of the following year. Subsequent violations will result in the offender's Beach Permit rights being revoked for a period of three (3) full years from the date of the violation.
- Operation of a motor vehicle and not having passengers properly seated within the confines of the vehicle.
- Speeding
- Littering
- Open container(s) of alcohol
- Open fire without a permit

**An OSV Permit Holder who receives three of any violation of the Rules and Regulations in an: one season (other than operation of a motor vehicle on Nauset Beach in closed areas and off marked trails, the emptying of holding tanks and disposal of human waste and violations of Habitat Conservation Plan rules, which are subject to immediate revocation of the OSV permit shall have his or her OSV permit revoked and shall not be permitted on the beach for ONE YEAR from the date of revocation of the OSV Permit.**

**Persons whose permits have been suspended or revoked have within seven (7) days a right to appeal to the enforcing authority, who upon receipt of written request shall arrange a hearing on the appeal to the appropriate authority. Authority for the enforcement of the Orleans DPW & Natural Resources Rules and Regulations and the Nauset Beach Rules and Regulations or OSV's shall rest with the Orleans Natural Resources Director, his or her designees, including the Beach Ranger and any Orleans Police Officer.**

*These Rules & Regulations were adopted at a public hearing of the Orleans Park Commission dated 01/14/15. Copies of changes to be posted in Orleans Town Clerk's Office.*

***It is the responsibility of the OSV registrant to read and understand the Nauset Beach Rules & Regulations for OSV. The registrant is responsible for the behavior of the passengers and drivers in their vehicle.***

**Always remember**

You are required to decrease the tire pressure before entering the beach OSV corridor.

Low tire pressure is critical for successful over-sand driving. Friction may cause pressure to increase while you drive, making it necessary to stop and reduce pressure again. Failure to air down to 15 psi leads to degradation of the OSV trails.

Always check tides before entering the OSV trails. Portions of the beach may be impassable at high tides.

If you feel you are in danger of getting stuck, check your tire pressure and let more air out if necessary. Also try backing up in your tracks before moving ahead. Do not spin your tires – this will only cause the vehicle to dig in.

Always fill in holes made in the sand by beach-goers or stuck vehicles. This will increase safety for all.

Do not speed – experienced beach drivers know that a slow, steady speed and correct tire pressure are more effective than faster speeds.

Always be alert for wildlife when driving on the beach – tern and plover chicks may attempt to hide in vehicle tracks when frightened.

***See next page for “Communications”***

**ALWAYS DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES**

Nauset Beach is managed under joint supervision between the Town of Orleans and the Town of Chatham. It is important to direct non-emergency calls to the town in which you are located while on the beach. Use the reference maps (page 8) to clarify your location on the over-sand trails.

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When reporting a violation, the following information is needed for enforcement:

- 1.) Date & Time
- 2.) Location/ladmark/trail
- 3.) Vehicle description (license plate, vehicle make/color)
- 4.) Operator/occupant description
- 5.) Violation/incident description

**Important Contact Numbers**

***Non-emergencies only. All emergencies, dial 911.***

**Orleans Police Department** *(Year-round, 24 hours/day)* – (508) 255-0117

**Chatham Police Department** *(Year-round, 24 hours/day)* – (508) 945-1213

**Nauset Beach Administration** *(Seasonal, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 9-5pm)* – (508) 240-3780

**Nauset Beach Tollbooth** *(Seasonal, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 24 hours/day)* – (508) 240-3705

**Orleans Sticker Office** *(Seasonal, Early May – Labor Day, 9-1pm)* – (508) 240-3790 x3150

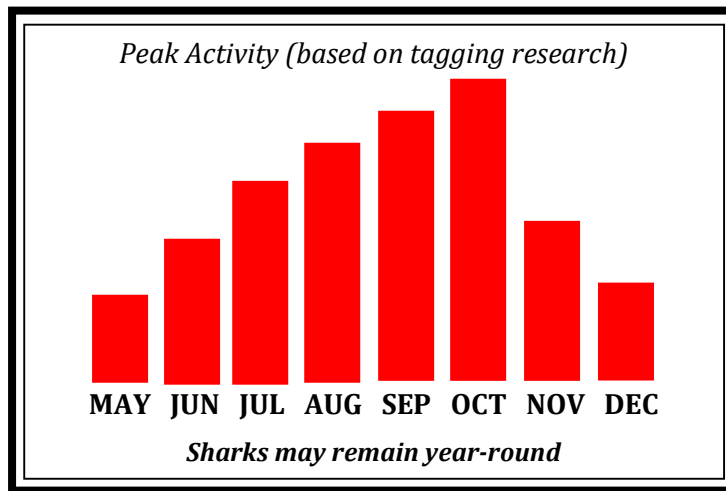
**Orleans DPW & Natural Resources** *(Year-round, 8-4:30pm)* – (508) 240-3755

----- **WARNING** -----

White Sharks hunt seals in shallow water at Nauset Beach. People have been seriously injured and killed by white sharks along this coastline.

**Call 911 for emergencies.**

***Know your risk when entering the water.***



Download the Sharktivity App on your smartphone to receive alerts and report sightings. For more info, and to view the latest research, visit [www.atlanticwhiteshark.org](http://www.atlanticwhiteshark.org)

**YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE**

Most white shark bite victims survive because of first aid initiated from bystanders.

White shark bites generally result in massive hemorrhaging, which requires immediate first aid in order to stop the blood loss.

For first aid training opportunities and more information visit [www.atlanticwhiteshark.org/public-safety](http://www.atlanticwhiteshark.org/public-safety)

Call 911 for Emergencies

----- REFERENCE MAPS -----

**Nauset Spit (North)**

**Nauset South Beach**

