

# Preserve Beach Access Newsletter



## Our Mission

to Keep America's Beaches  
Open and Accessible to All

July 11, 2009

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Summer beach closures under the consent decree continue to have a devastating impact. With each closure, another family is deprived of recreational access, and another local business suffers.

The Dare County campaign to preserve access to America's beaches is continuing to build a nation-wide database at "Act Now". In the future when public support is needed for a hearing or legislative action, this database will be used to mobilize America for action.

A great way to tell others about beach access is with a free E-card. These electronic greeting cards feature attractive photos of people enjoying recreational opportunities. Links to the E-Card are in this newsletter edition and on the beach access website.

## Tyler Reeve Supports Beach Access

Atlanta-based singer, Tyler Reeve, toured the Outer Banks of North Carolina during the July 4th holiday. He demonstrated his support of open and accessible beaches when he stopped by Ace Hardware in Kitty Hawk to talk on-air with Ray Turner on WCMS, 94.5 FM.

Tyler and the band took out their instruments and treated those on hand to an impromptu acoustic mini-concert. Afterward, Tyler put his Preserve Beach Access bumper sticker on the band's equipment trailer. "Hey," he said, "We drive over 50,000 miles a year, all over America. I want everybody to see [PreserveBeachAccess.org](http://PreserveBeachAccess.org)"





## This Week's Access Report - What's Open and Closed

The closures at Ramp 23 and 27 were both expanded this week because of Least Tern chicks, a species not classified as endangered.

North of Ramp 30 a closure was expanded due to American Oystercatcher chicks, another species not classified as endangered.

The area between Ramp 43 and 44 is reported open by the National Park Service for ORV and Pedestrian access. South of ramp 44 a short span of approximately 60 meters is open. However, access is still denied to the popular recreational area of Cape Point, south of Ramp 44.

South/west of Ramp 55, the beach is open for ORV and Pedestrian access for approximately 2 miles, according to the National Park Service Weekly Access Report. And, they report 0.5 of a mile of shoreline open south of Ramp 72.

[Click Here](#) to view the National Park Service report.

The beach access website is also your direct connection to a Google Earth map used by the National Park Service to show open and closed areas of the beach. A color-coded legend highlights specific areas open to pedestrians and ORV's, pedestrian only, limited access areas (open to pedestrians between closures) and areas closed to all public access due to resource closures. [Click Here](#) for the Map

Unfortunately, closure conditions under the consent decree can change on short notice. It is possible you could encounter an area closed by a recently placed sign, while it is still indicated as open on the National Park Services's access map. They update the map up to five times per week as conditions change, and may not include very recent changes made in the field by Park Service staff.

**REMEMBER** - when special interest groups claim that huge portions of the beach are open, the areas they are talking about may not really be accessible. This often happens when an open area is located on the north or sound side of a restricted closure. In other words, while the area may technically be "open," in reality, you need a helicopter or parachute to get there. As the old expression says, "You can't get there from here."

And, **statements about available ORV access can be misleading as to the true picture of recreational access, because they often do not include the most popular recreational areas**, for example Bodie Island Spit at Oregon Inlet or Cape Point in Buxton.

## Voices of the People

People everywhere are talking about open and accessible beaches. Following are samples of comments received this week from people signing-up at "Act Now" on the beach access website -



### **Gifford - Hanover, Pennsylvania**

With the beaches at the Point and Oregon Inlet closed, I had no safe place, with calm waters, to take my children this year on our visit to the Outer Banks. I'm not entirely sure we will be coming back. As long as the bird's safety is more important than that of my children, I believe we will be vacationing elsewhere. It is a shame because I have been coming to Rodanthe for a dozen years and it is my favorite place on earth. But, my children come first - not birds.

### **Patti - Mechanicsville, Virginia**

Thanks for having a website I can refer others to regarding the issues facing beach access.

### **Mark - Sewell, New Jersey**

I have been going to the Outer Banks with my family for quite some time and we really enjoy ourselves. To take away what is so beautiful and precious to us is absolutely absurd and psychotic. I am only 23 years old, but I want to make sure that my children will be able to enjoy the precious beauty of the Outer Banks beaches. To take that away from our future, can not be described in words. Keep the beaches open!

### **Jack - Buxton, North Carolina**

I was at the south beach for the fourth of July....looking east towards the point, it put a sickening feeling in my stomach to see that beautiful beach not being enjoyed by us, our friends, families and especially the children.

### **Roger - Virginia**

I am soooo mad about this and the access being denied to me and my family...not to mention how this is impacting all the local businesses. It's outrageous.



### **Editor's Note:**

The beach access website has helpful links to the [Cape Hatteras Anglers Club](#), the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association [NCBBA](#), and the Outer Banks Preservation Association [OBPA](#) (Click on the highlighted organization name for a direct link to their website)

## You Can Help

Right now, businesses are hurting and people are worried about their future. The residents and visitors of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area need your support. Here's how you can help -

### **FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER**

Click "Forward email" at bottom of this newsletter

**SEND A FREE E-CARD** to your friends and family [Click Here](#)



### **WRITE CONGRESS**

Ask your elected officials to support H.R. 718.

[Click Here](#) for Sample Letter

### **ADD A LINK ON YOUR GROUP OR BUSINESS WEBSITE**

Link your group or business to the beach access website.

[Click Here](#) for Instructions