



White Paper Report

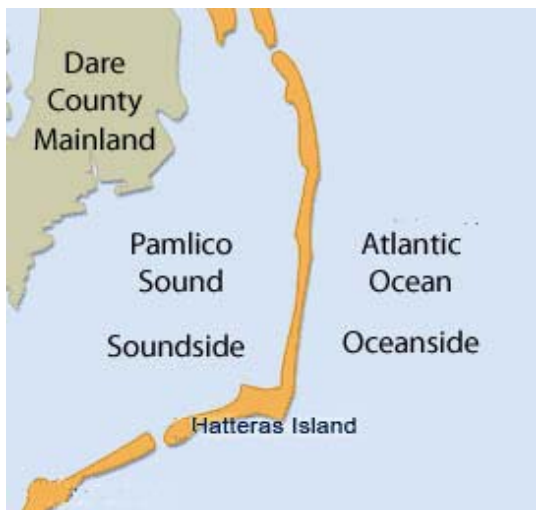
*Understanding the significance
Of limited beach access parking available in the
Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area*



Vast Geographical Area

The Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area consists of 24,470 acres and the 5,880 adjacent acres of the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

This recreation area is on a string of thin, barrier islands off the mainland of North Carolina. The east side of the islands are oceanfront while the west side faces the Pamlico Sound, a shallow water estuary extending to the mainland, known as the Outer Banks "Soundside".



This vast area stretches a distance of approx 60 miles through Dare County, North Carolina.

Over 2 Million Annual Visitors

The National Park Service reports 2,146,392 recreational visitors during 2008 to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Through July 2009, (most recent available at press time) the Park Service reports a year-to-date increase of 2.6% more than last year, for an additional 33,351 recreational visitors.

Limited Parking for Beach Access

Only 749 oceanside parking spaces are available for beach access In the Dare County portion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. Only 25 of these spaces are designated as reserved for handicapped parking. Computing beach access parking on a per-mile basis reveals an average of only 12 parking spaces per mile.



- | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Oceanside beach access parking | 749 spaces | for over 2 million visitors |
| • Handicapped parking | 25 spaces | for over 2 million visitors |
| • Average spaces per mile | 12 per mile | for over 2 million visitors |

Why Are There Only 749 Oceanside Parking Spaces for over 2 million people?



The Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area was uniquely designed with a network of 10 access ramps in designated areas to provide a safe and direct path to the beach that would not disturb the nearby dune system.

Accordingly, only a few parking spaces were ever planned. This lack of parking was not an oversight. It reflects the unique design of America's first national seashore for recreational access.



A network of 10 "Ramps" were designed to provide beach access opportunities for everyone



At this parking lot without a ramp beachgoers must endure a climb too strenuous for many people.



Imagine a wheel chair attempting to maneuver this typical beach path.

Many Americans with disabilities, and those with medical conditions plus the elderly, depend on open and accessible beaches.





Here beach access is a little easier.

Unfortunately, these walkways are few and far between in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.



For many people it is treacherous or impossible to conquer this steep and tall dune line for beach access at the parking lot next to ramp 43

Public parking for oceanside beach access is available at 10 ramps plus 7 other lots.

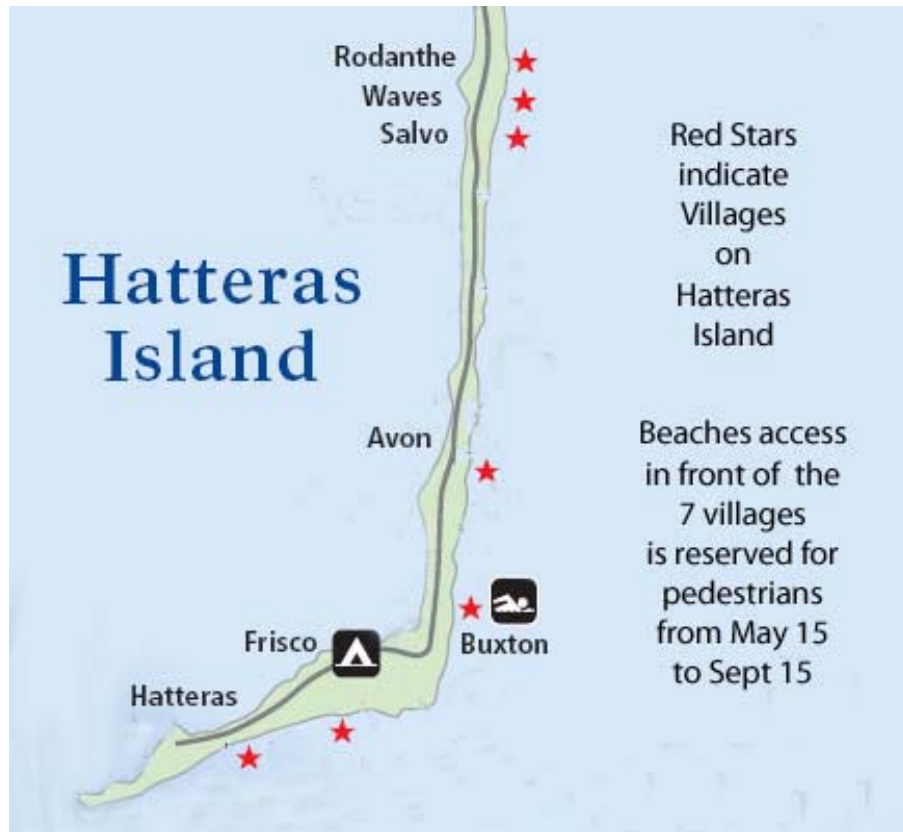
Note – the oceanfront homes, to the left of the picture, are private property.

Driveways, walkways and parking areas for these private, oceanfront homes provides easy beach access for the exclusive use of these property owners and their renters.

Private property fronts the ocean in 7 villages encompassing many miles of Hatteras Island.



Public parking at Ramp 55 with 21 spaces



Oceanfront homes in Avon, North Carolina with private beach access parking

OCEANSIDE – Recreational Parking

General Spaces **Handicapped Spaces**

Coquina, Ramp 2	202	10
Foot of the Oregon Inlet Bridge	74	1
South of Oregon Inlet Bridge	16	0
North of Pea Island Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center	10	0
North of New Inlet Boat Ramp	27	2
Ramp 23	13	0
Ramp 27	23	2
Ramp 30	22	0
Ramp 34	26	0
Ramp 38	25	0
Old lighthouse site, north area	57	3
Old lighthouse site, south area	139	4
Ramp 43	25	0
Ramp 44 fish cleaning station near ramp entrance	10	0
Ramp 49, near Billy Mitchell Airport in Frisco	09	0
South of Frisco, parking area with bathhouse	50	3
Ramp 55 across from museum	21	0
Total	749	25



View of soundside parking showing busy highway 12 and lines of dunes blocking beach access



SOUNDSIDE – Parking

	General Spaces	Handicapped Spaces
Pull-offs on Hwy 12 in South Nags Head	14	0
Pavilion south of the bridge with visitor information	12	0
Unpaved area south of the Oregon Inlet Bridge	06	0
Pea Island Visitors Center	18	1
New Inlet sound access boat ramp	13	0
Salvo Day Use area	75	1
Haulover Day Use Area (known as Canadian Hole)	66	0
Soundside parking north of Hatteras Village	31	0
Total	235	2



Soundside parking north of Hatteras Village with a non handicapped accessible ramp on the other side of highway 12



LIGHTHOUSE – Visitor Parking

(not close to beach access)

Bodie Island Lighthouse, South Nags Head
 Hatteras Lighthouse, near Pond on the entrance road
 Hatteras Lighthouse, Buxton Woods Trail, picnic area
 Hatteras Lighthouse, main parking area

	General Spaces	Handicapped Spaces
	52	1
	04	0
	20	2
	126	5
Total	202	8



MISC – Visitor Parking

(not close to beach access)

Whalebone Welcome Center

	General Spaces	Handicapped Spaces
Total	13	1

Footnotes

- Beach access parking includes all parking spaces next to ocean side recreational areas in the Dare County portion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area as manually counted on August 24, 2009.
- Average parking spaces per mile were computed by dividing the total number of ocean side recreational spaces by 60 representing the Dare County portion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area in Dare County including the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- National Park Service visitor statistics include Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. Although Ocracoke is the only portion of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area located outside of Dare County, most Ocracoke visitors travel through Dare County in order to take the Ferry from Hatteras to Ocracoke Island.