

INTRODUCTION

Island Beach State Park is a narrow barrier beach stretching for nearly 10 miles between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay. This unique environment provides a variety of habitats for a multitude of maritime plants and wildlife. Barnegat Lighthouse can be seen across the inlet from the southernmost point of Island Beach. Park visitors can enjoy 3,000 acres of sandy beaches, maritime forest, tidal marshes and dunes.

HISTORY

Island Beach has a rich and varied history. In 1635, Charles I of England granted a parcel of land, including Island Beach, to the first Earl of Stirling. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was inhabited by fishermen who built shacks from driftwood and by members of the U.S. Lifesaving Service.

Steel magnate Henry C. Phipps, a partner of Andrew Carnegie, bought the land in 1926 with visions of turning it into an exclusive seashore resort. Only three large, expensive homes—the Ocean House, Bay House and Freeman House—were built before the stock market crash of 1929 brought an end to construction.

After the stock market crash, the area became the Borough of Island Beach. During World War II, the US Army and Johns Hopkins University used the area for experimental work in anti-aircraft rocketry. A supersonic ramjet rocket made its first successful flight at Island Beach in 1945. In 1953, the State of New Jersey purchased the 2,694-acre Phipps estate and additional land to preserve the natural beauty of the island and provide recreation for swimmers, hikers, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Island Beach opened as a state park in 1959.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Barrier Beach - Island Beach is one of the few undeveloped barrier beaches on the Atlantic coast. It has one of New Jersey's largest osprey colonies in addition to many other species of waterfowl, shorebirds and migratory birds. Today's maritime vegetation is the same as it was hundreds of years ago. To accommodate recreation and to protect this natural vegetation, the park is divided into three management zones: the Northern Natural Area, the central recreation zone and the Southern Natural Area. The two natural areas contain 1,900 acres of sand dunes with coastal dune communities, tidal marshes, freshwater wetlands, designated trails and more than 200 species of plants. Public access to the Northern Natural Area is limited to the ocean beach for fishing and walking. Picnicking, sunbathing and fishing activities are allowed on the ocean beaches of the Southern Natural Area. Nature study is permitted throughout the park. Sand dunes are one of the park's most precious resources, protecting the park and mainland from



storm-driven waves and tides. Visitors must stay off the sand dunes and should not disturb the vegetation.

The Barnegat Bay side of the island is a nutrient-rich feeding ground for birds, fish and other wildlife. Kayak trips through the tidal marshes are conducted during the summer season. Canoe and kayak access is available at Areas 15 and 21. Participants may see a variety of wildlife including nesting osprey, falcons and wading birds. Bird observation blinds provide views of Barnegat Bay tidal marshes at Area 20 and at Ocean Swimming Area 1.

Interpretive Program - Island Beach State Park's natural sand dune formations and relatively undisturbed vegetation create a natural classroom for the study of a barrier beach. In addition to kayak tours, the park's interpretive program reveals the natural history of the island through walking tours and activities scheduled daily in the summer and on selected weekends.

Interpretive facilities include the Nature Interpretive Center, the Interpretive Station at Ocean Swimming Area 1 and the Forked River Coast Guard Station No. 112 Interpretive Center. These facilities offer scheduled activities as well as general information about the park. Self-guided trails with exhibits are located at the Nature Interpretive Center, Area 7; at Tice's Shoal, Area 13; at Johnny Allen's Cove and at the bird blinds at parking area 20 and Ocean Swimming Area 1.



Swimming

Approximately one mile of designated ocean swimming, located in the center of the park, is open and lifeguarded on weekends from Memorial Day weekend, then daily from mid-June through Labor Day. Parking and facilities with outdoor shower towers, changing areas, first aid, food and beach supply concession are nearby. Swimming Areas 1 and 2 are located 3.5 and 3.7 miles from the park entrance. Southern Swimming Area, located near parking area 7 and Fisherman's Walkway, is five miles from the park entrance. For safety reasons, inner tubes, rafts and other floatation devices are not permitted. Swimming is not permitted in non-lifeguarded areas. Emergency closures may occur.



Picnicking

Although tables and grills are not available at the park, visitors may enjoy picnicking on the ocean beach. Grills and fires are allowed south of Swimming Area 2. They must be 50 feet east of the dunes, extinguished completely and all charcoal must be removed from the sand before you leave the beach. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in state parks.



Bicycling and Horseback Riding

The main road is eight miles long, if you are biking, please use caution and ride single file. Six miles of ocean beach in the southern and central portions of the park are available for equestrian use from October 1 through April 30. A parking area is designated for horse trailers during this time period. Reservations are required. There are no horse rental facilities in or near the park. Please contact the park office for further information.



Fishing

Island Beach State Park is popular among saltwater anglers who surf fish for striped bass and bluefish as well as summer flounder (fluke), weakfish and kingfish. During the appropriate season, fishing for tautog (blackfish) along the north jetty of Barnegat Inlet is especially rewarding. Bait and fishing information may be obtained at local tackle dealers before entering the park. Saltwater fishing is subject to New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife and State Park Service regulations which can be found in the New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife Digest and also at local tackle dealers. Further information about special permits to operate four-wheel drive mobile sport fishing vehicles on the fishing beaches may be obtained at the Visitor Contact Station at the park entrance. Fishing is not permitted in the designated swimming areas from May 15 through October 15.



Windsurfing and Surfing

Portions of the ocean beach at the extreme southern end of Ocean Swimming Area 2 are designated for windsurfing and surfing. For more information, contact the park office or ask the lifeguards on duty.



Scuba Diving

Scuba diving and underwater fishing are permitted along 2.5 miles of ocean beach just north of Barnegat Inlet. Scuba divers must register at the park office prior to their first dive each year. Proof of current diving certification is required. Spear and underwater fishing are subject to New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife regulations. Diving in Barnegat Inlet is permitted and subject to New Jersey Boating Commission Special Regulations.



Access for Persons with Disabilities

Island Beach State Park facilities are partially accessible for people with disabilities. The Fisherman's Walkway is a boardwalk that provides access to both the ocean and bay at parking area 7. Beach wheelchairs for the ocean swimming area and beach wheelchairs that have been specially fitted for surf fishing are available at the pavilions during the swimming season and at the park office during the remainder of the year. Please contact the park office for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.



Pets

Pets are not permitted in designated swimming areas or inside buildings and must be caged or on a leash (max. 6-foot length) at all times.



Keep It Clean and Green

Bring a bag or two to carry your trash out with you or to the dumpsters provided in parking lots of swimming areas 1 & 2. Don't forget to recycle!

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages, recreational drones, smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this park.



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.



ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK
PO Box 37
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
732-793-0506

Directions: Take Route 37 east to Route 35 south to the park entrance.



NJPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG



FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS



@NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS



5/23 CMY

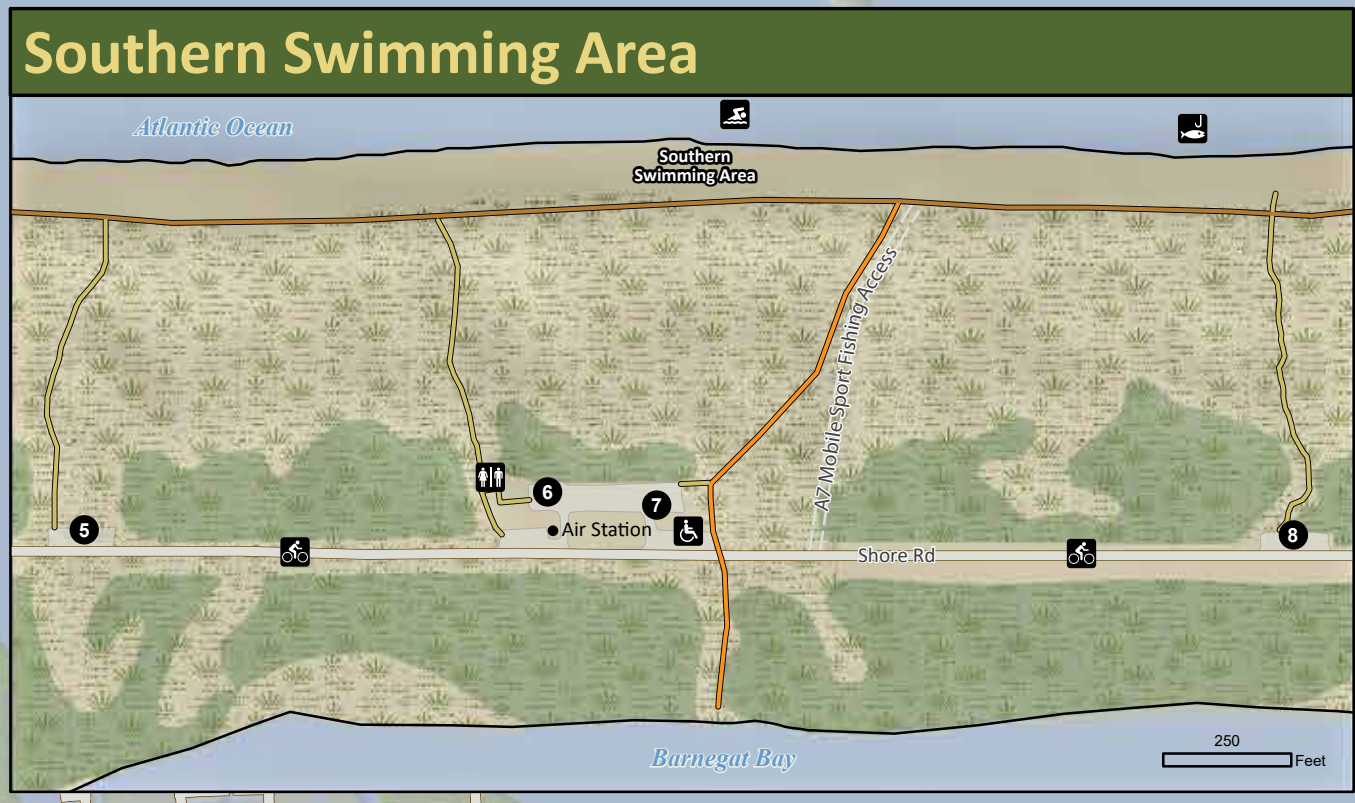
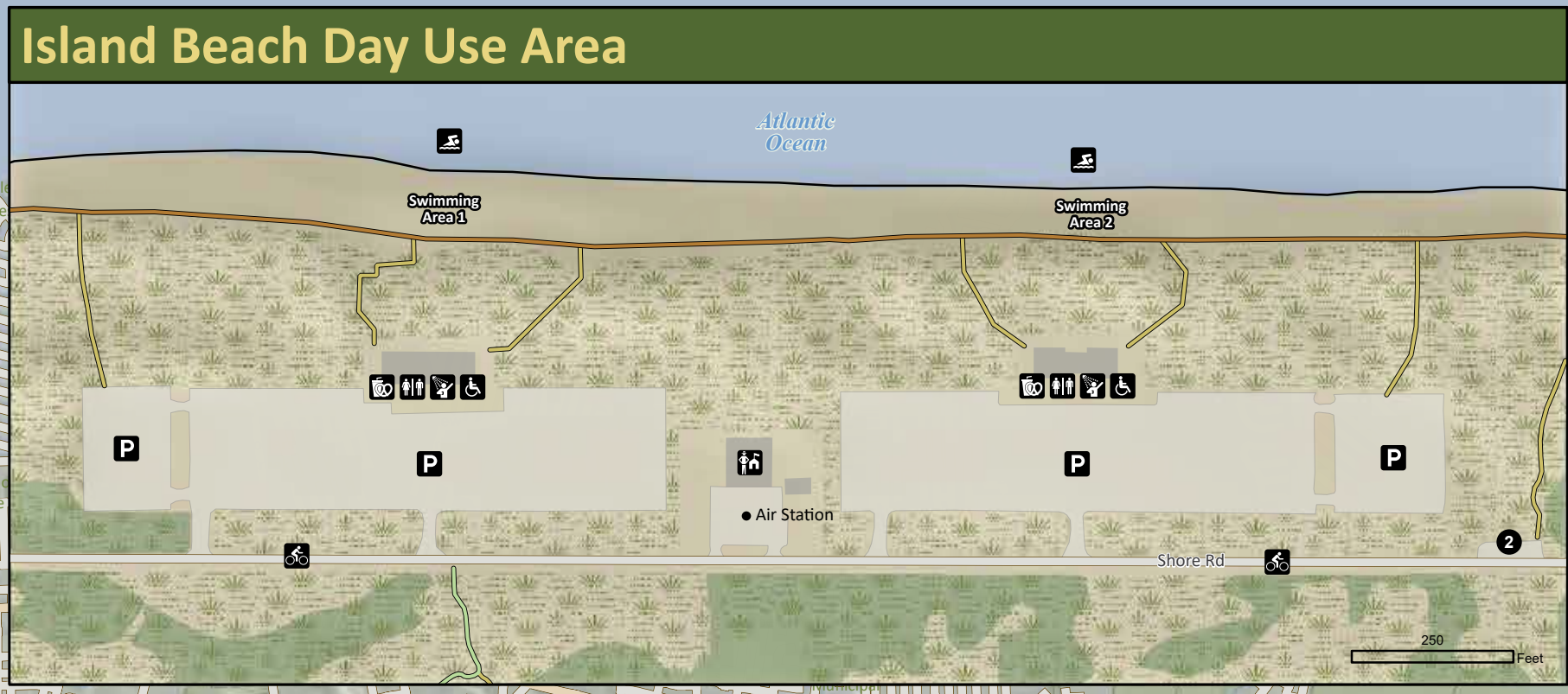
Island Beach State Park



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service



ISLAND BEACH State Park



- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Open Field or Grass | Reed's Road Trail (0.4 mi) | Cranberry Trail (0.1 mi) | Ocean View Trail (7.6 mi) | Accessible Facility | Kayaking | Park Office | Visitor Contact Station (Gatehouse) |
| Developed Area | Coast Guard Station #110 Trail (0.15 mi) | Johnny Allen's Cove Trail (0.4 mi) | Beach Access Path | Bike Trail | Nature Center | Restrooms | Wildlife Viewing |
| Water | Tidal Pond Trail (0.3 mi) | Spizzle Creek Trail (0.8 mi) | | Concession | Parking Area | Outdoor Shower Tower | |
| Wetland | Fisherman's Walkway (0.3 mi) | | | Fishing | Parking Lot | Swimming | |