

## Public Beach Dune Gets a Facelift



In an effort to slow erosion and prevent further shrinking of the public beach parking lot, the Town of Barnstable approved a project that added 5500 cubic yards of sand to the dune along the Bodfish Beach parking lot. This project lasted 3 days with trucks dumping over 200 loads of material on the beach. The dune was severely eroded in the winter of 2012/2013 making the parking lot vulnerable to future winter storms. The project was paid for by the Sandy Neck Enterprise Account with funds coming from user fees not taxpayer dollars. If you are visiting the beach please stay off the newly added dune face to prevent further collapse of the fragile dune.

## Sandy Neck Deer Hunt

Hunting for white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) on Sandy Neck is a long standing tradition. This year the biannual deer lottery hunt was held for archery and primitive firearms hunters. A combined total of 62 hunters participated for their chance to score a Sandy Neck deer. All hunters are required to attend a meeting to check licenses and go over regulations specific to hunting on Sandy Neck. A limit of 12 deer was placed at the beginning of the hunt. Deer populations are managed in the state according to deer density goals established to maintain healthy deer populations in balance with the environment and people. In the end a total of 2 deer were taken from the park. The weather didn't cooperate with hunters, with winter storms and high winds keeping the deer hunkered down, but everyone was thankful for the opportunity to come and participate in the hunt and keep the tradition alive.



## Hunting Season FAQs

**Q:** What do people hunt for on Sandy Neck?

**A:** There are many different species that can be hunted for during the open seasons. Duck, rabbit, pheasant, coyote, fox, deer are a few of the popular game of choice for most hunters.

**Q:** What are some things I can do to stay safe during hunting season?

**A:** Here are a few steps you can take to insure you have a safe enjoyable time while visiting the park in the fall and winter:

**1. Wear blaze orange for visibility.**

Whether you're a hunter, hiker or walking the dog, it's a good idea to wear a cap or vest of highly visible blaze orange clothing while you're enjoying the great outdoors.

**2. Respect other outdoor users.** Mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting and hiking are not mutually exclusive activities. Know the hunting seasons and who is likely to be sharing the woods and waters with you. Keep dogs under control and respect outdoor users' rights to enjoy our open spaces.

**3. Finally, licensed sportsmen and women are reminded to take the basics of hunter safety to heart.** Treat every firearm as it were loaded, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. Positively identify your target and what lies beyond it.



# Arctic Visitors



To the joy to birders, area naturalists, and Sandy Neck staff the annual migration of snowy owls (*Bubo scandiacus*) has once again brought them to Sandy Neck. These amazing birds travel thousands of miles to coastal New England from the arctic tundra to escape the harsh winters. Typically the owls that make the trip are juveniles that haven't developed their hunting skills enough to survive the arctic winter. With a wingspan over 4 feet they are one of the largest owl species in North America and are quite magnificent. Snowy owls have keen eyesight and great hearing, which can help them find prey that is invisible under thick vegetation or snowcover. They are usually spotted during the day at the very end of Sandy Neck and in the marsh, perched on the ground or fence posts, where there is vast open space and plenty of rodents to eat. It's well worth the walk to see these amazing birds.

## Barbara Bell honored

Barbara Bell stepped down after 32+ years as a Sandy Neck board member. Barbara was honored by the Barnstable Town Council during the open meeting on 11/7/2013. Her insight and participation will be missed.

## Pheasant Stocking for Regional Hunters

Pheasant hunters enjoyed a productive season on Sandy Neck. The open season lasted from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> with Sandy Neck staff stocking over 250 birds in the areas between Trails 1 and 2. Over 40% of the stocked birds were reported to the Barnstable Department of Natural Resources as being taken. The pheasants are farm raised in a facility operated by the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. They are stocked on Sandy Neck twice a week during the open season.

## Happy Holidays

Now is the time of year when we get to spend time with our families, appreciating the small things in life, and noticing subtleties in nature. It is also a great time to visit Sandy Neck and notice the small things that sometimes might get passed by when the crowds are in town. So come to the beach with your family or take a walk on the hiking trail, take a deep breath, and be thankful you have a unique place like Sandy Neck to enjoy.

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For the latest Sandy Neck information  
visit the Sandy Neck website at:

[www.town.barnstable.ma.us](http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us)  
(Click on Sandy Neck Beach Park)



Sandy Neck TRACKS is written and compiled  
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noted.

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