

Winter Shows its Ugly Side

The Noreaster “Nemo” that visited us in February 2013 produced winds in excess of 80 mph and dropped over two feet of snow in some parts of Cape Cod. The storm knocked out power to tens of thousands of Cape Cod residents, some for up to two weeks. At Sandy Neck we lost our steps and handicap ramp from the parking lot. The waves also eroded 15-20 feet of dune along the front beach. But we are a resilient bunch here and we didn’t waste time getting our beach back in shape and ready for visitors. After extensive debris removal from the beach and rebuilding the steps and ramp we were back to business in no time.



A backhoe makes some minor adjustments to sand during step rebuilding.

Sandy Neck Ultra Marathon



For the past seven years some dedicated runners have been coming to Sandy Neck in February to compete in the Fat A\$\$ Frozen 50K. In 2013, 22 runners completed the 31 mile course. This year the winner came across the finish line in 4 hours 8 minutes, which was a new course record. If anyone is interested the founders warn saying, “This race is not for wussies”.

Terrapin Release Plans

Barnstable Marine and Environmental Affairs is proud of the positive impacts it is having on the local diamondback terrapin population. Terrapins being headstarted by local schools and community centers are thriving and getting ready for their release. This spring 21 turtles will be released from Sandy Neck into The Great Marsh. Release dates are currently being scheduled. Call the Sandy Neck Gatehouse for more information at 508-362-8300.

Osprey Pole Rebuild

Ospreys generally arrive to their breeding grounds in late March or early April. Pair bonding persists from one year to the next, and the same nest site may be used for many years.



Sandy Neck and Audubon staff worked to repair one of the poles damaged during the extreme winter weather prior to the ospreys arrival. Their nests are generally built within 6 to 7 miles of large lakes or rivers with slow-moving water making The Great Marsh a perfect nesting habitat. Ospreys typically nest at the extreme tip of a tree, snag, or pole with little or no overhead cover. They prefer tall sites that provide good visibility and security. Hopefully the ospreys reward all the hard work with a successful nesting season.

Parking Lot Unearthed



During the blizzard of 1978 part of the lower parking lot was damaged. Subsequently, the broken asphalt was buried for years under the ever-changing sand dunes. Heavy surf and high winds battered the beach this past winter and uncovered parts of the old parking surface from the 1970s. This can be seen from the steps at the public beach. The collapsed asphalt will not be removed because the dunes are so fragile and disturbing the area will cause more of the parking lot to collapse. Wind and tides will naturally repair this dune and cover the unearthed asphalt. Construction of dune fencing is currently underway along the face of the dune which will encourage the deposition of wind blown sand, reduce trampling and protect existing vegetation. Please stay out of these sensitive areas and keep foot traffic on established hiking trails.

Almost Spring Snow!

Many animals that migrate from the south were put on delay to wait for a late season snowstorm that swept through the region depositing several inches on snow in late March. The snow was gone within a few hours but was beautiful while it lasted.

STORM DEBRIS ☹️

All kinds of things wash up on Sandy Neck. If you can imagine it, we find it on the beach. This winter was no exception. The storms deposited so much debris it forced us to close the beach for several days at a time.



Much of the things we found were large pieces of wood covered with nails which could've been trouble for ORVs. Trash by the truckload was hauled off the beach to keep Sandy Neck the picturesque place so many people visit during the spring and summer. Make sure to thank all the staff members for their hard work.

SANDY NECK BEACH PARK

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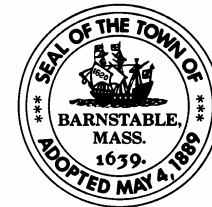
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For the latest Sandy Neck information
visit the Sandy Neck website at:

www.sandyneckbeachpark.com



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All questions and comments are welcome.
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