ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

VISITOR'S GUIDE 2021

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- ✔ FISH
- ✔ KAYAK
- ✔ CLAM
- ✔ HIKE
- ✔ VOLUNTEER
- & MORE

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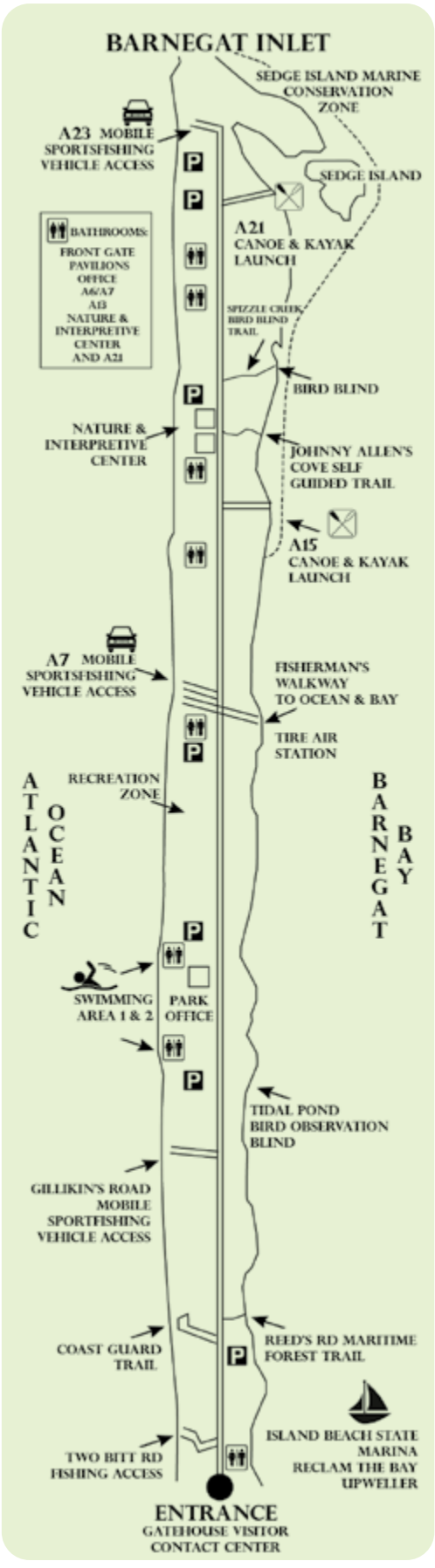

Calendar at a Glance

July

8th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

18th Friends of IBSP Member and Volunteer Meeting

22nd Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

August

5th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

19th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

26th Thursday in the Park (free events and activities)

September

12th Beach Plum Festival

October

2nd Barktoberfest Fall Festival and Pet Expo

November

14th Friends of IBSP Member Meeting

21st Beachgrass Planting

Additional events are listed on
www.friendsofibsp.org/events/
and
www.islandbeachnatureprograms.org

▸ ***Cover Photo - Charles Welch***

WELCOME

Welcome to Island Beach State Park! While the past year had presented many challenges for everyone, the park was always here for you. We are happy to be moving closer to normal, and fully opening our swim area parking.

Once again we will be offering our popular Nature Programs throughout the summer. Included are Surfing Safari, Beginners Surf Fishing Clinic & Sedge Island Kayak Tours.

In addition, keep your eye out for other events throughout the summer and fall.

We maintain our Facebook page almost daily. Here you can find daily weather conditions, water temperature, tides & swimming conditions. We also include information on Park events and other interesting information. Please check us out.

If you're inclined to check the weather real-time, and make sure these is no west wind, which brings those pesky flies, check out the weather station at Swimming Area 1, brought to you by the Friends of Island Beach State Park and OC MATES, at www.wunderground.com/weather/us/nj/berkeley/KNJBERKE13.

The FOIBSP also have 2 live cameras at the park, including at Swimming Area 1 and the Pete McClain Osprey Camera, located just south of the Nature Center. Check out their website for more details: www.friendsofibsp.org.

Whether you are visiting for the first time, re-discovering us or are here all the time, we know you will enjoy your time in this paradise! We thank you for visiting.

Jen Clayton, Superintendent

Charlie Welch, Assistant Superintendent

IBSP – The way life should be

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ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

– Photo by Tamara Ugaro

PLAN YOUR VISIT

SUMMER SEASON	OFF SEASON
(MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY)	(LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY)
Weekdays ..... 8am - 8pm	Everyday ..... 8am - Sunset
Weekend & Holidays ..... 7am - 8pm	

NJ State Park Pass*

Frequent visitors may be interested in purchasing an annual park pass, valid for entrance to all NJ State Parks.

NJ Resident $50
Non-Resident $75

NJ Residents Senior Citizen Pass (62+) FREE

NJ Residents Disability Pass FREE

Pets are permitted in the park, but must be on a leash (maximum length six feet.) They are NOT allowed on the lifeguard beaches during the summer season and NOT allowed on the Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail. (Pets can frighten wildlife.)

Entrance Fees

20' & UNDER

SUMMER SEASON
(MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY)

Weekdays
NJ Resident $6
Non-Resident $12

Weekend | Holidays
NJ Resident $10
Non-Resident $20

OFF SEASON
(LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY)
NJ Resident $5
Non-Resident $10

Motorcycles
NJ Resident $5
Non-Resident $7

Bus**
NJ Group $65
Non-NJ Group $120

***Buses require registration in advance, accompanied by $25 deposit.*

Walk in at Tice's Shoal
$3 per person

Ocean Swimming

Lifeguards are on duty 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Weekends beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 29) and daily from June 19 through Labor Day (September 6). After Labor Day, lifeguards will be on duty Saturdays and Sundays in September. **No swimming permitted after 6 p.m.**

Cycling is permitted in the bike lanes running parallel to the road. All children under 14 must wear helmets.

OUR AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

winter	spring	summer	fall
43° | 23°	62° | 39°	84° | 62°	68° | 45°

**For more information call NJDEP at 1-800-843-6420 or 609-984-0370*
*** For more information on Oversized-vehicles and Weekend/Holiday restrictions call the Park Office (732) 793-0506*

Picnicking
Picnicking is allowed on the ocean beach in the Recreation and Southern Natural Areas. Open fires are permitted 50 feet east of the dune line from parking area 3 south only. No fires or cooking devices of any kind are permitted on the beach in the lifeguard areas during the summer season.

Scuba Diving, Surfing, Wind boarding

Scuba divers must provide valid certification and register at the park office. Surfing and wind boarding are permitted at the south end of the lifeguard area.

Beach Access Vehicles
Vehicle use is restricted to Mobile Sport Fishing Vehicle Permit holders. Permits are sold out for Spring/Summer 2021. Additional permits will be available October 1, 2021 at yourpassnow.com. For information about permit requirements call 732-793-0506.

Air is available at your park office and parking area A6/7.

NJ Resident $195
NJ 3-Day $75

Non-Resident .. $225
Non-NJ 3-Day $90

Island Beach is a carry-in carry-out facility.

Please be kind to the environment

Prohibited
Unauthorized alcoholic beverages, camping, ATVs.

Kayaking
Kayaking opportunities abound along the Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone. Launch along the bay shore at A15 or A21. Beware of tide conditions and potential strong wind in the afternoon. Kayaking is not permitted on the ocean side.

Visitors can park at A15 launch site. At A21 visitors can drive down to the launch to unload kayaks but cannot park there. Visitors must park their car in the oceanside lot by the bathroom/windmill and walk back to launch site.

Bathroom
Bathrooms are located at the gatehouse, park office, both swimming areas, A6, A13, the Nature Center, A19 and A21.

Horseback Riding
Riding is permitted on the southern six miles of ocean beach from October to April. Advance registration is required.

Lost and Found
Lost and Found is located at the Park Office.

Persons with disabilities may obtain specially designed beach wheelchairs for ocean swimming or surf fishing at the bathing pavilion during the swimming season.

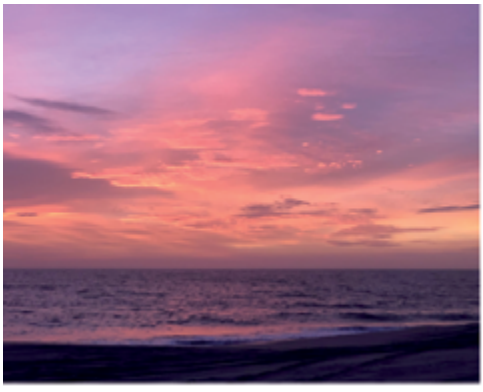
To contact State Park Police, call 1-877-WARNDEP (927-6337)
For emergencies call 911.

Questions? Call the Park office at 732-793-0506

Daily Free Programs

Join park naturalists for some free family fun as you explore the natural wonders of IBSP. Meet at the fish tanks in the pavilion at Swimming Area #1. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free with paid park admission.

- Seining the Barnegat Bay – 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
- Shellfish Gardening 101 – Mondays, 12 p.m., IBSP Marina



2021 Featured Events

Surf Fishing Fridays
8am - 12pm

Sunset Paddle
Wednesdays 7 - 9pm, no saturdays.
Nature Center

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TOURISM

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Volunteering in the Park

Love Island Beach State Park? Want to get more involved? Consider becoming a volunteer! Island Beach State Park relies heavily on it's dedicated team of volunteers throughout the year. Park volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations, but have in common a love for this beautiful State Park. Volunteering in the Park is a truly rewarding experience for all - individuals, families, scouts, students, and corporate groups.

Volunteer Needs Include:

- Trail Maintenance
- Beach Cleanups
- Planting Beach Grass
- Collecting Donations
- Festival/Event Setup and Planning
- Staffing the Nature and Interpretive centers
- Assisting with Educational Programs

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, contact the Friends of ISBP Volunteer Coordinator, Stevie Thorsen - stevie.thorsen@friendsofislandbeach.org.

See you in the Park!

Selling Ice Cream at the Beach Plum Festival

Collecting Donations for Friends of IBSP

Planting Beach Grass

Maintaining Trails

42nd Annual National Meet Car Show

September 11, 2021
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (rain or shine)

The **New Jersey Shore Region of the National Chrysler Products Club** is hosting the **42nd National Meet** in the Toms River area.

The public is invited to attend our judged car show of vehicles manufactured by Chrysler Corporation, from the 1920's to present.

No fee for spectators to view show cars

NOTE THAT THIS EVENT IS TENTATIVE AS OF JUNE. CHECK OUR WEBSITE LATER IN THE SUMMER

Visit our website www.ncpcnjshore.com

for location updates, scheduled activities and information about registering a Chrysler Product vehicle, of any year, for our car show.

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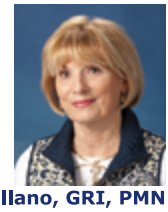

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Photo: Ray Hallgreen

WATCH LIVE!

Two Cameras Live Stream Island Beach State Park to the World

Photo: Tamara Ugaro

Join the thousands of people who tune in for a virtual look at Island Beach State Park. The beach camera, mounted at Swimming Area 1, shows viewers current beach conditions. It is used daily by surfers, fisherman, and beach goers. The Pete McLain Osprey Camera provides a live stream of the osprey nest located near the Interpretive Center. Viewers love to watch Bandit and Bay, our resident osprey, go through their life cycle each year. The osprey return to their nest in March from their wintering grounds in South America and the Caribbean. Osprey mate for life and return to the same nest year after year. Viewers watch the osprey fix up their nest, lay their eggs, and raise their nestlings who eventually fly off in the fall.

The cameras require regular maintenance and can be quite costly. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Friends of IBSP to help keep the camera running.

VIEW OUR CAMERAS

Beach Camera:
www.friendsofibsp.org/live-cams/oba1-beach-cam/
Osprey Camera:
www.friendsofibsp.org/live-cams/osprey-cam/

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Birds and Fishing Line

Fishing line for birds can be deadly. Always dispose of line properly—put monofilament in recycling containers, braided line in trash. It is best to cut all line into short segments, less than six inches long. Thank you for picking up line and hooks left by others.

Rescuing a Bird Caught in Line

Shorebirds and anglers are pursuing different fish, but can be found fishing in common areas. If a bird is hooked or tangled in line, DO NO CUT THE LINE. Slowly real in the bird. Cover the whole bird with a towel, hold the wings folded to the body. Gently hold the head with fingers loosely circling around the neck just underneath the skull. If the bird is weak, injured, or cannot be safely controlled, contact the Park Office (732-793-0506) or find a wildlife rehabilitator from the NJ Fish and Wildlife website. If the bird seems healthy, look to see if there is a hook.

- Push the hook through to cut off the barb, then back the hook out.
- Remove all line, checking under feathers and around legs. If line is imbedded in skin, it will need medical treatment.
- If the bird appears unharmed (feathers and body), release it. If unsure contact the Park Office.

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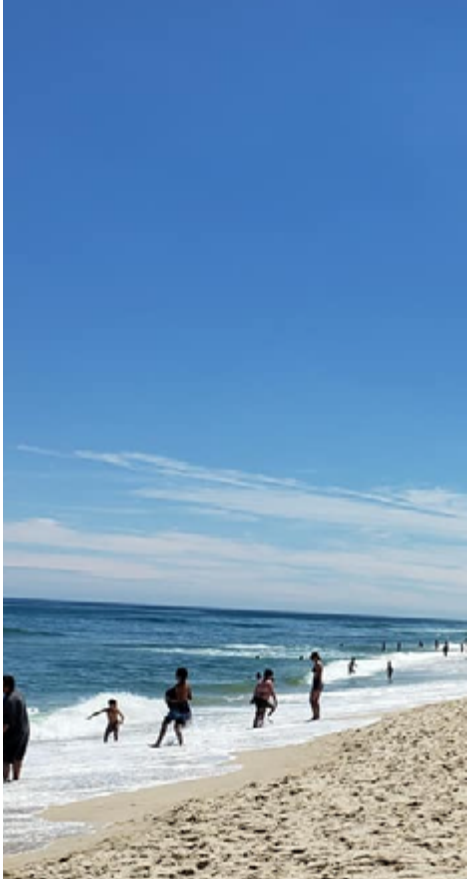

Tamara Ugaro

COME RELAX AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY THAT IS

Tamara Ugaro

Tamara Ugaro

Tamara Ugaro

Island Beach State Park

Tamara Ugaro

Friends of Island Beach helped NJDEP install new signage in Sedge Island Marine Conservation Zone (SIMCZ). The new signs inform and educate visitors when they enter the area and about the importance of protecting New Jersey's only marine conservation zone.

KAYAKING

The Sedges

GPS Points:

1. East entrance to Horsefoot Slough:
   N 39° 47' 08.5", W 74° 06' 27.1"
2. Horsefoot Slough Beach:
   N 39° 47'05.8", W74° 07'00.3"
3. Entrance to Marsh Elder Thoroughfare:
   N 39° 47' 10.7", W 74° 06' 52.1"
4. North entrance to Snake Ditch:
   N 39° 47' 02.9", W 74° 06' 06.5"
5. South entrance to Sea Dog Island:
   N 39° 46' 37.8", W 74° 06' 09.7"

Trails:

- Spizzle Creek Bird Blind Trail (1-2 hours; 1.5 miles)
- Little Bay Trail (2-3 hours; 3 miles)
- Marsh Elder Trail (2-3 hours; 2.5 miles)
- Buster Island Trail (2-3 hours; 3 miles)

Most visitors to Island Beach State Park are unaware that the 1,900 acre Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone (SIMCZ) is located along the southwestern end of the park. This pristine natural area has a variety of shallow, narrow channels carving the saltmarsh into a series of islands that make the area perfect for exploring by kayak. Osprey, Peregrine Falcons and a variety of wading birds make this area an incredible place to view wildlife. While activities such as fishing, crabbing and clamming are permitted, personal watercraft are prohibited in the area.

The SIMCZ is best accessed from launch areas at parking lots A15 and A21. The kayak launch at A21 is an unloading/loading zone only. No vehicles are permitted to park in this area. Paddlers should be aware that strong winds, swift tidal currents and exposed sand bars at low tide can make paddling in some parts of the SIMCZ challenging. Maps showing kayak trails are available at the park office, nature center or by logging on to savebarnegatbay.org. Don't forget to apply sunscreen before you launch and drink plenty of water while you are paddling.

- Jim Merritt,
Sedge Island Program Director

Sign at the Southern entrance to Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone.

Conservation Efforts at IBSP

Along with providing one of the best beaches in NJ, IBSP staff works tirelessly throughout the year to preserve and protect wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and their habitats. To do so, IBSP partners with State, local and nonprofit organizations that provide tools, resources, research and technical assistance to the park. Our current areas of focus include: Red Fox, Piping Plover, and Seabeach Amaranth.

Seabeach Amaranth

2018 – 307 plants **2019 – 1,591 plants**

IBSP and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Land Management Office, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Raritan Valley Community College work together to manage conservation efforts for the threatened plant Seabeach Amaranth. This species grows along the upper beach along with other federally and state endangered species. Intense human activity in this area degrades the habitat and results in the death of many plants. Management strategies are in place to enhance this habitat while supporting recreational use of our beaches. Strategies include installing post and rope fencing, which you will see along most of IBSP's 10-mile shoreline. Look for the "Protecting our Shoreline" brochure or visit ProtectNJDunes.com for more information.

Piping Plover

2018 – 4 pairs, 4 chicks fledged **2019 – 4 pairs, 6 chicks fledged**

IBSP partners with the NJDEP Endangered & Non-game species Program to manage beach nesting birds within the park. Piping plovers are a federally threatened beach nesting bird that also use the upper beach habitat to nest and rear young. Hatchlings are very small, cannot fly and must begin to forage on their own within the first 24 hours of life. Consequently, Federal law mandates that an area around a piping plover nest be closed to vehicle traffic, giving the hatchlings a better chance of survival. I fully believe that the seabeach amaranth conservation efforts had positive impact on piping plover nesting at IBSP.

Red Fox

Population: unknown

In 2016, IBSP had a stable population of red fox. Red fox are opportunistic omnivores, which means they will eat virtually anything they can find. At first glance they resemble a domesticated dog in terms of size and stature but differ greatly in their nutritional needs. Sadly, recent IBSP visitors were feeding the fox. Feeding wild animals encourages them to approach and rely on humans for food. This decreases their ability to hunt and forage on their own and weakens their ability to fight off disease and predators. Over time, the unnatural diet, compromised immune system, and reduced fear of humans caused our stable population to significantly decline.

Starting in 2019, as part of a statewide research project, Rutgers University selected IBSP to study the presence and distribution of beach carnivores. The study confirmed that IBSP still has a fox population, however, since no official population survey has been conducted, the total of fox at IBSP is still unknown. We do know that park Staff and visitors have observed healthy, curious foxes, which appear to still have their natural fear of humans. If you are lucky enough to see them, please observe from a distance and do not feed the fox!

Jen Clayton, Superintendent
Kelly Scott, Resource Interpretive Specialist

Tamara Ugaro

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SEDGE ISLAND CONSERVATION ZONE (SIMCZ)

SIMCZ is located in the southwestern part of the Park. To ensure the vast amount of wildlife has a safe place to live and grow, no commercial activity of any kind is allowed. Also, no personal watercraft (jet skis, wave runners) are allowed. Buoys and signs in the Bay help identify the area for boaters. For a unique opportunity to explore SIMCZ join us for the next Conservation Celebration - June 2022

CLICK HERE for the Sedge Island Brochure

Friends helping install a sign in Sedge Islands Marine Conservation Zone.

The Seals of Island Beach State Park

The waters surrounding Island Beach State Park (IBSP) are frequented by many species of marine mammals throughout the year. From the pods of bottlenose dolphins that can be spotted from the comfort of the beach during the warmer months, to the large whales that can be viewed feeding just offshore, the park provides much-needed pristine habitat for the marine mammals that inhabit the New Jersey Coastline.

The most abundant and perhaps most iconic marine mammals to call IBSP home are the seals. From the fall through late spring, the Park becomes an important haul-out location for the several species of seals that inhabit New Jersey. Harbor seals are the most commonly seen species in the park, oftentimes hauling out in large groups on sand bars. Grey seals and harp seals also frequent IBSP, and hooded seals are occasional visitors to New Jersey waters.

Island Beach State Park provides some of the best viewing opportunities of seals in their natural environment in the state of New Jersey. While it is exciting to see a seal in the wild, it is important that visitors remember to be responsible viewers by giving them plenty of space. Seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, making it against the law to approach, touch, feed or otherwise harass them. If your presence causes the seal to change its behavior, that would be considered harassment. If you are lucky enough to spot a seal, please stay at least 150 feet away and keep your dog leashed. Although seals may look cute, they have very sharp teeth and can deliver a painful bite.

Although they are semi-aquatic animals, is normal behavior for seals to spend time on land. Seals expend a lot of energy foraging for food and avoiding predation, so it is critical for them to be able to haul out on land and rest undisturbed. By using tools such as binoculars, spotting scopes and a telephoto lens, visitors can enjoy viewing opportunities at a distance without disturbing these beautiful animals.

Photos by Scott Longfield

If you are concerned about a seal you think may be sick or injured, or spot any stranded marine mammal or sea turtle, please contact the Marine Mammal Stranding Center directly at (609) 266-0538. The MMSC is the only Federally Authorized Facility in the State of New Jersey that handles strandings of marine mammals and sea turtles.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization formed in 1978 for the purpose of rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick and injured marine mammals and sea turtles, and has responded to over 5600 animals in distress in its 43 year history.

For more information please visit https://mmsc.org/

Michele Pagel
Education Coordinator, Marine Mammal Stranding Center

Greater Atlantic Region

NOAA FISHERIES

SEAL VIEWING GUIDELINES

Seals are federally protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Under this law it is illegal to harass, harm, or disturb a seal's natural behaviors. Seals bite so getting too close can be dangerous as well. If you see a seal, follow NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Seal Viewing Guidelines to keep yourself and the seal safe.

- Stay at least 150 feet away.
- Leave seal pups alone- their mothers may return soon and human interference can cause them to be abandoned.
- Seals bite. Never attempt to touch them and keep pets on leashes when seals are near.
- Keep the area quiet and limit disturbance.
- Do not pour water on or attempt to cover seals.
- Never feed seals- this is illegal and can make the animals sick or dependent on people.
- Do not push seals back into the water, follow seals into the water, or attempt to swim with seals.
- Kayakers and paddleboarders- keep your distance from animals resting on shore. Your quiet vessels may scare the seals and make them return to the water.
- Call for help if seal appears injured or sick.

IN NEW JERSEY CALL MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING CENTER

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Park Bakery	1031, 1047 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
White Oak Market	206 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
Dock Outfitters	5 NJ-35, Seaside Heights

Bar & Restaurants

Klee's Bar & Grill	101 Boulevard, Seaside Heights
Pisces	3400 Hwy 37 East, Toms River
Windjammer	1 st & Central Ave, Seaside Park
Surf Taco	212 NE Central, Seaside Park
Chef Mike's	10 24th, Central Ave, Seaside Park
Bum Rogers Crabhouse	2207 SW Central Ave, Seaside Park

Bait and Tackle

Betty & Nick's	807 SW Central Ave, Seaside Park
Dock Outfitters	5 Route 35 South, Seaside Heights
Grumpy's	906 NE Central Ave, Seaside Park

General Store

Shore and More	5th Ave and Central Ave, Seaside Park
B&B Department Store	500 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park

Hotels / Motels

Windjammer	100 SE Central Ave, Seaside Park
Island Beach Motor Lodge	24th & Central Ave, South Seaside Park
Tradewinds	2000 Grand Central Ave, Lavallette

LET'S BE FRIENDS

To become a member of **Friends of Island Beach**
visit our website **www.friendsofibsp.org**
email at **info@friendsofislandbeach.org**

- Photo by Ray Yeager

FRIENDS OF ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

"WE ARE NOT GUESTS OF THE ISLE, WE ARE FRIENDS OF THE ISLE, AND AS SUCH WE ARE THE KEEPERS OF THE ISLE."
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

The Friends of Island Beach State Park have been serving as a volunteer organization to enhance interpretive, educational, recreational and research programs at the park for over 20 years. So much was accomplished in 2020:

- 60,000 beach grass culms planted
- The May Day and Beach Plum Festivals had record turnouts
- We sponsored the Lifeguard Tournament
- Partnered with POAC to offer a day of fun and surf to the autism community
- Park trails were restored and new split rail fence was added
- Donated equipment and assisted in maintaining the Park's Nature and Interpretive Centers
- Over 5000 volunteer hours in the books!

This year is shaping up to be even more active with events and projects! Come on out and join us for fun in the park.

- Bill Gwyer - Friends of Island Beach State Park

Partners

Save Barnegat Bay
732-830-3600 • www.savebarnegatbay.org

Barnegat Bay Partnership
732-255-0472 • www.barnegatbaypartnership.org

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association
www.jcaa.org

Clean Ocean Action
732-872-0111 • www.cleanoceanaction.org

The American Littoral Society
732-291-0055 • www.littoralsociety.org

New Jersey Audubon Society
732-291-0055 • www.njaudubon.org

Berkeley Striper Club
www.berkeleystriperclub.org

Conserve Wildlife Foundation
609-292-1276
www.ConserveWildlifeNJ.org

New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
www.njbba.org

ReClam the Bay
www.reclamthebay.org

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
www.njsfsc.org

N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife
609-292-2965 • www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw

The Jersey Shore Sea Kayak Association
www.jsska.org

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Located in Island Beach State Park – Swimming Area #1 and #2

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