

Environmental and Pedestrian Access Routes and Areas Proposal (8/10/08)

BODIE ISLAND, OCEAN:

Ramp 1 to 1/4 mile east of Coquina Beach

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs
- Open Ramp 1 to ORVs

Coquina Beach to south 3/4 mile

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- Move Ramp 2 to south end of pedestrian area

Ramp 2 to Ramp 4

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

Ramp 4 to Inlet

- Open to Pedestrians (no ORV route)
- If consistent with existing environmental laws and NPS policies, add parking lot at Ramp 4 east of Highway 12

BODIE ISLAND, SOUND:

- No change from existing status

HATTERAS ISLAND, OCEAN

Rodanthe, Waves, and Salvo to Ramp 23

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs in the off-season (dates to be decided by Villages Subcommittee or NPS)
- Expand parking lot at Ramp 23
- Construct pedestrian boardwalk just north of Ramp 23 so that pedestrians do not have to walk out ORV ramp to get to the beach

Ramp 23 – Ramp 27

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

Ramp 27 – Ramp 30

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- If more “flexibility” is desired, based on an evaluation of bird habitat in the fall of each year, the closure of the same amount of beach to ORVs could be moved the next year in the area between Ramp 23 and Ramp 34
- Construct pedestrian boardwalk at Ramp 30 north of ORV Ramp so that pedestrians do not have to walk out ORV ramp to get to the beach

Ramp 30 – Ramp 34

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

Ramp 34 to Avon Pier

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)

Avon Pier to Ramp 38

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs in the off-season (dates to be decided by Villages Subcommittee or NPS)
- Add additional parking to existing lot
- Construct a boardwalk parallel to HWY 12 from the parking lot to existing pedestrian boardwalk just south of Avon boundary

Ramp 38 to 1/2 mile north of Haulover Day Use Area

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

1/2 mile north of Haulover Day Use Area to _ mile south

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)

1/2 mile south of Haulover Day Use Area to north groin, Buxton

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs
- Construct ramp south of Haulover Day Use Area to allow for ORV use south of Haulover

North groin, Buxton to Ramp 43

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)

Ramp 43 to Ramp 45, including Cape Point

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

Ramp 45 to 1/10 mile east of Ramp 49

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- Increase existing parking at Ramp 45
- Increase parking at Ramp 49

1/10 mile east of Ramp 49 to 200 yards east of Frisco Village

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

200 yards east of Frisco Village to west boundary, Frisco

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)

Frisco Village, west boundary, to Hatteras Village, east boundary

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs in off-season (dates to be decided by Villages Subcommittee or NPS)
- Construct new ramp to allow ORV use between Frisco Village and Hatteras Village

Hatteras Village, east boundary to Ramp 55

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)

Ramp 55 to Hatteras Inlet

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs from Ramp 55 to 1/2 mile east of inlet
- Expand existing parking lot at Ramp 55

HATTERAS ISLAND, SOUND

- Status quo between Salvo Day Use Area and first ramp north of Avon (no increase in intensity, no new spaces or shell/clay, etc.) to protect traditional waterfowl hunting area and cultural values

OCRACOCKE ISLAND, OCEAN

Hatteras Inlet to 1/10 mile west of Ramp 59

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

1/10 mile west of Ramp 59 to 1.3 miles east of Ramp 67

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- Add additional parking to existing lot on ocean side at Pony Pens

1.3 miles east of Ramp 67 to .75 miles west of Ramp 67

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

.75 miles west of Ramp 67 to 1/10 mile west of Ocracoke Day Use Area

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- Add parking on west side of Ocracoke Campground for public (people not camping)

1/10 mile west of Ocracoke Day Use Area to Ramp 72

- Open to pedestrians
- Open to ORVs

Ramp 72 to Ocracoke Inlet

- Open to pedestrians (no ORV route)
- Wilderness Study Area

OCRACOKE ISLAND, SOUND

- Status quo.

All ORV routes are subject to closure to protect breeding and non-breeding birds, sea turtles, seabeach amaranth and other sensitive resources (standards to be developed by NPS or resource management subcommittee) or to protect safety of ORV users and other seashore visitors (standards to be developed by NPS or appropriate subcommittee).

The NPS shall have the authority to initiate rulemaking efforts in the future to modify any designated routes and areas in the event there are major changes in habitat or landscape due to hurricanes, nor'easters, or other natural events. One possible procedure for this evaluation process would be a standing committee of diverse interests that periodically evaluates the existing ORV regulation.

We encourage NPS to work with Dare County, and state and federal agencies to create convenient beach access locations with parking in each of Hatteras Island's villages.

This proposal integrates the environmental and pedestrian access views and addresses the following concerns:

- 1) Providing routes for ORV use where appropriate while protecting environmentally valuable areas from adverse effects of ORV use; and
- 2) Providing for a diverse range of pedestrian recreational opportunities, both in front of the villages and in other locations, including a wilderness study area.

In the event the subcommittee members disagree with the specific route and no-route areas listed above, we hope they will come to the subcommittee meeting with a specific counter-proposal that addresses these two concerns.