Plymouth Long Beach

Plymouth Long Beach is a significant area for breeding Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Common Terns, and Roseate Terns, which are all protected under the state and/or federal endangered species acts. Long Beach is also an important staging area for migratory shorebirds, including the Red Knot, which is protected under both the state and federal laws.

The Town of Plymouth is obligated to protect threatened and endangered species on its properties. Limits on recreational activities to protect shorebirds are required through the Town’s permits that allow off road vehicle (ORV) use on the beach. Unleashed dogs can cause a significant negative impact to the breeding and foraging activities of these species.

Because of the significant number of dogs that continue to be unleashed, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife required the Town to implement a seasonal partial ban on dogs in effect from April 1 through September 30 to avoid a “take” under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. A “take” is defined as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, hound, kill, trap, capture, collect, process, disrupt the nesting, breeding, feeding or migratory activity or attempt to engage in any such conduct”. Locations affected by the seasonal ban are shown on the map inside.

Questions concerning Plymouth Long Beach may be referred to the above office or the offices listed below:
- Board of Selectmen 747-1620 x10106
- Recreation Division 747-1620 x10137
- Conservation Commission 747-1620 x10139
- Parks & Forestry Division 830-4162 x12116

Emergency Procedures
In the event of an emergency please contact on-site personnel (Plymouth Police, lifeguards, Natural Resources Officers and staff, parking attendants). If unavailable, contact the appropriate office below.

- Police Dept 911
  Non-emergency (508)830-4218
- Fire Dept 911
  Non-emergency (508)830-4213
- Harbor Master (508)830-4182, Police Dept, and channel 16 VHF radio
**Year Round Dog Access**

**Location:** Includes Plymouth Beach Parking Lot, and Manter’s Point northerly to the Day Parking Area.

**Permitted Activities:**
Leashed dogs (see Bylaw 23-4 at right) that are effectively restrained by their owners are allowed year round in all areas, including the beach, road and harborside, except areas closed for shorebird nesting and protection of fragile areas.

**Seasonal Dog Access**

**Location:** Includes Town properties north of the Day Parking Area to the point of Long Beach.

**Permitted Activities:**
Leashed dogs (see Bylaw 23-4 at right) are allowed October 1 through March 31. No dogs allowed April 1 through September 30.

**Violations**

Under the PLB Management Plan, violations, including violations of the seasonal partial ban and/or leash law, may result in the following penalties:

- First offense: Warning
- Second offense: $50
- Third offense: $100 & revocation of Long Beach 4x4 Sticker

**Dog-related Town Bylaws**

**Chapter 30 Beaches & Parks**

**30-3. Domestic Animals**

All domestic animals on public beaches or parks shall be under control at all times. Dogs are to be leashed and their waste removed and disposed of in accordance with Chapter 23, Dog Control, 23-4 & 23-14.

Penalties: First offense $25, Second offense $50, Third & subsequent offense $100

**Chapter 23 Animals, Article 1: Dog Control**

**23-4. Leash Required; Penalties**

A. No dog shall be permitted in any street or public place unless it is accompanied by an owner, keeper or other responsible person and effectively restrained by a chain or leash not exceeding six feet in length, 24 hours per day.

B. Whoever violates this section shall be fined as follows: First offense $25, Second offense $50, Successing offense $75

**23-14. Waste Removal**

A. It shall be the duty of each person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any feces left by his/her dog on any sidewalk, street, park or other public area.

D. Violation of this regulation shall be punished by a fine of $50 for each occurrence.