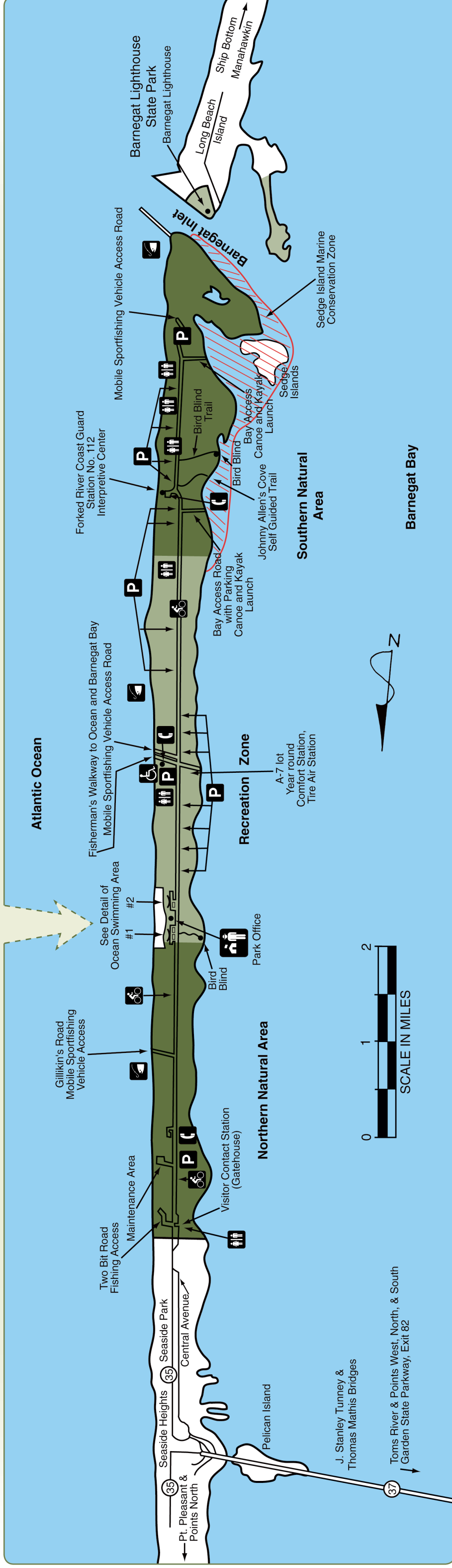
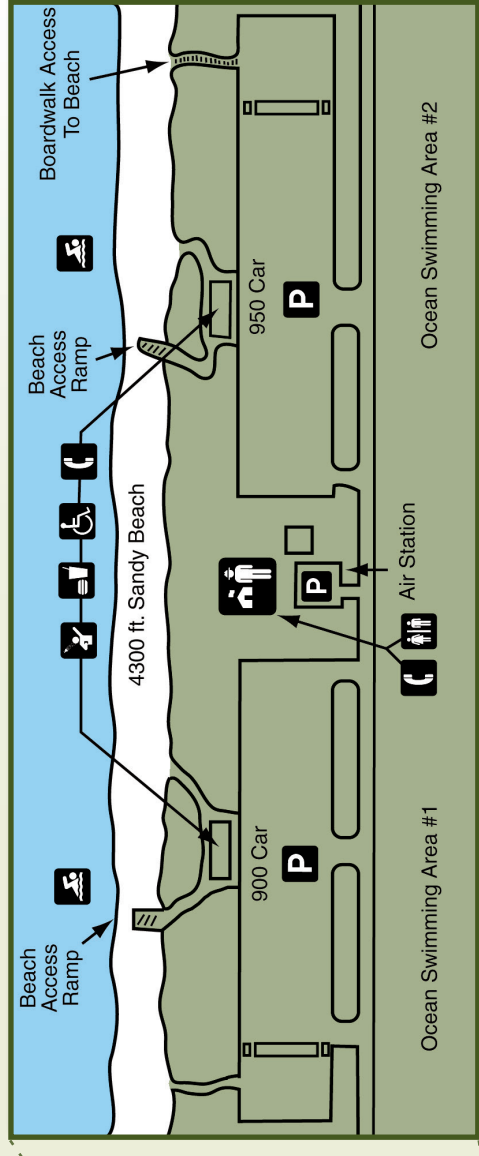


ISLAND BEACH State Park

Detail of Ocean Swimming Areas

LEGEND

	Park Office		Natural Area
	Parking		Shower/Changing Rooms
	Restrooms		Concession
	Fishing		Swimming
			Handicapped Accessible
			Telephone
			Bike Trail Bike Trail runs along both sides of the 8.5 mile road.





Barrier Beach - Island Beach is one of the few undeveloped barrier beaches on the Atlantic coast. It has one of New Jersey's largest osprey colonies, in addition to many other species of waterfowl, shorebirds and migratory birds. Today's maritime vegetation is the same as it was hundreds of years ago. To accommodate recreation and to protect this natural vegetation, the park is divided into three management zones: the Northern Natural Area, the central recreation zone and the Southern Natural Area. The two natural areas contain 1,900 acres of sand dunes with coastal dune communities, tidal marshes, freshwater wetlands, designated trails and more than 200 species of plants. Public access to the Northern Natural Area is limited to the ocean beach for fishing and walking. Picnicking, sunbathing and fishing activities are allowed on the ocean beaches of the Southern Natural Area. Nature study is permitted throughout the park. Sand dunes are one of the park's most precious resources.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Island Beach opened as a state park in 1959.

Island Beach State Park is a narrow barrier beach stretching for nearly 10 miles between the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay. This unique environment provides a variety of habitats for a multitude of maritime plants and wildlife. Barnegat Lighthouse can be seen across the inlet from the southernmost point of Island Beach. Park visitors can enjoy the 3,000 acres of sandy beaches, maritime forest, tidal marshes and dunes.

HISTORY

Island Beach has a rich and varied history. In 1635, Charles I of England granted a parcel of land, including Island Beach, to the first Earl of Stirling. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was inhabited by fishermen, who built shacks from driftwood, and by members of the U.S. Lifesaving Service.

Steel magnate Henry C. Phipps, a partner of Andrew Carnegie, bought the land in 1926 with visions of turning it into an exclusive seashore resort. Only three large, expensive homes – the Ocean House, Bay House and Freeman House – were built before the stock market crash of 1929 brought an end to construction.

After the stock market crash, the area became the Borough of Island Beach. During World War II, the US Army and Johns Hopkins University used the area for experimental work in anti-aircraft rocketry. A supersonic ramjet rocket made its first successful flight at Island Beach in 1945. In 1953, the State of New Jersey purchased the 2,694-acre Phipps estate and additional land to preserve the natural beauty of the island and provide recreation for swimmers, hikers, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

INTRODUCTION

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protecting the park and mainland from storm-driven waves and tides. Visitors must stay off the sand dunes and should not disturb the vegetation.

The Barnegat Bay side of the island is a nutrient-rich feeding ground for birds, fish and other wildlife. Kayak trips through the tidal marshes are conducted during the summer season. Canoe and kayak access is available at Areas 15 and 21. Participants may see a variety of wildlife including nesting osprey, falcons and wading birds. Bird observation blinds provide views of Barnegat Bay tidal marshes at Area 20 and at Ocean Swimming Area 1.

Interpretive Program - Island Beach State Park's natural sand dune formations and relatively undisturbed vegetation create a natural classroom for the study of a barrier beach. In addition to the kayak tours, the park's interpretive program reveals the natural history of the island through walking tours and activities scheduled daily in the summer and on selected weekends.

Interpretive facilities include the Nature Interpretive Center, the Interpretive Station at Ocean Swimming Area 1 and the Forked River Coast Guard Station No. 112 Interpretive Center. These facilities offer scheduled activities as well as general information about the park. Self-guided trails with exhibits are located at the Nature Interpretive Center, Area 7; at Tice's Shoal, Area 13; at Johnny Allen's Cove, and at the bird blinds at Area 20 and Ocean Swimming Area 1.

Bicycling and Horseback Riding
A designated bicycle path is located along more than 8 miles of the main road. Six miles of ocean beach in the southern and central portions of the park are available for equestrian use from October 1 through April 30. A parking area is designated for horse trailers during this time period. There are no horse rental facilities in or near the park. Please contact the park office for further information.

Although tables and grills are not available at the park, visitors may enjoy picnicking on the ocean beach. Grills or beach fires are permitted on the beach south of the designated swimming area. Fires must be at least 50 feet east of the dunes and picnickers are asked to extinguish their fires and remove charcoal from the sand before leaving the beach. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in state parks.

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Approximately one mile of designated ocean swimming beach is located in the central portion of the park. From mid-June through Labor Day, this beach is staffed with lifeguards. Nearby are parking areas and facilities with showers, changing areas, first-aid stations, food and beach supply concessions and the interpretive station at Ocean Swimming Area 1. For the safety of swimmers, inner tubes, rafts and other flotation devices are not permitted.

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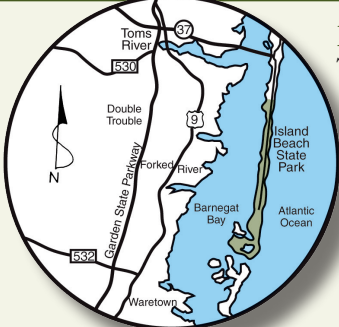


Fishing
Island Beach State Park is popular among saltwater anglers who surf fish for striped bass and bluefish, as well as summer flounder (fluke), weakfish and kingfish. During the appropriate season, fishing for tautog (blackfish) along the north jetty of Barnegat Inlet is especially rewarding. Bait and fishing information may be obtained at local tackle dealers before entering the park. Saltwater fishing is subject to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and State Park Service regulations, which can be found in the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest - also available at local tackle dealers. Further information about special permits to operate four-wheel-drive mobile sportfishing vehicles on the fishing beaches may be obtained at the Visitor Contact Station at the park entrance. Fishing is not permitted in the designated swimming areas from May 15 through October 15.



Windsurfing and Surfing
Portions of the ocean beach at the extreme southern end of Ocean Swimming Area 2 are designated for windsurfing and surfing. For more information, contact the park office or ask the lifeguards on duty.

Scuba Diving
Scuba diving and underwater fishing are permitted along 2.5 miles of ocean beach just north of Barnegat Inlet. Scuba divers must register at the park office prior to their first dive each year. Proof of current diving certification is required. Spear and underwater fishing are subject to New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife regulations. Diving in Barnegat Inlet is permitted and subject to New Jersey Boating Commission Special Regulations.



Directions:
Take Route 37 east to Route 35 south to the park entrance.

Access for Persons with Disabilities
Island Beach State Park facilities are partially accessible for people with disabilities. The Fisherman's Walkway is a boardwalk that provides access to both the ocean and bay at parking Area 7. Beach wheelchairs for the ocean swimming area, and beach wheelchairs that have been specially fitted for surf fishing are available at the pavilions during the swimming season and at the park office during the remainder of the year. Contact the park office for further information regarding disability access. Text telephone users can call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.

The Carry In/Carry Out program helps to eliminate trash by encouraging visitors to be good stewards by placing their trash in bags provided throughout the site and taking it home for proper disposal.

Pets are not permitted on designated swimming beach areas or inside buildings and must be caged or restrained by leash (maximum 6-foot length) at all times.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity 24 hours a day call 1-800-WARN-DEP.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

For Further Information:
Island Beach State Park
P.O. Box 37
Seaside Park, NJ 08752
Telephone: (732) 793-0506
www.njparksandforests.org

Island Beach State Park



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service