

**Press Release re: Duxbury Beach  
Duxbury, MA 02332  
May 14, 2015**

***For Immediate Release***

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**Duxbury Beach – Piping Plover Update**

In keeping with the commitment made by the Town Manager to the public with regard to sharing information pertaining to the presence of Piping Plover on Duxbury Beach, the Town of Duxbury is providing periodic updates on the status of nesting pairs currently inhabiting the beach and the potential impacts that may be experienced by beach patrons. This information is being provided by the Endangered Species Officer in conjunction with the Duxbury Harbormaster's office.

In 2014, there were a total of 26 nesting pairs of Piping Plover on Duxbury Beach and 17 nesting pairs the prior year. For purposes of comparison, there were 19 plover nests on the beach at this same time last year. As of May 14, 2015, there are now 15-16 established pairs on the beach in a number of areas with a total count of 12 nests. It is expected that the eggs in the nests should begin hatching in late May or early June. Since these are wild birds in an open and often unpredictable natural environment, it is important to keep in mind that these numbers and estimated hatch dates could all change at any given time. As of this date there are no nests directly impacting access over the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> crossover beach access ramps.

As has been done in the past, if any nests hatch within the Off Road Vehicle (ORV) corridor (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> crossovers), bayside areas adjacent to the ORV corridor, Pedestrian Beach (Northern & Southern Resident Beach), Duxbury Beach Park, or any other areas of Duxbury Beach, access will be restricted as mandated by state and Federal law and the Duxbury Beach Management Plan.

Areas restricted to Motor Vehicles and Pedestrians (with or without pets) will be fenced off as they have been in the past with orange string and posts, along with "Area Closed" signage. Back road areas adjacent to these closures may also be posted with speed limits not to exceed 5 MPH in accordance with the Duxbury Beach Management Plan. In prior years, the maximum 500 vehicle count (250 non-resident vehicles and 250 resident vehicles) has been periodically reduced as the affected ORV corridor can be restricted due to unfledged piping plover chicks.

Please appreciate that these are wild animals and are unpredictable. **We are committed to doing the very best we can to enable safe and appropriate access to occur.**

In the past, non-resident access has been limited between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. until approximately 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. Once limitations on the beach are in place as a result of the presence of Piping Plovers and higher demand for access is created as a result of warmer weather and summer holiday weekends, earlier arrival times by beach patrons may help to ensure access (i.e., in advance of 9:00 a.m. noted above). We hope that this information will help to illustrate the importance of arriving early since access is provided on a first come, first served basis and can matter greatly if the weather is favorable for beach-going conditions.

This information will be updated if conditions change or as new information becomes available. For further information about Duxbury Beach, please visit the Town of Duxbury Harbormaster's website at: <http://www.duxburyharbormaster.org> or call (781) 934-2866 Ext. 5 for beach information. The most up-to-date information pertaining to beach conditions including restrictions and access limitations may be found by following the Duxbury Harbormaster's Twitter feed at [https://twitter.com/Dux\\_HM](https://twitter.com/Dux_HM)