

How You Can Help

- Keep your dog leashed on the beach during nesting season and be aware of Restricted Areas, staked and twined nesting areas, and leash laws. More information for dog owners is available on the back of this brochure.
- Keep away from staked and twined nesting areas. Dog owners must keep their dogs 200 feet away from fencing to avoid disturbing nesting birds and chicks.
- Kite flying, kite surfing, and parasailing are not allowed within 650 feet of a nesting or territorial adult or juvenile piping plover.
- Discharging fireworks is not allowed on any Town beach.
- Use the blue trash receptacles provided in the public parking lots. Help keep Scarborough's beaches, parking lots, and roads clean.
- Homeowners and renters with cats should keep their pets indoors or add a bell the cat's collar during nesting season (April - October).

Seaweed, Stake and Twine, and Nesting Plovers

You may notice a lot of seaweed around nest enclosures and in the Restricted Areas of the beach. These areas are not raked to so it's easier for plovers to find food and so they have areas in which to hide. Natural areas like these are important for nesting plovers and young birds. Because plover chicks cannot fly for the first month of their life, areas of seaweed and debris keep them safer as they travel less looking for food and cover.



Maine Audubon
Maine Audubon staff mark piping plover nesting areas with stake and twine.



Maine Audubon
Piping plover chick looking for food.

Information for Dog Owners

April 1st - Labor Day: Look for posted signs on beach indicating Restricted Areas for dogs with separate time restrictions.

May 15 - Labor Day: Non-Restricted Areas

- Dawn - 9AM: Voice & Sight Control
- 9AM - 5PM: Prohibited on Beaches
- 5PM - Dusk: Allowed on Leash
- Dusk - Dawn: Prohibited

After Labor Day - May 14th:

- 1PM - 3PM: On leash
- Allowed off leash at all other times

Please Note Signs on the Beach

The signs below will be posted at beach access points and on the beach to help beachgoers understand when and where dogs are allowed.

Restricted Areas: All of Scarborough's public beaches have areas where dog access is restricted.

Pine Point: Dogs are allowed on leash in the Restricted Area from dawn - 9:00 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m.- dusk.

Higgins & Ferry/Western Beaches: Dogs are not allowed in the Restricted Area.



Sharing the Beach with Shorebirds



Jim Fenton

Piping plover and chick.

Maine provides important habitat to many different shorebirds, including plovers, sandpipers, turnstones, knots, dowitchers, whimbrels, and phalaropes. Scarborough's beaches are home to several pairs of endangered piping plovers (pictured above) and endangered least terns. In fact, the piping plover is Scarborough's official town bird!

Piping plovers nest in front of sand dunes on the upper beach. They are vulnerable to natural predators, roaming pets, storms, and human disturbance. Historically, Maine has had more than 30 miles of nesting beaches that may have supported more than 200 pairs of piping plovers. Today, because of development around Maine's beaches, the shoreline habitat for nesting piping plovers has been reduced by 75%. In 2022, there were 141 pairs in the state, from Ogunquit to Georgetown.



Maine Audubon
Piping plover eggs in a nest.

Town of Scarborough, Maine
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Higgins Beach

Private with Public Access

Restricted Areas: April 1 to Labor Day - NO DOGS ALLOWED from Champion Street to the Spurwink River. Look for posted **RED** signs indicating Restricted Areas for dogs. **The boundary of the Restricted Area extends to the low water mark of the beach.** Please see posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.



Higgins Beach Information: The State of Maine owns a section of the restricted area at Higgins Beach that is used for wildlife management. This area is vital habitat for some endangered species and for migratory shorebirds.

Non-Restricted Areas: Responsible party must have a leash in hand or attached to dog (12' or less in length). All pet waste must be removed. Leashing dogs when chicks are present on the beach is strongly recommended. Please see the posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.

Be aware of stake and twine areas or fenced enclosures around nests. Juvenile plovers cannot fly and rely on these areas for protection. **Dogs must be leashed and kept 200 feet from nest enclosures.**

Ferry/Western Beach

Public & Private with Public Access

Restricted Areas: April 1 to Labor Day - NO DOGS ALLOWED from south end of parking lot south to Ferry Rock and all of Western Beach. Look for posted **RED** signs indicating Restricted Areas for dogs. **The boundary of the Restricted Area extends to the low water mark of the beach.** Please see posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.



Western Beach Information: The beach area south of the municipal parking lot at Ferry Beach is restricted by agreement between its owner and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Dogs are not permitted on this part of the beach from April 1-September 30.

Non-Restricted Areas: Responsible party must have a leash in hand or attached to dog (12' or less in length). All pet waste must be removed. Leashing dogs when chicks are present on the beach is strongly recommended. Please see posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.

Be aware of stake and twine areas or fenced enclosures around nests. Juvenile plovers cannot fly and rely on these areas for protection. **Dogs must be leashed and kept 200 feet from nest enclosures.**

Pine Point Beach

Public & Private with Public Access

Restricted Areas: April 1 to Labor Day - DOGS ON LEASH ONLY when allowed on beach (Dawn - 9AM and 5PM - Dusk) from Hurd Park lot north to the Scarborough River. Look for posted **RED** signs indicating Restricted Areas for dogs. **The boundary of the Restricted Area extends to the low water mark of the beach.** Please see posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.



Non-Restricted Areas: Responsible party must have a leash in hand or attached to dog (12' or less in length). All pet waste must be removed. Leashing dogs when chicks are present on the beach is strongly recommended. Please see posted signs for hours dogs are allowed on beaches.

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