This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Follow these guidelines for a fun and safe visit.

The following activities are permitted. Note specific restrictions.

Wildlife observation, interpretation, photography and hiking.
Enjoy year-round on marked trails.

Boats
Permitted to land on designated areas on Toms Cove Hook from September 1 through March 14 or as otherwise posted. Refuge impoundments are closed to all boats and flotation devices.

Bicycles
Permitted on trails and roads unless otherwise posted.

Fishing/crabbing/shell fishing
Permitted in designated areas of Toms Cove. Fishing and crabbing are permitted in designated areas of Swan Cove adjacent to Toms Cove. State fishing license is not required; however, state regulations and creel limits are enforced. Traps, pots, and handlines must be attended at all times.

Surf Fishing
A saltwater license is not required for surf fishing on the refuge. Fishing is prohibited on life guarded beaches. An overnight fishing permit is required to stay after hours. Inquire at the Toms Cove Visitor Center.

Swimming
Permitted along the oceanfront and in designated areas of Toms Cove.

Horseback Riding
Horseback riding is only permitted in the Off-Road Vehicle Zone.

Mopeds and Motorized Scooters
Permitted on Beach Road only.

Off-Road vehicle use
Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Zones are posted and maps are available at the Chincoteague Refuge Visitor Center and Toms Cove Visitor Center. A fee is charged for all permits. Vehicle specifications and equipment requirements are strictly enforced. Limits are placed on the number of vehicles allowed on the beach at any one time. Temporary closures occur due to public safety and wildlife concerns.

The following activities are prohibited.

Fires/Fireworks
Open fires are prohibited except as authorized by special beach party permits which are available from the National Park Service, Assateague Island National Seashore, at Toms Cove Visitor Center. Possession or discharge of fireworks or explosive devices is prohibited.

Skateboards/roller skates/in-line skates
Use prohibited on refuge.

Camping
Prohibited on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Permits for back country sites in Maryland are available from the National Park Service, Assateague Island National Seashore, at Toms Cove Visitor Center.

Firearms and weapons
Prohibited on the refuge except during designated hunts.

Pets
Prohibited, even in your vehicle.

Alcohol
Use of alcohol beverages is prohibited. Entering or remaining on the refuge while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances is prohibited.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
8231 Beach Road
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336-0062
757/336 6122
757/336 5273 Fax
1 800/828 1120 TDD
1 800/828 1140 voice
email: FW5RW_CNWR@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/northeast/chinco

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
http://www.fws.gov

June 2011

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chincoteague
National Wildlife Refuge

Trail Map

Great Egret
© Mark Wilson

Welcome to hincoteague National Wildlife Refuge...where people and wildlife meet. The refuge includes more than 14,000 acres of beach, dunes, marsh and maritime forest. Within a wor$da0 1s access to millions of people, hincoteague refuge is one of the most visited refuges in the ˇ nited States, providing visitors with outstanding opportunities to learn about and en#0 wildlands and wildlife.

Disturbing or collecting plants and animals (dead or alive), or artifacts
Strictly prohibited. Leave the area as you found it for others to enjoy. Please limit the number of unoccupied shells collected to one gallon or less/person/day. Shells collected may not be sold or otherwise used for commercial purposes.

Feeding or harassing wildlife
Strictly prohibited. Feeding animals causes them to lose their fear of humans and makes them more vulnerable to vehicular traffic. Human food also causes digestive problems. Please help keep the animals healthy and safe.

Special Events
Earth Da0
April

International Migrator0 Bird elebration
May

National Fishing Wee$
June

Beach leanup
September

National Wildlife Refuge Wee$
October

Waterfowl Wee$
November

Safety
Protect yourself from ticks and mosquitoes, they may carry disease. To avoid tick bites and mosquitoes: stay on trails; use repellent; wear long sleeve shirts and long pants while exploring the area; and, inspect yourself carefully.

Raccoons, horses and other mammals on the refuge may carry rabies. Enjoy all wildlife from a distance, especially if they seem friendly.

Poison ivy is abundant on the refuge. Please stay on refuge trails to avoid contact.

Horses, although they appear tame, are wild animals and may kick or bite without warning.

Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center
Hours vary by season.

Tom's Cove Visitor Center
Hours vary by season.

Refuge Auditorium
Program schedule available

Wildlife Loop *ı3.2 miles*ˇ
Walking and bicycling. Open 3:00 pm to dusk to vehicles

Woodland Trail *ı1.6 miles*ˇ
Walking and bicycling

Lighthouse Trail *ı0.2 miles*ˇ
Walking

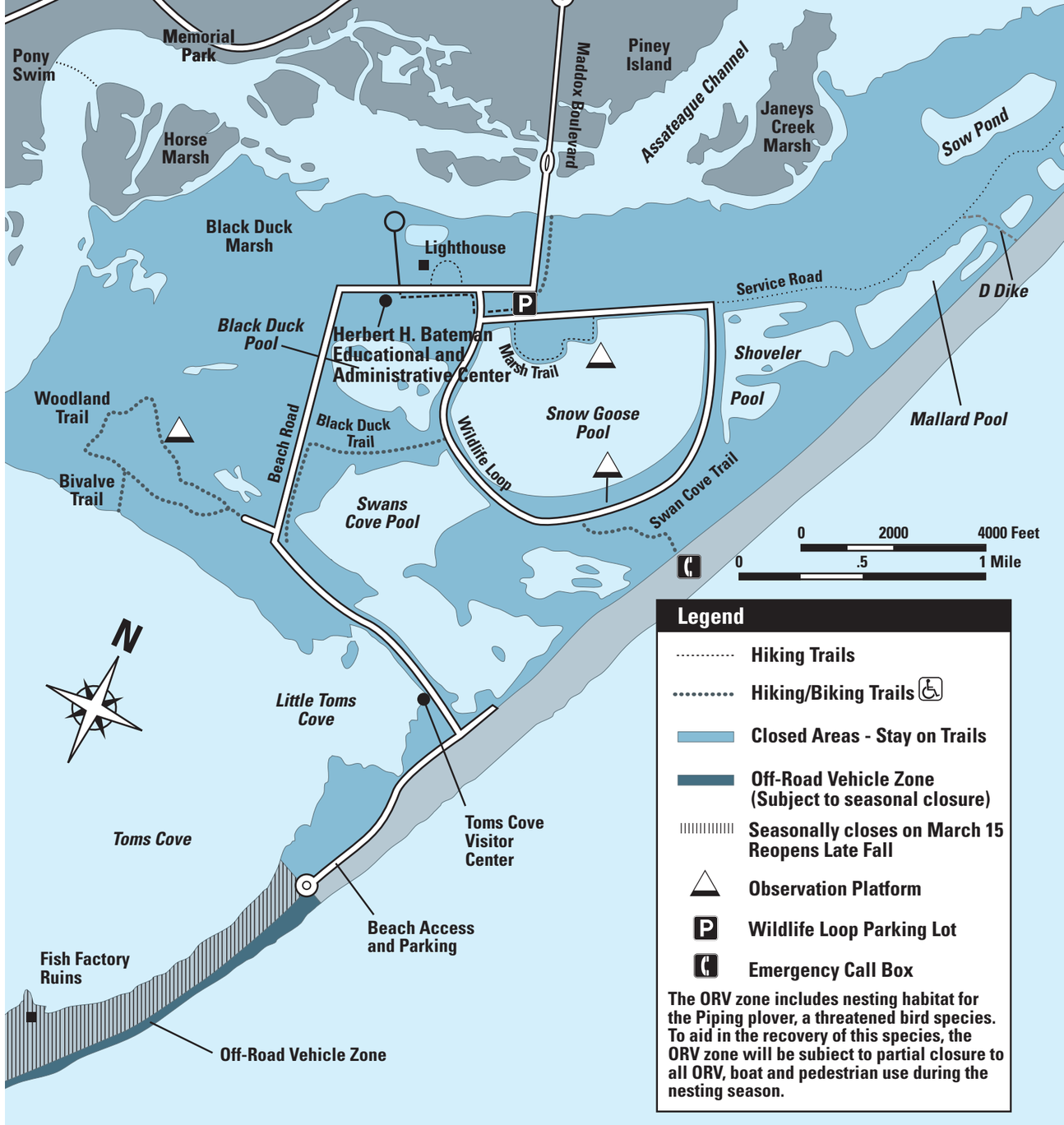
Marsh Trail *ı0. miles*ˇ
Walking

Black Duck Trail *ı1 mile*ˇ
Walking and bicycling

Swan Cove Trail *ı0. miles*ˇ
Walking and bicycling

Bivalve Trail *ı0.2 miles*ˇ
Walking

Refuge Hours
Hours vary by season, open year-round.

For additional information about the refuge, contact:

Refuge Manager
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 62
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757/336 6122
FAX: 757/336 5273
email: FW5RW_CNWR@fws.gov
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