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 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 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 Chincoteague 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 workday's access to millions of people, Chincoteague refuge is one of the most visited refuges in the United States, providing visitors with outstanding opportunities to learn about and enjoy 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 Day
April

International Migratory Bird Celebration
May

National Fishing Week
June

Beach Cleanup
September

National Wildlife Refuge Week
October

Waterfowl Week
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 *3.2 miles*
Walking and bicycling. Open 3:00 pm to dusk to vehicles

Woodland Trail *1.6 miles*
Walking and bicycling

Lighthouse Trail *0.25 miles*
Walking

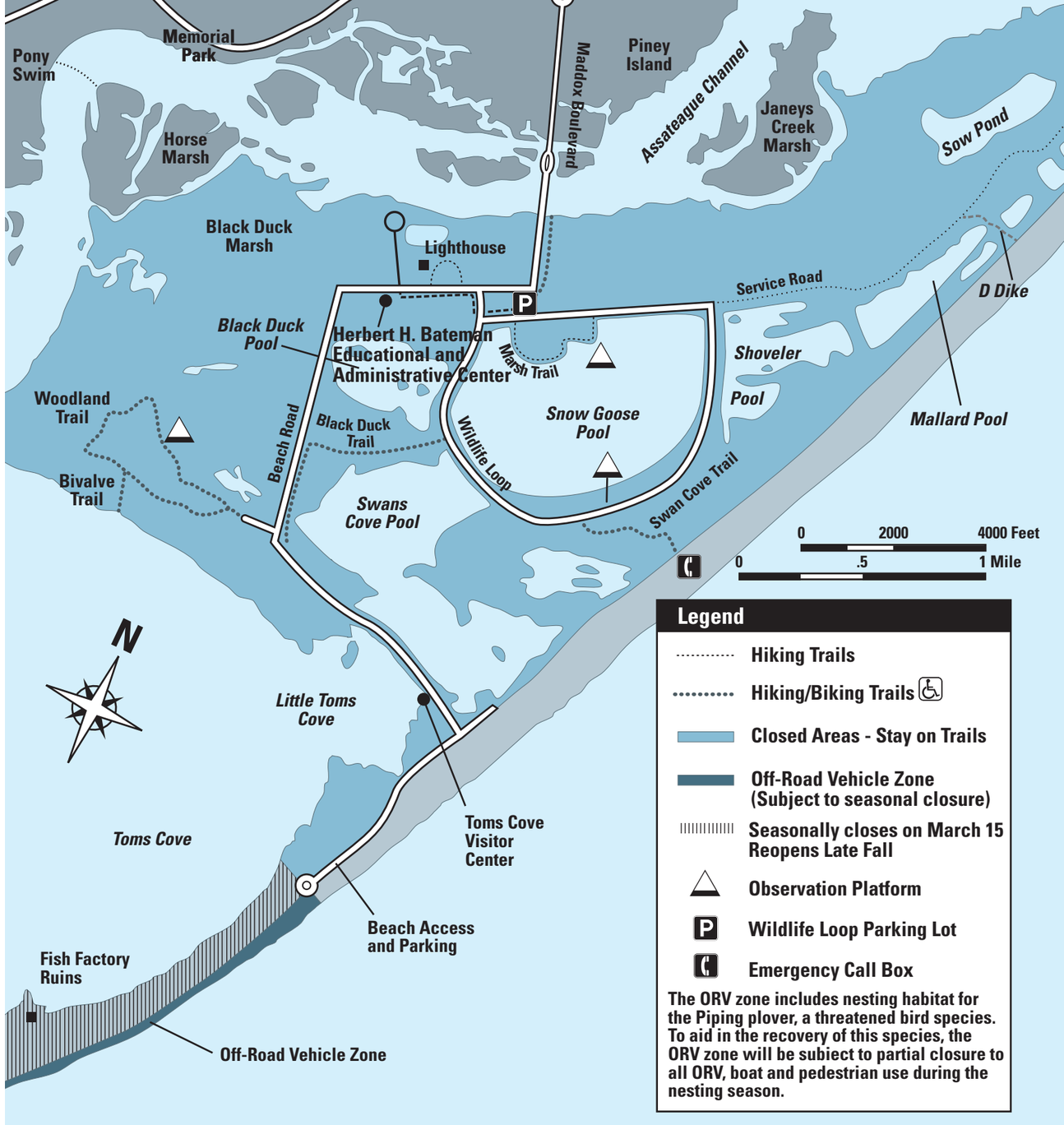
Marsh Trail *0.5 miles*
Walking

Black Duck Trail *1 mile*
Walking and bicycling

Swan Cove Trail *0.5 miles*
Walking and bicycling

Bivalve Trail *0.25 miles*
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
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