

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Kenny Ballance](#)
Cc: [Paul Stevens](#)
Subject: Ocracoke soundside access
Date: 06/17/2010 11:36 AM
Attachments: [Map 1.Ocracoke soundside access.pdf](#)
[Map 2.Ocracoke Village shoreline access.pdf](#)

Kenny,

Would you please look at the attached maps that identify places to check out for potential soundside access near the south end of the island.

Map 1 (possible ORV routes): Map 1 shows two locations south of Ramp 72 that may be potential ORV route/pedestrian trail access points. Please check them out on the ground to see if either looks like a real possibility. In general, we would want to allow ORV access as far as we could allow it toward the sound at these sites, but we would want to avoid wetlands too. In other words, the ORV route would terminate at the edge of the wetland, then a pedestrian trail would continue from that point (similar to what occurs at Shirley's Lane. It shows two possible routes (RED lines/arrows), as follows:

A. For the northern route (off of the old section of South Point Road), please walk the route and see how far we could create an ORV route that would not run into wetland issues. It is okay if we need to do some woody vegetation clearing (as long as it is not wetland vegetation). In general, woody vegetation is a sign of higher ground, which may make a route possible. It would help if you could take GPS readings along the route from where it leaves South Point Road, follows the old route, then leaves the old route and heads toward the sound, until you reach any wetlands that would require the ORV route to end and a foot-trail to begin. Perhaps you could get RM staff to go with you to take the GPS readings, so the GIS staff can map the route? (See similar comment below about GPS'ing the route). Please walk to the shoreline to see if it would be a good area for recreational access (e.g, is it sandy? mucky? etc.). Even if an ORV route is possible part-way there, if the shoreline is not a good spot for wading, crabbing, etc. then we probably should not make a route to take people there.

B. The southern site, which appears to be within the current resource closure, has already been identified in alternative F. I'd like to verify how far a person could drive toward the sound there before encountering wetlands, so we can fine tune our description of the site for the FEIS. You should probably coordinate with RM staff about entering the area, so you don't disturb birds unnecessarily. Maybe they could walk it with you and take GPS readings along the way. It would help me to know how far from the ocean shoreline one could drive toward the sound, as long as the route remains on higher ground until the route would need to end due to wetland issues. If RM took GPS readings then the GIS staff could map that route for me.

Map 2 (possible pedestrian access within the village): Within the village, there appears to be plenty of sandy shoreline. Is any of it accessible to the public? Would it be used more if people know they could use it? These areas are generally outside the park boundary, not our responsibility to manage or create new access points, etc., but since there is visitor interest in soundside access near the south end of the island, maybe we could develop a site bulletin that the VC and businesses could give to visitors to identify soundside access both in and outside of the park. The question

about the village shoreline sites is whether or not any of these locations are appropriate for public access. If some of these areas are indeed already open to the public, then letting people know where they are would be good. If some of the locations would make good public access points, but have issues to resolve (such as access restricted by private property, lack of parking, etc.), then maybe the community could consider working on making public access possible to some of the shoreline sites.

I know you are busy and don't want to burden you with additional tasks this time of year. In terms of priority, it would help me to get your feedback and GPS points taken for Map 1 in the next few weeks, in case we want to fine tune the description of any of the designated ORV routes in the EIS (i.e., if either of those routes is viable, then we'll need to identify them in the plan and regulation). Probably better to keep the discussion internal to NPS, since it remains to be seen if any of these ideas will work. Checking out the village sites is less time critical to me; would be okay even if it is after the summer season, although if there are a number of soundside access points that are currently open to the public, we could get started on the site bulletin once we can confirm what sites should be listed in it.

Thanks,



Map 1.0cracoke soundside access.pdf



Map 2.0cracoke Village shoreline access.pdf

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Ocracoke Village Shoreline Access

