

## Village Closures

**PURPOSE:** ensure safety of the public, and avoid user conflicts between pedestrians and ORVs during periods of heavy pedestrian, swimming, sunbathing, or other uses deemed unsuitable for ORV use, on beaches fronting the villages.

Northern Villages (*Hatteras Island, beach fronting the villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon*):

- Open to ORVs -- from the Wednesday following Labor Day to the Wednesday before Memorial Day, excluding Thanksgiving week and the week between Christmas and New Years
- Closed to ORVs -- from the Thursday before Memorial Day to the Tuesday following Labor Day, and Thanksgiving week and the week between Christmas and New Years

Southern Villages (*Hatteras Island, beach fronting the villages of Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras*):

- Closed year round to ORVs, unless the Superintendent determines beach conditions are suitable for ORVs to ensure the safety of pedestrians and avoid user conflicts based on the criteria set forth below
- Open to ORVs, if the Superintendent determines beach conditions are suitable, from November 1 – March 15, excluding the week of Thanksgiving and the week between Christmas and New Years
- Superintendent's criteria to determine if beach conditions in front of the southern villages are suitable for ORVs in the off-season:
  - Beach Width - the beach from toe of the dune to surf is more than 50', and includes sufficient area for vehicles to pass through or park
  - Density of Non-ORV Beach Use – beach use has substantially decreased by 25% from the same period during the previous year based on published visitation or rental data
  - Safety Closure - the conditions triggering a Safety Closure are not in effect

## Additional Provisions

- All closure areas include the village boundary plus 1/8<sup>th</sup> of a mile on each end.
- All areas open to ORVs are subject to safety and resource closures.
- NPS must post speed limits in front of villages when open to ORVs and maintain them throughout the open driving period. NPS also must post signs to alert pedestrians that ORVs also use the beach throughout the open driving period.
- Protection of the dune line and environment should be a very high priority for NPS in determining if the beaches in front of the villages are able to handle driving during the eligible time frame.
- Dare County should create pedestrian access points within the villages to provide non-vehicle access along the village perimeter. Dare County also should develop a plan to provide incentives to current homeowner associations to create additional access and for villages to create safe off street parking.
- The Routes and Areas Subcommittee will determine the area on Hatteras Island from the south boundary of Buxton to Ramp 43.

*This document was prepared by the facilitators for discussion purposes. It does not represent Committee member concurrence with any of the provisions.*