

Sandy Island Beach

STATE PARK



3387 County Route 15
Pulaski, NY 13142
Park Office: (315) 387-2657
Fax: (315) 387-2658



Emergency Phone Numbers

Medical, Fire, Police Emergency.....911
Park Police (Emergency Toll free).....1-877-851-6086
Park Police Administration.....315-492-6422
Park Office.....315-387-2657

Facilities

13 Acres
Seasonal
Sand Beach on Lake Ontario
Picnic Area with Tables and Grills
Car-Top Boat Launch
Bathhouse
Open Shelter (Reservable fee)
Community Room (Reservable fee)

Activities

Swimming
Canoeing
Kayaking
Fishing
Eastern Lake Ontario Dunes bird watching



Accessibility

Accessible parking spaces, comfort stations, picnic areas, and fishing areas are available within the park and are marked. Please contact the park office for specific information.



Carry In - Carry Out

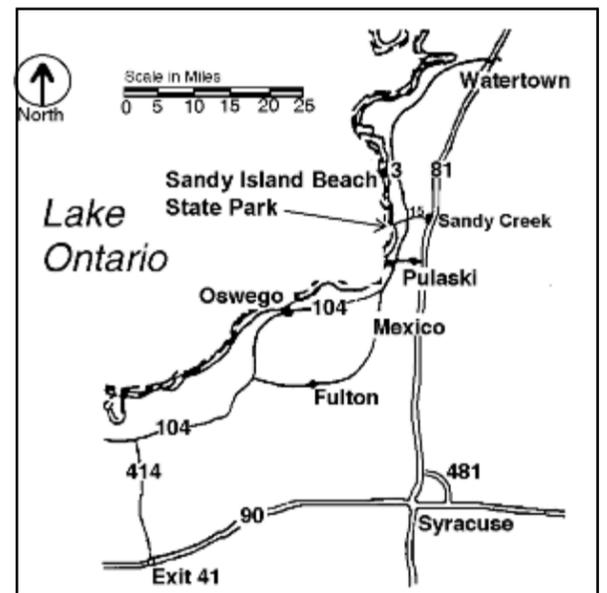
Day Use Patrons: Please comply with the stated Carry-In, Carry-Out Policy. Please take all your garbage with you when you leave the park. Thank you.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited in all park buildings and structures, as well as on or near playgrounds, beaches, bathhouses, or any other designated non-smoking areas.

Reservations

Reservations for all New York State Park Campgrounds are available by calling the New York State Camping Reservation System at **1-800-456-CAMP**, or online at www.ReserveAmerica.com. Reservations for facilities are available by calling the Park Office 315-387-2657.



Directions

SYRACUSE: I-81 North to Exit 37 (Sandy Creek); Then West on Co. Rt. 15 through Sandy Creek, 8 miles to the park entrance.

1000 ISLANDS REGION: I-81 South to Exit 37 (Sandy Creek); Then West on Co. Rt. 22A .2 miles to US Rt.11 .1 mile South to Co. Rt. 15, 8 miles to the park entrance.

BUFFALO and ROCHESTER: Thruway (I-90) East to Exit 41, Seneca Falls; Rt. 414 North to Rt. 104 East; Rt. 3 North to park entrance.

NEW YORK and ALBANY: Thruway (I-90) West to Exit 34A; Rt. 481 North to I-81 North to Exit 37 (Sandy Creek); Then West on Co. Rt. 15 through Sandy Creek, 8 miles to the park entrance.

Regional Office: 315-492-1756

www.nysparks.com



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Conservation at the park:

Sandy Island Beach State Park is a part of the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetland Area (ELOWDA) which is a 17-mile long stretch (portions of which are seasonally accessible only by boat or kayak) which extends from Richland, in Oswego Co., north to Jefferson Co. The dunes in this system were formed by wind and wave action. The area is the only significant freshwater dune system in the northeastern U. S. The sand dunes act as a barrier or buffer protecting inland communities from the effects of high water and waves as well as coastal storms. Damage to dunes and wetlands can lead to a loss of habitat for wildlife, and fewer recreational opportunities for people.

Sand dunes, wetlands, woodlands, creeks, and ponds provide a unique habitat to several species of migratory birds and waterfowl, including: sandpipers, plovers, killdeer, gulls, belted kingfishers, and terns. Visitors may also glimpse fox, deer, and snapping turtles moving along the wetland and shore areas. At least three rare or endangered plant species are native to the dunes. The wetlands additionally support fourteen more rare plants. The system supports eight rare animals and eleven significant habitat types.

The ELOWDA offers many opportunities for bird watchers, canoeists, and kayakers. Walkovers and viewing platforms have been built to protect the fragile dune environment while still providing opportunities for patrons to enjoy the unique area. The protected bird nesting area at Sandy Island Beach State Park (North) provides important habitat for migratory birds. Bird watching is permitted from outside of the protective string fencing. Please respect all wildlife by giving them space to feed and forage away from people.

Make Your Visit Safe and Enjoyable

Please Follow Beach Rules:

1. Swim in supervised area only. Flags designate areas where swimming is allowed.
2. Swimming or wading when lifeguard is not on duty is prohibited.
3. Children under 10 must be accompanied in the water by an adult at all times.
4. Only U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices may be used. (Types I, II, and III)
5. Do not visit with lifeguards on duty.
6. No horseplay on the beach or in water.
7. Do not throw sand or rocks.
8. No running dives into the water.
9. Pets, glass containers, vehicles of any type, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the beach.
10. No open fires on the beach.

* **NO inflatables, boogie boards, face masks, or snorkels are allowed.**

Sandy Island Beach History

Between 1950 and 1999, Sandy Island Beach was privately owned. The Nature Conservancy then took over and converted the 13 acres to the south into a County Park, which was then transferred to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in 2005. At that time the Sandy Island Beach Unique Area (120 acres) next to it was owned by the New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation. In 2011, OPRHP bought that land. Sandy Island Beach State Park now encompasses 229 acres.

Recreation

Sandy Island Beach State Park is a great place to go swimming, watch sunsets, kayak, fish and bird watch. The area has many marinas to put in boats to explore Sandy Pond and eastern Lake Ontario. The park has picnic tables and grills for use.

Beach Behavior

Be respectful of others by keeping noise to a minimum level and keeping your picnic area clean, and litter-free. Litter leads to nuisance animals and decreases park enjoyment for all. **It is illegal to collect anything on state lands.** Plants, fossils, rocks, and animals are important parts of the park experience. Please leave them there for everyone's enjoyment and your safety.

Pets are welcome, but must be properly licensed and proof of a current rabies vaccination may be requested. Household pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six (6) feet, and must never be left unattended.



Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetland Area



Beware!
Interior Dunes
May Have
POISON IVY

Rare DUNE WILLOW

Along with beach grass and cottonwood trees, this rare shrub traps sand to form dunes.

A Touchy Subject

Be on the lookout for poison ivy during your visit! This plant grows ankle high in the dunes; along the edges of meadows, trails, creeks, and woods; and as a vine up the trunks of trees.

The appearance of poison ivy varies. Its leaves can have either smooth or jagged edges and are sometimes shiny. They are always arranged in groups of three. Clusters of whitish-green flowers often blossom in the summer, followed by dull white berries in the fall.

Oil from all parts of the plant--leaves, roots, stems, flowers, and berries--can cause a rash. You don't even have to touch the plant to get one! Touching clothing, shoes or even pet fur that has picked up the plant's oils may cause a rash.

If you think you have come in contact with poison ivy, wash your skin with cold, soapy water to keep the oil from being absorbed. If you get a rash, don't scratch, this will irritate your skin even more. Instead, use calamine lotion to relieve the itch.



Help Protect Our Dunes

While visiting beaches in dune areas, stay on marked trails (where they exist), and avoid climbing on dunes. Do not remove or trample dune vegetation.

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