



NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL RESERVE & NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

Masonboro Island is one of ten North Carolina Coastal Reserves and is also part of the NC National Estuarine Research Reserve. The island is protected and managed under a state-federal partnership with NOAA and housed within the NC Division of Coastal Management.

Why is Masonboro protected?

The lands and waters within the Coastal Reserve have been protected to preserve the natural character, habitat and communities of the sites for the benefit of the citizens of the State of North Carolina.

What is the mission of the program?

The NC Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve have been established to protect coastal and estuarine sites so that they will be available for research and education purposes.

Can the public visit Masonboro Island?

Although the island was protected primarily for research and education, traditional uses such as fishing and recreation are allowed as long as they do not interfere with these primary uses. Appropriate use of the Reserve allows for both protection of the natural resources and continued public enjoyment.

How can I learn more?

Visit the Coastal Reserve website at www.nccoastalreserve.net for more information about the program and its sites.

Who do I contact about Masonboro?

To learn more about Masonboro Island or to get involved as a volunteer, contact the Southern Sites Manager at 910-962-2998.

Guide to Visiting Masonboro Island

Planning to visit the Masonboro Island National Estuarine Research Reserve today? Follow these guidelines for a safe and enjoyable trip:

Boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the tides and weather conditions Anchor in areas that have obvious trails Do not anchor in marsh Do not pump out Follow all applicable boating laws
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up after your pet Leash your pet Be aware of bird and turtle nesting areas
Camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use obvious previously camped areas Stay no more than 48 hours Be prepared for primitive conditions Do not damage dune vegetation
Litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pack out everything you packed in Plan ahead for bringing your trash back Keep track of easily windblown items Come prepared to pack out extra trash
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use existing trails Stay out of bird and turtle nesting areas Do not harm or disturb plants or animals
Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use obvious previous campfire areas Do not burn trash Do not burn native vegetation
No no's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fireworks No nudity No liquor or underage drinking No illegal substances No motorized vehicles
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry adequate supplies, especially H₂O Do not drink and swim or drink and boat Carry a cell phone & emergency numbers Tell someone when you plan to return

Following these basic guidelines will protect the island, its inhabitants and you so that everyone may enjoy this amazing natural resource. Please be respectful, smart and safe. Thanks!

(State alcohol, drug, public decency, and littering laws apply. New Hanover County leash laws and pooper scooper rules apply. Division of Marine Fisheries, Wildlife Resources, and Coast Guard boating rules apply. Area is patrolled by New Hanover County Sheriffs, Marine Patrol, WRC officers and the US Coast Guard. Reserve use policies detailed in 15A NCAC 070.0202)