

Southampton: Home to other protected species

- The least tern is a state protected, ground nesting bird found in Southampton. If terns are dive-bombing you, they are protecting nests or chicks because you are too close. Move through the area quickly (watch where you step- least tern chicks also freeze and blend in with the sand) While it may seem like the terns will hit you, they are only trying to protect their young. The terns are aiming for the highest point, so you can extend your hand as you walk through an area with least terns.
- Seabeach amaranth is a federally protected annual plant that grows on ocean beaches.
- Both seabeach amaranth and least terns face many of the same challenges as piping plover. These species are also protected by string fence.
- Other species you might observe on the beach include marine mammals (seals, dolphins and whales) and sea turtles. If you see these animals, do not approach them, maintain contact the stranding hotline (631) 369.9829.



THANKS TO YOU, PLOVERS AT SOUTHAMPTON SUCCESSFULLY RAISED 86 CHICKS IN 2016.

IN ORDER TO HAVE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BREEDING SEASON, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Here is how you can preserve beaches and the wildlife that depend on them.

- While walking on the beach, look up, down and all around for wildlife. Walk low on the beach, near the surf, but avoid birds that are feeding along the shore. Walk outside of areas with string fencing.
- Adhere to vehicle closures. Drive only where vehicles are allowed. In areas where driving is allowed, drive slowly and avoid driving on the upper beach. Never drive over any dunes or beach vegetation.
- Avoid attracting raccoons, fox, skunks, crows or gulls by removing trash, food waste and fishing bait from the beach.
- Walk pets only in areas open to dogs. Keep them leashed and away from birds and nesting areas.
- Park vehicles away from, not next to, symbolically fenced areas.
- When chicks learn how to fly, they are not strong and cannot get out of the way of vehicles as easily as adults. When driving through newly opened areas, proceed slowly to give these fledges a chance to fly out of the way.



**SOUTHAMPTON
TOWN TRUSTEES**



Protected Piping Plovers Need Your Help!

- Piping plovers are protected by the Endangered Species Act and the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. Less than 4,000 Atlantic piping plovers exist along the entire coast.
- What may seem like everyday use of beaches to us can unintentionally harm piping plovers.
- These birds nest on the ground and raise chicks on Southampton's beaches from April through September.
- Areas of the beach used by these birds are marked off with string and posts to protect adults, nests and chicks from being disturbed or crushed. It takes 27 days for a plover nest to hatch.
- Plover chicks use camouflage to blend in with the sand as they move between the ocean and the dune. They will freeze when scared and because they cannot fly, they cannot move quickly out of your way. Snow fence protects them from off road vehicles until chicks can fly, about 25-35 days after hatching



Be Wildlife-Friendly Beach Drivers!

For Information on beach closures please vis

<https://gis.southamptontownny.gov/InfoCenter>

Questions, comments or concerns can be directed to the
Southampton Town Trustees Office: (631) 287-5717