

DNR Info-Sandy Point State Park

This 786-acre Maryland State Park is located along the Northwestern shore of the majestic Chesapeake Bay. The park's beaches and picnic areas are well known for their breathtaking scenic water views that overlook one of Maryland's true treasures, the Chesapeake Bay. The park was first opened on June 25, 1952 and has provided its guests with various activities and services ever since. Some of these activities and services include Swimming Beaches, Picnicking, Fishing, Crabbing, Boating, Hiking, Youth Group Camping, Areas of Historical Interest and Wildlife Viewing. The Park also offers a marina store and boat rentals.

Swimming Beaches

The park's lengthy beaches located at South Beach provide plenty of room for stretching out and enjoying the sun's warmth as you dry off after swimming in the cool tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. A portion of South Beach is protected with lifeguards from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays, Memorial Day to Labor Day. A bathhouse is located near the beach and provides park users with restroom and showering facilities. Snack food, beach and picnic supplies are also available at the South Beach area of the park. Maryland State Parks are "Trash Free". Please practice **Leave No Trace** principles and take your trash with you when you leave. To view these principles visit www.lnt.org.

Special Notes: For the safety of our visitors, tents are not permitted on beaches. Only see through sun shelters without a bottom floor are allowed. During the late summer months there may be jellyfish.

Plan Ahead for "Filled To Capacity" Park Closures

Sandy Point State Park is one of Maryland's most popular parks and serves a very high volume of visitors during summer weekends and holidays. To ensure the safety of our visitors and protection of the park's natural resources and facilities, the park has a limited capacity.

During periods of high visitation, when the park's capacity is reached, the park will be closed and traffic will be turned away from the park entrance. When that occurs, no additional vehicles / visitors will be allowed to enter the park, including those with members of their party who may already be in the park. If you are not traveling in the same vehicle with others in your party, we suggest that you all arrive at the same time.

Based on recent experience and visitation trends, and depending on good weather, Sandy Point State Park will likely fill to capacity and close on Memorial Day and Fourth of July holiday weekends, Labor Day weekend and many other weekends during the course of the summer. Please take this into consideration when planning your trip.

Fishing & Crabbing

Fishing from the shoreline is permitted in designated areas. There are several rock jetties in the park and a fishing pier located next to the boat launch ramps. The park allows night fishing; however, only people who are actively fishing can be in the park after the park closes. Bait & fishing supplies are available in the marina store. For store hours call the marina at 410-974-2772. Special Note: A Chesapeake Bay Sport fishing license is required for those 16 years of age and older. For the safety of our visitors, tents are not permitted. Only see through sun shelters without a bottom floor are permitted. The Chesapeake Bay blue crab is a delicious treat and can be caught on the park's fishing and crabbing pier located at the south end of the boat launch ramps.

Special Note: Be sure to follow the crabbing regulations and restrictions. This information, as well as crabbing supplies, may be found at the marina store located near the boat launch ramps.

Boating

Sandy Point's staff is very proud of the park's marina facility, which includes 22 launching ramps and six finger piers for temporary day use docking on a first come first served basis. The marina's boat pump-out station is available April through October. The facility is certified as a Clean Marina. Please call Sandy Point State Park's headquarters at 410-974-2149 to check for boat pump-out availability. We have a Marina Store near the boat ramps which sells last minute needs such as boating fuel, fishing bait, and tackle. Boating, picnicking and crabbing supplies, as well as ice, snacks and drinks, are also available for sale. Depending on the Coast Guard's wind and weather reports, motorboats are available for rent in late spring, summer, and early fall. Please call Sandy Point State Park's Marina for availability and prices at 410-974-2772.

If you are the proud owner of a smaller vessel such as a catamaran, Hobie cat, canoe, kayak, or windsurfer and would like a safe, convenient place to launch, then head to the Small-craft Launch Area in the south end of the park. Parking is limited in this area, but convenient parking is available nearby after you launch.

Marina Store

The Marina Store, located near the boat launch ramps, is open from mid-April through mid-October. Here you can purchase a variety of boating, fishing, crabbing and picnicking supplies. Boat fuel, ice, snacks and drinks are also available for sale. Rowboats and 6hp motorboats are also available for rent on a first come first served basis. Boat rental availability is subject to weather conditions. Call the marina store at 410-974-2772 for up-to-date rental information.

Youth Group Camping

The park has two Youth Group Camping sites that are strictly for official youth groups only. The youth group camping sites are open from the beginning of April through the beginning of November. These rustic camping sites overlook the Chesapeake Bay. Each site has a small picnic shelter with two tables and a grill. If your youth group would like to do a service project during your stay, please call the park two weeks before the date of your arrival and speak with the volunteer coordinator to set up a project. [Make youth group camping reservations on-line for Sandy Point State Park](#)

call 1-888-432-CAMP (2267).

Pets

Pets are welcome from **October 1 through April 30 only**. No pets are allowed from May 1 through September 30. Thank you for your cooperation.

Picnicking

The park's grassy picnic areas are located next to the swimming beach. Playgrounds and bathrooms are located in these areas also. Limited numbers of grills and picnic tables are available on a first come first served basis. The park's marina store, located near the boat launch ramps, offers a variety of picnic and grilling supplies. For those visitors who prefer not to cook, there is a food concession located at South Beach. It is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Maryland State Parks are "Trash Free". Please practice [Leave No Trace](#) principles and take your trash with you when you leave. To view these principles visit www.lnt.org.

Shelter Rentals

For family reunions, group picnics and large group gatherings, a more sheltered outdoor picnic experience is available. The park has twelve rental shelters located at the East Beach area of the park. Shelters are available by reservation only. Nine shelters accommodate up to 140 people, two shelters accommodate up to 180 people, and one shelter accommodates up to 300 people. The shelters include picnic tables, grills and limited electrical receptacles. Water faucets are also available nearby. East Beach has its own swimming beach and bathhouse as well. Alcohol is allowed in shelters by permit only. Permits can only be obtained through the shelter reservation

There has been a noted increase in flying insect activity, especially flies, in areas of the park closest to wet, marshy areas. This is common during the late summer months and during periods of wet weather. Some of the shelters, because of their location, may be impacted. Use of sprays, traps and insect repellants is recommended when visiting the East Beach shelter area.

Historical Interest

From the shores of Sandy Point State Park you can see the Sandy Point Lighthouse. The Sandy Point Shoal lighthouse was built in 1883 and features a 37-foot Empire-style, eight-sided red brick tower with a white roof and black lantern, which houses a 4th order Fresnel lens. This structure replaced an earlier Sandy Point Light that had been built on land where Sandy Point State Park is located now. The original lighthouse, a brick tower constructed in 1858, was located on shore and situated in a poor location.

The current Sandy Point Shoal Light has a wooden foundation supporting a round 35-foot-diameter cement-filled cast iron cylinder on which a 2 1/2-story brick structure rests. The structure is 24 by 24 feet with cut corners. Although not originally painted, the brick portion of the structure is now painted red. The first two stories were used as living quarters, the third level as the watch room, and the lower level within the cast iron cylinder, as a storage area for water, coal, and oil. The lighthouse was electrified in 1929 and fully automated in 1963. The lighthouse is in 5 to 7 feet of water, approximately 1000 yards east from the beach at Sandy Point State Park and approximately 1 1/2 miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Special Events

Sandy Point State Park is the host location for several local annual Special Events. For dates and other information about these events go to the sponsor's website links or call the numbers below.

Note: The event prices may not include the park entrance cost. Please call Sandy Point State Park at 410-974-2149 for further information.

Chesapeake Bay Blues Festival

May

Chesapeake Bay Events, Inc.

www.bayblues.org

410-257-7413

Bay Swim

June

The Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, Inc.

410-727-2404

Maryland Seafood Festival

September

ABC Events, Inc.

www.mdseafoodfestival.com

Diamond Jim
July through September
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.maryland.gov

Chesapeake Bay Lighthouse Challenge
September
Chesapeake Chapter/U.S. Lighthouse Society
cheslights.org/maryland-lighthouse-challenge/

Lights on the Bay
November to January
Anne Arundel Medical Center
443-481-3161

Admission Prices and Park Hours

When the Contact Station is not staffed, the automatic toll will be in operation. The automatic toll machine accepts exact change only in the form of \$1's, quarters, MasterCard and VISA credit cards.

Sandy Point State Park may fill to capacity on busy, nice weather days, especially holiday weekends. Visitors will not be admitted to the park during the closure. Anyone who leaves the park during the closure will not be permitted to re-enter until the park reopens. There are no other public swimming beaches in the area.

Weekends and Holidays

- January 1st to April 30th -- \$3.00 per vehicle
- May 1st to September 30th -- \$5.00 per person for Maryland resident -- \$7.00 per person for non-Maryland resident
- October 1st to December 31st -- \$3.00 per vehicle

Weekdays (not including holidays that fall on a weekday)

- January 1st to April 30th-- \$3.00 per vehicle
- May 1st to September 30th -- \$4.00 per person for Maryland resident -- \$6.00 per person for non-Maryland resident
- October 1st to December 31st -- \$3.00 per vehicle

Sunset to Sunrise – Boating & Fishing

- Year round -- \$3.00 per vehicle (Excluding special events and when the contact station is staffed. See prices above)

Park Hours: Day Use

- January 1 through March 31 -- 7 a.m. to sunset
- April 1 through October 31 -- 6 a.m. to sunset
- November 1 through December 31 -- 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Fishing -- 24 hour access January through mid-November
- Boating -- 24 hour access year round

Contact the Park Service

- To Report Violations of Park Rules: 1-800-825-7275 (Park Watch) or 1-410-260-8888 (Communications Center)
- General Information: 1-800-830-3974 (Annapolis Office)
- Reservations: 1-888-432-2267
- [Email Us](#)