

WHY DUNE RESTORATION?

HELP SAVE OUR DUNES!

Your actions and support can go a long way towards protecting this important resource.

Here are some ways YOU can help make a difference:



Restoring dunes is a cost-effective, natural strategy that reduces community vulnerability to coastal hazards.



Unlike seawalls, rock revetments, or other “hard” shoreline stabilization structures, dunes dissipate wave energy rather than reflecting waves onto beaches or neighboring properties.



Renourishing and revegetating dunes with new sand and native vegetation is an excellent way to protect inland areas from storm damage and flooding.

RESPECT THE DUNE!

Always stay off the dunes and use designated paths to access the beach.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Educate your friends and neighbors on the value of dunes and why it’s important to stay off them.

JOIN THE EFFORT!

Participate in citizen science initiatives to track dune health, measure erosion, and plant new native vegetation.

OWN PROPERTY BY THE SHORE?

Scan the QR code below to visit MA CZM’s StormSmart Properties and find out what you can do to help protect your property from erosion and storm damage.



The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the City of Newburyport are committed to reducing community vulnerability to coastal hazards while maintaining beach access for residents and visitors alike.

plum island point BEACH ACCESS MAP

AND DUNE FACTSHEET

Questions?

For more information contact:

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
In partnership with the CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



PLEASE ACCESS THE BEACH VIA
DESIGNATED WALKING PATHS



a treasure worth protecting

Dunes provide unique habitat for nearly 50 Species of Greater Conservation Concern. From small mammals to birds and reptiles, dune vegetation offers a variety of benefits to wildlife, including food, camouflage, and refuge from the hot sun. Some species, like the federally and state threatened Piping plover, rely on dunes and sandy coastal beaches as their primary nesting habitat.



DANGEROUS OCEAN WATERS!
SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK



NO FIRES



NO DOGS ON BEACH
(APR 1-SEPT 15)
ON LEASH AT OTHER TIMES



NO ALCOHOL



CARRY OUT
ALL TRASH

plum island's FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

The dunes on Plum Island serve a critical role in keeping residents safe from coastal flooding.

a fragile resource

While incredibly tolerant to the harsh coastal environment, dune vegetation is extremely sensitive to human disturbance.



Simply walking across a dune can kill vegetation that is needed to anchor the dune in place.

vegetation: the secret ingredient

Vegetation is critical to dune formation and stabilization, and the grasses you see atop a dune are the tip of the iceberg. Beneath each cluster of grass exists an incredible network of roots extending up to 9 ft below a dune's surface. A dune is anchored in place by this vegetation, which also helps to trap sand and reduce shoreline erosion.

