

# TOP TEN REASONS CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE DESERVES PROTECTION

**Like all Bay staters, we love the Cape Cod National Seashore. Here are our top ten reasons why the Cape deserves protection from overdevelopment:**

1. Around four million people visit the Cape Cod National Seashore each year, making it one of America's most popular national parks.
2. President John F. Kennedy signed the bill establishing Cape Cod National Seashore on August 7, 1961. He wrote that his goal was "to preserve the natural and historic values of a portion of Cape Cod for the inspiration and enjoyment of people all over the United States."
3. The park supports 25 federally protected species, most prominently the threatened piping plover, and thirty-two species that are rare or endangered in the state of Massachusetts. The National Seashore is the nesting place of five percent of the entire piping plover Atlantic population.
4. Cape Cod National Seashore is the home to the Three Sisters, three lighthouses that have served as guides to mariners off Cape Cod shores since 1700s. Several other historical buildings, such as the Modern Houses and the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station, reside inside the park.
5. In addition to its ecological importance, the National Seashore also has an important place in America's early history. The Pilgrims first landed in the New World near Provincetown, and spent five weeks exploring the area that is now Cape Cod National Seashore Park.
6. The park also contains more than 800 species of plants and associated with various landscapes including heartlands, grasslands, dunes, woodlands, forests, vernal pools, kettle ponds, salt marshes, freshwater marshes, intertidal zones, and sea grass beds.
7. Cape Cod National Seashore is currently threatened by climate change. Sections of beach and wetlands could be lost or altered and the piping plovers nesting spots have already started to decrease due to rising sea levels.
8. The park's expansive dunes help protect the coastline from storms like Hurricane Sandy.
9. The Seashore contains over 450 species of amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals and approximately five percent of the entire Atlantic coast population here. 32 of these are rare or endangered.
10. The Coalition of National Park Service Retirees says "sequestration will limit access to the beaches at the Cape Cod National Seashore." These beaches serve as a nesting area for protected shorebirds, like piping plovers that need to be monitored daily. With a decreased staff, the park will no longer be able to safely monitor these birds and keep those beaches open to the public.

**Massachusetts' Senators can help ensure the Cape Cod National Seashore is protected for generations as part of our natural heritage by supporting full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.**

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