

Friends of Nantasket Beach

MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Friends of Nantasket Beach intern Riley Dolan participated in the Shamrock Splash along with her younger family members and many others.

Friends participate in Shamrock Splash to raise money for summer programs

The Friends of Nantasket Beach participated in the annual Save the Harbor / Save the Bay Shamrock Splash at Constitution Beach in East Boston this month. Donations raised through the fundraiser are allocated to the [Better Beaches Grant Program](#), which enables Save the Harbor / Save the Bay to contribute to free public events and programs at the various DCR locations. In 2023, there were 217 free public events, which included health/wellness events, movie nights, various kinds of beach parties, musical events, and the Friends' own Summer Sunshine Performance Series at the Bernie King Pavilion. The Better Beaches Program has been providing assistance to organizations and individuals that seek to enhance the diversity and accessibility of Massachusetts beaches for the past 16 years. The Shamrock Splash has attracted community members for the past 12 years and in 2023, Save the Harbor / Save the Bay introduced the Shamrock Dash. For those who want to participate and raise funds for a great cause, but did not want to jump in Boston Harbor, they took part in a 1-mile fun run prior to the splash. Afterwards, participants were welcomed to music and warm food to celebrate another year providing exciting, free events to the public across the Massachusetts coast.

Accessibility info for Nantasket Beach

Did you know that the Department of Conservation and Recreation provides beach mats and beach wheelchairs on Nantasket Beach Reservation for easier accessibility? Beach mats provide a smooth, balanced surface onto the beach. The accessible beach mats onto Nantasket Beach Reservation can be found near the Tivoli Bathhouse on the North end of the beach. The beach mats are placed Memorial Day until Labor Day. For the beachgoers that would like to get a bit closer to the water, two types of beach wheelchairs are available at Nantasket Beach Reservation at no cost. Sunbathing beach wheelchairs are limited to the sand, but do include a seat, a safety belt, a footrest, a holder for a beach umbrella, a handle in the back, and the arms move for safe transfer. Floating wheelchairs are also available and may be used in the sand and water. Floating wheelchairs include a safety harness, handles on the back for someone to push, as well as a strap in the front to pull, if needed, and floatation devices beneath the armrests. Users are required to bring their own personal floatation device and wear it at all times in the water. Nantasket Beach Reservation currently has 3 sunbathing wheelchairs and 5 floating wheelchairs available for free, public use. Beachgoers are recommended to call ahead, but may also ask beach staff when they arrive. Restrictions do apply depending on the beach conditions and guidance from the lifeguards and beach staff should always be followed. Click [here](#) for more information.



Paragon Carousel news

The [Friends of the Paragon Carousel](#) will be hosting their annual [Derby Day](#) event from 7pm-10pm on Friday, May 17th, 2024 during Preakness Weekend. The evening will include games, prizes, gourmet finger foods, and cheerful socializing around the Paragon Carousel. Proceeds from the Paragon Carousel Derby event go towards the continued operation and restoration of the historic Paragon Carousel, which is entering its 96th year on Nantasket Beach.

The Paragon Carousel opens for the 2024 season on March 30 for the annual photos with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt on the Carousel lawn. The Paragon Carousel will be open weekends-only 11am-4pm until mid-June when full operations will begin.

Check out the [Friends' website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Anyone interested in making the Nantasket Reservation a great place for all? Know anybody interested in advocating for the Nantasket Beach Reservation? **We need your help!** Get in touch directly by emailing us at friendsofnantasketbeach@gmail.com.