



Sandy Neck Gatehouse:
508-362-8300

Signs of Spring

Sandy Neck Beach Park self-guided hike



Many common tell-tale signs of spring can be found at Sandy Neck, be sure to keep an eye and an ear out for some of the unique animals that call Sandy Neck Beach Park their summer home.



Piping Plover: A small migratory shorebird that nests in the sand on Cape Cod beaches in the summer. These small birds are masters of camouflage, especially when it comes to their nests! Keep an ear out for their characteristic peeping sound as this threatened species can be hard to see.

Osprey: Another summer resident of Cape Cod, the osprey rebuilds nests made of sticks on top of poles. Osprey, a large hawk species mainly feed on fish and are known for diving into the water to catch their prey. Osprey were once at the brink of extinction, but have made a comeback since DDT (a pesticide) was banned in the US.



Spadefoot Toad: A small amphibian that can grow to about 3 inches, the spadefoot toad spends most of its life hidden underground! Spadefoot toads breed in vernal pools and will emerge in the spring after a warm heavy rain. Most commonly found at night when they come out to breed you will want to listen out for their call, which sounds like a sheep's "baaa".

Right Whale: One of the world's most endangered species of whale with only about 400 animals left. Right whales migrate seasonally and can often be spotted in New England waters in the spring, summer and even into the fall where they spend their time feeding and mating. While hiking the front beach, keep an eye towards Cape Cod Bay where you may spot a breach!

