

Coastal Preserves FAQs

- When can I visit Coastal Preserve Areas (CPAs)?
 - CPAs are open from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, with the exception of Deer Island and Cat Island, which are open for 24 hours.
- Can I camp on Deer Island or Cat Island?
 - Yes, camping is allowed on state-owned sand beach areas and is limited to seven consecutive days. You must also follow all applicable rules and regulations set by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR).
- Can I camp on other Coastal Preserve Areas?
 - Camping on CPAs, other than Deer Island and Cat Island, is considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Coastal Preserves office at 228-523-4106 for further details.
- Can I hunt and fish on Coastal Preserves?
 - Yes, but all regulations and seasons set by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks are to be followed. Also, there are additional rules with regards to hunting near trails that are explained in detail in the visitor rules and regulations located on our website and the end of this document.
- Can I spray or remove the vegetation in or on the water around my property?
 - No, only a properly certified agent of the State or Local Government can apply herbicide to or remove non-native species from waterways. Please report any nuisance vegetation to MDMR Coastal Preserves.
- Can I take plants, soil, seeds or artifacts from Coastal Preserve Areas?
 - No, all plants, soil, seeds and artifacts on CPAs are considered state property and should be left in place. Metal detectors are prohibited on all CPAs.
- Do I have to clean up my own trash on a Coastal Preserve Areas?
 - Yes, CPAs are primitive areas and are considered “pack-in/pack-out” areas.
- Can I set up a feeder on a Coastal Preserve?
 - No, any feeders found will be removed by MDMR staff.
- Can I erect a duck blind or deer stand on a Coastal Preserve?
 - Portable stands and blinds are allowed but must be removed daily. Construction of permanent blinds is prohibited.
- Are bicycles allowed on a Coastal Preserve?
 - Yes, bicycles are permitted on designated trails.
- Can I shoot fireworks on a Coastal Preserve?
 - No, possession of any explosive substance, such as dynamite, fireworks, Tannerite or rockets, on any Coastal Preserve is prohibited.
- Can I take my dog on the trails with me?
 - Yes, but pets must always remain on a leash.
- Can I drive vehicles on Coastal Preserves properties including ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes, etc.?
 - No, motorized vehicles are not allowed on Coastal Preserves. This includes airboats and amphibious vehicles in marsh areas.
- I have property to sell/donate, is Coastal Preserves interested?
 - Possibly. Please contact us directly with information on the property you are interested in selling or donating.

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- Please see the Coastal Preserves web page for contact information or additional info at <https://dmr.ms.gov/coastal-preserves-2/>.
- For direct access to the rules and regulations of the Mississippi Coastal Preserve Areas, please visit the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources website at <https://dmr.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Title-22-Part-19-20190820.pdf>.