

YOUR RIGHT TO ENJOY VIRGIN ISLANDS BEACHES

Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Act

Section 903 (b) (6)

“[p] reserve what has been a tradition and protect what has become a right of the public by insuring that the public, individually and collectively, has and shall continue to have the right to use and enjoy the shorelines and to maximize public access to and along the shorelines...”

This map illustrates the majority of public access in the territory. Most of the public access points are accessible by land but there are a few that were not traditionally used thus did not receive enough public attention to establish “Public Rights” to the shoreline. This is vital for DPNR to build credible arguments to require private property owners to partition an easement to the shoreline. Its important to understand that the public domain is define as “the area along the coastlines of the Virgin Islands from the seaward line of low tide, running inland a distance of fifty (50) feet; or to the extreme seaward boundary of natural vegetation whichever is the shortest distance” (Title 12 VIC 402(b)).

Coastal Zone Management Public Beach Access

In 1978 Virgin Islands passed an important new law, the Coastal Zone Management Act, to protect and preserve the coastal areas of the Territory and to preserve the tradition of the public access to the Territory’s shorelines.

Today, the goals that were set still stand as one of the best ways we have of passing that Virgin Islands heritage-beach access on to future generations.

Access to cultural, historical and natural areas along the coast is essential to public understanding and enjoyment of coastal and marine resources. Of course, the public should use the territory’s beaches in ways that would not degrade or damage these valuable resources.

The CZM Program, through its permitting process, does not allow commercial building on the Territory’s shorelines without first securing an easement for public access to the shorelines. Beaches cannot be fenced off. The public has the right to be on the beach, enjoy them and use them for recreational purposes.

If you have been denied your right to be on a beach in the US Virgin Islands, please contact the Division of Coastal Zone Management and report the incident.

For further information write or call:

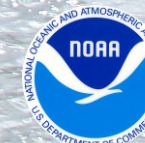
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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<http://coastal-zone-management.dpnr.gov.vi/>



PUBLIC ACCESS MAP U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

MANAGING OUR COASTAL RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



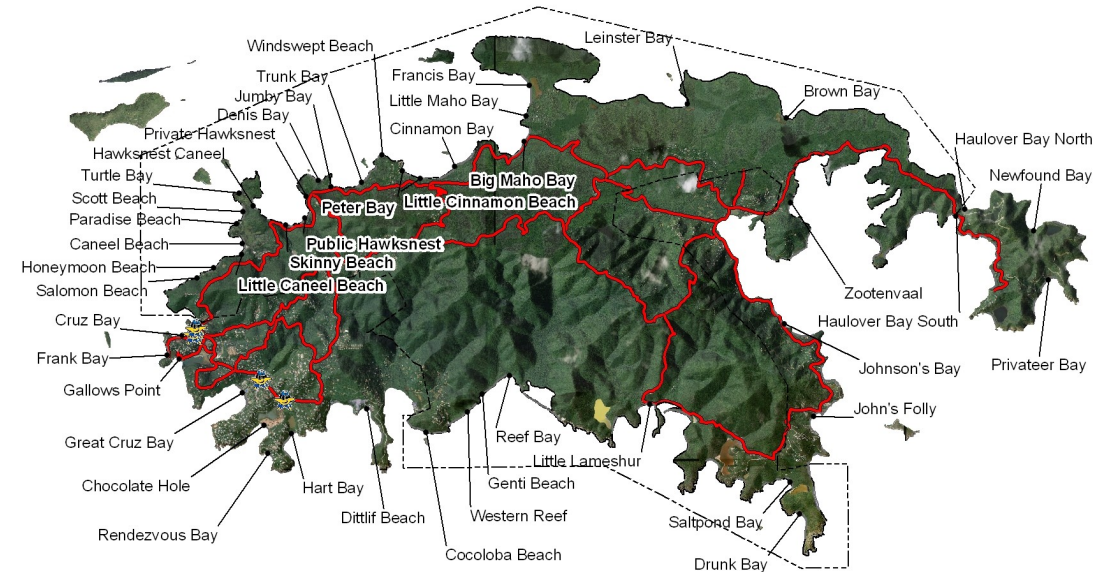
Beaches Public Access

U.S. Virgin Islands

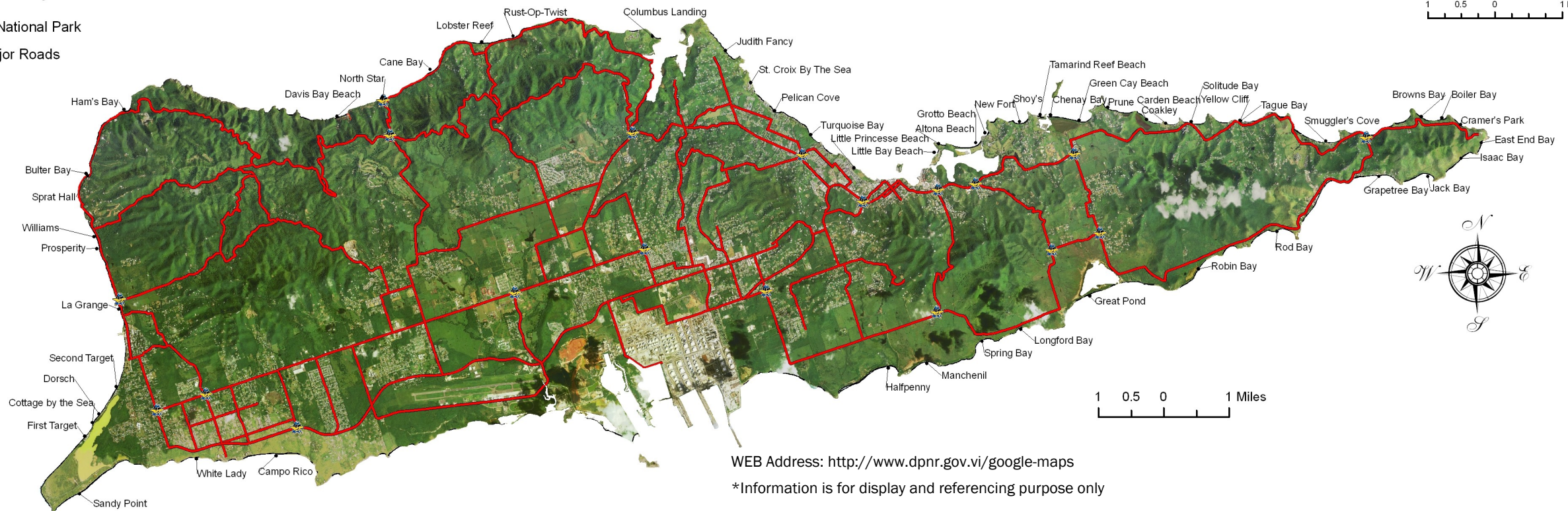
Legend- St. Thomas Tommy's Star Routes

-  Public Access Signage
-  4Corners to Smith bay
-  Airport to Brewers
-  Airport to RedHook
-  Crown Bay to Mafolie
-  Havensight to Redhook
-  Town to Magens Rd
-  VI National Park
-  Major Roads

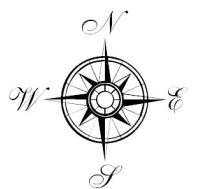
0.9 0.45 0 0.9 Miles



1 0.5 0 1 Miles



1 0.5 0 1 Miles



WEB Address: <http://www.dpnr.gov.vi/google-maps>

*Information is for display and referencing purpose only