

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 are surrounded by private land and did not require easement. This is vital for DPNR to build credible arguments to require private property owners to partition an easement to the shoreline. Currently, it is only a condition of major 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)).

This map also show

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

8100 Lindberg Bay, Ste. #61
Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building,
2nd floor
St. Thomas, USVI 00802
Tel: (340) 774-3320
Fax: (340) 714-9524

Or

45 Mars Hill
St. Croix, US Virgin Islands 00840
Tel: (340) 773-1082
Fax: (340) 773-3343

[http://dpr.vi.gov/coastal-zone-management/
programs-viczmp/public-access-viczmp/](http://dpr.vi.gov/coastal-zone-management/programs-viczmp/public-access-viczmp/)



PUBLIC ACCESS MAP U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

MANAGING OUR COASTAL RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



Beaches and Public Access

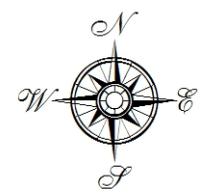
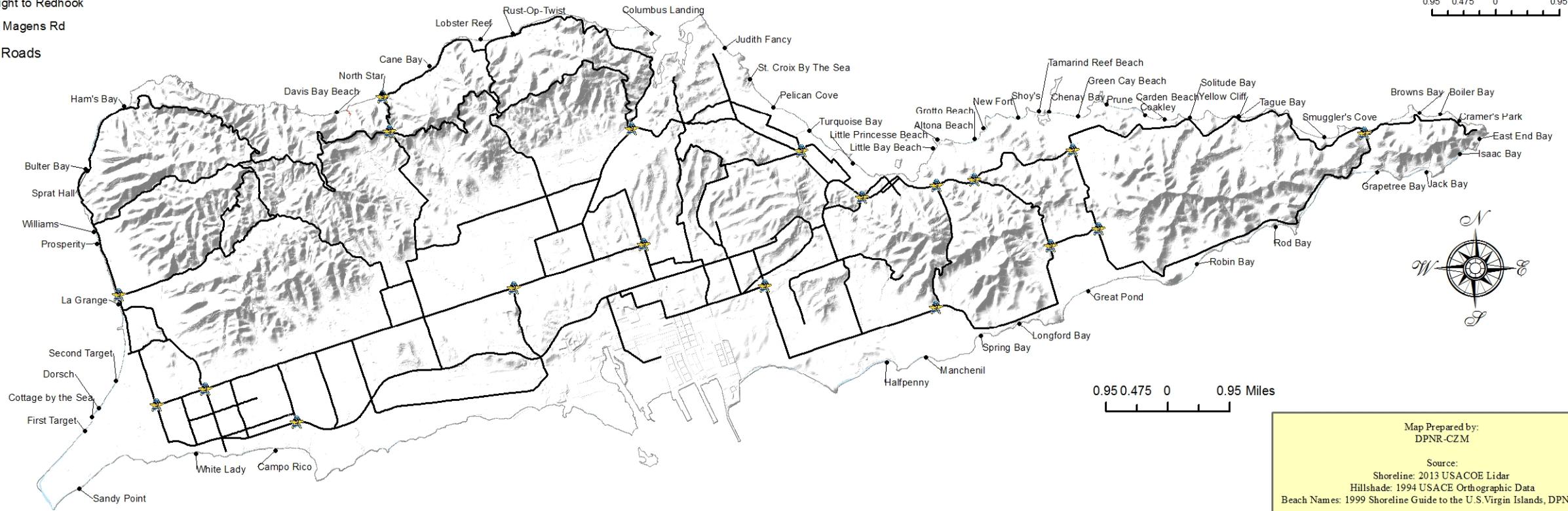
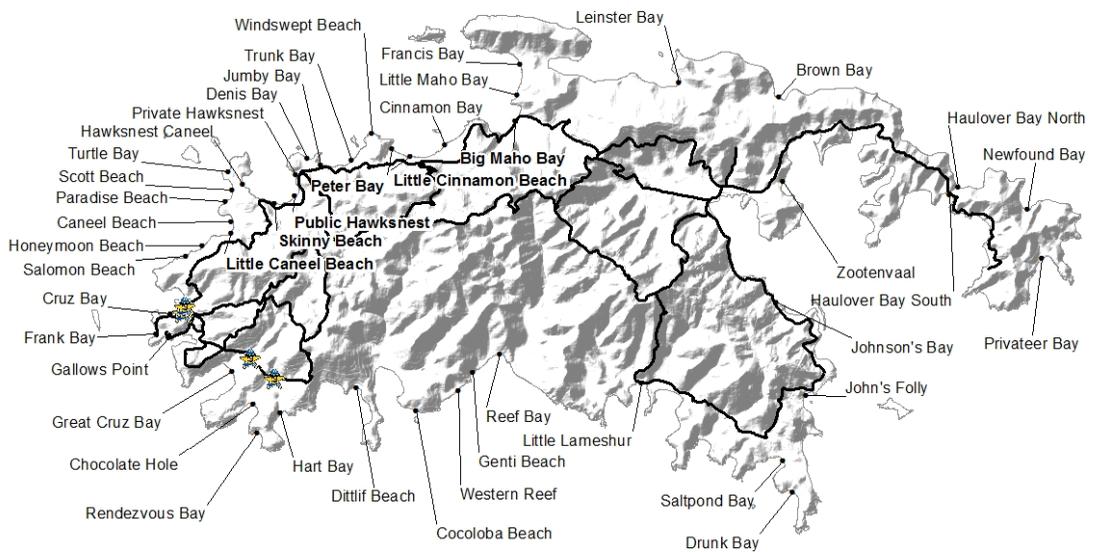
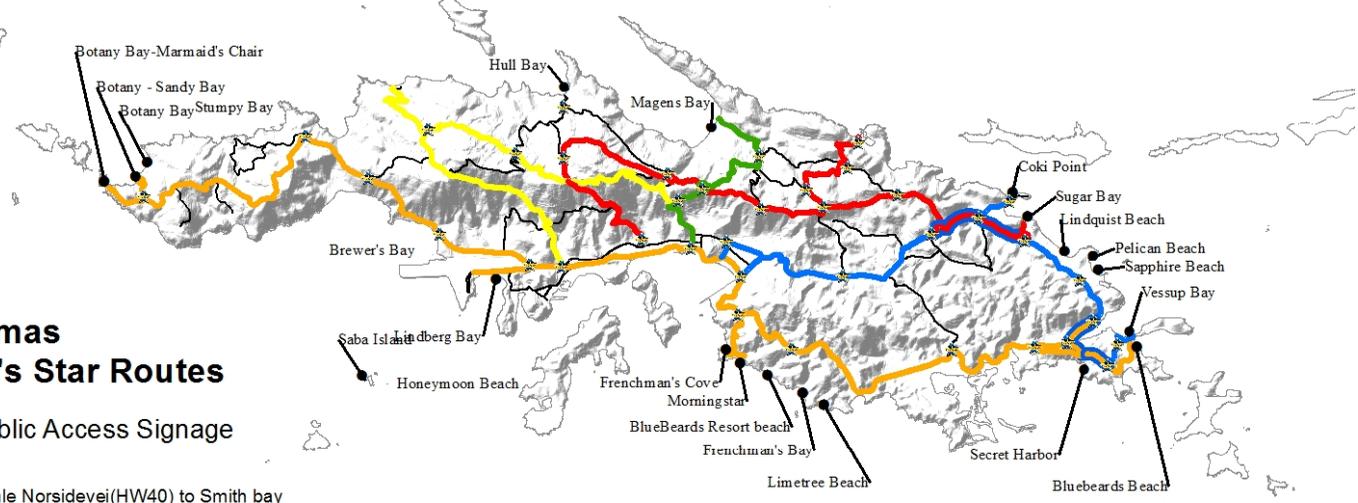
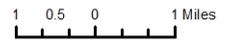
U.S. Virgin Islands

St. Thomas Tommy's Star Routes

 Public Access Signage

- Gamle Norsidevei(HW40) to Smith bay
- Airport to Brewers and Red Hook
- Crown Bay to Caret Bay and Mafolie
- Havensight to Redhook
- Town to Magens Rd

 Major Roads



Map Prepared by:
DPNR-CZM

Source:
Shoreline: 2013 USACOE Lidar
Hillshade: 1994 USACE Orthographic Data
Beach Names: 1999 Shoreline Guide to the U.S. Virgin Islands, DPNR-DFW