

### Recommendations for Tashmoo Beach<sup>1</sup>

#### Update on Progress on Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations and Compliance with Accessibility Standards

(March 2024 Recommendations in standard back font. Updated observations *in red italics*)<sup>2</sup>

1. The parking lot has capacity for about 30-50 vehicles.<sup>3</sup> It is recommended that two designated accessible spaces be created near the beach entrance. About 60% of the lot is made up of hard permeable material and appears firm and stable. It is recommended that the rest of the lot's surface be made firm and stable to include in and around the accessible parking space (*as well as the adjacent porta potty*) and all the way to the beach entrance.

*Situation the same. The soft sand on at least 40% of the parking lot not only makes it difficult to navigate for individuals with disabilities, many elderly and others, but vehicles as well. Reportedly vehicles have gotten stuck in the sand, as this observer temporarily experienced.*

2. When onsite, which was after the Season, no beach mat was present. Because the area from the parking lot to the high-water mark is quite level, a five-foot wide beach mat(s) would provide an accessible route from the beach entrance to the high-water mark. It is recommended that that method or some other be chosen to provide an accessible route to the high-water mark.

*Beach mat about 6-feet wide present on update visit and in good shape. It needs to connect/intersect with firm surface on parking lot. It was also noticed that the last 5-6 feet had good deal of sand over it. A permanent maintenance plan is needed to ensure it remains relatively free of sand.*

3. If not already provided, at least one beach wheelchair be made available; and if lifeguards are available, at least one floating wheelchair, water conditions permitting.

*Neither chair present. While there is a life guard stand at the beach, during the 15 minutes at beach on 8/31/24, a lifeguard was not observed.*

It would be desirable to address the rough one mile plus ride on Herring Creek Road, the access road to the beach. The potholes and ruts make it uncomfortable in general, and can have a particularly harsh effect on many individuals, young and old, with physical disabilities or

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<sup>1</sup> For specifications/dimensions for accessible beaches, see attached resource sheet or the USDA's Forest Service *Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails, 8/2012*  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Accessibility-Guide-Book.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The original recommendations were furnished in March 2024 and were based principally on June 2023 beach operators' self-surveys and September and October 2023 follow up on-site visits by Dukes County Assoc. Commissioner for Disabilities. This update is based on an 8/31/24 visit.

<sup>3</sup> About 17-18 cars parked while I was there on my 15 or so minute site visit. None in one designated parking space.

Field Code Changed

conditions. *This was observed on the 8/31/24 visit:* While most of the Herring Creek Road is fairly smooth and passable, the beginning and about a 1/2 mile or more as you approach the beach the is very bumpy, and unduly so.

5. We also understand from the survey response that there is an accessible porta potty available during the Season. *A porta potty was present.*

6. *For an update on the progress made on the cross-cutting recommendations with respect to this and Tisbury's other beaches, see accompanying Progress report on those recommendations.*

As an added suggestion consideration should be given to improving accessibility to the west side area adjacent to the "lake" and channel which appears to be used for walking, kayaking, fishing, etc.

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities  
Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, updated 10/11/24