

Squibnocket Beach

Update on Progress on Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations and Compliance with Accessibility Standards¹

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

1. There are many good accessibility features at this site particularly with regard to accessible parking spaces, one of which is earmarked for an accessible van.
This remains the case.
2. The parking lot is paved. From the accessible parking spaces, there is about 25 feet to the beginning of the beach. At that point, there is an abrupt 3-4" vertical drop off from the pavement to the beach and a slope that continues thereafter for about 8 feet. It is recommended that the drop off and slope be addressed with an appropriate, stable grading so that the overall slope from the end of the parking lot onto the beach does not exceed 5%, the allowable maximum (without the necessity of a ramp). This could be done by extending the pavement, through a wooden walkway, or permeable firm material with an appropriate retention capacity so that the material does not erode or deteriorate. The route would have to be at least four feet wide.

Not Done. See additional observations in response to No. 3 below.

3. From the end point of the above described graded section to the high-water mark, a beach mat could be used. Again whatever method is used, the route from the end of the parking lot to the highwater mark should be firm and stable, be free from obstacles and not have a running slope more than 5% or a cross slope more than 2%. For further guidance see footnote below.

Similarly, this work was not done. It should be noted however that on the 9/8/24 visit some minor erosion was observed to the beach presumably due to winter storms. From the end of the parking lot and the recommended 5% grading there is about 25-30 feet to high water mark over sand and somewhat more rocky section since the Fall 2023 site visit, again likely due to winter storms. There was also considerably more seaweed on the beach. However notwithstanding, the proposed recommendation still applies. Some additional cleanup of the rocks and seaweed would be needed and a beach mat could then be installed from the parking lot to the high-water mark. As with most accessibility improvements, these changes would benefit all beachgoers.

¹ For standards specifications/dimensions for beaches, see 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>.

² 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 9/8/24 visit.

4. It is understood that there is one beach wheelchair available during the Season. Consider also providing at least one floating wheelchair if a lifeguard is present and water conditions permitting.

Neither chair present. There was also no lifeguard and nor lifeguard station.

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

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities
Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, updated November 5, 2024