

## Chappy Point Beach

### Update on Progress on Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations and Compliance with Accessibility Standards<sup>1</sup>

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

*Note: One of our February/March 2024 general recommendations to all municipal and non-profit beach operators was to provide an action plan as to how and when the necessary improvements would be made. To MVLB's credit, on April 1, 2024, MVLB furnished a "Universal Accessibility Projects and Timeline (hereinafter "Project timeline"). How MVLB has progressed relative to both their own project timeline and our recommendations are outlined below.*<sup>3</sup>

1. This beach has two parking lots, one large one and one smaller lot for about 3-4 vehicles about 100-150 yards south.
  - a. As to the 1st parking lot & access to the beach's high-water mark, the following is recommended:
    - (1) Move the one accessible parking space about 60 feet from the current location next to the main route to the beach. Appropriate parking signage and pavement marking should accompany the move. A second accessible parking space is likely necessary as the parking lot has over 50 spaces.

*There is no explicit mention in the Project timeline of moving the parking space next to the main entrance, though the Project timeline states a sign indicating an accessible entrance may be installed in 2025. The Project timeline does not mention adding a second accessible space. As of the September 3, 2024 visit none of these recommendation were carried out.*

- (2) The wooden walkway needs to be replaced as it is in need repair, the gaps between slots are more than a half inch, and the walkway does not go to the high-water mark. The current walkway is about 60 feet long and could be replaced with another wooden walkway or beach mat or a combination. The distance between the accessible parking(s) and beginning of the route should also be accessible. (The parking lot is all pavement so that should not be a problem.) A sign indicating that this an accessible entrance/route should be installed.

*The Project timeline states that a beach mat for one of the entrances to the beach will be ordered with a question mark as to timeline. It further states that "[d]uring install, a sign indicating an accessible entrance will be installed. (maybe 2025)."*

*As of the site visit neither had been done. More specificity and certainty would be welcomed for this task(s) to assure that these relatively simple improvements are done for the 2025 season, and that at least the main entrance has an accessible route to the high-water mark.*

- (3) Consider providing at least one beach wheelchair, and if a lifeguard is present, a floating wheelchair.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<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 9/3/24 visit.

<sup>3</sup> The project timeline merely referenced years (e.g. 2024, 2025) as opposed to more specific dates for implementation/completion. While it has been presumed that this meant before the season began in the year specified, clarification was requested.

*Neither present during the September 3, 2024 visit and no mention made in Project timeline.*

b. The second parking lot of 3-4 spaces appears to have two purposes one as a parking area/ entranceway to the shellfish hatchery and the other as a second entranceway/parking area to the south section of the Chappy Beach.

- (1) As to the route to the Chappy Beach, the first part of the route is made of crushed shells and appears to be firm & wide enough. The second part has a wooden walkway, however it is in bad condition & ends well short of the highwater mark. If the main entrance (described above) were made accessible, this entrance would not have to be made so The only thing necessary would be to have signage at the entrance to this smaller parking lot pointing to the main entrance as the accessible route.
- (2) As to the route from this small parking lot to the shellfish hatchery, which is about 75' long, the grassy route would have to be replaced with an accessible entrance assuming the hatchery is still open to the public. There are several options to make this pathway accessible, probably the best would be laying out a pathway consisting of stone dust or some other hard surface. If the hatchery is open to the public, the hatchery should be evaluated for accessibility, and if improvements are necessary, they should be made.

*Nothing had changed since the March 2024 recommendations regarding this second smaller parking lot and beach entrance, nor was it addressed in the Project timeline.*

2. 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.*

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Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, updated 11/2/24