

Owen Little Way Beach¹

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*)²

1. Because of how level this area is, and the short distance to the beach from the parking lot and then to the high-water mark, this beach can quite easily be made accessible. Here are the recommendations.
2. With regard to parking, it is recommended that the surface for the one designated accessible space be paved as the current surface is not sufficiently smooth and firm. A paved parking space will also provide a seamless transition onto the paved section of the parking area. Alternatively, a different firm and more stable but permeable material could be laid down which could also provide a seamless transition to the paved section of the parking area. *This desired recommendation not accomplished as of update visit.*
3. For the beach itself a wooden walkway could be created similar to the Owen Park Way Beach and go all the way to the high-water mark. Currently it is all sand. Alternatively, a beach mat could be used. It makes the most sense to connect this walkway/mat to the to the the small swimming pier. However, in order that there is an accessible route directly to the water (as opposed to just the pier), a beach mat should be used jutting out from one or both sides of the main walkway/mat at an angle all the way to the high- water mark. It could begin shortly after the existing picnic table and would be at about a 45-degree angle.

Note: If a beach mat is used for the main route to the swimming pier, in order to get a seamless, firm, and safe transition, it may be necessary to extend the pier inward toward the beach several feet. *Not accomplished. It was also noticed that at the end of the beach mat there is an abrupt, almost 90-degree 4-inch drop. Extending the mat as recommended will provide an opportunity to do so. Not only was this observed but pointed out by an older female visitor who was using a cane and tripped or nearly tripped because of the drop at the end of the mat.*
4. The survey response indicated that a beach wheelchair was available, but not a floating wheelchair. When onsite in October 2023, only a floating wheelchair was available. We would recommend both, however a floating wheelchair only if a lifeguard is on duty and water conditions permitting. *Update showed the same.*

5. 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.

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

¹ For specifications/dimensions for accessible beaches, see 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 8/31/24 visit.

Field Code Changed

