

## Long Point Beach

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

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

#### Recommendations

1. Make the “summer entrance” and route to beach fully accessible to include from the shower area. This includes the first parking area on the right after the showers and the one currently designated an accessible space at the end of the route facing the dunes. I am recalling that the space facing the dune has accessibility signage. If the first set of spaces do not, consider designating one as such. *Not done.*
2. The shower structure which is elevated above the ground should also be made accessible. *Not done.*
3. Consider making one large beach wheelchair available at beach entrance. *This has been the practice along with offering ASV assistance.* . Consider also making a floating wheelchair available on the beach if water conditions warrant and if a lifeguard is available. *Undetermined.*
4. A beach mat could be used from the firm route/path through and from the dunes to the highwater mark or wooden walkway could be installed or a combination. They would need to be arranged or strategically placed to ensure the route does not exceed accessible slope maximums. For slope maximums and related specifications, see footnote below.

*Not done, however the following improvement is being implemented presumably for the 2025 Season. Trustees of the Reservation (TOR) is putting in place an accessible kayak and transition platform to allow easy exit and entrance into the kayak. This was prompted by TOR’s desire to enhance the experience of individuals served by the Jabberwocky Camp and the Voyager program at the high school and will be available for others who require it. Its purpose is to enable individuals with disabilities to kayak in the Long Cove Pond. It will not however significantly improve access to the Long Point beach via the primary and more direct access points discussed above. TOR should however be commended for this related improvement.*

5. As Long Point is open to the public year-round and is a popular for trail walking and hiking, boating as well as for the beach going, consider keeping the summer entrance open all year round as this entrance appears more accessible particularly with above recommended improvements. Also consider, making the

---

<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 9/8/24 visit.

year-round entrance accessible as well as some or all of the looping or connecting trails that do not go all the way to the beach. Specifically on a phased in basis this could include:

- The primary dirt road from the year-round entrance to the beach. That road meets all accessibility standards with a few easily correctable exceptions. First, on the dirt road itself, there are some sections where crowning in the middle of road creates a greater than allowable maximum cross slope. Second, at the beginning and end points of the route some surface issues need to be addressed. The route from the year-round parking lot to the dirt road requires some work to make sure that part of the route is firm and free of grass or obstacles protruding up and is at least 4 feet wide. Similarly, the end point where the dirt road connects to the beach would have to be firmed up and made stable. Currently it consists of sand. A beach mat(s) and/or wooden walkways could then be used in that area to extend all the way to the high-water mark. They would need to be arranged or strategically placed to ensure the route does not exceed accessible slope standards.
  - Making the east-west trail/route near and parallel to the beach between the dirt road and (what I call) the summer route accessible by smoothing and firming it up. As I recall there is sufficient width.
  - The same treatment could also be applied to other trails. The ones I saw consisted of connecting and looping trails on the north end away from the beach that can be accessed from the visitor's center.

*None of this done.*

6. See also *update with regard* to accompanying Recommendations Applicable to all Beaches and Planned Improvements.

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities  
Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, *progress updated 12/10/24*