

Red Beach

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*)¹

1. Some good accessibility features present. The primary issue is making the route accessible from the southeast end of the paved parking lot (where it meets the beach) to the high-water mark. It is a distance of about 30-35 feet to the water's edge. The current route consists of all beach sand. A beach mat could work. The entry point where the pavement meets the sand appears to have a grade over 8.33% and that could be overcome by extending the pavement a few feet and graduating the grade in the process or through other means and then laying down a beach mat the rest of the way to the water's edge. For route grade and slope specifications, 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>.

The situation is essentially the same with no accessibility improvement observed. It should also be noted that on the west side of the beach there is a number of kayaks and canoes. To reach those from the parking lot, there is about 60 to 150 feet of beach sand to cross. A beach mat could work in that section as well.

2. According to the beach survey response there is an accessible porta potty at the beach during the season as well as a beach wheelchair. Neither were present during the follow up visit which took place in October 2023. Making available a floating wheelchair might also be considered.

On my 9/8/24 visit, one porta potty present, but not "handicapped" accessible. No beach or floating wheelchairs present. No lifeguard or lifeguard station.

3. 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
October 31, 2024

¹ 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 9/98/24 visit.