

## Edgartown Fuller Beach

### Update on Progress of Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations<sup>1</sup>

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

1. With regard to parking, there is one public paved road perpendicular and runs right up to this beach. There is room for about five parked vehicles. A space closest to the beach should be marked off as an accessible space with appropriate surface marking and signage. *No change.*
2. Due to topography of the beach's steep drop off and the short distance from to the water, it would be very challenging to develop a wheelchair accessible route to the high-water mark. Considerable switching backing might work to achieve the required grades. Whether using switch backing or a direct route, for guidance as to the maximum allowable grades and other 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>.

Field Code Changed

*The beach remains inaccessible in accordance with the above standards.*

*When first visited in the Fall of 2023, the slope from the street/parking area to the beach was short, but moderately steep exceeding 10%. The route consisted of beach sand and therefore was also not firm and stable. It actually grew worse due to winter storms. However, during the recent 9/3/24 visit it was noted that due to some beach nourishment and grading, the steepened slope was lessened, however it remains too steep. One solution is to create a pathway at about a 45-degree angle from the south side of the street to the beach, intersecting the beach some 150 feet south of the current entrance. A firm surface would have to be created in the form of a wooden walkway, beach mat, or a natural permeable firm surface through the grassy area and then to the high-water mark.*

The beach itself is not that wide-- about 100 feet going north to a "No trespassing sign" and about ¼ to ½ mile going south. The beach surface remains narrow throughout.

*It was observed that the no trespassing sign has been moved to just to the left of the main entrance, now stating, among other things, "Private property to low tide." This is significant because not only does it narrow the width of the public beach, but it hampers access to the Sheriff's Meadow's Little Beach, about 100 to 150 yards north. It is really the only way the public can reach that beach. It would appear that this needs further looking into by the Town, Sheriff's Meadow or other stakeholders. Is the notice on the sign and action permissible? Are their governing easements?*

3. See also accompanying Recommendations Applicable to all Beaches. *For an update on the progress made on the cross-cutting recommendations with respect to this beach and Edgartown's other beaches, see accompanying Progress report on those recommendations.*

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities  
September 30, 2024

<sup>1</sup> For standards and 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> This update was based on a 9/3/24 site visit. 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.