

## Wilfrid Pond 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>

1. Only a few improvements needed to make this beach fully accessible.

*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 outline below.*

2. Make sure there is at least one designated marked accessible parking space in your approximate 10-space parking area/lot.

Note: A sign needs to be posted, and the surface marked if paved.

*The Project timeline had this scheduled for 2024 season.*<sup>3</sup>

*As of the 8/31/24 visit, this had not occurred.*

2. Most of route from the parking lot to the beach is accessible. There are a few places that need firmer surface or widening. A beach mat could be used toward the end of the route and to the high-water mark.

*As to the beach mat, the Project timeline indicated that for 2025, MVLB would file for permission for installing a mobi mat. While presumably this meant it would be installed by the start of the 2025 season (assuming permission is granted), clarification was and is requested.*

*As to widening and firming up some needed portions of the route from the parking lot to the beach entrance, the project timeline had that scheduled for 2024. As of the 8/31/24 visit, no progress had been made on this part of the recommendation.*

3. Consider one large wheel beach wheelchair; and if lifeguards available, one floating beach chair.

*Not addressed in the Project timeline Neither chair present on 8/31/24 visit. It should be noted that there was no lifeguard station or staff present.*

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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 8/31/24 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.

4. 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.*  
*Porta potty which was present and accessible could use sign indicating it as such.*

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities  
Original Recommendations' Report 3/2024, updated 11/2/24