

Edgartown Gardner Conservation Beach¹

Update on Progress of Implementation of the March 2024 Recommendations²

(March 2024 Recommendations in standard back font. Updated observations *in red italics*)

Overall no changes; conditions slightly worse in fact.

1. Make sure wooden walkways as is or supplemented by beach mats are in good repair from beach entrance to high water mark. Some repair or replacement may be needed as well as beveling at beginning and end points of the walkway so that there is no more than a ¼ inch rise onto the walkway. All or part of the route could be replaced with a firm and stable permeable surface.

No progress. The wooden walkways are in the same or worse condition, particularly the northern most one. However, all three walkways are in significant disrepair. They either need to be replaced with new wooden walkways or beach mats.

2. One accessible space should be provided next or proximate to the beach access route and the route from the parking space to the beginning of the beach route should be accessible. *No progress.*

It is further suggested that the third entrance be selected as the primary accessible entrance as the grade at the beginning and at the beach are already closer to compliant grades. The second entrance clearly is not. The first entrance which connects to the second one is too narrow and overgrown and does not have a firm surface throughout.

3. It is also suggested that the connecting trails between the two routes to the water also be made accessible. *This may not be mandatory but is desirable.*

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

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities
September 27, 2024

¹ For specifications/dimensions for beaches, 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>.

² 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.

Field Code Changed