



2020 UPDATE

TOWN OF DENNIS

OPEN SPACE and RECREATION PLAN



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Section 1. Plan Summary

The Town of Dennis is a community with a careful balance of land preservation, natural resource protection, and economic development. While much of the private land holdings are developed, the town has gone to great efforts to review the remaining undeveloped parcels to determine their value for open space preservation, water supply protection, flood prevention, and recreational opportunities. The town is cognizant of the fact that a significant portion of its housing stock consists of second homes, used only during the summer season. These second home owners place two significant burdens on the town, in terms of preservation. First, the town must ensure that the beaches, golf courses, and open areas that attract these seasonal residents to the community are protected to ensure the continued health of the town's seasonal economy. Second, the town needs to consider the potential future needs, for open spaces, water supply, etc., that may occur if these second homes ever became used as year-round homes.

This plan serves as an update to previous plans, highlighting the accomplishments, noting areas where additional work may be necessary, and identifying new goals for the town to pursue in the next seven years. This update, as with earlier plans, incorporates goals of protecting natural resources, conserving open space, providing protection against flood damage, and providing a varied recreation program. The plan seeks to address these goals simultaneously where possible by encouraging preservation of open space, while allowing opportunities for its enjoyment through modest improvements which provide access for passive recreation.

This update incorporates goals for accessibility for both recreation and open space facilities. There continues to be an emphasis on open space preservation by means other than direct acquisition, such as through conservation restrictions, donation, and zoning techniques. However, acquisition is still necessary to preserve critical resources.

The plan represents the combined efforts of several town committees and departments, including the Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Beach Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Board of Selectmen, Dennis Economic Development Committee, Dennis Port Revitalization Committee, South Side Civic Association, Town Administrator's Office, Town Planner's Office, Natural Resources Department, Department of Public Works, Harbormaster's Office and the Beach and Recreation Department.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan serves as an element of the Dennis Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP). The LCP was endorsed by Dennis Town Meeting on September 23, 2002. The Local Comprehensive Plan serves as the town's response to the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan to guide planning and growth decisions overall for the town.

Since the last OSRP update, the Town has actively partnered with the Dennis Conservation Land Trust and the Water District to purchase environmentally sensitive lands in the Chase Garden Creek and the Bass River watersheds. The Town Lands Inventory, in process under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, will identify priority uses of Town municipal properties and help ensure these lands are used appropriately. This Plan will provide an ongoing framework to continue such purchases and identify ongoing needs to improve public access to existing and newly purchased lands. The Town continues to expand public recreational opportunities through upgrades of boat access at town owned landings, improvements at Sesuit Harbor, and the construction of new ball courts around town.

The Town has also completed an ADA Assessment of Town owned properties. This Plan will serve to guide renovations of existing Town buildings, parks, beach facilities, and conservation areas to improve access for people with disabilities.

Lastly, this Plan sets out potential projects and outlines a framework for inclusion of these projects within the existing Town Capital Outlay Project process, Community Preservation Act funding, and the State land grant process. This ensures costs and timing of new projects and project upgrades will be part of the overall Town funding mechanism.

The overarching goals identified in this open space plan include the following:

GOAL 1: Preserve land for open space and recreation, focusing acquisitions on priority properties and connections to existing open space.

GOAL 2: Maintain and improve existing recreational properties and facilities, while exploring additional recreational opportunities throughout town.

GOAL 3: Upgrade Town facilities to provide ADA accessibility.

GOAL 4: Preserve the historic and scenic character of the Town.

GOAL 5: Protect water quality and drinking water supplies.

GOAL 6: Promote a cooperative and regional approach to open space and resource protection.

Section 2. Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan provides a framework for decision-making by its residents. The purpose of the update is to serve as a guide to responsible action to conserve Dennis' natural resources, preserve its open space, enhance flood protection, and provide ample opportunities for recreation for its citizens.

PREVIOUS EFFORTS

This plan represents over 40 years of open space and recreation planning in the Town of Dennis. The town has been active in the implementation of the open space and recreation recommendations found in the 1998, 2003, and 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan Updates.

Recent updates to the Plan occurred in 2003 and 2008. These updates identified several key open space and recreational protection items. Top-most in these were the protection of the Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture Area and Sea View Park along the Bass River, which have been purchased and upgraded to allow recreational access. Crowes Pasture in East Dennis represents the largest conservation area in the Town. This property is managed for several recreational activities including, ORV use, shellfishing, hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and bird watching. The grassland pasture is maintained through controlled burns and mowing to keep out invasive plants. Bluebird nesting is monitored by the Cape Cod Bird Club. The Bass River Park was completely repurposed in 2009-2010. The area is now used as a public park with seating areas and a pavilion. Located on the shore of the Bass River in West Dennis, the park provides newly built and renovated docks for additional public docking space. Kayaks are rented to the public and the park connects to an adjacent conservation area via an unimproved trail. Seaview Park, located in Dennisport, provides several recreational opportunities. The park contains community gardens, walking trails, a small pond, playground, and two new multi-purpose courts completed in 2016. A portion of the property remains in conservation status and a third parcel is a favorite beach area. The Town continues to provide improvements, recently upgrading drainage facilities from the pond, and funding a project to restore wetlands and improve water quality within the pond.

RECENT EFFORTS

Since the last Plan update in 2008, the Town has been busy with new land purchases, construction of new beach and park facilities, and conservation land improvements.

The most recent land purchases include:

- 2013 Grassy Pond Woodlands: 9.57 acres of land along Grassy Pond in East Dennis
- 2015 Aquatic Research Corporation: 29 acres of land purchased by the town along Chapin Beach Road; an additional 39.17 acres under CR held by Dennis, Yarmouth, Barnstable County, and Dennis Conservation Land Trust, acquiring all non-agricultural development rights for the site of the ARC.
- 2016 Holl Property: 8.15 acres of land abutting the Princess Beach Property on the shore of Scargo Lake in Dennis
- 2019 Bush Property: 13.11 acres of land abutting Indian Lands Conservation Area in South Dennis, including a historic boat house on the banks of the Bass River

Recent beach and recreational facility upgrades include:

- 2009-2015 Seaview Park: Installation of signage, walking trails, picnic areas, community garden, naturalized landscaping, osprey pole, playground, ball field, fencing, and parking lot improvements.

- 2015 Corporation Beach concessions upgraded.
- 2016–2019 Comfort station and playground upgrades at beaches and parks.
- 2018/2019 Mayflower Beach: Construction of a new concession stand and bathhouse.
- 2018/2019 Multi-use courts installed at Seaview and Wixon.

Recent conservation land improvements include:

- 2012 Pond Street Blueberry Patch: The DNR removed invasive species from this abandoned blueberry patch and restored blueberry bushes, allowing the patch to be reopened for public picking.
- 2013 Flax Pond: Improvements to the parking lot; installation of a kiosk, fencing, trash receptacle, and signage.
- 2013 Conservation Area sign installations: New town conservation area signs were installed at the entrances to several properties throughout town with hiking trail access.
- 2014 Princess Beach: Replacement of restrooms, picnic pavilion, septic tank and leach field; installation of new picnic tables, grills, signage, and kiosk.
- 2019 Indian Lands: A section of this popular hiking trail along the banks of the Bass River were closed off due to erosion, with a new path constructed further inland. Additional split rail fencing was installed to keep walkers away from the steep banks. New trail markers were also installed.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

This update builds upon past community needs and priorities surveys, and public forums addressing open space, flood prevention, and recreational needs. Residents were asked to assess the condition of town recreational facilities and to provide recommendations as to the priority of expenditures on open space and recreation. The survey was dispersed throughout town, and was responded to by 358 residents.

The plan represents the combined efforts of several town committees and departments, including the Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Beach Commission, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Board of Selectmen, Dennis Economic Development Committee, Dennis Port Revitalization Committee, South Side Civic Association, Town Administrator’s Office, Town Planner’s Office, Natural Resources Department, Department of Public Works, Harbormaster’s Office, and the Beach and Recreation Department.

Section 3. Community Setting

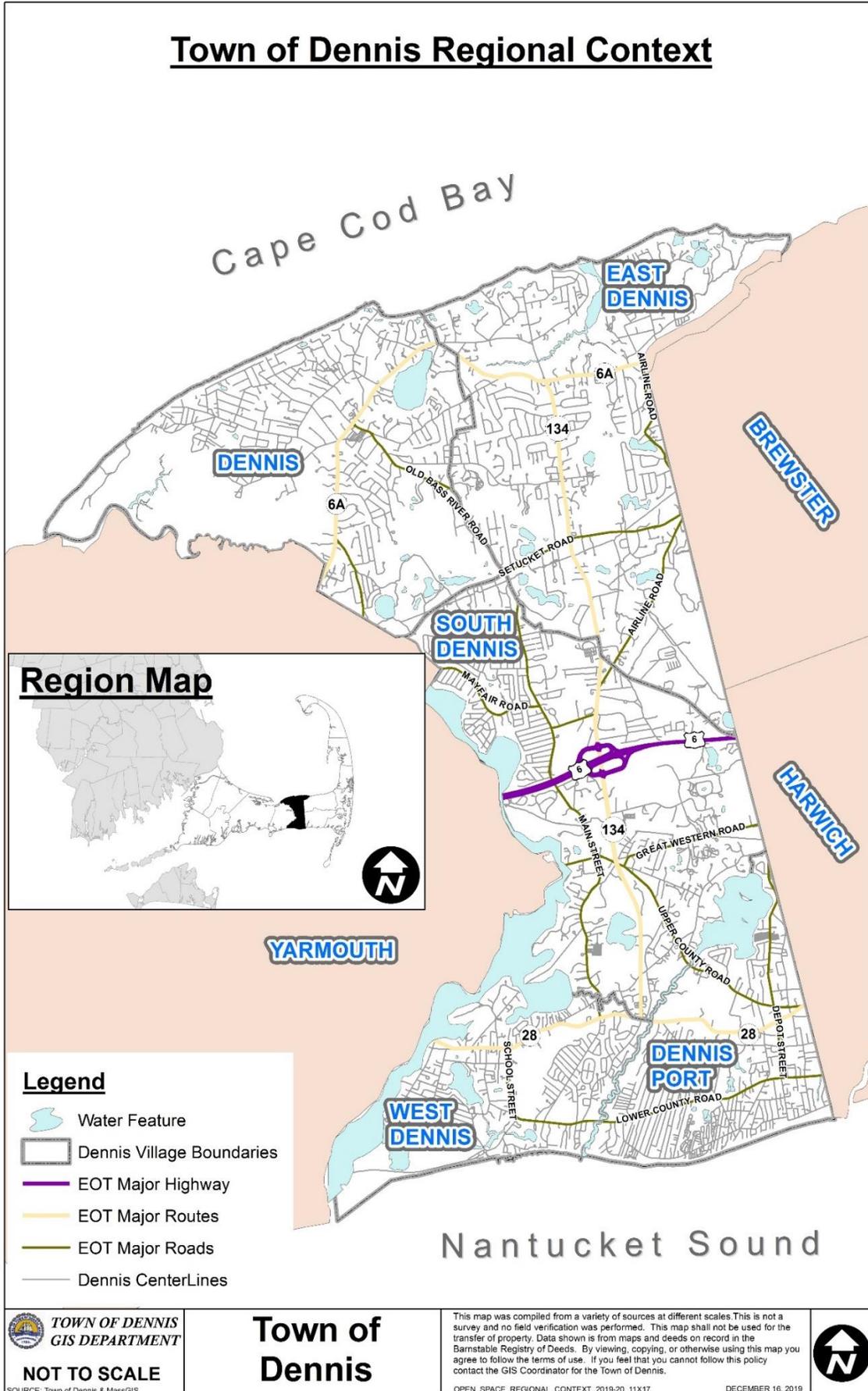
A. Regional Context

Located in the middle of Cape Cod, Dennis is 85 miles from Boston and 260 miles from New York City. The town covers seven and a half miles north to south and ranges one and a half miles to four miles in width. The ninth largest-area town (of 15) on Cape Cod, Dennis encompasses 20.66 square miles of land area, or 13,645 acres, and is bounded on the north by Cape Cod Bay, on the east by the Towns of Brewster and Harwich, on the south by Nantucket Sound, and on the west by the Town of Yarmouth. Dennis is one of only three Cape towns which retains its original shore-to-shore boundaries between Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound. The significance of this layout lies in the diversity offered by the two distinctly different marine ecosystems, and recreational attributes of the different shorelines. Dennis' planning districts include Dennis Village, Dennis Port, East Dennis, South Dennis, and West Dennis.

Dennis is engaged in the natural resource and planning issues of Cape Cod through participation in the Assembly of Delegates, Cape Cod Commission, Shellfish Advisory Board, Cape Cod Pathways, Regional Transit Authority, and other regional organizations. Cooperative ventures in protecting the Bass River and Chase Garden ecosystems require partnerships with the Town of Yarmouth; protecting the Quivett Creek/Bound Brook watershed has required a partnership with the Town of Brewster, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, Brewster Conservation Trust and the Cape Cod Commission; and protecting the drinking water supply of the Town of Dennis has required a partnership between the Dennis Water District and the Town of Brewster. As with the entire Cape area, Dennis is served by a sole source aquifer, the Monomoy Lens. Because public wellfields in the eastern side of town draw ground water from Dennis, Harwich, and Brewster, the town participates in the Monomoy Lens Groundwater Protection Project with its municipal neighbors through the Cape Cod Commission.

Potential regional and neighboring threats to the quality of resources and open space in Dennis include continued development, particularly given Dennis' proximity to Hyannis, Cape Cod's commercial core and transportation hub. This growth could impact regional resources such as water quality, coastal resources, and wildlife migration.

FIGURE 1: TOWN OF DENNIS REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP



B. History of the Community

Archeological studies in Dennis have uncovered a history of Native American settlement along the Bass River in South Dennis. Among the artifacts are Mounds indicating the extensive use of shellfish and its importance for subsistence to the earliest inhabitants. Major Native trails followed the riverbanks north and south (on what is now Mayfair Road, the southern end of Old Bass River Road, and Main Street through South Dennis) and east-west through town along what is now Route 6A and Setucket Road. Major areas targeted for Archeological concerns include the Indian Lands Conservation Area along Bass River, the Holl Property purchased in 2016 adjacent to Scargo Lake, and the Bush Property purchased in 2019 adjacent to the Bass River. Conservation Restrictions prohibit unauthorized excavations and ensure the protection of these areas.

Dennis was colonized by Europeans in 1639 as a part of Yarmouth within Plymouth Colony, and incorporated as its own town in 1793. Along with Sandwich and Barnstable, Dennis (as part of Yarmouth) is one of the Cape's oldest towns. Dennis settlers were farmers first and fishermen on the side. But as the population grew in the 1700s, and the soils became depleted, Dennis citizens looked to the sea for sustenance and profit, through whaling and commercial fishing. In the 1800s, a full scale, multi-faceted maritime economy developed in Dennis. Bass River was a major Southside port of the Cape.

By the mid-1800s, Dennis turned back to the land for economic pursuits, with 50 acres of planted bogs in 1855 (more than any other Cape town) growing rapidly to as many as 359 acres planted by 1889. Throughout the nineteenth century, Dennis consistently placed in the top three of Cape towns in cranberry acreage and/or production. Cranberrying altered the environment in many ways: cedar swamps and other wetlands were displaced to make working bogs, dikes were used to impound streams, adjacent banks were mined for sand, and isolated ponds were given artificial outlets and their water levels manipulated with flumes.

By 1858, the Southside of town had a larger population and more business than the Northside. Numerous wharves appeared on the Nantucket Sound shore at Dennis Port (then called Crocker's Neck). The railroad extended to Yarmouth by 1854 and ten years later, on through town to Orleans, supplanting sailing as the primary means of transport regionally.

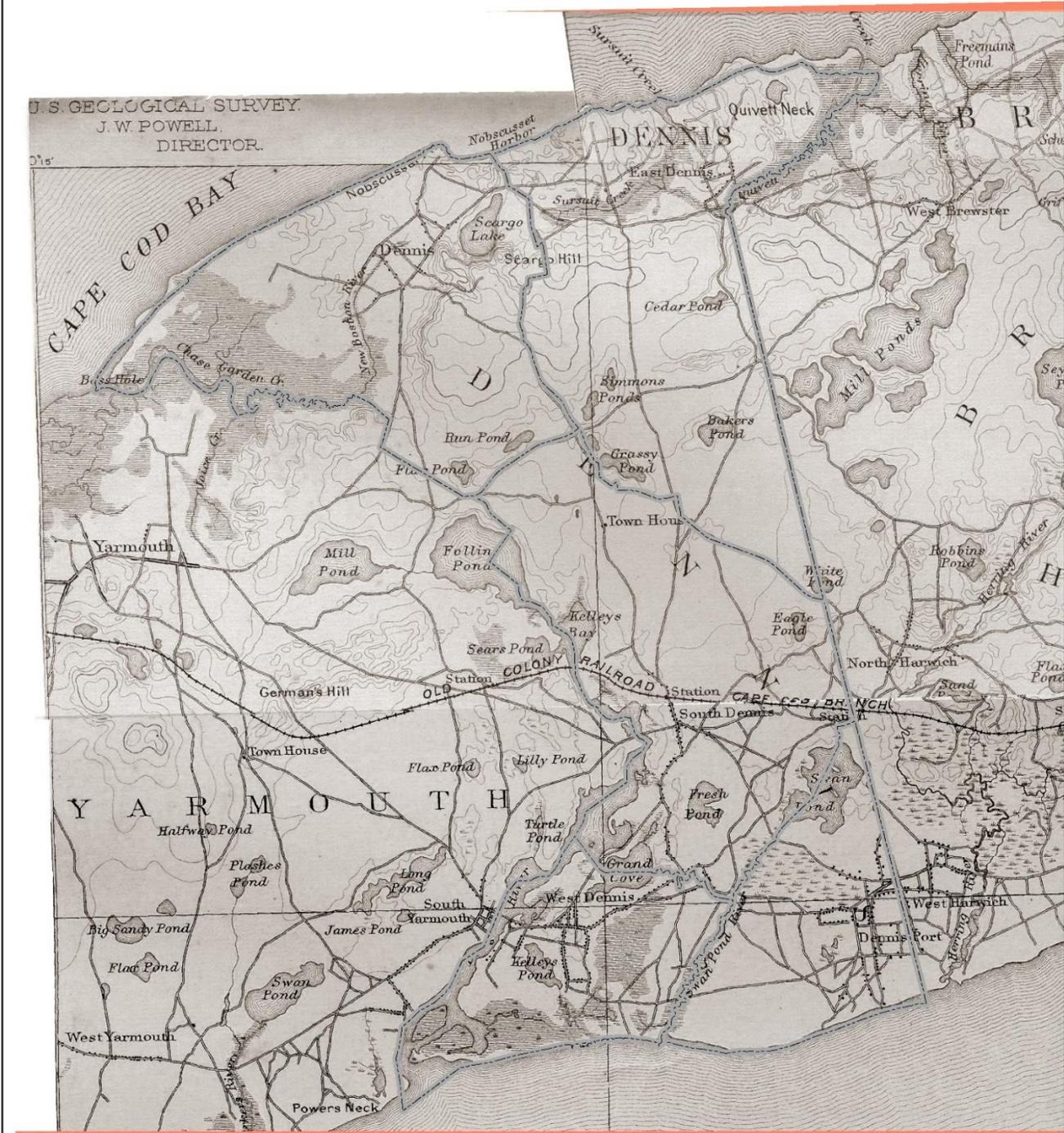
For fifty years after the Civil War, Dennis, like the rest of Cape Cod, experienced an economic collapse. Fishing and whaling continued their decline, midwestern farms dominated the national markets, and net migration of the population was off-Cape.

The advent of the automobile brought about substantial change. By 1920, Dennis' population began its rebound from nineteenth century decline, as the idea of Cape Cod as a summer resort, which was only a germ of a vision to that point, took firm hold. Jobs grew in building homes for developments along the southern coastal areas, and the foundation of the tourist economy took shape. By the 1950s, spurred by the post-World War II boom, Dennis' character as a seaside resort was entrenched. Beachfront motels and cottage colonies blanketed the Southside, where warm waters and sandy shores provided excellent swimming and sunning conditions. Route 28 firmly supplanted Route 6A as the town's new linear commercial core, since there was more room for businesses to grow and it was proximate to the resorts.

Over the past 40 years, many of the former summer tourists have purchased homes and retired to Dennis, producing the largest user group of the Cape's service economy. This still growing retirement community has produced a greater awareness about quality of life issues in Dennis and on the Cape.

FIGURE 2: TOWN OF DENNIS 1893 USGS MAP

Town of Dennis 1893 USGS




**TOWN OF DENNIS
GIS DEPARTMENT**
NOT TO SCALE

Town of Dennis

This map was compiled from a variety of sources at different scales. This is not a survey and no field verification was performed. This map shall not be used for the transfer of property. Data shown is from maps and deeds on record in the Barnstable Registry of Deeds. By viewing, copying, or otherwise using this map you agree to follow the terms of use. If you feel that you cannot follow this policy contact the GIS Coordinator for the Town of Dennis.



SOURCE: 1893 USGS

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DECEMBER 13, 2019

C. Population Characteristics

Dennis hosts about six and a half percent of Barnstable County's population (2010 Census) on five percent of the land in the county. Growth in Dennis, as on the rest of Cape Cod, was dramatic during the 60's and 70's. However, 2010 US Census counts illustrate a dramatic drop in year-round population in the first decade of the 21st century. Factors influencing this drop likely include the national economic downturn of that time period, young people leaving the area, and the higher than normal housing costs on Cape Cod due to the large second home market.

From 2000-2010, Dennis lost 1,766 year-round residents, 11% of those living here in 2000. The under 18 population dropped by 720 people in the decade. This is nearly a 27% drop in this segment of the population in the decade. Given overall population dropped by only 11.1%, and in 2000 the under 18 population was 17% of the total population in Dennis, it is safe to say that the young people in Dennis in 2010 made up a smaller share of the town's population than in 2000.

The Census data confirms that families with young children were leaving town in the preceding decade. The 18 and over population dropped as well, by 1,046 people, or 6.5%. This drop in year-round population is nowhere near as dramatic as in the younger age group. Interestingly, Dennis lost significant population in the oldest age cohorts, decade over decade as well. The 70 plus population in 2010, which represents the 60 plus age cohort in 2000, shows a drop of 1,248 people. This change includes deaths, but also represents others who have simply chosen to not winter on the Cape any longer.

Dennis' population gain occurred in the age cohort that was between 40 and 60 years old in 2000. This age cohort grew by 509 people during the past decade. Ultimately, the loss of younger people, and the growth in people between 50 and 70, results in a significantly older Dennis. In 2000, the median age was 49.4. In 2010 the median age has jumped to 55.1. Men are younger than women, with a male median age of 53.2 (up from 47.9 in 2000) and female median age of 56.8 (up from 50.7 in 2000).

Over the past decade, while the state was growing by about 3%, Barnstable County was losing population, with nearly a 3% loss. When compared to our neighbors and the rest of the Cape, Dennis population figures dropped dramatically, with the largest population drop percentage wise on the Cape. Beyond the year-round population numbers, Dennis, experiences a fairly substantial population change during the summer months. As will be discussed later, total housing units increased in Dennis between 2000 and 2010. All of this, and the housing vacated by families leaving the area in the decade, were absorbed by second home owners. The net result is, if we considered only the population in housing units, Dennis had an estimated summer population of between 30,827 and 61,805 people in 2010, the lower number using the average people per housing unit for year-round occupancy and the higher number being based upon Board of Health information on seasonal housing occupancy permits. In 2000, the seasonal population ranged between 28,800 and 52,129. These figures suggest a growth in summer population of between 2,000 and 9,000 people, before counting those in hotel rooms, cottages and recreational vehicles. In the past, we had estimated total summer population at about 70,000 people, it is now likely that we are approaching 80,000 people.

The increase in summer over winter population is more than five-fold (14,207 to an estimated 70,000 to 80,000). Excluding towns within the Cape Cod National Seashore, Dennis experiences the greatest rate of change between winter and summer populations of any town on Cape Cod. This change is due to the high rate of seasonal homes in Dennis. Dennis has about 51% of its housing occupied seasonally.

IRS data estimated a loss of 2,673 between 2004 and 2008 for Barnstable County, a figure that is nearly one-half the population loss estimated by the Census Bureau for the County. Census Bureau interim population figures (released annually between Census Counts) suggested that Dennis alone lost 631

people in this time period. The IRS tax return data provided a strong picture, mid-decade of the out-migration trend of the population from the Cape.

Dennis year-round population (from which the remaining comparisons are drawn) continues to grow older. The town's median age jumped to 55.1 years old since 2000 (49.4 years old). This median age is significantly higher than our neighbors Yarmouth (51.4 years), Harwich (52.6 years) and Brewster (53.5 years) as well as in relation to the rest of the Cape's median (49.9 years) and the Commonwealth's (39.1 years).

The 65+ age bracket is the fastest growing segment of the population in real numbers, having increased by more than 3,000 people over the last thirty years. Children make up a smaller portion of the overall population than in the past. The implications of this aged population factor for open space and recreational services are, all else being equal, the town should perhaps emphasize more leisure activities oriented towards older citizens, such as developing pocket parks in the individual Dennis villages, walking paths, sidewalks, benches, and, handicapped access.

In addition to having an older population than other Cape towns, Dennis continues to experience a decrease in wealth. Household income in 2013 was \$50,672 for Dennis, the fourth lowest of the 15 towns on Cape Cod. In 2013, 12.3% of Dennis families lived below the poverty level compared to 12.8% in Barnstable County. However, 37.6% of families with children under the age of 18 live in poverty and 45.1% of all Dennis residents under age 18 lived in poverty in 2013. Implications of the town's demographics include the need to provide recreational opportunities that are affordable for most people, to look to the needs of the very young, and to provide for the expanding elderly population.

Looking at these numbers in a different way, in 2013 39.8% of the households living in the town of Dennis are considered as either low or very low-income households. These households would qualify for subsidized housing under MGL Chapter 40B. In comparison on the county wide basis 38.2% of the households are so classified.

Walking trails, scenic lookouts, and sidewalks may be appropriate supplements to active recreation facilities (such as tennis or basketball) or private health clubs. In general, passive recreation should be emphasized along with active recreation to serve the needs of the entire Dennis community. Items as simple as a bench to stop and catch one's breath along a hiking trail would be useful. The town is obligated to provide safe and convenient outdoor enjoyment for disabled people, many of whom may be elderly. Benches, firm footing, safe parking access should be easy, yet important, design considerations.

The economy of Dennis is still largely dependent upon the tourist trade and servicing retirees. In 2008, the town had 552 businesses, down from 594 in 2006. Annual total wages of \$133,059,000 were a drop from two years earlier, and annual employment was at 3,732 people employed, a drop of 1,000 people in 2006. This was likely due to the impacts of the recession in Dennis. In March of 2015 Dennis still had an unemployment rate of 9.6%, fourth highest in Barnstable County and still reflective of the lack of recovery in the year-round jobs picture.

Nearly 42% of those employed in Dennis in 2008 were employed in either retail trade or the accommodations and food services industry. Reflecting the nature of the local economy, health care and social assistance ranked as the third largest employment industry. Stop and Shop continues to be the largest employer in Dennis, the second largest being the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, followed by Dennis Port Culinary, Eagle Pond Rehabilitation Center, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Dennis/Yarmouth School System.

There has been a revived interest in determining actions that the town could take to stabilize the local

tourist economy. These actions include looking at ways to modernize the existing tourist accommodations, and to determine how increased tourist activities can be accommodated without denigrating the natural environment. This conclusion is supported by the recent [Open Space and Recreation Survey](#) conducted by the Town of Dennis Planning Department which showed that 56% of the respondents recognize the town is a resort town and reliant upon the visitors to the town.

FIGURE 3: POPULATION DENSITY (CENSUS DATA 2010)

| | BARNSTABLE COUNTY | BREWSTER | DENNIS | HARWICH | YARMOUTH |
|------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| POPULATION | 215,888 | 9,820 | 14,207 | 12,243 | 23,793 |
| POPULATION/SQ MI | 165.3 | 385.1 | 687.7 | 369.5 | 843.7 |

D. Growth and Development Patterns

PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Dennis colonists originally divided their settlement into common property and private farming lands, with salt marshes as commons used for grazing cattle. Private land typically ran in north-south strips (called 'long lots') from the beach back to the moraine ridges. This pattern enabled each colonist to have a slice of different habitat for various land uses. This north-south strip pattern is still a relict today in some areas along the Northside. Its significance lies in its ability to prevent land assemblage for some large-scale developments (or, conversely, for large conservation blocks).

Year-round, Dennis has 687 permanent residents per square mile. In the summer, Dennis is densely populated as the motels, cottage colonies, and second homes, particularly on the Southside, fill up with summer residents, guests, and tourists. During this season, Dennis swells to over 3,000 people per square mile. Owing to municipal foresight, there are large areas of protected undeveloped land. About thirty percent (4,065 acres) of the town's land mass has been set aside as protected open space for wellfields, conservation land, and beaches. The town continues to vigorously pursue opportunities to purchase open land; since the adoption of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the town has acquired over 70 acres of open space through private donations, Community Preservation Funds, and State Self-Help and Urban Self-Help funds. In addition, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust has placed an additional 19 acres under protection. Dennis made Cape Cod conservation history in 1967 by getting the first town-wide land acquisition program approved overwhelmingly by town voters.

The Town of Dennis has worked to protect its small-town atmosphere while recognizing the need for economic growth. The town has undertaken a number of zoning initiatives to promote a balanced growth that addresses protecting natural, historic, and cultural resources, while recognizing the need for job, housing, and tax base growth. Examples of these initiatives include the significant down-zoning that occurred within the Crowes Pasture area as part of the town's District of Critical Planning Concern effort, down-zoning a portion of the West Dennis Village Center waterfront area to protect the area for recreational and water-oriented land uses, the creation of two mixed-use village development districts, and restrictions on formula businesses to protect community cultural characteristics over national standardization.

The town has had cluster zoning in place for many years. However, there are very few significantly sized tracts of land remaining where this type of zoning will be successful. It is unlikely that open space set-asides will grow apace with development despite the cluster zoning. Significant new acquisitions of open space must be made, through purchase or other protection means. The preservation of some of the remaining open space may be an important way to manage growth, in addition to preserving resources and providing recreation. Despite its density, Dennis still has a small-town atmosphere appreciated by its citizens. The rural seaside charm is extant in views of historic homes and glimpses of bogs and marshes.

FIGURE 4: TOWN OF DENNIS MASSGIS 2016 LAND USE MAP



INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Transportation Systems

Town roads connect most areas and their long-established patterns leave few areas of Dennis far from public roadways, so there are very few landlocked parcels. The major north-south corridor is Route 134. This highway connects all five villages. East-west travel is accommodated from the northernmost corridor comprised of Route 6A, Setucket Road, Great Western Road, Route 28, and Lower County Road as the southernmost continuous corridor. Dennis is bisected by Route 6, a limited-access highway with a major interchange in Dennis.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are found in all five villages. Most significant is the Cape Cod Rail Trail which has a trailhead located off Route 134 in Dennis. In Spring 2016, the towns of Dennis and Yarmouth began construction on a new extension for the Cape Cod Rail Trail. This project added 3.7 miles of paved pathway, with new bridges built to span two major roads in both towns and the Bass River. The project was completed in the Spring of 2019. Once the pathway is finished through Yarmouth, it will connect to the regional transportation center in Hyannis where bus, train, and bicycle connections to most of the Cape can be made.

In addition, Dennis has constructed bi-walks along many of its streets. This has been an on-going program for over a decade. Dennis provides for an annual portion of its Department of Public Works budget targeted at sidewalk improvements. This funding allows for one to two miles of new or upgraded bi-walk facilities to be constructed annually. These facilities emanate out from Johnny Kelley Park in South Dennis and provides for pedestrian and bicycle connections along Old Bass River Road, Bob Crowell Road, Old Chatham Road, and Route 134 between the park and nearby schools and affordable housing facilities. On the south side, significant upgrades to sidewalks and bicycle facilities have been constructed along Lower County Road and Old Wharf Road, providing significant improvements for non-motor vehicle access to Dennis beaches.

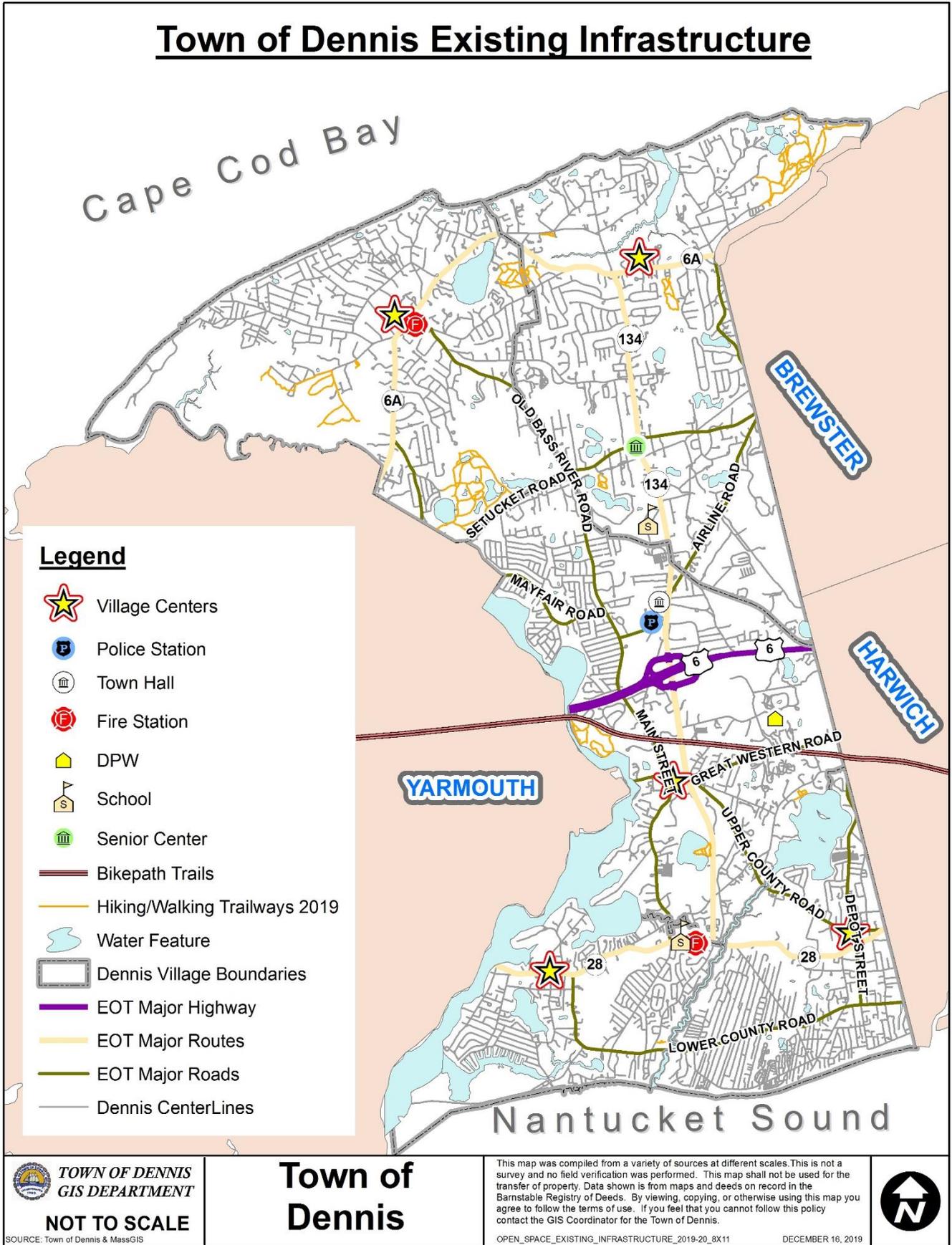
b. Water Supply Systems

Town water service extends throughout town and all but a small portion of the homes in town are served by public water lines. Since Dennis relies on groundwater for all of its drinking water supply, there is anxiety about protecting water quality. Rising nitrogen levels have been found in some wells, indicating that overdevelopment of some parts of town has caused water quality to deteriorate. At present, strong local Board of Health and Conservation Commission regulations are in place to help address water quality issues. The town is moving forward with implementing its Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

c. Sewer Service

In terms of existing infrastructure, there is no sewer service in Dennis. The town is in the process of implementing its Comprehensive Waste Water Management Plan; the timing of this effort makes it unlikely that any sewer services will be in place during the five-year scope of this plan.

FIGURE 5: TOWN OF DENNIS EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE MAP



LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Most of the town is zoned for residential use with a minimum lot size of 40,000 square feet except for long-settled areas, such as along the Dennis Port shore, where many smaller lots are still buildable owing to the zoning protection known as 'grandfathering'. Two-thirds of the land north of Route 6A is zoned for larger lots (60,000 square-foot minimum), reflecting the still-rural flavor of the area and its historic integrity. In 2010, there were 15,035 housing units in Dennis according to the US Census. Other towns in the Monomoy Lens study area are only 65 to 75 percent built-out, while Dennis has already achieved 97 percent or more of its residential development potential.

The industrial zone, which includes the town landfill, extends south of Route 6, east of Route 134, and north of Great Western Road. This location removes it from residential areas, but, intrudes into the woodlands around Eagle Pond. Much of the recharge area to Public Supply Well #13 by Swan Pond is overlain by the industrial zone and the landfill, and this well has been abandoned, eliminating the last public water supply source south of Route 6 in Dennis. The Dennis industrial district contains a variety of uses, including mining, solid waste disposal, resource reclamation, contractor's businesses, warehousing, and intensive recreational uses. The [land use map](#) illustrates that nearly half of the non-town owned land in the Dennis Industrial Zone is used for commercial purposes, and nearly 80% of the industrial land with roadway frontage is so used.

Business and commercial zones follow Route 28, parts of Route 6A and Hokum Rock Road, and portions of Route 134. As of 2008, approximately 665 acres of land are developed for commercial or industrial land uses and 6,091 acres are developed for residential uses.

In addition to town-wide growth patterns, it is useful to analyze village development trends because Dennis is a large town in area and facilities that may serve the needs of one village may simply be too distant to be readily available to use by residents of other villages. Dennis Port, except for one large tract that had been used for a private recreational facility, has few tracts remaining for development and can be considered essentially built-out relative to the rest of town. West Dennis likewise has few remaining large tracts except for undevelopable Weir Creek wetland parcels; some Grand Cove estates could be broken up into smaller building lots.

Heavily developed along its western perimeter, South Dennis contains the greatest potential for more large subdivisions. Land protection for the woodland backdrop to the historic homes along the streets in the South Dennis Village Historic District should be a priority. In this regard, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust purchased two wooded commercial lots in 1995, which were visible from Liberty Hall.

The Northside villages (Dennis and East Dennis) exhibit some of the most rural patterns of development (large estates on Sesuit and Quivet Necks) and some of the most suburban patterns (acre-lot, grid subdivisions popular in the 1970s, such as near Black Ball Hill and Scargo Heights).

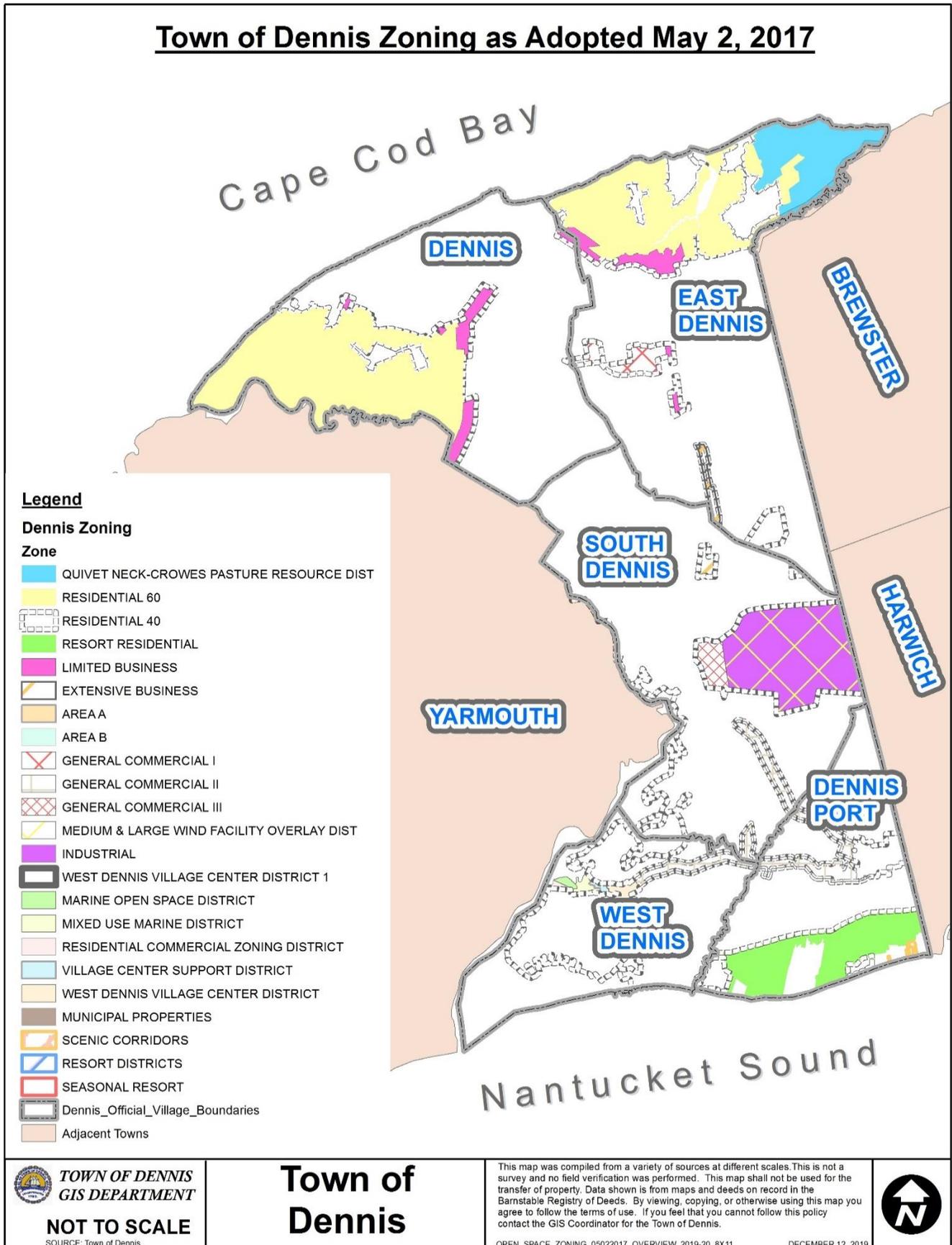
The population in the five planning districts should, eventually, tend to be more equivalent, as the Northside continues to grow and West Dennis finishes up in its development, though Dennis Port will probably always lead in density.

Beyond the spatial considerations of development in Dennis, there is also a temporal component. The fact is that in each decade between 1960 and 2000, housing units in Dennis became increasingly used year-round. After 2000 the trend reversed. As of the 2010 Census 51% of the homes in Dennis were occupied on a part time basis.

Whatever the cause(s), summer-only occupied housing units in Dennis declined from 79 percent in 1960 to 48 percent in 1990, and 42.7% in 2000, even as the raw number of units has grown steadily. In 2010 this trend reversed with just over 51% of all housing being seasonal in the 2010 Census.

Since Dennis is mostly built-out now, the more crucial impacts on water demand, water quality, open space demand, traffic, and other issues are as likely to come from seasonal to year-round conversion of existing housing stock as from more development in general. Currently, the town regulates the conversion of cottage colonies (three or more seasonally occupied units) by requiring they be supported by 40,000 sf per unit before conversion to year-round housing is allowed. These cottage colonies represent only a fraction of the seasonal housing in Dennis. The conversion of existing seasonal homes on individual parcels could double the population of town, without any increase in land consumption. However, this population change would dramatically increase the demand for town services, without generating any increased tax revenue.

FIGURE 6: TOWN OF DENNIS ZONING MAP



TOWN OF DENNIS
GIS DEPARTMENT
NOT TO SCALE
SOURCE: Town of Dennis

**Town of
Dennis**

This map was compiled from a variety of sources at different scales. This is not a survey and no field verification was performed. This map shall not be used for the transfer of property. Data shown is from maps and deeds on record in the Barnstable Registry of Deeds. By viewing, copying, or otherwise using this map you agree to follow the terms of use. If you feel that you cannot follow this policy contact the GIS Coordinator for the Town of Dennis.

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DECEMBER 12, 2019



E. Environmental Justice and Equity

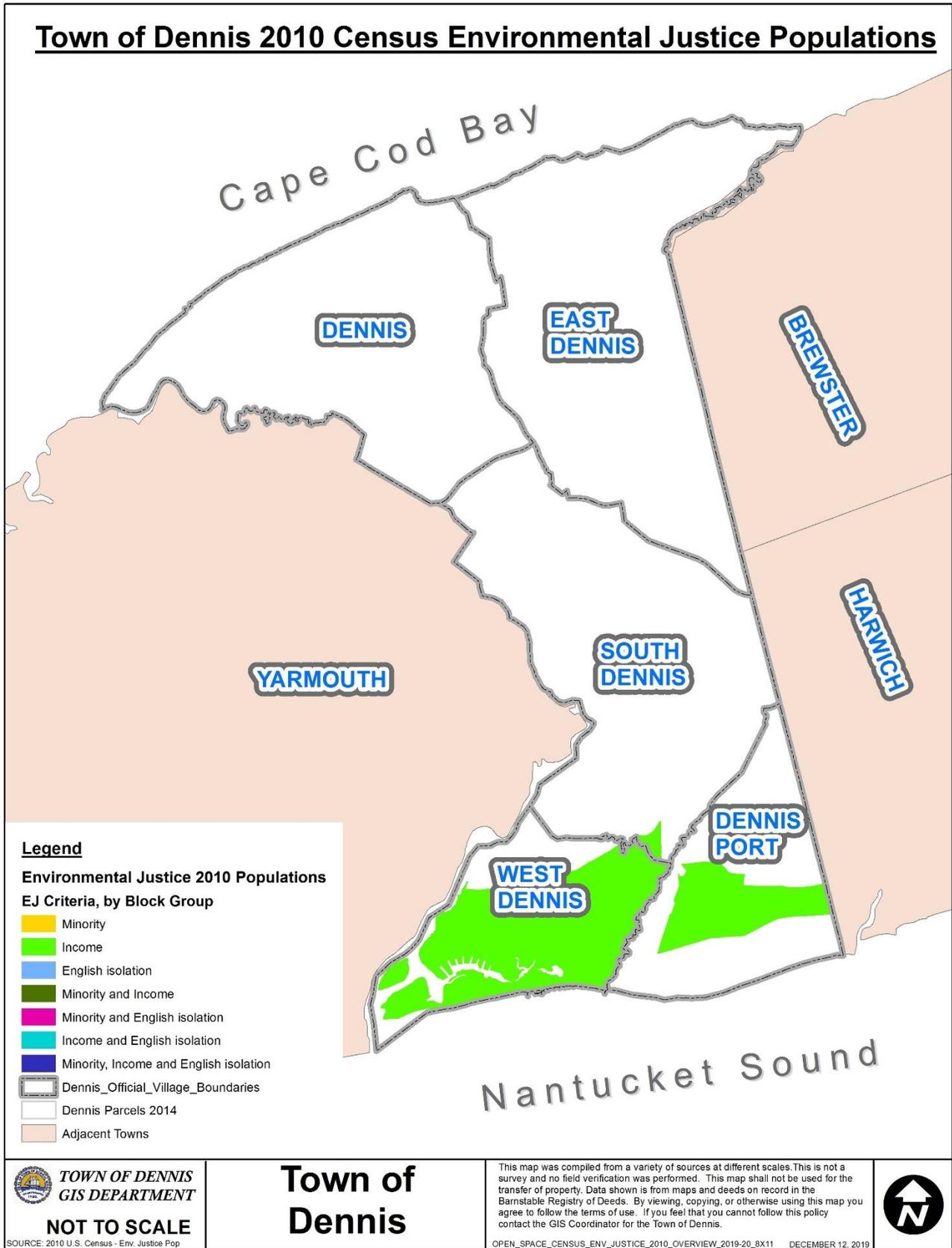
In 2002, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs adopted an Environmental Justice Policy to provide equal protection and meaningful participation for all Massachusetts residents with respect to environmental regulations and policy making. The policy also supports equitable access to environmental assets including parks, playgrounds, open areas and recreation areas. Dennis has Environmental Justice areas located in Dennis Port and West Dennis (the West Dennis area extends slightly into South Dennis). The Dennis Environmental Justice areas include the concentration of low-income populations. All of these areas have been the focus of intensive planning efforts by Dennis over the past fifteen years. New village center zoning and other creative approaches to providing affordable housing have been adopted to improve conditions in and adjacent to these Environmental Justice areas with allowances for multi-family housing in close proximity to employment opportunities. Coupled with these zoning efforts, the town has gone to significant efforts to improve recreational and open space opportunities in and around these Environmental Justice areas.

In Dennis Port, the town has upgraded the facilities at Mike Stacey Park, located in the heart of the Village Center and serves the Environmental Justice area. In addition, the town has acquired several open space tracts along both Route 28 and Upper County Road. These include a large acquisition adjacent to Dennis Commons, an affordable housing project developed under Chapter 40B. The town has also acquired the 17-acre Sea View Park which includes ocean access.

In and around both of the Environmental Justice areas the town has also made significant public building improvements, constructing a brand-new public library in Dennis Port and turning the West Dennis Graded School House into a public meeting area. Upgrades to the West Dennis Accessible Playground were completed 2018 with equipment upgrades and a new play surface. The town also acquired the former Howlin' Howies snack bar site and converted it into the Bass River Park recreation area complete with an elevated walkway, canoe and kayak launch, and boat moorings. In addition, major sidewalk improvements are underway in Dennis Port along Route 28, Upper County Road and several connecting side streets. This project will connect the area from the Dennis Port Village Center to the Dennis Commons housing project with a complete streets sidewalk improvement. A similar project is expected to start construction in West Dennis connecting the waterfront to several locally approved affordable sites along Route 28.

Dennis planning staff works closely through-out the year with residents and business owners in both these areas. Regular discussions are held regarding the needs for these parts of town with the South Side Civic Association, Dennis Port Revitalization Committee, Dennis Port Merchants Association etc.

FIGURE 7: TOWN OF DENNIS 2010 CENSUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS MAP



Section 4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

The natural resources, physical development, and social structure of Dennis creates unique problems and opportunities for open space, conservation, and recreation planning. This section examines how the natural environment has influenced the development and culture of the town, and which resources are the most vulnerable and important to preserve.

A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

1. Geology and Topography

Dennis has three distinct physiographic regions, with its major landscape features formed during the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier about 15,000 years ago. Wind, wave, and storm action has shaped dunes, beaches, and other shoreline features, but Dennis is primarily characterized by its glacial past.

Eight percent of the town is underlain by kame deposits, soils laid down into still water by the glacier's streams. The kame area stretches along the south side of Route 6A from the commercial centers of Dennis Village and East Dennis. In effect, the Native American trail that became Route 6A was laid out along the northern toe of the kame slope. The kame hills include the town's high spots (Scargo Hill 160 feet; Black Ball Hill 159 feet; and Hokum Rock 150 feet), steep slopes, generally without the clays associated with moraines. No ponds and few wetlands exist in this arid, sloping kame deposit. Large boulders are strewn across the kame, including the legendary Hokum Rock, a large erratic boulder found near the town sandpit on the south side of Hokum Rock Road.

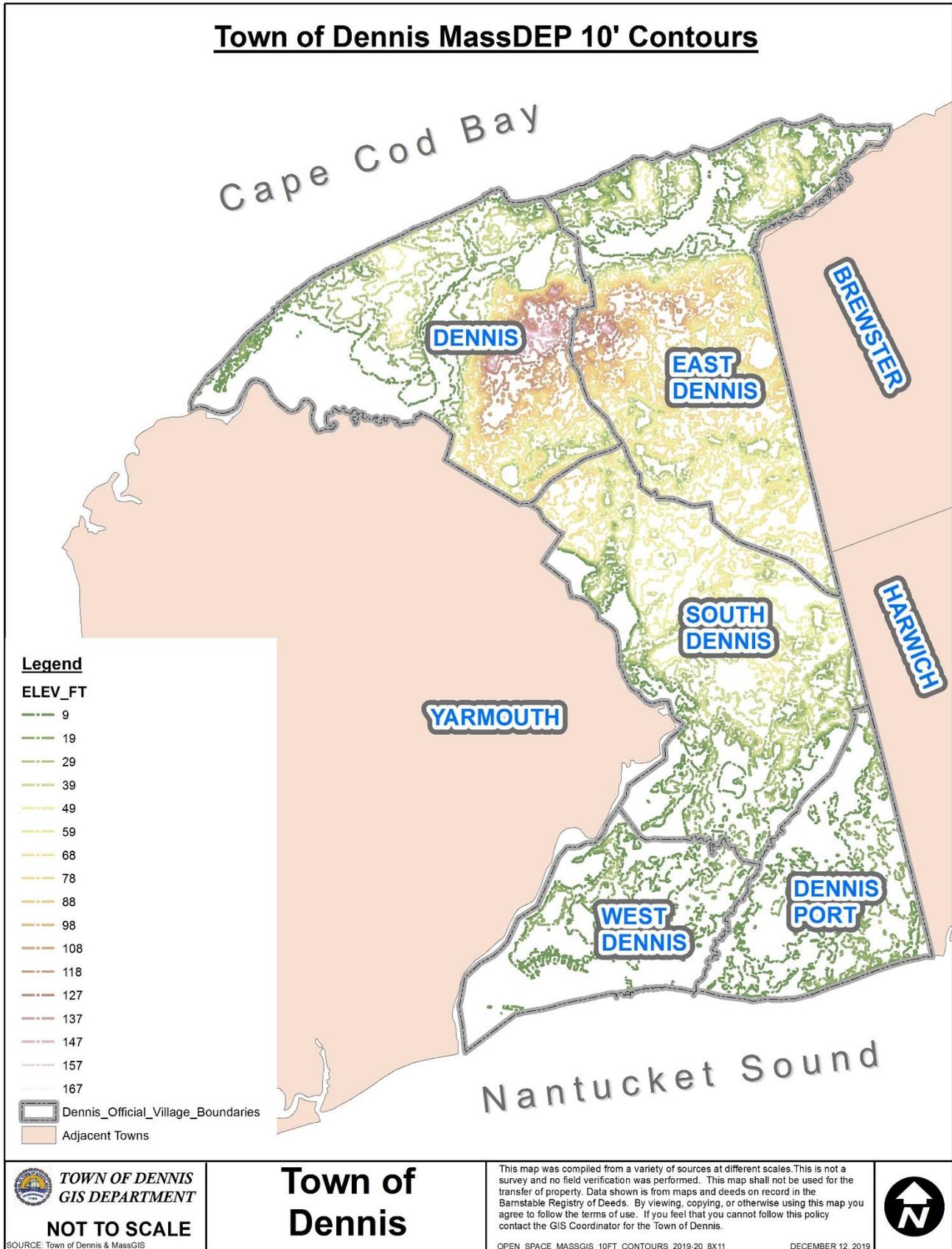
The kame is Dennis' most rugged landscape and quite scenic, although residential development on the north side of Scargo Hill has marred that topography. At 160-feet high, Scargo Hill rises over Scargo Lake, with the stone observation tower on its summit serving as a focal point.

Lands north of Route 6A comprise the second physiographic region, roughly 13 percent of the town. Glacial lake and lake bottom deposits are found inside the Cape Cod Bay shoreline. The high kame acted as a giant earth dam, causing a temporary lake to form, with silt, clay, sand, and gravel settling out. The richest soils are found in this north part of town. Gently-rolling hills with slopes averaging six percent extend to dramatic sea cliffs and bluffs overlooking Cape Cod Bay. Extensive salt marshes and broad tidal flats fringe these glacial lake delta deposits, along with a few small, shallow ponds. West of Nobscusset Point, clays support nearly vertical sea cliffs rising directly from the beach 40 feet high.²⁴

Most of the remainder of Dennis is composed of outwash plain deposits, sands and gravels sorted by meltwater running south off the glacier. The generally flat surface is pitted in places where blocks of ice became separated from the main mass of the glacier, were buried in the drift and later melted, leaving steep-sided depressions, known locally as kettle holes. The deeper depressions extend below the water table and now contain the town's many ponds.

Shallower depressions contained many of the town's larger cranberry bogs. The land surface is very uniform throughout this third physiographic unit: no land above 50 feet high exists south of Route 6 and no land above 20 feet exists south of Route 28.

FIGURE 8: TOWN OF DENNIS MASSDEP 10' CONTOURS MAP



2. Soils

a) Description

Different soils result from complex interactions among surficial geological forces, topography, climate, and plant and animal decomposition. The type, wetness, and slope of soils often determine the suitability of land use development in a community. Soils affect drainage, erosion, sedimentation, agriculture, vegetation, wildlife habitat, sewage disposal, and suitability of concrete foundations. In Dennis, particular concern should be given to uses of soil that are easily eroded, excessively or poorly drained, unstable or ecologically-important. The Natural Resources Conservation Service identifies five general soil types in Dennis, described below.

Carver and Eastchop series: These sands comprise about 49 percent of the town's area (6,850 acres), typically within the outwash plain south of Setucket Road. These droughty, nutrient-poor soils are usually found on level or gently sloping land. Carver and Eastchop soils have few limitations for development, but the ready permeability of the soils allows potential contaminants to reach the water table. This can present issues with septic systems, with nitrogenous compounds from wastewater easily reaching the aquifer before soil adsorption can occur. Lawns and athletic fields may also be difficult to establish and maintain owing to the droughty nature of the soils.

Plymouth series: An upland soil primarily associated with the hilly kame areas north of Setucket Road and in pockets along the Northside. These droughty soils are very stony and boulder-strewn and comprise about 23 percent of the town's area (3,221 acres). Steep slopes, exposed boulders, and occasional clay layers can pose development issues. The large town sandpits on Hokum Rock Road are excavated in Plymouth soils.

Deerfield - Belgrade - Walpole - Merrimac - Hinesburg - Boxford series: An upland soil which comprises only three percent of the town's area (416 acres), but which are important agricultural soils. These are found primarily on the Northside, north of Route 6A, but also along the drainages of Swan Pond and Weir Creek on the Southside. The Northside locale coincides with the first colonial settlement in Dennis, where small farmsteads benefited from the relatively rich loamy sand. The largest swatches of prime agricultural soils that have not yet been developed underlie parts of Sesuit Neck and Quivet Neck.

Wetland soils include tidal marsh, dune sand and beach sand (11 per cent of town or 1,619 acres) and the *peat, muck, and sanded muck* association of freshwater swamps, bogs, and marshes (six percent or 798 acres) found scattered throughout the town.

Even though most of Dennis was originally stabilized by vegetation, and a thin veneer of topsoil began to accumulate over it, supporting upland forests, the colonists soon stripped the timber from the woods and the topsoil blew away, leaving loose sand in many areas.

b) Agricultural Resources

The farming community that was Dennis in the 18th and 19th centuries is long gone, with remnants of that heritage including stone walls and abandoned orchards scattered across town. There are still a few small working farms in Dennis, including Tobey Farm, Cape Abilities Farm, The Tree Farm, Hart Farm, and Mike's Organic Gardens.

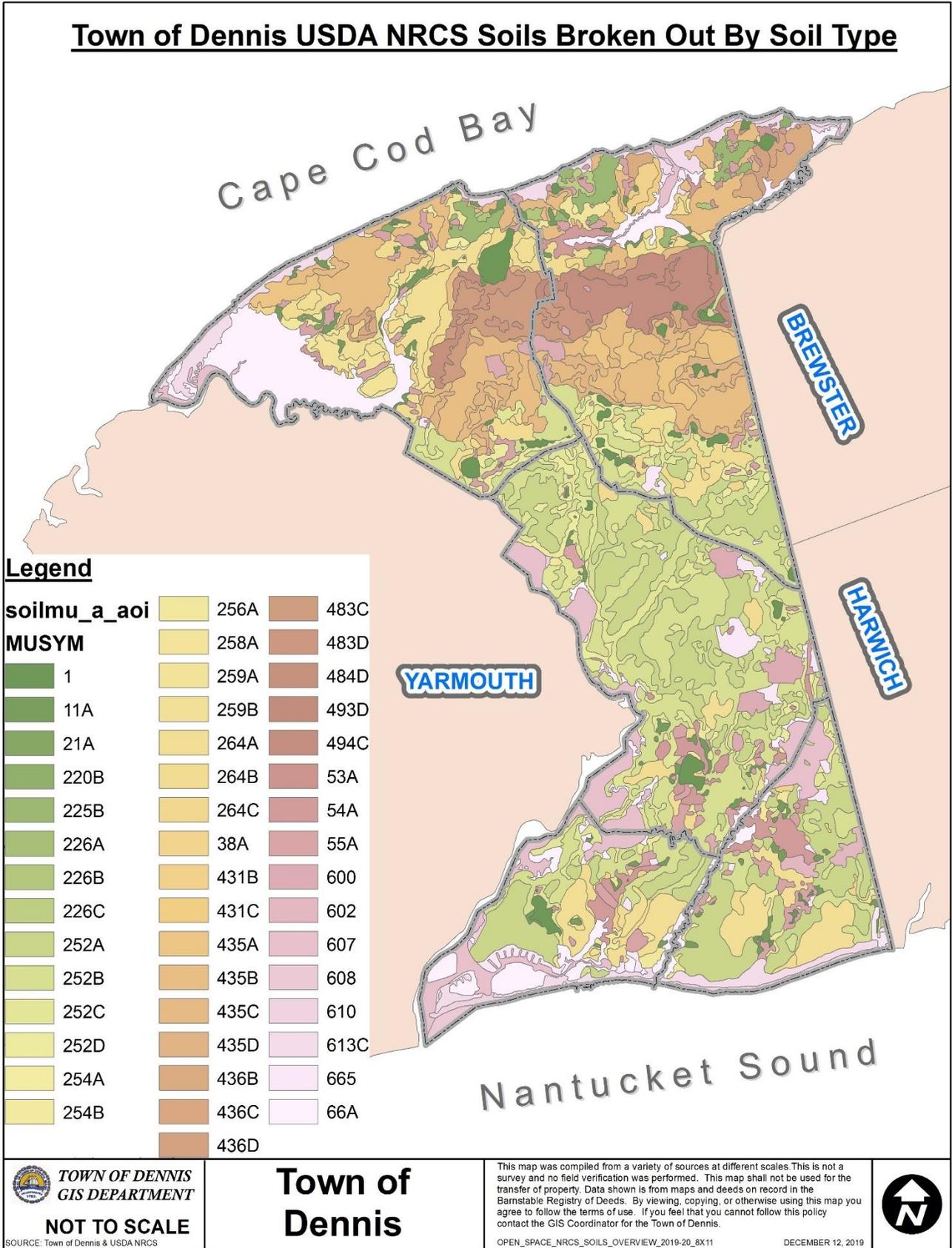
The waterfront location of the town also promotes aquaculture, a growing agricultural use in Dennis, making use of the privately-owned Aquatic Research Corporation (ARC) on Chase Garden Creek, and public resources in East Dennis off Crowe's Pasture. Aquaculture farms raise oysters and quahogs for use by local restaurants and sale at local fish markets.

In 2015, Dennis, Yarmouth, Barnstable County, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and others stepped up and created a mechanism for the long-term survival of the ARC. The project involved acquiring surrounding open lands for conservation purposes and acquiring all non-agricultural development rights for the actual site of the ARC. By doing this, the ARC was able to arrange proper financing to upgrade the shellfish hatchery facility in Dennis.

Dennis now hosts three community garden sites: the two-acre Shoop Memorial Gardens on Route 6A in East Dennis, located on 25 acres of town conservation land with nature trails; the 2.67-acre Elizabeth Burr Garden in West Dennis; and at Sea View Park approximately one acre was set aside for garden areas, including raised bed facilities that are wheelchair accessible. In addition, the town runs two public blueberry picking patches: Cross Patch in Dennis Village, and Pond Street Patch in West Dennis.

In order to promote and protect the agricultural uses in town, Town Meeting created an Agricultural Commission at the May 2008 Annual Town Meeting. The same town meeting also recognized the town as a Right-to-Farm community. Major agricultural uses in the area are located at Cape Abilities Farm in Dennis Village, Hart Farm Nursery and Garden Center in Dennis Port and Melpet Farm in South Dennis. The Town maintains two (2) blueberry patches which are open to public picking in the summer, and three (3) Community Gardens which are leased to individual residents for cultivation annually. The Steven Phillips cranberry bog is maintained as an agricultural property and the Whitfield Johnson parcel is mowed annually to maintain the pasture.

FIGURE 9: TOWN OF DENNIS USDA NRCS SOILS MAP



B. Landscape Character

While the panoramic view from Scargo Hill Tower is the most famous view in town, the most appealing aspect of Dennis' landscape is its 29 miles of coastal shoreline. Dennis has 1,139 acres of salt marsh, broad sweeps of which can be seen from the northside beaches or the Bass Hole Boardwalk. Shoreline scenes can be found in such locations as the Bass River bridge crossings at Route 28 (historically, the Lower Bridge), Highbank Road (the Upper Bridge) and Route 6. Bass River cuts north to south, almost dividing the Cape in half, and it is the spot on the Cape's major highway where arriving motorists first spy salt water.

Numerous ponds and occasional fields, such as Whitfield Johnson Conservation Area on Route 6A, provide upland vistas. The primary pond views are of Scargo Lake, Baker's Pond, Flax Pond, Fresh Pond, and Swan Pond. Besides Bass River, Swan River is the most visually-accessible saltwater view, as long views up and downstream are afforded from the road crossings at Upper and Lower County Roads and Route 28. Other notable scenic areas in town include: Sesuit Creek and marsh; Chapin Beach and dunes; Crowe's Pasture Conservation Area; and Nobscusset bluffs. Many of the town's open space protection efforts have been, and continue to be, to protect these valued scenic views.

Culturally, the main streets of Dennis Village, East Dennis, and South Dennis are a visually distinctive part of Massachusetts. The Old Kings Highway was chosen as one of the ten Most Outstanding Scenic Byways in America in 1993. When the Cape Cod Commission classified the Old Kings Highway for scenic resources in 1995, Dennis was the only town in which the entire length of the route was considered to have a High Concentration of Scenic Elements as well as five major open scenic views.

The town has adopted a number of zoning changes affecting cultural issues in town. These include:

- Dennis Port Village Center District which involved adopting a higher density mixed use zoning for the traditional village area. The by-law includes design standards tied to the history of the village.
- West Dennis Village Center Districts which are a series of districts tying the historic village center to the adjacent waterfront. This re-zoning included down-zoning to protect critical waterfront resources, promote water dependent uses, and promote mixed uses in the historic village.
- Regulations to control Formula Based Businesses were adopted with varying restrictions in various parts of town. This zoning change asserts, at a minimum, design control over businesses meeting the definition of formula-based businesses. This control allows the town to promote architectural and color schemes that are more traditional to Cape Cod.

The mix of historical architecture and natural scenery is what attracts many tourists and residents to Dennis.

C. Water Based Resources

Dennis is part of the Cape Cod Watershed, a single watershed that incorporates the entire Cape. This divides into 52 sub-watersheds. The boundaries of these sub-watersheds generally follow groundwater topography resulting in sub-watersheds crossing town boundaries and towns, like Dennis, having more than one sub-watershed within its borders.

The Town of Dennis contains six sub-watersheds, one of which, the Bass River Sub-Watershed, is further divided into subsets. These are illustrated in [Figure 9](#) below. The quality of the Dennis sub-watersheds has been analyzed as part of the Dennis Comprehensive Wastewater Management Study. The sub-watershed data collection will assist the town in prioritizing open space investments as the protection of lands alongside threatened resources can also serve to protect and enhance water quality. Water

resource protection is a top priority in Dennis, as the waterbodies attract tourists, provide recreational opportunities, and provide clean and potable drinking water.

The following provides a brief description of each of the sub-watersheds based upon the Cape Cod Watershed Assessment and Action Plan (EOEA, February 2003).

Bass River Sub-Watershed

This 10.331-acre sub-watershed is located within the towns of Dennis, Yarmouth, and Brewster. Capped landfills in both Dennis and Yarmouth are located within this watershed as well as the Dennis Yarmouth Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Dennis portion of the sub-watershed contains numerous recreational activities including two golf courses, Johnny Kelley Recreation Area, boat landings on the Bass River, as well as Kelley and Flax Pond, Mayfair and Bass River Marina, a number of beaches including West Dennis Beach, and other active and passive recreation areas. The sub-watershed also contains most of the Zone II area serving the Dennis water district.

Chase Garden Creek Sub-Watershed

This sub-watershed contains 3,117 acres within Dennis and Yarmouth, predominantly undeveloped marsh area. The area contains several beaches including Chapin's Beach and Mayflower Beach, boat launches, and shellfishing opportunities. The north-westerly edge of the Dennis Zone II area is located in the Dennis portion of this sub-watershed.

Herring River Sub-Watershed

This is a rather large sub-watershed located mostly in Harwich and Brewster; a very small portion of the sub-watershed is located within Dennis. The Dennis portion is densely developed with a shopping center and small-lot residential development. The sub-watershed skirts the easterly edge of the Sea View Park property.

Quivett Creek Sub-Watershed

This 1,415-acre sub-watershed is located in Brewster and Dennis, and contains predominantly wetland and protected land areas. This includes the Dennis District of Critical Planning Concern area known as the Quivet Neck/Crowes Pasture Resource Protection Area. The sub-watershed includes shell-fishing areas and an anadromous fish run.

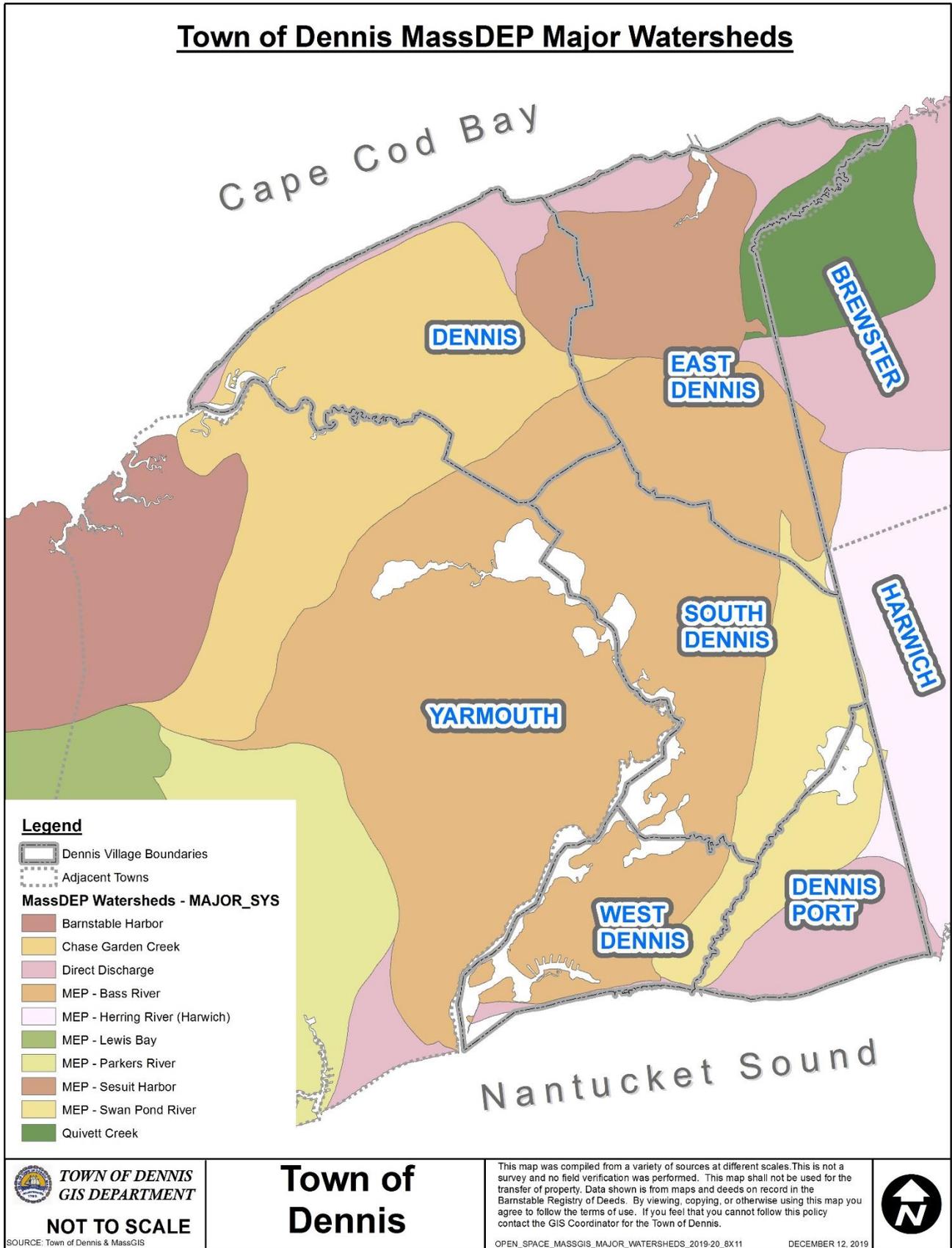
Sesuit Harbor Sub-Watershed

The Sesuit Harbor Sub-Watershed contains 1,752 acres in Dennis. It centers on Sesuit Creek and Sesuit Harbor, with numerous recreational activities including boating out of Sesuit Harbor, a freshwater beach on Scargo Lake, and an anadromous fish run. The town completed waterflow improvements in this sub-watershed with the replacement of the culvert under Bridge Street in 2008.

Swan Pond River Sub-Watershed

This sub-watershed is located in Dennis and Harwich. The sub-watershed contains 2,211 acres. The Swan Pond River and Swan Pond have experienced years of eutrophication and water quality problems. While the waters are actively used for recreational boating, water quality has been significantly compromised. Several town-owned conservation areas are included within this sub-watershed with walking trails and boat launches. Swan Pond is currently prohibited to shellfishing due to the bacteria levels in the water.

FIGURE 10: TOWN OF DENNIS MASSDEP MAJOR WATERSHEDS MAP



MAJOR WATER FEATURES

1. Salt Water Bodies

The town's 29 miles of saltwater shorefront are a primary focus of informal outdoor activities and form the background for the town's tourist-based economy, including swimming, fishing, shellfishing, hunting, and boating. These activities are spread throughout the town's marine areas: Swan Pond, Bass River, Sesuit Harbor, Nantucket Sound, Bass Hole, and Cape Cod Bay. Major public bathing beaches are at Chapin Beach, Mayflower Beach, Cold Storage Beach, Sea Street Beach, and Corporation Beach on Cape Cod Bay and numerous sandy beaches along the Sound, of which the largest and most popular is West Dennis Beach at the mouth of Bass River. The primary boat anchorages are found in Sesuit Harbor on the Northside, and throughout Bass River on the Southside including the town-owned Bass River Park Marina.

Surfcasting for bluefish and striped bass is a popular pastime along the beaches on the North and South sides. Baitfishing is frequently conducted from the Bass River Bridge (Route 28.) Off road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed on town-owned land at Crowes Pasture, which also contains town-leased aquaculture grants.

The Town of Dennis has been cooperating regionally, through the Cape Cod Commission, in the Cape Cod Coastal Embayment Project to examine the recharge areas and nutrient loading capacity of eight saltwater bodies in the county, including the Upper Bass River (north of Route 6). Almost all of Dennis' land area contributes via groundwater discharge to a coastal embayment, salt pond, or estuary. Hence, land use throughout much of town can affect the quality of saltwater bodies.

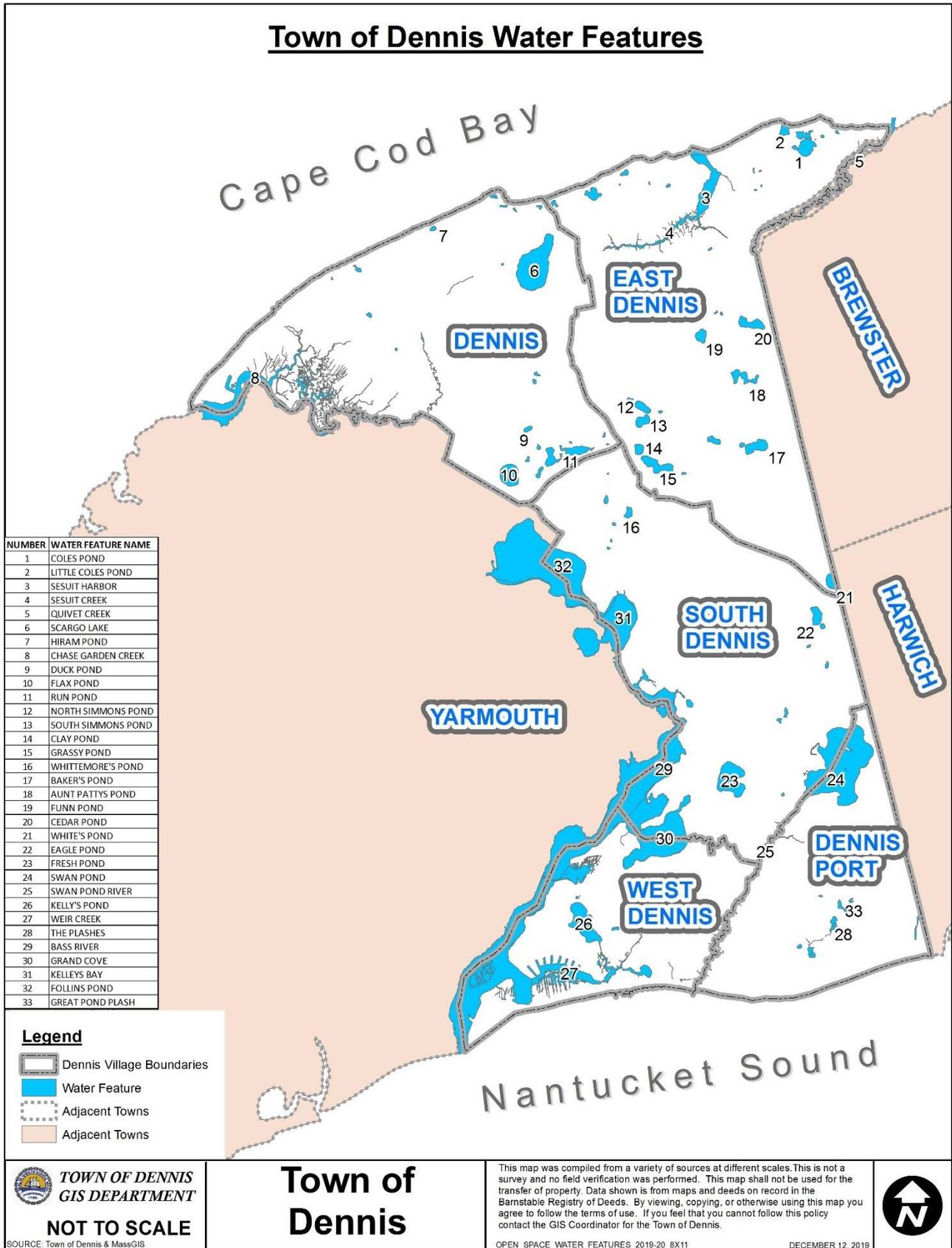
2. Fresh Water Bodies

The town's primary freshwater resources are its ponds, totaling over 240 acres of surface area. These ponds are scattered throughout the town, primarily in the geologic areas of outwash plain and glacial lake deposit. Nine of the ponds are greater than ten acres in size, which classifies them as Great Ponds of the Commonwealth. The public owns Great Ponds and is entitled to access, while other ponds can be owned privately by surrounding land owners and public access can be prohibited. Seventeen ponds are private by size, but have public access through publicly-owned land, primarily wellfields of the Dennis Water District around their shores. Several ponds were created by impoundment, including The Reservoir at the head of Quivett Creek (Bound Brook) and the Plashes Ponds.

Recreationally, the most important swimming pond is Scargo Lake, which has town conservation/recreation land abutting it. Scargo Lake is the only one available for trailered boats (though horsepower is limited by town bylaw); most pond boating is limited to canoes, rowboats, and other small craft. Scargo Lake is also the major freshwater fishing pond, being stocked with trout by the state twice each year. An anadromous fish run for blueback herring and alewife species extends into Scargo Lake.

Most of the ponds in Dennis are classic kettlehole ponds, formed on the Cape as deep depressions in the glacial outwash left by stagnant ice blocks. Most are isolated as they do not drain by a brook to the sea. These ponds, dependent solely on the fluctuation in the aquifer's water table for their own surface level, often expose a wide shore during the summer when the water table is low. These exposed shorelines comprise the unique habitat called coastal plain pondshores, which harbor rare and endangered plants, such as Plymouth gentian, golden club, long-beaked bald rush, and rare animals such as the comet darter and New England bluet (damselflies). The ponds are the town's primary sites for rare plant and animal species and should be protected as sensitive habitat.

FIGURE 11: TOWN OF DENNIS MAJOR WATER FEATURES MAP



3. Surface Water Quality

All Dennis beaches are tested weekly during the swimming season. While there have been some exceedances of water quality standards, these generally occur immediately after heavy rainfall. Non-point sources of pollution such as road runoff, septic systems, and lawn maintenance are the main threat to water quality of ponds and bays in Dennis.

Recharge areas are land areas that contribute groundwater flow to surface water bodies, such as ponds, streams, and bays. Recharge areas are much more relevant on Cape Cod, where sandy soils readily transmit groundwater, than land surface watersheds that contribute surface run-off to ponds and bays off-Cape. Land uses within recharge areas significantly influence surface water quality. A study by the Cape Cod Commission has identified the recharge area to Upper Bass River (north of Route 6.) Dennis provides 3,141 acres of this 6,436 -acre recharge area, while Yarmouth and Brewster combined provide the other half. The study concludes that nitrogen loads contributed to Upper Bass River (including Follins Pond) will exceed the criteria needed to maintain the waters' SA rating, if the recharge area proceeds on its projected course to full build-out residential development. This scenario will degrade the aesthetic and recreational value of this important marine area.

Eutrophication is the process by which a pond experiences algal blooms, oxygen depletion, fish kills, noxious odors and visual deterioration as a result of excessive nutrient inputs (usually from runoff and septic systems). Some of Dennis' smaller ponds suffer from eutrophication.

Freshwater ponds on the Cape tend to be naturally acidic due to a lack of alkaline materials in the soils.

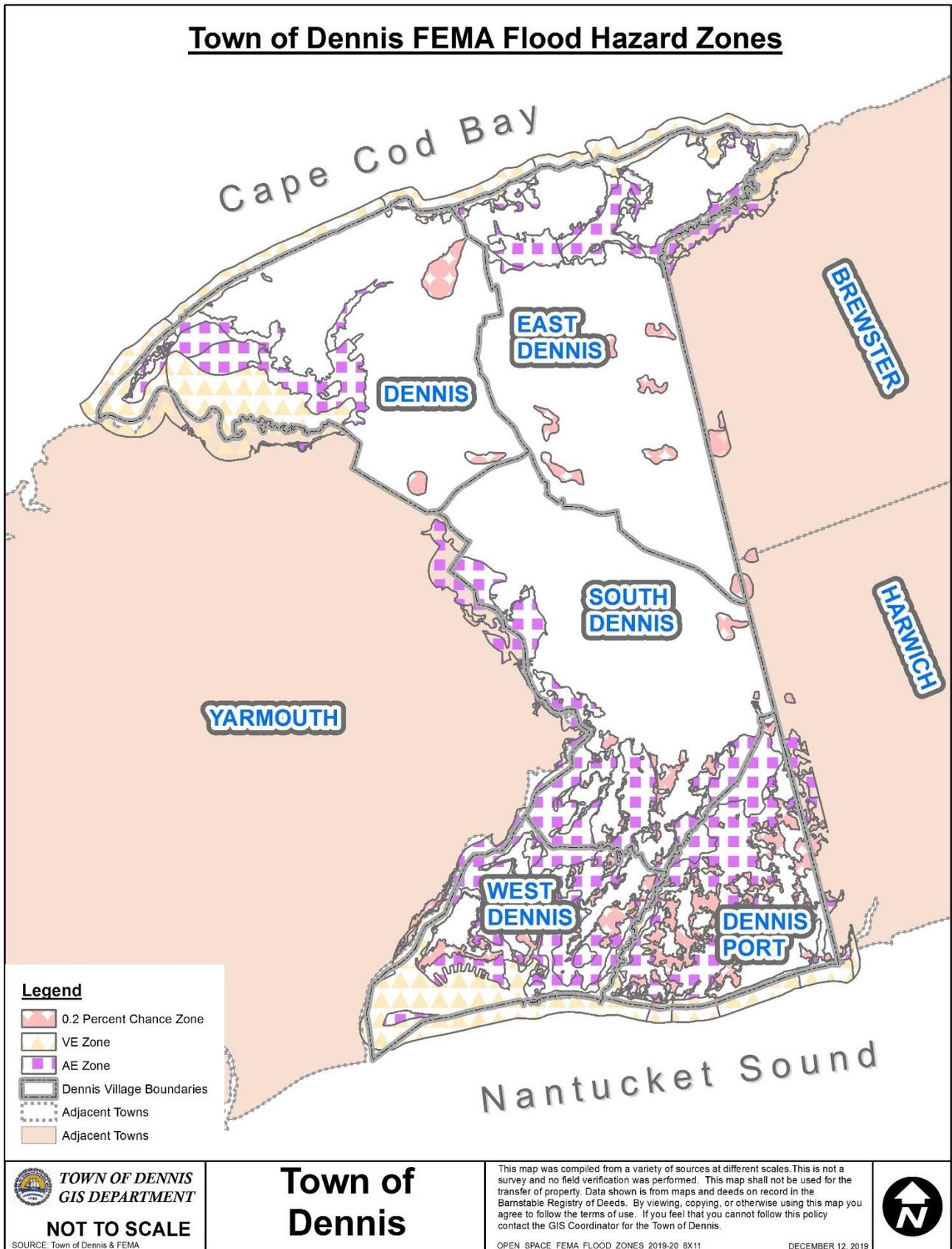
4. Floodplains

Dennis participates in the Federal Flood Insurance Program, which requires that new shorefront development meet engineering standards for floodproofing but does not prohibit development. In 2014, the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were updated. This update added nearly 4,000 structures to the flood zone, predominantly by expanding the area designated as A-zones.

Flood velocity zones, or V-zones, also expanded as erodible primary dunes were classified into the velocity zones. Velocity zones are now defined as land areas where storm surge or direct wave action occurs, or the land is exposed to impacts of storm-related erosion. About 124 buildings are clearly located in the V-zone, primarily near West Dennis Beach and Chapin Beach.

Landward of the velocity zones are other flood-prone areas (A-Zones) in which standing waters can be expected during 1 percent storm events, generally thought of as '100-year storms'. These areas consist mostly of salt marshes and shorefront uplands up to about the 13-foot contour. Both commercial and residential developed areas, including portions of Route 28, occur in the A-Zone.

FIGURE 12: TOWN OF DENNIS FEMA FLOOD HAZARD ZONES MAP



5. Wetlands

Dennis is blessed with a diversity of wetland, in type, size, and distribution, scattered evenly throughout the Town. A 1990 University of Massachusetts study found that Dennis had 402 acres of freshwater wetlands, 42 acres of cranberry bogs, and 976 acres of saltwater wetlands. Salt marsh is located primarily along the Northside, in Swan Pond River, and fringing Bass River. A salt marsh's high biomass makes it excellent habitat for birds, shellfish, and finfish nurseries. About two-thirds of commercially-important finfish spend some of their life cycle feeding or spawning in or near salt marshes.

Two of the largest vegetated wetland areas are the 140 acres along Swan River and 80 acres along Weir Creek, which are set amongst the most densely developed parts of town in Dennis Port and West Dennis, respectively.

As with Dennis' ponds, most freshwater wetlands are dependent on water table fluctuations, rather than surface runoff, to ensure the soil saturation necessary for wetland plants.

Most wetlands are at low elevations close to the water table, and the sand and gravel soils readily transmit groundwater through wetlands. Wetlands play an important role in filtering out contaminants from freshwater and reducing flooding during major storms.

In addition to town administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Town simultaneously administers a local wetlands protection bylaw (adopted 1975; upgraded in 1989 and 2006) that strengthens minimum state performance standards, such as tightening regulations for building on dunes and asserting town jurisdiction over small wetlands. In addition, wetlands replication as a mitigative strategy is discouraged under the town bylaw, as it is not under state law. Septic system leaching fields must be located over 100 feet from wetlands, rather than the 50-foot state Title 5-standard.

5.1 Freshwater Wetlands

Two wetland areas are dominated by Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) in Dennis: the eastern perimeter of Fresh Pond and the headwaters of Otter Creek draining to Swan Pond River. Cedars are also present around the Plashes and Scargo Lake. The majority of the cedar swamp acreage is now owned by the Dennis Conservation Commission and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust. Regionally, cedar swamps were once much more extensive before the trees were harvested for shingles and fence posts in earlier centuries or converted to cranberrying. Currently, the cedar swamps are threatened by rising sea levels and warmer temperatures.

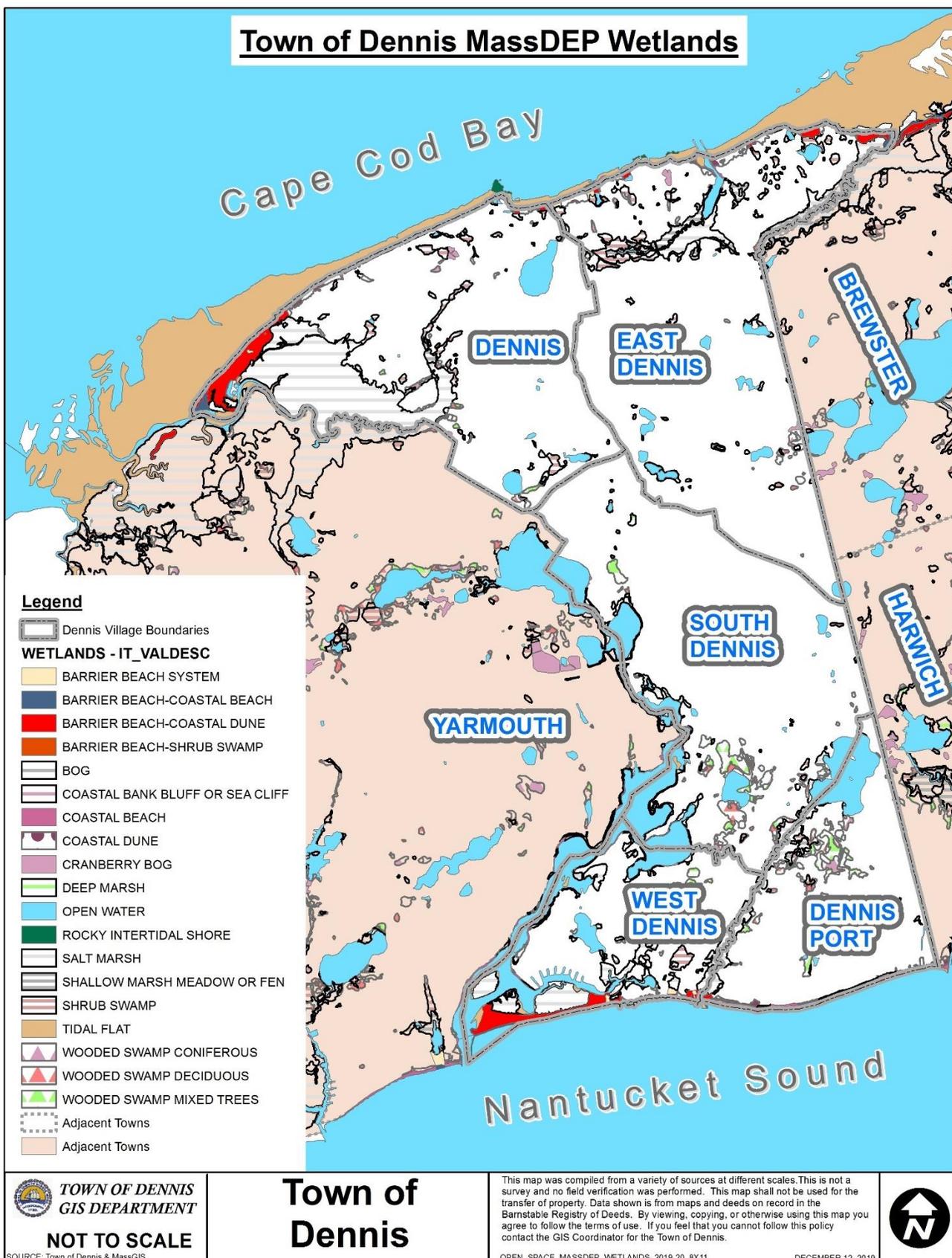
A 1991 study found that Dennis had five acres in which white cedar composed more than 75 percent of the canopy cover, indicating almost "pure stands." The significance of the Dennis cedar swamps argues for continued efforts to protect them by acquisition or conservation easement in cooperation with landowners. While all of the Fresh Pond and Plashes cedar swamps are town owned, only half of the larger Otter Creek site is protected by town ownership. An inventoried cedar swamp on Scargo Lake is protected by the Dennis Conservation Land Trust.

Vernal pools were officially recognized as critical habitat in 1987 when the Massachusetts General Court amended the Wetlands Protection Act to include their protection. These small temporary ponds are crucial breeding grounds for woodland amphibians, such as Eastern spadefoot toads and salamanders. One vernal pool has been certified in Dennis so far.

5.2 Saltwater Wetlands

Another significant wetland resource in Dennis is tidal flats. Dennis has 122 acres of estuarine flats, which are portions of the beds of salt ponds (Swan Pond) or estuaries (Bass River) exposed at low tide. They are particularly productive for shellfish populations. There are also 880 acres of marine flats of the type found in open coastal areas, primarily along Cape Cod Bay. Both of these types of flats are an important recreational resource in the town. Dennis has ready access to its Northside flats from public beaches at Chapin, Corporation, Cold Storage, Mayflower, and Crowes Pasture.

FIGURE 13: TOWN OF DENNIS MASSDEP WETLANDS MAP



6. Streams and Water Courses

Though its tidal creeks are much more important recreational resources, Dennis has a number of small freshwater streams, serving as tributaries to estuaries, anadromous/catadromous fish runs, or as wildlife corridors. The most significant of these water courses are Chase Garden Creek and The Run. Each flow through the bottom of old glacial outwash channels, providing the major freshwater inputs to the Bass Hole estuary and Swan Pond. Many have been artificially manipulated over the years by ditching for cranberry irrigation or mosquito control.

FIGURE 14: DENNIS FRESH WATER COURSES

| Name of Stream | Headwaters | Receiving Body | Approx. Length (miles) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Run | NW Harwich | Swan Pond, DP | 1.5 |
| Chase Garden Creek | Whig St. bogs, D | Bass Hole, CC Bay | 1.25 |
| Weir Creek | Lohr bogs, WD | WD Harbor | 0.8 |
| Fresh Pond Brook | Fresh Pond, SD | Grand Cove, WD | 0.6 |
| Sesuit Creek | Scargo Lake, D | Sesuit Harbor, ED | 0.4 |
| Cyrenious Brook | Cyrenious Ponds, SD | Kelley's Bay, SD | 0.4 |
| Bound Brook | Muddy Pond, ED | Quivett Creek, ED | 0.2 |
| TOTAL | | | 5.15 |

7. Groundwater Resources

In 1982, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated all of Barnstable County as a Sole Source Aquifer in recognition of the region's complete reliance on groundwater as its potable water supply. Dennis is served by the Monomoy Lens, the second largest of six discrete components of the aquifer. This lens provides water for all of the Cape towns from Orleans to Dennis; Bass River serves as its westerly discharge point. Acknowledging that inter-town cooperation is needed to manage the quantity and quality of the aquifer, Dennis has participated with these towns and county agencies on groundwater plans, such as the 1987 *State of the Aquifer Report* by the Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission, and the *Monomoy Lens Groundwater Protection Project* by the Cape Cod Commission in 1993. Several of Dennis' 20 public supply wells draw groundwater from over the town border into Brewster and a small portion of Harwich, so Dennis cannot simply rely on the aquifer within its own borders for its needs. Cooperative regional management of this resource is essential, such as is proposed with Yarmouth and Harwich in the Dennis Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

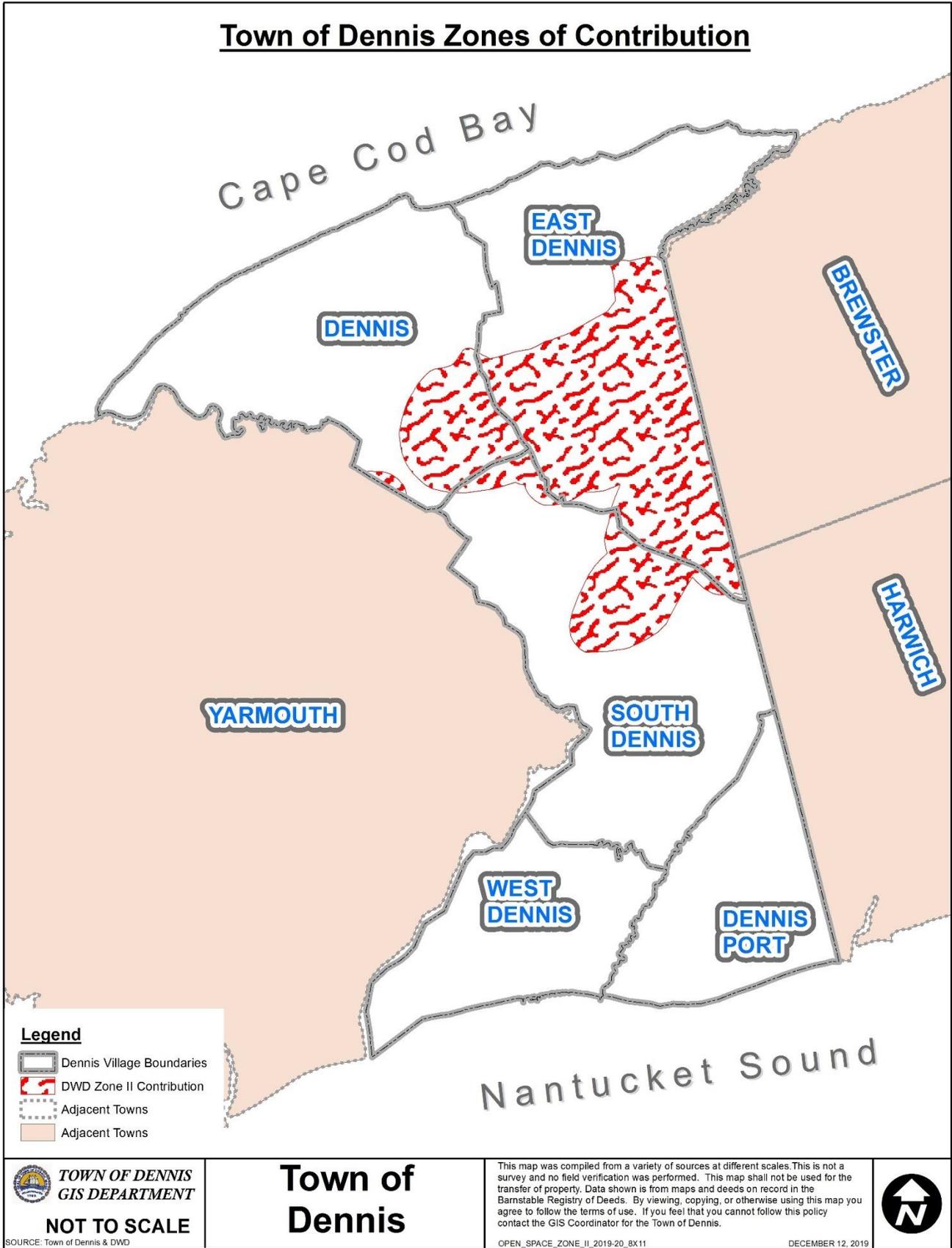
Of the 46 inches of precipitation that falls on the Cape in a typical year, about 16 inches reaches the water table underground to recharge the aquifer. The freshwater lens in Dennis is thin (less than 30 feet in water table depth through most of the town) relative to Upper Cape towns, which can make it relatively

more vulnerable to contamination. Most of Dennis' public supply wells are located north of Route 6 where the land use is predominantly residential with one-acre minimum lot sizes. There are very few underground fuel tanks within the wellhead protection areas.

In 1979 (refined in 1986), Dennis Town Meeting adopted a Water Resource Overlay District to protect land within recharge areas and wellfields from potentially hazardous uses, such as underground fuel tanks and hazardous materials storage. In 1981, the Dennis Board of Health adopted a hazardous materials storage bylaw, requiring commercial users and storers of these products to register an inventory with the town. The Wellhead Resource Protection regulations of the Board of Health were amended in March of 2001 and February of 2003. Local Board of Health regulations are in compliance with the Massachusetts Wellhead Protection Regulations 310CMR22.21(2), enforced by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water Supply.

A 1994 study by the US Geological Survey found that only about 7.9 percent of the Monomoy Lens land area (Dennis through Orleans) was useful for siting new public supply wells. The report's map shows only limited areas near Eagle Pond and the existing wellfields at High Pines, Grassy Pond, and Flax Pond as primarily suitable. The Dennis Water District expects to see demand increase by 1.1 million gallons per day over the next twenty years.

FIGURE 15: TOWN OF DENNIS ZONES OF CONTRIBUTION MAP



D. Vegetation

1. General Inventory

In 1620 the *Mayflower* Pilgrims described Cape Cod's lofty forests of "oaks, pines, sassafras, juniper, birch and holly." As the Cape was colonized, residents decimated the woods for buildings, ships, and for firewood. By the 1800s, much of the settled parts of Dennis were denuded of woodland. Unchecked forest fires claimed some of the remaining forest stands. By 1890, as the town's population dwindled and farms collapsed, the forest crept back. The oak and pitch pine community that grew back is still dominant today. Today, the threat to forestland is primarily from displacement by residential development. In the past 50 years, Dennis has lost more than half of its forested acreage.

The economic slowdown that occurred after 2008 also slowed the loss of forested land in Dennis and allowed for the protection of nearly 101 acres of additional undeveloped land. During this time period, most private investments focused on redeveloping already altered sites. Development permits since 2008 have only approved new projects on about 40 acres of previously forested lands.

The predominant plant communities in Dennis include pitch pine and oak (red, black, scrub, pin oak, scarlet oak), typical to the rest of Cape Cod. Other tree species found scattered throughout town include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and red pine (*Pinus rubrum*).

2. Forest Land

The predominant pine/oak forests have short height, crown density, and poor quality of the dominant soil association. When a wetland, cranberry bog, or power line plant community occurs adjacent to the woodlands, the wildlife value of both the open and wooded areas is greatly enhanced for many species. The habitat significance of the woodlands of Dennis primarily lies in its ability to provide migratory corridors and refuge for wildlife from the heat and openness of the beaches, marshes, and the built-up environment.

3. Public Shade Trees

Dennis regulates public shade trees under MGL. Ch. 87, requiring permission from the Tree Warden and Planning Board to remove any public shade tree. The Dennis Tree Warden is the Dennis Superintendent of Public Works. The Tree Warden investigates complaints filed by residents and evaluates trees at the request of other Town departments. Generally, only diseased trees or trees that are deemed a safety hazard are removed from public rights-of-way.

The Dennis Zoning By-law also requires tree plantings as part of site development. One tree is required for every five parking spaces in commercial and multi-family developments.

4. Agricultural Land

Several small farms are located in Dennis, three of which meet Ch. 61A criteria including being over 5 acres in size. These farms produce a variety of crops. The majority of these farms are located in the northern part of Dennis, which has better soil quality. This includes an active cranberry bog. Evidence of

historic agricultural use can be found throughout town. Major agricultural uses in the area are located at Cape Abilities Farm in Dennis Village, Hart Farm in Dennis Port and Melpet Farm in South Dennis. Cape Abilities Farm, located on Route 6A in Dennis Village. Started in 2006 by Cape Abilities Inc., a nonprofit who provides jobs, homes, transportation, social and therapeutic services for people with disabilities across Cape Cod, the Farm provides employment and training for these individuals. Hart Farm Nursery and Garden Center, located near the Swan Pond River in Dennis Port, provides a variety of products throughout the year. Melpet Farm is owned by the Town and leased to a private vendor for the boarding of horses and riding lessons.

5. Wetland Vegetation

Wetlands are located throughout Dennis, including coastal dune, salt marsh, shrub swamp, cranberry bog, wooded swamp, and tidal flats. The predominant vegetation found in these locations includes cattails, phragmites, Atlantic white cedar, red cedar, red maple, highbush and lowbush blueberry, cranberry, sea lettuce, cordgrass, salt grass, sea lavender, seaside arrow-grass, bulrush, glasswort, seaside goldenrod, rose mallow, switchgrass, marsh elder, *rosa rugosa*, poison ivy, buttonbush, various ferns, and bayberry.

6. Rare Species

Rare plants in Dennis protected under the 1991 Massachusetts Endangered Species Act include those listed as Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern, in descending order of rarity. Pondshore species comprise the primary rarities, including Special Concern species such as Plymouth gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*), Wright's panic-grass (*Dichanthelium wrightianum*), and Thread-leaved sundew (*Drosera filiformis*). Coastal or brackish plants include the Special Concern Salt reedgrass (*Spartina cynosuroides*). State regulations prohibit the taking or habit alteration of these species without a state permit.

Several of Dennis' coastal plain pondshores are among the top priorities in the state for rare species habitat. Of the seven top-ranked (B2) pond sites on Cape Cod, two are in Dennis: Aunt Patty's Pond and Run Pond, both north of Setucket Road. These ponds are rated most highly in need of protection. Fortunately, all of the shoreline of these two ponds is owned by the Dennis Water District and, therefore, protected from development.

7. Sites with Unique Natural Resources

There is one certified vernal pool in Dennis, located in the Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation Area by Grassy Pond.

Major barrier beaches featuring coastal dunes include Chapin Beach, Crowes Pasture Conservation Area, and West Dennis Beach. Extensive salt marshes are also located at these locations.

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp habitat is located around Swan Pond and River, Fresh Pond, Flax Pond, The Plashes, and Scargo Lake.

Eelgrass, a Massachusetts priority natural vegetation community, is located off much of the southern coast of Dennis, and in small patches off the north coast.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Inventory

Dennis is located at the juncture of two major wildlife zones: the Virginian and the Acadian biogeographic regions. Cape Cod separates the warm Gulf Stream waters of Nantucket Sound (northern edge of the Virginian zone) from the cold Labrador Current coursing down through the Gulf of Maine into Cape Cod Bay (southern edge of the Acadian zone). Marine species composition is different between these two sides of Dennis, resulting in great diversity in Dennis. Dennis' Cape Cod Bay shoreline is the innermost area proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service as critical habitat for the federally-endangered North American right whale.

The waters of Dennis also support a wide array of pelagic birds, such as fulmars, gannets, shearwaters and alcids (guillemot, murre, razorbill) all attracted to the abundant baitfish. The Chase Garden Marsh is part of one of only five Cape embayments identified as important wintering areas for black ducks, a National Species of Special Emphasis. Shore birds include terns (common, least, and an occasional roseate) and piping plovers, all listed as protected rare species in Massachusetts. The Dennis Natural Resources Department employs a monitor every summer to identify nests and watch for hatchlings. The Department of Natural Resources orders area closures as necessary per state and federal regulations to protect the terns and plovers, and preemptively installs fencing and signs in the spring. The Massachusetts Audubon Society's Coastal Waterbird Program notes that West Dennis Beach is the town's most important tern nesting habitat, and that natural disturbances, not human ones, seem to cause the most problems.

Bird species in Dennis include osprey, northern parula warbler, pine warbler, orchard oriole, eastern bluebird, savannah sparrow, sharp-tailed sparrow, eastern meadowlark, red-tailed hawk, killdeer, woodcock, horned lark, ruby-throated hummingbird, eastern phoebe, great horned owl, willet, and mute swan. Mammals in Dennis include the common assemblage of adaptive species: red and gray squirrel, white-tailed deer, raccoon, red fox, rabbit, skunk, otter, opossum, shrew, muskrat, bat, weasel, woodchuck, mice, and voles. In recent years, a top-of-the-food-chain predator, the eastern coyote, has extended its range throughout all of Cape Cod and is seen throughout Dennis, particularly along salt marsh edges. Rare species found in Dennis include the Eastern box turtle, which prefers woodlands with access to water, and threatened and rare invertebrates, including the comet darter, New England bluet, barren bluet, and water willow stem borer.

Dennis shellfish species open to harvesting include soft-shell clams, quahogs, sea clams, blue mussels, razor clams, oysters, and bay scallops. Because recreational shellfishing is a popular pastime, there is always pressure on the shellfish supply. The Town enhances the shellfish stock of the Bass River through annual propagation efforts using an upweller system, quahog relay, and oyster spat bags. The upweller system raises 100,000 soft-shell clam seed and 200,000 quahog seed; the seed is planted throughout the river to help both commercial and recreational fisheries. The quahog relay transplants about 100 to 200 bushels of legal-sized quahogs from Fall River to the Town's recreational-only designated areas in Grand Cove. For recreational oyster harvest, the Town buys about 300 oyster spat bags, bags of broken shell with oyster larvae spat attached, that are planted behind West Dennis Beach in the cove area known as Old Field Bend.

There are a few areas of the Bass River that are prohibited to shellfishing due to bacterial contamination; almost the entirety of Swan Pond is now prohibited to shellfishing. During the summer, both Swan River and Bass River close down to shellfishing due to the elevated bacteria levels during the warmer months.

The exception is Follins Pond of the Bass River system, which is open to commercial shellfishing during the summer under a strict Memorandum of Understanding with the Division of Marine Fisheries. This Memorandum of Understanding states that any rainfall over 0.20 inches in a twenty-four-hour period closes that area to shellfishing for four days, to reopen on the fifth day. This is in place because runoff will wash bacteria into the waters. These water quality issues will not be resolved until a wastewater treatment facility and sewers replace the numerous septic systems surrounding the Bass River and Swan Pond/River.

2. Corridors for wildlife migration

Wildlife corridors enable animals, particularly upland mammals, to migrate to new territories in search of food or breeding grounds. Biologists estimate that undisturbed linear areas of 300 feet in width are necessary for many species to feel comfortable moving undetected through an area. Dispersed between residential development throughout the town, important wildlife corridors composed of a patchwork of protected open space run east-west along the hilly kame, east-west through the wellfields from Flax Pond to the High Pines area, and north-south along the outwash channel wetlands along the Southside.

Anadromous/catadromous fish runs (species, such as alewives, which live in saltwater but spawn in freshwater) are a part of Dennis' history. A major settlement in town coincided with the upper reaches of the Bass River. From 1640 to 1841, fish traps or weirs were employed in this area to harvest the abundant fishery, including small striped bass, in addition to blueback herring and alewives, fish that migrated up the length of Bass River to spawn in the fresh headwaters.

Today, the major herring runs exist from Sesuit Creek to Scargo Lake, and Bound Brook to the Reservoir. A smaller run, stocked in the late 1970s, existed from Weir Creek to Kelley's Pond in West Dennis, but has not been observed to be active in the past decade. Herring and alewives are significant as the primary forage fish for other important sport and commercial species, such as striped bass and bluefish, which enter nearshore waters. White perch and sea-run brook trout are other anadromous fish found in Dennis streams.

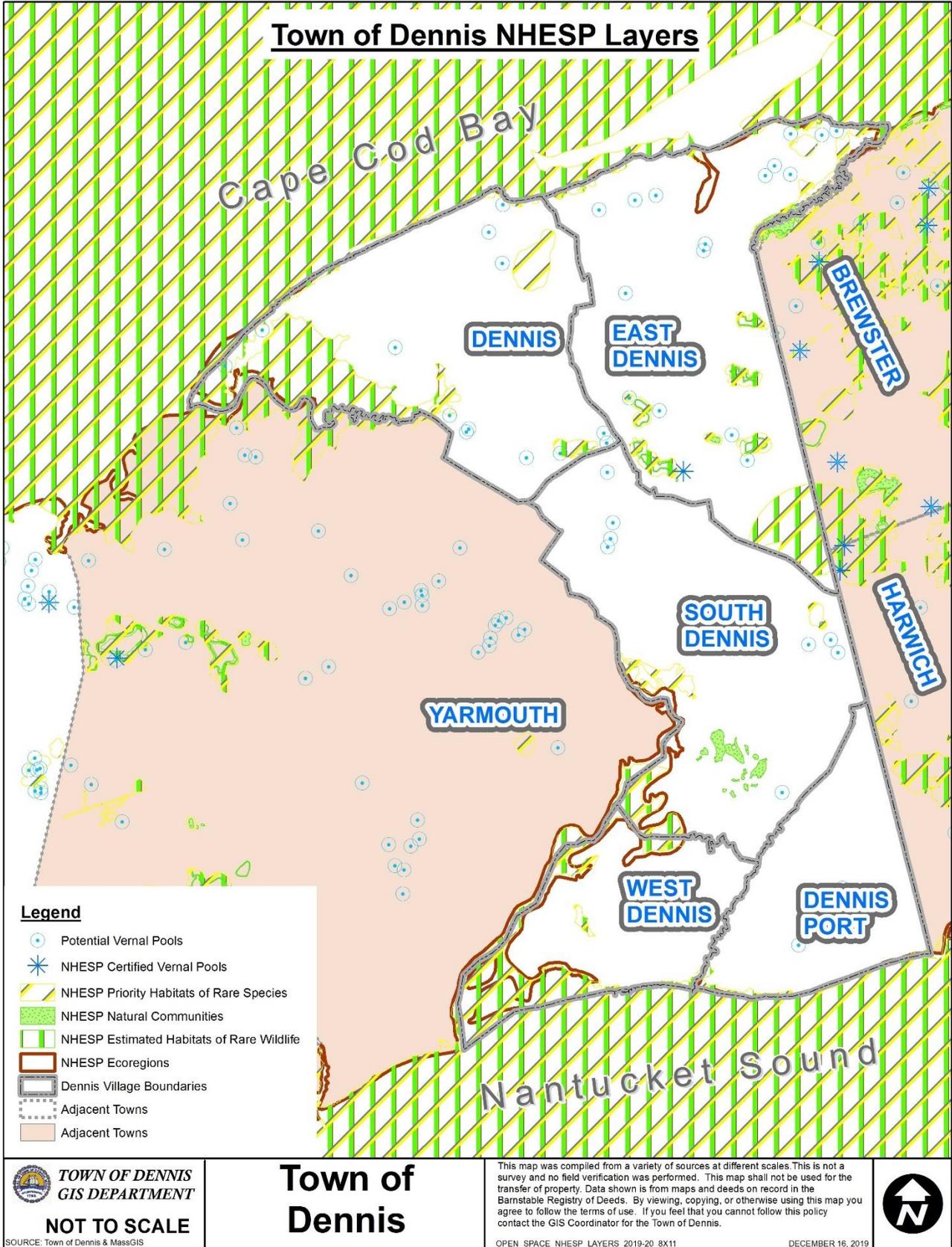
3. Info on vernal pools

There is one certified vernal pool in Dennis, on protected water district land in East Dennis. Several potential vernal pools should be investigated. These habitats are vital for Eastern spadefoot toads, salamanders, and fairy shrimp.

4. Rare species

Massachusetts protected rare species in Dennis include terns, piping plovers, Eastern box turtle, comet darter, New England bluet, barrens bluet, and willow stem borer.

FIGURE 16: TOWN OF DENNIS NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LAYERS MAP



F. Scenic Resources and Unique Features

Dennis does not have any land falling under DCR's scenic landscape inventory. However, Dennis abounds in beautiful natural scenes which are also environmentally-sensitive areas, such as pondshores, salt marshes, barrier beaches, cranberry bogs, and cedar swamps.

1. Scenic Landscapes: Below is a highlight of scenic natural areas in Dennis:

a. Bass River

The shores of Bass River attracted the Cape's original natives because of the abundant fisheries available there in the summer months. Fishing vessels and salt works were common sights through the mid-1800s in Bass River. Alewives, eels, shellfish, fowl, and salt hay were important commercial resources harvested from the River into the present century. In addition to being an important historical area, Bass River is a major scenic resource. It is the only spot between the Cape Cod Canal and Wellfleet where Route 6 crosses salt water.

At six and a half miles long, Bass River is the largest tidal river on Cape Cod. Of primary significance is Bass River's diversity of fish populations. In the 1970s, the state's Marine Fisheries division surveyed 17 large estuaries around Massachusetts. Of the 17, Bass River had the largest numbers of estuarine fish species (38). Four species (blue runner, banded rudderfish, big-eye scad and planehead filefish) were found only in Bass River. The diversity stems from Bass River's location at the northern edge of the warm-water Virginian biogeographic region. Winter flounder, striped bass, and bluefish are the primary sportfish of the River. The most popular fishing spots are the Route 28 Bridge, Highbank Bridge and from boats below Route 28. A state Public Access Board boat ramp is sited at the River's mouth next to Smuggler's Beach in Yarmouth. Dennis shares jurisdiction with the Town of Yarmouth over the River.

The Bass River Park lies on the shore of the Bass River at Route 28. The site formerly contained a miniature golf course, restaurant, boat launch, and commercial building. In 2005, the town acquired this parcel to protect it from conversion into a high-density housing project. The town used Community Preservation, State Urban Self Help Grants, and Dennis Conservation Land Trust funding for this acquisition. The town's re-use plan for the property restored the historic waterfront salt meadow on the site, provided improved public access to the water from the property, and maintained the boat launch on the site for public use.

b. Chase Garden Creek/Chapin Beach

Chase Garden Creek includes extensive saltwater marsh which provides important bird habitat, much of which is protected by the town or Dennis Conservation Land Trust. The creek outlets at Chapin Beach, surrounded by sand dunes.

Comprised of 134 acres of dunes, Chapin Beach is one of the largest barrier beaches on Cape Cod outside of the National Seashore. It is also one of the town's most popular natural areas used for outdoor recreation. Swimming, shellfishing, and surf-fishing are heavily pursued in their seasons. The Town Beach Department manages the beach, while the Town Conservation Commission manages the surrounding dunes as a conservation area. In 2015 the town acquired an additional 40 acres surrounding the ARC to add to the existing 205 acres of salt marsh inside the dunes.

c. Scargo Lake

The largest and deepest pond in Dennis at 60 acres, Scargo Lake is also its primary freshwater recreation area. The lake is stocked in spring and fall with trout by the state, and fishing is popular with locals and visitors. A 7.5 horsepower limit on motorcraft prevents disruption of fishing activity and swimming at the

popular Princess Beach run by the town. Rising up directly from the lake, Scargo Hill provides a dramatic backdrop and overlook. The herring run provides a supply of baitfish in the pond. While the town owns significant portions of the Scargo Lake shoreline, the town and Dennis Conservation Land Trust continue to acquire open space on the shore as it becomes available, as seen by the recent Holl Property acquisition.

In 2017, the town acquired the Holl Property, which includes 8.15 acres of forested land overlooking Scargo Lake, with a portion of Atlantic white cedar swamp along the shoreline. The acquisition protected the scenic vista beyond Scargo Lane as well as protected the water quality in the lake itself. This property connects to the Princess Beach and Paddocks Farm Conservation Areas, creating a corridor of over 50 acres of protected land.

d. Fresh Pond

This 29-acre pond is almost entirely surrounded by about 100 acres of protected open space owned primarily by the Town of Dennis, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. In 1974, the Fresh Pond area was identified as the only site in Dennis worthy of inclusion in a survey of Barnstable County natural areas, due to its productivity and aesthetic value. The eastern and northern shores of Fresh Pond contain the town's major cedar swamp wetland. Fresh Pond Conservation Area also provides a long-wooded greenbelt along busy Route 134, the town's primary north-south connector. The Fresh Pond Conservation Area also has a portion by the roadside managed as a dog park.

e. Cranberry Bogs

Dennis was an early and major player in the development of the cranberry industry. Today, less than 20 acres remain in production. The Dennis cranberry crop has an estimated value at \$66,000 to \$240,000 wholesale in a given year. While the state Rivers Protection Act passed in 1996 provides a streamlined permitting process on the state and local level for renovating abandoned bog acreage back into production, it is unlikely to have much effect in Dennis where most of the surrounding upland needed to support a bog operation has either already been developed or derives its value as potential for housing. The town owns the abandoned Stephen Philips Bog as conservation land, which is returning to natural wetland habitat.

f. Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture

The Quivet Neck/Crowes Pasture area represents one of the few remaining large, relatively undeveloped areas. In 2001, the Town of Dennis initiated, with support from the Cape Cod Commission and Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, designating 250 acres of Crowe's Pasture/Quivet Neck as a District of Critical Planning Concern. In June 2003, the Town Meeting and Cape Cod Commission adopted strict development regulations to protect the natural resources of this area. In 2003, the town of Dennis purchased 33 acres of prime upland within this area, followed by purchases of 28.05 acres and 4.47 acres in 2006; in 2010 the Dennis Conservation Land Trust added another 7.6 acres of land to protected status; and in 2014 the Cronin Family completed the approval process of a residential development under the District of Critical Planning Concern Zoning, which set aside about 12 acres of land for protection. The Town of Dennis continues to work with landowners and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust to purchase and/or acquire Conservation Restrictions within the Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture area.

The area contains two significant freshwater ponds, Coles Pond and Little Coles Pond. At ten acres, Coles Pond is considered a Great Pond. Coles Pond provides for about 2,800 linear feet of shoreline, to which no formal access exists. It is an area which has been identified as rare vegetation habitat. Little Coles Pond is less than ½ acre in size and contains about 500 feet of shoreline. The presence of Plymouth

Gentian, *Sabatia kennedyana*, a globally rare herbaceous biennial of coastal ponds, has been documented adjacent to Coles Pond. This plant is listed as being a species of special concern in Massachusetts.

Coles Pond and Little Coles Pond are considered to be kettlehole ponds, and as such have no inlet or outlet of water. These ponds and the habitat they sustain are extremely susceptible to the impacts of development and need protection from fill, erosion, and alteration from the run-off of water and lawn fertilizers/herbicides.

The north coast of Quivet Neck features a series of rocky promenades formed by the glaciers that extended across the north coast. The area between each rocky point is laced with narrow white sand flats. The area furthest to the east, closest to the Town of Brewster, is called Crowes Pasture Beach. Here, the beach expands into rolling sand flats.

Quivett Creek is the coastal stream system that makes up the south-easterly border of the area. The creek system includes a large marsh and a herring run to its headwaters at Bound Brook Pond. The land mass adjacent to Quivett Creek has been identified as a major Marine Water Recharge Area.

g. Sea View Park

Sea View Park in Dennis Port represents a 17-acre open space facility in the most densely settled portion of Dennis. The Park tract includes a one-acre parcel on the south coast of Dennis. This abuts two parcels of dunes, vegetated uplands, a freshwater pond, and associated bordering vegetated wetlands. The largest parcel with road frontage was capable of accommodating at least ten housing units without need for formal subdivision review, in a densely developed area of town. The parcel represented the best opportunity for the town to protect a large expanse of open land in the village of Dennis Port during the 2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan update. In 2005, the town acquired these parcels using a combination of Community Preservation, General Fund, and State Urban Self-Help Grant funding. The parcel provides opportunities for natural resource protection as well as active recreational use. The beach parcel has been renamed the Cliff Metcalfe Memorial Beach and continues to be accessed by the parking area located along Chase Avenue. The main portion of the property is crossed with passive walking trails. There is a small play area in the northern portion of the property along with a parking area, bathrooms, picnic tables, community gardens, and a tennis court. The town is also investigating ways to improve the water quality in Pound Pond on this site.

h. Indian Lands Conservation Area/Bush Property

The Indian Lands Conservation Area is located on the Bass River in South Dennis, abutting the rail trail. It includes 23.40 acres of protected pine-oak upland and saltmarsh. Two hiking trail loops provide recreational access and scenic views off the rail trail. This property is also a popular site for fishermen.

Acquired in 2019, the Bush Property includes over 13 acres of land. Located off of Old Main Street in South Dennis, the parcel contains a mix of upland, wetland, and flood zone. Its connection to the abutting Indian Lands Conservation Area and land bank property creates a corridor of over 62 acres of protected land in an archaeologically sensitive area.

2. Characteristic/Unusual Geologic Features

Noticeable high spots in town are geological remnants from the Ice Age known as kame hills, with Scargo Hill reaching 160 feet above sea level, Black Ball Hill at 159 feet, and Hokum Rock at 150 feet.

Hokum Rock Conservation Area features a large erratic boulder found near the town sandpit on the south side of Hokum Rock Road.

Glacial lake and lake bottom deposits are found inside the Cape Cod Bay shoreline. Gently-rolling hills extend to dramatic sea cliffs and bluffs overlooking Cape Cod Bay. Extensive salt marshes and broad tidal flats fringe these glacial lake delta deposits, along with a few small, shallow ponds. West of Nobscusset Point, clays support nearly vertical sea cliffs rising directly from the beach 40 feet high.

Kettle holes and depressions left by retreating glaciers now contain many of the town's ponds and cranberry bogs.

3. Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Areas

Archeological studies in Dennis have uncovered finds rich in Native American artifacts along the Bass River in South Dennis. Among the artifacts are Mounds indicating the extensive use of shellfish and its importance for subsistence to the earliest inhabitants. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, major Native trails followed the riverbanks north and south (on what is now Mayfair Road, the southern end of Old Bass River Road, Main Street through South Dennis) and east-west through town along what is now Route 6A and Setucket Road. The Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture area has also been identified as an area of significant Native American cultural resources. A 1698 Survey by John Thacher references "Indian graves" as part of a survey of the boundaries of the land leading to Cole's Pond in East Dennis.

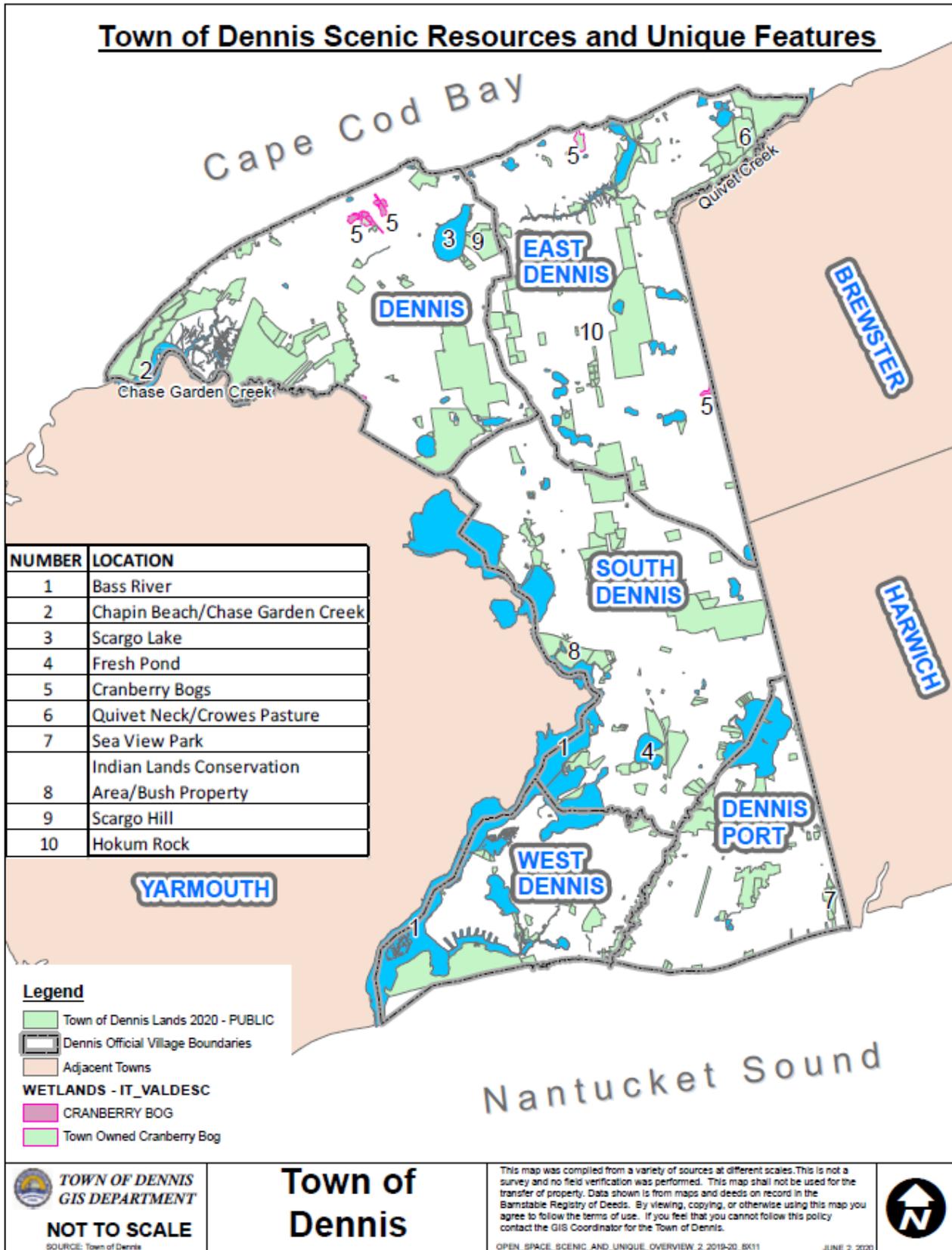
Dennis was colonized by Europeans in 1639 as a part of Yarmouth within Plymouth Colony. Incorporated The colonial harbor was the tidal creek landings along the Northside (Sesuit Creek, Chase Garden Creek at Bass Hole, and Quivett Creek). The main road was the King's Highway (now Route 6A) and small linear cores arose in Dennis Village and East Dennis. Bass River, became a major Southside port of the Cape in the early 1800s period.

The 1850s and 1860s were a time of "Cranberry Fever" in Massachusetts and Dennis grew rapidly to 359 acres planted by 1889. Throughout the nineteenth century, Dennis consistently placed in the top three of Cape towns in cranberry acreage and/or production. Few cranberry bogs remain, including the town-owned Stephen Philips Bog.

4. Unique Environments

Dennis does not include any state-listed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Crowe's Pasture/Quivet Neck area is a Cape Cod Commission listed District of Critical Planning Concern. Other sensitive areas that provide important habitat for threatened piping plovers and tern species include Chapin Beach and West Dennis Beach. The town also features active herring runs at Scargo Lake and Bound Brook.

FIGURE 17: TOWN OF DENNIS SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE FEATURES MAP



G. Environmental Challenges

1. Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites

There are two presently identified 21E properties in town with known hazardous waste, both located in Dennis Port. One is an old oil company site in Dennis Port on Route 28. This property is using a cap-in-place remediation, which leaves the site unable to accommodate any additional development without further action. The presence of oil limits the usefulness of this 21E site for recreational or residential purposes. The property is located in a neighborhood targeted for mixed-use development promoting ground floor commercial uses with residential uses above. The second 21E site is an active laundromat near Route 28 in Dennis Port. This site has several monitoring wells located around the property. Adjacent to this site is Mike Stacey Park, a sensitive receptor. The 21E issues surrounding this property have all involved spills of cleaning products. The site has replaced and upgraded its septic system as part of the remediation.

Besides these sites, there are potential 21E issues at any of a number of older automobile repair properties, most notably along Route 28 and Route 6A. However, none of these properties have been inventoried for pollution issues. Finally, Dennis contains one auto salvage operation which is a potential 21E site located on Center Street in Dennis Port. This site also has not had any pollution issues specifically identified and is only listed due to the nature of the operations on the site.

2. Landfills

The Cape Cod Commission has identified the capped Dennis Land Fill on Theophilus F. Smith Road as a potential 21E location.

3. Erosion and Sedimentation

Much of Dennis was formed by the deposits left behind by the last ice age. The Cape was molded by erosion and sedimentary deposits, and these processes continue to be important.

The Dennis coastline is subject to constant change due to normal erosion and sedimentation, as well as significant storm events and rising sea levels. Storm damage due to hurricanes and Nor'easters can be drastic along the low-lying southern shoreline, and erode away at the dunes on the northern side. A band of shore as much as 50 feet wide was removed on the southern shore during the 1944 hurricane. The Chapin Beach Area experiences shoreline loss as high as 13.6 feet per year. Since 2011 the Town has undertaken several studies to determine effective measures to protect Chapin Beach and Dr. Bottero Road from erosion. The Town is currently in the permit process to construct protection for the roadway.

Fighting against coastline change is a never-ending battle that is expected to intensify due to climate change. The Dennis Harbormaster's Office and Barnstable County are continuously dredging town waterways and using the dredge material to replenish the town's eroding beaches. Without continuously maintaining the town's waterways, the Dennis coastline would look tremendously different from what people see when looking at maps of the town. The Town is in the process of obtaining a 10 year Comprehensive dredge permit which will allow for maintenance dredging within Sesuit Harbor, Bass River and Swan Pond river on a regular basis. Dredge spoils will be used to renourish Town beaches and reduce erosional impacts.

4. Chronic Flooding

In coming decades, flooding and erosion will be increasingly exacerbated due to relative sea level rise. This phenomenon could result in the loss of between 113 and 394 acres of upland in Dennis by 2025. These areas will closely coincide with the 100-year floodplain. Sea level rise will also mean an increase in the severity of storm damage. Owing to its low-lying coastline that intrudes far inland, Dennis can expect to experience a shoreline retreat (as a percentage of its land mass) worse than any other Cape Cod town. The town must consider this issue when examining long-term public investment in shoreline facilities, such as in siting new parking lots.

Flooding on town-maintained walking trails and in harbor parking areas has increasingly been a problem in recent years, and potential solutions are costly.

According to the Dennis Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town of Dennis has 19 repetitive loss properties as of 2018. The majority are located on the south side of town. The town also has 1,593 National Flood Insurance Program Insurance Policies written as of May 31, 2015 with a value of \$354,288,200. Between 1978 (the start of the NFIP) and May 31, 2015 there have been 235 claims in Dennis with 156 documented losses (Closed Loss claims) and 79 claims closed without payments. Total NFIP payments in that time period was \$1,462,739.

5. New Development

Many of the environmental challenges which Dennis faces are a direct result of its pace and pattern of development over the past three hundred years. New subdivisions and the replacement of small, seasonal cottages with large homes continues to stress the infrastructure, deforest the area, and contribute to wastewater issues. The increased development reduces habitat for wildlife and further fragments existing habitat, and increases the risk of flooding due to expanded impervious surfaces.

There is no local mechanism for requiring dedication or set-aside of open space to match the amount of lots being developed. Relative to other Cape towns, there are very few potential subdivisions which would exceed 30 acres in size and fall under the purview of the Cape Cod Commission as Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs).

6. Ground and Surface Water Pollution

The most persistent environmental problems in Dennis surround issues related to wastewater disposal. Despite its high density, Dennis continues to rely solely on on-site septic systems. Though most of the town's soils are highly permeable, there are still failed systems due to overloading, particularly during the busy summer season. Because the soils are highly permeable, nitrates and bacteria are readily transmitted off-site to surface waters, particularly ponds and streams, and into groundwater. There is insufficient depth to groundwater on many lots, leading to the design of mounded systems. Though the town has made great strides in protecting groundwater through regulation and use of the septic treatment plant in Yarmouth since 1992, the potential for continued degradation of the town's most important natural assets, its waters, will remain until a sewer system is installed. The Dennis Engineering Department and Department of Public Works have worked closely with various committees, including the Storm Water Management Sub-Committee of the CWMP to address roadway run-off issues throughout the town.

Eutrophication and cyanobacteria blooms in ponds has been an increasing problem in recent years. In the summer of 2019, Scargo Lake had measurable levels of cyanobacteria, although it did not exceed the threshold for a state closure.

7. Impaired Water Bodies

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection identified the following impaired water bodies in Dennis:

- Category 4a Waters: Chase Garden Creek, Quivett Creek, Sesuit Creek, Bass River
- Category 5 Waters: Chase Garden Creek (e. coli), Swan Pond River (fecal coliform)

Based on the Cape Cod Pond and Lake Stewardship (P.A.L.S.) program annual monitoring, the following freshwater ponds were identified as having impaired water quality:

- Cedar Pond
- Coles Pond
- Fresh Pond
- Hiram Pond
- Run Pond
- Scargo Lake

8. Invasive Species

Invasive species can be found throughout Dennis, particularly common invasive plants found throughout Cape Cod. The most common include Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Black Locust, Phragmites, Porcelain-berry, Japanese Stilt-grass, Garlic Mustard, Norway Maple, and Common Barberry. These plants outcompete natives and establish monocultures, reducing habitat diversity. A common invasive insect in Dennis is the Gypsy moth, which over time can kill oak trees.

9. Environmental Equity Issues

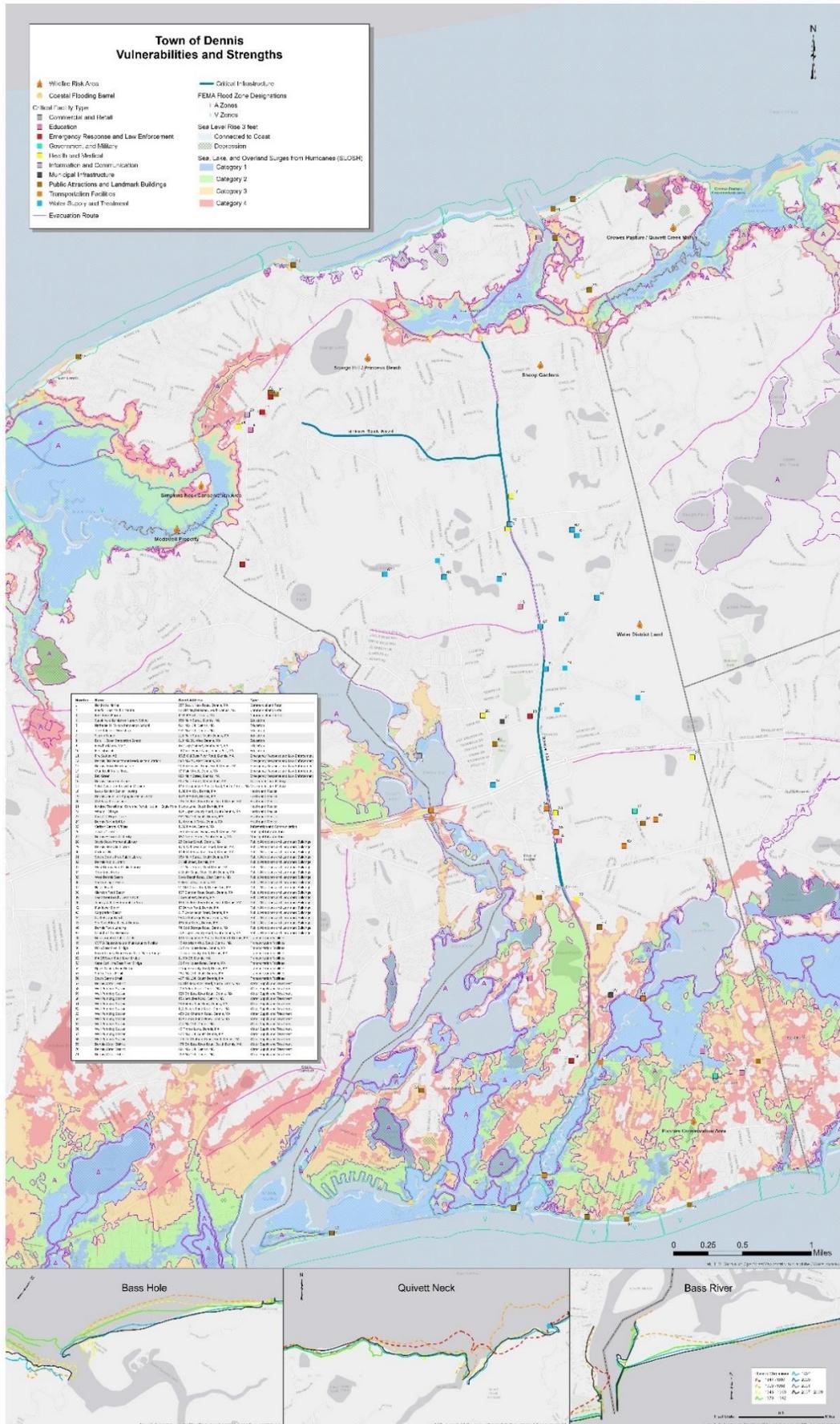
Open space properties are located throughout the town of Dennis, but the larger walking trails and scenic vistas are found mainly outside of Dennis Port. Due to development density, Dennis Port has less tree cover than other areas of the town. Many of the open space properties are also difficult to access without a vehicle.

10. Other Issues

The use of the navigable waterways is another problem. Space conflicts, lack of adequate shorefront access, inadequate mooring supply, and commercial versus recreational disputes all need to be addressed.

Additional resource management problems in town include littering, illegal trash dumping, encroachment from private land owners abutting town property, and unauthorized off-road vehicle use in conservation areas.

FIGURE 18: TOWN OF DENNIS ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITIES MAP (CAPE COD COMMISSION MVP 2019)



Section 5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Open space protection is important for a variety of reasons, as is expanded upon elsewhere in this document. Particularly in a town with a high rate of development, there are numerous benefits to quality of life associated with this land protection. Preserved land, particularly near important water resources, provide water quality protection. Open space can provide recreational opportunities, such as hiking trails and bird watching; provides vital habitat for wildlife; and provide scenic resources.

In 1991, the Cape Cod Commission proposed a regional open space greenbelt system throughout Barnstable County, for the purpose to "link existing protected open space and sensitive resources including wildlife habitat, wetlands, and zones of contribution to public wells to establish a regional network of connected open space." Towns were asked to refine this greenbelt as it falls within their borders, as they develop local comprehensive plans. In Dennis, the Commission proposed including the Bay marshes and conservation lands, wetland corridors along Bass and Swan Rivers, and much of the woodlands along the Setucket Road area.

Protected land comes in many forms for the purposes of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. A full inventory list can be viewed in [Appendix B](#). Permanently protected open space includes only land owned for conservation and wildlife habitat by federal, state, and local agencies or non-profit organizations, and privately-owned land bound by conservation easements. Land dedicated to recreation purposes is also protected under Article 97. Temporary and limited open space includes land covered by revocable restrictions against development or change in use. A farm that is differentially assessed for tax purposes as long as the land is used for agriculture is an example of temporarily protected open space. Limited-protection open space includes land uses such as cemeteries or ball fields that could, but are unlikely, to be redeveloped. Unprotected open space is land with no legal restrictions against future development.

Property that is designated under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment of the State Constitution is deemed legally protected open space and offers a high level of protection. Article 97 protects lands that have been designated for the purposes of conservation of forests, water, agricultural land and other natural resources, and for recreation. While conversions do occur, the process is purposefully onerous in an attempt to protect these conservation and recreation lands in perpetuity. In Dennis, land owned for conservation, recreation, and water supply protection are all subject to Article 97 protections.

A. Public Lands and Facilities

With about 2,724 acres under its control, the Town of Dennis is the largest landowner in Dennis. A large percentage of these lands is devoted to conservation (1,304 acres), though a major portion of this acreage is unbuildable wetland. Another major portion of protected open space (976.7 acres) consists of large blocks of woodland held by the quasi-public Dennis Water District for public water supply wells and wellfield protection. Since 2003, the largest Dennis Water District land acquisitions have been in the town of Brewster, as the Water District and Brewster Selectmen worked jointly to protect important open space resources in Brewster which also served to protect the Dennis water supply. About twenty-six percent (3,644 acres) of the town's land mass has been set aside as protected open space for wellfields, conservation land, and beaches.

A combination of factors—historical, geographical, and political—has resulted in a less than perfect distribution of these lands. Wellfields, for example, were purchased where existing wells were located, thus focusing investments in protecting open space in South and East Dennis. Conservation areas were assembled where land was unbuildable, primarily due to wetland soils (Dennis Village) or lack of access for development (Crowes Pasture, for instance). The studies that led to the 1984 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan changed this focus and laid the framework for the municipal land purchases of the 1980s that were scattered throughout town to benefit each village. Between 1985-86, the Town purchased 183 acres for assorted open space uses- the largest being the 71-acre King property near Flax Pond and the 42-acre Simpkins Neck conservation area. Between 1998 and 2003, the town acquired an additional 339.3 acres. Since the adoption of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the town has acquired an additional 73.21 acres of open space through private donations, Community Preservation Funds, and State Self-Help, and Urban Self-Help funds. The most significant recent acquisitions include the land surrounding the Aquaculture Research Corporation, the Holl Property, and the Bush Property.

The most popular town conservation areas, in terms of frequent use, are Crowes Pasture, Chapin Beach, and the Cross Blueberry Patch along the Northside; the Indian Lands Conservation Area on Bass River in South Dennis; and Flax Pond Conservation Area off Setucket Road. The Natural Resources Department is responsible for day-to-day management of all town conservation areas. Uses of conservation lands include passive recreation, such as walking, nature study, picnicking, and photography.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts manages the Cape Cod Rail Trail bike path, which passes from Yarmouth alongside the Indian Lands Conservation Area to Harwich near Great Western Road. The trail continues for 25 miles into South Wellfleet, providing a major recreational opportunity on the Cape, with picnic tables and benches accessible alongside the route. A new parking lot was constructed at the site of the old town hall, and a bridge connecting the bike path into Yarmouth was completed in 2018.

In 1996, to aid protection of coastal plain pondshore rare plant habitat, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) engaged in a partnership with the Dennis Water District (DWD) to protect land around Clay Pond and Grassy Pond from development of a proposed subdivision. Under the arrangement, DWD purchased 7.42 acres along Old Bass River Road, while MDFW purchased 6.34 acres along the shorelines of the two ponds. There is no state management presence at this facility; no parking area is provided.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management operates two facilities in Dennis. For over 50 years, the state Division of Forests and Parks has operated a fire tower located on 8.14 acres of woodland along Hokum Rock Road.

The town owns other properties for general municipal purposes which are used *de facto* for conservation and recreation. Some of these undesignated use parcels, under the control of the Selectmen, could be formally transferred to the Conservation Commission for increased statutory protection and augmentation of existing conservation areas.

B. Private Open Space Lands and Facilities

Augmenting the publicly-owned open space lands are approximately 530 acres (including 205 acres of Chase Garden salt marsh) of land with varying degrees of legal protection against development. The Massachusetts Audubon Society owns 8.5 acres of conservation land along the west side of Fresh Pond and 1.75 acres of salt marsh in Sesuit Creek. No other state or national non-profit organization owns land in Dennis, though The Nature Conservancy transferred pondshore land at Baker's Pond to the town Conservation Commission. In 1993, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History transferred title to 0.74

acres near Cedar Pond to the Dennis Conservation Land Trust for continued preservation by the local organization.

The Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) was founded in 1988 to provide a private, nonprofit vehicle to dedicate natural lands to conservation in town. The Dennis Conservation Land Trust has protected approximately 614 acres of land. These properties include outright acquisitions and conservation restrictions. The most significant acquisition was donated by James McConnell Clark, founder of the Aquacultural Research Corporation at Bass Hole. In 1994, Mr. Clark donated 205 acres of salt marsh and surrounding dunes by Chase Garden Creek to the Trust. Public access for passive recreation is allowed on lands held in fee by DCLT, with certain properties featuring maintained walking trails with informational kiosks. DCLT also leads monthly educational walks on Dennis conservation properties. The Dennis Conservation Land Trust continues to accept land gifts, conservation restrictions, and direct monetary donations to further land conservation with the Town of Dennis. Most recently, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust has worked with the town on the purchases of the remaining 39 acres held by the Aquacultural Research Corporation in 2015, 8.15 acres of land abutting the Princess Beach Property on the shore of Scargo Lake in Dennis in 2017, and 13.11 acres of land abutting Indian Lands Conservation Area in South Dennis in 2019. DCLT holds conservation restrictions on these properties.

The Swan Lake Cemetery Corp. operates a private 6-acre cemetery in Dennis Port. The public is allowed to walk there. There are no institutional lands (summer camps, boy scout camps, university lands, private golf courses) of conservation interest in town.

There are a variety of unprotected commercial open space facilities in town. Most private cranberry bogs and several small farms are presently enrolled under the MGL Chapter 61A current use assessment programs, which defer property taxes while the land is not developed.

There are more than a dozen open space or "cluster" subdivisions in Dennis, in which a common area of at least 30 percent of the parcel's area is provided for neighborhood use. These open areas may be comprised of either undeveloped land or active recreational sites, with some as large as 19 acres (Tucker Oaks). Most of these cluster subdivisions are located in the middle of town (East Dennis and South Dennis) where larger, more recent subdivisions were built after this zoning provision became instituted in 1973. There are also smaller park lots reserved for subdivision use. None are open to the general public unless specifically allowed by the owners.

Chapter 61 lands provides protection for three tracts of land comprising 31.89 acres in the Dennis Village. These sites are:

- 154 Whig Street, Dennis – 5.69 acres
- 272 Route 6A, Dennis – 13.30 acres
- Tobey Farm, 352 Route 6A, Dennis – 12.90 acres

Listed on Table 2 are the largest parcels of developable, unprotected land remaining in Dennis, totaling about 62 acres. The fate of these parcels represents the last opportunity for Dennis to preserve significant blocks of open space. Many of them are strategically located to expand existing conservation areas or serve as the only remaining undeveloped land in densely-built neighborhoods. None of these tracts are large enough to trigger the permitting authority of the Cape Cod Commission, since they do not exceed the Commission's 30-acre minimum threshold for reviews as Developments of Regional Impact.

FIGURE 19: LARGE, UNPROTECTED, UNDEVELOPED LAND PARCELS, DENNIS MA, 2019

| Map | Lot | Acres | Location | Comments |
|-----|-----|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 178 | 51 | 11.01 | off Old Chatham Road, SD | landlocked upland |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 178 | 50 | 9.42 | 37 Cyprus Road, SD | upland |
| 179 | 8 | 10.51 | 513 Old Chatham Rd, SD | upland |
| 192 | 6 | 8.73 | 329 Old Chatham Road, SD | near wellfield |
| 236 | 7 | 5.28 | off Airline Road, SD | abuts Baker's Pond |
| 267 | 3 | 3.00 | off Airline Road, SD | abuts Baker's Pond |
| 370 | 39 | 7.17 | 820 off Corporation Road, D | upland by headwaters of Chase Garden Creek |
| 409 | 47 | 7.40 | 254 Sesuit Neck Road, ED | wetland and upland |
| TOTAL | | 62.52 | acres | |

Additional unprotected properties that are predominately wetlands (and therefore undevelopable) provide significant natural resource protection value as these parcels lie within the expanded flood zones in Dennis. Protecting these properties will provide for increased flood protection for the town. The town's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan places a priority on protecting undeveloped land within the flood zones, and, where possible, promoting undevelopment to increase flood storage.

C. Recreational Facilities

1) Public Recreation Facilities

The most frequented town recreation areas, beyond the Cape Cod Rail Trail, the saltwater beaches, and Scargo Lake's Princess Beach, is the Johnny Kelley Recreation Area on Bob Crowell Road/Old Bass River Road in South Dennis. Opened in 1986 as the Access Road Recreation Area, it was rededicated in 1990 to honor long-time Dennis resident and nonagenarian athlete Johnny Kelley, famed Boston Marathoner. In addition to three new soccer fields, the Paul Hannabury Memory Garden and the braille trail installed in 1997, the following facilities are available at this major outdoor recreation site: two other soccer fields, two softball fields, three outdoor basketball courts, Marguerite Ickis Memorial Playground, a roofed pavilion with restrooms, picnic tables, and grills, and a 1.0-mile life course with fitness stations. The Kelley Park is centrally located for the entire town and has additional room for expansion. The town and Dennis Village Improvement Society built a small playground on Route 6A in Dennis Village by converting a former gasoline station into a park. The town has also completed the update to a playground in West Dennis, converting an outdated playground into a barrier-free accessible playground. Sea View Park in Dennis Port and the Bass River Park in West Dennis, two recent acquisitions, have a variety of passive and active recreational uses, including a playground and boat docks.

The town continues to improve pedestrian and bicycle access through-out town. These improvements serve to make the town more accessible to people of all abilities as the new facilities meet American With Disabilities Act needs, as well as meeting standards for joint use by pedestrians and bicycles. Paths have been constructed along Old Bass River Road, Route 134, Lower County Road, Route 28, Trotting Park Road, Route 6A, Upper County Road, and Bridge Street. In addition, the town continues to resurface, and widen where necessary, existing pedestrian facilities to meet both ADA and bicycle needs. These paths provide connections between Johnny Kelly Park, the ballfields at the Wixon School, and the Wixon School itself on the north side, and facilities connecting the Route 28 area to the beaches by way of the improvements on Swan River Road/Trotting Park Road and Lower County Road.

Water-related recreation sites include major town beaches at West Dennis Beach, Chapin, Corporation, Cold Storage, and Mayflower Beaches and 14 other smaller beaches. The Town provides beach wheelchairs for public use at the beaches. Additionally, the Town has transitioned from the use of wooden boardwalks at beach access points to the installation of roll-out mats which provide better access for people with disabilities. Beaches are used year-round for walking and other recreation. There are 16

beaches open to non-residents upon payment of a daily or seasonal parking fee, and three resident-only beaches. Freshwater swimming is provided at Princess Beach on Scargo Lake. Beaches are used year-round for walking and other recreation. The Town owns approximately 24,600 linear feet of saltwater shoreline and small swim beaches at Scargo Lake. There is an estimated 42 acres of sand beachfront. For a complete inventory of Dennis saltwater recreational facilities, see the Coastal Resources Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.

An inventory of the schools in Dennis include two baseball fields, one large playground, and one small playground at the Ezra Baker Elementary School in West Dennis; and two baseball fields, one football field with a perimeter running track, one small playground, and four tennis courts at the Nathaniel Wixon Middle School in South Dennis.

2) Private Recreation Facilities

Augmenting town recreation lands and facilities are a few private commercial enterprises. East Dennis hosts the year-round, three-court Sesuit Tennis Centre. West Dennis contains Bass River Marina and the West Dennis Yacht Club. Dennis Port has Holiday Hill mini-golf. South Dennis is the site of Mayfair Marina on Bass River and the Tony Kent Arena (year-round indoor ice rink) located across from a go-cart track. Dennis Village has no commercial recreation sites; Dennis Racquet Club, a private tennis club, operates for the homeowners' association on Oxbow Way. There are no indoor or outdoor swimming pools available to the public for a fee anywhere in Dennis.

3) Special Recreational Features

a) Cape Cod Pathways

Dennis' Board of Selectmen has endorsed the concept of Cape Cod Pathways, a countywide effort to create a Cape network of linked walking trails, primarily using existing trails and public open space. In 1998, the Selectmen supported the cross-town Pathways linkage route connecting to Yarmouth and Brewster, where Selectmen have already approved trail designs. This planning study in Dennis was conducted by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc., in cooperation with the Dennis Natural Resources Department and an *ad hoc* citizens committee.

Despite its densely developed character, Dennis has the potential to create a trail network relatively easily, owing to its large blocks of protected lands in the center of town. Cooperation among various town departments, including Conservation, Recreation, Water, Highway, and Selectmen, and some private landowners, all of which have jurisdiction over key components of a Pathway system, will be needed. One example is the "Report on Dennis Pathways" utilizing almost exclusively public roads and public lands. The 1998 report contains recommendations pertaining to other lands or easements which could be acquired to enhance the Pathways system in Dennis. The Dennis Natural Resources Department produced a pathways and trails map with the assistance of the Cape Cod Commission, and over time has worked to create linkages where possible on existing town-owned land. The Dennis Conservation Land Trust has also collaborated with the town to create linkages from their conservation properties to town-owned conservation land.

b) Bike Trails

About 2 miles of the 25-mile long state-operated Cape Cod Rail Trail lies in Dennis. Its western trailhead was recently extended from Route 134 into Yarmouth across the Bass River. The trail runs east to Harwich, crossing South Gages Way and Great Western Road (a dangerous crossing with several bicycle/motor vehicle accidents) just east of Gage's Way. Rectangular rapid flashing beacons and safety improvements including splitter islands were incorporated into Main Street and the recent extension, and the South Gages Way crossing.

In addition, the Town has constructed about 8 miles of paved bike trail in the middle part of town, north of Route 6. About two miles of Setucket Road (running east-west from Brewster to Yarmouth) has a town bike trail along the road. The 3,200-foot segment of Old Chatham Road between Route 134 and Old Bass River Road near the Wixon School has a town bike trail. It connects to the 3.2-mile bike trail along the east side of Bass River Road running north nearly to Route 6A and south past the Kelley Park and nearly to Route 6. The town has also recently added a bike trail to Bob Crowell Road, connecting from the Old Bass River Bike Trail and Kelley Park to Route 134 (0.4 miles). The town has also constructed a bike trail along Route 134 extending from the Wixon School southerly for about 1 mile, and connecting to the rail trail.

On the south side of town, the DPW has constructed bike/pedestrian facilities on Swan River Road/Trotting Park Road (about ½ mile) and along Lower County Road (about 1 mile).

The town continues to incorporate bicycle planning into its roadway and sidewalk projects where appropriate. Under the "Complete Streets" concept, the town is working with the state on constructing multi-use sidewalks along the length of Route 28. The first portion of this project is underway in Dennis Port and will be followed with a project in West Dennis. This project will provide 5' bicycle lanes and sidewalks along both sides of the road along most of Route 28.

D. Recreational Programs

The Selectmen's goal is "to provide recreational opportunities for all age groups." The town Recreation Department, overseen by an appointed committee of volunteers, provides offerings for residents and visitors throughout the year. The most popular programs in terms of number of participants are Summer Camp, Pickleball, Sailing Lessons and Swimming Lessons. Other youth offerings include Flag Football, Tennis, Street Hockey, Gym Games, Field Hockey and Soccer Camps etc. A goal of the Department is to keep activities affordable to maximize opportunities for all. Adult activities include Basketball, Pickleball, Cornhole, Yoga, Dance, Kickball, Dodgeball, Golf, Soccer and more. For the past 40+ years the Recreation Department has supported the Annual Friends of Dennis Recreation Road Race – a popular 5-mile race / 3-mile walk. Spectator sports include the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

FIGURE 20: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY TOWN-WIDE MAP

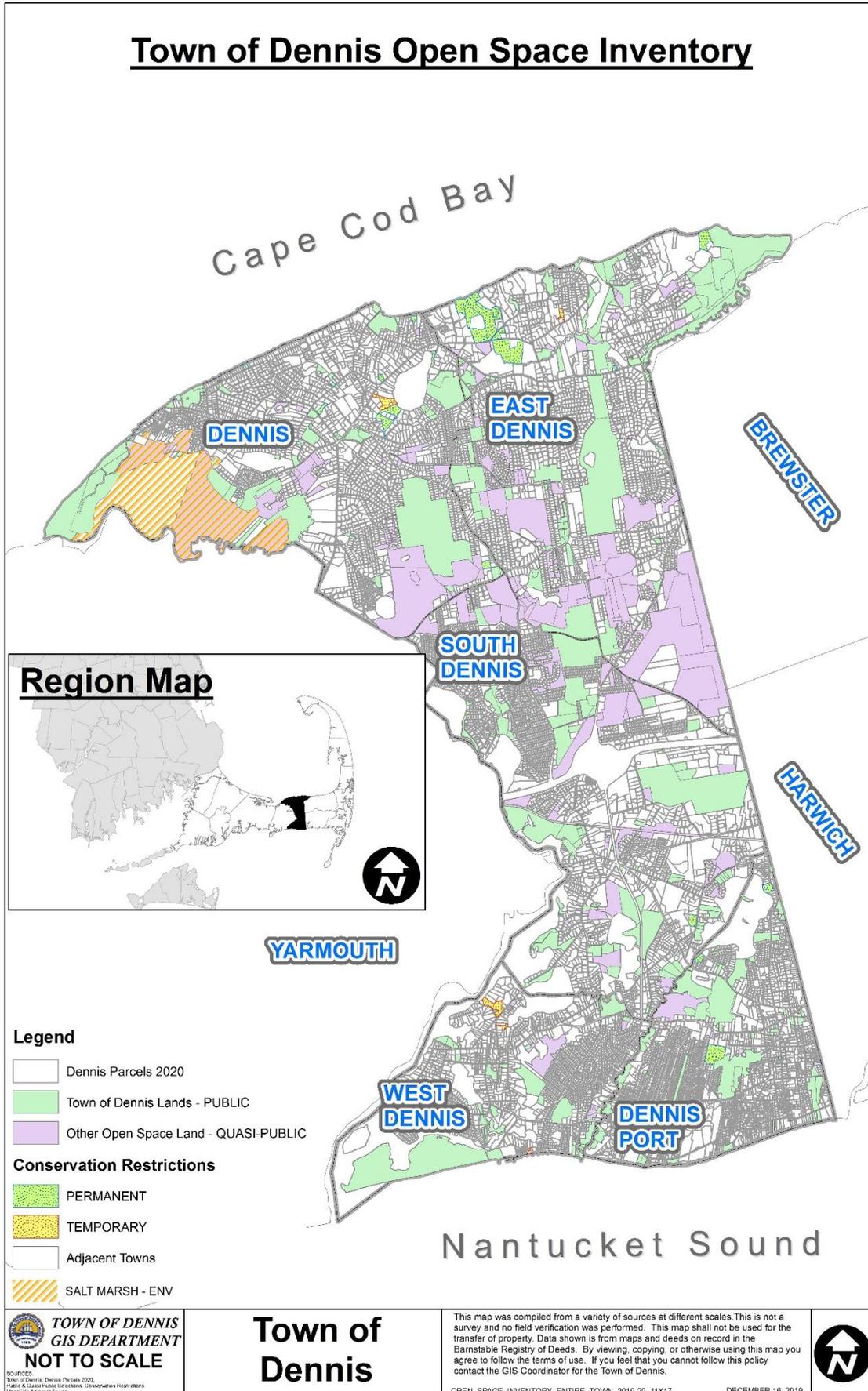


FIGURE 21: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY DENNIS VILLAGE MAP

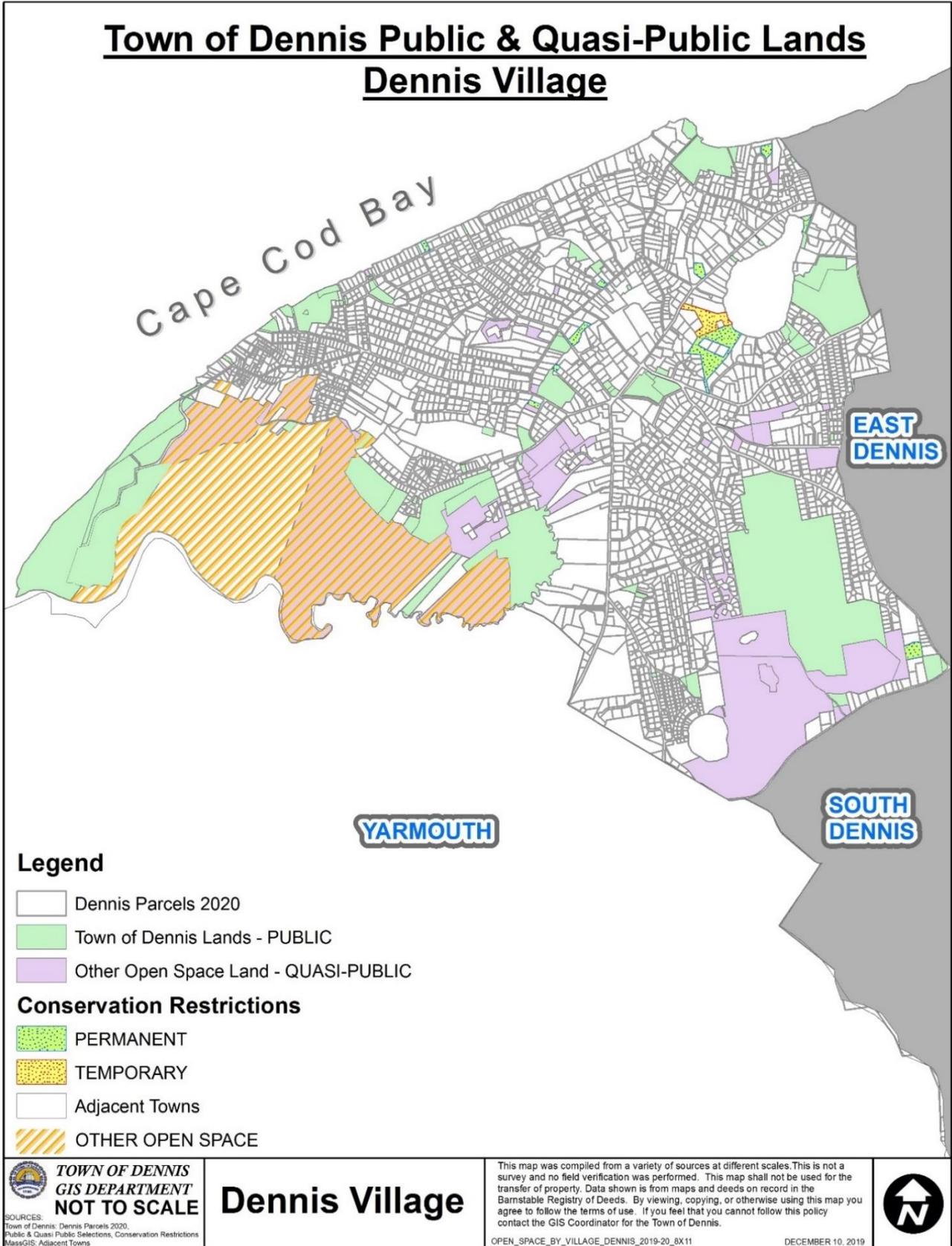


FIGURE 22: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY DENNIS PORT MAP

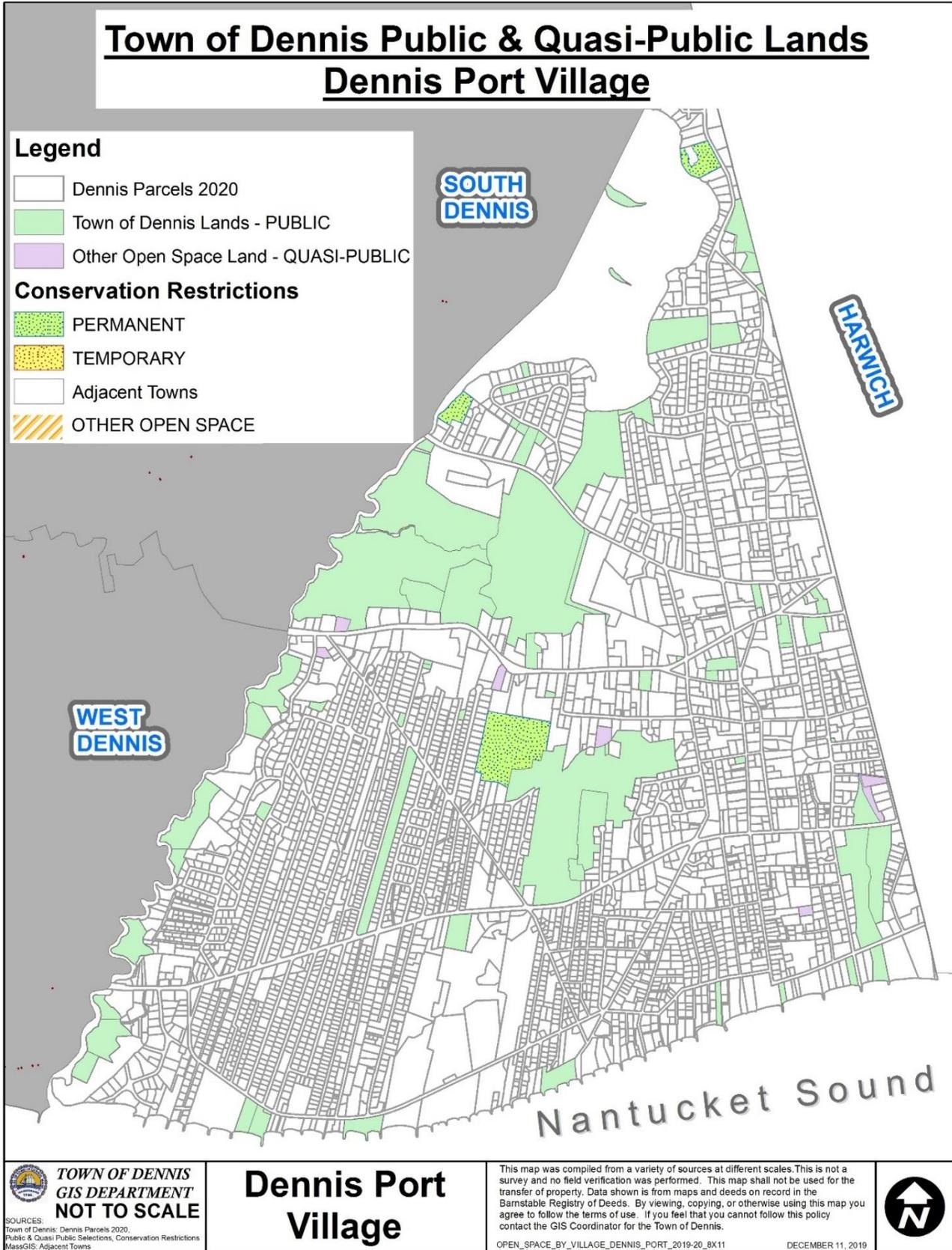


FIGURE 23: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY EAST DENNIS MAP

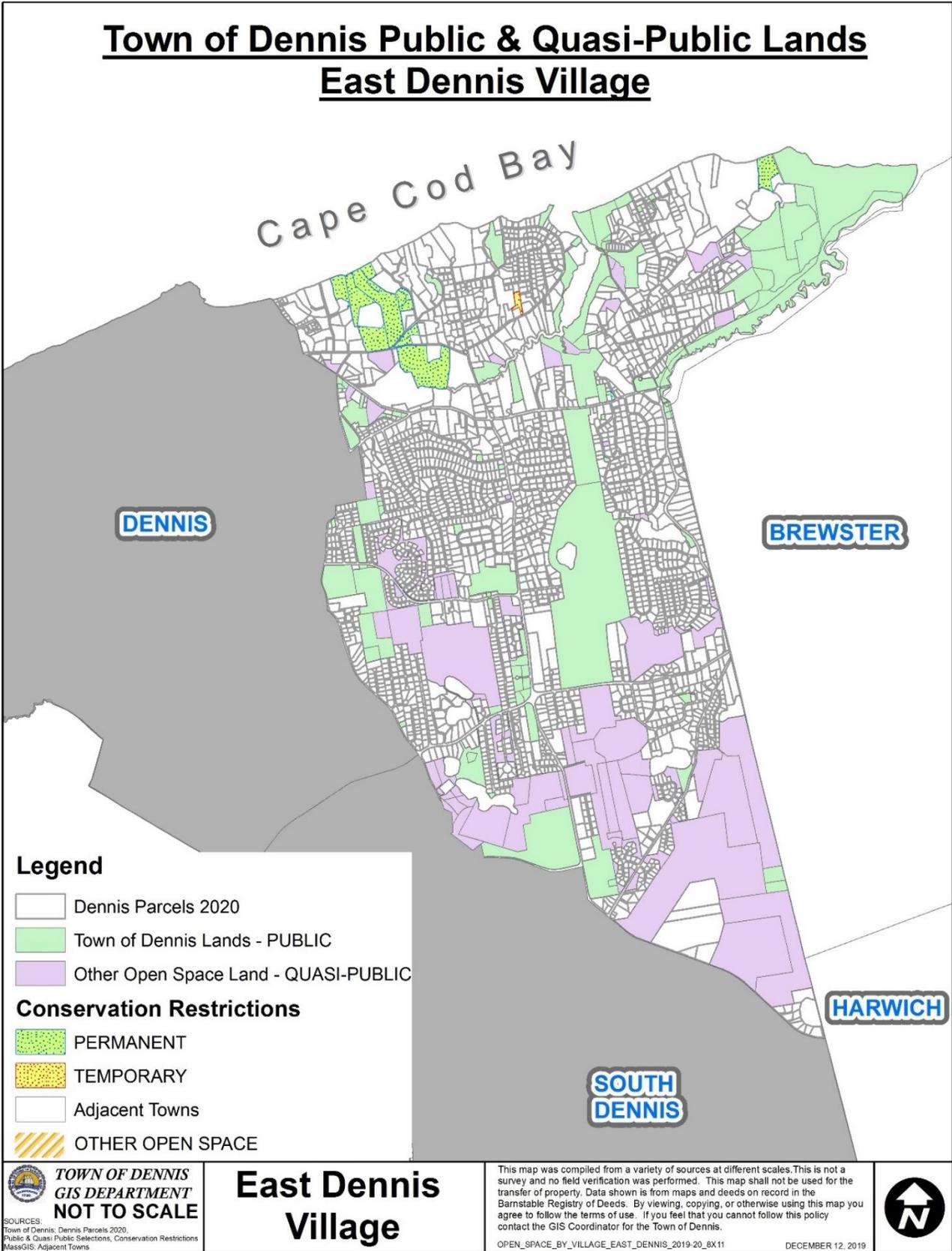


FIGURE 24: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY SOUTH DENNIS MAP

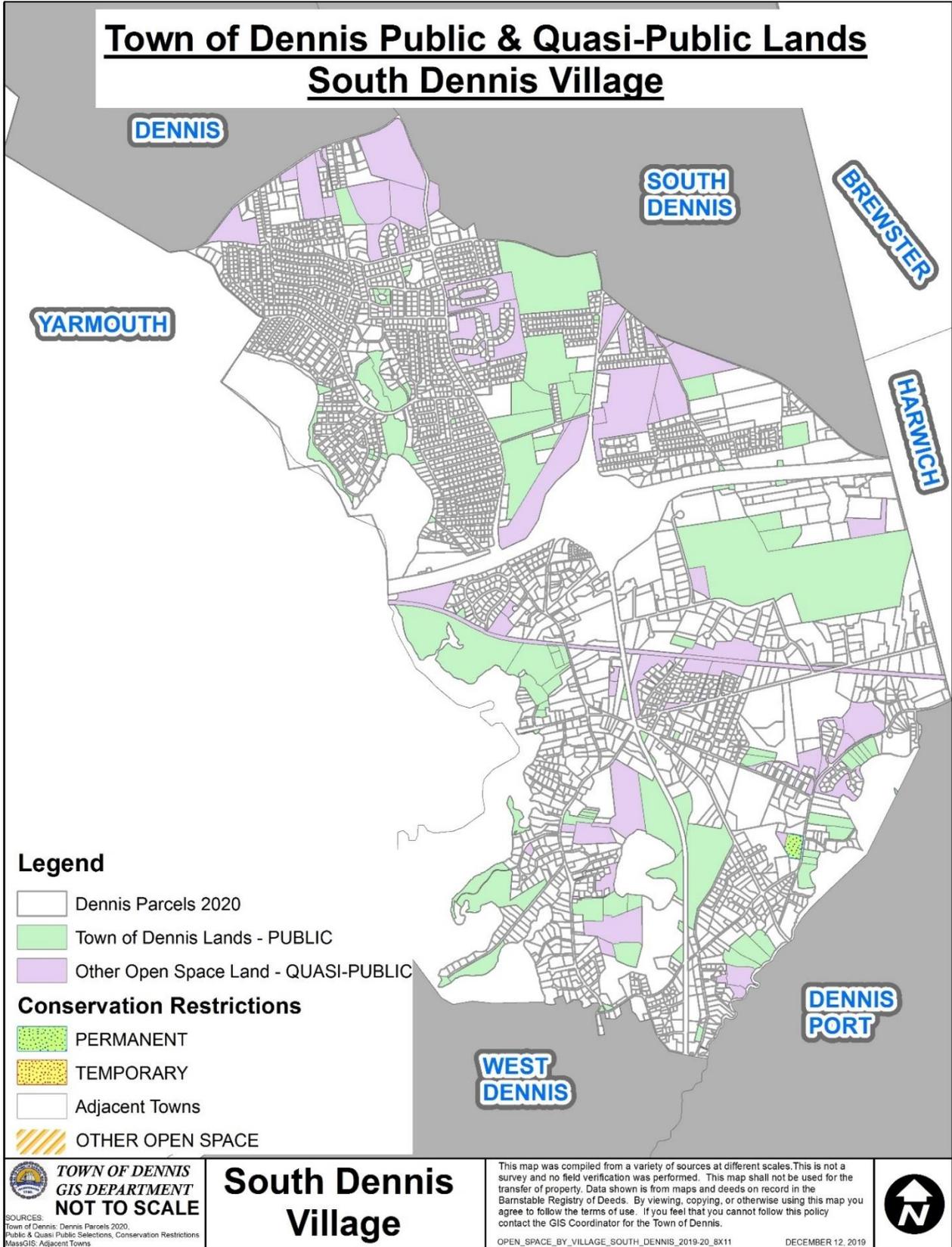
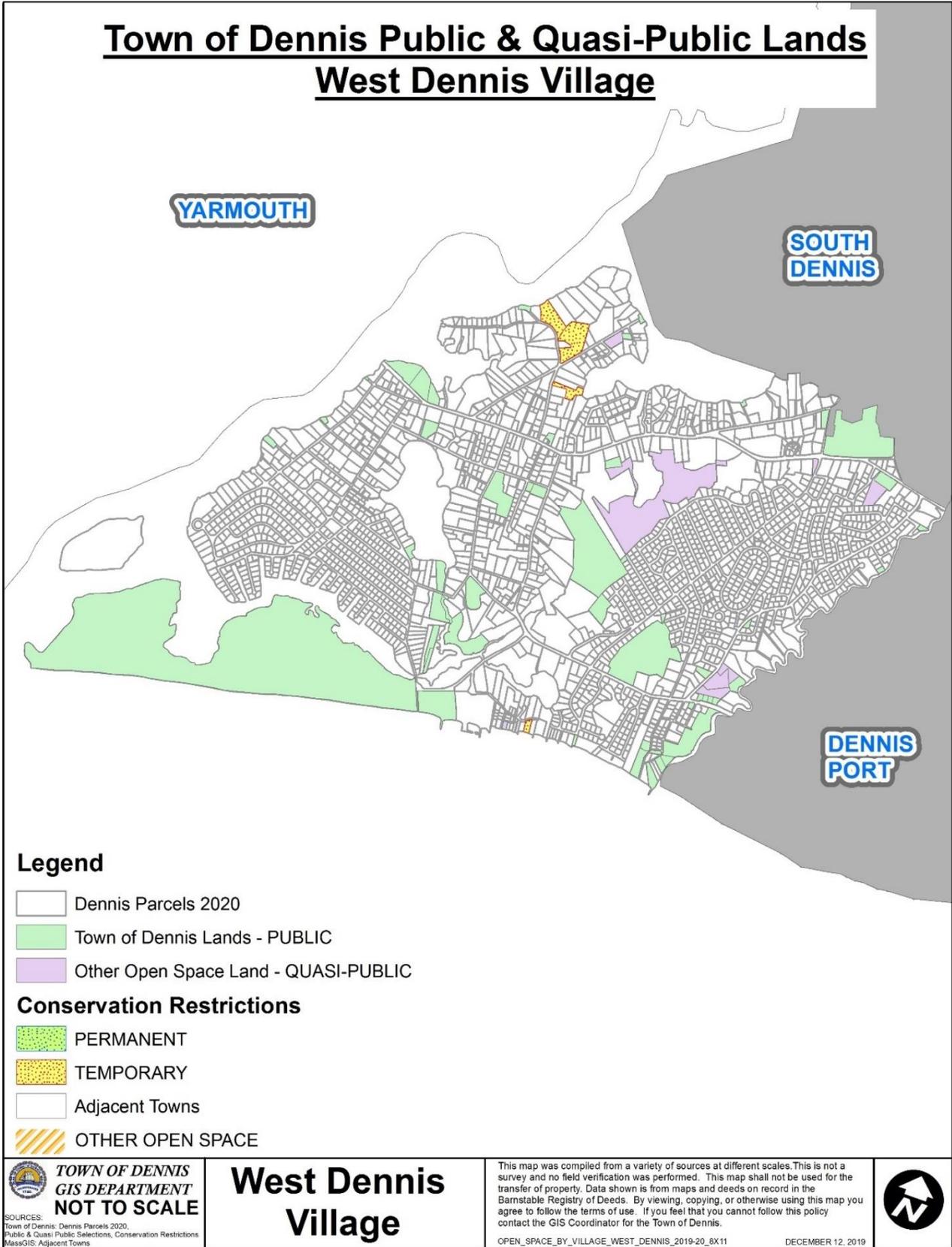


FIGURE 25: TOWN OF DENNIS OPEN SPACE INVENTORY WEST DENNIS MAP



Section 6. Community Vision

A. Description of Process

The planning process for the 2020 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan has combined a number of avenues to attract public input. Most important of these were the use of a new community needs survey conducted in 2015/2016. In order to determine what the people of Dennis want with respect to conservation, recreation, and open space in their town, the Town of Dennis regularly conducts surveys to gauge resident perceptions of the conditions of town facilities. The most recently completed one was conducted in late 2015 and early 2016. This survey asked residents how they felt about acquiring additional open space and what improvements they felt were needed with open space and recreation lands and in programs. The results of this survey were compiled and followed in drafting the updated document.

In general, the public seemed more satisfied with the town's offerings of open space and recreation compared to previous surveys. Over half the respondents point out that open spaces are very important to why they live in Dennis; nearly half of all respondents felt recreational opportunities were very important as well. Public meetings were held by the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and the Planning Board.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town of Dennis is unique in its large areas of protected open space, used passively and actively, despite also being a densely developed town. The major challenge the town faces moving forward is to preserve the natural, scenic, and recreational opportunities in the town while meeting significant economic development needs such as steady job growth and the provision of affordable housing.

The town goals, as identified through the completed survey, committee meetings, and town staff, are as follows:

GOAL 1: Preserve land for open space and recreation, focusing acquisitions on priority properties and connections to existing open space.

GOAL 2: Maintain and improve existing recreational properties and facilities, while exploring additional recreational opportunities throughout town.

GOAL 3: Upgrade Town facilities to provide ADA accessibility.

GOAL 4: Preserve the historic and scenic character of the Town.

GOAL 5: Protect water quality and drinking water supplies.

GOAL 6: Promote a cooperative and regional approach to open space and resource protection.

Section 7. Analysis of Needs

A. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Needs Assessment

In the 2017 SCORP, the major goals for the state include: access for underserved populations; support the statewide trails initiative, increase the availability of water-based recreation; support the creation and renovation of neighborhood parks.

The town needs assessment component of the SCORP was used for guidance in targeting areas of critical need, acquisitions, facility improvements, or programming changes.

The following were the top ten needs identified in Dennis:

1. Walking Trails
2. Bike Trails
3. Conservation Areas
4. Playgrounds
5. Public water access for boating and fishing
6. Hiking Trails
7. Senior Center
8. Tennis Courts
9. Recreation Center Building
10. Town Common

The town priorities bear some resemblance to the statewide needs. Differences are likely due to the different demographics, with the Dennis median age being 55.4 years compared to the state median age of 39.1 years (2010). The aging population of the town is more likely to participate in passive recreational activities. The town also has north and south side beaches and freshwater ponds; as such, swimming is not as large a priority as it is elsewhere in the state.

B. Summary of Resource Protection Needs and Resources

The 2016 survey results show a return to strong support for open space acquisition. For two decades, actions at town meeting to acquire open lands for preservation reflect this broad support. In June 2003, town meeting unanimously supported the acquisition of 33 acres of land to preserve the south side of the Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture District of Critical Planning Concern. Acquisitions since 2003 of Sea View Park, Bass River Park, the Holl Property, the Bush Property, land surrounding the Aquaculture Research Corporation, and additional land holdings within the Quivet Neck/Crowe's Pasture area have continued to enjoy similar widespread support. While most of the large blocks of undeveloped land in Dennis have either been acquired by the town or subdivided for residential development, there still remains important parcels to consider for protection. The town's focus over the past several years has been to seize opportunities to enhance the value and utility of existing landholdings by acquiring or otherwise protecting smaller adjacent parcels or linkage properties; acquiring developed parcels for undevelopment; or protecting parcels with critical scenic or historic value. Additional access to water bodies, particularly inland ponds, should be pursued. The town should also stay alert to changes proposed in lands which are quasi-protected now by temporary restrictions, such as current use assessment lands, term conservation

restrictions, and undesignated-use municipal lands. Finally, consistent with the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, the town should prioritize areas that can be protected for flood storage.

In 1989, the Dennis Board of Selectmen endorsed the Town's Land Acquisition Committee's recommendation that the Town spend \$5 million to purchase new town land for multiple purposes (including conservation, recreation and affordable housing) over the next seven years. Among other things, the Committee compiled a "wish list" of desirable open space, which totaled 80 parcels, 370 acres and \$13.5 million in assessed valuation. These properties included Chase Garden wetlands, Quivet Neck uplands and shorefront, Swan River wetlands, Weir Creek headwaters, additions to Fresh Pond Conservation Area, and many smaller sites throughout the town. Owing to Finance Committee opposition and the economic recession of the time, no parcels were ever purchased and the Land Acquisition Committee was disbanded. Many of the open space priority sites are still relevant for the town to consider acquiring.

Subsequent to the 1998 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Dennis Land Acquisition Committee was reactivated as the source of prioritizing land acquisitions under the Cape Cod Land Bank. The Committee worked to negotiate land acquisitions that had been long delayed and to set priorities for the future.

In 2004, the town of Dennis adopted the state's Community Preservation Act provisions and transformed its Land Acquisition Committee into a Community Preservation Committee. This Committee is now charged with prioritizing and balancing expenditures between open space acquisition, affordable housing, and historic preservation. Since the creation of the Community Preservation Committee, the town has acquired such important pieces of land as Sea View Park, Bass River Park, the Aquaculture Research Corporation holdings, the Holl Property, and the Bush Property.

Land is the resource base for many natural features, including water quality. Land can be preserved through regulatory or non-regulatory means. Regulatory means include mandatory cluster subdivisions, open space set-asides, and minimum lot size increases. Non-regulatory methods to preserve crucial resource lands in Dennis include the following approaches:

Fee acquisition (conveying full title to land)

- Donation: immediate or installment (to Town or Dennis Conservation Land Trust)
- Purchase: friendly sale, eminent domain, bargain sale, installment sale
- Bequest
- Tax title transfer

Less-than fee protection (conveying partial rights to property)

- Access easement
- Conservation restrictions
- Lease
- Remainder interest/reserved life estate
- Option/rights of first refusal
- Tax-deferral programs: MGL 61, 61A, 61B
- Differential assessment program: Special Act 797 of 1979

To determine which protection technique is best suited to each target parcel, the following set of circumstances should be evaluated, based on the Board of Selectmen Town Land Inventory Guidelines:

- Set aside land for future known and unknown municipal uses.
- Minimize impacts from larger municipal uses (i.e. economic development, schools, municipal facilities, traffic) to neighborhoods.
- Protect Dennis' aquifer its sole source of drinking water.
- Create affordable and workforce housing consistent with the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.
- Focus development within our village centers.
- Maximize the use of existing facilities and land with existing facilities and buildings.
- Open space within our village centers is important.
- Maintain and enhance public access to Dennis' beaches, lakes, ponds, and streams.
- Focus municipal uses where adequate infrastructure exists.
- Protect and link natural habitats.
- Declare land not identified for current or potential municipal uses as surplus. Surplus land shall not be made available for the development of market rate housing.

In general, it is recommended that parcels proposed for active use, such as parks, swimming beaches or boating facilities, be publicly owned for liability reasons. Resource protection uses may not require public ownership.

The town has made judicial use of the Community Preservation Act funding source to purchase the fee simple title to the land. The length of time necessary to complete the transaction depends on negotiations, title research, appraisals and Town Meeting scheduling. If bonds are to be issued, the Town Meeting must approve the purchase by a two-thirds majority and a simple majority of a town-wide election is needed to exempt the bonds from the tax levy limit (Proposition 2 1/2.) Direct purchase was used by the Town in acquiring 142 acres in the mid-1980s and has become a major source for protection in Dennis since the adoption of the Cape Cod Land Bank and the Community Preservation Act. Since the adoption of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan the town has acquired about 60 acres bringing the town controlled open space acreage up to 1,161 acres. The Dennis Water District now controls an additional 975.9 acres of open space.

Open space purchases by the town can receive approximately 50% in reimbursement from the state Self Help and Urban Self-Help Programs (M.G.L. c. 132A, s. 11). Towns across the state annually compete for what has amounted to a total of (in recent years) \$8 million. Dennis has been the recipient of these funds for many projects including for Crowe's Pasture, Bass River Park, Sea View Park and the Aquaculture Research Corporation acquisitions. Property acquired with assistance from these state programs must be kept and used at all times for open space purposes. Self Help and Urban Self-Help lands cannot be disposed of or converted to other uses without approval of town meeting, the state legislature and the governor. Even then, converted property must be replaced by the town with land of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness.

Dennis has a number of tax title properties under review, many of these protect flood zone and wetland areas and are rated high priority for permanent protection.

CURRENT USE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Working forests, farms and private recreation lands often receive preferential tax treatment under the current use assessment programs (respectively, under MGL c.61, 61A, 61B.) These programs enable local assessors to value open lands in their current state rather than at their "highest and best use," which in Dennis generally means as a housing development or commercial establishment. It is similar to a

conservation restriction program, in that it is employed strictly at the owner's request. Differences include: no benefit as income tax or estate tax deductions; annual application is necessary; and, the town has automatic right of first refusal in the event of a conversion to another use. A major advantage is that eligibility criteria and property tax reductions are simple and standard throughout the state:

c.61- Ten acres of woodland with a state-approved forest management plan; 95% tax reduction plus stumpage fee,

c.61A- Five acres in agricultural production grossing \$500 annually; reduction based on crop type,

c.61B- Five acres used for public recreation or resource protection; 75% reduction.

The disadvantage is that property owners can withdraw from the program at any time. About 135 acres in Dennis are enrolled in the farmland assessment program.

There are three properties in Dennis currently under the Ch.61A designation. There are currently no enrollments under Ch. 61B for private recreation lands or open spaces.

NONPROFIT RESOURCES

The local land conservation trust is playing an important role in shaping open space protection in Dennis. As a private organization, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) can work separately from town government, while pursuing shared goals. As a charitable group recognized by the IRS since 1988, it can offer similar tax advantages as the town to a landowner for gifts of land. Land trusts are directly involved in acquiring and managing land for its natural, recreational, scenic, or historical qualities. DCLT is supported by public memberships and directed by a board of volunteer citizens. The DCLT has protected 491.48 acres of land through ownership or the holder of perpetual conservation easements.

Nonprofit groups have the advantage over town agencies of working confidentially with landowners, forging relationships patiently (sometimes hard to do in government circles) that may result in open space protection, such as a land donation. These groups can be instrumental in performing much of the pre-acquisition work needed for a town to purchase land, including surveys, title exams, appraisals and options.

DCLT is a member of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, which provides technical assistance and professional expertise on matters relating to planning, land acquisition and management, and non-profit administration, in addition to linking them to their counterparts across Barnstable County. These groups can supplement the town's role in implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society is a statewide land trust, dating to 1895, which has a strong presence on Cape Cod. Its holdings near Fresh Pond augment important Town and DCLT lands.

C. Summary of Community Needs

Dennis is a small town with great natural beauty. The town's scenic views and environment of native plants and wildlife are aspects which residents and visitors wholeheartedly enjoy. Many of its important natural resources, including beaches, woods, fish, and shellfish, are also recreational resources and help drive the local economy. The purpose of this plan is to identify means by which to protect these valuable resources which are vital to the town's environment, while promoting appropriate use of these resources to enhance the town's communal well-being.

The Dennis Planning Department regularly surveys the Community Needs to use in updating regular reports such as the Open Space and Recreation Plan, Local Comprehensive Plan and to guide other town planning efforts. The two most recent surveys took place in 2012 and the 2016; through these surveys the Town updates community perceptions of town open space and recreational facilities and needs, affordable housing and economic development goals. The respondents to the survey tended to come from older households and year-round resident respondents. The survey resulted in a number of findings that are summarized below as part of the community needs summary.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Every five to seven years the Open Space and Recreation Plan requires updating. That places the OSRP into a cycle where it will generally overlap with the Local Comprehensive Plan Update. Questions asked for the Open Space Plan are also asked for the Local Comprehensive Plan, thereby allowing for the greatest identification of trends, or changes of opinion.

In recent years Dennis has increased its funding for improvements to public facilities. It would appear, when comparing the 2012 survey results, facility expectations, and support has grown significantly. The assessment illustrates strongest support for a new recreation center (34%), walking and bicycling facilities (33% each), and public access to waters for boating and fishing (32%). Support for a new recreation center and senior center showed the largest increases in support survey to survey. Additional golf facilities received the least amount of support, with 87% feeling that there was no need for an additional golf course.

Town Beaches are used by 95% of those responding to the survey. The town beaches are followed by Conservation Lands (92%). Playgrounds (43%) and the town golf courses (39%) come in a distant third and fourth. The town senior center saw a dramatic increase in respondents saying they used this facility. This is quite likely related to the increasing number of retirees living in Dennis both on a seasonal and year-round basis.

The majority of users of town recreational facilities have rated these facilities as in better condition than in 2012, reflecting investments the town has made over the past several years as it has implemented its capital improvement program. The sole exception is that users of the Senior Center have rated the facility as in noticeably worse condition than just a few years ago. In this assessment, 76% feel town beaches are in excellent condition. The conditions of parks and playgrounds, conservation lands, and boat landings all were grouped together in the middle of the rating system, much like they are in this assessment. It is important to note that very few thought that town recreation facilities were in poor condition. The senior center fared the worst in this assessment, with 49% rating it as in fair or poor conditions.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Assessment supplements and reviews many of the issues found in the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan. The results of the three specific questions asked relating to the Natural Resources Assessment are discussed below.

The responses to the survey clearly indicate a strong impression in town that our natural resources are important; clean drinking water and clean air are clearly the most important issues to Dennis residents. Protection of our lakes, ponds, and streams; scenic views; wetlands; wildlife habitat; and rural character

also weigh in with over two-thirds of the respondents finding these items extremely important natural resources.

The 2016 survey results illustrate a significant change in perceptions. In both 2008 and 2012, the surveys found limited support for measures that removed land from development capabilities. Economic conditions may have played a role in the responses to both these past surveys. In 2008, we had entered a significant recession. In 2016, purchase of conservation land, zoning for preservation of open space and scenic vistas, and the acceptance of conservation land all gained more than 50% strong support.

The responses are informative as to where residents feel we should focus future land protection efforts. Bass River, north and south side ocean access, and Swan River stand out as future priorities. This is consistent with the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as the areas along the Bass River and Swan River are the most vulnerable to flooding.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Additional open space and recreational areas remained the highest priorities for residents, with the need for a new Senior Center being a close third. Weekly concerts in the villages, active parks, and improved sidewalks have raised the need for improved public parking in Dennis Port and West Dennis.

The Dennis Beach and Recreation Department has identified a number of maintenance needs at the Dennis beaches. In particular, most of the beach parking lots need to be resurfaced in order to continue to adequately serve beach goers. These represent on-going maintenance issues as the sheer force of winter storms bear down on the parking lots and cause them to have far shorter lives than normal road facilities. A number of the beaches on the south side are also lacking relative to handicap accessibility.

The recreational needs of Dennis' aging population can perhaps best be met by incorporating sensitive design features into open space and recreation areas, such as handicapped access, resting benches, and sidewalks. Simple items like safe crosswalks across busy streets, beach boardwalks, and surf chairs are other examples.

ACCESSIBILITY

In 2019, the Town engaged DAC Consulting to undertake a comprehensive assessment of Dennis buildings, recreation areas and open spaces. The assessment reviewed everything except sidewalks and crossings that are part of the street network, these are to be assessed as, and incorporated into, the Dennis Roadway Management Program.

The Town is committed to complying with the tenets of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), and other federal, state statutes and regulations to provide accessible for individuals with disabilities. The 2019 ADA Transition Plan serves to demonstrate the ongoing compliance efforts by the Town. See [Appendix C](#) for further information.

The Town of Dennis has demonstrated a commitment from the highest level of leadership with coordination of compliance activities and involvement of persons with disabilities and methodologies for compliance procedures. The Town of Dennis understands that the ADA/504 Compliance Plan is not a static document and requires ongoing implementation and periodic updates.

DAC Consulting found that Dennis had \$7.7 million in identifiable accessibility costs. In addition to this figure is the need for appropriate engineering work to upgrade access to town trails. Given the need for more comprehensive survey efforts for grades, drainage, etc., it was not possible for DAC to estimate these costs.

The most commonly cited accessibility issues include:

- Inappropriate location of fixtures within buildings;
- Hand rails that need proper extensions;
- Proper parking stall widths, grades, and marking;
- Sidewalks between town facilities and street sidewalk system;
- Trails rutted or impassible to mobility impaired; and
- Benches, picnic tables, and pet waste dispensers not located on accessible routes

The ADA Transition Plan illustrates that, while the town has made strides in achieving accessibility needs, there are still many items to be addressed. The Town is committed to meeting federal guidelines for accessibility. The Town's goal is to ensure that, by upgrading facilities, we can improve the accessibility of town facilities. While some areas may never be capable of being fully accessible, for instance Sea Street Beach with a massive seawall between the parking lot and the beach, others provide easy flat access, such as Glendon and Inman Road beaches with direct, at grade access between the beach and parking. Scargo Lake, on the north side, has a very shallow grade from a nearby parking area to the water's edge for swimming, making it a more practical site to offer handicapped access. On its open space and recreation properties, the Town remains committed to providing full experiential access, wherever environmentally and financially feasible. Most of the Kelley Park has been made accessible, including the bathrooms, and the Park hosts the "braille trail," a perimeter level walking path with interpretive signs along its length. As Dennis upgrades facilities at each of its recreational properties, accessibility will be a top priority. Facilities at West Dennis, Princess, Mayflower and Corporation beaches have all been improved to increase accessibility; similar improvements are planned as part of all future town facility upgrades.

Efforts implemented to date include constructing a new Town Hall, and providing accessible mats and beach sand chairs for access to town beaches. The town is in the process of expanding and upgrading the Dennis Senior Center and sidewalks in Dennis Port Village Center.

D. Management Needs/Potential Change of Use

Daily maintenance of conservation areas falls to the town Natural Resources Department and Dennis Department of Public Works (litter and trash collection), with policy guidance from the Conservation Commission. Part of the land management problem stems from a lack of available staff to act as steward for the large number of town properties. Illegal dumping and encroachment continue to be a problem. One tactic to help the situation had been the creation of a volunteer land steward program to monitor specific parcels through the Dennis Natural Resources Department.

In 1997, the town Beach Department implemented an Adopt-A-Beach program to create a sense of community among groups interested in safe and clean beaches and to augment the regular maintenance work conducted by the Dennis Department of Public Works. This program is also designed to protect the flora and fauna of the areas, mitigate the effects of erosion, and enhance the natural beauty of the town beaches. Projects and responsibilities of the volunteer guardians include spring and fall clean-ups, plantings, other beautification projects and information signs naming the stewards. Erosion—both storm-related and chronic—is a major ongoing issue. Historically, the Bass River has been affected by sedimentation from West Dennis Beach. Channel dredging for the mouth of Bass River is one technique

the town has used to alleviate some of the sediment scarcity at West Dennis Beach, since the beach is approved as a spoil receiving site for compatible sands.

The town is in the approval process for a renewal of its Ten Year Comprehensive Dredge and Beach Nourishment Permit. This permit allows the town to dredge a number of town waterbodies and use the dredge spoils to renourish town beaches.

The survey and annual comments made to the Selectmen illustrate that the town needs to do more to maintain its public facilities. The town should explore opportunities for public/private ventures to help maintain properties.

Open space in Dennis has been acquired for specific resource protection purposes. While the town holds some properties for “general municipal purposes,” land acquired for preservation has generally been acquired with clear restrictions on future uses. A major portion of the town holdings along Bob Crowell Road are restricted to park uses. Parcels acquired for watershed or other resource protection purposes cannot be transferred for non-resource protection purposes.

E. Waterways Needs

The Cape is an ever-shifting sandbar. As discussed in Section 4, there are significant geological changes taking place continuously, which is clearly illustrated within the coastal waterways and the ever-changing shoreline. The Dennis Harbormaster is charged with the responsibility of maintaining access to the Dennis recreational waters. This responsibility comes with a significant set of issues from identifying the most critical water bodies impacted by erosion and sedimentation, to prioritizing dredging, to knowing how to dispose the dredge spoils.

The Dennis Harbormaster’s Office has identified the following locations that require on-going dredging:

1. Channel of Bass River (mouth)
2. Old Field Channel / south of Stage Island
3. Bass River Park slip and channel area
4. Mouth of Chase Garden Creek
5. Wrinkle Point Channel
6. Grand Cove Channel
7. Highbank Bar
8. Blue Rock Channel
9. Kelly’s Bay Channel north of Rt. 6 Bridge
10. Follins Pond Narrows
11. Swan River Mouth
12. Sesuit Harbor Outer Channel
13. Sesuit Harbor Inner Basin

Options for the disposal of dredge materials include Near Shore and Off Shore, with Beach Nourishment and Dewatering as alternatives. Each of these come with their own issues as follows:

- **Near Shore:** This type of disposal requires an approved site issued by all the regulatory agencies. There is only one near shore site in Cape Cod Bay. This site will only accept sand.
- **Off Shore:** This type of disposal also requires an approved site issued by all the regulatory agencies. There is only one offshore site in Cape Cod Bay. This site will accept mud, muck, and brackish silt.
- **Beach Nourishment:** Beach Nourishment requires an approved site stated with a Chapter 91 / Army Corps of Engineers Permit. The permit needs to identify the name and location of the beach to be nourished and must go through the state and federal permitting process.
- **Dewatering:** This type of disposal requires an approved location that allows water to drain from dredging material that will be later be hauled away and disposed of in a designated pit.

A Ten Year Comprehensive Dredging and Beach Renourishment Permit is undergoing federal review as this report is being completed. This permit request addresses the needed efforts to protect the viability of the navigable waters in Dennis and the reuse of the dredge spoils for beach renourishment both on the north and south sides of town. This permit will provide greater protection against erosion from winter storms through constant replacement of sand in the most vulnerable areas.

The Town also includes 29 Town Landings and 14 Ways to Water which provide public access to the waterfront. In 2015 the Town undertook a study of these access areas and determined appropriate uses based on their size and location. Eight (8) Landings were declared “paddlecraft only”. Three (3) locations were redesignated as scenic overlooks. Another four (4) were identified as beaches and placed under the oversight of the Beach Department.

Section 8. Goals and Objectives

The goals described in this section are the long-range aspirations of the Town of Dennis for the protection of natural resources and the provision of recreational opportunities for its citizens and visitors. The objectives are conceptual steps to be undertaken to achieve these goals. Specific, tangible actions to implement the objectives are found in Section 9.

These goals and objectives were developed with input from the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, various Town Departments, and public citizens. Previous town studies, particularly the 1986, 1998, 2003, and 2008 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plans, were consulted for current applicability and compatibility. The goals and policies of the Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan (RPP), the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Workbook (revised March 2008), the Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements (revised March 2008) and other elements of the town's current local comprehensive plan were also referenced for compatibility, where appropriate.

The following provides a set of goals and objectives for the 2020 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan. The section is divided into a set of goals and objectives that are drawn from the preceding chapters of this document.

TOWN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation Goals

GOAL 1: Preserve land for open space and recreation, focusing acquisitions on priority properties and connections to existing open space.

Objectives:

1A. Maximize connectivity between public and private lands which include the Town of Dennis, Dennis Water District and Dennis Conservation Land trust ownership.

1B. Continue to support the use of Community Preservation Act funding for the acquisition of priority open space parcels for conservation, passive, and active recreational purposes.

1C. Prioritize land acquisitions that meet the dual need for open space preservation, drainage and flood protection.

1D. Develop a map depicting interconnected lands and trails in the Town.

Recreational Goals

GOAL 2: Maintain and improve existing recreational properties and facilities, while exploring additional recreational opportunities throughout town.

Objectives:

- 2A. Maintain and update the list of all town-owned recreation properties.
- 2B. Determine the maintenance needs for all town-owned recreation properties.
- 2C. Complete a new survey of the public to define the need for a recreational center.
- 2D. Invest in existing recreational facilities by updating playgrounds, picnic areas, and parking facilities to meet ADA requirements.
- 2E. Submit application to the Audubon International Signature Sanctuary Program for inclusion of Dennis Pines Golf Course or Dennis Highlands Golf Course.
- 2F. Explore the creation of local neighborhood parks throughout town.

Accessibility Goals

GOAL 3: Upgrade Town facilities to provide ADA accessibility.

Objectives:

- 3A. Complete review of the ADA Accessibility Plan and prioritize improvements based on need and funding. Where feasible, complete upgrades as part of ongoing Town projects.
- 3B. Incorporate ADA accessibility design criteria into RFPs, bids, and design plans for Town projects, where applicable.
- 3C. Identify pedestrian street crossings requiring upgrades under the ADA Accessibility criteria.
- 3D. Provide bicycle facilities as part of roadway improvement projects, where connection is appropriate.
- 3E. Complete an accessibility design for no less than one (1) conservation parcel.
- 3F. Work towards making Dennis an Age Friendly Community.

General Open Space Goals (agriculture, historic, scenic)

GOAL 4: Preserve the historic and scenic character of the Town.

Objectives:

- 4A. Identify and protect agricultural lands in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, and public awareness of these lands including uses.
- 4B. Identify and protect historic and archaeological resources in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, preservation, and public awareness of these resources.
- 4C. Identify and protect scenic vistas and roadways in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, preservation, and public awareness of these resources.
- 4D. Prioritize historic properties and conservation lands based on maintenance needs and long-term goals.

GOAL 5: Protect water quality and drinking water supplies.

Objectives:

5A. Support local wastewater management and nutrient management efforts to prevent nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of water resources.

5B. Continue to finalize the DHY Clean Water Community Partnership and move forward on implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

5C. Acquire critical land areas around wellheads and important water resources.

5D. Preserve land to implement Best Management Practices to improve water quality from runoff.

5E. Review existing Bylaws and propose amendments, as appropriate, to require additional treatment for new development discharges to impaired waterbodies within the Town.

GOAL 6: Promote a cooperative and regional approach to open space and resource protection.

Objectives:

6A. Assure collective and cooperative commitment by town departments, boards and staff to accomplish the objectives of this open space plan.

6B. Coordinate Dennis open space and recreational planning with actions and programs on a regional basis.

6C. Ensure appropriate consistency between Dennis open space and recreational planning and the Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan.

6D. Update Bylaws as appropriate to ensure measures to improve/protect water quality are in place and are enforceable.

Section 9. Seven Year Action Plan

The Action Plan provides a more detailed picture of planned steps and projects to meet the major open space goals and objectives within the next seven years.

An important component of the Action Plan will be to ensure that projects address the issues raised in the ADA Transition Plan. A number of projects already in the works address these issues; moving forward, access must play a prominent role in prioritizing projects.

The listed actions involve coordination between various town departments, committees, and other organizations. Various resources from town, state, and federal sources will be needed in order to complete the stated goals. The Action Plan should be reevaluated annually to ensure objectives are being pursued. The listed actions are intended to be flexible and adjusted as needed based on changing priorities and opportunities.

Figure 26 depicts the geographically based actions listed in the tables below.

Goal 1: Preserve land for open space and recreation, focusing acquisitions on priority properties and connections to existing open space.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| 1A. Maximize connectivity between public and private lands which include the Town of Dennis, Dennis Water District and Dennis Conservation Land trust ownership. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritize future acquisitions based on proximity to existing open space. - Explore walking trail extensions between town, Water District, and DCLT land. | DNR, ConCom, Recreation, Water District, DCLT | Ongoing |
| 1B. Continue to support the use of Community Preservation Act funding for the acquisition of priority open space parcels for conservation, passive, and active recreational purposes. | | CPC, Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| 1C. Prioritize land acquisitions that meet the dual need for open space preservation and flood protection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rank properties by open space connections, conservation values, and potential for flood protection. - Acquire developable land within the flood zone, or developed property that can be undeveloped to enhance flood protection. | DNR, ConCom | Ongoing |
| 1D. Develop a map depicting interconnected lands and trails in the Town. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop an updated, interactive map featuring trails and properties that will be available to the public online. | DNR, GIS | By 2024 |

Goal 2: Maintain and improve existing recreational properties and facilities, while exploring additional recreational opportunities throughout town.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|--|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2A. Maintain and update the list of all town-owned recreation properties. | | Rec Dept. and Committee | Ongoing |
| 2B. Determine the maintenance needs for all town-owned recreation properties. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List needs by daily, annual, or major investments. - Identify long-term upgrades for parks and beaches. - Identify funding sources and include as part of the town budgetary process. - Develop target dates for design and construction. - Pursue restoration of Pound Pond located at Sea View Park in Dennis Port. Obtain funding for permitting and construction of the restoration plan. | Rec Dept. and Committee, DPW | By 2023 |
| 2C. Complete a new survey of the public to define recreational needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine need for a recreational center. - Determine needs for all age groups in town. | Rec Dept. and Committee | By 2025 |
| 2D. Invest in existing recreational facilities by updating playgrounds, picnic areas, and parking facilities to meet ADA requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicate funding for maintaining and improving ADA access to all publicly accessible recreation properties and facilities. - By 2023 complete playground and picnic area upgrades at Johnny Kelley Park, Bass River Park, Mike Stacey Park, West Dennis Graded School, and Seaview Park. - By 2020 complete the restroom upgrades at Glendon Beach. | Rec Dept., DPW | Ongoing |
| 2E. Submit application to the Audubon International Signature Sanctuary Program for inclusion of Dennis Pines Golf Course. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review requirements for Sanctuary Program and complete an application. | DNR, Golf | By 2023 |
| 2F. Explore the creation of local neighborhood parks throughout town. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory parcels with the potential to be used as neighborhood parks. | Rec Dept., DNR | By 2027 |

Goal 3: Upgrade Town facilities to provide ADA accessibility.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 3A. Complete review of the ADA Accessibility Plan and prioritize improvements based on need and funding. Where feasible, complete upgrades as part of ongoing Town projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicate funding for maintaining and improving ADA access to publicly accessible town open space and recreation facilities. - Ensure access to existing accessible facilities are not diminished due to aging. | Town Departments and Committees | Complete review by end of 2020. Upgrades are ongoing. |
| 3B. Incorporate ADA accessibility design criteria into RFPs, bids, and design plans for Town projects, where applicable. | | Town Departments and Committees | Ongoing |
| 3C. Identify pedestrian street crossings requiring upgrades under the ADA Accessibility criteria. | Update pavement management program to include crosswalks, sidewalks and handicap ramps. | DPW, Engineering | Complete review by end of 2021. |
| 3D. Provide bicycle facilities as part of roadway improvement projects where connection is appropriate. | Work with Road Safety task force to identify routes similar to sidewalk master plan. | DPW, Engineering | Ongoing |
| 3E. Complete an accessibility design for no less than one (1) conservation parcel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pursue ADA trail project on the newly acquired Bush Property. - Review additional properties eligible for trail accessibility projects, based on location, ease of access, and restrictions. - Collaboration between departments to develop an accessibility design and begin work. | DNR, ConCom, Engineering, DPW | By 2027 |
| 3F. Work towards making Dennis an Age Friendly Community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine the criteria to become an Age Friendly Community. - Complete a Needs Assessment Report. | Council on Aging | Review criteria in 2020. Complete assessment by 2023. |

Goal 4: Preserve the historic and scenic character of the Town.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|---|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4A. Identify and protect agricultural lands in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, and public awareness of these lands including uses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore offering leases for grazing use. - Promote the use of Chapter 61 protections for existing farms. | Agricultural Commission, DNR | Ongoing |
| 4B. Identify and protect historic and archaeological resources in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, preservation, and public awareness of these resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to update the Dennis Historical Commission Historic Assets Files and Massachusetts Historical Commission Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). | DHC, CPC | Ongoing |
| 4C. Identify and protect scenic vistas and roadways in Dennis; promote retention, future acquisition, preservation, and public awareness of these resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on maintaining vistas at Whitfield Johnson Conservation Area, Crowes Pasture, and Scargo Tower. | OKH, DHC, DNR | Ongoing |
| 4D. Prioritize historic properties and conservation lands based on maintenance needs and long-term goals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify historic public structures and catalog repair and maintenance needs. - Identify potential funding sources for continued preservation by prioritized maintenance. | DHC, DNR, CPC | By end of 2021 |

Goal 5: Protect water quality and drinking water supplies.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|--|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5A. Support local wastewater management and nutrient management efforts to prevent nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of water resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigate untreated stormwater discharges through the use of vegetated swales, leaching catch basins and other BMPs. - Expand fertilizer education programs, for both landscaping companies and private homeowners. - Continue to explore town alternatives to fertilizer use. - Continue town education efforts on water quality issues. | Health, DNR, DPW, Golf | Ongoing |

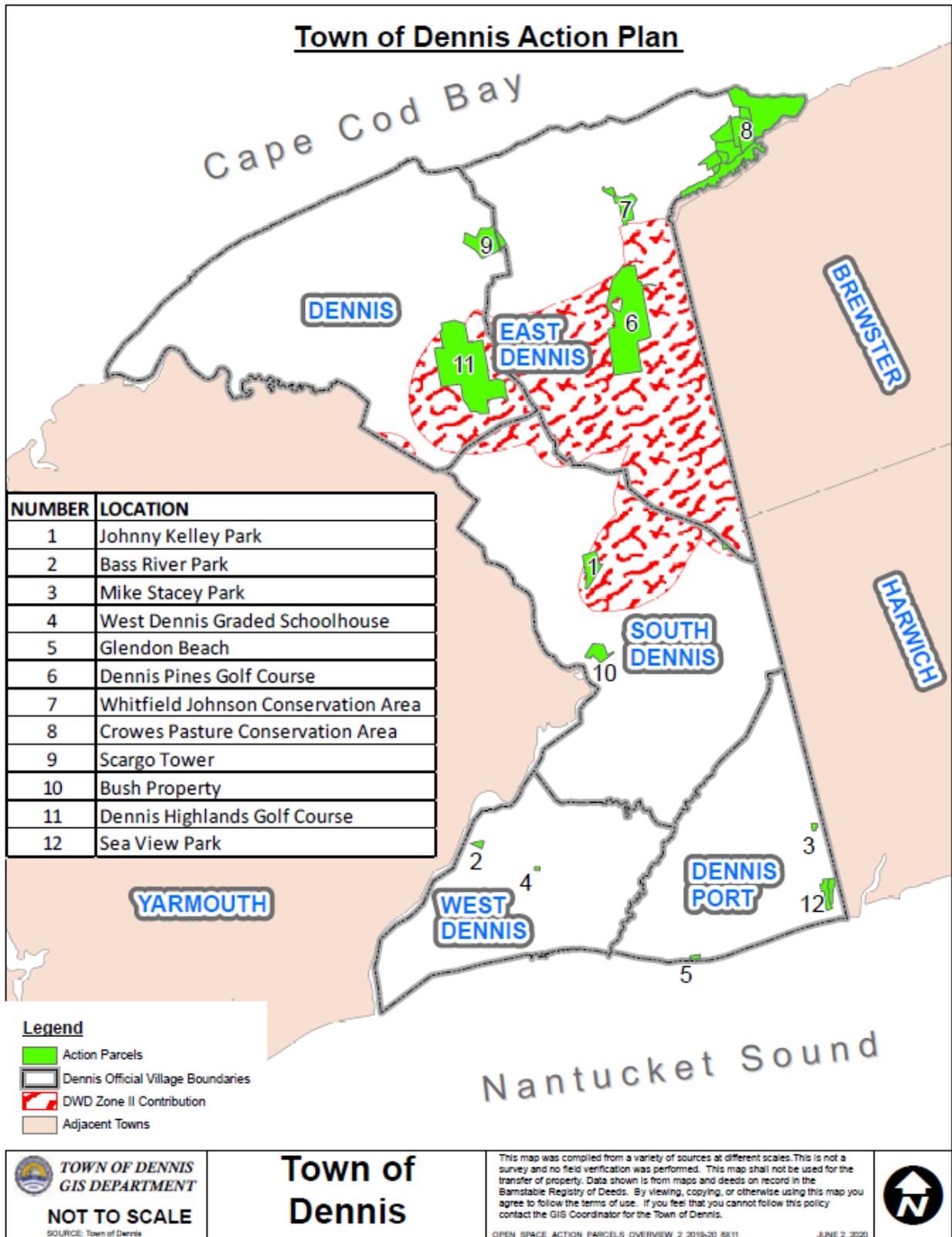
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|--|---|---|---------|
| 5B. Continue to finalize the DHY Clean Water Community Partnership and move forward on implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold regular meetings of the Wastewater Implementation Committee and DHY Clean Waters Community Partnership, and associated subcommittees. - Continue public education efforts regarding the Wastewater Management Plan. | Wastewater Implementation Committee, Town Departments | Ongoing |
| 5C. Acquire critical land areas around wellheads and important water resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create an inventory of high priority parcels. - Focus on acquiring lands within Zone II areas that may threaten the quality of the Dennis Water Supply. | DNR Water District | Ongoing |
| 5D. Preserve land to implement Best Management Practices to improve water quality from runoff. | Prioritize BMP locations for stormwater implementation and apply for applicable grants. | DPW Engineering | By 2021 |
| 5E. Review existing Bylaws and propose amendments, as appropriate, to require additional treatment for new development discharges to impaired waterbodies within the Town. | Identify undeveloped parcels and receiving bodies at risk. Develop additional design criteria to ensure no additional water quality degradation. | Planning Building ConCom Engineering | By 2025 |

Goal 6: Promote a cooperative and regional approach to open space and resource protection.

| Objective | Action | Parties Involved | Estimated Timeframe |
|--|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| 6A. Assure collective and cooperative commitment by town departments, boards and staff to accomplish the objectives of this open space plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain clear communication between departments and committees. - Annually reassess progress and adherence towards goals. | All | Ongoing |
| 6B. Coordinate Dennis open space and recreational planning with actions and programs on a regional basis. | - Ensure appropriate consistency between Dennis open space and recreational planning and the Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan. | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| 6C. Complete the Select Board goal to update inventories of | - Update GIS maps of town-owned lands. | DNR DPW GIS | By 2027 |

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------|---------|
| Town facilities and land holdings. | - Continue to add new land acquisitions and buildings. | | |
| 6D. Update Bylaws as appropriate to ensure measures to improve/protect water quality are in place and are enforceable. | Incorporate requirements from municipal storm sewer system (MS4) into appropriate Bylaws. | Town Boards | Ongoing |

FIGURE 26: TOWN OF DENNIS SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN MAP



Section 10. Public Comments

The resulting goals and objectives are based on comments made at public commission and committee meetings.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Commenter: Paula Bacon

(1) A wonderful walk sponsored by the Conservation Trust through Crowe's Pasture to the oyster farms showed a need for controlled burning in the pasture lands. This has been done before and the town needs to rethink its focus on fire depression that is counter to thinking about better controlling problems by using fire as a tool.

(2) Fire pits also are with us and should not be categorized as bonfires.

(3) A beer garden along Bass River would be a nice attraction for all ages. Boston is thinking about this for the Charles.

Response:

(1) The Town of Dennis has a maintenance plan for Crowe's Pasture that involves both cutting of brush and periodic control burns to maintain the property.

(2) As a natural area, no formal fire pits exist or should be allowed on the Crowe's Pasture property. Fires occurring on the beach are properly classified as bonfires with appropriate permits.

(3) The Bass River frontage contains both residential and commercial zoning districts. Within the commercial zoning districts a number of restaurants are located along the banks of the river already.

Commenter: Katharine Garofoli

(1) The plan states "The Dennis Conservation Trust (DCT) was founded in 1986 to provide a private, non-profit vehicle to dedicate natural lands to conservation in town." The correct information is that DCT was founded in 1988.

Response:

(1) The change in dates has been made to the draft. The date in the plan originated with the 1998 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, but will be updated accordingly.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING OPEN SPACE PLAN COMMUNITY FORUM

Comment:

Jeff Eldredge asked if more boat access would be created, particularly at the Bass River Bridge area, and if there could be an expansion of boat slips and a ridding of some of the mounds?

Response:

Dawson Farber responded that there is a pending application for a 10-year dredging permit, which will affect all of the navigable channels historically used and the majority of the mooring basins. The Cape Cod Commission placed a restriction that projects should not be done to expand the size of the mooring fields. However, Mr. Farber believes that the dredging will allow more vessels, particularly smaller ones, to be accommodated as sedimentation has adversely affected the ability to make use of currently permitted moorings. For example, Grand Cove has moorings that have not been utilized because boats sit at the bottom at low water. Although they will not be expanding the dimensions of the mooring fields, they hope to be able to accommodate more vessels, especially smaller ones. He was not sure if north of Route 6 there would be dredging of the mooring fields, but access to existing mooring fields would be improved.

Comment:

Katharine Garofoli, Dennis Conservation Trust, asked for clarification regarding section 5 under inventory, which notes a classification of limited protection on open space for cemeteries and ball fields.

Response:

Mr. Fortier stated that this refers to a physical use of the property. A ball field is an intensive recreation use, not traditional passive open space. Cemeteries experience a lot of disturbance as they are built out because of the vaults, roads, etc. State law stringently protects them from being turned over to private development, but it does not provide much environmental protection. As such, both these type of uses provide for limited open space protection.

Comment:

Dorria DiManno asked if the power point summary is available online.

Response:

Mr. Fortier affirmed that it will be added to the website.

Comment:

Bob Mezzadri asked Mr. Fortier to identify some of the areas to be preserved, as noted in Section 9 Goals and Objectives.

Response:

Mr. Fortier said some of the areas included properties along Old Chatham Road, Airline Road, some properties in flood zone areas, and some properties with structures already on them (such as the Columns Property). Others are scattered the around town.

Comment:

Mr. Mezzadri asked how many properties are wetlands that cannot be developed.

Response:

Mr. Fortier replied that many of the properties listed in Table 5.1 contain wetlands other properties are landlocked. Over time people find ways to access landlocked properties and development encroaches upon wetland resources, as such we need to consider viable protection strategies that

protect against “nibbling around the edges.” For instance, at the Columns Property the parking lot extends right to the wetlands. Under Conservation Rules and Regs, there is a possibility that something could be built up to that edge. The lower part of that property is in a flood zone, which can still be developed. Until someone maps the upland vs. wetland on any property, we don’t know how much upland is really available.

Comment:

Ms. DiManno asked about the section that mentions continuing to strive to protect environmentally sensitive parcels through community preservation funding and partnerships with Dennis Conservation Trust. She asked if there were any other sources of funding.

Response:

Mr. Fortier stated there is always state and federal open space money. Some of the properties provide flood protection opportunities so we can pursue FEMA money for acquisition. There is a link between the Open Space Plan and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan because of Federal directives that seek to ensure when we are looking at flood storage opportunities when considering open space acquisitions.

Comment:

Ms. DiManno asked if we saw other Town sources (free cash, bonding) or are only looking at the Community Preservation Committee.

Response:

Mr. Fortier did not try to venture into what we might be able to do through the general budget. We already have a lot of commitments for capital and would be looking for areas where local dollars can bring in money from outside the community.

Comment:

Hank Bowen asked if we had made any evaluation about potential space the Town or others own that could be used as ball fields because there is a need.

Response:

Mr. Fortier noted we did not ask the Recreation Department to look in that level of detail at potential land acquisitions. The Recreation Department does have a master plan for Johnny Kelly Park and other areas that might provide additional recreational possibilities.

Comment:

Katharine Garofoli asked about vernal pools protection and whether the Town was making any effort to certify them.

Response:

Karen Johnson noted there is one certified vernal pool in Dennis. Previously, an intern from Natural Resources had investigated town owned properties for more and discovered there were none. At this time there are no plans to pursue private properties or the water district.

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Appendices

A. Community Survey

Open Space Plan Survey 2018 Results

1. What do you consider the top ten open space needs identified in Dennis?

| Town Needs |
|--|
| 1. Bike Trails |
| 2. Walking Trails |
| 3. Protection of Bass River |
| 4. Protection of Swan River |
| 5. Protection of Scargo Hill |
| 6. Town Common |
| 7. Public water access for boating and fishing |
| 8. Playgrounds |
| 9. Hiking Trails |
| 10. Recreation Building |

2. Rate the importance of each of the following in relation to meeting the needs of Dennis residents:

| | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| Swimming Pool | 13% | 14% | 73% |
| More Beaches | 14% | 39% | 47% |
| Walking Trails | 44% | 48% | 8% |
| Road Bicycle Facilities | 33% | 57% | 10% |
| Off-Road Bicycle Facilities | 20% | 49% | 32% |
| Playgrounds | 26% | 53% | 21% |
| Tennis Courts | 13% | 41% | 46% |
| Additional Golf Course | 8% | 4% | 88% |
| Hiking Trails | 26% | 61% | 13% |
| Outside Basketball Courts | 12% | 44% | 44% |
| Baseball Fields | 13% | 51% | 37% |
| Soccer Fields | 10% | 53% | 37% |
| Public Access for Boating and Fishing | 35% | 55% | 10% |
| New Recreation Center Building | 25% | 43% | 32% |
| New Senior Center Building | 28% | 49% | 23% |
| Town Common | 36% | 46% | 18% |

3. Which town facilities do you use?

| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
|-----|----|

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| Town Beaches | 95% | 5% |
| Private Beaches | 46% | 54% |
| Conservation Lands | 82% | 18% |
| Playgrounds | 54% | 46% |
| Ball Fields | 34% | 76% |
| Town Marinas | 28% | 72% |
| Town Boat Landings | 38% | 62% |
| Senior Center | 31% | 69% |
| Golf Courses | 33% | 67% |

4. How do you rate Dennis Recreation Facilities?

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Town Beaches | 67% | 25% | 9% | 0% |
| Private Beaches | 46% | 36% | 16% | 2% |
| Conservation Lands | 41% | 54% | 6% | 0% |
| Playgrounds | 18% | 66% | 16% | 0% |
| Ball Fields | 15% | 72% | 13% | 0% |
| Town Marinas | 20% | 75% | 13% | 0% |
| Town Boat Landings | 25% | 66% | 9% | 0% |
| Senior Center | 23% | 44% | 27% | 8% |
| Golf Courses | 50% | 48% | 2% | 0% |

5. How important is it to conserve the following natural resources and scenic resources?

| | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Forests | 62% | 36% | 2% |
| Open Fields | 53% | 37% | 10% |
| Rural Character | 62% | 33% | 5% |
| Scenic Views | 72% | 24% | 3% |
| Stone Walls | 31% | 45% | 23% |
| Lakes, Ponds, and Streams | 84% | 13% | 3% |
| Wetlands | 76% | 21% | 3% |
| Wildlife Habitat | 74% | 22% | 4% |
| Clean Drinking Water | 95% | 5% | 0% |
| Clean Air | 92% | 8% | 0% |

6. Which actions do you support to protect/conservate open space and natural resources?

| | Strongly Support | Support | Do Not Support |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Town purchase of conservation land | 66% | 28% | 6% |
| Town purchase of development rights | 49% | 42% | 10% |
| Zoning changes for open space protection/conservation | 63% | 27% | 10% |
| Zoning changes for scenic view protection | 63% | 27% | 10% |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Acceptance of conservation land | 64% | 32% | 4% |
| Acceptance of development rights | 35% | 46% | 19% |
| No additional town actions should be taken | 5% | 15% | 80% |

7. Preferable location for additional open space acquisition.

| | Highly Needed | Needed | Not Needed |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|
| Wellfield areas | 28% | 54% | 18% |
| Scargo Hill | 43% | 36% | 20% |
| Swan Pond | 35% | 47% | 18% |
| Swan River | 37% | 51% | 12% |
| Bass River | 55% | 33% | 12% |
| Chase Garden Creek | 36% | 43% | 20% |
| Crowes Pasture | 47% | 39% | 15% |
| Sesuit Creek | 46% | 38% | 16% |
| North Side Ocean Access | 63% | 21% | 16% |
| South Side Ocean Access | 50% | 28% | 22% |

8. How would you rate the importance of each of the following?

| | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|---|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| Recreation fields | 34% | 58% | 8% |
| Recreation Center (building) | 28% | 52% | 20% |
| Additional Public Parking in Dennis Port | 14% | 43% | 44% |
| Additional Public Parking in West Dennis | 15% | 43% | 42% |
| Additional Public Parking in Dennis Village | 16% | 47% | 38% |
| Additional Open Space or Conservation Land for passive use | 52% | 37% | 11% |

B. Inventory of Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Parcels

| CONSERVATION LAND | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Address | Name | Zoning | Village | Recreation Type | Recreation Potential | Mngmnt | Condition | Purchase type | Degree of Protection |
| 157 ROUTE 134 | FRESH POND CONS. AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NATURE TRAILS, DOG PARK | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | Self-Help Grant, gifts | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 500 SOUTH ST | CROWES PASTURE | Resource Protection Dist. | ED | VEHICLE & FOOT TRAILS,SHELL FISHING | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | Self-Help Grant | Conservation Restriction |
| 151 NEW BOSTON RD | ROMIG PROPERTY | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION, NATURE TRAILS, | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 1791 ROUTE 6A | RALPH & FLORENCE SHOOP MEMORIAL | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | NATURE TRAILS, COMMUNITY GARDEN | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 500 SOUTH ST | COLES POND WOODLANDS | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Conservation Restriction |
| 493 MAIN ST | INDIAN LANDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NATURE TRAILS | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | Self-Help Grant, gifts | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 101 OLD MAYFAIR RD | NORSE LANDING MARSH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 87 MAYFAIR RD | KELLEYS BAY OVERLOOK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 470 DEPOT ST | TOWN LINE WOODLANDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 102 CHAPIN BEACH RD | GEORGE CHAPIN CONS. AREA | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Excellent | Self-Help Grant | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 152 SCARGO HILL RD | SCARGO TOWER | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | LOOKOUT TOWER | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 15 DEXTER SNOW AVE | SWAN RIVER MEADOW EAST | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | None/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | GREAT ISLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION, BIRD SANCTUARY | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | LITTLE ISLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/BIRD SANCTUARY | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 39 SALT WORKS RD | ISLAND CREEK PARCEL | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 28A SWAN RIVER RD | SWAN RIVER MEADOW WEST | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 5 UPPER COUNTY RD | OTTER CREEK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 200 SCARGO HILL RD | PRINCESS BEACH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | SWIMMING, PICKNICKING,FISHING | NATURE TRAILS | DNR,BEACH | Good | Self-Help Grant | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 1351 ROUTE 6A | BLACKFOOT CONS. AREA | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| BLACK FLATS RD | ELDRIDGE LOT, WOODLANDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 25 RIVER LN | SWAN RIVER MARSH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | VINCENTS CREEK MARSH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 57 WINDSOR AVE | TINY POND AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/DRAINAGE AREA | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 50 SHEFFIELD AVE | WITMORES POND AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 112 NEW BOSTON RD | JANE S. CHASE WOODS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 140 KING JAMES DR | DRAINAGE AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | NONE/DRAINAGE AREA | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 60 GAGES WAY | WHITE POND WOODLANDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 19 WINDING WAY | WINDING WAY OVERLOOK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | NONE/SCENIC OVERLOOK FROM ROAD | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 80 SHORT NECK RD | WILBUR PRESERVE NORTH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 106 COVE RD | WILBUR PRESERVE SOUTH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 162 FISK ST | EASTMAN MARSH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | BLACK FLATS MARSHLAND | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | NONE/SALT MARSH | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |

| Address | Name | Zoning | Village | Recreation Type | Recreation Potential | Mngmnt | Condition | Purchase type | Degree of Protection |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 7 SIX PENNY LN | SIX PENNY PARK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION, PARK | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 139 BLACK FLATS RD | BLACK FLATS NARROWS | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 90 STEPHEN PHILLIPS RD | SESUIT NECK CRANBERRY BOG | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | CRANBERRY BOG | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 297 CENTER ST | SWAN POND WEST CONS. AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 45 CYPRUS RD | BEAR DEN WOODLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 435 CENTER ST | SWAN POND OVERLOOK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| OFF NIPIGON WAY WEST | SWAN RIVER MARSHLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 425A MAIN ST (RT 28) | CEDAR SWAMP | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 50 PARTRIDGE LN | TOBEY'S SWAMP | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 44 EDGEMERE RD | OLD MAYFAIR HOLLOW | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 167A CENTER ST | OTTER MARSH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 326 MAIN ST | WINSTON BROOK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 81 COLD STORAGE RD | SESUIT HARBOR EAST | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | NONE/MARSHLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 70 TOM'S PATH | THE PLASHES | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | Self-Help Grant | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 34 SEARSVILLE RD | LITTLE SEARSVILLE | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 50 BRIDGE ST | MARSHLAND AT SESUIT CREEK | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 110A ROUTE 28 | DEER MEADOW | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 25 CAPT. PHILLIPS RD | WHITE CEDAR SWAMP | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 45 LONE TREE RD | CROCKER NECK LOT & OTHERS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 183 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER SWAN RIVER MARSHLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 109 NEW BOSTON RD | NEW BOSTON MEADOW LAND | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | GOOSE ISLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | BIRD SANCTUARY | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | LITTLE BLACK FLATS SALTMARSH | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 46 NORTH ST | KELLEY'S POND TERRACE | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 155 FISK ST | KELLEY'S POND HERRING RUN | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/HERRING RUN | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 130 FISK ST | ELIZABETH BURR COMMUNITY GARDENS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | COMMUNITY GARDENS | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 268 LORING AVE | WEIR CREEK MARSHLAND | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 100 ROUTE 128 | VETERANS MEMORIAL | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | SCENIC VISTA, PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 132 BLACK FLATS RD | BLACK FLATS GROVE | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 25 DR. LORD'S RD SOUTH | ANSON H. HOWES CONSERVATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | HERRING RUN | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 90 SETUCKET RD | KING PROPERTY FLAX POND CONS AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | HUNTING, SWIMMING, BOGS, TRAILS | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | Self-Help Grant | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 241 AIRLINE RD | BAKERS POND CONSERVATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | FISHING | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 571 AIRLINE RD | CEDAR POND CONSERVATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | FISHING | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 1820 ROUTE 6A | WHITEFIELD JOHNSON CONS. AREA | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | AGRICULTURAL LAND | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Good | | APR Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 24 FAIRVIEW AVE | MADISON ROAD CONSERVATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |

| Address | Name | Zoning | Village | Recreation Type | Recreation Potential | Mngmnt | Condition | Purchase type | Degree of Protection |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 55 FIELDSTONE DRIVE | CROSS PATCH | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | BLUEBERRY PICKING, TRAILS | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 1644A ROUTE 6A | SESUIT CREEK SOUTH MARSHLAND | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | NONE/SALT MARSH | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 106 SEARSVILLE RD | BEN BAXTER PINE LANDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NATURE TRAILS | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 351 SESUIT NECK RD | SESUIT HARBOR WEST | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | PARKING LOT; BOAT RAMP | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 25 CLARLAW WAY | LITTLE CEDAR SWAMP | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | NONE/MARSH | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 530 DEPOT ST | TOWN WOODLAND NORTH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 60 HALL ST | SIMKINS NECK | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | NATURE TRAILS | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 83 GRASSY POND DR | GRASSY POND PLACE | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 765 ROUTE 134 | MEADOW SPRING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 15 SOUTHOVER | RIVERDALE "WEST" | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 69 MICHAELS AVE | LITTLE CROCKERS NECK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | WOODLAND | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 750 AIRLINE RD | BOUND BROOK CONSERVATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 63 SOUTH ST | QUIVET NECK | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | VEHICLE & HIKING TRAILS; HUNTING | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 40 INDIAN TRAIL | INDIAN TRAIL @ 40 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/CONSERVATION PURPOSES | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 30 BEACH ST | BEACH ST @ 30 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | NONE/CONSERVATION PURPOSES | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 289 CENTER ST | CENTER ST @ 289 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/CONSERVATION PURPOSES | NONE | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 315 SETUCKET RD | SETUCKET RD, GRASSY & CLAY PONDS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | TRAILS | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 99 NORSEMAN DR | NORSEMAN DR @ #99 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 24 PARTRIDGE LN | OLESKEY/HOWES PARCELS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 12 BAKER WAY | BAKER WAY, WD @ #12 (Blackwell) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 107 NEW BOSTON RD | NEW BOSTON RD, D @ #107 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 28 SOUTH ST. | SOUTH ST, WD @ #28 (Chapman) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| (blank) | BLACK FLATS - 3 PARCELS (McDowell) | RESIDENTIAL 60 | D | NONE/SALT MARSH | NONE | DNR | Good | | Deed Restrictions/ TM Action |
| 345 CENTER ST | CENTER ST, #345, SD | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 309 CENTER ST | CENTER ST, SD #305/309 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 14 ALBION WAY | ALBION WAY, SD #14/20 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 477 MAIN ST | MAIN ST, SD #477 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 153A CENTER ST | CENTER ST, SD #153A | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 380 SETUCKET RD | SETUCKET RD, ED #380 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 558 OLD BASS RIVER RD | OLD BASS RIVER RD & SETUCKET #558 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 1872 ROUTE 6A | ROUTE 6A, ED #1872 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | SCENIC VISTA, PASSIVE REC. | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 61 CAPT. WALSH RD | CAPTAIN WALSH RD (OFF), ED | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PUBLIC WELL WATERSHED PROTECTION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 1091 ROUTE 134 | CARISLE RD, ED | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 29 BAXTER ST | BAXTER ST, SD #29 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 279 HOKUM ROCK RD | HOKUM ROCK RD, ED #279 | GENERAL COMMERCIAL | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |

| Address | Name | Zoning | Village | Recreation Type | Recreation Potential | Mngmnt | Condition | Purchase type | Degree of Protection |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1129 ROUTE 134 | ROUTE 134, ED #1129 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 830 ROUTE 134 | ROUTE 134, SD #830 (MELPET FARM) | EXTENSIVE BUSINESS | ED | OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION, AGRICULTURE | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 1201 ROUTE 134 | RTE 134/HOKUM ROCK RD, ED (NW COR) | GENERAL COMMERCIAL | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 30 CEDAR LN | CEDAR LANE, SD #30 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 1958 ROUTE 6A | ROUTE 6A, ED #1958 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 100 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER COUNTY RD, WD #100 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 183A CENTER ST | CENTER ST, SD #183A | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 59 LONE TREE RD | LONE TREE RD, DP #59 (HIBBERT) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 680 RTE 6A | RTE 6A, DV #680 (OLD CUMBERLAND FARM) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 4 BAKER WAY | BAKER WAY, WD #4 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 217 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER COUNTY RD, DP #217 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 22 POND ST | POND ST, WD #22 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 221 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER COUNTY RD, DP #221 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 219 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER COUNTY RD, DP #219 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 152 MAIN ST | MAIN ST, DP #152 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 117 UPPER COUNTY RD | UPPER COUNTY RD, DP 117 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 206 MAIN ST | MAIN ST, DP #206 & 224 (0 CEDAR SWAMP) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 94 UPPER COUNTY RD | UPPER COUNTY RD, DP #94 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 43 OLD MAYFAIR RD | OLD MAYFAIR RD, SD #43 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | NONE/WETLAND | NONE | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 38 CHESTNUT LN | CHESTNUT LN, SD #8 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 103 HEMLOCK LN | HEMLOCK LN, SD #103 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 47 WAGER LN | FISHLER - OFF WAGER LN | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 189 SOUTH ST | WELCH PROPERTY OFF SOUTH ST, ED | Resource Protection Dist. | ED | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 180 LOWER COUNTY RD | LOWER COUNTY RD, WD #180 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Fair | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 126B SETUCKET RD | RUN POND (LAND NEAR) | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 30 SHAWNEE WAY | PRUE PROPERTY, 30 SHAWNEE WAY | LIMITED BUSINESS | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | Land Bank | Conservation Restriction |
| 12 DOTTIES PATH | DOROTHY-CONNORS BELL PROPERTY | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | LAND Grant (DCLT)) | Conservation Restriction |
| 200-A PADDOCKS PATH | HOLL PROPERTY | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PASSIVE RECREATION | NO ADDITIONAL | DNR | Good | CPC FUNDING/DCLT | Conservation Restriction |
| 481 MAIN ST | BUSH PROPERTY | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PASSIVE RECREATION | NEW TRAIL | DNR | Good | CPC FUNDING | Conservation Restriction |

| Address | Name | Zoning | Village | Recreation Type | Recreation Potential | Mngmnt | Condition | Purchase type | Degree of Protection |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|
| LANDINGS | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 UNCLE FREEMAN'S | UNCLE FREEMANS LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | RAMP, ACCESS. PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 33 FERRY ST | FERRY STREET LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | RAMP, ACCESS | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 104 ROUTE 28 | HORSEFOOT COVE LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | RAMP, ACCESS, PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 54 AUNT JULIA ANN'S RD | AUNT JULIA ANN'S | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 170 COVE RD | COVE LANDING WEST DENNIS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 29 HECKMAN RD | HECKMAN ROAD LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 159 COVE RD | COVE LANDING SOUTH DENNIS | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | RAMP | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 17 Highbank Rd | Highbank LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 79 OLD FISH HOUSE RD | FISHERMAN'S LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 20 FOLLINS POND | FOLLINS LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | RAMP, ACCESS. PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 961 ROUTE 6A | SCARGO LAKE LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | RAMP | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 41 DR LORD'S RD SOUTH | DR. LORDS RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 152 TAUNTON AVE | TAUNTON AVE COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 102 HORSEFOOT PATH | HORSEFOOT PATH LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 70 SHORE RD | SHORE RD LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | OVERLOOK | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 30 HARBOR RD | SESUIT RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 2 HARBOR RD | HARBOR RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | ACCESS TO WATER | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 2 TROTting PARK RD | TROTting PARK RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 271 NOBSCUSSETT RD | NOBSCUSSETT RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 3 UPPER COUNTY RD | UPPER COUNTY RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PADDLECRAFT, PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 73 CLIPPER LN | CLIPPER'S LAUNCH | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 98 INDIAN TRAIL | INDIAN'S FORD | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DP | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 163 OLD WHARF RD | GLENDON RD COMMON LANDING | RESORT RESIDENTIAL | DP | BEACH | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 14 BAKER WAY | BAKERS WAY COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WD | PADDLECRAFT | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 16 DUNES RD | DUNES RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DV | BEACH | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 100 COLD STORAGE RD | COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 40 | ED | BEACH | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 60 DR. BOTTERO RD | DR. BOTTERO RD COMMON LANDING | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DV | OVERLOOK | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Poor | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 65 COLD STORAGE RD | SESUIT HARBOR EAST PUBLIC ACCESS | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | RAMP, ACCESS, PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 351 SESUIT NECK RD | SESUIT HARBOR | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | RAMP, ACCESS, PARKING | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 40 ROUTE 28 | BASS RIVER PARK | MARINE OPEN SPACE | WD | BOARDWALK, BOAT SLIPS, RAMP | NO ADDITIONAL | HARBOR | Good | | Conservation Restriction |
| PARKS & RECREATION | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 PHEASANT LN | ARMESON PROPERTY | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | VACANT | ACTIVE RECREATION AREA | BEACH/REC | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 21 HALL ST | DENNISPORT VILLAGE GREEN | DENNISPORT VILLAGE CTR | DP | PARK; PLAYGROUND | ACTIVE RECREATION AREA | BEACH/REC | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 81 BRIDGE ST | BRIDGE STREET PARK | RESIDENTIAL 60 | ED | PARK | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Fair | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 5 SEA ST | SEA STREET BEACH | RESORT RESIDENTIAL | DP | BEACH | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 395 OLD WHARF RD | RAYCROFT BEACH | RESORT RESIDENTIAL | DP | BEACH | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 180 OLD BASS RIVER RD | JOHNNY KELLEY RECREATION AREA | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SD | ACTIVE RECREATION AREA | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 475 LOWER COUNTY RD | SEA VIEW PLAYLAND | RESORT RESIDENTIAL | DP | PARK W/ TRAILS. PLAYGROUND, TENNIS | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | Land Bank | TOWN MEETING Action |
| 40 ROUTE 28 | BASS RIVER PARK | MARINE OPEN SPACE | WD | PARK w/BOARDWALK, BOAT SLIPS, RAMP | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | | Conservation Restriction |
| 683 ROUTE 28 | DAVID MASLIN PROPERTY | DENNISPORT VILLAGE CTR | DP | POCKET PARK | NO ADDITIONAL | BEACH/REC | Good | | TOWN MEETING Action |

Inventory of Private Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Parcels

| DENNIS CONSERVATION LAND TRUST | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | Address | Village | Map/Parcel | Zoning | Habitat | Degree of Protection |
| | ROUTE 6A | ED | 375/27 | LIMITED BUSINESS | SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 300/12 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 324/88 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 324/89 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 275/3-6 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 300/8 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 322/24,39-41 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 322/44-46 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BLACK FLATS RD | DV | 323/34 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | DR. BOTTERO ROAD | DV | 322/36,37 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | BEACH/DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | 5 DR. BOTTERO RD | DV | 343/17 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | 1148 MAIN ST | ED | 390/36 | LIMITED BUSINESS | BOG | Owned for Preservation |
| | 89 BLEAK HOUSE CIRCLE | DV | 389/3 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | NEW BOSTON ROAD | DV | 278/8 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | BOG | Owned for Preservation |
| | 89 SESUIT NECK RD | ED | 391/6 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | BOG | Owned for Preservation |
| | 24 HALL ST | DV | 304/18 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 198 MAIN ST | SD | 96/19 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | HOMESTEAD | SD | 96/17 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | CEDAR SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | OFF PALMER LANE | ED | 395/5 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 44 BEACH ST | ED | 328/39 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | OFF OLD BASS RIVER RD | SD | 138/8-12 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | OFF OLD BASS RIVER RD | SD | 149/70 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 97 TOMS PATH | DP | 73/39 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | BOG | Owned for Preservation |
| | 143 CEDAR HILL ROAD | ED | 341/4 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | POND SHORE | Owned for Preservation |
| | 47 MONUMENT VIEW ROAD | ED | 361/25 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | CEDAR SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | 22 SEARS RD | ED | 341/11 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | POND SHORE | Owned for Preservation |

| | Address | Village | Map/Parcel | Zoning | Habitat | Degree of Protection |
|--|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| | ROUTE 28 | SD | 86/9 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 50 COLD STORAGE RD | ED | 412/2 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 134 SHORE DRIVE | DV | 365/6 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | BEACH/COASTAL BANK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 25 DUCK POND ROAD | SD | 118/2 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | 89 BLEAK HOUSE CIRCLE | DV | 389/2 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | 8 OCEAN AVENUE | WD | 13/14 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DUNE | Owned for Preservation |
| | CHAPIN BEACH RD | DV | 297/2 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | BAXTER AVENUE | SD | 98/23,24 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | CEDAR SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | BAXTER AVENUE | SD | 85/2 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 13 & 20 ASHLEY AVENUE | SD | 140/19, 21 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 28 SWAN RIVER ROAD | WD | 33/27 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | BOG | Owned for Preservation |
| | 130 COVE ROAD | WD | 79/7 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SWAMP/PINE | Owned for Preservation |
| | WHIG STREET | DV | 349/55 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 8 FOREHAND DRIVE | DV | 348/64 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 24 ROCKY RIDGE | DV | 331/21 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | KING JAMES DRIVE | ED | 356/58 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | JIMMY CROWELLS PATH | DV | 278/1 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | TOMS PATH | DP | 503/3 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | 120,121 & 130 SETUCKET | SD | 228/3,4,14 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 35 BRANT ROAD | DV | 368/35 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 217 LOWER COUNTY ROAD | DP | 37/46 | RESORT RESIDENTIAL | CEDAR SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | 480 ROUTE 6A | DV | 304/16 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | SALTMARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | ROUTE 6A | ED | 375/47 | LIMITED BUSINESS | SWAMP | Owned for Preservation |
| | 74 COLD STORAGE RD | ED | 411/2 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DUNE, MARSH | Owned for Preservation |
| | 641 OLD BASS RIVER RD | DV | 260/33 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | Owned for Preservation |
| | 1301 ROUTE 134 | ED | 359/31 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | DCLT CONSERVATION |

| CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Address | Village | Map/Parcel | Zoning | Habitat | Degree of Protection |
| | 76 OLIVER DRIVE | ED | 405/11 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DUNE/BEACH | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 30-44 ROUTE 28 | WD | 62/1 | MARINE OPEN SPACE | SALTMARSH | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 290 CENTER STREET | SD | 112/24 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 159 SESUIT NECK RD | ED | 392/7 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | FIELD,MARSH | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 100,102 SESUIT NECK RD | ED | 406/7 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | BEACH,DUNE | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | OFF SOUTH ST. EXTENSION | ED | 431/1 | QUIVET NECK-CROWES PASTURE RESOURCE PROTECTION DISTRICT | BEACH,DUNE | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 26 SCARGO HILL RD | DV | 352/14 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | CEDAR SWAMP | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 74 NOBSCUSSET RD | DV | 350/14 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT |
| | 50 JUDSON WAY | DV | | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT |
| | 89 WHIG STREET | DV | 350/11 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT |
| | 1301 ROUTE 134 | ED | 359/31 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 615 OLD BASS RIVER RD | DV | 260/38 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK/POND | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 13 GARDEN ROAD | DV | 328/16 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | DCLT CONSERVATION |
| | 303 MAIN STREET | DP | 72/76 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 6 TREASURE BAY DRIVE | DP | 100/22 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | SALTMARSH/PARKING LOT | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 310 CENTER STREET | SD | 112/24 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | WETLAND | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 507 DEPOT STREET | DP | 124/1 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | UPLAND W/2 HOUSES | PERPETUAL CR |
| | OFF ROUTE 6A | DV | 352/14 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | PINE/OAK, LAKEFRONT | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 6 LUSCOMBE LANE | DV | 366/64 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | COASTAL BABK, BEACH ACCESS | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 8 PARTRIDGE LANE | DV | 369/16 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | UPLAND W/ HOUSE | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 912 ROUTE 6A | DV | 375/24 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | UPLAND W/ HOUSE | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 1888 ROUTE 6A | ED | 380/5 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | UPLAND W/ HOUSE | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 27 DR. LORDS ROAD | DV | 389/22 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | LAKEFRONT | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 138 SESUIT NECK ROAD | ED | 392/3 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | PASTURE | PERPETUAL APR |
| | OLD TOWN LANE | ED | 392/10 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | PINE/OAK, OLD BOG | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 61 BLEAK HOUSE CIRCLE | DV | 403/9 | RESIDENTIAL 40 | DUNE/BEACH | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 71 CROCKERS PATH | ED | 406/2 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | DUNE/BEACH | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 61 OLD TOWN LANE | ED | 406/5 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | OLD BOG | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 39 CROCKERS PATH | ED | 407/7 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | PINE/OAK | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 27 CROCKERS PATH | ED | 407/8 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | BOG | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 23 CROCKERS PATH | ED | 407/9 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | PINE/OAK, BOG | PERPETUAL CR |
| | 282 SESUIT NECK ROAD | ED | 409/40 | RESIDENTIAL 60 | PINE/OAK | PERPETUAL CR |

C. ADA Transition Plan Executive Summary and Conservation Property Assessment



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE
May 2019



Prepared by:
DAC
Disability Access Consultants
(800) 743-7067

Town of Dennis
685 Route 134
South Dennis, MA 02660



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The Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan 2019 update was conducted by Disability Access Consultants, LLC (DAC) in collaboration with The Town of Dennis.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Town of Dennis Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-evaluation and Transition Plan 2019 Update is to document the results of the Town of Dennis' review of access to programs, services, activities, events, facilities, parks, beaches, trails and public rights-of-way by individuals with disabilities in order to determine if any discriminatory or potentially discriminatory practices, policies or procedures exist in accordance with the ADA. Title II of the ADA requires that public entities identify and evaluate any barriers or potential barriers that may deny individuals with disabilities access to the Town of Dennis programs, services and activities. Identified barriers are to be remediated with projected dates for the removal of barriers identified in the plan.

The ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan Update serves as framework to develop a road map to enhance access for individuals with disabilities regarding the Town of Dennis facilities, programs, services and activities. The ADA Self-evaluation is one tool that can guide the Town of Dennis through the barrier removal and implementation of the plan. This report contains findings and recommendations regarding the removal of potentially discriminatory barriers for individuals with disabilities.

The development, implementation and the update of the ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan is required by the ADA and related accessibility standards for compliance for individuals with disabilities. This report describes the overall process and reports findings and recommendations to enhance the Town's compliance.

II. Background and Overview of Requirements

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive civil rights law enacted to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination and to assure equality of opportunity. The passage of the ADA in 1990 produced comprehensive civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities.

The ADA has five separate titles:

- Title I Employment
- Title II Public Services: State and Local Government
- Title III Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities
- Title IV Telecommunications
- Title V Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II of the ADA provides that "no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity." The Town of Dennis is a public entity under Title II of the ADA as it is publicly owned and open to the public.

III. Section 504 Requirements and Integration with the ADA Plan

The Town of Dennis ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan (ADA/504 Plan) focused on Title II of the ADA that is required by state and local governments which are publicly owned and open to the public. A Title III public accommodation, on the other hand, pertains to privately owned business and services that are open to the public. Portions of the ADA/504 plan reference some employment practices under Title I of the ADA. However, the primary focus of the ADA/504 Plan is Title II of the ADA.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) preceded the ADA which was passed by Congress on July 26, 1990. Title II of the ADA pertains to state and local governments, such as the Town of Dennis. Section 504 applies to the Town of Dennis as a recipient of federal and state funding.

Section 504 is similar to the ADA and required the development of a self-evaluation and a transition plan. Section 504 states that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The Department of Justice's Title II regulation adopts the general prohibitions of discrimination established under Section 504 and incorporates specific prohibitions for the ADA. As such, Title II provides protections for individuals with disabilities that are equal to those provided by Section 504. Public entities, such as the Town of Dennis, are required to have an ADA Self-evaluation and a Section 504 evaluation. As such, portions of the study are referred to as the Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan update.

The ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require state and local governments, such as city, town and county governments (referred to as public entities in this document) to ensure that their facilities, public rights-of-ways, programs, services, activities are accessible and do not discriminate in regard to programs, services and activities of the Town of Dennis.

As the ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan 2019 update was comprehensive and included all areas required in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the current plan incorporates the requirements of Section 504 and as such there is not a need to complete a separate Section 504 study. The 2019 ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan Update will meet requests of other regulatory agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

IV. Updates to Accessibility Requirements, Codes and Standards

A federal update to the ADA Standards occurred in 2010 and included areas that previously did not have requirements for accessibility. As changes were made to the Title II regulations and the ADA Standards for Accessible Design in 2010, the 2019 Town of Dennis ADA/504 Plan needed to incorporate the updates. The Title II regulations and ADA Standards were changed to include recreation areas from play areas to swimming pools, residential facilities, event ticketing policies, policies concerning other-power-driven mobility devices, miniature horses as service animals and specifications for video-remote-interpreting. Since information technology barely existed when the ADA was passed in 1990, and all state and local governments now have websites that need to be accessible to individuals with

disabilities, websites need to be evaluated. The self-evaluation identifies and recommends updates to those policies and practices that are inconsistent with Title II's requirements.

In addition to the ADA 2010 Standards and Section 504, other standards and regulations apply to the Town of Dennis and include, but are not limited to:

- The Rules and Regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, Code of Massachusetts Regulations Title 521
- The Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law
- Massachusetts State Building Code – 780 CMR

Accessibility requirements for the public rights-of-way are required to provide the public with an accessible pedestrian route. The primary accessibility standards include the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Massachusetts Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices and Amendments and the Proposed Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines known as PROWAG.

The standard that provides the greatest level of accessibility would apply, but in no way can a lesser standard less than that required by the ADA be used. For example, in cases where a Massachusetts requirement requires scoping to a standard that provides a greater level of accessibility than that required by the ADA, the Massachusetts standard would apply.

V. Audits by Regulatory Authorities and Agencies

Audits being conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and other governmental authorities require the completion of an ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan in addition to a Section 504 plan. Due to the similar requirements, the current 2019 ADA study incorporates the requirements of Section 504 and as such updates both plans to meet the requirements of the ADA and Section 504 and results in a more seamless document and a cost savings to the Town.

In addition to the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 program plays an important role to ensure that pedestrians with disabilities have an equal opportunity to use the pedestrian public rights-of-way in an accessible and safe manner.

As part of FHWA's regulatory responsibility under Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the FHWA is required to ensure that recipients of federal aid and state and local entities that are responsible for roadways and pedestrian facilities do not discriminate on the basis of disability in any highway transportation program, activity, service or benefit they provide to the general public and to ensure that persons with disabilities have equitable opportunities to use the public rights-of-way (PROW) system. Furthermore, laws and regulations require accessible planning, design, and construction to integrate persons with disabilities and that the public entity does not discriminate.

As MassDOT is a recipient of federal funds and towns, cities, counties and other public entities are subrecipients of the flow through funding, public entities are required to demonstrate their compliance with the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A component of the requests is the development of a comprehensive ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan. In addition, the DOJ has determined that findings from public rights-of-way need to be included in the ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan. The courts have determined that noncompliant findings from the PROW are programs and services of the public entity that are required to be incorporated into the plan. Findings include items such as sidewalks, curb ramps, intersections, crosswalks and street furniture.

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (Public Law 93-112) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in federally assisted programs. Section 504 requirements for U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) administrations are covered under 49 CFR Part 27 (USDOT),

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Financial Assistance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990, Public Law 101-336) is a broader civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has rulemaking authority and enforcement responsibility for Title II, while USDOT is legally obligated to implement compliance procedures relating to transportation, including those for highways, streets, and traffic management. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Civil Rights oversees the DOT requirements in these areas.

In order to ensure compliance, MassDOT conducts reviews to ensure that:

- FHWA recipients and subrecipients are informed of their responsibilities to provide accessibility in their programs, activities, facilities and public rights-of-way.
- Recipients and subrecipients are in compliance with the ADA and Section 504.
- Recipients and subrecipients are applying appropriate accessibility standards to all public rights-of-way and transportation facilities.
- All complaints filed under Section 504 or the ADA are processed in accordance with established complaint procedures.

Another regulatory agency audit that requires an ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan includes the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and their oversight of the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds.

VI. Classification of Town of Dennis

The Town of Dennis is classified as a “public entity” pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act which applies to state and local governments. A public entity is owned by the public and is open to the public. A public entity covered by Title II is defined as:

- 1) Any State or local government;
- 2) Any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or local government; or
- 3) Certain commuter authorities as well as AMTRAK.

Public accommodations, on the other hand, are covered by Title III of the ADA as they are privately owned and open to the public. There are occasions that the Town as a Title II entity may have contractual arrangements with a Title III entity and as such the Title III entity is responsible in selected

situations to provide access to programs, services and activities of the Town in a nondiscriminatory manner.

VII. About the Town of Dennis

The Town of Dennis was first settled in 1639 by John Crowe (later Crowell) and Thomas Howes. The Town was part of the Town of Yarmouth. The town officially separated and incorporated in 1793. The town was named after resident minister, Josiah Dennis. Since there was not enough land for farming, seafaring became the town's major industry, centered around the Shiverick Shipyard. Presently, Dennis is a popular seaside resort town, famous for its stately colonial mansions along the northern Cape Cod Bay coastline and its picturesque warm water beaches along the southern Nantucket Sound.

According to the website and other published information, Dennis is considered the "Heart of Cape Cod" with beautiful beaches, rivers, ponds, hiking and biking trails, and bucolic vistas. Framed by Nantucket Sound and Cape Cod Bay, Dennis is comprised of five distinct villages: Dennis Village, East Dennis, South Dennis, Dennisport and West Dennis. The arts and culture environment are world renowned and includes the famed Cape Playhouse, Cape Cod Museum of Art and the beautiful Cape Cinema. The Cape Playhouse is the oldest summer theater in America and has attracted top Hollywood and Broadway talent such as Julie Harris, Humphrey Bogart, Betty Davis, Art Carney, Hume Cronyn and others. Located on beautiful Cape Cod, MA, Dennis is one of New England's most sparkling coastal communities. Located smack in the middle of Cape Cod, Dennis is less than a two-hour drive to international airports in Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. The Town of Dennis is blessed with a wide range of seascapes, landscapes, streetscapes, buildings and character for a variety of film genres.

The Town's coastal climate tends to be more moderate than inland locations with extreme heat or cold being rare. In the winter, the first freezing temperatures usually occur in early December, but the temperature is modified considerably by the nearness of the relatively warm ocean. Colder weather usually fades out by early March. Although it can get quite warm in the summer, the hot afternoons frequently are tempered by the ocean breezes from the waters surrounding Dennis. September and October are simply glorious.

VIII. Organizational Structure

Town of Dennis departments include:

Accounting

Animal Control

Assessing

Beach Department
Board of Selectmen/Administration
Building Department
Council on Aging
Dennis Housing Authority
Dennis Police
Department of Public Works
Engineering Department
Finance Department
Fire/Rescue
GIS Department
Golf Department
Harbormaster
Health Department
Historic District
Human Resources
Information System
Libraries
Licensing
Natural Resources
Planning Department
Procurement Department
Recreation
Town Clerk
Treasurer/Collector
Water District
Weights & Measures

IX. Self-Evaluation Plan

Prior ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans

The Town of Dennis conducted a sidewalk survey in 2015 demonstrating an ongoing commitment to make sidewalk and curb ramps accessible to all pedestrians including those with disabilities.

Updated ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

The Town of Dennis ADA Title II Self-evaluation 2019 Update has been prepared by DAC, with the collaboration and assistance of Town of Dennis staff and input by other interested individuals and community members. This 2019 study, completed by Disability Access Consultants, LLC (DAC), updates any Town of Dennis ADA Self-evaluation for facilities, parks and schools.

DAC was contracted to conduct a comprehensive survey of Town buildings, parks, beaches, and other sites and policies and procedures that govern the administration of programs, services and activities of Town of Dennis. The goal of the Town is that all potential physical and programmatic barriers for accessibility are identified and removed. A list of the sites that were inspected for accessibility compliance are contained in the Appendix of this report.

The updated ADA/504 Self-evaluation provides a current benchmark for accessibility efforts by the Town and provides an updated framework for implementation. The current study also incorporates recent updates in the ADA and other accessibility related standards and regulations.

Regular Self-Evaluation Updates

The ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan is a living, on-going document and requires regular updates to keep it current. As the Town understands the commitment for regular updates and annual reports, the Town will continue to update its plan on an annual or more frequent basis. In its continuing efforts to maintain compliance, the Town has several mechanisms in place to provide for the ongoing update of the self-evaluation. The Town's designated ADA Coordinator is empowered with oversight responsibility for implementation of the requirements of the ADA, 504 and related accessibility standards and regulation. The Town has formed an ADA Implementation Committee that is a working group of Town staff to assist with the prioritization for the removal of barriers to be phased in over time.

The Town has licensure for the use of a secure, online accessibility management software called DACTrak, to document and track the findings and the implementation of the plan, including progress reports. DACTrak will afford the Town the opportunity to maintain an updated plan.

As public input is required to develop and prioritize the plan, the Town conducted public outreach activities as described in the public outreach portion of this document. It is recognized that input from stakeholders is a valuable component of an updated, usable and realistic plan. The Town welcomes ongoing input from members of the public and stakeholders to assist with regular self-evaluation updates.

Several factors may necessitate updates in the Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan. Factors such as the purchase or lease of additional sites that were not included in the 2019 study, change of building use, major remodeling or renovation, availability of additional funding or the Town selling or no longer leasing a facility. Future updates may also be necessitated by changes in the ADA,

Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), or the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), or other accessibility codes, standards or regulations.

Self-Evaluation Methodology and Format

As part of the self-evaluation, a public entity should:

1. Identify all the public entity's facilities, programs, activities, services and their locations
2. Review all the policies and practices that govern the administration of the public entity's programs, activities and services.

In addition, public entities are required to provide opportunities for public input regarding the self-evaluation and are strongly encouraged to consult with individuals with disabilities and organizations that represent them to assist in the self-evaluation process. Many individuals with disabilities have unique perspectives on a public entity's programs, activities, and services. For example, individuals with mobility impairments can readily identify barriers preventing their full enjoyment of the public entity's programs, activities, and services. Similarly, individuals with hearing impairments can identify the communication barriers that hamper participation in a public entity's programs, activities, and services.

Information collected during the self-evaluation process is reported by areas and categories, not individually by departments. The self-evaluation provides an overall summary and profile of findings and recommendations. Specific findings and recommendations for potential physical barriers are found in the online DACTrak accessibility management software program. DACTrak contains actual measurements of each noncompliant barrier, photographs of barriers, findings, recommendations, code references, estimated costs and other information. Estimated costs are derived using a combination of factors including industry standards, regional adjustments and values reported by DAC clients. The costs entered into the DACTrak program are estimated construction costs and are not fixed total project costs. Custom reports and transition plan information can be generated from DACTrak to monitor and manage the implementation of the plan.

X. Surveys for Public and Staff Input

To enhance its public input efforts, the Town distributed surveys to various stakeholders. Surveys targeted towards community members, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, as well as Town staff were made available to enhance public input efforts to identify any programmatic barriers that may impact accessibility of Town programs, services, and activities. Surveys were provided in multiple formats and made available in alternate formats as requested. Survey formats included:

- Online word documents
- Hard copy printed versions in high traffic areas such as public service counters
- An electronic survey via an online link

Announcements were posted and distributed to solicit input from the public. Samples are included in the Appendix.

Also, community organizations representing individuals with disabilities and other interested community members were provided opportunities for input via in-person, open houses, by phone, email, in writing, or online. Surveys were made available online and in written format. The surveys included questions regarding access to Town programs, if there were any current complaints or

problems, what information or resources organizations could provide that would assist the Town, and what general guidance or assistance organizations and community members could provide or suggest.

Responses provided the Town and DAC with insights into internal program operations. This report contains findings based on a review of responses and provides recommendations to ensure compliance. Actual survey comments and documents can be found in Appendix of this report.

XI. TRANSITION PLAN

The ADA requires state and local governments to develop and implement a Transition Plan to achieve program accessibility. After conducting a self-evaluation of facilities, programs, services and activities, a public entity is required to develop a transition plan with estimated timeframes and/or dates for the removal of physical barriers that may deny access for individuals with disabilities.

The term “transition plan” comes from the terminology in the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that describes how public entities would be “transitioning” into compliance during the timelines of 1992 to 1995. The term barrier removal plan is used in addition to the term transition plan, as public entities are no longer transitioning into compliance during the three years set aside in the law. The transition/barrier removal plan identifies the noncompliant physical/structural barriers in detail that may deny access to facilities, programs, services, the proposed method to remove the barrier, the identity of the responsible person to oversee the implementation of the plan and the projected schedule for barrier removal of “structural” barriers. The projected schedule is an “estimated” date for barrier removal that may change over time. The self-evaluation, on the other hand focuses on the identification of barriers that may deny access to facilities, programs, services and activities. The two plans work congruently to remove the structural and programmatic barriers as identified in the overall Town plan.

To effectuate Title II of the ADA, Department of Justice regulation 28 CFR 35.150(d) Transition Plan requires public entities to review and identify physical barriers and steps needed to enable accessible programs when viewed in their entirety. Public entities must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs, activities and services because of inaccessible facilities. Each facility is not necessarily required to be accessible. A public entity's services, programs, or activities, when “viewed in their entirety,” must be accessible. This standard is known as “program accessibility” and is a key requirement under Title II of the ADA.

A comprehensive transition plan should contain the following:

1. A list of the physical barriers in a public entity's facilities (includes the Town’s public rights-of-way) that limit the accessibility of its programs, activities, or services to individuals with disabilities;
2. A detailed outline of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible;
3. The schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II of the ADA. If the time period for achieving compliance is longer than one year, the plan should identify the interim steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period; and,
4. The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation. (Usually the ADA/504 Coordinator).

If the facility is existing construction that was completed on or before July 26, 1992 and major remodeling or renovation has not taken place, structural changes are not required where there are other feasible solutions such as moving the Town program to an accessible location. However, structural changes leading to increased integration and should be considered where feasible or if major remodeling or renovation has taken place at the facility. Structural changes can include modifications to facilities and public rights-of way.

Where structural modifications are required to achieve program accessibility, a public entity with 50 or more employees must complete a transition plan that provides for the removal of these barriers. Any structural modifications must be completed as expeditiously as possible.

In addition to physical barriers of facilities (i.e. buildings, parks, beaches), the ADA of 1990, Section 35.150, Existing Facilities, requires that the transition plan include a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped area at existing pedestrian walkways, which applies to all facilities constructed prior to 1992.

For any sidewalk installations constructed from 1992 to March 15, 2012, the curb ramps should have been installed as part of the sidewalk construction project per the 1991 Standards for Accessible Design, Section 4.7 Curb Ramp, which states, "curb ramps complying with Section 4.7 shall be provided wherever an accessible route crosses a curb." For sidewalk installations constructed on or after March 15, 2012, similar guidance is provided in the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, Section 35.151 of 28 CFR Part 35, New Construction and Alterations, which states, "newly constructed or altered street level pedestrian walkways must contain curb ramps or other sloped area at any intersection having curb or other sloped area at intersections to streets, roads, or highways."

Structural barriers of facilities and public rights-of-way are referenced in the transition plan by site and are contained in detail in individualized transition/barrier removal reports of sites inspected and are available from the ADA Coordinator and in the online DACTrak Accessibility Management System. It is important to note that some structural barriers may be addressed by using a programmatic methodology if they did not involve new construction or new remodeling and renovation.

A list of sites inspected is contained in the Appendix. DAC did not survey Town of Dennis public rights-of-ways.

XII. Designated ADA Coordinator

As required by the ADA, public entities with 50 or more employees must designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate ADA compliance and investigate complaints. The public entity should provide the name, office address, email address and phone number of the ADA Coordinator.

Brenda Vazquez is designated as the ADA/504 Coordinator for the Town of Dennis. The ADA Coordinator provides centralized oversight and coordination of ADA compliance efforts with Town departments. The address and contact information for the ADA/504 Coordinator is:

Brenda Vazquez, ADA/504 Coordinator

Dennis Council on Aging and Senior Center

1045 Route 134

South Dennis, MA 02660

Email: bvazquez@town.dennis.ma.us
(508) 385-5067

TTY: by state relay at 7-1-1

Requests for information from the ADA Coordinator can be sent by email, phone, and/or mail. Information is available in alternate formats upon request.

Requests for copies or information about the Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan can be obtained from the ADA Coordinator. In addition, the Town offers alternate methods and accommodations (e.g., enlarged print, Braille) to provide access to review or provide input into the Town's plan.

XIII. Public Facilities

The Town contracted with DAC to complete accessibility inspections of their facilities, parks, beaches in accordance with the applicable accessibility standards and regulations. During 2019, DAC completed inspections of facilities, parks, beaches, and other sites. A complete list of sites inspected are included in Appendix of this report.

Surveys include detailed measurements and photographs of actual conditions to determine compliance with federal and state accessibility codes and standards. Structural barriers of facilities are referenced in the transition plan by site and are contained in detail in individualized Transition/Barrier Removal reports of sites inspected and are available from the ADA Coordinator and in the DACTrak Accessibility Management System.

The inspection process was accomplished using a team of DAC accessibility specialists. DAC's staff were equipped with a variety of task specific measuring tools including but not limited to; tablets with camera and GIS capabilities, tape measures, smart levels, door pressure gauges and profile gauges. DAC recorded the actual "as-is" field conditions and input the data into the DACTrak intake software and forms using a PC tablet. The capturing of the actual measurement provides the Town with detailed measurements in order to make informed decisions regarding the severity of noncompliance or deviation from the code. A minor deviation vs. a more significant deviation from the code is an important factor for prioritizing barrier removal.

Detailed measurements of the existing conditions, planning-level recommendations for removing the physical barriers, and photos of each facility were recorded during the evaluation process and were included in the facility reports.

The findings and recommendations for the Town buildings, parks, parking lots and other sites that were inspected have been exported into the DACTrak Accessibility Management Software. Different report formats can be printed from the DACTrak Accessibility Management Software provided by DAC. The DACTrak software program provides the Town with an on-line, web-based tool to update its plan, document progress, estimate costs and schedule barrier removal. DACTrak allows the user to prioritize using a variety of methods.

Recognizing that it is not feasible to immediately correct all accessibility deficiencies, the Town of Dennis is prioritizing its transition/barrier removal plan. As an example, considerations are given to facilities and PROW which are of high public use and/or of high use by individuals with disabilities. Additional considerations are given to planned renovations and the severity of the barriers.

As intended by the ADA, the Town of Dennis will update their barrier removal priorities and projected timelines to allow flexibility in accommodating changes in programs, requests for reasonable accommodations, community requests and fluctuations in funding resources.

XIV. Location of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

The Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan is maintained and made available for public inspection by the Town's ADA Coordinator, Brenda Vazquez. The ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan is available in alternate formats, if requested.

XV. Findings, Survey Comments, and Recommendations

This section of the self-evaluation contains findings and recommendations by DAC about the extent to which the Town of Dennis' policies and practices provide access to the Town's programs, services and activities. The results from the ADA self-evaluation will demonstrate not only the commitment by the Town to provide access to Town programs, services and activities, but the overall compliance by the Town.

Noncompliant findings regarding physical barriers that may deny access for individuals with disabilities are documented in the Town of Dennis Transition/Barrier Removal Plan that is detailed in the DACTrak Accessibility Management Program.

Policies and Procedures

A review of the Town's policies, procedures, practices along with programs, services and activities was completed to search for apparent and perceived discriminatory practices.

Under the ADA, the Town of Dennis is required to "make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability." The Town of Dennis is required to do so in every situation, unless it can demonstrate "that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity" [28 CFR § 35.130 (7)]. The Town is currently undergoing a departmental reorganization, which is anticipated to be complete at the end of 2019.

Designation of ADA Coordinator

The regulations implementing the ADA/504 require any public entity with fifty or more employees to designate at least one employee to coordinate ADA/504 compliance (28 CFR §35.107(a)). In addition, Federal regulations require public entities to make available to interested persons the name, office address and telephone number of the ADA coordinator. Furthermore, in providing for notice, a public entity must comply with the requirements for effective communication in Section 35.160.

Findings

1. The Town has a designated ADA Coordinator to oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of the ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan.
2. The identity of the ADA Coordinator as well as the address, phone number, and email address were noticed and posted.

Survey Comments

1. Town staff who responded to a survey question asking: "Do you know who the designated ADA Coordinator is for the Town of Dennis?" resulted in 50% of the respondents now knowing the identity of the ADA Coordinator.

Recommendations

1. Information regarding the identity of the Town's ADA Coordinator should continue to be provided to staff, posted at all Town locations, incorporated into new employee orientation packets, and placed in frequently used publications, on the website and in staff and public directories.
2. It is recommended that the Town continue to publish the name, address, e-mail address and phone numbers of the ADA Coordinator in appropriate public notices, brochures, pamphlets and other documents frequently distributed to the general public. Publications should also include a TDD/TYY and/or the relay phone number.
3. Publications should be updated if the identity of the ADA Coordinator changes or if more than one ADA Coordinator is designated.

Posting and Dissemination of Rights

All public entities are required to provide information to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, employees and other interested persons of the rights and protections afforded by Title II of the ADA (26 CFR §35.106). In providing for notice, a public entity must comply with the requirements for effective communication in Section 35.160.

Findings

1. A notice of the rights afforded individuals with disabilities and nondiscrimination statement, along with the method to request an accommodation and/or to file a complaint were not available and are not posted on the Town's website.

Recommendations

1. Statements of nondiscrimination and the notice of rights should be included on selected publications, brochures describing programs, requests for proposals/qualifications, facility use agreements, contracts, services and activities offered by the Town, new employee materials, recruitment materials; publications and frequently used forms and documents.
2. The notice should include the name, title, address and phone numbers of the ADA Coordinator. The notice should include a TDD/TTY number and/or Massachusetts Relay number to ensure equally effective communication. Although not required, it is recommended that the notice include the e-mail address for the ADA Coordinator.

Statement of Accommodations on Public Notices

Statements of accommodations should be available on agendas, public notices, and brochures about events provided by and/or sponsored by the Town. The Town is required to provide ADA information in alternative formats to ensure that that information is accessible to individuals with disabilities. A statement of accommodations that may be requested provides a member of the public with the

opportunity to provide the Town of Dennis with a notice of the accommodations or modifications that are needed to participate in the program, service or activity of the Town. The statement should include a minimum timeframe needed for the Town to provide an appropriate accommodation, if possible, and the contact information to request the accommodation or modification.

Findings

1. Statements of accommodation were not found on Town of Dennis public notices, agendas and information about public events and activities.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that a statement of accommodation be included on all postings of meetings, events and activities that are open to the public.
2. The Town should consider a consistent accommodation statement with language that includes a minimum timeframe to request an accommodation prior to the Town event, the contact person, address or location, phone number and email address.
3. Vendor contracts for sign language interpreters, captioning, and Braille, for example, should be reviewed to determine if timelines to provide the requested service could be reduced.
4. Requests for vendor timelines to comply with requests for accommodations should be specified in the contract during the procurement process.
5. Contracts should be entered into with services and costs specified for “as needed” services in addition to the assurance of the provision of timely services in order to allow time for the Town to accommodate requests.
6. Depending upon procurement requirements of the Town, the Town might consider multiple contracts for the same service on an as needed basis for accommodations such as sign language interpreters and captioning.

Accommodations to Access Programs, Services and Activities

The ADA/504 prohibits public entities from excluding individuals with disabilities from programs, activities or services offered by the public entity. The law allows a public entity to use both structural and nonstructural methods to achieve accessibility to programs, services and activities (28 CFR §35.150(a)(1); (b)(1)). Review policies and procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided access to public meetings. One method of accommodating qualified individuals with disabilities is to post a statement of accommodations for all public meetings, activities and special events of the Town and to provide information regarding how an accommodation can be requested.

Findings

1. Evidence of statements of accommodations for members of the public were not found on public notices, agenda, meeting announcements and other documents regarding activities of the Town.
2. The Town’s ADA notice of accommodations should state it will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.
3. The Town recently provided training regarding service animals to the community and businesses with the assistance of the Town of Dennis Animal Control Officer Lori Miranda and Moss Lynch, a training specialist with the Massachusetts Office on Disability. The training provided information on service animals to assist businesses to understand that service animals must be

allowed access. The training also provided information regarding what a service animal does and its behavior.

Recommendations

1. Information about how to request accommodations should appear on all public notices and announcements including special events. Information should be disseminated to all departments and divisions regarding the statement for accommodations requirement.
2. The Town should continue to provide training for new staff and volunteers regarding accommodations for individuals with disabilities. All staff, and in particular frontline staff such as receptionists and staff with high public contact, should continue to receive training on interacting and accommodating individuals with disabilities.
3. Additional options, such as emailing the requesting accommodations, should be added. A form for requesting accommodations for members of the public on the Town website would be helpful and should be available in hard copy and on the website. Such a form should also be available in alternate formats. The ADA Coordinator should maintain records of requests, concern and comments and the status and method to resolve the concerns.
4. If a conclusion is reached that any particular accommodation would result in undue burden for the Town, that decision must be made, and the reasons documented by a person of authority of the Town. The test for being unduly burdensome is the proportion of the cost for accessibility improvements compared to the Town's overall budget, and not simply the project cost. If a conclusion of undue burden is reached and documented, the Town will need to take alternate actions to ensure that persons with disabilities receive the benefits or services provided.
5. A process for requests for accommodations by the public should be developed and information disseminated to Town staff.
6. Requests for accommodations should be tracked and should include information such as:
 - a. Date of the accommodation request
 - b. Accommodation requested
 - c. Denial or approval of the accommodation
 - d. Denials of an accommodation should provide the reason for denial of the accommodation
 - e. Denials of an accommodation should include a second review by a Town person in authority
 - f. Accommodation provided
 - g. Date accommodation was provided
 - h. Resolution and success of the accommodation documented
 - i. Documents should be maintained by the ADA Coordinator

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

The Department of Justice (DOJ) rules requires an entity open to the public to make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures to allow the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of other power-driven mobility devices cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted pursuant to § 35.130(h). The regulatory framework provided by 35.137 for mobility devices as provided by the federal government addresses personal assistive mobility devices.

Findings

1. The Town does not have a policy for other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD).

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Town develop written policies specifying which kinds of OPDMD's are permitted and where they are permitted based on several assessment factors. The following factors for use of an OPDMD include:
 - The type, size, weight, dimensions and speed of the device;
 - The facility's volume of pedestrian traffic;
 - The facility's design and operational characteristics;
 - Legitimate safety requirements; and
 - Whether the use of the OPDMD creates a substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or natural or cultural resources or poses a conflict with Federal land management laws and regulations.

Access to Programs, Services and Activities

A public entity may not adopt official policies that are discriminatory or engage in practices that are discriminatory. This prohibition applies to policies that are explicitly exclusionary and to those which appear to be neutral but have a discriminatory effect (28 CFR §35.130(b)(3)). All Title II of the ADA entities must ensure that all public meetings and events sponsored are readily accessible to persons with disabilities. Policies and procedures need to ensure that individuals with mobility and other impairments are provided access to public meetings.

Findings

1. No discriminatory policies were found.

Survey Comments

1. Public input was sought regarding access to programs, services and activities to help identify any perceived discrimination. A survey question asking staff if their department/division included information about the accessibility of its programs, services, and activities. Some staff responded that they did not provide information and some did not know who to contact or how to request a reasonable accommodation.

Recommendations

1. The ADA/504 does not specifically state how a public entity provides for accessibility to programs, services and activities. One method is to disseminate information in a variety of locations and formats to enhance the access to programs, services and activities.
2. The ADA Coordinator should continue to monitor and receive information regarding concerns or issues about access to programs, services and activities and take the appropriate action regarding any potential discriminatory practices for persons with disabilities.
3. Methods for submitting information should also be expanded to include a method for online input in addition to appearing in person and submitting written comments.
4. The Town should continue to provide programs, services and activities that include individuals with disabilities.

5. Consistent with best practices, the Town should consider utilizing a checklist for staff to review when sponsoring special events including but not limited to indoor and outdoor concerts, festivals, fairs, town hall meeting, luncheons, and ceremonies that are held on Town property or at other sites. Such a checklist would inform staff of their responsibilities under the ADA. DAC can assist the Town with this checklist and efforts.
6. The Town should review its license fee requirement for dogs to ensure persons with disabilities who utilize service animals are not disadvantaged and update their web page and Animal License Application accordingly.
7. Additional and ongoing staff training should continue to be provided regarding the requirements of the ADA and accommodations that provide equal access to programs, services and activities. A listing of training topics is located in the Staff Training section of this document.
8. Meetings and events open to the public should continue to be held in buildings that meet accessibility requirements, or in the accessible portion of the building with accessible elements that serve the area where the meeting or event is held. For example, parking, restrooms and drinking fountains that serve the area where the meeting and event is held should also be accessible.
9. Information regarding the facility should include information regarding accessible features and elements of the site. For example, accessible parking, accessible restrooms and other items and elements should be indicated on documents and on the website. Indicating accessible paths of travel and accessible entrances also provides valuable information for individuals with disabilities. A contact number and email address should be provided for additional assistance.
10. When transportation is provided, procedures for assuring the availability of accessible means of transportation should be in place.

Grievance/Uniform Complaint Procedures

A public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Title II of the ADA, including the investigation of complaints. A public entity shall make available the name, office address, and telephone number of any designated employee. In addition, the public entity must adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action that would be prohibited by Title II of the ADA.

Findings

1. A grievance procedure and form were not found. Recommendations
 1. Grievance procedures and forms that comply with the Department of Justice (DOJ) requirements should be developed and disseminated.
 2. Grievance procedures and forms should be available in hard copy and on the Town's website.
 3. Grievance procedures should be a part of the new employee orientation packet. Grievance procedures should be distributed to all Department heads. Complaint procedures should be readily available to members of the public as well as employees.
 4. A method to collect data and collect a profile of complaints should be established. The status of the complaint and the time from complaint to resolution should be documented to assist with interventions and staff development to reduce or eliminate repeated complaints. DAC will collaborate with the Town to enhance this process.

Eligibility Criteria

Public entities cannot use eligibility criteria that tend to exclude or screen out persons with disabilities (28 CFR §35.130(b)(8)).

Findings

1. No discriminatory practices were found regarding eligibility criteria for program access.

Recommendations

1. Program eligibility criteria should be periodically reviewed as policies are drafted or modified to ensure that eligibility criteria do not put additional burdens or requirements on individuals with disabilities.
2. The Town should continue to ensure that all eligibility criteria allow for accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Fees and Surcharges

Public entities may not charge a fee or add a surcharge to a fee to cover the cost of making its facilities, programs, services or activities accessible to persons with disabilities. (28 CFR §35.130(f)).

Findings

1. No surcharges were noted for persons with disabilities that are not charged for persons without disabilities.

Recommendations

1. The ADA Coordinator should randomly review policies and practices for consistency and to ensure that fees and surcharges are not charged to individuals with disabilities that are not charged to individuals without disabilities.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

One of the important responsibilities of state and local government entities is to protect residents and visitors from harm, including assistance in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. This requirement applies to programs, services, and activities provided directly by state and local governments as well as those provided through third parties. The Town is required to plan to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in an emergency and provide access to emergency shelter services. This may require the installation of visual and audible warning signals and special procedures for assisting individuals with disabilities from a facility during an emergency.

Findings

1. The Town of Dennis has instituted a rapid emergency notification service called CodeRED®. The system distributes emergency messages via telephone to targeted areas in Dennis or the entire town. CodeRED® employs a one-of-a-kind internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high-speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized prerecorded emergency messages directly to homes, businesses, cell phones and answering machines.
2. The CodeRed system would allow persons with disabilities to register and indicate any special accommodations that would be needed.

Recommendations

1. The Town should consider the development of a voluntary registry for individuals whom may need additional evacuation assistance due to a disability or medical need. The Town website should designate locations to be used as shelter in emergencies. A provision should be noted to allow service animals and training should be provided to shelter staff to understand the difference between pets and service animals. The Town's website should include locations and contact information for persons with disabilities, who do not have their own means of transportation to evacuate during an emergency, can access transportation which will take them to shelters. Persons with disabilities who need assistance should be instructed to call a designated number for help to evacuate.
2. If not currently doing so already, the Town should provide training and information regarding emergency evacuation procedures specific to persons with disabilities.
3. The Town should make sure that evacuation routes and procedures continue to be posted at all Town sites in accordance with ADA/504 regulations. All staff should be made aware of the location of the posted evacuation routes within their facilities. The Town should develop procedures and a mechanism to monitor the posting of emergency evacuation routes and procedures.
4. Shelters should be surveyed to determine that they are accessible for individuals with disabilities prior to being designated as an evacuation shelter. Noncompliant findings for any designated shelters will be found in the Town of Dennis ADA/504 Transition/Barrier Removal Plan. Designated evacuation shelter sites should also be inspected on a regular basis to determine that the shelter continues to be accessible for persons with disabilities.
5. Specific guidance for complying with Title II of the ADA in the preparation of evacuation plans and procedures may be found in Chapter VII of the ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments <https://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm>.

Policies for the Use of Facilities

Review policies and procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against during the process to apply and get approval to use a Town owned site for a program or a special event. In addition, the Town should ensure that the use of the facilities abide by all Town policies and procedures, including such items as discrimination. Under Title II of the ADA, the Town is responsible for providing access to its programs, services and activities in both owned and leased facilities.

Findings

1. No discriminatory policies were found.

Recommendations

1. The Town should consider the development of a facility rental policy which includes a nondiscrimination clause. The inclusion of nondiscriminatory language in policy and on forms would help ensure that outside groups and organizations would agree to abide by all applicable local, state and federal laws and Town policy regarding nondiscriminatory practices during the utilization of Town facilities.
 - a. As an example, such policies should also mention that service dogs are allowed in parks and facilities where pets are prohibited, as appropriate.

- b. Another example would be language stating the facility user may not discriminate based on disability.
2. Application forms should be available in alternate formats and online.
3. It would be beneficial to persons with disabilities if information on accessible routes and maps, accessible parking locations, restrooms, and wayfinding was available for all facilities on the Town's website. **Leased Facilities**

Facilities that are owned by the Town may be leased to others. In addition, facilities that are not owned by the Town may be leased from private owners or firms in order to provide Town programs, services and activities.

Under Title II of the ADA, the Town is responsible for providing access to its programs, services and activities in both owned and leased facilities.

Findings

1. A pre-lease inspection process of buildings not owned by the Town but are potentially being leased by the Town were not evident.
2. Language in lease agreements should be reviewed to clearly delineate the responsibility for accessibility and if it lies with the lessee or lessor or both.

Recommendations

1. Language in lease agreements should be reviewed for compliance standards.
2. The Town should review the accessibility of sites that may be leased in the future prior to engaging in a lease and establish a procedure for a pre-lease inspection to ensure that's the facility or space meets the accessibility requirements.
3. If the Town decides to lease space, the ADA Coordinator or other designated Town staff should be trained to conduct or have a designee or consultant conduct a field inspection of the prospective building to assess the building for a general, functional level of accessibility. The ADA Coordinator could utilize an abbreviated checklist to determine general accessibility of facilities that the Town is considering to lease. A more comprehensive inspection could be conducted if the initial review appears to be favorable.

Selection of Contractors and Contracted Services

Public entities cannot use contract procurement criteria that discriminate against persons with disabilities (28 CFR 35.130(b) (5)). Contractors should be held to the same nondiscrimination rules that apply to public entity employees.

Findings

1. No lease agreements were available for review.

Recommendations

1. The Town should continue to monitor use of standard agreements and leases by all Town departments. It is recommended that the Town consider one or more of these avenues to maintain compliance when contracting for services or when leasing facilities:
 - Include ADA/504 compliance nondiscrimination requirements in new requests for proposals.
 - Review and update ADA/504 requirements when contracts and or leases when they are negotiated, revised or renewed and incorporate nondiscrimination clauses as necessary.

2. Town purchasing policies should include provisions for accessibility compliance for Contractors and Vendors.
3. The Town should consider adding ADA/accessibility language into pre-proposal conference directions/information.

Building and Construction

Review building and construction policies to ensure that the construction of each new facility or part of a facility, or the alteration of existing facilities after January 26, 1992, conforms to the standards designated under the Title II of the ADA regulation. Buildings constructed after January 26, 1992 are considered new buildings and should be compliant with the current accessibility standards and requirements at the time of construction.

Existing buildings are defined as those buildings or sites that were constructed prior to 1992 and that not have had any major remodeling or renovation. If an existing building has had major remodeling or renovation, portions of the building would need to be brought up to the new standards. In addition, the path of travel to the building may be “triggered” and require renovation or remodeling to meet the current accessibility standards.

Findings

1. Some new buildings and remodeled buildings were found to have noncompliant construction or remodeling that did not meet the accessibility codes, standards or regulations. A significant number of the findings were minor and not a major deviation from the code.
2. The amount of oversight for new construction and remodeling was not evident.

Recommendations

1. The construction oversight process should be reviewed to provide plan and specification reviews for compliance throughout the planning and construction process. The oversight process should apply for all departments that are in charge of remodeling or construction.
2. Contracts with outside vendors and contractors should include language regarding work being performed must comply with all applicable federal, state and local building codes.
3. The Town should ensure that contractors are informed when performing construction activities adjacent to or within the public right-of-way that accessible and safe routes must be maintained throughout the project. Information on alternate accessible pedestrian routes and detours should be posted on the Town’s website, as well as at the site during construction.
4. Work performed by contractors should receive a final validation by Town staff that the work performed is compliant and meets code.
5. Publications regarding the requirements of the ADA and Massachusetts codes should be updated on an ongoing basis to include not only federal but state accessibility standards.

Maintenance of Accessible Features

The ADA requires (35.133) public entities to maintain their accessible features and elements. Accessible features and elements may include examples such as maintaining door pressures, elevators, trimming vegetation so that it does not encroach on accessible paths of travel, maintaining clear areas to access display areas, access to brochures, access to posted agendas and replacing damaged or missing signage.

Findings

1. Although there is not a formal procedure or policy, there is evidence of ongoing maintenance practices.

Recommendations

1. The Town may consider developing internal procedures or policies to maintain and track accessible features which require general maintenance. A few examples include re-stripping of parking, trimming vegetation or items that interfere with sidewalks and paths of travel, and adjusting the push/pull force and closing speeds of door closers.
2. The Town should interface with other local jurisdictions to coordinate ADA efforts.

Planning and Budgeting for Accessibility

There is not a specific requirement in the ADA/504 for planning and budgeting for barrier removal.

There is a requirement for public entities to incorporate a projected schedule for barrier removal into the Transition/Barrier Removal plan. The projected schedule is an estimate or planned date for barrier removal and projected dates may change due to a variety of factors.

A public entity that is budgeting or seeking funds to use for ADA/504 barrier removal and to improve access to programs, services and activities shows intent to implement the barrier removal/transition plan. Developing an ADA plan and a schedule for implementation and removal of barriers provides clear documentation of the Town's ongoing efforts to remove barriers and to provide access to Town programs, services and activities.

Findings

1. A presentation was made by Town staff to the Town of Dennis Board of Selectmen by Town staff on June 25, 2019 to provide an overview of the ADA Transition Plan findings in order to plan and budget for the implementation of the ADA plan.

Recommendations

1. The Town should develop methods and procedures to update and maintain a current plan, budget funds, schedule, implement, document, and monitor barrier removal activities. Funds should be allocated for ADA projects and removal of barriers to accessibility.
2. The Town should develop a method to maintain an ongoing barrier removal implementation plan and document the Town's progress, initiatives and funds expended.
3. The ADA Coordinator, or designated staff, should be empowered with the authority to make recommendations and monitor the current Town ADA/504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.
4. In addition to the removal of structural barriers, departments should consider budgeting for accessibility items, especially in the area of communication, such as TTY/TDD's and alternate formats. The Town should assist departments with planning and budgeting for selected accommodations, such as large print, cassettes, CD-ROMs, Braille materials, etc.

Staff Training

Although training is not required by the ADA and Section 504, training regarding the requirements of the ADA and Section 504 is strongly recommended. Staff that understand the requirements of the ADA and how to assist individuals with disabilities are empowered to provide services to all stakeholders in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Ongoing compliance with the ADA is a process that occurs over time using an understanding of the ADA, responsibilities of Town employees, appropriate terminology and specific methods to assist individuals with disabilities. A simple and easy to achieve compliance method is understanding and using appropriate terminology that provides information in a positive and nondiscriminatory manner. For example, the use of the term “handicapped” is not acceptable and the term “persons with disabilities” should be used instead. Another example of appropriate terminology is using the description of “person using a wheelchair” and not using the term “wheelchair bound.”

Findings

1. The Town has provided training and collaborates with the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities.
2. Selected Town staff received training regarding the use of the DACTrak Accessibility Management online software to assist with the implementation of their plan.
3. The Town may want to provide staff training to include, but not limited to the following:
 - Requirements of the ADA and Section 504
 - Requirements for facilities and parks
 - Requirements for the public right-of-way (PROW)
 - Individuals with Disabilities
 - Acceptable Terminology and Expressions
 - Noncompliance Consequences
 - Accessible vs. Compliant features
 - Barriers – Programmatic or Physical
 - Providing Services for Individuals with Disabilities
 - Leased Sites
 - Special Events
 - Accessible Locations for Meetings
 - Events & Voting
 - Auxiliary Aids and Services
 - Construction & Remodeling
 - Maintenance of Accessible Features
 - Community Donations and Construction Projects
 - Town ADA Responsibilities
 - Notice of the ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
 - Notice and Rights Posted for Individuals with Disabilities
 - TDD/TTY
 - Assistive Listening
 - Grievance Complaint Procedures
 - Statement of Accommodations
 - Individuals with Disabilities Participation
 - Use of Town Facilities by Organizations and Individuals
 - Reasonable Accommodations
 - Statement of Accommodations
 - Effective Communication
 - Alternate and Accessible Formats
 - Accessible Websites

- Volunteers

Recommendations

1. The Town should continue to provide ongoing training regarding the ADA, Section 504 and related accessibility regulations and standards.
2. Additional training videos should be purchased and maintained for checkout, or borrowed from a variety of agencies, such as the Department of Rehabilitation. The US Access Board also has training materials available in addition to the Pacific ADA Center.
3. Handouts and training materials should be prepared, if needed, in alternate accessible formats.
4. The ADA/Section 504 Coordinator should continue to provide or coordinate additional ADA/Section 504 training to all management and staff who have regular contact with the public.

New Employee and Volunteer Orientation

Review employment practices to ensure that they comply with other applicable nondiscrimination requirements, including 504 and the ADA regulation issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It is unlawful to discriminate against a qualified applicant based on disability in any aspect of employment including: application, interviewing, testing, hiring, evaluation, compensation, benefits, promotion, discipline, and termination.

Recommendations

1. The Town should include and maintain information as to the identity, title, address, phone number and e-mail address of the ADA Coordinator in new employee orientation and volunteer information. The Town should be consistent with including a statement of accommodation and nondiscrimination in its information, applications and policies.
2. The Town should develop training materials and videos for new employees and volunteers regarding information and requirements of Title I and Title II of the ADA and 504. Materials could also be offered on providing accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
3. The Town's new hire packet should describe the general procedure for filing a grievance of any kind.

Appropriate Terminology

Review of public entity's written and audio-visual materials to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not portrayed in an offensive or demeaning manner.

Findings

1. There was not any evidence found of the Town portraying persons with disabilities in an offensive or demeaning manner or inappropriate terminology.

Recommendations

1. The words "individuals with disabilities" or "persons with disabilities" should replace "handicapped". The term "disabled person" should also be avoided.
2. Information regarding acceptable terminology in "people first language" should also be provided to staff. Publications should be updated as they are reprinted. All departments should review all audio, visual, and print materials to ensure demeaning stereotypes and outdated language are not contained in publications.
3. A training session or guide on disability etiquette to be distributed to staff is suggested.

Ticketing

Ticketing policies and practices of public entities for events that have seating are subject to Title II of the ADA nondiscrimination provisions. A public entity that sells tickets for events shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to ensure that individuals with disabilities have an equal opportunity to purchase tickets for accessible seating.

Findings

1. No ticketing policies and procedures were found.

Recommendations

1. The Town ADA Coordinator should assure that Town sponsored events which include the purchase of tickets for seating continue to allow for accessible seating for the person with the disability and for companions.
2. Facilities with seating areas located on nonaccessible circulation pathways should be given extra attention to assure that the public is aware that alternative accessible seating. When using venues not owned by the Town, the Town should verify accessibility prior to leasing or renting such facilities.

Equally Effective Communication

Public entities must ensure that applicants, participants and members of the public with disabilities have communication access that is equally effective as that provided to persons without disabilities (28 CFR §35.160(a)). The following is a review of policies to ensure communication with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities is in a manner that is as effective as its communications with others.

Auxiliary Aids and Services

Policies should ensure that they include provisions for readers for individuals with visual impairments; interpreters or other alternative communication measures, as appropriate, for individuals with hearing impairments; and amanuenses (e.g., note takers) for individuals with manual impairments.

Findings

1. The Town's does not have a ADA nondiscrimination notice posted that states that the Town will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town's programs, services, and activities, include the aid and services of qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.
2. Public meeting agendas did not contain an accommodations statement that would have included the provision for auxiliary aids and services.

Recommendations

1. Persons with disabilities may not participate or not participate as frequently in Town sponsored programs, services, or activities if they don't understand what is being communicated. Information on the availability of auxiliary aids and services should be included in departmental, e.g. Library; policies, procedures, and guidelines.

2. Where equipment is used as part of a public entity's program, activity, or service, an assessment should be made to ensure that the equipment is usable by individuals with disabilities, particularly individuals with hearing, visual, and manual impairments. In addition, a public entity should have policies in place to ensure that its equipment is maintained in operable working order.
3. Determine whether employees and officials know how to arrange for auxiliary aids and services, such as sign language interpreters, material in Braille and assistive listening systems; to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is as effective as others.

Sign Language Interpreter Services

Sign language interpreters should be provided as determined through the request for accommodation process for qualified persons with disabilities or in circumstances where a sign language interpreter is known to be required.

Findings

1. A request for accommodation form or procedure was not found.

Recommendations

1. All notices for public input should include information on the availability of interpreter services.
2. Interpreters should be provided as determined through a request for accommodation process or in circumstances where an interpreter is known to be required.
3. The Town must ensure that those individuals utilizing a language other than English and are deaf, are also provided interpreter services that specialize in signing for that language.
4. The Town may consider the use of a video relay interpreter system to augment contracts and arrangements for interpreters.

Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

If a public entity communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, it should ensure that TDD's or equally effective telecommunication systems are used to communicate with individuals with impaired hearing or speech. If a public entity provides telephone emergency services, it should review its policies to ensure direct access to individuals who use TDD's/TTY's and computer modems.

Findings

1. The Town utilizes the relay system for communication in cases where a TDD/TTY is not available.

Recommendations

1. When a public entity uses an automated-attendant system, including, but not limited to, voicemail and messaging, or an interactive voice response system, for receiving and directing incoming telephone calls, that system must provide effective real-time communication with individuals using auxiliary aids and services, including TTYs and all forms of FCC-approved telecommunications relay systems, including Internet-based relay systems.
2. Employees who communicate with the public should become familiar with the use of TDD/TTY communications or relay communications. Assistive Listening Systems for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing or the relay system.

3. Assistive listening systems are required in assembly spaces where audible communication is integral to the use of the space. Signs are to be provided informing patrons of the availability of the assistive listening systems.

Assistive Listening Systems

Assistive listening systems should be available for public meetings.

Findings

1. Public meeting agendas do not have statement of accommodation and therefore do not provide notice as to the availability of listening devices.

Recommendations

1. Assistive listening systems should be readily available.
2. Signs should be posted in a prominent place at or near the assembly area entrance stating "Assistive-Listening System Available" and include the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss.
3. A nondiscrimination notice or request for accommodation should be available to the public to provide for requests for assistive listening devices.

Website Accessibility

Persons with disabilities frequently use the internet to access information about the Town of Dennis. Persons who are blind and persons with low vision may employ screen access software that reads the code of a website and then renders it in whatever format is accessible to that person (speech, refreshable braille, etc.). Deaf users rely on captioning of aural (sound or spoken) content. Users with limited manual dexterity or motion use dictation software to give commands instead of mouse and keyboard control.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) sets the main international standards for the World Wide Web and its accessibility. W3C created the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) which require specific techniques for compliance. Websites for Title II of the ADA public entities such as the Town of Dennis are currently required to comply with WCAG 2.0 Level AA.

There are three levels of WCAG 2.0 website accessibility recognized by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

1. Level A is the minimum level of conformance with the fewest requirements. A couple examples of Level A requirements are that all non-text components such as images include an alternative text component and that captions are provided for all prerecorded audio content.
2. Level AA compliance must satisfy all of the Level A requirements and additional criteria such as providing captions for all live broadcasted audio content.
3. Level AAA satisfies all Level A and Level AA criteria as well as additional requirements such as providing sign language interpretation for all prerecorded audio content.

An updated version of the guidelines (WCAG 2.1) was published on June 5th, 2018. The updates are mainly related to mobile devices, disabilities that affect vision and cognitive function, criteria addressing text spacing, and criteria addressing timeouts and animations from interactions. While

public entities are encouraged to begin applying compliance with WCAG 2.1 success criteria into their website design, it is not yet the required standard.

Findings

A comprehensive analysis of the Town's website was completed in December 2018 and the results are being provided to the Town as a separate report. The comprehensive review covered the evaluation of forty-five (45) individual web pages. Links to external sites and web pages were not evaluated. The report indicates the following:

- The most prominent error identified by the evaluation tool include missing form label error. This means a form control does not have a corresponding level. If a form control does not have a properly associated text label, the function or purpose of that form control may not be presented to screen reader users. Form labels also provide visible descriptions and larger clickable targets for form controls.
- Additional errors identified are contrast errors. Contrast errors indicate very low contrast between foreground and background colors. Larger text does not require as much contrast as smaller text. Adequate contrast is necessary for all users, especially users with low vision.

Recommendations

1. As many people have turned to the internet as a primary source of information on programs, services, activities, and events, the Town's website has increased importance as a communications tool. It is important the Town's website be as accessible as it can be for all community members and visitors. The Town should initiate the development of procedures for increasing accessibility to their website in order that people with low vision or whom are blind (and use screen readers) have access to Town information. Adding alternative text to images, buttons, and links, and correcting heading errors would address initial concerns. Establishing accessibility requirements and training opportunities for those responsible for creating and editing Town web pages will mitigate future concerns.
2. A written plan establishing procedures and timeframes for making all website content accessible should be developed. Procedures should be developed to ensure that content is not added to the Town's website until it has been made accessible.
3. It is recommended that progress and efforts made towards increased accessibility of the Town's website continue to be documented by logging significant improvements made and when they were accomplished.
4. Efforts should be made to encourage the public to submit feedback and suggestions on how to improve the structure and organization of the Town's website to make it easier to navigate and more intuitive. Such concerns can be directed either to the ADA Coordinator or to both the Website and ADA Coordinators.
5. Contact information for reporting accessibility concerns should be posted on the website. Procedures should be developed to assure a quick response to website visitors with disabilities who are having difficulty accessing information or services available via the website.
6. In-house and contractor staff who create web content or post it on the Town's website should be provided with copies of the Department of Justice's technical assistance document "Accessibility of State and Local Government Websites to People with Disabilities" (<https://www.ada.gov/websites2.htm>).

Alternate Formats

Information regarding programs, services and activities should be available in alternate formats to assist individuals with disabilities and include information on how to request an accommodation. Statements of accommodations should inform individuals with disabilities that alternate formats are available.

Findings

1. Town meeting agendas do not contain information about requests for alternative formats to persons with disabilities.
2. The Town does not have an ADA Nondiscrimination Notice.

Recommendations

1. The Town should provide notice regarding the method and availability for alternate formats.
2. The Town should provide staff training regarding the requirements for accessible alternate formats, what accessible alternate formats are and how to provide accessible alternate formats. Procedures should be put in place for the development of accessible alternate formats to constituents.
3. The Town should produce accessible alternate formats for high use areas, such as libraries, where the probability for a request for an alternate format is high. Examples include provision of audiocassettes, large print, information sent via e-mail, screen readers, Braille, and pictograms.
4. Online public notices informing of Town events and information should have a statement of accommodations which includes who to contact for an accommodation.
5. A TTY/TDD and/or Relay number should also be included on Town notices which allow for public input.

Accessible Fonts and Documents

Some fonts are more accessible for screen readers and for printed documents. Use of an accessible font allows text to be transformed into sound through voice synthesizers when using screen readers. Text can also be enlarged by screen enlargement or magnification without any loss of quality. Use of an accessible font with sufficient contrast between the text and the background makes text easier to read for users with low vision and other disabilities such as dyslexia.

Findings

1. It was noted that accessible fonts and contrast were used in the majority of the documents.
2. A policy for accessible fonts and documents, although not required, were not found.

Recommendations

1. The Town should continue to provide information on its website and publications regarding the Town's branding policy, if available.
2. The possibility of Central Services to provide Braille and other accessible documents should be assessed to assist with providing accessible alternate formats.
3. The Town should have an existing contract with one or more firms or organizations to provide accessible documents, such as Braille in a timely manner.

Public Outreach and Public Input

Title II of the ADA/504 requires opportunity for input into the ADA self-evaluation process by individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities and other interested individuals.

Findings

1. The Town began advertising for public input on its self-evaluation process in April 2019 and continued through June 22, 2019. Notices were posted on the Town website informing of the availability of surveys online or in print form. Alternate formats were made available by contacting the Town's ADA Coordinator. Documents and notices regarding the public outreach process are in the Appendix.
2. The Town targeted three (3) groups, along with the general public to provide their public input:
 - a. Program and Facility users of the Town's program, services and facilities
 - b. Community organizations that represent persons with disabilities that may use the Town facilities and services
 - c. Town staff

Recommendations

1. As the Town recognizes, it will always benefit from ongoing interaction with the public regarding accessibility, organizations representing individuals with disabilities and areas with an increased population of individuals with disabilities could be targeted for input regarding additional methods to disseminate information regarding programs, services and activities of the Town.
2. It is recommended the Town consider developing and publishing accessibility progress reports on its website. Such reports could include information on the number of newly constructed curb ramps, funding sources and the amount of funding expended towards accessibility improvements, efforts to obtain external funding, a summary of requests/complaints received and resolved, targeted goals, efforts towards community outreach, facility improvement projects large and small, and other information relative to the long-term progress of the ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan.
3. Another recommendation is that the Town utilize their website to create a one-stop portal for accessibility by expanding their current ADA web page to host all accessibility related information. Suggestions include information related to pedestrian accessibility, Transition Plan status, links to relative policies and procedures, means to file a complaint or submit suggestions, links to ADA laws and regulations, Town design standards and procedures for accessibility, information on facility accessibility, accessible routes and maps, accessible parking locations, wayfinding, emergency evacuation plans and procedures for persons with disabilities, etc. Compiling this information into a centralized location allows for undemanding education of the public and employees and facilitates the communication of information with persons in the disability community.
4. The Town should consider including additional pictures and references to individuals with disabilities in publications, brochures and materials.
5. In Town publications and on the Town website, areas or services that are accessible should be indicated with descriptive text and the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA). For example, accessible restrooms and routes can be designated on the website, on maps and in publications.
6. The ADA/504 does not require staff or teams to directly participate with organizations representing persons with disabilities, however, opportunities to network and develop

collaborative partnerships with individuals and organizations representing persons with disabilities are available to ensure that current and future programs, services and activities are accessible. The Town may want to enhance public engagement opportunities by inviting persons with disabilities to serve on committees and advisory boards.

7. It is recommended that the Town maintain a continuing outreach component to obtain input and inform the public on the progress made under the ADA transition plan.

XVI. Planning and Strategies for Ongoing Compliance

The Town of Dennis has demonstrated its core commitment to enhance its accessibility to Town programs, services and activities as evidenced by the results of the updated 2019 ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition/barrier removal plan. As the Town recognizes that compliance with the ADA is not a “one-time” event and requires strategic planning and an ongoing commitment to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities to maintain and enhance compliance with the requirements of the ADA, the Town has established an ADA Implementation Committee. The Town of Dennis’ commitment is evident throughout the organization and is demonstrated by the results of the Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition Plan 2019 update.

In order to enhance compliance for individuals with disabilities in an expeditious and cost-effective manner, the Town receives ongoing input from the Advisory Committee on Disabilities and the Commission on Disability in addition to Town staff and Town Selectmen. The Town and selected committees, as appropriate, can review the findings from the Town of Dennis ADA Self-evaluation 2019 Update in order to develop an ongoing, comprehensive and cost-effective plan to enhance compliance over time. The Town is currently prioritizing the barriers identified to develop a strategic plan for implementation. The presentation to the Implementation of the recommendations in the self-evaluation and transition plan will continue to require planning, resources, staff training, interdepartmental coordination and collaboration throughout the organizational structure and the public.

The Town recognizes that individuals with disabilities are better served and able to participate in the community if the facilities and public rights-of-way are accessible because it is easier for them to gain access to the programs and services of the Town.

The updated Self-Evaluation and Transition plan is meant to be a self-regulated plan and by definition is meant to be a “living” and planning document for the Town to manage its long-term commitment to serving individuals with disabilities. As evidenced by the initiatives and accomplishments of the Town to provide access for “all” persons in the Town of Dennis, the Town of Dennis understands that the ADA/Section 504 Compliance Plan is not a static document, and requires ongoing evaluation, implementation, updates and documentation. Selected Town staff received training regarding the use of the DACTrak Accessibility Management online software to assist with the implementation of their plan.

As evidenced by this study and update, the Town of Dennis is committed to complying with the tenets of Title II of the ADA, Section 504, and other federal, state statutes and regulations to provide access for individuals with disabilities. The update further serves to demonstrate the ongoing compliance efforts by the Town. The Town of Dennis has demonstrated a commitment from the highest level of leadership

with coordination of compliance activities and involvement of individuals with disabilities and methodologies for compliance procedures.

XVII. Conclusion

As evidenced by this study and update, the Town is committed to complying with the tenets of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), and other federal, state statutes and regulations to provide accessible for individuals with disabilities. The 2019 update further serves to demonstrate the ongoing compliance efforts by the Town.

The Town of Dennis has demonstrated a commitment from the highest level of leadership with coordination of compliance activities and involvement of persons with disabilities and methodologies for compliance procedures. As evidenced in the ADA/504 Report, the Town of Dennis understands that the ADA/504 Compliance Plan is not a static document and requires ongoing implementation and periodic updates.

XVIII. Appendix

The Appendix includes documents and supplemental material referenced in the 2019 Town of Dennis ADA/504 Self-evaluation and Transition.

ADA Assessment Conservation Areas

| Facility | Category | Finding | Recommendation | Est. Cost | Code Ref. |
|---|-----------------|---|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chase Garden Park / Conservation Area - Chapin Beach Road Dennis, MA 02638 | Path of Travel | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction to | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Benches | The bench is not on an accessible route. | Provide a compliant accessible route to the benches. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 205, 228, 305, 308, 309, 903 |
| Crowes Pasture Conservation Area - South Street South Dennis, MA 02660 | Parking | There are not enough accessible parking spaces marked in the parking lot and therefore does not meet the minimum number required. | Re-stripe any existing parking spaces marked accessible and create additional accessible parking spaces. Designate one parking space as "van-accessible". | \$370.00 | ADA 208, 208.2, MA 23.2 |
| | Path of Travel | The path of travel is grass, dirt, or gravel, preventing access to individuals with mobility impairments. | Provide an accessible route. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 302, 303, 403.2, MA 29.1 |
| | Path of Travel | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Benches | The bench is not on an accessible route. | Provide a compliant accessible route to the benches. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 205, 228, 305, 308, 309, 903 |
| | Exhibits | Exhibit display is not compliant. | Provide a compliant exhibit display. | \$640.00 | |
| | Trails | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | ADA 1017.5.2 |

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| | | Trail tread width is not compliant. | Provide a compliant trail tread width at the specified segment. | | ADA 1017.3 |
| | | Trail slope is not compliant. | Readjust the trail surface slope to the recommended value. | | ADA 1017.7.1 |
| | | The leading edge of the object protrudes into path of travel greater than allowed. | Modify, relocate, or lower the item so that the leading edge protrudes less than recommended value. | | ADA 1017.9 , 307.2 |
| | | The vertical clearance height is less than required. | Provide the required vertical clearance height. | | ADA 307.4 |
| Flax Pond Conservation Lands - 210 Setucket Road Dennis, MA 02638 | Parking | There are not enough accessible parking spaces marked in the parking lot and therefore does not meet the minimum number required. | Re-stripe any existing parking spaces marked accessible and create additional accessible parking spaces. Designate one parking space as "van-accessible". | \$370.00 | ADA 208, 208.2, MA 23.2 |
| | Path of Travel | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction to | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Reach Ranges | The highest point of operation for the element is not compliant. | Make sure that the highest point of operation is within the recommended value. | \$50.00 | ADA 308, 309 |
| | Trails | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |

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| | | Trail slope is not compliant. | Readjust the trail surface slope to the recommended value. | | ADA 1017.7.1 |
| | | The condition of the trail cannot be inspected and trail compliance is not feasible due to terrain or other conditional exceptions like the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act. | Further study may need to be required. | | ADA 1017.1 , 1019.1 , 1019.2 |
| | | Trail surface is not firm and stable. | Provide a compliant surface that is firm and stable. | | ADA 1017.2 |
| | | The vertical clearance height is less than required. | Provide the required vertical clearance height. | | ADA 307.4 |
| Fresh Pond - Off Route 134 South Dennis & Route 157 South Dennis, MA 02660 | Parking | Parking is provided off-street to the public and/or employees at this location, though the parking lot surface is dirt or gravel and nonaccessible. The parking lot can provide parking spaces. | Stripe parking spaces with an appropriate number of accessible parking spaces | | ADA 206.1 , 208, 209, 302.1, 403.2, MA 23.4.4 |
| | | The accessible parking space outline is faded, damaged, missing or otherwise not viewable. | Re-stripe the existing parking space marked as accessible to define the width of the space. | \$350.00 | ADA 502, 502.2, MA 23.4.5 |
| | | The surface of the accessible parking space has a slope greater than allowed. | Pave the parking lot to provide a level surface. | \$3,800.00 | ADA 502, 502.4, MA 23.4.3 |
| | | There is no access aisle located at the designated parking space. | Provide a compliant access aisle at the parking space. Parking spaces shall each provide an access | \$370.00 | ADA 502, 502.3, 502.3.4, MA 23.4.6 |

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| | | aisle that may be shared. | | |
| | | The designated accessible parking space in the parking lot does not provide an International Symbol of Accessibility symbol pavement marking. | Provide a compliant pavement marking at the designated accessible parking space. | \$220.00 ADA 502, MA 23.6 |
| Doors | | There is not enough clear floor space provided at the push and pull sides of the dog park doors. | Provide the recommended clear floor space on the push and pull side of the door. | \$4,000.00 ADA 404, 404.2.4, MA 26.6 |
| | | Door hardware is not mounted at the correct height. | Mount the door hardware at the recommended height. | \$280.00 ADA 404, 404.2.7 |
| | | The bottom of the door does not provide a smooth, uninterrupted surface, or panel to allow the door to be opened by a wheelchair footrest without creating a trap or hazardous condition. | Install a panel or replace the door to provide a smooth, uninterrupted surface at the bottom of the door. | \$2,000.00 ADA 404, 404.2.10 |
| Picnic Areas | | There is no accessible route to the picnic tables. | Provide an accessible route to the picnic tables. | \$1440.00 ADA 205, 226, 228, 308, 309, 402, 403 |
| | | At least 5% of the provided tables are not accessible. | Provide enough compliant Accessible Tables (At least 5% of the total Tables). | \$500.00 ADA 205, 226.1, 228, 305, 306, 308, 309, 902 |
| Reach Ranges | | The element is not located on the accessible route. | The element must be located on the accessible route. | \$1,260.00 ADA 206, 304 |
| | | The highest point of operation for the element is not compliant. | Make sure that the highest point of operation is within the recommended value. | \$50.00 ADA 308, 309 |
| Benches | | The bench is not on an accessible route. | Provide a compliant accessible route to the benches. | \$1,840.00 ADA 205, 228, 305, 308, 309, 903 |

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| | Trails | The condition of the trail cannot be inspected and trail compliance is not feasible due to terrain or other conditional exceptions like the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act. | Further study may need to be required. | | ADA 1017.1 , 1019.1 , 1019.2 |
| Indian Lands - 485 Main Street South Dennis, MA 02660 | Parking | There is no device at the head of the general parking spaces to prevent vehicles from encroaching into walkways. | Install a wheel stop at the head of the general parking spaces. | \$148.00 | ADA 502, 502.7, MA 23.4.2 |
| | | The accessible parking space outline is faded, damaged, missing or otherwise not viewable. | Re-stripe the existing parking space marked as accessible to define the width of the space. | \$350.00 | ADA 502, 502.2, MA 23.4.5 |
| | | The surface of the accessible parking space has a slope greater than allowed. | Pave the parking lot to provide a level surface. | \$3,800.00 | ADA 502, 502.4, MA 23.4.3 |
| | | There is no additional signage marked "van accessible" at the van accessible parking space. | Van accessible parking spaces shall provide additional signage that states "van accessible" . | \$250.00 | ADA 502, 502.6, MA 23.6 |
| | Curb Ramps | The cross slope is greater than allowed. | Provide a compliant curb ramp | \$1,300.00 | ADA 405.3, 406.1, MA 21.3 |
| | Path of Travel | There are cross slopes greater than allowed on the primary path of travel. | Provide a compliant path of travel. | \$3,600.00 | ADA 402, 403.3, MA 20.9 |
| | Signage | There is no directional signage. | Install directional signage to each accessible element or room. | \$158.00 | ADA 216, 216.3 , 703, 703.5, MA 41.1 |

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| | Reach Ranges | The element is not located on the accessible route. | The element must be located on the accessible route. | \$1,260.00 | ADA 206, 304 |
| | | The highest point of operation for the element is not compliant. | Make sure that the highest point of operation is within the recommended value. | \$50.00 | ADA 308, 309 |
| | Trails | The leading edge of the object protrudes into path of travel greater than allowed. | Modify, relocate, or lower the item so that the leading edge protrudes less than recommended value. | | ADA 1017.9 , 307.2 |
| | | Clear ground space around the constructed feature is not compliant. | Provide compliant clear ground space around the constructed feature. | | ADA 1011.2.2 |
| | | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | ADA 1017.5.1 |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |
| | | Trail surface is not firm and stable. | Provide a compliant surface that is firm and stable. | | ADA 1017.2 |
| | | The slope and cross slope of the trail is not compliant. | Provide a compliant slope and cross slope on the trail. | | ADA 1017.7.2 |
| | | Trail tread width is not compliant. | Provide a compliant trail tread width at the specified segment. | | ADA 1017.3 |
| Princess Beach - 178 Scargo Hill Road Dennis, MA 02638 | Parking | There are not enough accessible parking spaces marked in the parking lot and therefore does not meet the minimum number required. | Re-stripe any existing parking spaces marked accessible and create additional accessible parking spaces. | \$370.00 | ADA 208, 208.2, MA 23.2 |
| | Path of Travel | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |

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| | accessible entrance of the facility. | facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction. | | |
| | There are slopes greater than allowed maximum slope on the primary path of travel. | Provide a compliant path of travel. | \$3,600.00 | ADA 402, 403.3, MA 20.9 |
| | There are cross slopes greater than allowed on the primary path of travel. | Provide a compliant path of travel. | \$3,600.00 | ADA 402, 403.3, MA 20.9 |
| | The surface of the primary accessible path of travel is rough and uneven, providing a hazardous surface for individuals with mobility impairments | Resurface the path of travel to provide a smooth, firm, stable and slip-resistant surface. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 302, 303, 403.2, MA 29.1 |
| | There is a change in elevation greater than recommended value. | Ensure that the change in elevation is within the recommended value. | \$150.00 | ADA 303, 403.4, MA 20.10 |
| Stairs | The risers on the stairway are open. | Close the riser openings on the stairway. Open risers are not permitted. | \$480.00 | ADA 504, 504.3, MA 27.2 |
| | The diameter of the handrails is not within the required range. | Replace the handrails on each side to provide a smooth and continuous gripping surface diameter within the required | \$2,320.00 | ADA 504.6 , 505, 505.7.1, MA 27.4.4 |
| | The bottom handrail does not extend the depth of one stair tread beyond the bottom step. | Provide a compliant handrail extension. | \$1,425.00 | ADA 504, 504.6 , 505.10.3 |
| | The gripping surface of the handrail is interrupted. | Remount the handrails so they are not interrupted. Otherwise, replace the handrails with ones | \$1,840.00 | ADA 504, 504.6 , 505.6, MA 27.4.6 |

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| | | that provide a smooth grip. | | |
| | The handrails are not mounted at the required height. | Provide handrails on the stairway at the required height. | \$1,528.00 | ADA 504, 504.6 , 505.4, MA 27.4.2 |
| Doors | The door closing device limits the required headroom clearance. | Replace the door closing device with a device that fits above the door casing and does not protrude into the primary path of travel. | \$250.00 | ADA 404, 404.2.3, MA 20.7 |
| Restrooms | The faucet controls on the lavatory require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist and are not accessible. | Install accessible faucet controls. Lever-operated, push-type, touchtype or electronically controlled mechanisms are acceptable | \$392.00 | ADA 213, 309.4, 606, MA 30.9.6 |
| | The height of the counter surface is greater than allowed. | Relocate or replace the lavatory to provide a maximum counter surface height of no greater than recommended. | \$1,286.00 | ADA 213, 606, 606.3, MA 30.9.2 |
| | The pipes under the lavatory do not provide protection against contact. | Insulate or otherwise configure pipes under the lavatory to protect against contact. Make certain there are no sharp or abrasive objects. | \$149.00 | ADA 213, 606, 606.5, MA 30.9.5 |
| | Supply lines are not wrapped at the lavatory. | Wrap the supply lines around lavatory according to compliance | \$149.00 | ADA 213, 606, 606.5, MA 30.9.5 |
| | The height of the controls and operating mechanisms for the dispenser is not at the correct height. | Relocate the dispenser to the correct height. | \$277.00 | ADA 205, 308, 308.1, 309, 606, MA 6.5 |
| | There is no required coat hook. | Install a coat hook at the recommended height. | \$34.00 | MA 30.6.1, MA 30.6.2 |

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| | The length of the rear grab bar is less than required. | Replace the rear grab bar with a compliant grab bar. | \$267.00 | ADA 603, 604.5.2, 609, MA 30.8 |
| | The toilet paper dispenser interferes with the use of the grab bar. | Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so it does not interfere with the use of a grab bar. Toilet paper dispensers must allow continuous use. | \$277.00 | ADA 603, 609.3, MA 30.7.6 |
| | The toilet paper dispenser is not mounted at the required height. | Remount the toilet paper dispenser in the compartment to the required height. | \$277.00 | ADA 603, 604.7, MA 30.7.6 |
| | The location of the toilet paper dispenser is not within the required distance from the front edge of the toilet seat. | Remount the toilet paper dispenser so it is within the required distance from the front edge of the toilet seat. | \$277.00 | ADA 603, 604.7, MA 30.7.6 |
| | The distance from the center of the toilet to the nearest side wall does not meet the required distance. | Relocate the toilet so the distance from the center line of the toilet to the nearest side wall meets the required distance. | \$2,500.00 | ADA 603, 604.2, MA 30.7.2 |
| | The height of the toilet seat is not at the required height. | Adjust or modify the toilet so the seat height is at the required accessible height. | \$1,707.00 | ADA 603, 604.4, MA 30.7.3 |
| Play Area | The play area is not located on an accessible route. | Provide a compliant accessible route to the play area. | \$1,440.00 | ADA 1008, 1008.2, 240, 402.1 |
| | The surface beneath the play area is non-accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. | The play area should be made an accessible play area for the facility. Provide a maneuvering space with an accessible resilient surface. | \$500.00 | ADA 1008, 1008.2, 1008.2.6, 240 |
| | The play area provides no accessible point of access. | Provide compliant access to the play area. | \$2,400.00 | ADA 1008, 1008.2, 240 |

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|--------------------|--------------|--|---|----------|--|
| | | The surface beneath the play area is non-accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. | The play area should be made an accessible play area for the facility. Provide a maneuvering space with an accessible resilient surface | \$500.00 | ADA 1008, 1008.2, 1008.2.6, 240 |
| | Picnic Areas | At least 5% of the provided tables are not accessible. | Provide enough compliant Accessible Tables (At least 5% of the total Tables). | \$500.00 | ADA 205, 226.1, 228, 305, 306, 308, 309, 902 |
| | Reach Ranges | The highest point of operation for the element is not compliant. | Make sure that the highest point of operation is within the recommended value. | \$100.00 | ADA 308, 309 |
| | | The condition of the trail cannot be inspected and trail compliance is not feasible due to terrain or other conditional exceptions like the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act. | Further study may need to be required. | | ADA 1017.1 , 1019.1 , 1019.2 |
| | Trails | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | ADA 1017.5.2 |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |
| Bound Brook | Parking | There are not enough accessible parking spaces marked in the parking lot and therefore does not meet the minimum number required. | Re-stripe any existing parking spaces marked accessible and create additional accessible parking spaces. Designate one parking space as "van-accessible". | \$370.00 | ADA 208, 208.2, MA 23.2 |

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| | | Parking is provided off-street to the public and/or employees at this location, though the parking lot surface is dirt or gravel and nonaccessible. The parking lot can provide parking spaces. | Stripe parking spaces with an appropriate number of accessible parking spaces. | \$1,611.00 | ADA 206.1 , 208, 209, 302.1, 403.2, MA 23.4.4 |
| Path of Travel | | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction to accessible building entrances. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| Stairs | | There are no handrails provided on the stairway. | Provide compliant handrails. | \$1,528.00 | ADA 504, 504.6 , 505.2, MA 27.4 |
| | | The height of the risers are not uniform. | Modify or replace the stairs to provide uniform riser height. | \$8,520.00 | ADA 504, MA 27.2 |
| Signage | | There is no directional signage. | Install directional signage to each accessible element or room. | \$158.00 | ADA 216, 216.3 , 703, 703.5, MA 41.1 |
| Trails | | The leading edge of the object protrudes into path of travel greater than allowed. | Modify, relocate, or lower the item so that the leading edge protrudes less than recommended value. | | ADA 1017.9 , 307.2 |
| | | The clear ground space is not on an accessible route. | Make sure that clear ground space is on an accessible route. | | ADA 1011.2.1 |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |

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| | | Trail slope is not compliant. | Readjust the trail surface slope to the recommended value. | | ADA 1017.7.1 |
| | | The cross slope of the trail is not compliant. | Provide a compliant cross slope on the trail. | | ADA 1017.7.2 |
| Shoop Community Gardens - 1791 Main Street Route 6A South Dennis, MA 02660 | Path of Travel | The path of travel is grass, dirt, or gravel, preventing access to individuals with mobility impairments. | Provide an accessible route. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 302, 303, 403.2, MA 29.1 |
| | | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction to accessible building entrances. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Doors | There is not enough clear floor space provided at the push and pull side of the door | Provide the recommended clear floor space on the push and pull side of the door. | \$6,921.00 | ADA 404, 404.2.4, MA 26.6 |
| | | There is less than the required latch side clearance on the pull side of the door. | Provide required latch side clearance on the pull side of the door. | \$2,921.00 | ADA 404, 404.2.4, MA 26.6 |
| | | The bottom of the door does not provide a smooth, uninterrupted surface, or panel to allow the door to be opened by a wheelchair footrest without creating a trap or hazardous condition. | Install a panel or replace the door to provide a smooth, uninterrupted surface at the bottom of the door. | \$2,000.00 | ADA 404, 404.2.10 |

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| | Picnic Areas | There is no accessible route to the picnic tables. | Provide an accessible route to the picnic tables. | \$1,440.00 | ADA 205, 226, 228, 308, 309, 402, 403 |
| | | At least 5% of the provided tables are not accessible. | Provide enough compliant Accessible Tables (At least 5% of the total Tables). | \$500.00 | ADA 205, 226.1, 228, 305, 306, 308, 309, 902 |
| | Reach Ranges | The element is not located on the accessible route. | The element must be located on the accessible route. | \$1,260.00 | ADA 206, 304 |
| | Exhibits | Display is not on an accessible route. | All exhibit displays shall be on an accessible route. | | |
| | Trails | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | ADA 1017.5.2 |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |
| | | The cross slope of the trail is not compliant. | Provide a compliant cross slope on the trail. | | ADA 1017.7.2 |
| | | Trail tread width is not compliant. | Provide a compliant trail tread width at the specified segment. | | ADA 1017.3 |
| | | Trail slope is not compliant. | Readjust the trail surface slope to the recommended value. | | ADA 1017.7.1 |
| Swan Pond Overlook - 435 Center Street Dennis Port, MA 02639 | Parking | There are not enough accessible parking spaces marked in the parking lot and therefore does not meet the minimum number required. | Re-stripe any existing parking spaces marked accessible and create additional accessible parking spaces. Designate one parking space as "van-accessible". | \$370.00 | ADA 208, 208.2, MA 23.2 |
| | Path of Travel | The path of travel is grass, dirt, or gravel, preventing access to individuals with mobility impairments. | Provide an accessible route. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 302, 303, 403.2, MA 29.1 |

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|---|----------------|---|--|------------|----------------------------------|
| | | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Benches | The bench is not on an accessible route. | Provide a compliant accessible route to the benches. | \$1,840.00 | ADA 205, 228, 305, 308, 309, 903 |
| the Plashes - 70 Toms Path Dennis Port, MA 02639 | Path of Travel | There is no compliant accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. | Provide at least one accessible route from the public right of way to the accessible entrance of the facility. Make certain to post signage indicating the direction | \$1,840.00 | ADA 206, 206.2, 402.1, MA 20.2 |
| | Trails | The leading edge of the object protrudes into path of travel greater than allowed. | Modify, relocate, or lower the item so that the leading edge protrudes less than recommended value. | | ADA 1017.9 , 307.2 |
| | | Trail has a tread obstacle. | Remove the tread obstacle. | | ADA 1017.5.2 |
| | | There is no compliant signage. | Provide compliant signage with characters and numbers that are properly sized for viewing distance. | | ADA 1017.11, F247.4.1 |
| | | The cross slope of the trail is not compliant. | Provide a compliant cross slope on the trail. | | ADA 1017.7.2 |
| | | Trail tread width is not compliant. | Provide a compliant trail tread width at the specified segment. | | ADA 1017.3 |

D. Letters of Support



Town of Dennis

685 Route 124, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 - Fax: (508) 394-8309

February 12, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Dennis Board of Selectmen are in receipt of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board of Selectmen held a hearing on the Draft Plan on January 21, 2020, and are pleased with the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan and the joint efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation and Harbor Master's Departments who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Beach Committee and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information to all the volunteer committee members and the public, at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's creation and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. The Board of Selectmen provides its overwhelming support to this report and hopes the Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affairs will accept it.

Sincerely,

Christopher Flanagan, Chairman
Dennis Board of Selectmen

3225 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 226
BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02630



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

(508) 362-3828 • Fax (508) 362-3136 • www.capecodcommission.org

February 5, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Cape Cod Commission staff has reviewed the Town of Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan 2020 Update and would like to recommend its approval by the Division of Conservation Services.

This plan provides both a comprehensive assessment of the Town's open space and recreational needs and serves as an important framework for addressing the community's land protection goals. The Dennis plan incorporates the open space goals of the Regional Policy Plan with consideration for local needs, and identifies actions that will help address challenges the community faces, including protection of lands for water supply protection and to improve coastal resiliency, and actions to support other initiatives such as MS4 and MVP. The action plan identifies responsible parties and timeframes and appears to lay a path for accomplishing the goals and objectives of the plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Heather McElroy
Natural Resources Manager

Cc: Richard Roy, Dennis Representative to the Cape Cod Commission
Karen Johnson, Dennis Director of Natural Resources





Town of Dennis

685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 · Fax: (508) 394-8309

February 1, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

On behalf of the Town of Dennis, I would like to offer my strong support for the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Plan reflects the coordinated efforts of many town staff and committees, especially the efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation and Harbor Master's Departments, who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, recreation Commission, Beach Committee and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information to all the volunteer committee members and the public, at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's creation and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. I assure you that the coordinated efforts in the preparation of this plan will be supported by town personnel to carry out the recommendations of this document.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sullivan
Dennis Town Administrator



Town of Dennis

685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 • Fax: (508) 394-8309

February 3, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Dennis Planning Board is in receipt of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, and held a Public Hearing on the Draft Plan to receive public comment on September 8, 2019. Included were members of the Conservation Commission, Waterways Committee, Beach Committee, and Recreation Commission, as well as private conservation representatives and the general public.

The Planning Board is pleased with the updates to the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan. We are grateful for the joint efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation, and Harbor Master's Departments, who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Beach Committee, and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information to the volunteer committee members and to the public at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's recreational and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. The Planning Board supports submission of this report.

Sincerely,

Dorria DiManno, Chair
Dennis Planning Board



Town of Dennis

685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 • Fax: (508) 394-8309

February 5, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Dennis Recreation Commission is in receipt of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, participated in the Dennis Planning Board Public Hearing on the plan on September 8th and held our own public forum on the Draft Plan to receive public comment on September 11, 2019 and December 4, 2019. The Recreation Commission is pleased with the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan and the joint efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation and Harbor Master's Departments who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Beach Committee and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information to all the volunteer committee members and the public, at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's recreation and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. The Recreation Commission provides its overwhelming support to this report.

Sincerely,

Jeff Treiber, Vice Chairman
Dennis Recreation Commission



Town of Dennis

685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 • Fax: (508) 394-8309

January 16, 2020

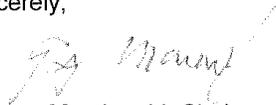
Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Dennis Conservation Commission is in receipt of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, participated in the Dennis Planning Board Public Hearing on the plan on September 8th and held our own public forum on the Draft Plan to receive public comment on October 17, 2019 and January 16, 2020. The Conservation Committee is pleased with the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan and the joint efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation and Harbor Master's Departments who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Beach Committee and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information to all the volunteer committee members and the public, at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's creation and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. The Conservation Commission provides its overwhelming support to this report.

Sincerely,


George Macdonald, Chairman
Dennis Conservation Commission



Town of Dennis

685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 / Telephone: (508) 394-8300 · Fax: (508) 394-8309

January 15, 2020

Melissa Cryan
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)
Grant Coordinator
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Dennis Beach Committee is in receipt of the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, participated in the Dennis Planning Board Public Hearing on the plan on September 8th and held our own public forum on the Draft Plan to receive public comment on September 11, 2019 and December 11, 2019. The Beach Committee is pleased with the Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan and the joint efforts of the Planning, Natural Resources, Recreation and Harbor Master's Departments who coordinated the efforts of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Beach Committee and Waterways Committee in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information to all the volunteer committee members and the public, at large.

The Plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's creation and open space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of Town expenditures. The Beach Committee provides its overwhelming support to this report.

Sincerely,

Connie Mooers, Chairman
Dennis Beach Committee

DNR, BOS



A private non-profit land trust founded in 1988

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TOWN OF DENNIS

January 31, 2020

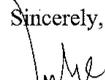
Ms. Elizabeth Sullivan
Town Administrator
Town of Dennis
685 Route 134
South Dennis, MA 02660

Dear Liz,

The Dennis Conservation Land Trust would like to thank Karen Johnson and her staff for incorporating comments that the DCLT submitted in 2019 on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. We believe they did an exceptional job revising and updating the document, and we very much appreciate their listening to our concerns and incorporating many of the changes we recommended.

Please extend our thanks to the Department on our behalf.

Sincerely,


Julie A. Early
Executive Director

JAE:lom

Post Office Box 67 · East Dennis, Massachusetts 02641

*Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code requirements for substantiation of charitable contributions,
no goods or services were provided in return for the Tax Deductible contributions.*